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ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

MEXICO WORSE AND WORSE.

FORMER RULERS MURDERED.

Despite the warning of the United States President Madero and his Vice-President, who were deposed last Tuesday, were murdered Saturday night — United States Army being sent to the border and Navy in readiness — Mr. Wilson keeping up with the situation.

Just after midnight Saturday night the former president and vice-president of Mexico were shot while being sent in automobiles to the penitentiary. While the present government of Mexico says that they were shot in an attempt to rescue them, it was no doubt a cold-blooded murder. After Diaz, who is now in charge, had forced President Madero to resign last Tuesday, the United States warned the new president that this country would not be pleased at any violent measures against the former president unless he were given a legal trial.

What this country will, can or should do, or may be forced to do, to restore order and protect life and property in Mexico, no one yet knows. President Taft has just refused to interfere so far, but is putting the army and navy in readiness should it become necessary. Mr. Wilson is keeping close up with the situation so that he may know how to act when he becomes president next Tuesday. The story of the killing of two former masters of Mexico, who had ruled the country for two years, is thus told:

Mexico City, Feb. 23.—Francisco I. Madero and Jose Pino Suarez are dead. In a midnight ride under guard from the National Palace to the penitentiary they were killed.

The circumstances surrounding the death of the deposed President and Vice President of the Republic are unknown, except as given in official accounts, which do not in all cases conform. The only witnesses were those actually concerned in the killing.

The Provisional President, General Victoriano Huerta, says the killing of the two men was incidental to a fight between their guard and a party attempting to liberate them. The Minister of Foreign Relations, Francisco de la Barra, adds that the prisoners attempted to escape.

Neither made a definite statement as to which side fired the fatal shots. It is not impossible that neither knows.

ORDERS INVESTIGATION.

An official investigation has been ordered to determine the responsibility and solemn promises have been made that the guilty will be punished.

Not unnaturally a great part of the public regards the official versions with doubt, having in mind the use for centuries of the famous "lex fuga," the unwritten law which is invoked when the death of a prisoner is desired. After its application there is written on the records, "prisoner shot trying to escape."

Senora Madero, widow of the Ex-President, received the first definite information of his death from Senor Coloman Cologan, the Spanish Minister. She already had heard reports of something unusual and friends had endeavored up to that time to prevent her from learning the truth.

Soon afterward, accompanied by her brother, Jose Perez and Mercedes Madero, a sister of Francisco, Senora Madero drove to the penitentiary but was refused permission to see the body of her husband. Senora Suarez also was denied admittance to the mortuary, where physicians, in accordance with the law, were performing an autopsy.

WOMEN AT PRISON.

In contrast to the widow, whose grief was of a pitifully silent character, expressed in sobs, Mercedes Madero, a beautiful young woman, educated in Paris, who has been a brilliant leader of society since the revolution of 1910, was dry-eyed and tigerish in her emotions. By the side of the two women whose husbands had been killed, the girl hurried accusations at the officers who barred the entrance.

"Cowards!" "Assassins!" she called them, her voice pitched high. The officers stared impassively.

"You! The men who fired on a defenseless man! You and your superior officers are traitors!" No effort was made to remove the women nor did the officers attempt to silence them. Senora Madero continued weeping and the girl did not cease her hysterical tirade until the arrival of the Spanish Minister and the Japanese charge, who came to offer their services.

The minister spoke with the officers in charge but was told that on account of the autopsy it would be impossible for any one to see the bodies. Later in the day they said the request would be complied with. The Diplomats then conducted the women away from the penitentiary.

Madero's father and Rafael Hernandez, former Minister of the Interior, and other friends made efforts early in the day to recover the bodies and it was said this afternoon that the American Ambassador Henry Lane Wilson had interested himself and secured the promise of Minister de la Barra that the bodies should be delivered to their families for burial.

OCCURRED AFTER MIDNIGHT.

The tragedy occurred shortly after midnight. Madero and Suarez, who

FOR A REGULAR SALES DAY.

