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BENTON WAS SHOT IN VILLA'S OFFICE.

Washington Officials Receive Conclusive Information That Britisher, After Waiting Two Hours for an Interview, Died from Bullet Wounds in Stomach.

Washington, Feb. 28.—William S. Benton, the British subject slain at Juarez, was unarmed and was shot to death in Villa's office, pistol bullets through the stomach ended his life, according to conclusive information which has reached Washington officials. While no statement to this effect was forthcoming today, slackening of official interest in the proposed post mortem of Benton's body was evident, the belief being that the examination would be useful only in that it might serve to supplement the evidence of timid witnesses who possibly otherwise would withdraw their oral statements. Benton carried no arms when he approached Villa's office in Juarez, according to information; he spent two hours waiting for the interview that ended in his death, walking back and forth in front of the office building; he was shot through the stomach after he entered the office and received other wounds afterward, although the first was mortal.

General instructions as to the method of investigation to be pursued were issued today by the State and War Departments to their representatives at El Paso. It is realized that local conditions must determine the details and only broad lines were drawn in the directions.

It was not known exactly today when the commission would start for Chihuahua. The day authorized General Scott, in command of the post at El Paso, to select two Army surgeons to make a medical examination of the body.

The examination of Benton's body will be conducted by the United States authorities, the British view being that the responsibility rests on the State Department.

The British Ambassador has taken frequent opportunity to show the satisfaction his Government feels at the attitude of the State Department, adding another tribute today to the activity which has marked the prosecution of the inquiry.

It is believed that when the facts connected with the killing of Benton are developed fully, unless the United States Government feels called upon to demand reparation, the British Government simply will docket the case and place it on file to be presented to the future Government of Mexico for settlement when the day of reckoning comes.

No answer has been returned to the latest query from Governor Colquitt of Texas as to whom he could address a requisition for the surrender of the Federals who killed Vergara, the Texas ranchman.

Verdict for \$10,000 Against Smithfield.

Smithfield, March 1.—In the Superior court here last week, Judge R. B. Peebles presiding, one case which caused much interest was the suit of Mrs. Cora Dobson against the town of Smithfield for \$15,000 on account of the death of her husband, the jury returning a verdict for \$10,000 in favor of the plaintiff.

On Thanksgiving day, 1912, a dead man was found in the big ditch in front of the T. S. Ragsdale tobacco factory. An investigation was made and it was found that the deceased was John R. Dobson, of Teachey's, a well to do farmer. He was on a land deal with a party in Kenly, and was up here that day to investigate the deed. After having finished his business he took the left-hand sidewalk to go to the depot, when upon reaching the spot where he was found, he fell into the big ditch, his death supposedly being caused by the fall. Mrs. Dobson administered on the estate and brought suit against the town for \$15,000.

BOLEJACK'S FAMILY HISTORY IS GIVEN.

Was Husband by First Marriage of a Daughter of One of the Siamese Twins.

Charlotte Observer, 2nd. During this week the petition with many signers will go from Charlotte to Raleigh to be presented to Governor Craig asking for mercy for James Nathaniel Bolejack, who was convicted in Mecklenburg Superior Court for the murder of his wife and sentenced to die April 24. Should this petition and the representation of the attitude of the convicting jury toward clemency move Governor Craig to commute the sentence to life imprisonment, it is probable that the appeal taken by the counsel for Bolejack will not be carried to the Supreme Court.

While the man now sentenced to die could not be termed a man of mystery exactly, it is nevertheless true that there was comparatively little of his past or of his beginnings adduced in his trial. He created comment more on account of the peculiar appearance of gentleness and almost of gentility as he stood in the dock for trial and sentence to death than even by the atrocity of the crime he was charged with. Lacking the culture of education in books as he did, Bolejack faced his fate with stoicism and made a pretty fair impression of a certain kind of manhood.

Bolejack was born in Stokes County. His father owned about 1,200 acres of land in that county and he received his death wound as the result of an accidental fall from a mule's back while riding homeward from a Methodist Sunday school. The man who has been sent to Raleigh and for whom quick measures for mercy are taken and successfully, took as his first wife a daughter of one of the famous Siamese twins. She divorced him.

