

REPORT ON THE COTTON SCANDAL

Theodore Price, Van Riper and Others Got the Tips

E. S. HOLMES DISMISSED

Figures Were Juggled in Interest of Certain Speculators—H. A. Haas of New York was a Go-Between. A Letter that Tells the Story. Reorganize the Bureau

Washington, July 8.—As the result of the investigation into the charges made by Richard Cheatham, secretary of the Southern Planters' Association, that information had been given to cotton brokers in New York by some person or persons in the bureau of statistics of the department of agriculture, Secretary Wilson today made public an official report in which he states that Edwin S. Holmes, the associate statistician, has been guilty of divulging information in advance and "juggling" the official report. Holmes has been dismissed.

Victor H. Olmstead has been appointed associate statistician of the department of agriculture to succeed Holmes. Mr. Olmstead has for some time past held the position of chief of the division of domestic crop reports in the bureau of statistics, and was also formerly assistant statistician of the department of agriculture to succeed Holmes. Mr. Olmstead has for some time past held the position of chief of the division of domestic crop reports in the bureau of statistics, and was also formerly assistant statistician of the department of agriculture to succeed Holmes.

Secretary Wilson's Report

The report says: "It has been found that Mr. Holmes communicated advance information to L. C. Van Riper, a New York broker, and H. A. Haas of New York, who acted as a go-between in conveying information from Holmes to other New York brokers, including Theodore Price.

"Steps have been taken by Secretary Wilson to prevent any further leakage of the department figures, and an entire reorganization of the bureau of statistics and the manner of preparing monthly crop reports has been outlined by him.

"The papers in connection with the investigation were referred to the United States attorney for the District of Columbia, and he has reported that in his opinion a criminal prosecution will not lie against Holmes.

"Holmes has been dismissed from the service of the department." According to the report Wilson Judd of New York, formerly in the employ of L. C. Van Riper, induced the latter to tell of his connection with Holmes, and then communicated the information to Mr. Cheatham. Van Riper became the principal witness in the investigation conducted by the secret service agents, and said he was induced to communicate the fact that advance information was given out by Holmes because he had heard that Holmes and his associates had intended to try to manipulate the June cotton report.

"Using this information as a foundation, the secret service agents interviewed numerous persons who had been mentioned by Judd and Van Riper, as well as gathering a mass of correspondence, including many letters written by Holmes to Van Riper and others.

How It Was Found Out

The report made to Secretary Wilson and the secretary's comments, together with the details of the new plan of conducting the bureau of statistics, makes more than 4,000 words. It reviews the entire investigation since the charges were laid before Secretary Wilson by Mr. Cheatham several weeks ago.

The charges by Mr. Cheatham were backed up with evidence that certain information had been given to cotton brokers in New York by some person or persons employed in the bureau of statistics, relative to the acreage and condition of the cotton crop of the United States prior to the official publication of the information, and that the crop figures had been tampered with in the department in the interest of certain cotton speculators.

Secretary Wilson determined at once upon a thorough investigation, and furnished to officers of the United States secret service all evidence which had been given to the department. The agents then were put in touch with Mr. Cheatham and directed to use every possible effort to ascertain whether there had been leak in the department, and if so to furnish the secretary with the name of every person or persons responsible.

Holmes is the only employee of the government who has been found to

have had any connection with supplying information to brokers prior to the publication of the official report.

After reviewing the charges secretary Wilson gives a summary of the testimony adduced by secret service agents, as follows:

Summary of Testimony

Mr. Van Riper, the New York broker under examination, said he became acquainted with Holmes in August, 1904, through a "mutual friend."

According to this testimony Holmes told Van Riper he could get information concerning the government crop report, principally through the report of the general agent and the reports of the state agents. Van Riper said Holmes furnished him with information from time to time for several months in advance of the publication of the official figures, and that the information furnished by Holmes corresponded exactly with the figures afterward published as the official crop reports.

