

WORK OF WRECKERS.

Seaboard Freight Ditched Near City.

AFTER THE VESTIBULE

Fireman Alex Overby Killed—Engineer Escapes—Spikes Removed from Railroad—Third Attempt to Wreck the Fast Train—No Cline.

Had the Seaboard Air Line vestibule from Atlanta, Washington bound, been running on schedule time last night the six cars with its precious freight of more than a hundred souls would have been precipitated down a thirty-foot embankment just beyond the penitentiary and the loss of life must have necessarily been appalling. But as it was, the vestibule train, which was heading for Raleigh at a sixty mile clip, was an hour and a half behind schedule time.

At a point one mile and a half from the city just beyond the penitentiary and a few hundred yards West of Mr. R. E. Crawford's residence, a death trap awaited the Seaboard train. Spikes had been withdrawn from rail and fishplates and bolts removed where the embankment was highest. The rail was drawn an inch away from the gauge of the track so as to guide the train down the embankment. The villainous work was that of train-wreckers, who undoubtedly planned for the destruction of the Seaboard's vestibule.

An extra freight train with Engineer John Robertson at the throttle and Capt. Yearby in control left Apex soon after 12 o'clock. The train was moving at the rate of twenty miles an hour as it neared the snare laid for the vestibule. It was somewhere between 12:30 and 12:45 when the freight left the rails at that point. The engine and the front cars bounced over the sills for 20 yards, breaking them into splinters and plunging great furrows in the earth, when they toppled over the left hand side of the embankment.

The fireman, Alex Overby, went down the side of the embankment with the engine and was buried under its enormous weight in the mud. The death of the fireman must have been instantaneous. Escaping steam and hot water enveloped him, taking all the skin from his body. His right hand was burned to a crisp.

Engineer Robertson has not been at work since he got out of the wreck. It all seems to have been a dream or a nightmare to him. Besides two broken ribs and a few bruises he is not otherwise hurt. Robertson cannot remember whether he jumped from the engine before it was wrecked. The engineers on the wreck and under circumstances of the occurrence are almost certain that he got from the engine before it was wrecked. As is well known the track parallels that of the Southern and it is presumed that the wreck, in jumping landed on the Southern's track. Had he jumped from the engine before it was wrecked, it is more than likely that he would have shared the fate of the other fireman.

The engine did not go as far down the embankment as the ten box cars. The former was nearly as possible about mid way down the embankment. The cars fell over and four were wrecked. They were left part with the engine and remained on the embankment where they were.

Wreckers of the S. A. L. and a force of men are at work at the wreck. The track was cleared this evening. All the Seaboard's trains have gone over the Southern's track as far as Apex.

Two Cent Fare Agitation. A movement is on foot in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio to get the legislatures of those states at the coming session to require the railroads to reduce passenger fares to 2 cents. It seems to be some mystery in Illinois, but President Carter of the Travelers' Protective Association appears to be working for a law in Ohio and Indiana. It is in Illinois, too, that the roads suspect the board of war.

wreck occurred two Southern railway freight trains approached in close succession. They were signaled down.

It was not long before a wrecking crew was at work. The first move was made to recover the body of the dead fireman. It was 5:30 this morning when the body was removed and it required a hard five hours work to do so. The fireman, Alexander Overby was a colored man. His body was brought to the undertaking establishment of Mr. J. W. Brown where it remained until twelve o'clock. At least 1,000 curiosity seekers called to view the mutilated body. The body was mangled only slightly. Both arms were broken. The poor fireman leaves a wife, who is in a delicate condition, and two children. The railway pays for the funeral.

Engineer Robertson received a terrible shock and it took him some hours to fully regain his faculties. In talking of the occurrence this morning he said that just a few seconds before reaching the misplaced rail he saw that there was something wrong with the track, but that he did not have time to reverse his engine. He remembers that his engine jumped the rails, but subsequent events are a blank in his mind.

The Work of Wreckers. That the misplacement of the rail was the work of wreckers there is not the least bit of doubt. The evidence secured so far by the railway officials is conclusive.

