

# THE CAUCASIAN

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RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1908.

LEWIS 12.

**TAR HEEL TOPICS**  
Items Gathered From All Sections of the State

## TRAINMEN ACQUITTED

**Trial of Engineer Rippey and Conductor Oakley, Charged With Manslaughter in That They Were Responsible for Wreck on Southern End With Not Guilty Verdict by Jury.**

Raleigh, Special.—The jury in Superior Court late Saturday night acquitted Southern Railway Conductor Oakley and Engineer Rippey, charged with manslaughter because of the fatal collision at Auburn. Train Dispatcher Victor Parvin and his assistant are yet to be tried on the same charge.

In Superior Court there was a continuation of the hearing of the trial of Conductor Oakley and Engineer Rippey of the Southern Railway, on the charge of manslaughter in causing the fatal collision of freight and passenger trains last fall, a mile the other side of Auburn, in this county. A great many witnesses were put on among them being State Treasurer Lacy, who is a veteran locomotive engineer.

Many witnesses testified to the good character and ability of both men, Rippey having been fireman or engineer for 33 years on the Southern and never before charged with carelessness. He swore that he was sick the afternoon of the accident, forgot his orders to stop and ran by Auburn station, Oakley was taking up tickets when the train passed Auburn and when the collision occurred. Ex-Governor Aycock led in the argument for the defense and was followed by Solicitor James for the State.

## Corn Train at Washington.

Washington, N. C., Special.—The corn growers' special train of three cars sent out under the auspices of the State agricultural experiment station and the Norfolk & Southern Railway arrived in the city at 10 o'clock Saturday morning and was welcomed by a large crowd of citizens and farmers from all over the country. The special remained in this city two hours and during this time a number of interesting as well as instructive lectures were made by members of the party on scientific corn culture and how to produce more corn to the acre than heretofore, on seed selection, fertilizer plant diseases, etc. The lectures were carefully followed up by exhibits of corn specimens. In the party were C. B. Williams, director of the North Carolina experiment station; Tail Butcher, State veterinarian; F. L. Stevens, biologist; R. J. Smith, entomologist; Dr. George T. Winston, of the A. & M. College; A. D. Samuels, specialist of the United States Department of Agriculture; T. J. Hudson, land and industrial agent of the Norfolk & Southern Railway.

## Criminal Assault Attempted.

Belmont, Special.—An unsuccessful attempt at criminal assault was made on Miss Gladys Purnell, daughter of Rev. T. H. Purnell, about 7 o'clock Saturday evening by an unknown negro, who made good his escape. With the exception of Miss Gladys, the family was sitting on the front piazza, when they were aroused by her screams in the rear of the house. Just as she had stepped out of the house a negro grabbed her and bound a rag around her mouth. Her screams frightened the negro and he fled. Bloodhounds were brought at once from the convict camp near here but could not strike the trail, a crowd having gathered and obliterated the tracks.

## Tar Heel Items.

Mr. J. N. McCausland, of the Retail Merchants' Association, of Charlotte, has asked Mr. Webb to investigate and endeavor to improve the mail service between Charlotte and Greensboro. Mr. Webb went to work on the matter at once and will thresh it out if possible. There is considerable complaint of mail service between Washington and Charlotte.

## State News in Brief.

The United States Department of Justice offers \$100 reward for the capture of Jim Staley, a negro moonshiner who shot Deputy Marshal Henry Reese. It ought to be easy to identify and capture Staley as he was shot twice. Several people saw him at Sanford the evening of the day on which the shooting occurred. United States Marshal Dockery says that moonshining is certainly increasing in this district and that the moonshiners are becoming bolder and more desperate. Not so much is going on now as in the winter, but more than at this time last year. Durham and Johnson are the worst counties in the district for moonshining, while Robeson leads in retailing.

## Mills May Shut Down.

Dallas, Special.—The stockholders of the Monarch held a meeting on Tuesday at which the capital stock of the mill was increased \$13,000. It is rumored that the three cotton mills now in operation in this town will soon shut down for two months.

## New Charters.

Raleigh, Special.—New charters as follows were issued Friday:

Wadesboro Pepsi-Cola Company, with capital of \$5,000; W. B. Blacklock, George Britts and George Stankovic, incorporators.

