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THE CHARLOTTE NEWS.

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CHARLOTTE, N. C., FRIDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 25, 1903.

PRICE: 3 CENTS

DUEL IMMINENT, AMERICAN WITH A FRENCHMAN

Dr. Dechateau a Witness in the Fair Case and Edmund Kelly of the American Embassy Have a War of Words in Court.

Kelly Intimated That Dechateau was a Bankrupt--The Frenchman was Insulted and Challenged Kelly--The Challenge Withdrawn.

(By Associated Press.) Paris, Dec. 25.—During the hearing of the Fair case, a duel became imminent between Dr. Dechateau, a witness, and Edmund Kelly, of the American Embassy, representing Mrs. Orlin Vanderbilt and Mrs. Herman Orlin Vanderbilt. The hearing Thursday was held in the house of Dr. Dechateau, the place where the accident occurred. Dr. Dechateau and Perriquet testified that Mrs. Fair lived the long testimony when Kelly intimated that Dr. Dechateau was a bankrupt. Dechateau was upon his feet in an instant. "Sir, you insulted me grossly, and in a manner impossible for me to overlook. You must give satisfaction and my seconds will call upon you," he said. It was impossible to proceed with the hearing until friends intervened and the challenge was withdrawn under protest. He had this disagreement between Dechateau and Kelly being adjusted, before another arose between Mr. Kelly and M. T. Beekman, who represents the heirs of Mrs. Fair. "We have given Mrs. Fair's mother two hundred thousand dollars in full settlement of her claims," said Mr. Kelly. "We regard that act of our client as having settled any claim Mrs. Nelson might have upon the estate."

GENEROUS ELKS.

They Bring Cheer to Many Little Hearts Today.

More than five hundred little children boys and girls, will look backward in later years to the Christmas of 1903 and thank the Charlotte Elks for bringing Santa Claus to them when the old fellow would otherwise have passed them by.

ENTER THE ASSOCIATION.

The George A. Fuller Construction Company Admitted to Membership in the Building Trades Association. (By Associated Press.) New York, Dec. 25.—The George A. Fuller Construction Co., through President McConnell, has applied for membership in the Building Trades Association. Application has been accepted and President McConnell becomes a member soon. The plan, scope and regulations of the association having been thoroughly explained to him.

WOOD DEFENDS HIMSELF.

General Wood Tells of His Acquaintance with Bellairs.

(By Associated Press.) New York, Dec. 25.—The Commercial Advertiser prints a letter signed by General Leonard Wood, and addressed to Dr. Horace Fletcher, of Yale University, in which the writer tells of his acquaintance with Edgar G. Bellairs. In the letter which was written in Cairo, on May 12 last, General Wood, referring to Bellairs, said: "In the spring of 1899 he was promoted to Havana (from Santiago), not at my request or suggestion, direct as I remember it. He asked absolutely no favors of me or so far as I know, of any one."

Death of Moody Merrill.

(By Associated Press.) Santa Fe, N. M., Dec. 25.—Moody Merrill, of Boston, alias C. F. Grayson, of Silver City, died suddenly yesterday at Silver City from pneumonia. Merrill it is said held very high positions in Boston whence he suddenly disappeared and was supposed to be dead until a short time ago political enemies revealed his whereabouts and that he was arrested in New York city on serious financial charges. In New Mexico he had made a new fortune, represented the Colers of New York in the southwest and had been president of the Silver City National Bank.

FAMOUS FORGER CAUGHT AT LAST

He is Arrested on a Charge of Arson--Set Fire to Sing Sing Prison and Escaped--Flooded Wall Street With Bank of England Notes.

(By Associated Press.) New York, Dec. 25.—One of the men involved in the famous Bank of England forgery case, and who in 1877 set fire to Sing Sing prison and escaped, has just been arrested in this city Saturday at the age of 69, on the charge of arson in the first degree. He is known as Charles Williamson alias Perrin, but passed lately as Charles Hall, which is said to be his real name. Posing as a retired banker now, he was posing as an active banker, when in 1893, he flooded Wall street with alleged forged bonds. He bought the Van Alen home at New Hamburg, Dutchess co., agreeing to pay ten thousand dollars, and paid five hundred down, and insured the house for nineteen thousand. Four days later, February 14 last, the house was burned.

