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OLDEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD.

Mme. Baba Vasilka Was Born in May, 1784 and Still Lives. Century Spent On a Farm. Native of Bavelko, Bulgaria, Lives on Pension Paid by Descendants Who Number More Than Hundred. Events of Her Earlier Career More Distinctly Impress on Her Mind.

Berlin, Aug. 20.—The claim of Frau Dutkewitz, of Posen, born on February 21, 1785, to be the oldest woman in the world, is now contested by Mme. Baba Vasilka, who was born in May, 1784, in the little Bulgarian village of Vavelko, where she has lived ever since. The record of her birth is preserved in a neighboring monastery of the Orthodox Greek faith.

She is the daughter of a peasant, and has worked herself as a peasant up till a comparatively recent date. For more than 100 years she regularly worked in the fields, according to the custom of her country, where women are employed in all sorts of manual labor.

The events of her life up to the time when she attained the age of eighty are far more distinctly impressed on her mind than the happenings of the last forty-six years.

Her son Todor, following the family tradition, has also worked in the fields as a peasant nearly all his life, but he has also taken part in various ways and rebellions in the Balkan peninsula. He is not quite so fresh and vigorous as his mother, although he is still capable of doing a good day's work, and enjoying such small luxuries of life as a pipe and the strong spirits drunk by the Bulgarian populace.

"The oldest woman in the world is said to enjoy fairly good eyesight and good hearing, and she is able to walk without support. She lives on a pension paid to her by many of her descendants, who number more than 100.

THE THIRD DEGREE.

Prof. Burdick Accuses Police of Extorting Confessions by Torture.

"Being somewhat familiar with this country, and having witnessed arrests in such cities as New York, Chicago, St. Louis, and San Francisco, and comparing the treatment accorded to the rougher class of petty wrongdoers in America with the methods of the police in London (Whitechapel district), Paris, Berlin, and even Constantinople (during the revolution of 1908), I believe there is no doubt that the American policeman leads the world in his unnecessary and brutal use of the club.

"Brushing aside these minor matters, what about the treatment of prisoners arrested for felonies, from whom the police desire to obtain evidence? The mere arrest may be quietly made, but then comes, in many cases, that American iniquity known as 'the sweatbox,' the 'third degree.'

"A Chinaman is arrested for a heinous crime. He is placed in a cell; continually questioned by a relay of detectives and other officials; forcefully kept without sleep for two or more days, in the expectation that the mental torture and the physical exhaustion will become so acute that he will be glad to confess in order to obtain relief.

"A woman is arrested for murder; at midnight the corpse of the victim is brought to her cell, that the dramatic horror of the scene may compel her to 'confess.'

"Another prisoner is denied food, another is brutally beaten, 'slugged' is the word, until he is forced to speak. Other atrocities are practiced, such as highly salting the food, and denying the water to the victims; placing them in solitary confinement, or in bitterly cold cells, when the weather aids, or in frightfully superheated rooms at other times. Red pepper has been blown into their cells and other indignities too numerous to mention perpetrated in order that a 'confession' may be tortured from the helpless wretch."

—Prof. W. L. Burdick, in the Yale Law Journal.

In the past five years about 50 lives have been lost in France in submarine boat disasters.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETS.

The Resignation of Prof. J. P. Canaday Accepted and Prof. L. T. Royall, of Benson, was Elected to Succeed Him.

The County Board of Education met here yesterday in called session to consider the resignation of Prof. J. P. Canaday, County Superintendent of Schools. For the past several weeks Prof. Canaday has been in failing health and realizing that he could not do justice to the great work committed to him, he sent his resignation to the Chairman of the Board last Saturday.

At the meeting of the Board here yesterday Prof. Canaday's resignation was accepted and Prof. L. T. Royall, Superintendent of the Benson High School, was elected to succeed him.

Prof. Canaday's friends throughout the county, and they are many, will learn with much regret that he had to give up the work in which he was so much interested. And their hopes and prayers will be for his complete restoration to health.

The selection of Prof. Royall to succeed Prof. Canaday will meet with the approval of the friends of education all over the county. He has been in charge of the Benson school for the past few years and has built up one of the best schools in the County.

RALEIGH'S HOME COMING.

Thousands of North Carolinians have migrated to all parts of the country. This State has played a great part in the winning of the west and in the development of all sections. North Carolina virility, pluck and ability have proved notable factors in many other States. People from the Old North State have set their mark everywhere but have never lost their love for their mother State, North Carolina. Complete arrangements have been made for a great "Home-Coming Jubilee and Reunion" for all persons born in North Carolina; this is to be held at Raleigh during the fiftieth State Fair, October 17-22. Mayor J. S. Wynne is chairman and Fred A. Olds secretary of the committee which has this matter in charge and they desire to obtain the names and addresses, as far as possible, of any people from this community who now reside in other States, in order that invitations may be sent them.

