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## VANDERBILT ESTATE TO REMAIN INTACT.

Death of Mr. Vanderbilt Will Result in No Change in Status of His Vast Holdings.

Washington, March 14th.—As stated exclusively in these dispatches Monday morning the death of George Washington Vanderbilt, which occurred at the Vanderbilt house on K street Friday of last week, will cause no immediate change in the status of his vast holdings of mountain, timber and agricultural land in western North Carolina, through acquisition thereof by the United States government for the purpose of assimilation into the Appalachian forest reserve. Within a short time, it is said, Mrs. Vanderbilt will return to Biltmore house and the affairs of the estate will be continued as in the past.

Mr. Vanderbilt's estate is the lessor of vast timber rights in this property to a lumber corporation at Pisgan forest. This tract, which is across the river from Biltmore, and many times larger, surrounds Mount Pisgan. In it are Mr. Vanderbilt's game preserves and park of 20,000 deer and at the summit of Mount Pisgan is his beautiful hunting lodge. The lease of the timber rights has nearly 20 years to run, and it was this factor in the problem of government acquisition which halted negotiations shortly before Mr. Vanderbilt's death.

The company leasing the timber rights expressed a willingness to divest themselves of their rights in a large portion of the tract, and raised no objection to government acquisition, provided such acquisition did not contravert their entire interest. The lease to the company was drawn with a scientific regard for the preservation of the forests as such and under the terms of the lease no tree less than 16 inches in diameter of the trunk five feet above the ground could be cut. In other words, the lease prohibited "forest skinning."

The property which the tract includes has been mistaken at times for the Biltmore property itself. There is no intention on the part of the government actually to purchase Biltmore. This 5,000 acre tract, in which is situated the Vanderbilt palace, and upon which there had also been established a magnificent model farm, and a small city which the Vanderbilt estate owned, and which includes a water department, gas, electric lighting and power plant, lies on a point of land between the French Broad and the Swannanoa rivers. It is but two miles from the city of Asheville. This is the property which Mr. Vanderbilt by his will has devised to his daughter.

It is regarded as likely, by North Carolinians in Washington interested in the government acquisition of more lands for the Appalachian forest reserve, to have the government pursue its original intention. It is pointed out that to acquire the 175,000 acre tract now, the active lease to the lumber concern could not be accomplished under the terms of the existing forestry law, because it is thought that the constitutional rights of other citizens, in other sections of the United States would be invaded by thus creating a legal preference for the benefit of the present lessees.

At the same time it is felt that the Vanderbilt estate will hold these lessees strictly to account for the preservation of the forests from actual damage through indiscriminate lumbering and protect them against fire, and it has been suggested that negotiations be entered into providing for eventual transfer of the tract to the government forest reserves upon the termination of the present timber leases.

A remarkably successful surgical operation was performed in Paris recently by Dr. Gustave Le Filastre, in separating the three-months-old twins, Madeleine-Suzanne Durand, who were bound together in the same manner as the "Siamese Twins."—Ex.

## MR. MADDOO TO WED MISS WILSON SOON.

President and Mrs. Wilson Announce Miss Eleanor's Engagement to Secretary.

Washington, March 13.—"The President and Mrs. Wilson announce the engagement of their youngest daughter, Eleanor Randolph, to Hon. William Gibbs McAdoo." This announcement was issued at the White House by Secretary Tamm tonight, after a day of speculation in Capital, official and society circles over the prospects for another White House wedding in June.

For weeks there have been rumors that the President's daughter and the Secretary of the Treasury would be married soon and in the past day or two there has been no denial that an announcement could be expected. The exact date of the wedding is not known, but it generally is believed it will be in June.

There has been extraordinary interest in the engagement among officials and friends made by both Miss Wilson and the Cabinet officer during the year they have been in the Capital. The youngest of the family, Miss Eleanor is said to be her father's pet, and there is a strong personal friendship between the President and the man who is to wed his daughter.

## McAdoo Will Remain Treasurer.

Reports that Secretary McAdoo would retire from the Cabinet after his marriage, and perhaps become Ambassador to France, were set at rest tonight by White House officials, who emphatically said that he was expected to remain at the head of the Treasury Department.

Miss Wilson will be the fourteenth White House bride and the second of President Wilson's daughters to wed in the Executive Mansion. Her sister, Miss Jessie Woodrow Wilson, became Mrs. Francis Boyes Sayre in the East room on Nov. 25th, last.

