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Rev. Sherrill To Be Tried by Conference

N. C. State Library

Charges of Improper Conduct With Woman, Preferred Against Rev. C. F. Sherrill to Be Thoroughly Investigated.

Some Facts Relating to Case—No Crime Charged—Proceedings of Day Reviewed in Detail—Much Work Done.

Special to The News.

Hickory, N. C., Nov. 19.— The second day's session of the Methodist Conference met at 9 o'clock, Bishop Atkins presiding. Religious service were by Ira Irwin.

A number of undergraduates were examined and advanced to higher class.

Rev. J. W. Clegg, who was allowed to rest last year, was unanimously readmitted.

Dr. M. B. Porter, of the American Bible Society, addressed the conference.

Rev. D. C. Richardson, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was received from Blue Ridge conference.

A class of 10 young men were received into full connection.

The election of delegates to the general conference on first ballot of laymen, resulted: F. S. Weaver, W. D. Turner, R. L. Durham and J. L. Nelson.

Second ballot, no election; third ballot, C. H. Ireland.

Fourth ballot and fifth, no election. On the sixth ballot F. S. Lamkin was elected.

The following young men were admitted on trial: H. V. Clarke, L. W. Collins, Will Edward, W. I. Hughes, A. P. Ratlege, E. B. Stabler, R. K. Brady, W. B. Shinn and J. F. Harrelson.

Dr. Kilgo addressed the conference on Trinity College's work.

Revs. T. F. Morr and J. H. Weaver were elected clerical delegates on first ballot.

Dr. J. C. Rowe reported a trial was necessary in the charge against Rev. C. F. Sherrill. A committee was appointed to try, with J. E. Woosley as prosecutor.

Some Things in Evidence.

The beginning of this case was in June, 1908, which was the time of the offense, if offense, was committed, and there was nothing said, so far as known of the matter in any way, until October of that year, when it came to the ear of Mr. Sherrill for the first time; and, taking a witness, a brother preacher, with him, he called upon the lady and asked for a statement, telling what was being circulated. To this it is said she would make no charge whatever, rather charging Mr. Sherrill family with inattention to her, but now says that the reason that she would not charge him then to his face was that the witness present was a single man, and she would not discuss the matter in the presence of the young man.

When conference convened last year at Asheville the matter was open for a charge, but the preachers on Mr. Sherrill's district had a meeting and heard a plain statement of his side of the case, had signed a paper agreeing to allow the matter to go unnoticed; all the preachers signed this save one, who was a kinsman of the lady, whom it seems was not satisfied with the result of the called meeting, and wrote to the lady for a statement of the case, and he, with others, have taken her reply to that letter, in which she wrote charges, and have built up the case from it to the point of Mr. Sherrill's demanding an investigation at the hands of the conference as indicated above.

As reported unofficially the case is about as follows:

There was a social gathering at the home of the presiding elder, Rev. C. F. Sherrill, at Rutherford College, which was attended by the complainent, Mrs. Cherry and her two grown daughters, who tiring of the occasion before her daughters wanted to go home was in the act of going, when some one with whom the lady did not want to be, offered to see her home. Seeing that the visitor was embarrassed as to getting home, Mr. Sherrill offered his services as escort, which was accepted, under protest, saying she could go alone.

Leaving the Sherrill home, the route lay over a by-path to the main road or street, which led over rough ground, down and up a steep declivity, the going up of which is where the offense was said to have been committed. Mrs. Cherry claims that he put his arms around her and said things he should not. Mr. Sherril says he saw her to the road, and in climbing the steep place, that, instead of taking her by the arm, he placed his hand or hands on the back of the lady, rather pushing her up the hill; at the top of which he bade her good night, returning to his home, with never a thought that he had done wrong or in any way offended her.

Notwithstanding, the charges have been circulated and worked for all they are worth by certai ninterested ones this year. Mr. Sherrill is closing a fine year's work on the Shelby district, and is a man whom many of those who know him well think is above any wrong intent, either act or word.

