THE DUNN DISPATCH

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THREE ALLEGED WOMEN-WHIPPERS FREED BY A JURY

Sensational Flogging Case In Robeson County Comes To End

JUDGE RECEIVES AN UNSIGNED WARNING

Hand of Ku Klux Klan In Proctorville Floggings Shown In Letters Read To Court—Indicates That Judge Grady Declined Receivership Of Klan.

Lumberton, July 21.—Fifty minutes were enough for twelve men to declare Mike Lawson, Jule Brogden and John Hedgepeth not guilty of the series of crimes charged against them growing out of the assault of two defenseless women in this county three months ago and the black blot of the county that once was held to save the State from dishonor remains uncleansed.

Solicitor T. A. McNeill, declaring that the State had played its last card, immediately nol prossed the capital charge pending against them. Motion by the defending counsel to discharge the three prisoners was granted by Judge Sinclair, and the three men walked silently out of the courtroom in time to meet and thank the jury, departing through another door.

A Day of Sensations

All the punishment that was meted out as a result of the long drawn out fight against invisible forces fell upon the head of H. F. Taliaferro, confessed Klucker detective, when Judge Sinclair fined him $750 and sent him to jail for three months on three charges of contempt growing out of his interference with the State's witnesses in the case completed even as Taliaferro was feebly defending himself.

The throng that waited the final chapters of the drama that has held the center of the stage for four weeks was too steeped in sensations to react to the disclosures that tumbled out in the hearing of the detective, when his confidential correspondence with the headquarters, and among the matters therein set forth the fact that Judge Henry A. Grady had declined the receivership of the Ku Klux Klan when it was offered to him some months ago.

It was a day of detonations. Hardly had the community got over the shock of the publication of the threat made against Stephen McIntyre this morning when it got out that Judge N. A. Sinclair had received a missive of similar import. He ignored it, and meanwhile the forensic battle between opposing counsel raged until eight minutes to two o'clock in the afternoon and with increasing bitterness.

Judge Sinclair charged the jury an hour later, and at 3:31 they retired to the jury room for meditation. Taliaferro was arraigned, the charges read against him and the answer filed. He was brought to the stand, and before he could recover from utter amazement that was discernible to the blindest man in the courtroom, he identified two letters that he had written to his chiefs recounting his doings here. His defense collapsed and he quit.

"Not Guilty," Foreman Says

Midway through the hearing there was a tapping within the jury room, indicating that the verdict had been reached. There was a stir in the courtroom, checked strenly by the judge. Deputies were posted about the room, with instructions to arrest any man who opened his mouth or made any demonstration. The jury came in and stood for a moment while the clerk took the poll.

"Not guilty," said Mr. Evans, who had been elected foreman. There was not a sound in the courtroom.

So say you all," Clark Skipper asked, and they nodded. "You may go," said the judge, and they went. The face of Lawson was the first to thaw out of the heavy frost that had fallen upon the prisoners as they listened to the blasting denunciation with which Stephen McIntyre concluded the argument. A satisfied, almost pious smile spread over it, and the others followed likewise. Mrs. Purvis wept silently. The children looked on in silence. The throng was silent as the jury was curtly discharged by the judge and they withdrew.

Little Surprise At Verdict

Little surprise was expressed at the return of the verdict of "not guilty." Few expected a conviction, but many did believe that a mistrial was not an impossibility It was rumored around that there was but one ballot taken, and that the rest of the time out, about 45 minutes was given just to preserve the decorum that should attend deliberation. The first vote stood 12 to 0 for acquittal.

Twenty minutes after the verdict was in, the court house was empty. The town was empty a half hour later. Fairmont and Proctorville people who have been here for two weeks in hundreds, went straight home. John Hedgepeth went back to his ruined tobacco, Brogden to his garage and Lawson to his policing of the town, where old man Andrew Smith was beaten under the eyes of its guardian of the law. Lumberton breather a sigh of relief that it is over.

Where the State got the letters with which it undid the detective did not come out in the hearing this afternoon, but there has been some detective work going on somewhere and it has been carefully covered up. Taliaferro evidently had no intimation of the fact that his letters had been brought back from Atlanta to be used against him.

An Impressive Answer

In his answer he had taken care of the allegations made by the State that he had tried to intimidate the State's witnesses, threatened them, offered the Purvis family the repossession of their home sold under mortgage if they would drop the prosecution. He had counter affidavits, and set up the contention that the Ku Klux Klan had sent word from the Imperial Palace in Atlanta to ferret out the perpetrators of the crime. He had letters to that effect which were offered as evidence.