Van Riper stated that a Mr. Haas of New York acted as a go-between for Holmes and himself, and he was given to understand that Haas was securing information for Theodore Price, a cotton broker of New York.

The witness said he met Haas at the Hotel Waldorf, and was told by him that the report for June, 1905, would be 75 per cent. on condition and 12 1/2 or 13 per cent. on acreage, which was as high as they could make it; and that he was going to see Price, with whom he would have an interview and wanted to see Van Riper after he saw Price; that in about an hour Haas called on him and said that at the request of Price he was going to Washington to see if they could get the percentage a little higher and the acreage a little smaller.

Van Riper testified that the following is the substance of the conversation which took place between him and Haas: "I am going to see Van Riper after he sees Price; that in about an hour Haas called on him and said that at the request of Price he was going to Washington to see if they could get the percentage a little higher and the acreage a little smaller."

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DEWEY GUILTY GETS SIX YEARS

One Juryman Hung out Two Days and Nights

AN APPEAL WAS TAKEN

Judge Jones said It was one of the Hardest Fought Battles He Had ever Seen—Bond of \$40,000 Required and Immediately Given.

Dewey Returned to Goldsboro

New Bern, N. C., July 8.—Special. The jury in the case of Thomas W. Dewey, the defaulting cashier of the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank of this city, rendered their verdict of guilty this afternoon at 4:30 o'clock, after being out for two days and nights.

The defendant and his attorney were in open court. Judge E. B. Jones, before passing sentence on the prisoner, congratulated the attorneys for the state and defendant on the manner in which they had fought their case. He said it was one of the hardest fought battles that he had ever witnessed during his career on the bench.

Judge Jones stated to the defendant that he sympathized with him and his family in his downfall, but he had a duty to perform to the state of North Carolina as well as to the defendant. He then pronounced a sentence of six years in the penitentiary for Thomas W. Dewey.

At this instant the defendant's attorney served notice on the state of an appeal to the supreme court, which convenes in Raleigh in September. A bond of \$40,000 was required of the defendant, which was immediately given, signed by Charles Dewey, E. B. Dewey, F. K. Borden and E. W. Borden, Jr., of Goldsboro.

The defendant returned home to Goldsboro on the evening train.

THE BODY IS ON THE SEA

Famous Admiral's Remains Transferred to the Brooklyn

Cherbourg, July 8.—The final ceremony of the transfer of the body of Admiral John Paul Jones on board the United States flagship Brooklyn took place at noon today, and was the occasion for another impressive function, in which the entire force of the American squadron, large detachments of French soldiers and sailors and an enormous crowd of townspeople participated. The body was first placed on board the torpedo boat Zouave, and thence was transferred to the Brooklyn, while the batteries of two squadrons fired minute guns.

Aboard the Brooklyn the casket was placed in the hold. Chaplain Bayard read a short prayer as the casket was lowered from the gun deck into an improvised chapel.

Admiral Sigbee told the Laffan press correspondent that he was delighted with his reception in France. It was certainly from the heart. He wished to correct the report of ill feeling between himself and Loomis. They were the best of friends. The visit was devoid of untoward incidents. His only regret was that at the final ceremonies the American sailors did not show proper attention to details, while the French were very punctilious.

Beautiful weather added to the picturesque of the scene.

The American squadron sailed this afternoon. The French government has conferred the Cross of the Legion of Honor upon Rear Admiral Charles D. Sigbee, Captain John M. Hawley of the flagship Brooklyn, Commander Alexander Sharp of the Chattanooga, Commander Wm. G. Cutler of the Galveston, Commander Reginald F. Nicholson of the acoma and Lieutenant Commander Harry George of the acoma, who commanded the detachment of American sailors and marines which escorted the body of Admiral Paul Jones from Paris to Cherbourg.

ROBBED AND RUN OVER

Merchant of Hampton, Va., Assaulted Near Hotel Imperial, N. Y.