He denies positively anything improper, and the matter will have to be decided on the word of one or the other. He is ably represented by Drs. Boyer, Marr and Detwiler, while the prosecution will have able men to push the investigation. Of course the hearings will be in the committee room and away from the public. Much sympathy is felt here for the accused, who has done most excellent work in the conference since his admission; and it is the more regretted for the sake of the whole conference, which has such a fine record as to the character of its ministers. By her own evidence Mr. Sherrill is guilty of no crime, if all she claims is believed.

Hickory, N. C., Nov. 19.—Finishing the morning session yesterday it was announced that Dr. S. A. Steele would speak again at 3:30 and at 7:30 Dr. John C. Kilgo would deliver an educational address. Both were signals for the gathering of a large crowd, filling the spacious church till people were turned away at the doors.

Dr. Steele spoke on League work in the afternoon, and the address was inspiring in every way, as he gave incident after incident of young people who had been reached and put to work through league influences. Dr. Steele is a wonderfully gifted man, both as a gospel preacher and platform speaker with an experience few men have had.

Dr. Kilgo Speaks.

The 7:30 service was in charge of Rev. E. L. Bain, pastor of Trinity church, Charlotte, and president of the board of education in the conference.

Dr. B. F. Dixon lead the prayer and the conference trio as mentioned yesterday sang a selection, "The Good Old Fashioned Way," at the close of which Dr. Kilgo was presented and proceeded at once into the discussion of the status of education in this country. He told how the general board come South once a year in Pullman cars, sit down to a banquet, deplore the conditions of education, and go back home feeling that they have transformed the educational conditions of the South with never a thought that the church has any part in the education of the people. Said he: "I pity their ignorance," and with that as a preliminary foundation the doctor proceeded to dilate upon the conditions, giving figures to show that the churches of the land, with 30,000,000 people were furnishing 90 per cent of all the students in school, and such has been the history of the church and education, and gave figures to show how this branch of the church was furnishing a larger per cent, saying that the churches are at the back of the educational movement today rather than the Pullman car crowd that break champaign bottles in some hotel dining room, getting inspiration therefrom.

Then with figures he showed how the church colleges have furnished and are furnishing the majority of prominent men of the nation.

Labor Convention Endorses Gompers Report

By Associated Press.

Toronto, Canada, Nov. 19.—The American Federation of Labor convention by a rising vote endorsed President Gomper's report protesting against "unjudicial and intemperate language," used by Justice Wright sentencing Gompers, Mitchell and Merrison to jail for contempt of court.

Death of Gifted Editor New York Sun

By Associated Press.

New York, Nov. 19.—William M. Lafan, publisher of the New York Sun, died this morning at his home in Lawrence, L. I., following an operation Monday for appendicitis. He was aged 62 years and a native of Dublin, Ireland. He was successor of Charles A. Dana, in the management of the Sun.

Fire Destroys Cotton Gin.