To Elect Directors.

The board of directors of the Young Men's Christian Association, is called to meet this evening at 8 o'clock to elect five new directors to take the place of those whose terms of office expire December 31. The old directors, however, have been re-nominated for the positions they now hold on the board.

Great Britain Recognizes.

(By Associated Press.) Panama, Dec. 25.—C. Mallet, the British Consul, has officially informed the Junta that he has received a cablegram from the British foreign office to the effect that Great Britain formally recognizes the Republic of Panama.

BLACKBURN WANTS JUDGE BOYD'S PLACE

A Prominent Charlotte Citizen Says This is the Secret of the Hatched-Up--Antagonism Against the Greensboro Man.

A prominent Charlotte banker who weighs his words carefully, today informed a representative of The News that the secret of the antagonism to Judge Boyd is entirely due to ex-Congressman Spencer Blackburn's desire to secure the judgeship himself.

From another source The News is informed that an influence in North Carolina politics to which the President has bowed to on several occasions of late, is secretly at work to dethrone Judge Boyd.

From this same source it is learned that back of all this opposition is the fact that Judge Boyd is a strong Hanna man and would like to see the Ohio Senator named for the Presidency.

Ex-Congressman Blackburn is for Roosevelt and, it is said, he has pledged the President the vote of North Carolina in the next National Convention.

In order to make sure his pledge he has made war on Judge Boyd, thinking, of course, that Roosevelt would give him his ear and, if necessary, to secure the vote of North Carolina. Judge Boyd would be sacrificed and Spencer Blackburn be named for the position.

To his friends in Charlotte Judge Boyd has never expressed any preference as to the next Republican nominee. In fact, a representative of this paper tried strenuously to get an expression from him as to this matter and he persistently declined to be interviewed.

Chairman Rollins, it has been said, denies the statement credited to him at Statesville. The News was informed of the matter through its Statesville correspondent, and the statement made in that correspondence has never been denied by Col. H. C. Cowles, to whom Mr. Rollins talked.

The News reiterates that Chairman Rollins did say at Statesville that he knew nothing of the impeachment proceedings against Judge Boyd and that as far as he knew, there was nothing in the telegram sent out from Washington.

SHERMAN, NEWPORT, READY TO SAIL

The Two Transports at San Francisco Ordered to Hold Themselves in Readiness for any Movement Toward Panama.

(By Associated Press.) San Francisco, Dec. 25.—Orders have been received at Washington by the local transport officials to get transport ships Sherman and Newport in readiness for service, immediately. Transport officials maintain secrecy as to orders received and refuse to divulge the intended destination of the vessels. It is generally believed, however, it is the intention to have the troop ships in readiness for any movement toward Panama. The gunboat, Bennington, has arrived from Bremerton navy yard. It is understood they will leave in company with the New York, acting as convoy to the torpedo boats Paul Jones and Petrel.

RUSSIA AND COREA.

London Standard Reports an Alliance Between Them That Will Increase the Tension in the Far East. (By Associated Press.) New York, Dec. 25.—A dispatch to the American from London says that the Tientsin correspondent of the Standard today, revives the report which was denied a few days ago, to the effect that a secret treaty had been signed between Russia and Corea, whereby Russia obtains control of the Korean army through Russian instructors. The correspondent declares this will increase the tension in the Far East.

NEW OIL FIELD.

The Greatest Gusher in Texas Begins Spouting Oil at Baton Prairie. (By Associated Press.) Beaumont, Texas, Dec. 25.—Paraffine well number 3 at Baton Prairie, the new oil field which was being bored, broke loose yesterday and with a roar that shook the earth began spouting oil 200 feet in the air and hurling rocks 600 feet through twenty feet of pipe.

This is claimed to be the greatest gusher in Texas today and wells since are booming in this vicinity since the latest wells have been brought in.

CONVOCATION OF CHARLOTTE.

On January 14 the Convocation of Charlotte of the Episcopal church, W. C. Assemblies in this city. The Convocation will continue three days closing January 17th. A number of delegates are expected to attend this meeting.

