

# The Smithfield Herald.

VOL 30

SMITHFIELD, N. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1911

Number 7

ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR.

EDUCATION

GOOD ROADS

GOOD HEALTH

PROGRESS

FIVE CENTS PER COPY.

## MANY CONVICTS LOSE LIVES

### LIST OF VICTIMS IN BANNER MINE IS 128.

No Mourners at Scene of Disaster, As Men Were Convicts and Had No Relatives Near. Rescuing Party Has Harrowing Experiences. Mine Foreman Meets Death Seeking to Render Aid.

Littleton, Ala., April 9.—With the precision of clockwork, a trained corps of rescuers to-night is bringing a steady stream of bodies from the Banner mine of the Pratt Consolidated Coal Company, in which yesterday's disastrous explosion occurred. It is believed to-night that 128 is the exact number of victims.

This figure was obtained after making a careful check of all the men who entered the mine yesterday morning. There is no longer any hope of finding men alive underground. Of the 128 dead, only fourteen were whites.

The general belief to-night is that powder caused the trouble, the opinion being expressed that damage was heaviest near the point where the day's supply of explosives was kept.

When the rescuers asked for assistance this afternoon, company officials called for volunteers among the convicts, stating that no man need go if he were afraid. Sixteen of the negroes in stripes stepped forward in response to the call, and accompanied Inspector Hillhouse and six white men underground.

There are practically no mourners at Banner. None of the convicts had relatives near, but a few curious negro women stood around the opening and would break into a low, mournful, dirge-like chant when the bodies were brought up.

The first party of ten government rescuers, headed by Dr. J. J. Rutledge, who entered the mine at 3 o'clock this morning, had a narrow escape from death. An accident occurred to the boiler used for the fans, and the air was stopped for a few minutes. Within a few seconds a faint cry for help was heard from below, and men with oxygen helmets hurried down. The entire party was overcome by the after-damp, and when they were brought to the surface physicians had to work over them for nearly an hour before they were able to be moved to the rescue car.

The entire State Board of Convict Inspectors is on the scene. Of the 128 men in the mines, before the rescue work started, five were free, two whites and three negroes; 123 were convicts, twelve of whom were white. Practically all of them were short-term men sent from Jefferson county.

One of the most pathetic incidents was the death of O. W. Spradling, one of the mine foremen. Following the explosion he escaped with others, and then returned to the mine to render aid. He was found sitting to-day on a rock with his head in his hands. He was only a short distance from the open air. He lived at Leeds, Ala., and leaves a widow and one child. He had been handling convict work for the past twenty years.

Harry McCrory, Rutledge, Rountree and Cambill were at first thought to be dead. All returned to work a few hours later.

## SOME GASOLINE WAS IN OIL.

It has been discovered that the oil in the lamp which exploded on the night of March 23, at the home, near Olive Branch of Mr. C. A. Pritchard, containing 15 per cent of gasoline. Two young ladies, Miss Gracie Baucum and Miss Wilma Davis, were covered with the burning oil and so badly burned that they died the next morning, and that another young lady, Miss Lou Baucum, was also very badly burned. Another lamp exploded at Mr. Pritchard's home Saturday night following the first explosion and this so aroused that gentleman that he had some of the oil sent to Raleigh to be analyzed. The analysis, which was completed a few days ago, disclosed the fact, as above stated, that the oil was 15 per cent gasoline, and that to this adulterant the explosions were undoubtedly due. The oil, we understand, was bought in Marshville.—Wadesboro Messenger-Intelligencer.

## FINDS CANOE 2,000 YEARS OLD.

### Craft of Prehistoric Britons Unearthed in Scotland.

Edinburgh, April 8.—An ancient canoe, the third found within a few weeks at Lochmaben, has been discovered at the Kirk Loch. It is of solid oak. One entire side and part of the other is gone, but from the bottom and the ends it is recognizable as one of the ancient hollowed-out canoes used by the prehistoric Britons.