It was an impressive answer that he set up. He had affidavits from the mayor of Laurinburg and the chief of police and others to show that he had visited the Watson's at that town as an agent of the Klan to see if he could get light on the crime. He was very helpful in his attitude and trusted to it to save him from the wrath of the court.

Mrs. Watson had made affidavits that he had represented himself as a Raleigh lawyer, sent out by the Attorney General to make an investigation, but that he had tried to intimidate her into dropping the case. He was named Logan when he talked to her, but in Rocky Mount where he went to see the Purvis family he was Myers. Taliaferro was seemingly only mildly amused when he took the stand and was very ready to testify. His counsel did not object.

R. C. Lawrance was handling the prosecution. He began mildly about the witness' connection with the Klan, and his experience before that. He was with the American Bankers' Association as a detective. He had been with the Klan for about fifteen months making investigations, and

(Continued on page 4)

HAMLET YOUTH KILLED IN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT

Hamlet, July 21—A distressing accident occurred in the suburbs of Hamlet when the two-year-old baby of Mr. and Mrs. Victor was run over and instantly killed by an automobile owned and operated by Alfred Cagle, of Hamlet. The child came from behind another car and was hit before the driver could stop. The child's mother was near by and saw the accident but was powerless to render assistance. An investigation was made by the Hamlet police but no blame was attached to Cagle. Witnesses all stated that he was driving slowly and the accident was unavoidable.

JAMES E. CROCKETT, DUNN, IS BANKRUPT

Coming as an aftermath of the failure of the State Bank and Trust Co., of Dunn, which was closed last March, James E. Crockett, of Dunn and a director in the defunct bank, has filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy. The petition recently filed has been recorded in the United States District court in Raleigh.

The petition filed and recorded lists no assets at all and liabilities totaling $143,122, according to Sunday's Raleigh News and Observer. The liabilities consist largely of endorsements of notes of the bank, it is said. The notes are held as follows: Merchants' National Bank, of Raleigh, $40,000; Wachovia Bank and Trust Co., $50,000, and American National Bank of Richmond, Va., $50,000.

STORMS ON SUNDAY DID MUCH DAMAGE

Three negroes were killed by lightning and damage to crops running into hundreds of thousands of dollars were some of the results of severe hail, wind and electrical storms which swept several Eastern North Carolina counties Sunday.

The three negroes were killed in a house near Mt. Olive. The greatest damage from hail was reported from Pitt county, while some damage was done in Lenoir, and Nash counties.

BARRETT AND CO. UNABLE TO MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS

Failure of "World's Largest Cotton Factors" Formally Announced

WORKING ON PLANS TO PRESERVE ASSETS

North Carolina Bankers Meeting With Committee Trying To Devise Means of Meeting Situation; Obligations Million Dollars; Plans Liquidation.

Augusta, Ga., July 20.—Barrett & Company, reputed to be "the world's largest cotton factors," with headquarters here, announced tonight that they were unable to meet their obligations amounting to approximately $1,000,000. A committee composed of New York, New Orleans and North and South Carolina bankers, representing part of the creditors, was in conference tonight with a view of working out some plan of liquidation for the preservation of the company's assets and the best protection of its creditors.

Tentative Plan

"The bankers went into session early this morning, adjourning at 1 o'clock" declared James Hull, Jr., senior member of the law firm of Hull and Barrett, attorneys for the firm. "Later in the afternoon another session was held, at which a tentative plan was agreed upon which is believed favorable to a liquidation," he said.

"Another meeting will be held tomorrow, at which the total assets and liabilities of the firm will be summed up and a financial statement will be presented to the creditors and a committee, will be formally appointed to handle with firm members the company's affairs," Mr. Hull said. It would be impossible, because of the vast interests involved, for a financial statement to be issued earlier than tomorrow, he said, earlier than intimated by them that the company's assets would equal the approximate of $1,000,000, announced by them as the cotton firm's obligations.

Attorneys further declared that so far there has been no legal transaction with the exception of a few minor proceedings against the company.

Turns In Resignation

Frank H. Barrett, president of the company, early today formally announced he had telegraphed his resignation to the New York and New Orleans Cotton Exchanges. His seat on the New York Exchange was sold for $45,000, he said. His resignation, he said, was "due to my inability to meet my obligations at the present time."

Rumors that Barrett and Company was seriously involved caused Augusta bankers to take precautions and $8,500,000 in currency arrived here late last night from the Atlanta Federal Reserve Bank. The money was placed in the vaults of the Georgia Railroad Bank. A statement was later issued by the Augusta Clearing House Association, composed of all Augusta bankers, declaring "that the announcement of the embarrassment of Barrett and Company this morning in the New York and New Orleans Cotton Exchanges involved no local banks, as the principal creditors of this concern were represented by New York, Chricago and New Orleans financial institutinos."