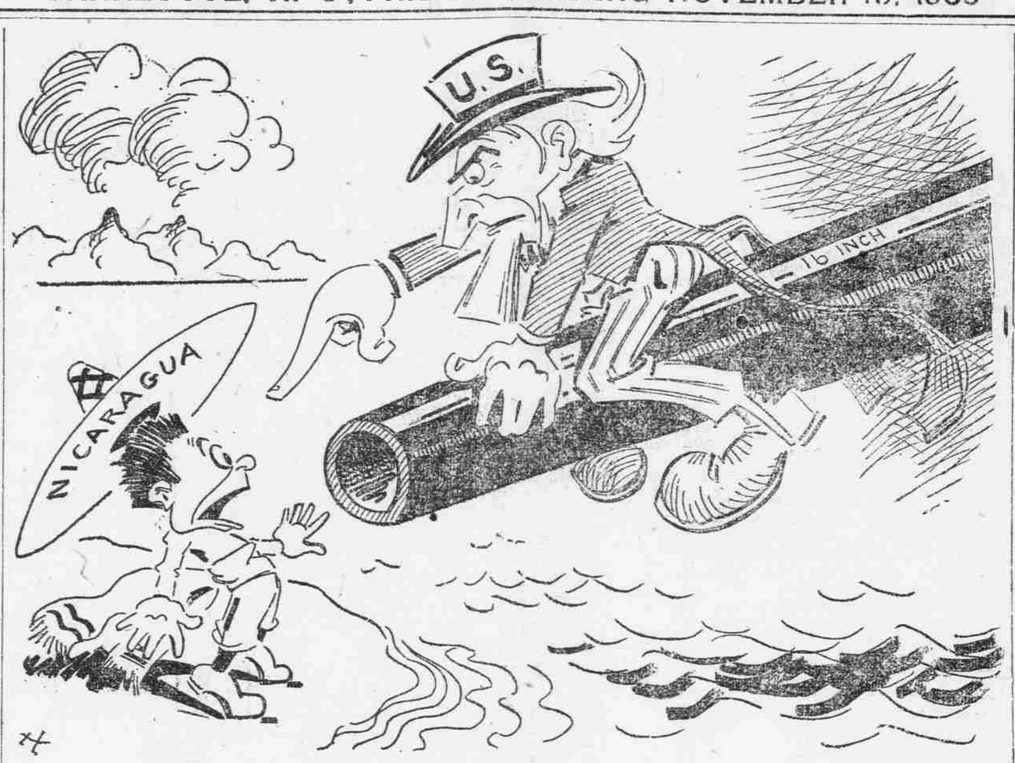
Special to the News.

Chester, S. C., Nov. 19.—Mr. L. Taylor Grant, who has within the past few years lost by fire two large gin houses, and also had his big barn and its contents burned six weeks ago, had his cotton house completely destroyed by fire Wednesday afternoon at his home in Armenia. Mr. Grant had no insurance on the property. It is thought the cotton house was ignited by sparks flying from a gin close by.

Pittman-Hyatt.

Special to the News.

Chester, S. C., Nov. 19.—Miss Edna Hyatt, the attractive daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Hyatt of Fort Lawn, R. F. D. No. 2, married Mr. Samuel Pittman of Edgemoor, at the exquisitely decorated home of the bride's parents Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock.



"NOW, TELL US ALL ABOUT IT!"

Norfolk Gives President A Warm Welcome

By Associated Press.

Norfolk, Va., Nov. 19.—The Atlantic Deeper Waterways Convention had as a stellar feature this morning, President Taft, guest of the association and municipality of Norfolk.

The president arrived on the naval yacht Mayflower at 8:30 this morning. His arrival was announced by a double salute of 21 guns, first fired by the Norfolk Light Infantry Blues, second by guns of the receiving ship Franklin.

The president's yacht dropped anchor off Hospital Point. He came ashore on the naval tug Mohawk and was met by Rear Admiral Taussig, commanding the naval station, joint reception committees of the city of Norfolk and the waterways convention Proceeding to the Monticello hotel the president was accorded a reception to the convention of delegates and later escorted to the grandstand at the Confederate monument, where before delivering an address he reviewed the military and civic parade.

The president's reception was a notable affair. Several hundred people greeted him, including Governors Pothiers of Rhode Island, Swanson of Virginia, Governor-elect Mann, Senator Martin and many members of congress.

The naval and military and civic pageant was the greatest in the city's history. Proceeding to the Confederate monument, Mr. Taft was cheered by a great throng of people lining the streets.

Turning into the main street he was greeted by 400 school children forming a human American flag. The children sang "America." The president appeared much affected.

Seventy newspapermen arrived from Washington here. Elaborate plans for their entertainment have been made.

Use Business Methods.

