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A SLAYER IS SLAIN

Another Bloody Tragedy Occurs in South Carolina

MURDER OF BROTHER AVENGED

While on Their Way to a Preliminary Hearing at Lancaster of the Tragedy at Kershaw Last Christmas, Grover Welch Shoots and Kills the Man Who Slew His Brother, Steve Welch.

Rock Hill, S. C., Special.—Grover Welch, brother of Steve Welch, who, with another man, was killed during a row in a barber shop in Kershaw last Christmas, shot to death Berry Mobley Monday night on the train from Camden to Rock Hill, just as it was reaching Pleasant Hill, a station nearly midway between Camden and Lancaster.

It was the first time that Mobley had been able to get out, he having been badly wounded by Steve Welch at the time the latter was killed by Mobley. Both men were on their way to Lancaster for a preliminary hearing of the Kershaw tragedy.

Without warning Welch shot Mobley in the back as he fell between the seats four more bullets were fired into his body, death resulting instantly. It was a cold-blooded and cowardly murder and was evidently in revenge of the killing of Steve Welch by Mobley.

Conductor Boxwell who was in charge of the train, turned the dead body of the murdered man over to the corner at Pleasant Hill, while Welch voluntarily came on to Lancaster and gave himself up to the authorities.

Bad blood has existed between Welch and Mobley since the shooting Christmas and this is the first time that Welch had seen Mobley, and he took advantage of his first opportunity, when Mobley had his back turned, to avenge the death of his brother.

Both men are prominently connected.

Young Man Kills Himself.

Gastonia, N. C., Special.—Telling his sweetheart, on whom he was calling that he wanted to "show her a trick," John J. Fry, a young man of this place Monday night pulled from his pocket a pistol and shot himself in the head, the wound resulting in his death. It was an accident, there being no motive whatever or indication that it was suicide. About 7:30 in the evening Mr. Fry, day clerk at the Falls House, went to call on Miss Willie Jenkins, daughter of Mr. W. H. Jenkins, at her home in the Jenkins Block. He pulled off his overcoat and walked into the parlor where the young lady was, remarking to her that he wanted to "show her a trick." Simultaneously he drew from his pocket a pistol and, under the full light of the hanging lamp, shot himself, accidentally, it is held by all in the head, the bullet entering the right temple and ranging upwards, coming out about two inches above the place where it entered. The skull was fractured in three different ways, and after lingering without regaining consciousness the young man died at 10 o'clock.

Employes and Officials Confer.

Washington, Special.—Committees of locomotive firemen and of the railroad telegraphers employed on the Southern Railway had conferences Monday with General Manager Acker on the general question of a proposed reduction of wages on the system. The conferences were inconclusive and it was arranged to further discuss the matter at a later time.

Will Build Dam at Cherokee Shoals.

Washington, Special.—Bills were passed by the House Monday permitting the building of a dam across Savannah river at Cherokee Shoals, and also authorizing the Secretary of War to furnish four condemned cannon and cannon balls to the Confederate monument association at Franklin, Tenn.

American Car Stalled in Snowdrift.

Michigan City, Ind., Special.—The American car in the automobile race from New York to Paris left Michigan City at 1:45 o'clock Tuesday morning for Chicago and stalled in an immense snowdrift nine miles west of Michigan City late in the afternoon. Teamsters accompanying the car gave up in despair and returned to Michigan City. The crew temporarily abandoned the car and went to Chesterton, 3 miles further west, for more men and horses.

THE DOINGS OF CONGRESS

Doings of Our National Law-Makers Day by Day.

Fowler Financial Bill.

The principles of the Fowler financial bill were defended by former Secretary of the Treasury Lyman J. Gage, Charles A. Conant, of New York, and Prof. Joseph French Johnson, of the New York University, before the House committee on banking and currency.

Secretary Gage said that he had reached the most important period in the financial history of the country for the past 40 or 50 years and that the solution of the problem depended largely upon the men making up the banking and currency committee.

It was early impressed upon him, said Mr. Gage, that a credit currency issued on proper assets, received and exchanged, containing only the amount of credit, was an effective, useful and economic agency in the industrial progress of the people and was the best system of banking.