BIG MEMPHIS FIRE! FULL INSURANCE

B. Lowenstein and Company, Oldest Mercantile House in West Tennessee, Suffer the Loss of Their Department Store in Memphis. (By Associated Press.) Memphis, Dec. 25.—Fire this morning in the large department store of B. Lowenstein & Bro., on Main street, caused a damage approximating \$150,000, fully insured. The fire started in the basement of the retail branch of the company near the engine room shortly before 1 o'clock, and spread quickly to the store room. By the time the first stream of water came, the blaze had spread over the basement, and was sweeping the first floor, dense volumes of smoke making it difficult for the firemen to get at the flames and entirely precluding the possibility of entering the building. The fire was gotten under control before 3 o'clock. Lowenstein Brothers conducted a wholesale and retail business, being the oldest dry goods dealers in Memphis or West Tennessee.

THE WEATHER.

There was no regular weather report kind enough to telephone. The News this afternoon the predictions for this section. It is said that the rain will cease by tonight and that clearing weather will prevail tomorrow. The indications are that the temperature will fall several degrees by tomorrow.

BRIEFS.

—Rev. W. W. Orr will address the men's meeting at the Y. M. C. A. next Sunday afternoon.

—A Christmas entertainment will be given this evening at East Avenue Tabernacle for the benefit of the children of the Sabbath school.

—Mr. B. R. Spillman, secretary of the International Fire Insurance Co., is in the city. This company was represented in the Carolinas by the late C. Furber Jones.

AFTERMATH OF THE GREAT WRECK

The Dead Robbed of Money and Jewelry--Distressing Scenes at the Morgues--Another Story of Heroism--Sixty Four Dead.

(By Associated Press.) Connellsville, Pa., Dec. 25.—The summing up of the results of last night's wreck of the Duquesne limited on the Baltimore and Ohio eight miles west of here, shows a total dead list of 64 and nine injured. Today Connellsville has been packed with curious people attracted by the wreck. The three morgues have found it necessary to put guards on all doors to keep morbid spectators from jumping into the small rooms and walking over the forms of the dead. The streets packed, and in front of each of the undertaking establishments hundreds of people are grouped eagerly waiting for a glimpse at the dead bodies. Friends and relatives of the victims are coming in on every train and scenes at the morgues are most distressing. All but a few of the sixty eight bodies have been identified and those who are still unknown will be laid away in Hill Grove Cemetery at the dawn of Christmas morning.

Connellsville, Pa., Dec. 25.—Another name is added to the long death list resulting from the Duquesne Limited wreck on the B. & O. at Dawson Wednesday. Harry Devlin at the Cottage State Hospital, died at 10 o'clock today. The total dead number is 65, and this probably completes the list. Devlin's home was Lonaconing, Md. There was one Christmas funeral, that of Edison Goldsmith, and an immense concourse attended the services. Bodies of other Connellsville victims will be held until Saturday or Sunday before burial. This is a necessity as the undertakers are too overworked to attempt to conduct funerals today. The bodies of about 30 victims were gathered up and taken away on early trains today. The remaining bodies identified will be shipped within the next 24 hours and the unknown will be cared for by the borough council. Official investigation into the cause of the disaster is being prosecuted vigorously by officers of the railroad company, but it is doubtful if any individual will be blamed for the accident. It is apparent that a number of switches, which had fallen off a west-bound freight train and were strewn on the passenger tract caused the flying express to be derailed.

Those who are still to be identified are mostly foreigners and it is doubtful if their identity will ever be known. Considerable money was found on the persons of the unidentified and tight sewed in a belt on one of the foreigners was \$1400 which was placed in the First National Bank. Sums ranging from \$100 to \$300 were found and this, like the balance has been put in the bank until perhaps some time a relative may be located.

Many of the victims of the wreck have been robbed. There are several who are known to have had a large amount of money and jewelry on their persons. Not a single cent was found in the pockets of several of these, and it was plainly visible that rings had been taken from the fingers. Robbers were on the scene early and many of the rescuers, they had secured considerable booty, much of which consisted of baggage and hand bags that had been lost about the cars in the wreck. A number of them have been recovered and it is the opinion of local officers that the bags were quickly picked up by the gang of thieves that operated there before assistance arrived.