The president, outlining his position on waterways improvements, said:

"I am glad to be here to testify to my interest in the waterways work. There has been a general movement over the country in favor of the expenditure of money to improve waterways, inland and coastal. I am sure the movement has the support of the people and these responsible to the people for the expenditure of money. What I wish to depreciate is the general proposition to raise a lot of money and dump some here and some there and some back here just in order to distribute it equally over the country. I am opposed to that. I am in favor of expending the money for an improvement in Norfolk and spending it for improvement somewhere else if the Norfolk project is a good one and the one somewhere else is not. In other words, we ought to go at this business as if we were business men. And when we do that I do not think that the people of the United States will grudge a cent of the many millions that it is going to cost to give us the improvements we ought to have no matter where they are.

Favors Big Navy.

"I want to say that I will take up what is projected and proposed with all sympathy possible, but nevertheless, with what I hope is judicial spirit to reject what evidence does not sustain and to approve what the evidence does sustain. I want a navy to continue to be maintained unbroken worthy of this country. We are not knocking anybody's chip off his shoulder, and we are not having a chip on our shoulder, but we are a great nation of eighty or ninety millions of people and we must, in order to maintain the prestige that is proportionate to our stand before the world, have a navy that is worth seeing and able to fight if it has to."

Favors Deep Waterways.

President Taft, in his address, reiterated his position in regard to waterways improvement, and declared he would earnestly support any project which could prove its practicability and worth and which would redound to the general good.

The president said a word regarding the navy, declaring the Norfolk navy yard was probably the most important station and base in the entire country and that Hampton Roads formed the greatest point of naval rendezvous. The navy, he declared, should not only be "worth seeing, but should be able to fight if it ever has to."

Benefits For Injuaed Government Employes

Special to The News.

Raleigh, N. C., Nov. 19.—Detailed instructions have just been received in the office of United States Marshal Cladius Dockery, here, from the department of justice at Washington, for making special reports to the department of all persons injured while in the employ of the government under the provisions of the act of congress of May 30th, 1908, entitled, "An act giving compensation for injuries to government employes."

There are no persons within the Eastern district at this time subject to a benefit of this kind. Had the act been passed in time it would have paplied quite advantageously to H. C. Reece, of the revenue service, who was dangerously wounded by blockaders in Harnett county, some months ago, and has permanently lost the use of his left arm through the effect of one of his wounds.

Incendiaries Arrested.

Special to The News.

Raleigh, N. C., Nov. 19.—A telegram from Deputy Commissioner Scott, of the state department of insurance, was to the effect that he has procured the arrest of Lamb and John Adams on the charge of burning a building owned by Mrs. Gardner, in Pitt county. The telegram was from Greenville.

Seventy-three Men Removed

By Associated Preess.

New York, Nov. 19.—Collector Loeb added another stirring chapter to the sugar frauds when he announced. this afternoon he had removed from customs service at the port of New York 73 employes in the weighing and other divisions.

IF ADVERTISING IN THE NEWS WILL NOT IMPROVE YOUR BUSINESS THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE BUSINESS.

Big Fire in Belmont

Four Houses Totally Destroyed on Pegram St.—Loss About $5000—Originated in Closet of Benfield Home.

Fire, which broke out in the home of Mr. W. H. Benfield, at No. 227 North Pegram street, Belmont, today about noon, completely destroyed four houses before it could be checked and entailed a loss estimated at between $4,000 and $5,000.

The majority of the furniture in the houses destroyed was saved, with the exception of the home of Mr. Benfield, where most of the furniture was destroyed, the piano and a few other articles being saved.

The thre other houses burned were occupied respectively by Mr. R. A. Barrett, who owns a wood yard in Belmont; Mrs. M. B. Mullis, a widow lady, and Mr. W. P. Martin. The house occupied by Mr. Barrett was owned by Mrs. J. B. Tartlton, of Concord, on which there was a small amount of insurance, though not enough to cover the loss. The two houses occupied by Mrs. Mullis and Mr. Martin, were owned by Mr. J. Arthur Henderson.

The fire started in the home of Mr. Benfield, and was first discovered by members of the family while at dinner. How it originated is not known, as it was first discovered in a closet, and it is said there was no stove flue near by which it could have caught from.