Mr. Gage said he thought the financial system ought to be revised from the very beginning. He regarded the Fowler bill as a comprehensive measure which in contrast to the one offered in the Senate has reached the fundamentals.

Continuing, Mr. Gage said "I have no sympathy at all with the Aldrich bill. I do not think it is a measure of our evils. At best it is a patch or a panacea which may once in 10 years be availed of, when the country is in a condition of intense panic or when many of the evils of the panic are developing and it may not be effective then. In the meantime, if adopted, it will probably put us to sleep. It is a gentle narcotic that woos us in false repose from which we will suffer many a nightmare and from which we will awaken at least in trouble and real agony." As a banker, he said, he would ask to come under the provisions of the Fowler bill and would look with dread and apprehension if the Aldrich bill should become a law.

National Bank Failures.

In response to a Senate resolution introduced by Mr. Tillman, Secretary Cortelyou sent to the Senate a report showing that 306 national banks were placed in charge of receivers between January 1st, 1893, and January 31st, 1908. The aggregate capital of these banks was \$48,736,526. Exclusive of the banks which have failed since October 31st, 1907, the dividends paid on claims proved amounted to \$65,469,012; the offsets allowed and settled amounted to \$11,789,982, while the loans paid and other disbursements amounted to \$25,171,166, making \$102,439,160 which was paid to creditors. There was returned to shareholders in cash and other assets \$7,052,529. Assessments made on shareholders amounted to \$24,397,240 of which \$12,098,323 was collected.

The Cotton Tax May Be Reformed.

Washington, Special.—Southern congressmen have begun a concerted movement to procure legislation to refund the sixty-eight million dollars of cotton tax collected during the civil war, alleged to have been illegally collected. The bill decided on at the conference provides for payment from the national treasury direct to holders of cotton tax certificates without any court of claim adjudication.

Steed on Changang.

Anderson, Special.—C. A. Steed, the divorce swindler who was convicted in Magistrate Wilson's court on Friday, went to the county chain-gang Wednesday morning to commence his sentence of 90 days. He was unable to raise the \$300 to cover the fines.

Much Suffering in Chicago.

Chicago, Special.—With nine to ten inches of snow on the level and drifts in many places as high as six feet, more snow falling and a stiff gale blowing, Chicago is facing the worst winter in many years. Reports of great suffering are received from all police precincts, where the destitute are seeking refuge from the storm. All trains are being delayed from half an hour to several hours.

Turkish Troops Cross Boundary.

St. Petersburg, By Cable.—News that Ali Khan's Kurdish forces have crossed the Turko-Persian boundary into the Persian province of Zerbaijan is considered here as re-opening the boundary dispute between the Sultan on one side and the Czar and Shah on the other under graver circumstances than ever. The Russian government is giving the situation serious consideration and a prompt movement of the Czar's troops against Turkey is not an impossibility.

POLICE CHIEF KILLED

Fayetteville, N. C., Witnesses Sunday Killing

DEED OF A WANTON CRIMINAL

For the Second Time Within a Year Fayetteville's First Officer is Murdered.

Fayetteville, N. C., Special.—For the second time in a year Fayetteville's chief of police has been murdered. James H. Benton, the head of the police department of the city was shot about 1:30 o'clock Sunday afternoon by Sam Murchison a negro 30 years old, and died at 2:45 o'clock, living little more than an hour. The murderer was captured a short time after the shooting occurred and is now safely lodged in jail here.

The circumstances of the murder are aggravated and without palliation. It seems that the murderer, Murchison, had trouble earlier in the day with John Raines, another negro, and Ida Moore, a negro woman, which resulted in his shooting Raines, inflicting a slight flesh wound, and his threatening the life of the Moore woman. The woman, who lives in the neighborhood of Chief of Police Benton's home, fled to the latter for protection, making an outcry as she ran. Chief Benton met her at his back door, and, hearing her complaint, was starting out in search of Murchison when the latter appeared on the scene. He and Officer Benton exchanged a few words, when the negro suddenly drew a revolver and fired at Mr. Benton, inflicting a mortal wound just under the eye. Officer Benton staggered and attempted to make his way back into the house, but fell before he reached the door.

