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A PARDON ASKED IN UNUSUAL CASE.

Asheville Dispatch. In 1900 a drummer came to Waynesville, N. C., in the wind-up of a protracted spree. He took a horse and buggy and drove to Sylva, N. C., where he was arrested for stealing the team. He was brought back to Waynesville and put on trial. He was unknown—not even his real name could be ascertained. He was without money, relatives or friends—in a strange land. The evidence made a prima facie case against him. It was shown that he took the horse and buggy and made off with it. He made no defence, but gave the assumed name of W. B. Smith. The trial resulted in conviction and a sentence of five years in the penitentiary. He has served three, and has made an exemplary prisoner, often disclosing to the officials the plots of the prisoners to effect escape.

Recently Governor Aycock visited the prison and this man, known as Smith, asked for an interview. He stated his case to the Governor: That his family lived in Florida; that he had, at the time of his alleged crime, been on a protracted drunk; that he was unconscious of his act; that he gave an assumed name and accepted the penalty of the court without protest, in the fear that his family would learn of his disgrace; that he now believes his punishment for a crime unconsciously committed, is sufficient, and asks for pardon. The Governor was favorably impressed. Mr. J. P. Kerr, of Asheville, one of the penitentiary directors, on a recent visit to a board meeting, learned of this peculiar case. He has written to former Congressman W. T. Crawford, at Waynesville, who has investigated the case, and replies that the statements are true and recommends a pardon.

The Cost of Living.

The Bureau of Labor has issued a bulletin on the cost of living of workmen's families showing that of 2,587 families in 33 States from whom data was obtained, the average expenditure per family for food, \$2336 90 and the average size of families 5.31 persons. The last figure is seven-tenths above the average of private families in the whole country as shown by the census of 1900. The food expense is more than 42 1/2 per cent. of the expenditure for all purposes. An extended investigation covering the years 1898-02 show the cost of food reached its height in 1902, the average then being 10.9 per cent above the average for the decade 1898-99 and an increase of 16.1 per cent compared with 1896, the year of lowest prices. It is announced as a conservative conclusion that the increase in the cost of living, as a whole, in 1902, when compared with the year of lowest prices, was not over 19.1 per cent.

Southern Cement.

The vastly increasing use of concrete for all sorts of structures is reflected in the recent completion in Georgia of a million-dollar plant for the manufacture of Portland cement and the inception of another like plant of equal proportions at Selma, Ala. As the use of cement, like the use of iron, is at present an index of the industrial progress of a people, it is gratifying to find the Gulf States equipping themselves for the production of this article of prime necessity. The diversification of industries is evidently making rapid strides in the South. Not the least interesting item of the Southern Railway's last report was its showing that the greater part of its traffic is not from agriculture, but from other industries along its lines.

Cleveland Not a Candidate.

A close personal friend of Grover Cleveland says that the ex-President is not considering himself as a Presidential possibility.

"When the subject was broached to Mr. Cleveland," said he, "he replied that he could hardly conceive of an emergency which would bring him the offer from the party, of another nomination, and that it was equally difficult for him to conceive of any emergency that would lead him to accept such an offer even were it made."

Does your wife do fancy work. "Fancy work? She won't even let a porous plaster come into the house without crocheting a red border round it and running a yellow ribbon through the holes."

SOCIETY GAMBLING DENOUNCED.

Dr. Robert Strange, formerly rector of St. James' church, Wilmington, N. C., now rector of St. Paul's church, Richmond, the church of President Davis and General Lee, and the most fashionable there, preached Sunday a powerful sermon against gambling among society women. He said, in part:

"To gamble," says the Century Dictionary, "is to play any game of hazard for stakes—i. e., to gamble with cards." Playing cards for prizes is playing a game of hazard, for stakes. We can distinguish between playing cards for the pleasure of the game—an innocent recreation—and playing cards for stakes, for money or any article of value; but we cannot distinguish between playing cards for a hundred dollars, and a horse, which a hundred dollars will buy. There is no difference in principle in playing cards for a five-dollar gold piece and a beautiful vase, which costs five dollars. Playing cards for prizes is gambling, whether the prizes be large or small. Gambling is a sin whether it be little gambling or great gambling, and no Christian woman ought to gamble. The real harm of Christian women playing cards for prizes in their homes comes from the fact that by this practice women step from their high pedestal, and lost their influence in persuading their sons and daughters from gambling in clubs, saloons and worldly places."

The Bird Law.

In Mecklenburg and some adjacent counties the bird law has been brought to limit the shooting of birds to about one month, that of December. This time limitation seems overly short, while some of the other restrictions are far from what they ought to be. The most important thing for a bird law to accomplish is to prevent the wholesale slaughter of birds for the markets. This means the total forbidding of netting, the protection of land from hunters who are without permission, an enforcement of the law forbidding the shipment of birds out of the State and a tolerably high tax for hunting except on one's own land.