Some interesting facts about the Bolejacks are included in the following information furnished by Dr. L. H. Hill, of Germantown, who was well acquainted with the family: James Nathaniel Bolejack, in jail in Charlotte for killing his wife, was born in Stokes County, about one mile from Germantown at the old Bolejack mill on Town Fork Creek. His first wife was Victoria, a daughter of one of the Siamese Twins, who came from Mount Airy. She got a divorce from him and left him. After this he left home and was gone for 10 years or more. He again returned for a short while and then went to Charlotte.

"He is the son of William A. Bolejack, who married Susanna Banner. The sons were Joseph, Ephraim, Edgar, B. J., John and James N. The daughters were Minerva, who married Ed Smith, and Sarah, who died insane in the hospital at Morganton.

"William A. Bolejack was for years a member of the M. E. Church in Germantown. In September 1873 he went to Palmyra M. E. Church about six miles north of Germantown to hold a Sunday school one Sunday. On his return about a mile from the Church it appeared that the mule he was riding fell with him. He was thrown off and his skull fractured by impact against a rock. He died three days later from this wound. His son Ephraim volunteered in Co. G, 21st N. C. Regiment and died in Virginia in 1861 following the first battle of Manassas."

Honor Roll

- Honor Roll of Deron School for the fourth month. 1st Grade—Ray Chandler, Clayton Denny, Ruby Denny, Sadie Shawter. 2nd Grade—Charlie Denny, Nora Chandler. 3rd Grade—Myrtle Denny. 4th Grade—Garl Cox, Alton Denny, Oscar Denny, Alex and Joel Flinchum. 5th Grade—Rena Flinchum, Walter Flinchum. 6th Grade—Ida Cox, Lula Denny, Mecie Denny, Hettie Denny, Ethel Fulk. 7th Grade—Lela Denny. Marjorie L. Jackson, Teacher.

BOLD BURGLARY IN WILKES.

Wilkes Lady Driven from Home by a Burglar, Who Then Robbed the House.

Wilkesboro Patriot. One of the boldest burglaries that has ever occurred in this county was committed by some unknown person at Mr. J. M. Lowe's home, about 3 1-2 miles southwest of town, Tuesday night, about 9 o'clock. Mrs. Lowe was alone in the house and had retired for the night. Hearing a step on the porch she at first thought it was her husband, who usually stays in North Wilkesboro during the week, but when she heard some one begin to pry the door open, she suspected something wrong and got up and went into another room. The intruder lost no time getting inside of the house and, after getting inside, fired four shots into the walls and ceiling with a pistol, which was no doubt done to frighten any one who might be in the house. Mrs. Lowe rightly concluded that discretion was the better part of valor and made her exit out of the house, through a door in another part of the house from that in which the burglar was, taking her pistol and a garment that she thought was her apron, in the pocket of which she had some money, but in her hurry failed to get the apron and took the wrong garment. Clad only in her night clothes and without any shoes on her feet, she made her way to the home of her father, Mr. C. A. Canter, about a quarter of a mile away.

Mrs. Lowe's daughter, Mrs. Efner Duncan, also lives nearby and it was from her that the telephone message telling of the burglary was received by Sheriff Brown shortly after Mrs. Lowe had reached her father's home. Everything in the house in his search for money. Everything was turned topsy-turvy and trunks were ransacked. The apron, in the pocket of which Mrs. Lowe had her money, was not overlooked by the burglar and the money was taken.

The Civil Service.

Thanks to the interposition of the President and the Postmaster-General, and to the good sense and political integrity of many sturdy Democrats, a contemplated assault upon the principle and practice of civil service reform has been abandoned. The position to be captured was not one of great magnitude. It involved only the offices of some twenty-five hundred assistant postmasters; but success in one attack of the sort makes it easier to succeed in other campaigns.

No doubt there are politicians who would welcome a return to the chaos that marked the days between the administration of President Jackson and that of President Hayes. Joseph Story, the author of the "Commentaries on the Constitution," and being a justice of the Supreme Court, said that all the removals from office during the forty years before Jackson became President were less than one-third as many as Jackson made in the first year of his term. Lincoln made a clean sweep of Democrats; Johnson turned out nearly thirteen hundred Republican postmasters in six months; and the processions of clerks discharged from the New York customhouse, and of political hacks appointed to their places, were never longer than when Grant was President and Arthur was collector.

Neither party is blameless in the matter. But recent events show that a large majority in every party now favors the merit system, and will oppose all efforts to break it down. The chance that Congress will refuse to make an appropriation for the Civil Service Commission is gone forever.