Washington society has not been altogether unprepared for the news of the engagement, for the couple have been seen together at many a dance and social function. Though Secretary McAdoo is 50 years old and Miss Wilson 24, intimate friends of the Secretary today said he is as "young as a man of 30." He is fond of tennis and outdoor sports and played tennis often on the White House courts with Miss Wilson last Spring and Fall. Miss Wilson is athletic, a good horse-woman and delights in outdoor life.

Close friends of the couple have known of the engagement for some time.

## Wake Up!

For years you've been asleep to your own interests. Wake up, and hustle for your own benefit. Do you realize that over one-half the fires that occur throughout the State are caused by rank carelessness? It's so. Look up the records, if you don't believe it, and they will astonish you; that's the reason our insurance rates are so high. If the care of property was more thoroughly gone into and repairs made when needed and buildings not allowed to become dilapidated and ready to fall down, they would not become firetraps and a place for the accumulation of trash. Trash thrown around invites fires. Matches improperly used or left lying around, where rats and mice can nibble them, are another source from which innumerable fires are traced.

Oily rags just put down for a moment, then forgotten, have caused thousands of dollars in fire loss. Hot ashes, burning brush or leaves, gasoline, or oils left exposed will take money out of your pocket about as quickly as it can be done—and the money loss is not all. Think of the lives that have been sacrificed to carelessness. You can't replace life like property, and no insurance you may obtain will make your mind easy, if your dear ones are taken from you through your own failing to protect them by keeping your property free from fire caused by rubbish.

## VILLA WILL BE NEXT PRESIDENT OF MEXICO.

That is His Ambition and it Will Remain So.

Chihuahua, Mex., March 14.—"Villa, the one-time bandit, will be the next president of Mexico. That is his ambition, and despite all reports to the contrary, it will remain his ambition until he either is dead or president."

That declaration today was made by a friend so close to General Villa as to give authority to the assertion. It was prompted by reports that the coming of Chihuahua of General Carranza, recognized as the civil head of the revolution was to bring about conditions more satisfactory to foreign governments and to place in the seat of authority better advisers than General Villa appears to have had in handling complications growing out of the killing of William S. Benton, a British subject. That Villa and Carranza might meet and that they might publicly embrace as an evidence of their perfect harmony was given out as a possibility. Carranza is now on his way overland from Sonora and a magnificent marble building has been prepared as the official residence in which he is to perfect the details of government. But it was stated emphatically that the coming of Carranza was not to lessen in any way the power now wielded by Villa, who for months has been dictator.

"General Villa will remain supreme commander through the progress of the rebellion," said one of his advisers. "His succession of victories against the federal army; his sweeping away of the Huerta soldiers from the north of Mexico, while Carranza remained in comparative obscurity on the Pacific slope have so exalted him in the minds of his soldiers as to make his subordination to any one else improbable."

## Three Bandits Kill Lone Postmaster; Burn Office.

San Diego, Cal., March 15th.—The United States customs office and postoffice at Tecate were burned last night and the postmaster, Frank V. Johnston, was shot dead by three bandits, according to advices received here tonight. Warren Widenback was wounded. Observers of the tragedy say the bandits were Mexicans.

A charred American flag was found in the ruins of Johnston's store, which also was the customs office and postoffice. A posse started at daybreak in pursuit of the bandits.

Johnston it was learned was shot through the heart when he refused to give the combination of the safe. Elliott D. Johnston, his brother, sent telegrams today to Secretary Bryan, Gov. Hiram W. Johnston at Sacramento and Representative Kettner, at Washington, demanding an investigation. He placed the responsibility for the tragedy on Mexicans.

Bitter feeling along the border, caused by the tragedy, was intensified today when a newspaper photographer on the American side was fired at by Mexicans. He was not injured.

Major Davis, commander at Fort Rosecrans, San Diego, with several officers and a platoon of men, left for Tecate today by automobile. Major Davis said he would conduct a rigid examination and report immediately to the department commander at San Francisco.

Johnston's body was brought to San Diego today.

## Rural Credits.

Charlotte Observer.

Commissioner Young says if the farmers will organize associations upon the principle of the building and loan associations, that this will do much to educate them in saving systematically and in helping each other. Of the plan proposed by him, 1,000 shareholders would pay in \$13,500; take off \$500 for expenses, and this would leave \$13,000 to be loaned out. This amount, with borrowing \$4,000, would give \$17,000 to be loaned each year. In five years this would amount to \$85,000 in any county.

## WILSON.

His First Year and How He Stands Out in Contrast With Roosevelt.