Bill Requiring Mortgage Sales to be Held Open for Increased Bids—A Sales Day for Mecklenburg, Statesville Landmark.

Mr. Thomas of Anson county has a bill pending in the Legislature to provide for second sale of real estate which is sold by virtue of a will, in the foreclosure of mortgages of deed in trust, by an executor or other persons acting under power conferred by will. The bill provides that such sale shall not be deemed to be closed under ten days, and that if within this time the price shall be increased ten per cent., where the first price was \$500 or less, or five per cent where the first price is more than \$500, the sale shall be reopened and only two weeks' notice of second sale given. Mr. Thomas cites an instance where such a sale was made under the present law. Mr. A. authorized Mr. B. to bid for him at the sale and fixed his limit at \$2,100. Mr. B. went to the sale and to give himself plenty of margin began bidding at \$300. Nobody raised the bid, as few were present on account of weather conditions, and Mr. B. got the property for Mr. A. at \$300 while Mr. A. had expressed his willingness to pay \$2,100 for it. Mr. Thomas seeks by his bill to provide for a second sale in such cases, and says that many a time, on account of bad weather or other conditions that prevent the attendance of possible bidders real estate is sold at unreasonably small figures and yet under the present law the sale cannot be reopened, no matter how much the bid is afterwards immediately raised.

In commissioners' sales of real estate the law requires sales to stand open for 20 days for increased bids and in case of 10 per cent bid it shall be resold. Mr. Thomas' bill should apply to all mortgage sales. Many a time, because there is a small attendance at a sale for one reason or another and nobody is interested, a poor devil whose land goes to sale under mortgage loses his all because nobody is there to make it bring its worth. A case in point that happened in Statesville. A colored man who owned a small tract of land had mortgaged it. Another colored man offered him \$125 for it. The fellow under mortgage refused, saying the land was worth \$150 and if he couldn't sell it privately for that he would let the mortgagee sell it. The mortgagee's claim was near \$70. The land was advertised. The colored man who wanted to buy couldn't attend the sale but he telephoned a white friend to run the land up to \$125, saying that was all the money he had. The white man attended the sale and started the land at \$70, the amount of the mortgage. Not another bid was put on and the colored man got the property he would gladly have paid \$125 for.

There was many such cases and a remedy should be provided. One way is to pass Mr. Thomas' bill and apply it to all legal sales and another is to have a regular sales day, the first Monday in each month and require all legal sales to be held on that day. The Mecklenburg Bar Association has requested Senator Pharr of that county to introduce in the Legislature a bill requiring all judicial sales in Mecklenburg to be held on the first and third Mondays in each month. The Senator acquiesced and the proposal will doubtless be enacted into law.

PREVIOUS EVENTS.

A regular sales day would insure a good attendance and there would be little danger of property selling at one-half or one-fourth its value for lack of purchasers.

Death of Mrs. Scott's Father.
Polkton, Feb. 21.—The sudden death of Mr. C. B. Ledbetter at Red Springs tonight, which was due to paralysis, was a great shock to many friends and relatives in this section. He spent one day here this week on his way home from Mississippi, his territory as salesman for Stephen Putney & Co. He was not well then, but no one expected the news which came tonight.

Mr. Ledbetter was 65 years of age and a native of this county, having moved to Red Springs eight years ago. He was a splendid citizen. He leaves a wife and several children. His daughters, Mrs. June Gunter of Sanford, Mrs. J. A. Colvin of Fayetteville, and Mrs. J. L. Scott of Monroe, reached home before he died; but two sons, Messrs. C. W. Ledbetter of Texas and Fred Ledbetter of Chicago, were too late.

A suit has been started in the United States Supreme Court in Asheville by A. B. Freeman against the Continental Casualty Company of Chicago for \$4,000 which he claims is the face value of a policy which he held when he lost his left arm in November while hunting. Mr. Freeman claims the shooting was accidental and the company is not willing to accept his testimony.