Scott Library Company, Asheville, capital \$25,000; C. H. Hobbs, J. F. Young and Henry B. Stevens, incorporators.

## Salisbury Gets a Good Price For Its \$100,000 Bond Issue.

Salisbury, Special.—At a special meeting of the board of aldermen bids were opened for the \$100,000 bond issue passed at a public election last fall. Several bids were tendered and after due consideration that of N. W. Harris & Co., of New York, was accepted. The agreement under which the sale is made provides that the purchaser shall pay all legal expenses, printing, lithographing, transfer charges and delivers to the City of Salisbury without any exchange charges the sum of \$101,600.

## Two Young White Men Killed.

Wilson, Special.—Thursday night Sam Roberts and Turner Bailey, both young white men, were killed about eight miles west of here by a Norfolk & Southern passenger train. Roberts and Bailey left here during the afternoon but under the influence of wine and stood to walk down the railroad track to their homes. They were killed in a desec.

## GILLETTE EXECUTED

**Pays Penalty for the Murder of Sweetheart**

## MADE A PRIVATE CONFESSION

**His Spiritual Advisers, Deeming It Privilege Refused, to Make Confession Public—Gillette Prepares Public Statement Announcing His Faith in God and Perfect Assurance of the Safety of His Soul, Which Is Given Out.**

Anbarn, N. Y., Special.—Chester E. Gillette Monday paid the full penalty of the brutal murder of Grace Brown. He went to his death in the electric chair at Auburn with the same lack of emotion which has characterized him from the day he was arrested charged with the crime. Gillette appeared to have been fully reconciled to his fate and in a statement given out by his spiritual advisers immediately after the execution it is indicated that he had made a confession of his guilt. This statement was signed by the Rev. Henry Melliray, of Little Falls, and the Rev. Cordello Herriek, the prison chaplain. It was as follows:

"Because our relationship with Chester Gillette was privileged we do not deem it wise to make a detailed statement, and simply wish to say that no legal mistake was made in his execution."

Gillette's Statement.

Gillette himself, so far as the public were concerned, never admitted his crime. His last word, in the form of a statement which he prepared with painstaking care, was made public after he had been put to death. In this statement Gillette said:

"In the shadow of the valley of death, it is my desire to do everything that would remove any doubt as to my having found Jesus Christ, the personal Savior and unfailing friend. My one regret, at this time, is that I have not given Him the pre-eminence in my life while I had the opportunity to work for Him. If I could only say one thing that would draw young men to Him I would deem it the greatest privilege ever granted me. But all I can say now is, I know in whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that day."

"If the young men of this country could only know the joy and pleasure of a Christian life, I know they would do all in their power to become earnest active Christians, and would strive to live as Christ would have them live."

"There is not one thing I have left undone which will bar me from facing God, knowing that my sins are forgiven, for I have been free and frank in my talks with my spiritual adviser and God knows where I stand. My task is done, the victory won."

Signed,  
**CHESTER E. GILLETTE.**

Any fear which the prison officials may have entertained that Gillette's remarkable composure would desert him at the last moment was quickly dispelled when he stepped from his cell to the corridor leading to the death chamber. His step was firm, strong and he walked rapidly toward the instrument of death.

Mrs. Gillette, mother of Chester made a statement Monday in part as follows:

"Mother's Statement.

"Though it is a very bad thing for me to feel Chester was responsible for Grace Brown's death, yet it was the wish expressed to him continually by me that if he was guilty, to say so before the world, and that in his triumphant death I felt that God has answered my dearest wish and prayer."

"And I am also so thankful to know that he did not strike Grace Brown as described by the prosecution. A full account will never be given out, for he did not strike Grace Brown."

Story of the Crime.

The crime for which Chester E. Gillette was sentenced to forfeit his life in the electric chair in Auburn prison was the murder of his sweetheart, Grace Brown, near Big Moose in the Adirondacks on July 11th, 1906. Gillette was convicted on circumstantial evidence after a sensational trial in which the pathetic love letters of "Billy" Brown, as the girl was familiarly known among her associates, to Gillette, played an important part. The girl who perished in the waters of Big Moose lake had trusted Gillette to make amends for the wrong he had done her by making her his wife, and her letters, which were found in the young man's room after his arrest at Eagle Bay, have been considered by many as classic in their simplicity and their tender pleading for the right that was her due.