The alarm was given and the fire company responded, but as the city water main does not extend into Belmont, water had to be obtained from the plant of the Louise Mills. The management turned on this, and if it had not been for the assistance thus obtained it is no telling what the loss would have been. At the time of the fire the mill was closed down for the noon hour and the operatives rendered valuable assistance in fighting the flames, which could be seen from a great distance.

The Benfield home was wrapped in flames soon after the fire was discovered, and from here it rapidly spread. Two of the other houses were "shot gun" houses located just on the other side of Mr. Benfield's home and between it and the Presbyterian church. The fire was not long in spreading to those and they burned rapidly, and only by the greatest efforts was the Presbyterian church saved. As it was, it was scorched very badly. Mr. Barrett's home, No. 225, was the next which caught. Several houses just across the street from the ones which were burned were scorched by the excessive heat. Mr. Barrett saved about all of the furniture. The house in which he lived, it is said, was insured for about $500, and about a like amount was carried on the building occupied by Mr. Benfield.

Pegram street along the section in which the fire occurred is very thickly built up on both sides of the street, the houses being close together, and it is very fortunate that the fire occurred when it did, or the damage might have been considerably greater. The majority of the citizens of this section were at home for dinner at the time of the fire and it was greatly through their efforts that the flames did not spread to more houses than were consumed.

A large crowd quickly gathered on the scene immediately after the alarm was given and their first efforts were toward the saving of furniture in the different homes. All the furniture from several other houses was removed for fear they would likewise be wiped out by the flames.

The buildings were almost completely destroyed and only a little charred framework remains standing.

Cracksmen Get $1,600.

By Associated Press.

Allman, Iowa., Nov. 19.—Two masked men dynamited the safe of the bank of Allman this afternoon and escaped with $1,60.

Charred Bodies of Miners Are Brought Out

Rescuers Return From Burning Mine to Tell Gruesome Story of Piles of Bodies Seen in Mine's Depths.

Several Disfigured Bodies Were Brought to Surface—Grief Stricken Women Vainly Seek to Identify Their Own.

By Associated Press.

Cherry, Ill., Nov. 19.—The dark tomb of the Cherry mines conquered, after an all night battle in clearing shafts in a burning mine; three bodies were first recovered, through the main shaft, and brought to the surface at 8 o'clock this morning.

Inspectors and geological experts, penetrating the dismal depths and fighting the smouldering fire in the coal veins, caught sight of piles of other charred bodies, but passage was hampered by the fire.

At 6 o'clock this morning a group of miners and railroad men entered the mine, working without oxygen helmets but there was no suffering from noxious gases.

Struggling through the dark tomb the firemen discovered in a second vein a pile of bodies from which three were recovered.

The east portions of the gallery, where the fire originated are badly caved in.

The west portion of the gallery is still afire, but firemen with hose got 40 feet into the vein.

Fireman O'Conner, one of the many from Chicago to fight the underground flames, emerged from the main shaft and declared he believed the fire would be extinguished before many hours.

He saw a pile of human bodies buried in the wreckage of the gallery running from the main shaft to the air vent. He also saw bodies lying in heaps in the west vein where the fire is still raging.

Mine Inspector Taylor, who yesterday declared he would enter the mine or die in the attempt, spent the night in the mine and gave a grewsome account of piles of human bodies sighted but impossible to reach.

Taylor sent workmen into the mine to repair the east vein, the approach timbers having burned.

Another body of volunteers was sent later to-day into the mines.

On the second trip of the cage four other bodies, one a boy, were brought to the surface.

The ambulance, guarded by militiamen, was followed by crowds to the town hall, temporary morgue.

Here scores of the grief stricken

(Continued on Page Two.)

Woodrow Wilson Favors Football

By Associated Press.

Philadelphia, Pa., Nov. 19.—President Woodrow Wilson of Princeton University, speaking of the agitation to abolish football, said: "Football, too fine a game to be abolished offhand. I do think it should be modified to obviate these fatal accidents."

Negro Shot Over Domestic Difficulty

Special to the News.

