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OVERMAN IN FAVOR OF FREE DELEGATES

Takes Stand With Senator Simmons Against Instructed Delegation From North Carolina to Democratic National Convention in Denver--Says He Sees No Need for Instructions.

OPPOSED PARKER COMMITMENT FOUR YEARS AGO

Views as to Hard and Fast Directions for Any Particular Candidate Haven't Changed Since Then--Other Southern Senators for Strongest Man Possible.

The following terse and characteristic letter from Senator Overman, received by the general manager of The Raleigh Times today, places Senator Overman on the same ground as Senator Simmons, who in The Times of Tuesday admitted he did not want an instructed delegation from the Charlotte convention to the Denver convention:

United States Senate, Washington, D. C. May 15, 1908.

Mr. J. V. Simmons, Raleigh, N. C. Dear Sir: Replying to your telegram, will say that four years ago I opposed instructions for Parker upon the grounds that North Carolina had never instructed her delegates to the National Convention. I did not believe that North Carolina should instruct them, and I am of the same opinion now. Whoever may be sent, I believe that they will always reflect the sentiment of the people. Very truly yours, (Signed) LEE S. OVERMAN.

ALABAMA'S VOTE IS HEAVY TODAY

Johnson and Bryan Have Worked State Hard and Interest is High

(By Leased Wire to The Times) Montgomery, Ala., May 18.—There is every indication that an unusually heavy vote will be cast throughout the state. Today is the first time in the state's history in which the voters have had a chance to directly express their choice for the presidential nominee. It is conceded that William Jennings Bryan will receive a heavy majority, though Gov. John A. Johnson, of Minnesota, has made much progress the last few weeks and will surely receive a flattering vote.

Much interest is manifested in the race of Senator John A. Lusk for the supreme bench. Senator Lusk's fight is looked upon as more of the administration fight for the approval of its acts. Judge Simpson will doubtless be returned to the supreme bench.

Moore, Ahead in Gulfport. Greensboro, N. C., May 18.—In the legalized primaries here, C. C. Moore, for agricultural commissioner, lead all competitors by a handsome vote.

This Will Be Busy Week in Some Circles of Democracy

(By Leased Wire to The Times) Washington, May 18.—While interest in the republican contest is subsiding, this week will be a busy one in democratic circles. Democratic conventions will be held today in California, at Fresno, and in Washington at Spokane. According to advices from the coast, Bryan is certain of endorsement by both conventions. State primaries will be held in Alabama today.

On Tuesday a primary election will be held in Florida, at which delegates to the Denver convention will be chosen. There is little doubt the entire Florida delegation will be for Bryan, as the opposition has been weak and dispirited and the Nebraskan is a favorite with a large majority of the democratic voters. Wednesday will be an important

MORSE GETTING TO WORK AGAIN

With Maine Corporation Hopes to Take Over Bank of North America

(By Leased Wire to The Times) New York, May 18.—Wall street learned today that Charles W. Morse has incorporated in the state of Maine the Morse Securities company as the first step in a comprehensive scheme to rehabilitate his fortunes and assume a position in the financial world equal to that he held before the slump of October.

Mr. Morse plans nothing less than the taking over of the National Bank of North America, now in the hands of a receiver. It is said Morse wishes to acquire the securities now held by the failed bank, in the belief that their present low market prices will rise before the end of a year to what they were before the smash of his fortunes.

For this purpose, emissaries of Mr. Morse have been to Washington conferring with the comptroller of the currency. It is said Mr. Morse and his friends have made an offer to the comptroller to deposit \$1,500,000 as (Continued on Page Three.)

INSANE PARSON DOES AWFUL ACT

Coffman, Methodist Revivalist, Strikes Down Wife With Stove Poker at Home

(By Leased Wire to The Times) Fairmount, W. Va., May 18.—Rev. W. F. Coffman, aged 50, one of the best known Methodist Episcopal ministers in this district, killed his wife early this morning while suffering from a fit of insanity. When he had cut her throat he immediately became sane. He is now under arrest in the county jail.

Rev. Mr. Coffman resides at Roostown, about three miles from here, and is in charge of two or three local churches. His wife was a member of a prominent local family, 33 years of age.

During the past week or two Mr. Coffman has been conducting a series of revival services and has been attending to the membership of the churches under his care. Yesterday he finished his revival and appeared to be well pleased with the result. About midnight he and his wife were discussing the services, when he suddenly seized a poker and began striking her on the head.

There was a struggle, during which Mrs. Coffman succeeded in escaping from the house to a garden at the rear. She was followed closely, however, by her husband. When he caught up with her another battle for her life took place and she was overpowered.

