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MYSTERY IN PASQUOTANK

PROMINENT PLANTER DISAPPEARS AND FOUL PLAY IS SUSPECTED --NO CLUE

THINK HE WAS ROBBED

Elizabeth City, N. C., Feb. 20.—The whereabouts of Ed. Gibbs, the prominent planter who so mysteriously disappeared Friday morning, is still unknown and the mystery deepens. Although Sheriff Reid, with many citizens searched every piece of road and woods with bloodhounds between Gibbs' home and this city but not the faintest trace has been gained. Case looks as if it will be a second Nellie Cropsey mystery and interest in the case is almost as intense.

Several theories have been advanced, but the one most generally accepted is that Gibbs was attacked on the road and killed and his body thrown overboard. Pasquotank river runs parallel with the road and this would have been a matter of only a few moments. However, there is no evidence anywhere on the road of any struggle. Gibbs was in town Thursday and was said to have had a large roll of currency which was seen by several negroes who bear bad reputations. When Gibbs started to town he had only \$5. Three negroes were said to have been seen by parties over near Drypoint Friday morning before day. Officers are working on these clues and something definite may develop.

Gibbs' wife and all those who know him believe that he is dead. As far as can be learned he had absolutely no reason for fleeing and there is no evidence indicating that he is separated from his wife and home on his own free will. Gibbs was a hard-working farmer who saved up all earnings and never dissipated. He was formerly on the water, having been commander for many years of the steamer Comet. He left home Friday morning between 4 and 4:30 o'clock for Elizabeth City, to get a load of barrels for shipping potatoes. He waked his wife and she gave him \$5 and that is the last any one has seen of him.

Sheriff Reid will engage a party to drag parts of the Pasquotank river, and it is believed that the body of the missing man will eventually be found there. Mrs. Gibbs' grief is heart-rending and she may not be able to survive the great shock and long suspense.

LOCAL OPTION FAVORED

Bill Passed by Alabama Senate Last Week.

Montgomery, Ala., Feb. 20.—By a vote of 21 to 12 the Alabama Senate Friday passed the Parks local option bill.

When Governor O'Neil signs the bill every prohibition law on the books will be repealed, and a peculiar situation will arise. There will be no law prohibiting the sale of liquor on the statute books, and none allowing it. The Parks bill does not become effective until bills are passed regulating the sale of liquor, and no wet or dry election can be held until these regulations are enacted.

Grand Lecturer of Masons in This State Passes Away.

Winston-Salem, N. C., Feb. 20.—Captain Charles Bahnson, a veteran of the Civil War and a Grand Lecturer of the Grand Lodge of Masons, died at his home in Mocksville Thursday night as the result of a stroke of paralysis which occurred in December.

Captain Bahnson was 70 years old and was well known and prominently connected throughout the State.

Awful Tragedy At High Point

High Point, N. C., Feb. 20.—Mose Speaks, a resident of Cloverdale, a suburb south of this city, committed Saturday morning what is considered the most dastardly crime in the history of High Point. About 5 o'clock he arose, went to the home of his son-in-law, Will Miller, about three block away, awoke him and told him that he, Speaks had a letter for Miller. While Miller was dressing and in the position of putting on his shoes, Speaks sprang upon him with a large butcher knife and stabbed him a number of times, once between the eighth rib, once on the right hip and once on the right arm. The first stab severed the left half of the lung and will probably cause his death.

From Miller's home, Speaks went directly to his own house, enacted the same, where his wife and one son were eating breakfast, sprang up his wife and stabbed her three times in the right breast, killing her almost instantly. The son, who was in the room with his mother at the time, was so completely shocked at the crime that he made no attempt to overpower his father, who made good his escape.

Leaving the house, he was heard to say he was going over to the silk mill, where one of his daughters was at work, to kill her. It is said Speaks went to the silk mill and called for his daughter, but was not permitted to see her. By the time the officers could be notified and get to the scene, Speaks had made good his escape and has not yet been located. A thorough search is being made and no effort will be left undone to locate the criminal.