The wreck is pretty well cleared away. Coroner Arthur Nagen, of Fayette county, arrived in Connellsville and immediately swore in the coroners jury. The jury is now viewing the remains and taking evidence as to the cause of the disaster. It has been learned that the car which dropped the timbers which wrecked the train was gondola No. 3377 of the Nickel Plate road.

A story of courage and heroism seldom equalled is told of Benjamin Nichols, steward on the dining car. His name is being sung with praises by railroaders and the surviving passengers. When the terrible slide of the engine dragged the train whirling sideways along the road, Nichols was in the dining car. Before the car had made its last lurch Nichols had leaped and was running toward the smoker, which was reduced to a matter of twisted iron and splinters. The crash had torn the escape valve from the top of the engine and the steam was shooting in the car upon the struggling mass on smoking humanity.

Supt. J. F. Irwin of the B. & O. declares the blame must be fastened on the parties who loaded the lumber on the car. His theory is that the stakes at the side of the gondola were weak and gave way under the tension of the car when it rounded the curve. Supt. Irwin has addressed inquiries to the starting point and the destination of the car and will make a thorough investigation.

THREE DEATHS IN TENNESSEE.

One From a Feud, One From Whiskey and One From Blowing Down a Gun-Barrel.

(By Associated Press.) Knoxville, Tenn., Dec. 25.—Deputy Sheriff L. R. May shot and killed Lee Lewis at Powell's station in this county at 3 o'clock last night. The shooting was the result of an old grudge of several years standing due to trouble at an election polling place. May is now on his way to Knoxville to surrender to sheriff Fox, his chief. Cart Woolsey, son of Rev. John Woolsey, who happened to be behind Lewis was shot in the hip and seriously wounded by a stray bullet.

Wesley Bright, a young man living near London, Tenn., was cleaning his gun yesterday preparatory to going hunting today. In trying to ascertain whether it was loaded he put the muzzle in his mouth to blow through the barrel and with the toe of his shoe he pushed back the hammer. The hammer slipped from his toe and the load of the gun went through his head, tearing it almost off.

Near Madisonville, Tenn., Lon Cagle shot and instantly Lee Rasar this afternoon while they were involved in a quarrel due to too much whiskey. Cagle and two other men in the party were arrested.

MR. COLLINS PURCHASE.

He Closes a Trade for the Carson Building in Spartanburg. The Spartanburg Journal of yesterday has the following item that will interest many Charlotte people:

John D. Collins, proprietor of the Bee Hive, this morning closed a trade for the purchase of the Carson building. The price paid was \$21,000.

This is, with possibly one exception, the largest building in Spartanburg. It is four stories high with capacious basement and is about fifty feet in width. The basement and first floors are occupied by Mr. Collins' Bee Hive, the fourth floor of the building is used for a hall and is one of the largest in the State. Portions of the second and third floors are used for office purposes.

The building was built by J. L. Carson about six years ago and was known as the Carson Building. When he died it was still the tallest building in the city. It is well finished and is built in a substantial and durable manner. It is regarded as a valuable piece of property.

Gifts for Mill Children. Last night the members of the Sunday school at the Chadwick Mills were given a Christmas entertainment, which was largely attended.

The children were presented with neat packages of fruits, oranges and other good things contributed by Mr. E. A. Smith, of the mill.

At the Court House.

The county officers, one and all, took a day off today and every office in the county court house was vacated. The building remained closed all day.

Pneumonia Put in a New Class. The health department of New York City, Alarmed at its Prevalence, Puts Pneumonia in Class With Contagious Diseases. (By Associated Press.) New York, Dec. 25.—Pneumonia, a ghastly proleptic in itself, having become prevalent in this city, the health department decided to amend the sanitary code by classifying this ailment with measles, scarlet fever and smallpox, and making compulsory a physician's report of every case of pneumonia, promptly. This is said to be without precedent in America or Europe. For the last five weeks, according to the health department, there have been 829 cases reported, an increase of 43 per cent. over the cases of last year.

Mrs. Sexton's Guests.

The Confederate Veterans and the Children of the Confederacy are having a splendid time out at Mrs. Sexton's this afternoon.