New York, July 8.—Harvey Booker, a merchant of Hampton, Va., near Old Point Comfort, who is now a guest at the Hotel Imperial, was dragged from a cab under the very shadows of the hotel by two negroes early today, who later were assisted by the negro cabman, beat, run over by the cab wheels and then robbed.

Mr. Booker hailed the negro driver, who was talking to two other negroes, and engaged him to drive to the hotel. They had gone but a short distance when the cab was stopped and two negroes opened the door and dragged

CHEATHAM IS NOT DONE YET

Cotton Folks After John Hyde's Scalp

PART REPORT WITHHELD

Predictions Freely Made that Secretary Wilson May Soon Retire from Cabinet—If Inquiry is Extended Holmes Might Be Criminally Prosecuted—Administration Aroused

Washington, July 8.—Developments quite as sensational as those reflected in today's report of Secretary of Agriculture Wilson on the cotton scandal are expected to follow soon. Richard Cheatham, secretary of the Southern Cotton Planters Association, who was responsible for the recent investigation which eventuated in the dismissal of Associate Statistician Edwin S. Holmes and a disclosure of the fact that he furnished advance "cotton information" to New York brokers, will leave for Atlanta tomorrow. He will confer with President Harvie Jordan of the association and will recommend that the case be taken to President Roosevelt. Mr. Cheatham is inclined to the belief that statistician John Hyde should be relieved of his present office. The cotton association wants Mr. Hyde's scalp, as its officers believe that as chief of the division of statistics it was his duty to see to it that proper precautions were taken to prevent any subordinate from juggling the cotton reports or other reports on the crops.

Things have reached such a pass in this connection that predictions are freely made that Secretary Wilson may soon retire from the cabinet. It was stated today in a responsible quarter that portions of the report of the secret service agents which were severely critical of their tone as to the administration of the department as a whole were withheld, and that if made public Mr. Hyde's position would become untenable.

The Southern Cotton Association may ask in addition to the dismissal of Mr. Hyde—for that is really what the association is working for—a re-opening of the inquiry, which might possibly result in a thorough investigation of the whole department. Other crop reports, as well as that on cotton, were manipulated, it is claimed, and furthermore that if the probe is run deeper and more freely other officers may be involved. Toward Secretary Wilson personally no criticism is directed. His implicit confidence in his subordinates is believed to have been the cause of the failure to take the Cheatham charges seriously at first, and that he would welcome an investigation of the department, if the president ordered it is generally believed.

After having repeatedly stated that it was impossible under the system in vogue for any officer of the department of agriculture to manipulate or give out in advance any reliable information concerning cotton reports, Secretary Wilson announced today that the charges of Richard Cheatham had been substantiated and that as a result Associate Statistician Edwin S. Holmes had been dismissed from the service. He said further that Holmes had used as go-between one Moses Haas, who had sold the advance information to New York brokers, who had traded it on the market. Documentary evidence in the shape of letters written by Holmes to L. C. Van Riper of New York, are embraced in the Wilson report in support of the guilt of Holmes.

Despite the assertion of Secretary Wilson in his report that United States Attorney Morgan H. Beach had informed him that a prosecution of Holmes was not possible under the law, there appears to be a difference of opinion between the two officials on this point. Mr. Cheatham had a long conference with Mr. Beach tonight. The latter is understood to have stated that the disclosures as published did not afford sufficient grounds for a charge of conspiracy, but at the same time he pointed out that if the inquiry was extended and positive evidence as to conspiracy obtained, "Holmes and his associates might be criminally prosecuted."

It appears as stated above that only half the story was told today. Secretary Wilson's statement was based upon the report of the secret service agents, but the really interesting features of that report were withheld for reasons that are not explained by Secretary Wilson. This action on the part of the secretary is understood to have been a decided disappointment to the representatives of the Southern Cotton Planters' Association.