The spoils system is evil, and the system that has replaced it is an influence for honest and efficient government. Opponents of it still repeat the old untruth that absurd questions from the staple of the examinations; but a sufficient answer is the personnel of the civil service, never before so good as it is to-day.

UNITED STATES MUST INTERVENE.

Time Is Coming When This Country Must Step in, Says J. H. Crowley.

Charlotte Observer. "Every Mexican mother teaches her son how to pray and every Mexican father teaches him to fight," says Mr. J. H. Crowley, a cosmopolitan who enjoys his residence in Charlotte. Mr. Crowley had a fine opportunity to study the Mexican character 50 years ago, when Maximilian was reaching the zenith of his career as conqueror of the country. During that period Mr. Crowley spent five and a half years in Mexico, mostly at Chihuahua. "The United States will have to take part in the troubles of that country soon," is his opinion and he also believes that the emigration of settlers to Mexico from this country was largely responsible for the revolutions, which have disturbed the tranquility of that Republic for several decades.

"The man from this country tells the Mexican that he is not getting his just dues, when the power of the upper class is exercised in robbery of the mass of people and in this manner have aided in keeping the people stirred up." Mr. Crowley is a scholarly man of many travels and even yet dreams of fairer fields. Although he has spent his years, a rich number, in all parts of the United States while it was in its most interesting period of development, he has the true wanderlust—the spirit of the Knight of the Holy Grail.

He dreams now of the pretty, gentle hills of Maryland and he may some day build his home there. Mr. Crowley and his wooden mills in Chihuahua, when they had to carry supplies by ox-cart 1,500 miles to reach that place. His mind is rich with experience and broad and of the generally mistrusted Mexican he says he is simple-hearted and is fair when treated with fairness. Bad Government and mistreatment of the lower order of the people he blames for the Mexican trouble.

Changes All Around.

While Mr. Crowley has not been in Mexico for a term of many years, he retains his interest in the people of that country. He says his brother, who was with him in his long-ago experience there, lived in the country until he developed such an affection for Mexican life that he has never recovered from the desire to return there to live. Until very recent years, according to Mr. Crowley, the further south the wanderer would move the easier making a living became.

The Mexican raw materials were available years ago at prices so low that there were chances for wonderful profits for the American business man there. He and his brother paid six cents a pound for wool which they sold when made into cloth at \$4.50 a yard.

Of course time has changed the country there wonderfully, admitted Mr. Crowley, and he stated that in 25 years he has witnessed marvelous transformation of things and thought even in North Carolina.

"When I first came South from Philadelphia, I lived in Columbia, S. C.," said he. "My friends in the North looked upon the South as a place of danger to the law-abiding and would ask me how I managed to get along among my neighbors. I told them I managed it simply by attending to my own business."

"Twenty-five years ago," said Mr. Crowley in discussing the changes time effects, "an educated man couldn't do any good preaching in western North Carolina. He couldn't make the right impression because the people demanded that their preachers be 'called.' They refused to admit that inspiration and education could go together. Zeb Vance had to reach their hearts through affection of simplicity and crudity."

Minds Broadening.

"The minds of people here and elsewhere are being broadened

wonderfully with the passing of time," is the opinion expressed by this man of Charlotte whose eyes have looked many places and as a superb analyst has gleaned many correct impressions.

There is no pessimism in his heart. Seeing much, he is not biased and to the end of the road he will be setting his feet in new pathways and feasting his mind in the romance of creation.

Ollie James' First Client.

The first client Ollie James, now a Senator from Kentucky, ever had was an old farmer who had gone up against a shell game in a circus, says The Popular Magazine. The old man had sold his farm for \$1,750, and had come into town to put his money in the bank. He had it sewed up in the inside pocket of his vest.

But, just as he entered the town, he overtook the circus parade. That was too much for him. The hubbub of the animals in their cages, the women bare-back riders on the horses, the clowns on the elephants, and the bands, and the calliope got into his blood. He followed them back to the grounds, and one of the first things he saw was a smooth-looking, well-dressed young man, who was saying:

"It's pretty easy. All you have to do, gentlemen, is to watch the little ball. I bet you \$5, even money, that you can't tell me under which shell the little ball rests."

"That's a lie!" shouted the old farmer. "I know where that darn little ball is. Take up that middle shell."

The young man took up the middle shell, and sure enough, there was the little ball. "But I'll bet you all the same," he said, evidently irritated by having his game solved by the old farmer. "I'll bet you \$5, even money, that you can't tell me under which shell the little ball rests."

