

DANVILLE SUFFERS A FIRE LOSS OF OVER HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS

Prominent Man Kills Wife And Then Suicides.

Rev. D. P. Tate's Trial Has Been In Progress This Week.—Case Went to the Jury Tuesday Afternoon.—Looks Like a Mistrial.

Danville, Dec. 14.—One of the most thrilling fires in a decade threatened Danville's best business block tonight, destroying three large three-story brick structures occupied by merchants and required the utmost efforts of the entire department for over two hours to control. The damage is estimated at \$150,000, practically covered by insurance.

Various other properties and stocks of goods are damaged by smoke and water, but the chief destruction was confined to the Boatwright Brothers printing and stationery establishment, the Virginia Hardware Co.'s three-story store, the Main Street Restaurant and the Waddill Printing Company. Other threatened properties were saved by intelligent work.

Early this (Thursday) morning Henry Day, proprietor of the Waddill printing plant, who had been caught under the debris under the store, was rescued by a band of frantic workers who braved falling walls and worked manfully to extricate him, guided by his groans. One leg is fractured and he has a painful wound on the head. When dragged out and rushed to a hospital he was soaked by the streams of water which had been played upon him.

Tom Allen, fireman, was rescued but slightly injured, and another fireman sustained minor hurts.

Dual Homicide.
In an humble home on a suburban street the bodies of Mrs. Fannie New Pinnix and her husband, Wm. G. Pinnix, today lie dead as a result of a dual homicide at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, committed by the husband, Pinnix, who is a former employe of the freight department of the Southern Railway and a member of a prominent North Carolina family, left letters and memoranda showing that he had planned the tragedy as long ago as Thanksgiving day.

The husband was in poor health and had been drinking recently. Yesterday afternoon while his son was lying down in an adjoining room and husband and wife were together, Pinnix, without warning, fired upon the unsuspecting wife twice in quick succession, one ball entering the right temple, the other the cheek. She collapsed in a dying condition just as the son rushed in. At that moment the father turned the weapon upon himself and sent a bullet through his right temple, the ball emerging at the left side of his head. He died at 8 o'clock without regaining consciousness.

Two hours before the tragedy Pinnix had turned over to his son to be delivered to a friend a package of letters and papers, impressing their importance upon the boy. Most of these letters were written to "Mrs. Martha New Pinnix" and couched in terms of endearment. They are signed "A." One of Pinnix's letters identifies the anonymous writer as "A. Bridges," formerly an insurance solicitor here, now of Richmond, Va. While clean in verbiage, these letters

show an intimacy which impelled Pinnix to his homicidal act.

The slain woman is a daughter of W. W. New, formerly wealthy and prominent socially here. Pinnix is a son of Colonel Pinnix, deceased, of Yanceyville, N. C. Both families are prominently connected here. Two children, a son, W. G., Jr., 18 years old, and a daughter, Polly, aged 12, are orphaned.

Minister On Trial.
In the Corporation court the case against the Rev. D. P. Tate went to the jury. If the jurymen do not reach a verdict by 10 o'clock today, and it appears they will not, the presiding judge will order a mistrial.

The cases against Tate grew out of certain deals while he was engaged in the insurance and real estate business in Danville last March. Tate left the city about that time, was arrested in Knoxville, Tenn., and carried to Danville for trial. He has been under a bond of \$3,000 since the preliminary hearing soon after reaching here.

Tate's arrest and subsequent arraignment on the charge of fraud caused quite a sensation in Danville and in other places where he was known. He was formerly a Methodist minister somewhere in Western North Carolina. Of course, in all the cases against him he denied any intent to defraud, and claimed that all his deals were consummated in the best of faith on his part. He was a witness in his own behalf.

When brought from Knoxville Tate explained his conduct in the following manner:

He stated that on a number of deals he could not make his collections and that his debts were pressing him. He said that he went to Spray just previous to his leaving Danville for Tennessee, to see if he could interest a friend in his business and sell him a half interest in the rental and real estate business at Danville, thinking that if he could do so he could get enough money to meet his obligations. As he could not do so, he then went to Thomasville, where he owned some stock in a furniture establishment, to see if he could sell this stock, asserting that if he could he could have gotten enough money to meet the obligations that were pressing and that he then thought he could pull through all right. He could not sell the stock, and this left him in almost a nervous breakdown. His wife and several friends, he said, wrote him to stay out of town until he could get enough money to pay his debts, for if he came back he would be sent to jail.

"I then went to Knoxville where I got a position in half an hour after arriving," he said. "I did not change my name, and went to the postoffice daily to ask for mail. I employed Judge Shaw, of Greensboro, to come to Danville and see how much money it would take to straighten up all my obligations. I told him the exact situation, and while he was looking into this I was arrested."