Chester, S. C., Nov. 19.—Jealous of John Macon's paying court to his wife—all in the case colored—John Winn, so the former asserts, attempted to butcher him with a knife Tuesday last, near Hopewell A. R. P. church, on Mrs .T. S. Harris' plantation. Macon declares he made record door speed endeavoring to escape the angry Winn. However, since Winn was a swifter runner than he, it was quickly realized that he must either shoot to kill or be slaughtered, so he suddenly stopped, turned around and fired. The bullet dangerously punctured Winn's leg. It had to be amputated. The effects of which, coupled with the copious loss of blood before medical attention could reach him after he had been shot, caused his death early yesterday morning. Macon is now imprisoned in the local jail.

NEGRO DIES FROM EFFECTS OF PISTOL SHOT

Word has just come in from Pineville that John O'Leary, the negro man who was shot by another negro named Cobb during a fuss at that place yesterday, had just died from the effects of the bullet wound.

Cobb has escaped and so far there is no trace of his whereabouts.

A posse is searching for him and if caught will stand a chance of receiving a very severe sentence for his crime.

No details of the killing can be had at present as no one seems to know the cause of the fuss that resulted in the tragedy.

Mad Dog Scare.

Durham, N. C., Nov. 19.—A mad dog caused an Alston street excitement yesterday when it bit thre men and six dogs before the officers and citizens succeeded in shooting the rabid fellow down. None of the attacked persons feel any immediate uneasiness and they joined in the chase as if nothing had happened.

Tense Situation Is Result of Execution Of Two Americans

By Associated Press.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 19.—Indications point to recognition by the United States government of the belligerency of the Revolutionist's government in Nicaragua under Gen. Estrada.

A public declaration to that effect is expected in the near future.

At the present moment the insurgent forces are in control of at least half of the Nicaraguan territory, and have possession of the Atlantic coast, except Greyton.

Warships dispatched to Nicaraguan ports are expected to arrive at their destination today. Wireless reports from them are hourly expected.

Dr. Hazera, Nicaraguan minister-designate, this morning received the state department's note demanding from the Zalayan government an explanation of the execution of Cannon and Grace. The legation admitted a "report of the incident has been received."

Washington, D. C., Nov. 19.—A tense situation exists this morning as the result of the execution of two Americans, Cannon and Grace, in Nicaragua, by order of President Zelaya.

Zalaya's action, while new to the public, has been known to the state department for 48 hours.

The department possessed the main facts and adopted the attitude of reserve, awaiting with patience the Nicaraguan government's explanation.

It is assumed here that late press dispatches from Manuagua are accurate in the statement that the men executed after court martial were charged with attempting to use dynamite mines to blow up some of Zalaya's troop transports.

Should the department's advices confirm the story, then the question at issue, is whether the charge justified execution.

Probably everything depends upon the methods pursued by Cannon and Grace in attacking Zalaya's forces.

If it should appear that the Americans slipped within the government force's lines, disguised, and planted the mines, they might be regarded as spies, subject to summary execution.

But, if working openly, it probably will be held that they should be treated as prisoners of war on the theory that the attack upon a ship by a mine is a legitimate act of lawful war.

In the latter case no doubt Zelaya wil be called to account and ample reparation demanded.

The Nicaraguan legation officials profess to know nothing regarding the execution.

Zalaya's Troops Deserting.

Bluefields, Nicaragua, Nov. 19.—The blockade at Greytown remains effective, Rebels strengthening their position continually.

It is reported large numbers of Zalaya's troops are deserting.

Fear of a Rebel invasion in the interior, influenced Zalaya to mobilize forces there. There is no likelihood of a movement against the eastern coast.

News From the Des Moines.

Colon, Panama, Nov. 19.—The United States cruiser Des Moines, dispatched at top speed to Nicaraguan coast as soon as the execution of two Americans reached the State Department, Washington, sailed from Port Limon, Costa Rica, yesterday, presumably en route to Bluefields, Nicaragua.