The State of Maine derives a fine income from the taxes on hunters. Besides the general license fee, there is a special tax on each animal or bird shot. Without restraining influences there would soon be no game in Maine, whereas with properly regulated restraining influences there is an income which relieves the citizens of the State of a very considerable percentage of what taxes would be if the game was allowed to be slaughtered for the markets.

Might it not be well in North Carolina to extend the hunting season to three months and besides existing laws provide for a tax on each bird killed and double the tax if the bird is offered for sale? The idea should be not only to preserve the game but also make it a source of revenue.

The Seaboard Deal and Its Probable Results.

Blair & Co., Thomas F. Ryan and T. Jefferson Coolidge, Jr., of Boston, agree to loan the Seaboard Air Line Railway the money necessary to pay off its floating debt and to complete the Birmingham-Atlantic extension.

The three chief interests in the road—the old management, the Ryan interest and the Rock Island, seem to be equally represented on the new board.

The advent of Mr. Ryan, who is a friend of the Southern Railway, will, it is understood, create a community of interest in the three great Southern systems—the Southern, the Atlantic Coast Line and the Seaboard—and result in the abandonment of rate cutting and the apportionment of all traffic.

The Seaboard will, however, continue, it is declared, to be operated, as an independent line.

Outing Mill Wages.

Boston, Nov. 22.—A majority of the cotton mills of New England will be operated tomorrow under a wage schedule approximately 10 per cent. less than has been in effect for two years. In the city of Fall River alone, 30,000 operatives will be affected and in the State of Rhode Island not less than 20,000. At other points in Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire, the aggregate of employees whose wages will be reduced will be several thousand. At other cotton mill centers a reduction will take effect a week later.

WOMAN PAYS OVER \$1,000 INTEREST ON \$100 DEBT.

Atlanta Constitution.

Perhaps the worst case that has yet come before the grand jury is that of Fannie Holman, a negro washerwoman, who has been caught in the coils of the money lenders and, it is believed, has paid more than \$1,000 on amounts borrowed and still owes the principal.

Just how deep this woman is in the coils of the sharks it is as yet impossible to determine, as she came to Foreman W. Woods White's office with such a large package of receipts that it will take two or three days to separate and classify them properly.

The case has been turned over to Attorney Sidney Tappan and according to the story told by the victim, she had borrowed less than \$100 principal, which she says she still owes, and has paid during the last three or four years over \$1,000 in interest.

The great bundle of receipts which she brought along to corroborate her story is quite the most formidable looking package of evidence that has yet been presented to the grand jury. It is expected that a further investigation of the case will add further revelations of the practices of the money lenders in Atlanta.

Standard Oil Company's Big Dividend. J. D. Rockefeller, William Rockefeller and other Standard Oil magnates will receive a nice Christmas gift on December 15, when the Standard Oil Company pays its fourth quarterly dividend for 1903. The dividend was declared recently and is 12 per cent. This makes the total dividend for 1903 44 per cent.

Of the \$12,000,000 to be paid to the holders of the stock this quarter John D. Rockefeller will receive \$4,800,000 and William Rockefeller will receive a check for \$2,400,000.

With this dividend the full disbursement of the Standard Oil Company for 1903 is authorized. It amounts to 44 per cent. This means \$44,000,000 to the stockholders of the concern, as the capital stock is \$100,000.

During the last 12 years to the company has paid dividends as follows: 1891 to 1895, 12 per cent. per annum; 1896, 31 per cent.; 1897, 33 per cent.; 1898, 30 per cent.; 1899, 33 per cent.; 1900, 48 per cent.; 1901, 48 per cent.; 1902, 45 per cent., and for this year, 44 per cent.

Dowie Calls For \$2,000,000.

John Alexander Dowie, general overseer of the Christian Catholic Church, has issued a call for \$2,000,000. The head of the Zion industries does not make the call in the form of a request for money or advice to his followers to take up that amount of additional stock which he is attempting to float.

"This is not my advice to you—whom God has committed to my care—it is my 'command' as God's messenger and your leader," says the letter which is published in "Leaves of Healing."

"Realize by immediate sale the cash proceeds of all your properties, invest in Zion securities or Zion land and come with all your house to Zion City," is the command.

The general overseer declares that the need of capital is not due to a depression of the business of the Zion industries, but because the demand for Zion products is greater than the producing power of its present capital.

A School of Journalism.

"So you think you will have newspaper in Crinson Gulch?"

"Yes," answered Broncho Bob.

"Who will be the editor?"

