

# The Mount Airy News.

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## PANAMA CANAL IS NEAR COMPLETION.

### End of Dry Excavation Advances the Work Almost to Final Stage.

Washington, Sept. 7.—Completion of dry excavation on the Panama Canal yesterday just 10 days ahead of schedule time, advanced the work on the great waterway almost to the final stage. Much digging and cleaning out remains to be done in Culebra cut and along the route, but this will be accomplished by mammoth dredges floating on the surface of the canal.

An army of men will be busy during the next four weeks removing steam-shovels and other equipment and material, including 36 miles of railroad track, from the nine-mile channel in Culebra cut between Gamboa Dyke and Pedro Miguel Locks. This is preparatory to turning water into the channel from Gatun Lake, on the Atlantic side on October 5, five days in advance of the date set for dynamiting Gamboa Dyke. The water will be introduced through four 26-inch pipes extending underneath the dike, and although the five-day period hardly will suffice to fill the channel to one-third the canal level, enough would be let in to act as a cushion against the explosion when the dike is destroyed.

While the cut is being cleared of railway and equipment, drilling and blasting will be going on at the bottom of the channel, loosening up rocks and earth for the dredges that soon will be clawing away through water. Six of the shovels will be continued in removing material from the east and west banks near Culebra to lessen the danger from slides.

The destruction of Gamboa Dyke will leave only one such obstruction along the Canal route, the dike over which the railroad crosses the Gatun Locks and which can be removed at any time. The last barrier on the Pacific side, the Miraflores Dyke, was dynamited just a few weeks ago turning Pacific tidewater into a channel 5,000 feet long, 500 feet wide and 41 feet deep.

Dredges now are navigating this channel and on the Atlantic side a big suction dredge steamed on Gatun Lake up to a point near the Gamboa Dyke 10 days ago.

Small vessels probably will be able to pass through the canal from end to end by October 10, and the waterway should be ready for shipping proper early in December.

## Bandits Get \$16,000.00 Pay Roll.

Columbia, S. C., Sept. 5.—Three men, each armed with two revolvers late today held up a deputy sheriff and two employees of the J. G. White Construction Company at Pharr Shoals, twenty miles from here, and took from them \$16,000 in currency which had been intended to meet the pay roll of the company, which is building a huge power dam there.

Tonight seven hundred employees of the company together with the sheriffs and deputies of four counties with blood hounds are hunting for the robbers. J. C. Joyner, the deputy sheriff, resisted the bandits and was shot, the bullet taking effect in the thigh. His wound is not serious.

The robbery occurred just after Paymaster Marr with Fred Bullman assistant cashier and Deputy Joyner had taken the money from the express office at Pharr Shoals. To reach the construction company's office where the money was to be distributed they had to go down the railway track through a rather deep cut. As the three were passing a box car which was standing on the railway track a trio of men, their faces blacked to disguise them, stepped out and covered the money-bearing party. Deputy Joyner reached for his gun and the robbers opened fire. Joyner fell shot through the thigh and the others realizing the futility of resistance with their assailants in so strong a position, yielded. The robbers took the sack containing the money and made off into the woods.

## CONDITIONS IN MEXICO.

### Methodist Missionary Residing in Mexico Writes an Interesting Letter to Relatives at Spartanburg.

Spartanburg, S. C., Sept. 7.—Conditions in Mexico are described in an interesting manner by Miss Chasley May Cunningham, a Methodist missionary at San Luis Potosi, in a letter to her sister and brother in this city. Mrs. Thomas J. Carter, wife of the principal of the Textile Industrial Institute, and J. C. Cunningham, a sophomore at Wofford College. Although bidden to come home, Miss Cunningham has declined. She is at present at Alvarez and her letter was sent from there on Aug. 13. In part she says:

"Miss Alfter and I are running wild out here in the mountains where we were Christmas. All three of the day school teachers (not missionaries) went home. After waiting for nearly a month for a way to get out of the country they had to go to Mexico City, then to Vera Cruz, and by steamer to Havana. From there they will go either to New York or New Orleans to get to St. Louis. This is what might be called the 'lightning route.'"

"The situation here is interesting but not dangerous to us unless something more develops than there has been any sign of so far. Such a thought as leaving has never once seriously entered our minds."