Every Christmas afternoon the Veterans and the Children of the Confederacy are guests of Mrs. Sexton. She has always a splendid spread and something to cheer. This afternoon was no exception. The beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. Sexton was tastefully decorated for the occasion. Holly, mistletoe and ivy formed the decorations. The Veterans and the children tarried long as the guests of their honored friends and left wishing them all the happiness that such generosity and kindness always begets.

PERSONALS.

Mr. and Mrs. Armand Myers, of Portsmouth, are guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Steele.

Mr. S. L. Burts, manager of the Charlotte office of the Western Union, left last night for Columbia, where he will spend Christmas with his wife who has been in Columbia for several weeks.

WALTER M. SOFLEY MEETS HORRIBLE DEATH ON TRACK

The Mangled Remains of a Charlotte Young Man Found on Southern's Track Near High Trestle, Opposite the Elizabeth Mills.

Body was Allowed to Remain Until Coroner Cathey Came This Morning--Sofley was Seen by Several Parties Near the Place of Death.

Last night between dark and the time No. 40 came in on the Southern track, Walter M. Sofley met death in a horrible way. The deceased was the oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Sofley. He was a general favorite and as his brother said, was the pet of the family. Mr. Sofley, his father, is a well known citizen of Charlotte and many people who are glad to call themselves his friends, sympathize with him and his family in this, their great grief.

Mr. J. A. Sofley moved to Charlotte from Long Creek township about eight years ago and went into the grocery business. During the greater part of that time his son has been with him in the store, which is on the corner of Cedar and Fifth streets.

At the coroner's inquest this morning the following testimony was obtained: Sofley left home yesterday at about 2 o'clock and went up town. Mr. W. D. Perry, his second cousin, was with him a short while before his death. Testifying before Coroner Cathey this morning he said that he had been with the dead man yesterday afternoon and that he was positive that Sofley was partially under the influence of liquor. He said that he went down West Hill street with him and then up across the railroad and as he could not take him any farther he turned around and went back for a carriage. When he got back he could not find Sofley. He said that he had thought that he would not move away so he left him not very far from the railroad track, about seventy yards or more.

Of all the men in the room where the inquest was held Mr. Perry seemed the least affected by the fearful accident. He gave his evidence in a quiet, though slightly nervous, manner, which he endeavored to hide by smiling.

Another person who saw Sofley shortly before his death was Jennie Rawlins, who told a News representative the following story: "I saw Walter M. Sofley at the corner of Graham and Hill streets. Walter spoke to me and jerked away from Will, and said that he was coming down to my house, but Will grabbed him and took him on down Hill street. I told him that he had better take Walter to my house and that I would take care of him while he got a carriage to take him home, but he said that the police were after him so he went on. I followed them after a little and met Will coming back. I asked him where Walter was and he took me and showed him to me lying right down beside the track just as 97 went by. I then told him that he ought to stay with Walter while he went and got a carriage, as he could not carry him up to my house. He said that he would come with me, but I told him I was not afraid. We went on up to Graham street and I sent a negro boy for a cab and he could not get one, so I sent another boy and he did not get any, so we went back and tried to find Walter, but could not do it."

The body was found later on by the railroad employees of a switch engine, having been sent out to investigate the rumor that there was a man on the track. The body was terribly mangled, especially about the head.

The coroner's jury composed of Messrs. A. C. Query, J. A. Cathey, W. J. Fite, J. M. Harkey, J. W. Austin and E. P. Hoover, examined the body at the undertaker's rooms of Mr. Horvis, but could not reach a verdict, as the chief witnesses had not been summoned. It was thought for a while that a small hole in the right leg was caused by a bullet, but when examined by a physician it was declared that it was caused by a rock or similar substance being ground in by the wheels.

There is a report current that the night pumperman at the pumping station, which is near the trestle, saw the deceased on the end of the trestle shortly before the supposed time of his death, with a man whom he described as being a tall man with a light moustache, who wore a blue shirt, but as the pumperman has not been found, this cannot be substantiated.

Mr. E. Grimsley, who for the past two years has been traveling eastern North Carolina, and South Carolina for the Dixie Oil Co., with headquarters in Charlotte, resigned his position Dec. 1st and will engage in farming upon his plantation three miles from Snow Hill, N. C.