Mr. Coffman had taken a knife with him when he followed his wife to the garden. When he had her powerless in his grasp he cut her throat from ear to ear, causing instant death. According to a statement made by Mr. Coffman, when he looked on the lifeless body of his wife his sanity was immediately restored. He realized what he had done.

He came here and surrendered to the police whom he told it had been his intention to kill not only his wife but also his family and himself.

Giants Want Pitcher Raymond. (By Leased Wire to The Times) New York, May 18.—It is learned that John T. Brush, owner of Giants, has made an offer of \$8,000 to the St. Louis club for the release of Raymond, a pitcher.

Denver Democrats Preparing to Entertain Great Convention

(By Leased Wire to The Times) Denver, Col., May 18.—Political affiliations do not figure in the elaborate preparations that are under way in Denver for the entertainment of the delegates to the democratic national convention, which convenes in the new auditorium next July. The one idea in the minds of the citizens of Colorado's capital is to make the convention a success. The huge sum of \$100,000 was raised by the people of Denver to bring the convention here, and men of every political faith contributed as liberally as they were able.

To understand how determined the people of Denver are to make the convention a success it is necessary only to state that a committee consisting of prominent business and professional men is in active charge of the local details. This organization is known as the Denver committee, and it is working with and under the authority of a sub-committee of the democratic national committee on arrangements, of which former Gov. John E. Osborne of Wyoming is the head.

Denver has a unique organization known as the Denver convention league. C. M. Day, representative of the Adams Express Company in Denver, is president of this organization. The object of the league is to secure conventions for Denver, and it was a committee from this organization that went to Washington and induced the national committee to

LYNCHING FOR 3 SURELY TO COME

If Man Who Wounded Palmer Is Caught

(By Leased Wire to The Times) Dyersburg, Tenn., May 18.—Should the three participants in two tragedies here be captured, their community may witness a triple lynching, with one white man and two negroes as the victims. Indignation is at white heat.

John P. Palmer, a farmer, living several miles northwest of this place, stabbed and probably fatally wounded his son, Green Palmer, yesterday afternoon. The trouble arose over the elder Palmer's attempt to break up the family, it is said. He ordered his son to leave home and, upon the latter's refusal, attacked him with a knife, slashing him severely on the arm and body. It is thought the young man will die, owing to great loss of blood.

When it became known that Palmer had almost killed his son, a posse was formed in Dyersburg and, securing bloodhounds, they went in search of the fugitive. If he is caught it is said the posse will swing him to the first tree in sight.

The elder Palmer is 65 years old, while his son is only 25.

John Anderson, a "white man's negro," was the victim of the second tragedy. He was assaulted by two negro holdup men yesterday and shot five times, dying almost instantly. The white citizens are indignant at the tragedy and will lynch the negroes if captured.

Death of Mrs. Ferebee. (Special to The Evening Times) Oxford, N. C., May 18.—A message to relatives here this morning bore the intelligence of the sudden death of Mrs. N. M. Ferebee, wife of Dr. Ferebee, which occurred in Norfolk, where she was visiting. The remains are to arrive in Oxford tomorrow.

BOYISH STUDENT ADMITS KILLING

Money, So He Shot Down Whole Sheppard Family and Robbed Them

(By Leased Wire to The Times) New York, May 18.—"I did it! I did it! Now let me alone and I'll tell all. I killed all three of them." Frank Zastora, the boyish art student who became a farmhand when his health broke down, glared through the bars of the Freehold, N. J., jail today, after confessing to the murder of William B. Sheppard, his wife, Mrs. Josephine Sheppard, and their servant, Joseph Bondy, near Wickatunk on Saturday morning.

"Why didn't you kill the baby, too?" Zastora was asked.

"I don't know! I never thought about the baby," he said.

Zastora does not look the cold-blooded murderer he confesses himself to be. In appearance he is more of the art student than the farmhand. He uses good English.

Zastora made his confession to Prosecutor Andrew A. C. Stokes after he had been subjected to a severe sweating in the police could give. He was not permitted to sleep and every moment a detective would ply him with questions.

Zastora declared for a time that he had lost his memory and that he could recall nothing that would in any way throw light on the murders. Suddenly he screamed:

"I see it all now. I see it all. It has come back to me!"

"Did you kill them?" he was asked.

"I did," he screamed. "I wanted money. I know Mr. Sheppard had a lot of money and I wanted it. I knew he kept his money in a leather purse he carried on the inside of his coat pocket. When I got up to milk the cow last Thursday morning it came to me to kill them."

Montgomery's Bank Closes. Old Snooky City Institution Forced to Shut Up Shop. (By Leased Wire to The Times) Pittsburg, Pa., May 18.—This morning the doors of the Allegheny National Bank, long prominent in the financial life of the city, failed to open. Alleged defalcations and irregularities of former Cashier William Montgomery, now confined in Allegheny county jail, were found to reach so enormous total that the continued activity of the institution has been found to be impossible.