"The school at Durango and the normal at Saltillo have both closed down because they are in the midst of the fighting section. We have absolutely nothing to fear in San Luis Potosi except intervention, and in such a case, which surely will never be, our consul would be warned in time to save us. We are very much concerned to know what Mr. Lind's mission is. Before you receive this letter the trouble may all be settled."

"The country will certainly go to the wall financially as a Government and as individuals if this keeps up much longer. Business is pitifully paralyzed. Thousands of men are out of work, and being promised good pay, join the revolution or form bandit groups and raid the country for a living. Haciendas, the large plantations, are being abandoned because it is unsafe to live on them. The mines over all this section (I do not know about other places) have closed down, with the smelters and other attendant industries."

"Prices for everything are going up all the time. The restlessness of the middle and lower classes is becoming a problem that I am glad I will not have to solve, while the complacency and utter indifference of the upper class is disgusting. They have no more patriotism than a chicken. And the funny part is, they can sit with folded hands and calmly watch their own private business crumbling to atoms before their eyes and never lift a finger to help straighten things out. The graft going on in every department of the Government is quite unimaginable to a square-minded person."

"So far as I can make out nearly all the middle and lower classes are against Huerta and the upper class are for him verbally but without sacrificing a penny nor putting forth the least exertions. This and the graft account in part for the instability of his Government, and financially it seems to me they cannot help but continue getting in deeper all the time. We cannot even speculate on the result."

"The Federal Army is composed of men from the lower class who have no protection, who are literally kidnaped and kept in the penitentiary until enough are collected to ship like cattle to Mexico City where they are drilled a very little, then sent to the front. The other Sunday our Sunday school superintendent went to the 'pen' to hold a service with some of the men. As usual, they would not let him in, as they had just received 200 'volunteers' whom it would take all afternoon to register and assign to their cells."

"Is it any wonder that when the Federals find themselves in a tight place they go over en masse to the rebels? This is exactly the reason the Government has not and does not seem likely to get anywhere in putting down the revolts. And the end is not yet."

## MEXICAN OFFICER SHOT BY AMERICANS.

### Lieutenant Acosta Crosses International Bridge and Begins Firing.

El Paso, Tex., Sept. 6.—Lieutenant Acosta, an officer in General Salazar's Federal command at Juarez, crossed the Stanton street international bridge this afternoon and was killed by United States Customs Inspector T. F. Jones and Immigration Inspector Thomas N. Heifron, after he had opened fire on them with a rifle.

He was shot through the mouth and arm and his horse, from which he had dismounted, was shot through the side. The American officers were uninjured. Before crossing the bridge the Mexican had remarked that he was "going to kill a gringo."

Heifron was standing at the American end of the bridge when Acosta first opened fire at him. He fired back, using an automatic pistol. Jones hastened to his assistance and began firing at the Mexican. The Mexican officer was within 30 feet of the American before he was killed.

Two troops of the Thirteenth Cavalry were ordered to the bridge following the shooting, in order to restrain the 1,000 Mexicans who had gathered on the Mexican side of the bridge.

General Hugh Scott, commanding the United States troops, was notified of the shooting and he ordered all troops to be prepared for movement to El Paso from Fort Bliss in case of trouble.

Tonight a detachment of cavalry was stationed at both international bridges and Army officers and troops have been ordered to remain at quarters in case of an outbreak among the Mexicans.

A bitter feeling against Americans was manifested in Juarez by Salazar's Federal troops following the shooting.

L. Oleson of El Paso crossed to the Mexican side with a party of American men and women and later reported to American Army officers that a Federal officer drew his pistol and threatened to shoot. Oleson stated that the American women were insulted by the Mexican officer. They escaped injury by putting their automobiles at full speed and hurrying to the American side. They stated that several Mexican soldiers threatened them and shook their fists at them as they were going through the streets of Juarez. Other Americans also were threatened.

Inspector of Mexican Consulates M. E. Diebold of El Paso is conducting an investigation of the shooting.

American officers placed Heifron and Jones under arrest after the killing. They were released on \$1,000 bonds.

Mexican officers at Juarez tried to stop Lieutenant Acosta from crossing the bridge before his invasion, but he threatened to shoot any one who interfered with him. The Mexican officers said he had been drinking and after he was dead a bottle of Mexican whiskey was found in his saddle bags.

Acosta came to Juarez from Chihuahua with General Salazar's troops a few days ago.

The body is being held at El Paso.

Friends of Acosta in Juarez have asked permission to remove it to Juarez.