It was the intention of Messrs. Cheatham and Beach to issue a joint statement, tonight, but for some reason this plan was abandoned. There is reason to believe that Holmes and others may yet be called to stand trial in the federal courts, but this will depend, of course, on a reopening of the inquiry.

CRUSHED BETWEEN CARS

Engineer Chandler Fatally Hurt at Black Mountain

Asheville, N. C., July 8.—Special. Engineer Chandler of the Southern Railway met with a peculiar fatal accident at Black Mountain about 8 o'clock this morning. From information received here it seems that the engineer was at work with an air pipe on his train when he was caught between the bumpers of two cars and fatally injured, the principal hurt being about the head.

There was no one present when the accident occurred and the unfortunate engineer was found shortly afterwards in an unconscious condition. He was brought to Asheville and placed in the Mission Hospital, where he died at 1:45 this afternoon.

Engineer Chandler was a member of Asheville Lodge No. 106, Knights of Pythias, and the funeral arrangements will be in charge of this lodge.

MOORE CASE COMPROMISED

Girl's Family Accepted \$150—Moore Arrested in Washington

Greensboro, N. C., July 8.—Special. Chief of Police Neely this morning received a telegram from Washington stating that W. H. Moore, who is wanted on the charge of seduction under promise of marriage to Lena Epp, had been arrested at the nation's capital and would be held until advised, Chief Neely started Officer Rhea to Washington, but just as the train was about to pull out the officer was advised by relatives of Moore that the case had been compromised.

It is learned that relatives of Moore offered the family \$100, but they held out for \$150, which was paid.

Moore is well known here, being for some time manager of the Singing Manufacturing Company's office in this city. The case has attracted much notice here, owing to the prominence of the parties connected.

PRICE MAKES DENIAL

No Knowledge of Van Riper or Haas. His Counsel very Indignant

New York, July 8.—Theodore H. Price, the New York cotton broker, declared today that he had no acquaintance with or knowledge of either L. C. Van Riper or M. Haas, from whom he is said in a report of the department of agriculture to have received information concerning the cotton report.

Counsel for Theodore H. Price today characterized the reference to Mr. Price in the report given out by Secretary Wilson as "a gratuitous, abominable, outrageous and malicious statement," and declared that Mr. Price knew nothing about the investigation until he saw the press dispatches.

The lawyer expressed surprise that the secretary had not seen fit to call on Mr. Price before implicating him in the report.

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L. C. Riper of New York, who was mentioned in the Wilson statement today, is said to be here. He was not registered at any of the prominent hotels.

Not since the postal scandals have the administration circles been so aroused as they have been over today's disclosures. The scandal is believed to have run back longer than was brought out today, and no doubt is expressed that there will be an even more thorough overhauling of the division having charge of crop reports than is indicated in the statement of Secretary Wilson made public today.

Waylaid and Shot

Pikeville, Tenn., July 8.—W. L. Tollet, proprietor of a hotel here, and brother of State Senator E. G. Tollet of Crossville, was waylaid and shot to death today while coming from his farm. No cause is known for the crime.

Canada Has Caught It

Halifax, July 8.—The Canadian marine authorities today capitulated to the mutinous crew of the cruiser Campa and allowed them to leave the ship without further trouble. Enough men were secured to enable the cruiser to go to sea tomorrow.

Hopful at Panama

Panama, July 8.—No cases of yellow fever have appeared since June 25. Governor Magoun is pushing the work on the water works and sewerage system. He has increased the force of laborers to about 1,400. It is believed that good sanitation will do more to stamp out yellow fever than the plan of Colonel Gorgas to kill the mosquito.

Ambassador Reid's Reception

London, July 8.—Ambassador Reid gave a reception at Dorchester House this afternoon. Fifteen hundred attended, including the members of the Rifle Team of the Seventh Regiment of New York, and a majority of notable Americans in London. The grounds were elaborately decorated and a band played. A marquee was erected on the lawn and refreshments were served.