The local clearing house explained that "local banking arrangements only took care of the minor operations of this concern as the magnitude of its business was such that it had to secure financial arrangements in larger centers."

Because of unsettled conditions, local fire underwriters asked for police and fire protection at the Atlantic States Warehouse Company, which has a capacity of 150,000 cotton bales and is leased by Barrett and Company. A squad of police and firemen was placed on duty at the warehouses.

Barrett and Company, according to local records, handled through Augusta annually approximathely 500,000 bales of cotton bought by them throughout the American cotton belt. Due to this volume of business Augusta is rated as the second largest interior market in the world.

LITTLE CHILD DROWNS IN A GOLD FISH BOWL

Lodi, Calif., July 17.—Remas Hoffer, one-year-old son of Jacob Hoffer, wealthy vineyardist of this city, drowned in a gold fish bowl in his home here yesterday. The child's mother found him head first in the bowl, which contained about four inches of water.

DUKE

(By WA...)

Duke, July ... the board of dir... ham and Southe... pany and severa... the Erwin Cotto... were visitors in... hours on last T... on a tour of insp... train brought the... itors here, where... by W. A. Erwin... them over the t... Concert band fur... the party while th... fore the train left... Hon. Jones Fuller... chief counsel of... Southern, thank... on behalf of t... bers. He sai... was very fortunate... band of good musi... giving their best... Fuller also paid a... to Duke, when he... one of the best lit... ever visited, and... were of the peace... that made any wi... ing in.

Miss Thelma P... burg, spent the pa... the guest of Miss... son.

E. R. Thomas... spent the week e... in Durham...

Mrs. W. P. H... Miss Whitney w... ance of the sum... rest.

Mrs V. R Me... of Raleigh, are... days here with her... Mrs. William Ean...

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Miss Susie Ar... atives in Norfolk... weeks.

Mark Wade, ... Ralph H. Johnston... ered at Wrightsville...

Mr. and Mrs. ... Durham, spent the ... here the guests of Pr... Mrs. G. Woodworth.

Mrs. L. W. Hamock... daughters, Misses Grace and Alice, and Mrs. Kearney, of ... arrived Monday morning to spend several weeks with ... and Mrs. S. J. Clarke, Jr. ... made the trip by motor fro... Mississippi in five days, coming ... ville and other points of T... ia.

Fowler, a local ... pitcher, made his initial ... of the season here last Sa... when he beat the Elks' tea... Raleigh city league, by the ... of 8 to 1. He allowed the ... only four hits, but he was inclined to be wild at times. Uzzle, Raleigh high school twirler, was on the mound for the Elks, but he was handicapped by erratic support of his teammates. Epps and A. Woodworth led the hitting for the home club, getting half of their team's ten hits. McKay and McLamb played stellar ball in the infield, cutting off many potential hits with great stops.

SEMINOLE PLANT MAY BE OPERATED

Plants Here And At Goldsboro Purchased By Charleston Concern

The Pringle Company, of Charleston, S. C., purchasers of the plants of the defunct Seminole Phosphate Company at Goldsboro and Dunn, has organized a stock company at Goldsboro and will operate the Goldsboro plant, according to a Goldsboro dispatch of July 21. The new concern, known as the Wayne Fertilizer Company, has a capital stock of $62,720, of which $25,000 has been subscribed by the citizens of Goldsboro.

While nothing official as to what disposition will be made of the plant here has been given out, it is expected that it also will be again put into operation. The two plants were purchased at auction by the Pringle Company when sold by R. F. C. Meta, receiver for the Seminole Company. Mr. Meta will manage the new Goldsboro concern.

As has been stated in the Dispatch many people living in and around Dunn were stockholders in the defunct company and indications are that they will lose what they had paid for the stock subscribed. If the local plant is again put into operation it will be separate from the new Goldsboro concern.

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LOWER TREND IN COTTON MARKET

Close Of Week At New Orleans Shows Net Losses Of 59 to 231 Points

New Orleans, July 22. — Prices were gradually lower in the cotton market last week, at their lowest being 68 to 225 points under the close of the preceding week on the more active months in the contract department. July traded as low as 24.25 cents a pound and October as low as 22.52. The close showed net losses on the week of 59 to 231 points, July closing at 24.29 and October at 22.52. In the spot department prices lost 263 points on middling which closed at 25.00 against 21.75 on the close of this week last year.