Last night the spikes and fishplates that were drawn from the rail were discovered lying close by the track, near the point where they were taken. The spikes were "skinned" at least an inch in length and bore all signs of being freshly removed.

But this morning the most positive evidence was secured by the discovery of an iron draw bar on the left side of the road, concealed in some weeds near a telegraph pole. The draw bar is one of the Southern Railway's. The draw-bar, the fish plates and spikes are in the possession of the company. The tracks of two men have been found leading off from the point where the rail was removed. So many people have walked over these that they are now destroyed. A pack of blood hounds have been ordered to trace the villains and they are expected this evening.

Superintendent Moncre is satisfied that the mischief was done by train wreckers. He so told a Press-Visitor reporter today. Mr. Moncre said that the railroad had the most convincing proof that an attempt was made to wreck the fast train, but as yet no clue as to who perpetrated the deed, has been obtained.

There was a street rumor current today that four tramps were put off the Seaboard mail yesterday near the point of the wreck and that there was a strong belief that they had withdrawn the spikes from the rail. Railroad men denied this story.

Other Attempts to Wreck. Two other attempts have been made to wreck the Seaboard's vestibule trains within the past ten days. Christmas day a short steel rail was wedged in between two sills near Crabtree bridge. Engineer Allen ran into the impediment. Miraculously the train was not derailed, though the cowcatcher to the engine was torn off. The railroad officials have kept this quiet. A pile of wood was placed on the track near Crabtree one day last week and engineer Nowell ran into this. His engine was damaged.

There is no penalty too severe for such miscreants. This community will stand most anything, but it won't be well for a train wrecker if they get a chance at one.

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PAY \$3.00 IN ADVANCE.

The Price of the Press-Visitor will be \$4 after January 1st.

Nearly a month ago notice was given that the price of the Press-Visitor after January 1st, 1897, would be 35 cents per month instead of 25 cents per month. Accordingly all bills presented after that date will be at that figure. Those who do not wish to pay at that rate have the privilege of paying up and discontinuing their subscription between now and January 1st. Those who let their subscription run over into the month of January will be expected to pay at the increased rate of 35 cents per month when bill is presented. Any one will have the privilege of paying \$3.00 for one year in advance any time between now and January 1st, and any one will have the privilege of paying in advance for any number of months at 25 cents per month, provided payment is made before January 1st.

NEW TOWN PROJECTED.

The Southern Railway Buys Land for its Shops at Coolwell, Va.

By Telegraph to the Press-Visitor. RICHMOND, Va., December 30.—The Southern railway has quietly purchased quite a large tract of land at Coolwell, a station on that road in Amherst county, eight miles north of Lynchburg, for the purpose of erecting shops for the Virginia Midland division of that system and concentrating its repair work at that point.

The purchase includes fifty acres at the station, comprising a level plateau, which will be covered by the workshops. The plan contemplates the building of many houses for the workmen, and a new town will quickly spring into life similar to Crewe, Clifton Forge and other railroad towns created in the last few years under similar conditions.

The plans of the company were shown in a suit at Amherst Court House a few days ago over title to an interest in part of the lands purchased.

DAUNTLESS CAPTAIN.

By Telegraph to the Press-Visitor. JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Dec. 29.—The steamer Dauntless came up the St. Johns river from Mayport this afternoon with a revenue officer aboard, who has had charge of the vessel for some time.

While the officer was ashore the Dauntless again put to sea without him and it is said embarked supplies from South Jacksonville, apparently cases of groceries.

The movements of this vessel are looked upon with suspicion by Spanish officials in this city. The revenue cutter Boutwell followed the Dauntless as soon as it was possible to get up steam.

BRADLEY MAY RESIGN.

By Telegraph to the Press-Visitor. FRANKFORT, Ky., Dec. 30.—Gov. Bradley refuses to discuss the published rumor that he intends to resign the office of Governor. He admits, however, that he wrote Major McKinley saying he would not accept a federal office.

WILL NOT ACCEPT INTERVENTION.

By Cable to the Press-Visitor. MADRID, Dec. 30.—The Spanish Premier Castillo says he will not accept the intervention of the United States in Cuba or introduce reforms there while the rebellion is not confined to eastern provinces.