Divorce laws will be made more stringent in Nevada, a State that has won unenviable notoriety through loose divorce laws. The Legislature has passed and the Governor signed a bill requiring residence of a year instead of six months to obtain a divorce in that State. The bill does not become effective for a year. During the last two years 1,281 suits for divorce have been filed in Reno, a city of 12,000 inhabitants. There are probably 600 divorce seekers now in the city.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Six Months School Term Bill Passes — Plan for the State to Help Finance County Road Improvement—May be New Assessment of Property.

The plans of the finance committee contemplate a possible bond issue to cover deficit, and a possible reassessment of property some time before next fall.

Yesterday Representative Justice, member of the legislative commission conferring with railroad officials relative to relieving North Carolina shippers from freight discriminations, introduced a bill Monday to prevent exorbitant charges by railroad companies on interstate freight to be applied under certain circumstances, being a bill designed to compel the railroads to adjust freight discriminations complained of or accept much lower rates for interstate freights.

The bill directs the Corporation Commission to forthwith readjust interstate freight rates so that there shall be no higher charge for a short haul within the State than the published rate for longer haul over the same shorter haul route, whether the longer haul be State or interstate. The introduction of this bill comes on the eve of the second conference of railroad officials and Governor Craig and the legislative commission on the freight problem Wednesday of this week, and is evidently designed to be considered in connection with this conference.

Mr. Justice declares his bill is economically and legally correct, and insists that his investigations as a special commissioner during the past few weeks has revealed conditions adverse to North Carolina shippers wholly intolerable.

By a vote of seventy-six to five, the House Saturday passed on its final reading the bill by Representative Kellum to encourage road building in North Carolina by the State issuing its bonds to take care of good roads bonds by the counties. There was but little serious opposition to the measure. The bill provides that the State may issue \$300,000 in bonds semi-annually, sell these bonds at four per cent interest and with the proceeds purchase the bonds issued by counties for good roads construction. The county bonds are to bear five per cent interest. The bonds are to run forty-one years, and it is a mathematical calculation that these bonds can be issued by the counties and retired in forty-one years at five per cent—in other words, the counties do not provide a sinking fund and never have to provide for paying the principal of the bonds—the five per cent for forty-one years wipes out the county's debt, while the State sells its bonds at four per cent interest. The whole proposition does not cost the State a cent, but its action in the matter serves to provide \$600,000 a year to be spent in the State in good road building.

This is the scheme worked out by W. S. Wilson, of the State department, and adopted by the North Carolina Good Roads association. The application of the measure is left optional with each county. No county can issue its bonds under this plan, except after an election has been held and a majority of the votes cast must favor the issue. Such an election can not be called except upon petition of twenty-five per cent of the voters of the county. The advocates of the measure say there is no danger of over-taxing the State's credit, because so fast as the State increases its liabilities it always has county bonds at five per cent as collateral to its own bonds at four per cent.

By a vote of forty-four to one, the Senate Friday passed on its second reading the Thorne-Majette six months school term bill, as amended. The only dissenting vote was that of Senator Little of Anson. The bill undoubtedly will pass back to the House for concurrence in the Senate amendment, which was offered by Senator Bryant and provides a new section under which all counties finding a need for more revenue, on account of this measure, may levy a special tax not exceeding five cents on the \$100 worth of property. Senator Bryant had explained that the constitution permitted the General Assembly to authorize the various counties to levy a special tax, whereas the State levy is fixed. This amendment made many votes for the bill, and the general opinion is that the House will concur.

After nearly two hours of discussion, the House of Representatives Friday, by a roll call vote of 43 to 30, passed on its second reading the Bryant judicial reform bill to amend the Revisal relating to the selection and challenging of jurors in capital felonies. The bill had passed the Senate. The bill reduces the number of peremptory challenges on the part of the defendant from 23 to 12, the State's challenges remaining 4. The measure also abolishes the requirement that a man must be a free holder to be qualified to serve as a juror in such cases and eliminates the practice on the part of the solicitor of standing ten per cent of special venire at the foot of the panel.