For a while a more hopeful feeling regarding the political situation in Europe caused fairly pronounced recoveries following early declines of the week, but later on less optimism was felt in this direction, all the more so because there was no sign that Europe was entering the spot markets on this side of the water in a large way. Buying for domestic mills was not much in evidence and reports from both Northern and Southern mill centers were that further curtailments were about to be put in force. This had not a little to do with the decline at the end of the week.

Most observers called weather conditions over the belt mixed but private condition reports, issued during the week, claimed that the crop was about holding its own compared with the condition of a year ago. Drouth in Texas and too much rain in the South and the belt were principal sources of complaint. Ginning increased in South Texas and Florida reported its first bale from the new crop. This coming week the weather over the belt will be of increased importance because Wednesday will end the July condition period and it is generally held that the time of ... Texas probably would be a bearing argument of importance while, mine there, if not too long continued, would stimulate a selling movement.

PRESIDENT HARDING ENDS ALASKA VISIT

Sitka, Alaska, July 22.—President Harding concluded his visit to Alaska here today exactly two weeks from the day he first stepped in the soil of the territory and tonight the marine transport Henderson, carrying the presidential party, steamed out of the harbor bound for Vancouver, B. C., and Seattle.

COAST LINE GETS THE CLINCHFIELD

Makes Formal Application For Authority To Take Over Road

Washington, July 21.—The Atlantic Coast Line and Louisville and Nashville railroads made formal application to the Interstate Commerce Commission today for authority to take over and operate the Carolina, Clinchfield and Ohio Railroad system. The Louisville and Nashville Co. which is owned by the Atlantic Coast line, proposes to operate the Clinchfield's 261 miles of road under a 999 year lease.

Under the proposal the Louisville and Nashville and the Atlantic Coast Line will assume all of the mortgage indebtedness of the Clinchfield system. In addition $25,000,000 of the common stock of the Clinchfield will be left outstanding in the hands of the present owners, and the leasing companies guarantee to pay dividends upon this at the rate of 3 per cent until 1928, to increase the payment to four per cent between 1928 and 1938, and to pay five per cent thereafter.

The Louisville and Nashville expects by this plan to acquire a new outlet for its Kentucky coal traffic, the application said and in addition will have an important link across the Appalachian Mountains.

The consolidation proposed, was said to be in harmony with the general consolidation proposals which the Interstate Commerce Commission has made under the Transportation act.

Mothers and fathers need an outing sometimes to see what other folks are doing. No better occasion is furnished than the Farmers' and Farm Women's Convention at the State College July 31, August 1 and 2. Mark these dates on your calendar.

GAY ELECTED TO HEAD LOCAL NEGRO SCHOOL

Prof. W. D. Gay, colored, formerly a member of the faculty of Brick's school, near Rocky Mount, Saturday was elected as principal of the Harnett County Colored Training school, located here. Prof. Gay has been with the Brick school for the past five years and is now engaged in conducting a training school for colored teachers at that place. He was elected by the board of trustees of the Dunn graded school district to succeed Prof. J. W. Vines, who recently resigned as superintendent of the local school.

S. S. CONVENTION TO BE HELD THIS WEEK

The Harnett County Sunday School Convention will meet Thursday and Friday of this week, July 26 and 27, at Christian Light church, near Kipling. The meeting is for Sunday school workers of all denominations and no doubt will be largely attended. Officers of the Convention are: President, J. C. Senter; vice-president, Paul McKay; secretary, Miss Josephine Harmon.

The opening session will be held on Thursday evening at 8 o'clock and the final session will be held on Friday evening. An interesting program, which covers all phases of Sunday school work, has been arranged.

STILL OPERATORS TO FEDERAL COURT

S. P. M. Lee, J. B. Gainey and A. R. Parsons, all of Johnston county, were bound over to the Federal court Saturday by U. S. Commissioner E. Lee on the charge of manufacturing whiskey. Lee's bond was fixed at $500, while the other two defendants were required to make bond in the sum of $250 each for their appearance in the higher court.

As was stated in Friday's Dispatch, the three men were arrested Thursday of last week by Officers Adams ... capacity copper whiskey still. Lee admitted the ownership of the still at the hearing here Saturday and claimed that Gainey and Parsons were visiting him. Besides capturing the still, the officers destroyed quite a supply of whiskey and beer found about the still.

To make good butter, the creamery must have good, clean cream and to make money from cream, the producer ought to try it on a year round basis instead of only in the summer suggests one county agent with experience in the work.