VIRGINIA EARLE VERY III.

By Telegraph to the Press-Visitor. NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—The condition of Virginia Earle the pretty actress who is suffering with peritonitis at the hotel Vendome is very serious today.

THE AMERICAN TOBACCO COMPANY DECLARES A DIVIDEND.

By Telegraph to the Press-Visitor. NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—The American Tobacco Company has declared dividends of 2 per cent on the preferred and 3 per cent on the common stock. Nothing has been done on the scrip. The dividends are payable February 1st. The books close January 15th and reopen February 2d.

Tomorrow will be the last day of the year and the last day on which subscribers can pay in advance for the Press-Visitor at the rate of \$3.00 per year or 25 cents per month. After January 1st, all payments on subscription to this paper will be strictly at the rate of 35 cents per month.

GEN. CAMERON'S REPORT

Condition of the State Guard Greatly Improved.

PAID OFF THE DEBT

Left as a Legacy by Former Administrations—Recommendations to Legislature—Gen. Cameron Asks that the Salary of Office be Increased.

Adjutant General Cameron has completed his annual report and it is now in the hands of the Governor. The State guard is a credit to the State, as is the Adjutant's report. It makes a splendid showing and is undoubtedly the best ever issued from that office. General Cameron's administration has been a highly creditable one. The General recommends that the salary of his successor be increased sufficient to justify his giving the office all his time.

The general condition of the guard is excellent. As far as practicable inefficient commands have been weeded out and all possible means adopted for making the force a thoroughly reliable efficient military one.

To make the national guard of North Carolina second to none in point of practical efficiency, in spite of direct attacks and persistent opposition, has been the constant aim and desire of the present administration. With what success, the present condition of the guard, must attest.

On several different occasions during the past year the State guard was called out at the call of the civil authorities to enforce the law and prevent riot and bloodshed. The calls were promptly met and trouble and bloodshed averted. Commenting on this General Cameron says: "I can think of no stronger reason in favor of fostering and maintaining a well organized and efficient State guard than the object lessons presented by the increasing demands for their services every year. The Adjutant General commends the practical marches, as were taken by the fourth regiment."

"Despite the adverse report of the commanding officer of United States steamer Amphitrite relative to the naval reserves of this state, the reports of others, coupled with known practical results of these practice cruises this summer would clearly indicate that they had accomplished fully as much (if not more) than ever before."

At the close of the year '95 the guard consisted of 27 companies of infantry and 3 companies of naval reserves. The number of men, field and staff officers included, was 1,660. During the present year two companies of infantry have been disbanded and three new companies admitted. The present available force consists of 23 companies of infantry and three divisions of naval reserves.

The troops are well equipped and armed for six months service. The present armament of the guard, says the adjutant general, is unsatisfactory owing to the defective condition of the guns which are old and practically unserviceable. Every effort has been made to equip the guard with serviceable Springfield rifles (cal. 45) of which the government has an abundant supply, but without success. It is to be hoped that congress will come to the relief the national guard.

The general recommends to the governor and general assembly:

First, that an annual appropriation of a sufficient sum to not only pay for armory rents, but also when in camps or on practice march; to pay the officers and men so engaged a per diem, sufficient at least to secure them from personal pecuniary loss, while obeying the state's orders.

Second, confer medals of suitable design and inscription for service and workmanship, the former to be granted to all officers and enlisted men who have served five years and over.

Third, abolish the old stationing annual encamp substitute thereof practice to cover at least six days.

Fourth, commission or company officer not passed a satisfactory examination to his qualifications and fit office.

Fifth, arrange if possible change with the navy of the old model of such

smaller or lighter vessel, capable of entering the shallow waters of our sounds.

When the present administration took hold the guard was armed as at present, but the condition as far as clothing and equipment was concerned was simply deplorable. Few companies had complete uniforms and most of them were ragged. The guard was totally unprepared for service and had a debt of \$2,250 hanging over it.