When unearthed it was partially filled with stones, as if it had been sunk with them. Two representatives of the Dumfries Antiquarian Society, after examining it, had no hesitation in certifying that it was an ancient canoe, which probably dated back 2,000 years. The canoe is thirteen feet in length and at the broadest part is two feet eight inches. It is about fifteen inches deep.

## FACTS ABOUT MEXICO.

Area—767,000 square miles. Population, 19,000,000.

Silver production, nearly \$50,000,000 annually.

Gold production, nearly \$20,000,000 annually.

Value of yearly exports, about \$125,000,000.

Capitalization of banks, about \$100,000,000.

Miles of railroad, about 15,000 miles.

Republic of Mexico declared independent Feb. 24, 1821.

Independence proclaimed Dec. 2, 1822.

Recognized by United States in 1823.

First constitution proclaimed Oct. 4, 1824.

Present constitution adopted Feb. 5, 1857.

Republic consists of 26 states, 1 territory and a federal district.

The Republic of Mexico was declared independent Feb. 24, 1821; established as an empire, under Iturbide, in 1822, and proclaimed a republic by Santa Ana, Dec. 2, 1822.

Iturbide abdicated March 20, 1823.

The Mexican flag, green, white and red, was adopted. The first constitution was formulated in 1823 and 1824 and was proclaimed Oct. 4, 1824.

Guadalupe Victoria was elected the first president.

The Texas revolution of 1836 was successful and the Mexican war established the annexation of Texas to the United States.

The French-English-Spanish intervention in 1861, during the presidency of Juarez, brought about the second empire. The war brought out Porfirio Diaz as a republican leader.

The army of intervention captured the City of Mexico in May, 1863, Juarez and Diaz retiring to San Luis Potosi and establishing the republican capital. In April, 1864, Archduke Maximilian was proclaimed emperor of Mexico, and reigned two years.

In 1866 the French withdrew from Mexico. Juarez and Diaz reorganized the army of the republic and advanced on the City of Mexico. The city was captured no May 15, 1867, and Maximilian surrendered. He was court-martialed, sentenced to death and executed on June 19, 1867, and Tejada, president of the supreme court, completed the term.

The Republic of Mexico consists of 26 states, one territory and one federal district. The national capital is the City of Mexico. The State governments, like the federal government, are divided into three parts, the executive or governor, the legislature and the judiciary. The governor and legislature are elected by people and the judiciary is appointed.

Mexico abounds in mineral resources. In 1907, Mexico led the world in the production of silver, producing nearly \$40,000,000. In the same year, gold to the value of \$18,000,000 was produced, giving the country sixth rank among the gold producing nations of the world. Iron, copper, lead, quicksilver, zinc, tin, cobalt and nickel are also mined extensively. The value of exports last year amounted to nearly \$125,000,000. The aggregate capital of Mexican banks is about \$100,000,000. The building of railroads is progressing rapidly. In 1876, Mexico had 367 miles of railroad, and this has increased by 1908 to nearly 15,000.—Denver Times.

## FREIGHT TRAIN KILLS FLAGMAN.

### J. W. Bridges Has Both Legs Cut Off and Dies After Operation at Hospital—Story of Accident Near Benson.

Benson, April 7.—Extra through freight No. 939, from Rocky Mount to Florence, Captain Stroud, conductor, and Mr. Zimmerman, engineer, ran over J. W. Bridges, the flagman, on the south pass track here this morning, crushing both legs, cutting the right leg off near the thigh and the left one below the knee. Later this evening he died.

Bridges was uncoupling a car on which the chain extending from the lever to the coupling was broken. He slipped and fell between the moving cars, one of which passed over his legs. He was taken to the offices of Drs. Parker & Utley, where temporary medical aid was rendered. Accompanied by Dr. Utley, he was then taken on a special train to the hospital at Fayetteville, where his limbs were amputated.