New York Sun.  
Within the brief twelvemonth between the Ram and the Fishes a new President of the United States, bringing to his office very little previous political experience and no personal following to speak of, has by his own force of character wrought an immense change in the course of public events. He has held an unwieldy Congress to reasonably harmonious activity during a year of continuous work. He has made himself the master of his party in a degree perhaps never before witnessed in Washington. He has fairly and honorably won an almost unexampled position at the very forefront of National affairs.

These 12 months of Woodrow Wilson in the White House have been enough to insure his place in history with the great and forceful Presidents rather than with the minor statesmen. The classification is obvious alike to citizens who look to him for leadership and to those who deplore and oppose his ideas of policy. Not one of his predecessors has so swiftly defined himself in relation to public affairs. Nobody, from Washington to Roosevelt and Taft, has in the first year of his term so sharply projected upon the public understanding the outlines of his personality. The comparison with Colonel Roosevelt's first year is inevitable. Both men are consummate politicians and were well aware of their strength in that respect at a stage of their respective careers when the fact was not generally recognized. Both Roosevelt and Wilson are outstanding figures of the present; with this difference, perhaps, that Colonel Roosevelt, in many ways one of the bravest of mankind, has not often dared to admit inconsistency on his own part or to say, "I was previously wrong; I have changed my opinion," while President Wilson unquestionably possesses that high form of courage, and, we are bound to say, has been obliged to exercise it frequently and fully. Both of the great radical leaders are egoists in the political sense; both have shaped their course according to their perception of prevalent sentiment in the country, while seeming to themselves to master and direct it.

Yet with all the compelling qualities of Colonel Roosevelt's genius, it took him at least three years to do for himself that which the political novice from the academic groves has done between March and March.

## Dies in Fit of Anger.

Shelby, March 13.—In a fit of extreme anger brought on by a quarrel with his brother, Watt Walker fell dead at his home two miles north of Shelby Wednesday from valvular heart affection.

Walker was 69 years old and for several years had been suffering with heart trouble. He and his brother, "Pip," Walker, had a quarrel over some wood and the question as to which one was the right owner of a piece of land. Watt Walker became intensely enraged and excited during the quarrel and, after threatening to kill his brother with an axe, fell dead at the woodpile.

Acting Coroner R. M. Gidney and Sheriff D. D. Wilkins went to the scene and held an inquest. After the post-mortem examination was made by Dr. R. C. Ellis and the jury investigated the circumstances of the trouble, the verdict was reached that Walker came to his death as a result of valvular heart trouble brought on by a fit of anger. He was buried at Ross Grove Church at the expense of the county.

Two years ago his nephew who was prejudiced against automobiles, stepped out in the road and threatened to kill Dr. D. E. McBrayer if he approached him any closer in his car. His nephew raised his gun to fire but before he pulled the trigger, he fell dead with the same heart trouble.

## NOT RECORD BUT USEFULNESS.

Democratic Party Can't Live on What It Has Done But on What it is Going to Do.

Raleigh News and Observer.

Upon his return from Washington a News and Observer reporter interviewed Mr. J. W. Bailey upon the subject of the reports sent out concerning a proposed call for a meeting of North Carolina Democrats in the near future at Raleigh.

"Let me make it plain," said Mr. Bailey, "that all this talk about candidates for Governor and a new party is mere reporters' gossip. The boys are evidently not satisfied with the simple facts but feel some strange necessity for making their stories more extraordinary than the other fellow's."

"Now, it is not proposed to divide the Democratic party; nor is it proposed to 'groom' any candidate for Governor. It is proposed to bring before the people in definite form certain measures which it is thought the General Assembly of 1915 should adopt. That is all."

"It may be that the Democratic State convention will put these measures in its platform. I hope so."

"I am for proposing these measures through the Democratic party because I deeply believe that the Democratic party is the only vehicle of progress that the people of North Carolina can trust."

"As a Democrat I advocate a forward movement by the Democratic party because I know that no matter how good a party's record may be it must continue to actively serve the people. It cannot live on its record; it must live on its usefulness."

"It is just the same with individuals. There are now three candidates in sight for Governor. They have good records. But they will succeed or fail according to their success the next year or two in showing the people what they can do—not what they have done."

"The Democratic party in the nation is sweeping everybody before it because the administration is proving successful. The work of President Wilson and the present Congress is the secret of the universal confidence in our party. Now the Democratic party in North Carolina has done well. Governor Craig is a magnificent Governor. But if we would continue to command the confidence of the people we must continue to surpass all others in serving them."