COMES TO LIFE IN COFFIN.

Boy, Thought Dead from Injuries, Causes Shock to Watchers.

Pittsburg, Pa., Aug. 24.—Stanley Zonchesky, eleven years old, who was struck and terribly mangled by a Baltimore and Ohio passenger train yesterday and taken for dead, caused wild panic in his north side home today when his parents ran from the house shrieking, "Our boy has come to life."

Young Zonchesky was plying with companions when injured yesterday. He was carried home, his crushed body showing all signs of dissolution, according to physicians. The lad's mother and father summoned an undertaker.

At an early hour to-day, while the mother and father watched in the room where their son lay, apparently dead in his coffin, the lad sighed.

Physicians were immediately called, but little hope is expressed for the lad's ultimate recovery.

Neither Godwin Nor Clark.

The special committee appointed to investigate the muddle in the Sixth district in which both Hannibal L. Godwin and O. L. Clark are claiming to be the nominee for Congress made its report to the Democratic Executive Committee in session in Raleigh Wednesday night and declared that neither Godwin nor Clark was duly and lawfully nominated. The committee ordered a voting primary to be held in the district sometime not later than September 15th under rules to be prescribed by the committee.

Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria and Hungary celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary last week.

SAD KILLING IN CLEVELAND.

Last Saturday Mr. Ransom Bridgers Shot Mr. Oke Coats, Killing Him Almost Instantly. Bridgers Was Arrested and Placed in the Custody of An Officer. Solicitor Agreed to a Fifteen Hundred Bond For His Appearance At Court.

Mr. M. D. Coats, commonly known as Oke Coats, of Cleveland township, was killed last Saturday afternoon by Mr. Ransom Bridgers who used a shot gun. Last year Mr. Coats lived on some land belonging to a brother of Mr. Bridgers. It seems Mr. Ransom Bridgers had something to do with settling the rent. At the close of the season Mr. Coats claimed that Mr. Bridgers owed him ninety-eight cents. They had talked the matter over between themselves a time or two. Last Saturday morning Mr. Bridgers went out hunting and stopped at the home of John McCullers, a negro. He was making cider and asked Mr. Bridgers to remain and help him. About ten o'clock Mr. Coats, in company with another man, went to the negro to buy some cider. They drank about a half gallon and then filled up a two gallon jug which they took with them on a buggy. Before Mr. Coats left he had some words with Mr. Bridgers about their account. About two o'clock Mr. Coats came back to the cider press and he and Mr. Bridgers had a quarrel. It is said that Mr. Coats pursued Mr. Bridgers around a house to the place where Mr. Bridgers had left his gun. The quarrel grew worse, some times Mr. Coats would give back and some times he would advance on Mr. Bridgers. Neither of them showed any disposition to leave the place or give over his side of the matter. Finally Mr. Coats made another advance and when he was about six steps from Mr. Bridgers was shot just below the heart. It is said his heart could be seen from the shot wound. Mr. Coats exclaimed: "O Lordy," and turning, walked off a few steps and fell. He was taken home on a buggy. His life was gone in less than an hour after the shooting. Mr. Bridgers was arrested and sent here Sunday and was placed in the custody of Mr. Z. L. LeMay at the hotel. On Tuesday the case was set for a hearing at Goldsboro before Judge W. R. Allen. Instead of the hearing, arrangements were made with Solicitor Armistead Jones for Mr. Bridgers to give a fifteen hundred dollar bond to appear at court.

Bridgers gave the required bond and was released from custody.

HOKE SMITH WINS IN GEORGIA.

Beats Joe Brown by 4,000 Popular Majority.

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 24.—Former Governor Hoke Smith won the nomination for governor over the incumbent, Joseph M. Brown. Smith's popular majority in the State was approximately 4,000. Two years ago Brown, whom Governor Smith had removed as chairman of the State Railroad Commissioner, defeated Smith for reelection by a popular majority of more than 10,000. Smith's majority in the convention will be about 35 votes. Among the few contests for other State offices, J. A. Perry won over O. B. Stevens for railroad commissioner; M. L. Brittain defeated B. M. Zettler for State school commissioner; T. S. Felder won over the incumbent, Hewlett A. Hall, for Attorney General.

SIX DIE FROM HEAT.

Hot Wave Lasts for Weeks in Northern Texas.

Dallas, Tex., Aug. 24.—The intense heat caused six deaths in Dallas and Fort Worth last night and to-day. The hot wave has continued unabated since the beginning of August, the mercury reaching every day to not less than 100 in the shade, and yesterday going to 106 degrees.

Team of His Own.