Bridges, who was a flagman, lived in Rocky Mount and had a wife and one child. He had been in the Coast Line service about two years. Several railroad men here to-day said that he was one of the best men in the service of the Coast Line.

The occurrence was deeply deplored by the men who worked with Bridges and who hold him in the highest esteem.

A message was received by the agent here late this afternoon that Bridges died about 5 o'clock.

## SHORT NEWS ITEMS.

William J. Bryan called at the White House Friday and discussed arbitration with President Taft.

Business failures in the United States for the week ending April 6 were 236, against 260 the week before.

The surplus freight cars in the United States numbered 196,217 March 29, a decrease of 12,310 since March 15.

The official plurality of Carter H. Harrison for Mayor of Chicago was 17,325.

The Colorado House has passed a bill providing for a \$4,000,000 State bond issue to build a tunnel through the Rocky Mountains for the Mofat road.

The 1,720 cabin and steerage passengers of the stranded North German Lloyd steamer Prinzess Irene were transferred to her sister ship, the Prinz Friedrich Wilhelm, by small boats and tugs in five hours and ten minutes at Lone Hill, L. I., Friday. The Prinz Friedrich Wilhelm proceeded to New York. There was no panic on board the Irene, and the work of rescue was a feat unparalleled in marine disasters.

The congregation of the Fifth Avenue Baptist church, of New York City, presented the Rev. Dr. Aked a check for \$25,000 upon the eve of his departure for San Francisco to accept the pastorate of the First Congregational church of that western city. Dr. Aked preached his farewell sermon in New York, Sunday morning and left that afternoon for the West in the private car of President Lovett of the Harriman lines.

Dr. D. K. Pearson, of Hinsdale, Ill., will celebrate his ninety-first birthday anniversary April 14 by the distribution of \$300,000 to schools and religious organizations. That will make his total distributions of recent years nearly five million dollars, most of which has been given to small colleges.

## An Unusual Amount of Painting Done This Spring.

"Everything comes to those who hustle while they wait" seems to be the motto adopted by our energetic merchants, The Cotter Hardware Co., for they have certainly been hustling this spring.

In backing up their excellent advertising in the columns of The Smithfield Herald their handsome window displays have proved most effective. According to present indications, there will be an unusual amount of painting done in Smithfield, this spring. That's a sign of prosperity we're very glad to see.

This week floor paint is the leader in their window. How an old scratched floor or a marred bare floor can be given a hard, serviceable, easily-kept-clean surface is clearly shown by the sample they display.

## NEGRO KILLED AT CLAYTON.

### Henry Patterson, Stepping Between His Sister and Her Husband, Who Had a Gun Pointed at Her, Ready To Fire, Receives Load in Left Shoulder, Death Resulting.

Tom Jones, a negro of Clayton, was brought here Tuesday and placed in jail, charged with killing his brother-in-law. The following account of the affair appeared in Wednesday's News and Observer:

"News reached the city yesterday afternoon of a killing which occurred at Clayton about three o'clock, the victim being Henry Patterson, a young colored man, who was shot through the left shoulder by Tom Jones, his brother-in-law. The tragedy occurred at the Jones home.

"It seems that Jones' wife, whose father is at St. Agnes Hospital, in this city, expressed her intention of coming to Raleigh on the train which arrives at 4:05 o'clock. She was told by her husband, Tom Jones, who is said to be half-witted, that she could not come. She insisted; her husband threatened her.

"Jones' wife then sent for her brother, Henry Patterson, hoping that he would be able to assist her in getting away from her husband. When the woman's brother arrived on the scene, Jones pointed a gun at her and started to shoot. Patterson stepped between the two and knocked the gun aside, in order to save his sister's life, but he forfeited his own in doing so, for the gun went off, the load entering his shoulder.

"Two physicians were summoned and started to the scene in an automobile, but the victim died before they reached him.

"It was stated yesterday afternoon that Patterson was one of the most trustworthy colored men in Clayton, and that his tragic death was the source of much regret. Just what steps will be taken are not yet known. Jones did not leave the scene after he had shot Patterson."