NEWS ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Rome, Feb. 20.—Pope Pius is practically well of his attack of influenza, states his private physician, Dr. Petacci.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 20.—Senator Lorimer gave notice that he would address the Senate next Wednesday on the question involved in the charges of bribery in connection with his election.

Greenville, S. C., Feb. 20.—Saturday morning at 6 o'clock, when Ed. Folger, assistant postmaster at Easley, 12 miles from here, opened the door to the postoffice, a yeggman flashed a gun upon him. Mr. Folger retreated and the man made his escape by the back door. Nothing was stolen.

Concord, N. C., Feb. 20.—The Southern's New York and New Orleans limited, No. 38, ran into a switch engine one mile from the depot here Saturday night, crushing the pilot of the locomotive and badly damaging the switch engine, but no one was injured.

Washington, Feb. 20.—Taking advantage of the permission given by the House rules, Representative Bennett of New York has had both of his resolutions directed toward Canadian annexation placed upon the calendar of the House, where they will be reached in regular order.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Feb. 20.—Adolph (Ad) Wolgast, champion lightweight pugilist, was quietly married here Saturday to Miss Mildred Ensign, aged 19 years. The ceremony was performed by Rev. S. C. Strickland at his home. There were no witnesses. The bride was a childhood schoolmate of Wolgast.

"Bill Nye Day" is next Wednesday, February 22nd, Washington's birthday. The day is to be made memorable in North Carolina by exercises in the public schools of the State, at which Bill Nye, his life and works, will be told of, so that there may be known more of this noted humorist, who made North Carolina his home for so many years.

ANOTHER SESSION

CONGRESS WILL HARDLY DISPOSE OF PENDING LEGISLATION BY MARCH FOURTH

DEMOCRATS HAVE HOUSE

Washington, Feb. 20.—There are plenty of real peevish people in Washington now. Some of them have had themselves booked for passage abroad, others want to return to their respective homes, but fear of an extra session hangs over them. Some of the Republican leaders in the Senate, who never take extra session talk seriously until it becomes really serious, are now admitting that it will be very difficult to dispose of all business now pending. Democrats, on the other hand, have been heard to declare the belief that a Republican President will never commit himself and his political welfare to their tender mercies.

The Finance Committee will hold hearings today and Tuesday on the Canadian reciprocity treaty, and Senator Simmons, member of the committee, expressed the opinion that persons identified with mica and other interests in the State would like to come here and be heard.

As for the Scott anti-option bill, which has stirred cotton mill interests of the South to open hostility, it is proposed by one of the Senate leaders, that, in the event the bill should pass the Senate, it would somehow die in conference.

Extra session talk was revived at both ends of the Capitol Saturday when Mann, of Illinois, continued his filibuster against the omnibus war claims bill, in which so many North Carolina people are interested. Some of these claims have been made by churches and for North Carolina alone there is an aggregate of \$25,000. While this parliamentary battle was raging most every Southern member stuck to his seat. Congressman Morehead, however, who has returned from New York, or somewhere, did some scouting about town on a patronage mission. He visited the White House again to make some recommendations.

Senator Simmons had a long talk Saturday with Mr. Page, head of the good roads bureau of the Department of Agriculture. The North Carolina Senator is actively supporting the Bankhead bill, which appropriates \$200,000 or more for the purpose of experimenting further in the construction of good roads, especially on free rural delivery routes. Mr. Page supplied additional data and Mr. Simmons expects to address the Senate on the subject next week, when friends of the measure are entertaining a lively hope of its passage.

Hearing On Question of Additional Train For Goldsboro.

Goldsboro, N. C., Feb. 20.—The North Carolina Corporation Commission met here today at 12 o'clock in the court house to hear the question of an additional train for Goldsboro, arriving here in the morning from the south. This is the train that has so long been advocated by the Goldsboro merchants and by the public living along the line of the Atlantic Coast Line between here and Wilmington.

A girl likes to have proposals, so she won't have to fib so much about having them anyhow.