"Rattlesnake Pete. We held a competitive examination and he's the only man who can write with one hand and fire a revolver with the other."

—An Iowa farmer who has had trouble securing labor, has advertised the following terms as an inducement: "Wages will be \$6 a day. Breakfast will be served in bed. Working hours will be from 10 a. m. to 2 p. m. All heavy work is to be done by the boss. Cigars furnished free. Any hands working the entire season can have the farm."

While more than a hundred Italians laborers were asleep in a shanty near Lilly, Pa., on the Pennsylvania Railroad early Saturday morning the building caught fire and before the foreigners could escape at least 27 were burned to death and a score or more seriously injured.

TILLMAN UNES SCRIPTURE REPLYING TO A PREACHER.

Beaufort, S. C., Special.

Rev. W. L. Githens, who recently preached a sermon here, commenting on the recent acquittal of James H. Tillman at Lexington on the charge of murdering Editor N. G. Gonales, whom he shot and killed in Columbia, has received a letter from Colonel Tillman in which the former lieutenant-governor rebukes the minister for the sentiments expressed by means of a number of passages from holy writ.

The letter from Colonel Tillman was as follows:

EDGEFIELD, S. C., Nov., 10, 1903. To Rev. W. L. Githens, Beaufort, S. C.—Sir: I notice in The State of today what purports to be an excerpt from a sermon delivered by you on last Sunday, your text being from the twenty-first chapter, eighteenth verse of the gospel of St. Matthew.

Will you take as your text for the next Sabbath the seventh chapter, second and third verses of the same gospel?

You are much deceived if you, like others of your thinking, feel that you represent one-quarter of the Christian ministry of this state, for I have letters to prove the contrary.

I heartily commend to your devout study also the fifth verse of the aforementioned chapter of St. Matthew.

Very truly,  
JAMES H. TILLMAN.

P. S.—Your congregation might also read the fifteenth verse.

The texts from which the minister is requested to preach are as follows:

"For what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged; and with what measure ye mete it shall be measured to you again."

"And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?"

The verse the minister is asked to study reads thus:

"Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast the mote out of thy brother's eye."

The following verse is recommended to the congregation:

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."

African Cotton.

Baltimore Sun.

A serious effort is being made to develop the cotton-growing industry of West Africa, the present high price and alleged scarcity of cotton having convinced European spinners that they can no longer rely upon the American supply. According to Sir Alfred Jones, president of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, it is "absolutely necessary to make some effort to provide a supply from other sources," inasmuch as "America will soon need all the cotton she grows. The possibilities of Africa as a cotton-producing country," in his view, "cannot well be over-estimated."

Plantations have been started about Abbeokutu, in Lagos, where a large crop this year has been produced. Gins and presses have been sent out from Liverpool, and the natives are going into cotton-growing with enthusiasm. "America," says Sir Alfred, "may yet have to look to West Africa for her cotton supply, because I believe cotton will be produced more cheaply in West Africa than in the United States."

A North Carolina Hermit.

Absher correspondent to the North Wilkesboro Hustler says: Meridy Richardson, a hermit, who moved to this section last spring from Horse Creek, Ashe county, is digging a cave or hole in the ground in Carter Mountain where he says he is going to stay this winter. He is very feeble minded and wild natured, does not want any one to visit him. He keeps a gun and shoots at all prowlers or possum hunters who go near his hut. He owns five acres of land and has placed \$5.00 in one of his friend's hands for the purpose of keeping Sheriff Johnson from selling his land for taxes. His taxes seem to be a great burden to him. He says "he is afraid Sheriff Johnson will come around and sell his land when he is not at home." How he lives or what he lives on this writer is not able to say.

A furniture manufacturer of High Point refused to fill a large order when he learned that a pool room was to be run in connection with the cigar store.

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CHURCHES. Methodist—Rev. J. M. Benson, pastor, services 1st 3rd and 4th Sunday nights, and 3rd Sunday at 11 o'clock, a. m. Prayer meeting every Wednesday evening. Baptist—Rev. W. C. Nowell, pastor, services 2nd Sunday (morning and night) Sunday School at 3 p. m. Prayer meeting Thursday evening. Primitive Baptist—Elder M. B. Willford, pastor, services on 4th Sunday and Saturday before at 11 o'clock, a. m.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT. Sheriff, Willis M. Warren. Clerk Superior Court, T. A. Sills. Register of Deeds, J. A. Whitaker. Treasurer, J. D. Winstead. Surveyor, C. D. Jones. Coroner, J. H. Griffin. Standard Keeper, Willis Ward. County Examiner, W. S. Wilkerson.

COMMISSIONERS. W. E. Jeffrey, chairman; K. W. Ballentine, S. A. Batchelor. Regular meeting of Board every first Monday of each month.