Alabama Town Damaged by Fire.

Abbeville, Ala., Special.—A fire which swept the business part of Abbeville at an early hour caused a loss estimated at \$100,000, partially insured. The dry goods establishment of Stokes Bros., the store of the Abbeville Trading Company and the Bank of Henry County were destroyed completely. Two other stores and several smaller buildings were burned before the fire was controlled.

## SHOT COLORED MAN

**Congressman Heflin Uses His Pistol on Darkey**

## AN UNFORTUNATE OCCURRENCE

Alabama Representative Promptly Attacks Negro Who Resents His Kind Admonition to Cease Drinking in the Presence of Ladies.

Washington, D. C., Special.—In a desperate affray on Pennsylvania avenue car Friday night a negro and a white man were shot by Congressman Thomas J. Heflin, of Alabama. Thomas Lumbly, the negro, was shot in the head and is in a critical condition and Thomas McCreary, a New York horse trainer, is suffering from a wound in the leg. The shooting of McCreary was accidental. Mr. Heflin was arrested and taken to the sixth police precinct station, where the charge of assault with intent to kill was placed against him. Later he was released on \$5,000 bail.

The shooting occurred shortly after 7 o'clock as the car reached the corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Sixth street, bound for Capitol Hill. Congressman Heflin, accompanied by Congressman Edwin J. Ellerbe, of South Carolina, had boarded the car at Twelfth street and Pennsylvania avenue, Mr. Heflin being on his way to deliver a temperance lecture at the Metropolitan Methodist Episcopal church, Four-and-a-half street and John Marshall Place. Upon boarding the car he observed two negro passengers, one of whom was Thomas Lumbly, and who was in the act of taking a drink from a bottle of whiskey. There was a number of other passengers, including several ladies. Mr. Heflin says he remonstrated with Lumbly, and asked him to stop drinking, saying: "Don't take that drink, there are ladies here and it is not right. It is against the law for you to do this thing in a street car and I hope you will put that bottle away." The other negro, who was sober, attempted to take the bottle away from his friend, but failed. It is said that Lumbly became offended at Mr. Heflin's remonstrances and applied vile epithets. As the car reached Sixth street and Pennsylvania avenue Mr. Heflin and Lumbly were engaged in a desperate struggle. Mr. Heflin, who is a large, powerful man, succeeded in throwing Lumbly out of the car as it came to a stop. Most of the occupants of the car hastily alighted, including Mr. and Mrs. McCreary. The negro fell to the ground on being pushed out of the car. He arose and it is said began cursing Mr. Heflin again and made a motion for his hip pocket as if to draw a weapon, whereupon Mr. Heflin fired at him through the car window, missing the negro and hitting Thomas McCreary, who was about 20 feet from the car. Mr. Heflin fired once or twice again, one of the shots striking Lumbly in the head above the ear. Lumbly ran a short distance and fell. An ambulance was called and he was taken to the Emergency Hospital. The conductor of the car disappeared and Officer George N. Scriven took charge of the car and ran it to Third and Pennsylvania avenue.

There Representative Heflin was escorted by Officer Scriven to the Capitol Hotel and later was taken to the police station in a cab.

He was not locked up.

Mr. Heflin explained at the station his reason for firing armed. He is author of a "Jim Crow" car law in the District of Columbia and says that since he introduced the measure he has received many letters of a threatening character, and secured permission from the authorities to go armed.

Mr. Heflin represents the fifth Alabama district in which the Turkeog Institute, of which Booker T. Washington is at the head, is located.

Earthquake Destroys Town.

Mexico City, Special.—Chilapa, a town of 15,000 inhabitants in the State of Guerrero, has been shaken by an earthquake. Feared early Friday in number, followed by a series of fires which, originating in a dozen places among the tumbling buildings, joined in a conflagration that swept the town.

The Aldrich Bill Passes.