The smooth young man waved around his shells, manipulated the ball, and the farmer knew it was under the middle shell. He saw it go under the middle shell. It had to be there.

"Don't move a finger!" he shouted. "Leave it where it is. I'll bet you \$1,000 it's under the middle shell."

He was breathing hard now and waving his wallet in the air. "Why don't you bet more?" asked the smooth operator, who was really astounded that the old man had so much money.

"By crack, I will!" shrieked the farmer. "I'll bet you \$1,750 cash, young man, that the ball's under the middle shell."

The bet was taken, the money was passed over, and the middle shell was lifted. The little ball was not there.

That was how Ollie James got his first case. He took it on shares, the understanding being that he was to get a percentage of the \$1,750 if he won.

Wife Too Fond of Eggs, Complains Husband.

Los Angeles, Feb. 28.—Judge Monroe looked askance when Mrs. Dana Needham, seeking a divorce on the ground of cruelty, remarked that one cause of the difference with her husband was her fondness for eggs.

"Why, your honor, one morning, when I was feeling unusually hungry, I ate six eggs for breakfast, and he raised a regular rumpus," said the plaintiff.

"You what?" demanded the court in astonishment. "Oh, that was 11 years ago, when eggs were only 18 cents a dozen," exclaimed Mrs. Needham. "They were our own hens' eggs, and he said I ought to have sold them."

"That's different," said the court, indicating he thought the eggs had been disposed of by the plaintiff at the popular price to-day. "Things have changed since those days," was the court's further comment.

Other testimony showed Needham was inclined to skimp on other items of food. Judge Monroe denied the decree, but ordered Needham to permit his wife to do the family buying.

DESTROYING OPIUM INDUSTRY.

Stringent Laws in Recent Years Have Greatly Checked the Evil.

From The Outlook. It might be well to review rapidly a few pertinent events which have already demonstrated the practical nature of this movement.

First of all, following on the heels of the Shanghai commission, the opium farms in Macao were declared bankrupt. Two-thirds of the revenue of Macao was derived from the smoking opium which she prepared and exported into the United States. With the passage of the anti-opium bill by Congress in 1909 the trade received its deathblow.

Next the opium dens of Hong-kong were closed by order of the home Government in England.

In China itself vast areas under poppy cultivation have been condemned and replaced by crops less dangerous to the common weal. More pertinent still have been the edicts issued by the Government warning officials known to be victims of the habit that a certain period would be allotted them in which to overcome their weakness, failing which the penalty would be their heads; and this drastic object lesson has been repeatedly enforced.

As for the United States, this movement was responsible for the discovery of conditions which, if not checked, would have led to National disaster. The unearthing of this situation was followed by the immediate passage of a prohibitive opium bill. Since the still more exact legislation has been devised in the shape of the anti-narcotic bill at present waiting action by the Senate—a bill drawn up for the purpose of restricting the sale of opium and its kindred drugs.

In Europe these investigations have led to a general alarm and the enactment of more stringent laws to prevent the spread of this evil.

Most pertinent of all was the formal announcement made in the British Parliament in May, 1913, that the Indo-China opium traffic had come to an end, and that India had already put into operation new measures for the procuring of her revenue. It is not to be overlooked that by this act India has sacrificed a sum of \$20,000,000 per annum.

The main point is that the deplorable trade of 150 years has been brought to a close. It cannot be expected that normal conditions will instantly obtain, or that a trade and vice so deeply rooted can with the stroke of a pen, be eradicated. That there will be backsliding is inevitable, and doubtless a period of confusion, before the new order of things is accepted and the proper adjustment achieved.

But the fact remains that the United States has accomplished the task that she undertook, and incidentally, as concerns herself, much more than she intended. She has brought about the solution of the opium question, and she has once more demonstrated to China her sympathy and good will. China owes many debts to the United States, but in the final analysis the one to loom largest will be the action of the United States to investigate and finally rid her of the curse that for well nigh two centuries has been working for her destruction.

Also it is not to be forgotten that, as civilization advances, so intimately and intricately do the interests of one affect the interests of all that ills can be no longer isolated. As in the human body, so in the body politic, disease in one part must affect the whole. So with opium and the great problem of China's future. As she is permitted and encouraged to advance and direct her energies along the lines of health and progress, just so much will she add to the welfare of the whole.

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