THE WEATHER

Washington, D. C., Feb. 20.—For North Carolina: Fair and much colder tonight, temperature below freezing in the interior and near freezing on the coast. Tuesday fair, colder in the east portion. Brisk west and northwest winds.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY TAKES UP REVENUE BILL--TO INCREASE CONFEDERATE PENSIONS

MANY NEW BILLS TODAY

Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 20.—The most important work of the Legislature began today, when the House resolved itself into a committee of the whole and took up the revenue bill, reported today by Chairman Doughton, of the Finance Committee. Much of the time each day for fully a week will be necessary to dispose of it.

As usual, amendments are being offered by nearly every member, which precipitates debate, and slow progress was made today. Especially was the debate prolonged over the school and pension sections. Carr, McGill, Horne and others demanded doubling the present pension to old soldiers.

Among the important new bills today are:

By McGill: Authorizing county commissioners to increase Confederate pensions.

By Thorne: To provide pay for the electrocution of condemned convicts.

By Boyden: Relating to the increase of Confederate pensions.

By Boyden: To amend the pension law of the State with the unanimous endorsement of the pension committees, which examined it before being presented. It was placed on the Calendar by unanimous consent.

By Ivie: Pertaining to the removal of trust funds from the State.

By Hicks: To define the divorce law and to make clear still born children's status under the present law.

Connor took a prominent part in the discussion of the revenue bill and warned against certain propositions which he said would prove an incentive to keep down the assessments of property below full value for taxes.

In the Senate the Boyden State administration bill came up for a vote on the second reading at two o'clock. A long debate ensued. Senator Boyden finally calling the previous question and getting what he asked for today (a half million dollars), Hicks' amendment to reduce to three hundred thousand being defeated by 25 to 13, a vote of 2 to 1. It passed the second reading by a vote of 26 to 12, final reading tomorrow.

LLEWXAM.

Famous Affidavit In Lorimer Case Is Lost.

Washington, Feb. 20.—The famous affidavit in the Lorimer case relative to the deposit of money by State Senator Holstlaw in the Illinois State Bank of Chicago, has been lost. It was introduced in the Senate by Senator Cummins while Senator Bailey was engaged in making his speech on the Lorimer case last Tuesday.

Mr. Bailey stated in the Senate that when the document came to him he handed it to Senator Tillman. That Senator turned it over to some other Senator, and it passed into general circulation with the result that it never came back either to Mr. Bailey or Mr. Cummins.

Lewis West's Mother Dies With a Broken Heart.

Fayetteville, N. C., Feb. 20.—Fannie West, mother of Lewis West, the notorious outlaw and desperado, who is to be tried at a special term of court March 13th for the murder of Deputy Sheriff Mumford, is dead at her home in the outskirts of this city of a broken heart and the shock of her son's misdeeds. She was an estimable negro and highly regarded by her white friends.

GRIDIRON CLUB DINES.

Famous Newspaper Organization Makes Merry At Banquet.

Washington, Feb. 20.—That unique organization of newspaper men, the Gridiron Club, entertained its friends at dinner Saturday night, and it would be hard to tell which got the most fun out of the varied melange of wit and humor, the sense and nonsense, that was poured forth—the guests or the hosts. There were many men of high degree among the former; men of stern visage with faces lined with the burdens of great public charges and responsibilities; yet they laughed like school boys and chuckled and chortled with mirth at the merry quips and jests of the scribes that unflinchingly played upon the foibles of some of their own number or hit off in a roaring skit some fatal weakness in the party policies.

And the hosts had that keen sense of enjoyment that comes from a knowledge that one has purveyed successfully to the utmost demands of mind and batten and has supplemented a repast of the most exquisite viands with a feast of mingled humor and satire calculated to add infinite zest to the entertainment.

Gridiron diners differ from most other formal affairs of the table in the fact that a guest does not wade drearily through a heavy course dinner clear down to the coffee and cigars and only then, with brain more or less dulled, have an opportunity to listen to floods of oratory. No; at one of these banquets the fun begins with the very seating of the guests and sparkles and crackles through the dinner, and interrupts courses in a fashion calculated to drive a well-meaning chef to distraction.

Cumberland Wants More Territory.