## Lawyers Up Front.

Senator William Pierson Fiero, of Catskill, was seated with others at the enormous fireplace in Keeler's Hotel, Albany, on a cold night, when he told this story:

"I remember, thirty years ago, when I was a lawyer, there were about fifteen or eighteen of us—all lawyers—seated about a fireplace much like this. It was a raw, wet night. A bedraggled stranger, wet to the hide, came in, tried to get accommodations and was told there was not a room left. The nearest other place was a mile away. Shivering, the stranger looked at the fire, but we formed such a solid line about it that he could not get near it. Finally one of the lawyers, in a spirit of frivolity, turned to him and said:

"'My friend, are you a traveler?'"

"'I am, sir. I have been all over the world.'"

"'You don't say so! Been in Germany, Egypt, Japan, and all the countries in Africa and Asia?'"

"'All of them—been everywhere.'"

"'Even been in hell?'"

"'Oh, yes; been there twice.'"

"'How did you find things there?'"

"'Oh, much the same as here—lawyers all next to the fire.'"

—New York Herald.

## The Telephone.

Telephone service suffers from two defects. When the line is busy there is no way of finding when it will be available except to keep calling. It doubles and triples the work of central for the would-be user to have to make call after call in many cases only to hear "line still busy." Another trouble is occupying the line with idle gossip. The man who pays for a phone for business use is usually bothered by long occupancy by some other two people who are talking for want of something else to do. Somebody should invent a way by which one could find out when a busy line is released and may be used and make a fortune out of the invention. The second trouble is easier remedied. Charge on each call and continue to charge after three minutes.—Charlotte Chronicle.

## COCA COLA WINS ITS FIGHT.

### Government Loses Famous Case, Decided in Favor of the Atlanta Sparkling Beverage.

Chattanooga, Tenn., April 7.—The case of the government against "forty barrels and twenty kegs of coca-cola" was decided in favor of the Atlanta beverage in the federal court here yesterday afternoon. In ruling on a motion for peremptory instructions Judge Sanford held that caffeine is not an added or deleterious ingredient of the beverage. He overruled the motion on points relating to the misbranding feature of the allegation, but counsel for the government moved to dismiss, without prejudice, the case on these points. A verdict was returned in favor of the defense. Federal counsel entered a motion of appeal to the United States circuit court at Cincinnati.

The coca-cola case has been one of the most important ever tried in the federal court in the south, and the cost of the litigation has been enormous. It is said that \$200,000 will not cover the expenses. Both sides have had experts from all sections of the country, the most eminent scientists, principally chemists and physicians. The government has spared no expense in the effort to prove its contentions, and the coca-cola people have been equally liberal in securing expert testimony.

## Champ Clark a Penitent.

In the New York Tribune, Worth Harder tells the following interesting incident in the early life of Champ Clark, Speaker of the House of Representatives:

"Champ's first important work in the state of his choice was as superintendent of schools at Louisiana, Mo. It was shortly after taking up these duties that the wrath of the Campbellite Church descended upon the young man. Mr. Clark had been a member of that Church for some time, and was fully aware of the strictness of the Campbellite tenets against dancing.

"As principal of the school he made the acquaintance of Miss Genevieve Bennett, now Mrs. Clark, then one of the teachers in the high school. One day it was announced that the steamer Spread Eagle, with the barge Mamie in tow, would take an excursion party on a trip up the river, and the start of the excursion found Mr. Clark and Miss Bennett among the light-hearted picnickers.

"The barge Mamie had a band on board and dancing began soon after the excursion had cleared from the dock. Young Mr. Clark soon forgot all prohibitions in the enthusiasm of the dance, and he danced his way up the river and back without a pin prick to his conscience. The news of the young principal's lapse from grace precluded him to church the next Sunday. He was summoned before the officers of the church, questioned as to his conduct and forthwith expelled from membership.