FRANCISCO VILLA IS ASSASSINATED

Famous Bandit Leader's Secretary And Three Companions Also Slain

Mexico City, Mex., July 20.—General Francisco Villa one time noted bandit leader, and his chief of staff, Colonel Miguel Trillo and three members of Villa's escort were assassinated in an ambuscade early this morning on the outskirts of Parral, in the state of Chihuahua.

About a half dozen men comprised the band of assasins. They fired upon Villa and his men from a house they were passing and are reported to have made their escape from the scene.

Villa was driving an automobile on the way to Quanajuato.

Immediately the news of the assassination reached here orders were sent to scour the country side adjacent to the ambuscade in an endeavor to round up the guilty persons. The body of Villa is lying in the city hall at Parral where thousands of persons have viewed it.

President Obregon has ordered an investigation into the assassination. Major General Eugenio Martinez at Chihuanua has sent to Gen. Francisco Serrano, secretary of war, an official report received from Col. J. Felix Lima, commander of the garrison at Parral, in connection with the killing of the former noted rebel leader. The report follows:

"Villa, Trillo and three members of their escort were killed shortly before 8 o'clock this morning with premeditation while Villa and his companions were drifing in an automobile, which Villa personally was piloting toward Guanajuath, a suburb of this city. The shots were fired by six or seven men posted in a house on the roadway.

"I immediately ordered an investigation in co-operation with the civil authorities. I have learned that these men, armed with 30-30 rifles, fled from the house on horseback in the direction of Santa Clara, through the hills.

"I had no cavalry and could not pursue them. The most I could do was to order the various detachments in this sector to be on the outlook for the assasins. The city authorities have ordered a detachment of rurales to begin pursuit."

El Paso, Texas, July 20.—Three members of the band of bandits responsible for the death of Gen. Francisco Villa, his secretary, Miguel Trillo, and two body guards, were captured late today by a detachment of federal soldiers under command of Gen. B. Martinez, a short distance from Parral, according to information received at Juarez military headquarters tonight.

AUDITORS REPORT PLEASING TO ALL

Everybody Concerned Feels They Are Vindicated By Result Of Audit

Counting taxes levied but not collected as assets, the State had a deficit of $477,194.75 on December 31, 1922, which had been increased to $796,468.13 by June 30, 1923, according to the revised balance sheet of an audit of the State's finances which was made public yesterday by the investigating committee of the 1923 General Assembly. The committee, disagreeing with its auditors on an item of $710,000, found for its own figures a surplus at $232,805.22 at the end of the last calendar year and a deficit of $86,468.13 at the end of the past fiscal year. The report notes that Treasurer Lacy's books balance exactly.

The report after six months of investigation by a staff of auditors numbering eighteen at one time was presented to a vocally happy Governor and a silently smiling Council of State yesterday afternoon at 2:30. Only the report of the committee goes to the public at this time. The lengthy report of the auditors goes back to New York in order that the revisions made since the report was brought here in completed form on Tuesday of last week may be written into it.

The report will be available to the press some time next week and at the request of the committee, Secretary of State W. N. Everett will have 1,500 copies printed and distributed to the members of the last General Assembly and everyone else that wants them.

In the meantime all that is known about the recommendations is that they have been adopted unanimously by the Council of State, and that State Treasurer B. R. Lacy and State Auditor Baxter Durham, whose departments will be directly affected by the changed system of bookkeeping, will immediately install the new systems. The committee has ... pervise the new system and keep it going. It is stated that under it, the deficit or surplus as the case may be will be available at all times.

The report apparently gives everybody concerned reason for gratification. The Governor and the Budget Commission have received support for their system of bookkeeping, which took into account taxes levied but not collected. They have also substantiated their claim of a prospective surplus on December 31, 1922, although the amount is $232,000 instead of $2,468,000.

On the other hand, Corporation Commissioner A. J. Maxwell, whose claim that the operating account from December 1, 1920, to December 31, 1922, showed a deficit of $5,000,000, feels that he has also been completely vindicated. Mr. Maxwell based his figures on a cash rather than on accrual basis. The auditors allow an item of $4,730,915.54, and if that sum be added to their deficit there is a sum greater than Mr. Maxwell's $5,000,000, and even the subtraction of the committee's surplus does not throw the amount off by more than half a million dollars.

Mr. Maxwell declared in a brief statement issued last night that the balance sheet offered by the committee "without saying so in words does disclose a five million cash deficit December 31, 1922." — Raleigh News and Observer.

Owing to the burning of some 80 feet of a trestle on the Atlantic Coast Line, near Bale, Robeson county, Sunday night passenger train No. 82, due here at 11:20 p. m., did not reach Dunn until 4 o'clock Monday morning. The train was detoured by way of Maxton.