Jack Crosswell, a lad, hearing the pistol shot, ran up at once and attempted to arrest the murderer, but the latter snapped his pistol at the boy and broke away. Mr. J. B. Underwood next appeared and the negro fled, firing a wild shot at Mr. Underwood as he ran. Charles Benton, the 17-year-old son of the wounded man, ran to his father's assistance as he fell and caught up the latter's revolver as it dropped from his belt. As the negro fled the youth fired three shots after him, one of them taking effect as developed after the capture was made. Officer Benton was carried into his residence, suffering great agony, and lingered for a little more than an hour, passing away about the time his murderer was being placed under arrest.

News of the murder and the escape of the murderer spread rapidly through the city, and excitement became intense. Sheriff Watson and his deputies and thirty police were at once at work endeavoring to track the fugitive, and hastily organized posses of citizens were speedily scouring the suburbs in the vicinity of the scene of the crime. The capture was accomplished by Mr. Howard Smith, who was immediately joined by Messrs. George McNeil, L. A. Williamson and A. S. Hall, and the prisoner was then turned over to Sheriff Watson and his deputies.

Public feeling ran high but the sheriff with orders from Governor Glenn to use the militia was enabled to protect the prisoner.

Ten Killed in Panic at Teheran.

Teheran, By Cable.—Ten persons were killed and a score or more wounded including several ecclesiastics, as a result of a panic in the main streets here Sunday during the passage of a religious procession Muhammadan religious festival, held during the first month of the Mohammedan year.

Priest Fouly Murdered.

Denver, Special.—Father Leo Heinrichs was shot and killed Sunday by Alo Giuseppe, an avowed anarchist and priest-hater, while the priest was administering the sacrament at early mass in St. Elizabeth's Catholic church, Eleventh and Curtis streets. Kneeling at the altar rail, between two men, Giuseppe pressed the muzzle of a revolver against the body of the priest, after receiving from him the consecrated wafer, and shot the priest through the heart. Exclaiming "My God, My God," Father Leo fell prone in front of the altar and died.

SEN. LATIMER DEAD

South Carolina's Junior Senator Passes Away

THE END WAS NOT UNEXPECTED

Junior Senator From the Palmetto State Dies From Effects of an Operation For Intestinal Trouble.

Washington, Special.—Senator A. C. Latimer, of South Carolina, died here Thursday morning at 9:30 o'clock following an operation for intestinal trouble several days ago. The members of his family were at his bedside when the end came. Arrangements for the funeral have not been made.

Senator Latimer was taken desperately ill Sunday night and was placed in Providence Hospital, where an operation was performed. He showed signs of improvement Monday and Tuesday, but complications set in early and his death soon followed.

Senator Latimer's Career.

Senator Asbury Churchwell Latimer was 57 years of age. He was a native of South Carolina, having been born in Abbeville county, near the small town of Lowndesville. His boyhood and early manhood were spent on the farm. His first active political office was that of county chairman of the Democratic party of his county in 1890. When the Tillman movement in South Carolina began to take shape in the early 90's Senator Latimer allied himself prominently with the reformers and was nominated for Congress, to which he was elected over Col. George Johnston, of Newberry. He served in the Fifty-third, Fifty-fourth, Fifty-sixth and Fifty-seventh Congresses.

He was a candidate to succeed Senator John L. McLaurin in the warm campaign of 1902 and was elected by a majority of 17,700 over former Governor John Gary Evans, ex-Congressman George Johnstone and William Elliott, ex-Senator John J. Hemphill and State Senator D. S. Henderson. His term as Senator would expire March 3, 1909.

The News in Columbia.

Columbia, S. C., Special.—The news of the death of Senator Latimer is received in Columbia, where the Legislature is in session, with evidence of sorrow and regret on all sides. Those opposed to him politically join with his political friends in speaking of him.