Considerably upset, he took his seat in the back of the church and did some hard thinking during the sermon.

"At its conclusion the customary invitation of the Campbellites was given to all those outside the church and to all penitent sinners to come forward and take the hand of fellowship and be received into membership.

Champ came. He walked up the aisle, presented himself as a penitent one who was outside the folds of the Church and reached forward for the proffered hand of fellowship. There was a putting together of heads, a short consultation, and then he was received back to all the privileges of membership. It was apparently all that could be done."

## TWO HUNDRED PERISH IN FIRE.

### Caught in a Thatched Structure Which Had Only One Exit.

Bombay, B. I., April 9.—Two hundred men, women and children were burned to death to-night in a fire which destroyed a thatched structure in which they had gathered for a festival. Five hundred persons were in the building when the fire broke out. There was only one exit and an indescribable panic ensued.

## ANOTHER GREAT MINE HORROR

### SEVENTY-FOUR TOLL OF DEATH IN SCRANTON.

Miners Apparently Could Have Escaped if They Had Not Belittled Danger. The Worst Mine Accident That the Lackawanna Valley Has Known.

Scranton, Penn., April 8.—Seventy-four is the revised total of the toll of the mine fire at the Pancoast colliery, in Throop, yesterday. A canvass of the families of the victims shows forty-five widows and 137 orphans.

About every other house in the village of Throop, a typical mining settlement, had crepe on its door, and in some houses there is more than one body. John Stoyak and his two sons and cousin lie in a row in his humble home. In one foreigner's house seven children are made orphans. The eldest is ten years old. Another foreigner's body was taken to a home where one child is ill with scarlet fever and another with typhoid.

In the number of victims this is the worst mine accident that has ever occurred in the Lackawanna Valley region, and the worst in the whole anthracite coal fields since the Avondale disaster of September 6, 1869, when 110 men lost their lives by suffocation consequent on the burning of the breaker.

Many explanations are offered as to how the Pancoast victims came to their death, but none of them is as yet generally accepted. One contributing cause, it is said, was the failure of inside mine bosses to realize the imminence of danger to the men in the tunnel until it was too late for them to be got out.

Familiarity with danger makes the miner contemptuous of it. Fires in mule barns, hoisting engine houses, pump shanties or others of the small flimsy structures inside the mines are of common occurrence, and little heed is paid to them. A "pipe" gang is rushed to the scene, a hose is attached to a main or a "pump" and the blaze is extinguished. Little difficulty, as a rule, attends the fight, but sometimes the fire gets beyond control and communicates to props, coal cars and even the coal in the veins. Then the miner sees danger, and an alarm is given to the men to get out.

This is what happened yesterday. The fire started a little after 9 o'clock. Mining operations continued until 11 o'clock. It is not known, but variously estimated, that it was well on toward 11 o'clock when the danger to the men in the tunnel was realized.

## What Bad Roads Cost.

There are 2,151,570 miles of wagon roads in the United States.

There are 176,429 miles of improved roads in the United States (faced with gravel or something superior).

The percentage of improved highways is 8.2.

Each year 265,000,000 tons of farm and forest products are hauled to market or to railway stations over American roads.

This hauling costs \$432,000,000, or 23 cents the mile.

It costs only 10 cents the ton the mile to haul freight over an improved road.

Therefore, if all our roads were improved it would mean a saving of \$200,000,000 the year in hauling alone.

It will cost fully \$3,000,000,000 to put all the mud roads in the United States in decent shape—to make them merely good travel roads.

This is the richest nation in the world, yet "the poorest, most tax-burdened country in Europe" can boast better roads than we have in the United States.

Why?—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

## Salvation Army Head Is 82.

London, April 10.—Gen. Booth, head of the Salvation Army, celebrated his eighty-second birthday to-night by addressing a huge meeting of his followers for an hour. He said he hoped after his coming tour through the United States and Canada to have a cataract operated upon in the fall, and that he would then be young again.