## Scientist is Eaten.

London, Sept. 3.—John Henry Warner, a German-American mineralogist, has been eaten by New Guinea cannibals, according to advices received here today from Pagan. Warner was searching for radium in the unexplored regions of British New Guinea.

"The tests of life are to make, not break us.—Anon.

## GEN. CARR SAYS OVERMAN WILL WIN.

### Veteran Also Pronounces in Favor of Woman Suffrage.

Charlotte Observer.

"Overman will be returned to the Senate without a doubt."

That is the opinion expressed yesterday by Gen. Julian S. Carr of Durham, who spent several hours in the city. He added that he believed the junior Senator's record of fidelity to the people's interest, joined to his personal popularity and his increasing powers for usefulness after eleven years' service in the world's greatest deliberative body would prove irresistible factors in commending him to the favor of the people for re-election.

"I am strongly in favor of woman suffrage, too," added the General in the course of his conversation. "It may not come in my lifetime, but it will be in yours," he said to the younger man with whom he was conversing.

"I am in favor of the Commission form of government, although Durham defeated the proposal. I regard it as the only logical and business like way of transacting the business of a municipality, whose affairs demand constant, vigilant and expert attention by a body of men in whom is concentrated both power and responsibility."

General Carr is still talking of the thrilling time he had at the Gettysburg semi-centennial celebration. One incident which he narrated has a keenly dramatic interest. While strolling about the grounds one day he was accosted by a Union soldier, a former member of the Seventy-first New York Regiment.

"Were you in the Belleville, Va., raid?" demanded the stranger eagerly.

"I was," replied General Carr, somewhat surprised.

"I've seen your face a thousand times since then!" exclaimed the Federalist. "Do you remember when Hancock's men were drawn up on one side of the road and your men were on the other, and there was a hard-fought engagement in the twilight?"

Yes, General Carr remembered. "I took deliberate aim at you and fired," said the Northerner. "I did my best to kill you. By the flash of my gun as I pulled the trigger I saw your face clearly, and it has haunted me ever since. I never knew whether or not I killed you."

The North Carolinian assured his former enemy that he came out of the battle unscratched, at which the other was filled with joy. The two became fast friends and made a solemn vow to write to each other once a year so long as both shall live.

"I think it remarkable," said the general, "that he should have remembered my face which he saw for but one brief instant, and should have recognized me after all these years."

## Threw Negro Out Window; He Dies.

Clinton, Sept. 6.—The body of Henry Boykin, who died last night in a Suffolk hospital as the result of injuries received in being thrown from an excursion train, was brought here today for burial.

The colored man attended the big Burgaw Norfolk excursion over the Norfolk Southern Tuesday. It returned Thursday. The excursionists, many of them, filled on mean whiskey and fought. Henry Bolkin, porter for the Clinton Hardware company, fell into the hands of three negroes who threatened to throw him from the car. He begged them not to do it but while the trainmen were out the three negroes whose names are not known, dashed him through the open window to the ground.

The train was making something like fifty miles an hour and Boykin was terribly injured. The train was stopped, the wounded man picked up and taken to Suffolk where he was treated. He died two days after the injury.

Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.—Paul.

## WHERE BLOCKADERS STILL PERSIST.

Yadkinville, Sept. 6th.—Two stout able-bodied men are gone—one murdered and one shot by an officer in self defense. The latter was a negro, and the former a white man; two white men are in the State prison with a sentence of ten years at hard labor hanging over their heads; two negroes in the county jail awaiting next term of Superior Court and one out on bond; one man bears ugly scars; two women, one white and one black, are widows; and several children are fatherless.—is the record for 1913 so far, in that small section of Yadkin county usually known as the "Green Pond Section," "The Little Nation" or the "Big Woods." Either or both of the latter would be appropriate, the former because they are a "Nation" to themselves and the latter because they are situated around several thousand acres of timber lands that are almost impenetrable, save only by those that know it.

This section is located along the southeastern part of Yadkin county and along Davie county line, and might be said to extend as far West as Courtney, which is about seven miles south of Yadkinville, and to the Yadkin river on the east.

A great many negroes along with the white people, although not thickly settled, compose the population for several miles around and whatever is of interest to one is of interest to all the people of this section, with few exceptions.