Will Go to Oyster Bay

Washington, July 8.—Baron Rosen, the New Russian ambassador, will go to Oyster Bay Wednesday, accompanied by Third Assistant Secretary Pierce of the state department, to present his credentials to President Roosevelt.

Baron Rosen gave an informal dinner at the New Willard tonight, at which Count Cassini, the retiring ambassador, and other members of the Russian embassy were present.

Killed Her Lover

Poughkeepsie, N. Y., July 8.—Bertha Clatche, a French girl, shot and killed Emil Gerdron, her lover, tonight on Seventh avenue. She had supported Gerdron, so she said, and recently he beat her because she did not bring in enough money. At that time she swore out a warrant for Gerdron's arrest, but he fled. Tonight the police saw Gerdron and arrested him. Two detectives started down the street with him on the way to the police station. The girl store up behind him and fired two shots into his back. Gerdron dropped dead. Before the detectives could stop her she knelt on his body and fired another shot into his stomach.

She was taken to police headquarters. She expressed her joy at the death of Gerdron, and said he had made her his slave.

LANDSDOWNE'S TRIBUTE

Paid to John Hay at American Society Banquet

London, July 8.—The banquet of the American Society, which was to have been held on July 4, but which was postponed on account of the death of Secretary Hay, was held tonight. There was a large gathering, including Ambassador Reid, Lord Lansdowne, the Mexican, Chinese and Dutch ministers, the German ambassador and the archdeacon of London.

Lord Lansdowne, proposing a toast to President Roosevelt paid a warm tribute to the late John Hay, describing him as a man "who stood for all that is noblest and best in our public life; all that is most sincere and attractive in our social life."

He said he would always treasure as one of his best recollections the public career of John Hay. On Hay's last visit to London he had called on the American secretary of state and talked with him of the great task lying before us of the necessity of preserving the close intimacy of the two peoples.

Lord Lansdowne went on to speak of this intimacy. He said: "We have found it possible to get rid of nearly all I had almost said all, of the points of difference, and I am satisfied that if hereafter any such points reappear we will know how to settle them in a reasonable and amicable manner."

Referring to President Roosevelt he said: "At this moment he stands first and foremost among the public men of the world. He is the great advocate and apostle of peace."

Ambassador Reid paid a touching tribute to the memory of Mr. Hay. Count Metternich, the German ambassador, and the archdeacon of London, responded on behalf of the visitors.

The feature of the whole proceeding which stood out prominently was the fact that it seemed to have been held to honor the memory of the late Secretary of State Hay.

DID BERNARD DENY THE STORY

Autorship of Letter Signed by Him Questioned

INTERVIEW IS BACKED UP

Public Ledger Prints Letter Signed C. M. Bernard Repudiating Interview—Norfolk Dispatch Declares Letter was Written by a Lawyer, and Vouches for Interview

Norfolk, Va., July 8.—Special.—Since the publication of an interview with C. M. Bernard, former United States district attorney of eastern North Carolina, in a local paper and in North Carolina papers, a letter signed "C. M. Bernard," and addressed to a "Lawyer," whose name is unknown, has been printed in the Public Ledger denying the truthfulness of the words credited to Bernard.

paper, today has the following story: "The Dispatch is informed on good authority that Bernard himself did not write this letter at all, but that it was written by a nameless Norfolk lawyer who contemplates a connection with the possible defence of Bernard's Carolina damage suit in the Virginia courts. This man is represented as believing that some of the statements made by Bernard to the Dispatch reporter last Thursday, and printed that day, are calculated to prejudice the Norfolk public against him. At all events the identity of the evasive gentleman whose name fills the eloquent blank in the happy communication printed above would be interesting to all who have followed the case of Mr. Bernard.

"The facts of the Thursday interview are these: The reporter was told by an acquaintance of Bernard that Bernard was in Norfolk, and that Bernard had