During the past four years by hard work the following results have been obtained: All indebtedness has been paid off, while quite a snug sum remains in the hands of the paymaster general. A vessel of war, the Amphitrite has been secured from the government, together with guns, boats, etc. The land forces have been completely equipped with regulation uniforms, both full dress and fatigue. In addition, the force has been equipped with leggings, fatigue caps, campaign hats, 1,200 excellent blankets, army pattern, an abundant supply of overcoats, together with additional tents and camp equipage. The entire guard could be put in the field for six months service on four hours notice. Since February 1st, '93 application has been received from 80 persons asking permission and authority to organize new companies.

Service strips are now issued to the men, as fast as they become entitled to them, while the establishment of the "retired list" will doubtless keep in touch with the service and preserve to the state when necessary the services of many valuable and experienced officers.

A Hotchkiss gun has also been secured and will be kept at the state arsenal.

A PLEASANT EVENING.

A Pretty Entertainment Last Night at the First Baptist Church.

No feature of the Christmas holidays furnished more enjoyment to the children than the annual Christmas Sunday-school entertainments and such was doubly the case last night at the First Baptist Church in this city when the Sunday-school of that church rendered the beautiful juvenile cantata, "Santa Claus' Reception" and "The Old Woman who Lived in a Shoe."

The program was creditably rendered throughout and witnessed by a large and appreciative audience—in fact the Sunday-school room, in which the entertainment was given, was filled to overflowing, many being turned away from the doors long before the exercises began.

The entertainment was under the direction of Superintendent S. W. Brewer and Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Dodd, who for many years have been teachers of the infant class and who have always managed the entertainments given by this school and whose excellent training of the children was manifested by the manner in which each and every child so ably performed their respective parts of the program.

The exercises were opened with prayer by the pastor, Rev. Dr. Carter. Then came the opening chorus by the infant class, "Ring, Ring the Bells," which was delightfully rendered.

Santa Claus' reception came next with a solo by the teacher, Miss Pearl Jones, and a full chorus by the class.

"I Believe," a beautiful little solo, was next and was rendered in a most delightful and pleasing manner by Master James Thomas.

The next was a song of the Snowland, by Bessie Rogers, Alice Newcombe and Willow Norris. "Zeno," the messenger of Santa Claus then appeared and made a clever impression by announcing how he was going to deceive old Santa and attend the reception. The impersonation was by Master Talcott Brewer. Master Charlie Watson sang a "cheer up" song that was much enjoyed. Next came the "Indian boy's song," by a band of boys in Indian costume. Little Mary Ray sang the ballad "Go to Sleep My Dolly," and was then wooed to sleep herself by the little fairy queen Ethel Lyon in a charming and song.

The Chinese

SHORT STATEMENTS.

Minor Matters Manipulated for the Many.

"The old woman in the shoe" was impersonated by Miss Lizzie Briggs, and her own introduction and the chorus of the twenty-five or more little children were pleasing features of the entertainment.

"Dot and Dimple" were represented by Maggie Faucett and Carrie Teachy, and then Master James Thomas told how troublesome the word "don't" was to a child.

Then came Santa Claus, Mr. C. W. Newcombe, in a song full of good cheer for the children and then a solo and chorus, led by Miss Ella Dicks. Zona, again in "happy mood" and finally the closing chorus, "Good Night," and an invitation from Santa Claus for all the children to follow him and each should be rewarded. The children lost no time in accepting the invitation of old Santa, and one and all went forward and received packages of confections.

The orchestra was composed of piano, Mr. Sam Parrish; cornet, Mr. Thomas; trombone, Master Wilbur Royster; first violin, Miss Maggie Moring; second violin, Master Charles Watson.

FEMALE UNIVERSITY.

The Building to be Completed and Roofed Right Away.

Work will begin on the Baptist female university building at an early date, just as soon as the weather will permit. The building which is situated on the corner of Edenton and Blount streets has reached the second story.

The last payment on the building has been paid and there is a neat sum in the treasury with which to complete the work of construction. The building will be roofed before another break in the work occurs.

TODAY'S MARKETS.

New York, Dec. 30.

Market quotations furnished by E. B. Cuthbert & Co., 30 Broad street, New York, and 305 Wilmington street, Raleigh, N. C., over their special wire.