The state-wide legalized primary bill was killed on second reading in the House Thursday night just before 11 o'clock, by a roll call of fifty-four to fifty-one, after an omnibus amendments exempting a fourth of the counties of the State

WOMAN SUFFRAGE DEBATES.

Monroe and Ninety Other Schools in the State Discussed the Question Friday Night — Our Boys Won Here but Lost at Mt. Pleasant. —What do the Debates Signify?

Friday night while the debate was in progress at the graded school between the boys from Monroe and Sanford the same question was being debated at ninety other points in the State—"Resolved, That the constitution of North Carolina should be amended so as to permit women to vote on the same terms as men." While we have no full reports from all over the State, the general impression is that the affirmative won many more debates than the negative. Does this mean that sentiment for woman suffrage is gaining ground in North Carolina? Already there is much more sentiment for it than one would suppose.

In the debate here the Monroe boys, Messrs Eugene Presson and Willie Stevens, covered themselves with glory and won the question in behalf of women. Our boys, Messrs. Ware Pointer and Bernard Crowell, who debated at Mt. Pleasant, had the negative and lost. News comes from there that the boys made fine speeches and acquitted themselves well, but could not stand against the sentiment and argument of the other side. Here the Sanford boys, Messrs Demmick and Cunningham, made good speeches, and in announcing the decision for the committee of judges, Dr. Weaver said that it was mighty near a tie.

The ease and skill of Messrs Presson and Stevens was wonderful for boys of their ages and they handled the argument like veterans. Before the debate began, Misses Flowers and Leake, with violin and piano rendered some fine music for the enjoyment of the large audience. The Sanford boys were accompanied by their principal, Mr. Foreman, and Prof. Hendly accompanied our boys to Mt. Pleasant.

Monroe, Sanford and Mt. Pleasant compose one of the triangles of the debating batteries organized by the literary societies of the University of North Carolina in a contest for the Aycock Memorial cup. All over the State three schools are thus grouped together and every school that wins both of the debates will send its team to the University to engage in the final debates. While the debate was in progress here between Sanford and Monroe, another Sanford team was debating with a Mt. Pleasant team at the former place and the other Mt. Pleasant team debating with the other Monroe boys on the former's forum. At Chapel Hill the teams that won both debates Friday night will contest and from the best, two will be chosen to engage in the final debate on March 7th.

Goose Creek Clan Before Legislature.

Charlotte Chronicle.

Goose Creek notables, both those who have emigrated and those who are great even at home, will hold a confab in Raleigh today at such time and place as may be agreed upon by that harmonious body inhabiting the choicest part of "sweet Union."

Among those present will be Johnson D. McCall, ex-mayor of Charlotte; Judge E. Little, lawyer and patriot; Dr. J. A. Austin, aldermanic leader; R. E. Austin, Representative from Albemarle, and brother to Dr. J. A. Austin; Representative Plummer Stewart; and other sons of Union who have made their impress on the world, or who are about to do so.

Much local interest has been attracted to this gathering, all the members of which profess to be in Raleigh on general business, but who it is believed, contemplate beseeching the Legislature to recognize in some fitting and handsome manner the worthiness of Goose Creek, by either creating it into a new county or permitting it to become annexed with Mecklenburg, the latter to bear any contingent expenses thereby incurred.

"Goose Creek," said Mr. J. D. McCall before hiking out for Raleigh Sunday with Mr. J. Lee Phillips, who is also favorable to the annexation of Goose Creek, "has poured her best blood into Mecklenburg. Her sons today are busy defending the legally entangled Mecklenburgers, curing their sick ones, administering to the spiritual wants, and even supplying the suffering larders of Mecklenburg high-livers. All of these things deserve recognition and with the moral support of many good Mecklenburg people, we believe that Goose Creek sons will be able to secure that recognition before the General Assembly to which their splendid records entitle them at the hands of a justice-loving and God-fearing race of men whose ancestors cut the British yoke from their necks with one stroke of the pen, followed up by more warlike work when the time came for it."