The one thing persistent in this neighborhood and which it seems impossible to stop entirely, is the manufacture of whiskey contrary to the laws of the land. They will not stop. A raid by officers in this section one day does not mean that things are "cleared up" down there. The section in which they live affords the men ample opportunity to attain their coveted ends—illicit distilling.

What are known as the "Big Woods" leads along the Davie county line about five or six miles, and extends into Yadkin five or six miles, leaving at least five or six square miles entirely covered by thick timber, and there are but one or two dwelling houses in all this space and they are small.

The reader can imagine a territory almost entirely destitute of any living creatures. Only the chirping of the cricket, the wailing of the whippoorwill, the mocking bird singing the songs of his neighbor birds, the lonesome hooting of the owl or the hopping rabbit remain to disturb the moonshiner as he goes at his work in this wilderness by day or by night, which is known only by those who live nearest to it. On the other hand he is assisted by the tall timber as well as by the thick undergrowth. Occasions have been known where officers were very near the things they were searching for and still failed to find any trace of them.

It is said that not a man in the Federal revenue service is able to go in these woods alone without getting lost, and Yadkin county has never had but one officer who could go to all parts of these woods and around them without losing his way and that one was J. E. Shugart, for several years deputy sheriff and now township constable, he being the one who killed William Biting colored, in that section last week when he refused to be arrested. He knows every man woman and child in the section, besides every road, path and place where a blockade distillery is likely to be located. Deputy Sheriff Frank Wiskon comes next in line.

These people do not mean to be had people. They have been reared by parents who made whiskey, according to law if possible, but all of whom were accustomed to making it and keeping it in various ways, whether according to law or otherwise. This prohibition laws had no terror for them, only to take their government house down and settle in their place a moonshine plant further in the thickets of the "nation." They have been taught to make it and drink it, and they have no thought of or

conception of life without the romance caused by making and drinking. It has become a fixed habit and in a way a second nature to them. They never harbor the idea of giving up their old ways or think they could get along without them. The only terror to them is the flutter of a few days caused by a visit from the officers of the law, and only a short time is needed for things to resume their normal position.

As said before, they are a "nation" to themselves. They live among one another and care very little for what goes on outside their own circle, or for what does not directly affect some of them in their community. Another reason why they have gained the characteristic name of "nation" is because they live independent of the outside world. They have to some degree their own rules of conduct and regulations of society, if society it can be called, for it is the social intercourse of their people and the only society they want is among themselves. They ask no favors from outsiders but if in any way a favor is granted them it will not be overlooked, and in due time it will be returned by them. They want to give favor for favor and dollar for dollar and expect the same of those they deal with.

Neither do these people conspire against the laws of the country according to their way of looking at it, but only to protect themselves and their rights, as they think, that have been hazarded down to them by their forefathers, and this they will do if possible. One illustration of this is in the case of one Isaac Shore who was stabbed in the shoulder one day early this year by one person while another held him and from which wound he died. It developed at the trial that Shore, who although he was fatally stabbed lived several days, had told only one or two persons who stabbed him and begged them not to tell it. Therefore if Shore had not died from his wounds nothing would have ever been known of the stabbing. Not very long ago some of them fell out over something and one man at least was severely beaten, but not a word of it ever reached a court, and now they are all on good terms. The negroes are used as "tools" and are always taken care of by the white folks behind them and these negroes have belonged to the clan so long they have become much worse than they would have been otherwise and are very impudent. The negro killed by Constable Shugart last week had boasted many times that he would never be arrested by any white man.

The white people all work hard and are as honest as they can be, always making good any obligations made by them and support their families as best they can.

This is the situation as it has been for many years, although the prohibition laws have doubled their efforts and linked them closer together in sympathy, so to speak, as they think they are being divested of a natural and inherent right that has been theirs from time immemorial. But officers are doubling their efforts to clean out the clan and it is only a matter of a few years until they will realize that they must change their ways. Since January 1 they have lost four members. Two are dead and two in prison with nearly ten years to serve, and three more are slated to disappear for awhile also. With little or no exception this is the only section of Yadkin county in which whiskey can be obtained at any time.

## Doctor Orders Rest for Judge Long.

Salisbury, Sept. 3.—Judge B. F. Long has been ordered by his physician to quit and rest a while, and upon his honor's request the Salisbury bar association has decided to have all civil cases continued at the September term of court, which begins next Monday, and also to agree, if satisfactory to the Judge, to the continuance of all criminal cases where the defendants are not in jail.