MONTHS.	OPENING.	HIGH EST.	LOW EST.	CLOSING.
January	6 84	6 84	6 75	6 78
February	6 92	6 92	6 82	6 84
March	6 98	6 98	6 90	6 92
April	7 03	7 03	6 98	6 99
May	7 11	7 11	7 04	7 07
June	7 16	7 16	7 09	7 12
July	7 14	7 20	7 14	7 16
August				
September				
October				
November				
December	6 74	6 76	6 74	6 76

Closed quiet and steady, sales 128,600 bales.

The following were the closing quotations on the New York Stock Exchange today:

New York Stock Market.	
Sugar	112
American Tobacco	794
Burlington and Quincy	70
Chicago Gas	134
Des. and Cst. Food	322
General Electric	324
Louisville and Nashville	484
Manhattan	89
Rock Island	664
Southern Preferred	264
St. Paul	734
Tennessee Coal and Iron	254
Western Union	834

CHICAGO GRAIN AND PROVISION MARKET.

The following were the closing quotations on the Chicago Grain and Provision market today:

Wheat—May, 82½; July, 78½.
Corn—May, 24½; July, 20½.
Oats—May 19½; July, 15½.
Pork—January, 7.50; May, 7.80.
Lard—January, 3.77; May, 3.95.
Clear Rib Sides—January, 3.77; May, 3.95.

LIVERPOOL COTTON MARKET.

December	3.59
December-January	3.57
January-February	3.56
February-March	3.56
March-April	3.56
April-May	3.56
May-June	3.57

Closed easy, sales 10,000 bales.

SHORT STATEMENTS.

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AROUND THE CITY.

Portrait of the News Pictured on Paper—Points and People's Pertinence, Picked and Pithily Put in Print.

Attention is called to the new announcement today of the Oak City Laundry. With the New Year they will be prepared to do the same clean, pretty work they have been doing.

The Waif Saving Circle of the King's Daughters will meet tomorrow afternoon at the residence of Mrs. W. B. Kendrick at 3 o'clock. A full attendance of the members is desired.

Paying \$3.00 in advance for the Press-Visitor before the price goes up is just like discounting a good paper for 33 per cent. It is a dollar saved on a three dollar investment. After January first the price move up to \$1.00 per year or cents per month.

The next attraction at the Academy of Music is "Our Flat." This is one of the very best comedies on the road. Those acquainted with theatrical events will remember that Emily Bancker achieved her splendid success last season in this play. "Our Flat" is booked at the Academy January 12th.

A quilting party will be given tomorrow afternoon in the Presbyterian Sunday-school room, by the Young Ladies' Aid Society. Songs, recitations, fiddle and banjo selections will compose the programme. The presence of the older members with any ideas, is especially desired. An admission fee of 10 cents for ladies and 25 cents for gentlemen will be charged. Refreshments will be served.

Mr. W. L. Katzenberger, manager of the Babbitt soap, and his force are in the city. Mr. Katzenberger says they will give stereoscopic exhibitions here four weeks hence, lasting one week. They now have six horses and twelve mules. Mr. Seelig is with the organization as advertising agent.

The envelope containing the five lucky numbers of ten dollars each offered by the Farina Roller Mills company will be opened by Mayor Russ at his office on Friday, January 1st, at 12 m., and will be announced then. Those holding tickets will please bring or send them that day.

Mr. J. D. Riggan today deposited at the Commercial and Farmers' Bank a basket full of money that looked to be about the size of a half bushel basket. It was filled with greenbacks, silver, gold, checks and every other sort of currency. The deposit was the result of Mr. Riggan's sales on Christmas eve, and it was one of the largest deposits ever made in any bank at Raleigh. Mr. Riggan did the business Christmas and no mistake.

There will be a reception at the Y M C A rooms tomorrow evening by the ladies' auxiliary. It is the custom of the ladies' auxiliary of the Y M C A to give the members a reception on new year's evening. A committee will be at the rooms at 2 to 6 p m to receive the refreshments which have been promised by members of the auxiliary. Any donations from persons who are not members and who feel an interest in the order will be most thankfully received by the ladies.

There be a fe will