Governor Ansel has not as yet been officially informed of the death. As soon as he is, he will send a message to the Legislature, which will adjourn for the day or night, as the case may be, and appoint a committee to attend the funeral.

In view of section 17, of the revised statutes, which says a senatorial vacancy occurring during a sitting of a Legislature must be filled by the Legislature "on the second Tuesday after the Legislature has organized and has notice of such vacancy," it is likely that the Legislature will have to remain in session 10 days after Sunday, the day fixed for adjournment, in order to choose a successor to Mr. Latimer. If the Legislature were not in session Governor Ansel would have the appointment to make.

The death of Senator Latimer is of great political importance. It is certain that had he lived he would have had half a dozen opponents in his campaign for re-election next summer.

Avowed Candidates.

Those already in the race against him were, ex-Governor John Gary Evans, of Spartanburg; ex-Congressman George Johnstone, of Newberry; ex-State Senator D. S. Henderson, of Aiken; Col. John J. Dargan, of Sumter, and State Superintendent of Education O. B. Martin, of Greenville. Governor Ansel was spoken of, but some time ago declared his desire to offer for another term for Governor. It is also thought that E. D. Smith, general organizer for the Southern Cotton Association and possibly ex-Governor Heyward would have been in the race. Senator Latimer's death it is thought, will decide ex-Governor Heyward to run.

Prospective Candidates.

Among the prospective candidates who have developed for the unexpired term to be filled by the Legislature are Representative E. Marion Ruckler, of Anderson; ex-Speaker of the House Frank B. Gary, of Abbeville; Senator LeGrand Walker, of Georgetown. Speaker Whaley has been urged for the place, but has very positively declined to enter the list.

FOR INDUSTRIAL PEACE

President's Letter to Inter-State Commerce Commission Made Public—Serious Industrial Disputes in Prospect.

Washington, Special.—Serious industrial disputes in prospect were in the mind of President Roosevelt when he wrote a letter to the inter-State commerce commission which was made public. He says that information has reached him, that on account of the enactment of drastic laws by Congress and by various State Legislatures, it is regarded as necessary by railroad companies to reduce the pay of their employes. He points out that, under the law, either party may demand the services of the chairman of the inter-State commerce committee, and of the Commissioner of Labor, as a board of conciliation. He suggests, therefore, that the inter-State commerce commission wage conditions on various railroads as may relate, directly or indirectly to the possible impending controversy.

The President's Letter.

The full text of the President's letter is as follows:

"The White House,

Washington, Feb. 18, 1908.

To the inter-State commerce commission: I am informed that a number of railroad companies have served notice of a proposed reduction of wages on their employes. One of them, the Louisville & Nashville, in announcing the reduction, states that "the drastic laws inimical to the interests of the railroads that have in the past year or two been enacted by Congress and the State Legislatures," are largely or chiefly responsible for the conditions requiring reduction.

Under such circumstances it is possible that the public may soon be confronted by serious industrial disputes, and the law provides that in such cases either party may demand the services of your chairman and of the Commissioner of Labor as a board of mediation and conciliation.

These reductions in wages may be warranted, or they may not. As to this the public, which is a vitally interested party, can form no judgment without a more complete knowledge of the essential facts and real merits of the case than it now has or than it can possibly obtain from the special pleadings certain to be put forth by each side in case their dispute should bring about serious interruption to traffic. If the reduction in wages is due to natural causes, the loss of business being such that the burden should be and is equitably distributed between capitalist and wage workers, the public should know it. If it is caused by legislation, the public and Congress should know it, and if it is caused by misconduct in the past financial or other operations of any railroad, then everybody should know it, especially if the excuse of unfriendly legislation is advanced as a method of covering up past business misconduct by the railroad managers, or as justification for failure to treat fairly the wage earning employes of the company.

Moreover, an industrial conflict between a railroad corporation and its employes offers peculiar opportunities to any small number of evil disposed persons to destroy life and property and foment public disorder. Of course, if life, property and public order are endangered, prompt and drastic measures for their protection become the first plain duty. All other issues then become subordinate to the preservation of the public peace, and the real merits of the original controversy are necessarily lost from view. This vital consideration should be ever kept in mind by all law-abiding and far-sighted members of labor organizations.