SMUTZER CERTAIN WIDOW BELLE LIVES

Believes She is on Her Way to Old Country and Has Cabled to Have Her Arrested if She Steps From Ship Dania at Hamburg, Due There in Ten Days.

WOMAN GOT FIVE THOUSAND IN INSURANCE MONEY

And Officials Are Trying to Fathom Probable Disposition of Ill-Gotten Cash--Reason to Think \$720 Was All She Had Day of Fire.

(By Leased Wire to The Evening Times) Laporte, Ind., May 18.—Mrs. Belle Guinness, arch-assassin and proprietress of the "house of horror" to which her suitors were lured for slaughter, is today speeding across the Atlantic on the Hamburg-American liner Dania, according to the belief of Sheriff Smutzer. The police authorities at Hamburg have been asked by cable to arrest the woman on her arrival.

The identification in Galveston, Tex., of a woman who tallies exactly with the missing murderess was made by James Stokes and Frank Dayton, who talked with the woman just as she was about to sail on the Dania. Several passengers were discussing the gruesome Laporte case and their first suspicion that the woman with whom they were talking was Mrs. Guinness was aroused by the curiosity she manifested and the frequency with which she declared she had never heard anything about the case.

She said she was familiar with Indiana, having visited in Indianapolis a number of times. In explaining her object in going abroad, she said (Continued on Page Seven.)

DERRICK BOOM KILLS WORKMAN

L. W. Blackwell Meets Sudden Death While Lifting Stone in Flat Car

(Special to The Evening Times) Greensboro, N. C., May 18.—L. W. Blackwell, a stonecutter, was instantly killed yesterday by the breaking of a rope which held the boom of a large derrick. With other men he was assisting to raise a large, heavy stone in a flat car, preparatory to breaking it before it was taken out of the car. W. M. Roach, of the firm of Roach & Roach, by whom Blackwell was employed, was present and superintending the work.

Without the least warning the rope broke, and the boom, striking him in the head, crushed his skull, death ensuing immediately. He is survived by a widow and one child.

Mr. Broughton Chairman. (Special to The Evening Times) Greensboro, N. C., May 18.—At a mass meeting of the State Sunday School association executive committee, which met here yesterday afternoon, N. B. Broughton, of Raleigh, was elected chairman of the board and James P. Robertson field secretary.

FLEET IS AWAY TO SEATTLE NOW

After Return Trip to San Francisco Will Sail for Honolulu

(By Leased Wire to The Times) San Francisco, Cal., May 18.—The Atlantic fleet of battleships sailed this morning for Puget sound. They arrive off Seattle on Friday.

One-half the ships will dock at Bremerton navyyard and the others will return for repairs and paintings below the water-line.

The orders call for the reassembling of the fleet in San Francisco harbor not later than July 3. On July 7 the fleet sails for Honolulu and, after a week's stay there, is going direct to Auckland, New Zealand. The fleet of armored cruisers, under Rear Admiral Dayton, sailed south this morning and Rear Admiral Sperry, in command of the Atlantic fleet, hoisted for the first time his commanding flag of blue.

The last of the official entertainments was the banquet last night at the Fairmount hotel, tendered by San Francisco Council, 615, Knights of Columbus, to the petty officers of the two fleets. Admiral Sperry made his first speech since assuming command of the Atlantic fleet. He declared the enlisted men were the bulwarks of the navy.

Calm, Not Nervous, on Stand Saturday Says Harry Thaw

(By Leased Wire to The Times) Poughkeepsie, N. Y., May 18.—In the first statement made by Harry Kendall Thaw since he came here from Mattewan, Stanford White's slayer today denies he was unduly nervous on the stand in his examination before Justice Morschauser, and declares he is confident of early release.

"Say for me, please," said the prisoner, "that the reporters must have misjudged me when I was on the stand. They all say in their stories I was nervous and did not act calm. I want to say for myself that I was perfectly calm when I went on the witness stand. It was not my nervousness that caused me to ask for a repetition of Mr. Jerome's question, but it was something that everyone seemed to miss. Just as Mr. Jerome began to question me there was a change of stenographers and one passed between Mr. Jerome and myself. That caused me to miss the question. That may have led to my acting nervous when it was repeated. I feel well and quite happy, and am sure of my release."

Efforts will be made by Daniel O'Reilly, counsel for Evelyn Nesbit Thaw, to secure a further adjournment of the hearing scheduled for tomorrow in the proceedings brought by Mrs. Thaw for the annulment of their marriage to Harry K. Thaw. Mr. O'Reilly will base his request for a further postponement, on the ground that certain evidence he expects to introduce (Continued on Page Seven.)