Mr. Little, who is a likely son of Goose Creek, refused to say further than that the gathering of Goose Creekers in the capital today was to consider ways and means for the fuller and more universal recognition of that fair Eden which has supplied so many notable emigrants into the Canaan of Mecklenburg. The two sections, declared Mr. Little, are indissolubly joined, and the claim of the Goose Creek hall of fame clan for either separate incorporation or annexation to Mecklenburg, should receive the enthusiastic support of Mecklenburg people. "While Goose Creek," added Mr. Little, "was not present at the signing of the Declaration in Charlotte, her forbears fought at Hastings, on the field of Culloden and later at King's Mountain, and in Goose Creek's history there is no flaw."

"The Seine, the blue Danube or the popular Thames," declared Mr. Little, "will be but historic memories when Goose Creek shall be in her flower and her sons have come into their own, which includes the domination of all Mecklenburg, to whom we would at present be annexed, asking no more just at this time."

Tiding from the Goose Creek siege and attacks upon Raleigh and the Legislature will be awaited in Mecklenburg with interest.

"But what I want to know, said a citizen, "is how Lee Phillips got in that crowd. Has he been among us so long and we didn't know he was from Goose Creek? It is not like the kind he be thus silent."

Thirty-five indictments, charging violation of State banking laws, forgery and embezzlement were returned in Augusta, Ga., Friday by the Richmond county grand jury, which for the past three weeks has been investigating the failure of the Citizens Trust Company of Augusta, involving approximately \$145,000 unprotected by assets.

Why Didn't the Trust Pay Farmers More for Their Seed?

Charlotte Observer.

The season with all of the cotton seed oil mills is drawing to a close. The Southern Cotton Oil Company will doubtless close down its Charlotte plant within the course of a few days. The Elba Mill here will shut down the latter part of this week. The Maxton plant of the Elba Manufacturing Company will probably run until about March 5. The Buckeye Cotton Oil Company's Charlotte plant will run until about the first of the month. The North Carolina Cotton Oil Company plant will close about the same time.

The crush this year has been a very limited one. This was due in large measure to the short crop of cotton grown in South Carolina and Georgia. This may be shown by the record of one Charlotte plant. The crush last year was approximately 36,000 tons. This year the crush will hardly figure more than 25,000 tons. The season with all the plants has been a short one as compared with last seasons' crush which was unusually large.

Delegates to Missionary Union.

The following ladies have been appointed by the Woman's Missionary Society of the First Baptist church as delegates to the meeting of the Woman's Missionary Convention to be held in Raleigh March 25-28: Mesdames J. F. Williams, Braxton Craig W. E. Cason; alternates, Mesdames M. C. Long, H. E. Copple, D. B. Snyder, Mesdames F. B. Ashcraft, D. A. Covington and G. M. Bensley are delegates by virtue of the offices they hold in the local societies. The Raleigh entertainment committee has informed the local president that as many delegates from Monroe as may wish to attend will be cared for and that the blanks for this purpose will be furnished on request. It will be remembered that the last meeting of this organization, which was one of the largest meetings ever held here, was held in Monroe, and that Monroe people made quite a reputation by entertaining so well so large a gathering.

To the Housewife.

Boney & Harper's Grits are made from the best white corn. THEY COOK DONE. When ordering grits insist that you have the "Boney & Harper" brand.—Adv.

Gov. West of Oregon and Frank L. Perkins, a newspaper man of Portland, Ore., scrapped in the State capital at Salem, Ore., last week. They knocked at each other and struggled in the floor but there was no damage of consequence. The Governor was displeased by articles appearing in Perkins' paper.

The House Wednesday refused by a vote of 213 to 114 to pass the Lillingham Bennett Immigration bill over the President's veto. A few days previous the Senate passed the same bill over the President's veto.