"So Bronson doesn't play on your ball team any more?"

"No; he's married, settled down and is the father of twins."

"I see; he has a bawl team of his own."—Boston Transcript.

McMURRAY GETS RICH ON FEES.

Holds Many Contracts With Indians And all at Big Figures. Still Wanting More. His Productive Dealings With Tribes Brought Out at Hearing.

Sulphur, Okla., August 19.—It was brought out to-day in the testimony of J. F. McMurray before the congressional committee investigating Indian land affairs, that he held as many as half a dozen contracts with the Indians for legal services all convening the same period of time. Mr. McMurray testified that for general services he had two contracts with the Chickasaws at \$5,000 a year each, two with the Choctaws at \$5,000 a year each, and another contract for special services at a fee only \$3,000 of which was paid; a yearly expense allowance of \$2,700, under one contract, and other general expense allowances amounting to \$180,000.

All of this money was in addition to the \$750,000 allowed his law firm as a contingent fee in the citizenship cases and in addition also to the contracts by which he now seeks to obtain 10 per cent., or \$3,000,000 as a contingent fee on the sale of \$30,000,000 worth of asphalt and coal lands.

"How is it that having so many contracts to represent the Indians generally on regular salaries, you got a special contract on a contingent fee basis every time any special case bobbed up?" asked Representative E. W. Saunders, of Virginia, a member of the commission.

Mr. McMurray replied that he had been identified with the Indians for so many years that they had come to look to him to take care of their affairs. He said hardly an act had been passed by their tribal councils without the sanction of his legal firm. Many of the expense allowances, the witness said, had been collected by him without the knowledge of the Department of the Interior. Also, he said, many acts passed by the tribal legislature were not submitted to the President of the United States as it was asserted was required.

Asked by Representative Miller, of Minnesota, whether his work had not tended to lead the Indians away from a close relationship with the government, Mr. McMurray said he always had done his utmost to bring the Indians and the government together.

Chilly Weather Is On Its Way Here.

Washington, August 21.—Chilly weather is on its way, according to the general forecast for the coming week, issued by Professor Willis L. Moore, chief of the Weather Bureau. The chilly wave will begin its sweep across the country the middle of the week, starting from the Northwestern States and reaching the Atlantic coast by Friday or Saturday. Its appearance will be rendered the more disagreeable by reason of the fact that it will be preceded by moderately warm weather, so that the drop in temperature will be the more severely felt. As a result of the sudden change, there will be almost continuous showers in the Southeastern States. During last week temperatures slightly below the normal ruled throughout the country, and there were light frosts in the extreme Northwest.

Little Gracie Whitley Dead.

On last Wednesday morning, August 17, the death angel visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Whitley and took from them their little daughter Gracie. She had been sick about three weeks. All that could be done for her was done, but God knew best and He took little Gracie to a brighter world than this. She was a year and six months old. Her stay on earth was short and she will be missed so much by her kind and loving parents. She will be missed by her two little sisters, Robella and Callie. Gracie's funeral was preached by Rev. Worley Creech at eleven o'clock on Thursday and she was buried at Antioch church. Weep not, kind parents, for Gracie is only sleeping and waiting for you.

A FRIEND.

The population of Canada on March 31 was 7,489,781.

FELL 1,000 FEET TO DEATH.

Lieut. Vivaldi, of Italy, Is Killed in Aeroplane in the First Flight of His Machine.

Rome, Aug. 20.—Marquis Vivaldi, a lieutenant in the Italian army, was killed this morning by a 1,000-foot fall in his aeroplane. He had made a trip in the early morning hours from the military aviation field at Centocelle to Civita Vecchia, on the Mediterranean Sea, 88 miles from Rome, and was returning to Rome when the accident happened. A few miles outside of Rome, for some unexplained reason, the motor stopped, and the machine dashed to the earth, crushing the officer into an unrecognizable mass.

Lieut. Vivaldi had returned earlier from Chalons-Sur-Marne, France. He used a Farman biplane. He started from Centocelle, accompanied by Lieut. Savoia in another aeroplane, but the latter was unable to keep pace with him in the race, and returned to Rome before reaching Civita Vecchia.

Lieut. Vivaldi was a member of a noble Genoese family, and had the title of marquis. He was a brilliant cavalry officer. He took his certificate as an aviator at Chalons-Sur-Marne, and having purchased a Farman biplane made his first flight with it to-day. He was accompanied by Lieut. Savoia, one of the Wright pupils.

NEWS NOTES OF INTEREST.

Central Vermont engineers will receive an average wage increase of 20 per cent.

Independent Democrats of Tennessee will hold their convention in Nashville September 14.

Ten cases of bubonic plague were reported at Guayaquil, Ecuador, during the first fortnight of August.