Fayetteville, N. C., Feb. 20.—The Fayetteville Chamber of Commerce has taken preliminary steps towards securing passage through the Legislature of an act allowing citizens of that part of Lumber Bridge township, Robeson county, not included in the recently formed Hoke county and all of Parkton township of Robeson county to vote in an election as to whether they shall become a part of Cumberland county. It has been brought to the attention of the Chamber of Commerce that people of these townships are heartily in favor of annexation and passage of a bill providing for the election desired will be urged by the Chamber. Its secretary has been instructed to at once communicate with Cumberland's Representative in this behalf.

Secretary Wilson's Joke.

"I used to know a clergyman," said Secretary Wilson, of the Department of Agriculture, recently, "who owned a fine farm and ran it on very economical lines, so that it paid splendidly. Taking his usual daily stroll over his rich, broad acres, he saw a plowman, while the horses rested, sitting on the handle of his plow. It occurred to the minister that he paid this man ten cents and hour besides board, and he stopped and said gently but reproachfully: "James, wouldn't it be a good plan for you to have a pair of pruning shears here and be cutting a few bushes along the fence while the horses are taking their short rest?" James returned the minister's serious gaze, and in the same gentle, yet reproachful voice, he answered: "Look here, sir, wouldn't it be a good plan for you to have a tub of potatoes in the pulpit and while they're singing the hymns to peel 'em for the pot?"

Greenville's Mayor Ill.

(Greenville Reflector.)

It is the cause of much regret among his host of friends that the health of Mayor F. M. Wooten has become such as to necessitate his going to a hospital for treatment. He went to Baltimore a few days ago for that purpose. Every one hopes that his restoration to health may be speedy and permanent.

FAST MAIL IS HELD UP

\$700 STOLEN--\$65,000 LEFT IN ANOTHER SAFE--POSSES IN PURSUIT

FIVE MEN IN THE PARTY

Gainesville, Ga., Feb. 20.—Southern Railway train No. 36, the United States fast mail, bound from New Orleans to New York, was held up by five masked men at White Sulphur Springs, four miles from here, at 3:15 o'clock Saturday morning. The express car safe was dynamited and the contents stolen. First reports said more than \$100,000 was taken, but Southern Railway officials declare the amount was \$700. None of the passengers were molested.

Nearby was a large safe but this was not hurt. It was too big and strong for the yeggmen to handle and so they did not make serious attempt to dynamite it. In this safe was a sum estimated at \$65,000.

The robbers escaped in an automobile and are now thought to be in Hall county, probably bound for north Georgia, where pursuit would be difficult.

The robbers broke down the doors of the railroad station at White Sulphur, bound the night agent and set the signal for the train to stop. As the locomotive slowed up one of the men entered the cab and ordered the engineer to proceed to Luta, a small station several miles away. After a stop was made members of the gang entered the express car and while one held the conductor and express messenger at the point of a gun, the others blew open the door of the safe containing the money. Agent Terrill, of the Southern Express Company, Deputy United States Marshall Landers, Detective Hance of the Southern Railway, and Deputy Sheriff Little went with the posse with bloodhounds in pursuit. Posse returning Saturday night from the country surrounding the scene of the hold-up report no trace of the robbers. The man hunt will be taken up again and will be in charge of detectives of the Southern Railway, Southern Express Company and county officials.

Description of the robbers secured here indicate that one of the men was rather tall and stoop shouldered with stubby mustache and apparently about 40 years old. Another is described as looking and acting like a country man. All the men wore masks.

Members of the main posse which started in pursuit of the bandits state that the bandits evidently were prepared to throw dogs off their scent, for red pepper had been washed over the trail at intervals.

If a man knew as much about his business as his wife does about their refrigerator, he'd be a big success.

COTTON MARKET

The New York cotton market opened lower today. March, 13.88; May, 14.02; July, 14.05; August, 13.72; October, 12.64.

At twelve o'clock the market stood: March, 13.85; May, 14.00; July, 14.01; August, 13.70; October, 12.68; December, 12.58.

The market closed: March, 13.86; May, 14.00; July, 13.99; August, 13.67; October, 12.65; December, 12.55.

Spots in Wilson, around 13.75. Receipts at the ports Saturday were 29,444 bales against 29,402 last week and 11,273 last year. Receipts at New Orleans, 4,078 against 1,946 last year, and at Houston, 1,798 against 2,195 last year.