Washington, Special.—The Aldrich currency bill was passed by the Senate by a vote of 42 to 16, in the main a party vote. Previous to the taking of the vote on the Aldrich bill a vote was taken on the Bailey substitute authorizing the government instead of the national banks, to issue the emergency circulation for which the bill provides. The vote on the substitute stood 40 to 13, and this vote was entirely partisan, even Senator LaFollette casting his vote with the Republicans.

Mine Owners Fear Trouble.

Seattle, Wash., Special.—Serious trouble is threatened at the Treadwell mines on Douglas Island, where eight hundred miners are striking. The strikers, it is charged, have stolen large quantities of powder from the mine stores and threaten to destroy the works if non-unionists are landed. Troops have been ordered from Fort Seward to preserve order.

## SMITH SUCCEEDS WHYTE

**Former Governor of Maryland, Already Elected to Senate For Six-Year Term, Is Chosen to Fill Out Unexpired Term of Senator Whyte—Election to Be Questioned.**

Annapolis, Md., Special.—In separate sessions the Democratic members of the two houses of the Legislature voted unanimously for former Governor John Walter Smith for United States Senator to fill out the unexpired term of the late William Pincney Whyte. Ex-Governor Smith already has been chosen for the full six-year term beginning March 4th, 1909. The Republican members decided at a caucus not to participate in the election, taking the ground that any other course would be in violation of the Federal statutes. One member of the House, however, bolted the caucus and voted for Congressman William H. Jackson.

It is understood that the legality of the election will be questioned, it being contended that the necessary time between the notice to the Legislature of a vacancy and the election of a successor had not elapsed as required by law.

Former Governor Stewart Appointed to Succeed Late Senator Proctor.

Rutland, Vt., Special.—John Walcott Stewart, of Middleburg, was appointed to the United States Senate by Governor Fletcher D. Proctor to fill the vacancy created by the recent death of Senator Redfield Proctor. Mr. Stewart has accepted. His term will expire this coming fall, when the Legislature meets in regular session. Mr. Stewart is 83 years of age.

Merely Settles Jurisdiction.

Washington, Special.—In the case of the State represented by Sheriff Thomas F. Hunter, of Buncombe county, appealed from the Circuit Court of the western district of North Carolina, the Supreme Court, Mr. Justice Harlan dissenting, sustains Judge Pritchard. The decision, handed down Monday morning, along with the famous Minnesota case, both of which involved the question of jurisdiction. In no sense does this decision invalidate the North Carolina rate law, but settles the habeas corpus jurisdiction.

Ask For Protection Against Black Hand.

Jackson, Miss., Special.—John Womack, his brother and son, prominent planters of Simpson county, Mississippi, appealed to Governor Noel in order for protection against Black Hand threats. The men were ordered to leave Simpson county within 30 days or "stretch hemp," meaning they would be hanged. Governor Noel advised the men to return to their homes and be on active guard.

Church and Depot Blown Down.

West Point, Ga., Special.—A severe wind storm late Monday at River View, Ala., blew down a Methodist church and the Chattanooga Valley Railroad depot, unroofed a store and slightly damaged several other buildings. A heavy rain followed the wind storm, adding to the damage done by the latter. No loss of life has been reported.

Night Riders Shoot a Negro.

Hopkinsville, Ky., Special.—A band of night riders rode at midnight into Godenpond village, and later firing off guns went to the hotel and forced Tom Weaver, a negro tobacco packer to accompany them. They took him when he failed to obey promptly the riders began shooting at him, two bullets entering his shoulder and hip.

Railroad Wreck; Twelve Killed.

Bergin, Ky., Special.—Twelve persons were injured, several fatally, when a passenger and a freight on the Cincinnati Southern met in a head-on collision three miles north of here Tuesday. Both engines were smashed and rolled down a thirty-five foot embankment with several coaches.

A Chicago Franchise.

Chicago, Special.—After a fight that has extended through the administration of Mayor Dunne, the city council, after a fight lasting until early Tuesday voted an amended franchise to the Commonwealth Edison Company. The new franchise, its enemies declare, gives the company a virtual monopoly in furnishing electricity for light and power, giving it a right to discriminate in rates for service furnished and to charge whatever it may please for emergency service.

Germany Accepts Hill.