After killing his wife, John O'Keefe, of Montreal, shot himself dead before his six little children Friday.

The population of St. Louis is 687,029, an increase of 111,791, or 19.4 per cent., as compared with 575,238 in 1900.

The Georgia lower House has passed a bill prohibiting night work for messenger boys under 16 years of age.

Census returns for Atlanta, Ga., 154,839, an increase of 64,967, or 42.7 per cent as compared with 89,872 in 1900.

The Massachusetts Cotton Mills in Lowell shut down until September 6, throwing 2500 operatives out of work.

The population of Detroit is 465,766, an increase of 180,062, or a 63 per cent as compared with 285,704 in 1900.

There were 222 business failures in the United States for the week ending August 18, against 231 for the week previous.

The Louisville conference of the M. E. Church, South, will be held in Russellville, September 28. Bishop J. C. Kilgo, of Durham, N. C., will preside.

Woolen mills in Sanford, Kennebunk and Springvale, Me., will be operated four days a week because of few orders received. About 2000 workers are affected.

The output of pig iron in the United States forms a record for the first half of the year. It was over 14,761,000 tons, which is 1,500,000 tons more than in any previous half-year.

After three weeks, during which time 700 veniremen were examined, twelve men were sworn in as a jury in Chicago Friday to try the case of Lee O'Neil Browne, charged with bribery.

Tuberculosis is the greatest scourge of overcrowded Vienna. Seventy persons in 10,000 die from this disease in the working class quarters, as compared with sixteen in the other districts.

Work of Providence.

"The man died eating watermelons," someone said to Brother Dickey.

"Yes, suh," he said, "Providence sometimes puts us in paradise before we gets ter heaven."—Atlanta Constitution.

MAN DIED IN THE CHURCH.

Mr. William Melvin Expires Suddenly in White Oak Baptist Church On the Night He Had Intended to Join—Sermon Was Preached While Body Lay Dead.

An Elizabethtown correspondent of the Raleigh News and Observer tells this remarkable story, which appeared in Tuesday's issue:

A very unusual occurrence took place at White Oak Baptist church, about twelve miles from here last week. A revival meeting was in progress. Evangelist A. Corey, of Jamesville, N. C., was conducting the meeting, and had been preaching about ten days. There are a great number of people living in and around the village, and great crowds were attending the services, regularly. There seemed to be a coldness in the church and he had been preaching very strong gospel sermons and making strong appeals to the church people in warning them of their duty and people all around were waking up to their Christian obligations.

On last Tuesday night Mr. William Melvin who was about fifty-five years of age, and had given up the church some years ago, was warned to a sense of duty, and desiring again to take a firm and decided stand for his Creator, he ate a hearty supper, walked a mile or more to church and was there early. It was his custom to sit in the rear of the church when he would attend any service, but on this occasion he went up to the very front, in the amen corner. There had been several songs and prayers, and taking a seat among the brethren he seemed to be enjoying the devotional part of the service, when Mr. Corey had just read the lesson for the evening, Luke, 16th chapter, verses 19-31, the lesson of the "Rich Man and Lazarus," and made a brief prayer and just as the people were rising from the praying position, Mr. Melvin, who had bowed arose in his seat and just as he arose, death struck him. The men next to him caught him and before they could place him on the carpet in the aisle he was dead, there being about five hundred in the congregation, the people began to arise to their feet almost ready to go in a regular panic, but quick thought and splendid management on the part of Mr. Corey, the congregation was brought to their senses and quietly seated, and just what was to be done must be decided quickly, so the Evangelist consulted the church officers; they said proceed with the service, and everybody seemed to realize that God was there in person and power. So well was the situation managed no one became specially excited. A short sermon on the "Way to Heaven," the subject having been previously announced, was preached and no change made. A splendid picture was shown of the two ways shown in the scripture and when the appeal was made many came forward to pray, from the boys to old gray haired sinners.

It was a great sermon indeed. After the service was concluded the congregation was quietly dismissed and the dead man taken out and carried to his home. He was buried in the cemetery belonging to the church and adjoining the church lot.

Mr. Melvin came to the church that night to reunite, but died before the opportunity was given. He leaves a wife and two daughters and one son.

Mr. Cannon To Fall.

Mr. Cannon need not concern himself much over the question whether he shall be a candidate for Speaker in the next House in the improbable event of its containing a Republican majority. California has just nominated two Insurgents to replace Regulars in the House. In Nebraska the Insurgents have named five of the six Republican candidates for Congress. If he prefers to die with his boots on he will undoubtedly be gratified. It would hurt Mr. Cannon a great deal less to be beaten by a Democratic majority than to be defeated in the Republican caucus, and the indications are that he will get it both ways.—Philadelphia Record.