It is sincerely to be hoped, therefore, that any wage controversy that may arise between the railroads and their employes may find a peaceful solution through the methods of conciliation and arbitration already provided by Congress, which have proven so effective during the past year. To this end the commission should be in a position to have available for any board of conciliation or arbitration relevant data pertaining to such carriers as may become involved in industrial disputes. Should conciliation fail to effect a settlement and arbitration be rejected, accurate information should be available in order to develop a properly informed public opinion.

I therefore ask you to make such investigation, both of your records and by any other means at your command as will enable you to furnish data concerning such conditions obtaining on the Louisville & Nashville and any other roads, as may relate, directly or indirectly to the real merits of the possibly impending controversy.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

GILLETTE MUST DIE

Supreme Court Affirms Decision of Lower Tribunal

NO GROUNDS FOR A NEW TRIAL

New York Court of Appeals, After Considering Argument Pro and Con in the Case of the Man Who Murdered Grace Brown, Decides That There Are No Extenuating Circumstances, and the Sentence of the Lower Court Is Affirmed.

Albany, N. Y., Special.—The Court of Appeals decided that Chester Gillette, of Cortland, must die in the electric chair for the murder of his sweetheart, Grace (or "Billy") Brown, of South Otsego, Chenango county, at Big Moose Lake, in the Adirondacks, on July 11th, 1906. The court affirms the judgment of conviction of murder in the first degree and the sentence of death, rendered at the extraordinary term of the Supreme Court in Herkimer county.

Gillette is now in a death cell at Auburn. The court will soon fix a new date for his execution.

The opinion of the court reviews the story of the case and holds that while the conviction was upon circumstantial evidence the counsel for the prosecution made through investigation and produced evidence established the fact that the death of Miss Brown was due to a crime and not an accident.

Grace Brown's Letters.

Taking up the matter of the admissibility of the pathetic letters of Grace Brown to the defendant the court says:

"Aside from the permitted purpose of showing the relations and thoughts of the decedent towards the defendant, we can think of no effect which the letters would have been apt to have with the jury, so far as the latter could be controlled by any ruling of the court, except to tend to establish a motive for the commission by defendant of the crime which is charged against him. But, as we have seen, they might have been admitted with entire propriety for this very purpose, and therefore if the jury considered them upon that branch of the people's case, it did no more than the court should have authorized and directed them to do."

The unanimous opinion of the court, written by Judge Hiscock, riddles Gillette's story of the tragedy, to the effect that Grace Brown voluntarily jumped from the boat and was drowned. Judge Hiscock ascribes "impressive unnaturalness" to the principal features of Gillette's tale. He alludes to several points which still further impeach its truthfulness and declared that "in addition to these deficiencies and improbabilities in his evidence, there are repeated contradictions by a large number of witnesses who apparently had no interest in telling anything but the truth."

Cold in New York.

New York, Special.—A blizzard, reported to be the worst in years, and which is raging fiercely, struck New York. The storm started shortly before daylight and four inches of snow has fallen in as many hours without any sign of abatement. Traffic is greatly impeded, all incoming trains are late, and the swirling flakes blind the pilots of the harbor and river craft, greatly hampering their vision and making it extremely dangerous for these craft to make their slips.

Allen Parker Pardoned.

Chattanooga, Special.—President Roosevelt has pardoned Allan Parker of this city, who was convicted in the federal court in Nashville two years ago and sentenced to serve five years in the federal prison at Atlanta, charged with misuse of funds of a bank at Tullahoma, Tenn. Parker was prosecuted by a Baltimore bonding company, but every dollar used by him was made up.

The Gold Standard.

Washington, Special.—Chairman Fowler, of the House committee on banking and currency, declared that the establishment of the gold standard should be put into practical effect by making gold coins the basis of all reserves. He says the character of the currency legislation this season will determine the financial plank to be adopted by the Republican convention at Chicago in June, and his recommendation will make the party's attitude now and in 1906 consistent.