Berlin, By Cable.—Emperor William, having been fully advised as to the attitude of President Roosevelt and the feeling of the American public in regard to the alleged refusal of His Majesty to receive Dr. David Jayve Hill as American ambassador to Germany, in succession to Charlemagne Tower, has withdrawn all the expressions of disapproval he recently sent to President Roosevelt and would be pleased to receive Dr. Hill as American ambassador.

Murdered Woman Found in Bed.

Trenton, N. J., Special.—Mrs. Frances Kaue was found dead in bed at her home at Fallington, Pa., Sunday morning with two stab wounds in the body and a fractured skull. The woman had been murdered and had been dead about 24 hours when the body was discovered. A broken chair and other conditions in the room gave evidence of a struggle. There is no clue to the murderer.

## SCORES DIE IN MINE

**Fire Follows Explosion Deep in Coal Shaft**

## RESCUERS LOSE THEIR LIVES

In a Desperate Effort to Reach the Bodies of 18 Victims and Possible Survivors of Explosion, Probably 50 Rescuers Met a Similar Fate by a Second Explosion in the Hanna Mines of the Union Pacific Coal Company.

Cheyenne, Wyo., Special.—Between 55 and 70 men, it developed Sunday, lost their lives in two explosions in coal mine No. 1 of the Union Pacific Coal Company at Hanna. The explosions were caused by gases and coal dust, and each was followed by fire.

The first explosion occurred at 3 o'clock, killing 18 miners, including a superintendent and three bosses. The second explosion occurred at 10:30 o'clock at night, snuffing out the lives of from 40 to 50 rescuers, including State Mine Inspector D. M. Elie.

The wildest excitement prevailed in Hanna and at the mine, where hundreds of persons are congregated, including widows, children and other relatives of the victims. Men and women are running about wringing their hands and crying, while many little children, separated from their mothers, are sobbing with fear.

When the second explosion occurred, additional appeals were telegraphed to all surrounding towns for assistance. One train is rushing west from Omaha, carrying officers of the Union Pacific Railroad and of the Union Pacific Coal company.

The regular force of men employed at mines Nos. 2 and 3 were pressed into rescue work, which is extremely difficult.

The bodies of four of the 18 men who lost their lives in the first explosion, were found Sunday night, but owing to the increasing volumes of gas, which threatened to explode at any moment, no effort was made to remove them to the surface.

At 3 o'clock the fire reached the gas, and a terrific explosion followed. In a few minutes many men volunteered to enter the mine to rescue any possible survivor. Fumes and fire hindered the rescuers but they made some progress. After a long struggle, the volunteers got well into the mine. Those on the surface had begun to expect results from the intrapid daring of the rescuers, but at 10:30 o'clock the camp was started by a second explosion that partly shut off the shaft of the mine and most likely killed the volunteers.

The victims are all below the tenth level and it is probable that flames have consumed the corpses.

## Bomb Thrown in New York

New York, Special.—Saturday as the police were dispersing a crowd of 10,000 idle people who were holding a socialistic meeting without a permit, a bomb was thrown with telling effect. The bomb was intended for the police, who with rough firmness had broken up a meeting of 10,000 unemployed. It exploded prematurely in the hands of the assassin, horribly wounding him, killing his companion, and injuring slightly four policemen and throwing to the ground a score of those who were massed in the vicinity.

To Try Banker Montgomery.

New York, Special.—William R. Montgomery, former president of the Hamilton National Bank, who was indicted on two counts charging the over-certification of checks, will be placed on trial before Justice Dowling in the Supreme Court. Montgomery has entered a plea of not guilty of the indictment.

Guilty of Embezzlement.

Macon, Ga., Special.—The jury in the case of former Cashier C. M. Orr, of the failed Exchange Bank, charged with embezzling funds of the bank, after being out about three and one-half hours, returned a verdict of guilty. Judge U. V. Whipple sentenced the defendant to seven years in the penitentiary. A motion for a new trial was made.

One Killed in Tennessee Wreck.

Memphis, Tenn., Special.—One man was instantly killed, another probably fatally injured and five others badly hurt in a rear-end collision between a work train loaded with laborers and a freight train on the Illinois Central Railroad early Tuesday. The accident occurred at New South Memphis and was caused by a dense fog.

Murdered Woman Found in Bed.

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