"The meeting I have in mind proposes to help the party in doing just this. We will stimulate interest in certain great causes. We will inform the people and the candidates. I hope we will succeed in fixing in the minds of the men who make up the Democratic party certain standards, and stimulate them to uphold these standards until they shall have become law. If we do this, the Democratic party will continue to be the vehicle of the people's will in North Carolina."

"Speaking for myself, I have heretofore published what I conceive to be a reasonably practical program. Of course I cannot say what the meeting will do."

"We shall have one or more famous men. The meeting will be in April. All the Democrats favorable to well-defined forward measures will be welcomed—and I think this includes about all of them. The call will be more definite on this subject. We expect a great meeting."

"We are not in this movement to advance any one man's cause, or to promote any candidate, or to make any division in the Democratic party. I could not be in such a movement. All we have in mind is to bring forward in emphatic manner some big things for our party to do—some achievements that will keep North Carolina Democrats abreast of the great record President Wilson and Congress are making."

If you want your trees to be healthy and bear a fine crop of peaches and apples spray with Thousen's lime and sulphur solutions.  
F. L. Smith Hardware Co.

## FINED AND TOLD TO BE GOOD.

The Famous Fight at Glen Alpine Between Members of the Pitts and Hennessee Families Settled in Burke Court.

The Pitts-Hennessee feud troubles were settled in Burke Superior Court this week, so far as the courts are concerned. It will be remembered that as a result of the battle royal between members of the Pitts and Hennessee factions, at Glen Alpine, Burke county, more than a year ago, Gorman Pitts died and Dr. E. A. Hennessee was tried last summer for killing Pitts and acquitted. The others who participated in the fight—nine in all, including Dr. Hennessee—were brought to trial before Judge Long in Burke court this week, being charged with engaging in an affray in which guns, pistols, knives, sticks, rocks, etc., etc., were freely used.

Three of the nine defendants, Ervin Pitts aged about 17, Robert Hennessee aged 13, and Valley Hennessee aged 16, years entered pleas of nolo contendere. The others, Dr. E. A. Hennessee, M. N. Hennessee, Abel Pitts, Garfield Pitts, W. D. Pitts and John Kiser, unqualifiedly admitted their guilt.

After hearing evidence to determine who was most at fault, Judge Long fined Dr. Hennessee and W. D. Pitts \$100 each and taxed them with the costs, amounting to \$500. Each was required to give bond in the sum of \$2,000 to keep the peace for five years toward each other and all other residents of North Carolina. M. N. Hennessee, former county commissioner and brother of the doctor, was fined \$25. Robert and Valley Hennessee, young sons of the doctor, were discharged. Abel, Garfield and Ervin Pitts, the first a brother and the two others sons of W. D. Pitts, were fined \$25 each. John Kiser, a youth who was somehow drawn into the excitement only to be routed by a pistol, was fined \$1. M. N. Hennessee and Abel Pitts were placed under \$200 bond each to keep the peace for three years. All defendants must appear at the March term of Burke court, during the period designated, and show good behavior. In imposing sentence Judge Long took into consideration the fact that Gorman Pitts paid for his part in the affray with his life; that Dr. Hennessee was seriously wounded and crippled and that he and some of the others suffered severely from their wounds and were put to much expense on account thereof.

The stories of the fight told in court brought out the fact that the origin of the difficulty was about a debt of 50 cents. Some years ago Dr. Hennessee secured a mule from Abel Pitts, Sr., to go on a hunting trip, his companion on the trip being W. D. Pitts. Later Dr. Hennessee treated a child of Abel Pitts and sent a bill for medical attendance. Pitts sent the doctor word to call at his store and he would settle. When Hennessee called Pitts presented a bill for \$1.50 for the use of the mule and this left Hennessee in debt to Pitts to the amount of 50 cents. Dr. Hennessee got mad and refused to pay. They quarreled and as time passed the feeling increased, which finally resulted the famous battle at Glen Alpine.

## Gustav Bauch Was Executed by Villa.

Washington, March 14.—That Gustav Bauch, of New Iberia, La., was executed by Pancho Villa at Juarez, was testified today before the home foreign affairs committee by L. Frago Baca of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Baca testified Bauch was in the same cell with a cousin of his, J. J. Baca, of New Mexico, and a third man. Bauch and the other man were taken out and executed, according to the cousin's story, which Baca related. The cousin was released. Villa had imprisoned him because he did not like the appearance of his hat.

"Carranza lives in fear of Villa," said Baca, "so much so that he would not sleep in the same room with him."