Mr. Tate claimed that all of his deals were made in the best of faith and that he was doing the best he could.

There will be an entertainment and box party at Bethany High School on Saturday night, Dec. 16, at 6:30. Public is cordially invited.

When you have a bilious attack give Chamberlain's Tablets a trial. They are excellent. For sale by all dealers.

THE NATION'S NEWS

Items Taken From a Great Many Sources.

Condensed News Items Concerning Matters of Interest Occurring Since Our Last Issue.—News of the World at Large.

The condition of Senator Root, of New York, is serious and the doctors fear blood poisoning.

A local option election was held at Culpepper, Va., Tuesday, and resulted in favor of the "drys" by a majority of 52.

Arch Tyree, of Buena Vista, Va., aged 20 years, was shot and instantly killed at Glasgow, Va., by Andrew Pugh, of Baltimore.

L. T. Charles Lanthcaule, the famous aviator, was instantly killed near Etampes, France, Wednesday when his monoplane fell 1,500 feet.

There was recently filed in the office of the register of deeds of Wake county a deed of trust for \$1,500,000 for the purchase of rolling stock by the Southern Railway.

Figures from the Census department show that 32,213,000 acres of winter wheat have been sown in this country this year, and 2,438,000 acres of rye. Last year the figures were 32,648,000 and 2,415,000, respectively.

Orders to all Taft leaders insisting upon ironclad Taft instructions being given by the State conventions to delegates to the National Republican convention have been framed. In this way Taft men plan to prevent a stampede in the convention and hope to cause instruction of enough delegates to insure the renomination of the President.

Mrs. George Stone, of Warrenton, Va., who was arrested by detectives on special Christmas shopping duty, at a Washington department store on a charge of theft, was entirely exonerated in the police court there when the assistant district attorney refused to file any information against her. Mrs. Stone left immediately for her home.

The Lorimer investigation is still dragging its weary length at Washington. Almost every subject under heaven has been dragged into it somehow in the course of the probing. The latest happened the other day when a casual remark of a witness precipitated a lengthy debate on the burning issue of, how many drinks make a drunk?

Postmaster General Hitchcock has suspended until January 1 the postal regulation forbidding the transmission through the mails of the matter bearing upon the address side Red Cross Christmas seals, or other charity stamps. The suspension was caused by protests from business men and bankers, through the Red Cross, that important business mail had been delayed with serious consequences. From now until January Christmas seals may be placed anywhere on letters.

The numerous robberies that have occurred in the city of Wilmington recently—occurring to the tune of six or eight each night—have caused the police to consider the matter of securing bloodhounds and also add a force of negro detectives, it being the general belief that negroes are responsible for most of the robberies. The citizens are getting very much alarmed over the frequency of the robberies and the council will be urged to do something to round up the criminals.

Secretary Abraham Cook, of the Southern Car Company, High Point, says that this month his company will begin to deliver some of the large 50-foot combination baggage cars which are to be used on interurban roads. The cars made by the High Point company are very attractive and substantially made.

The convict force of Forsyth county will be divided into four squads and work will begin immediately on four of the county's roads. The highways will be built part macadam and part sand-clay, according to the conditions of the particular locality.

A series of mass-meetings are to be held in the principal cities of the United States this winter, to protest against the action of Russia in refusing to admit into her territory Jews who are citizens of the United States. There is a treaty between the two nations that provides that the citizens of each shall travel freely in the territory of the other, provided they do not break the laws of the country they are visiting. Russia has for years systematically violated this treaty as far as Jews are concerned, and a strong effort will be made to have the present Congress abrogate the treaty, unless Russia gives satisfactory guarantees that our Hebrew citizens will be treated fairly hereafter.

A BIG PENSION BILL

Sherwood's Measure Passes With a Whoop.

Will Add Seventy-Five Million Dollars to the Pension Bill if the 400,000 Eligible Veterans Take Advantage of the Increase.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 14.—The Sherwood service pension bill, which would add upwards of \$40,000,000 to the government's annual expenditures by granting increased pensions to Civil and Mexican war veterans on the basis of length of service, was passed by the House despite the determined opposition of many Democratic leaders. Secretary of the Interior Fisher had estimated that the bill would add \$75,000,000 to the pension roll if the 400,000 veterans eligible take advantage of the increased wage.

Eight Republicans voted with the 84 Democrats against the bill. Speaker Clark voted with the majority of his party for the bill and Democratic Leader Underwood, and Fitzgerald, of New York, chairman of the appropriations committee, voted against it.

The bill now goes to the Senate where there is a disposition to pass some form of amended service pension legislation. Senate leaders, however, will proceed slowly in the consideration of this legislation, and many House Democrats voted for the measure in the belief that the Senate would not pass it.

The Sherwood bill would establish the following basis of pensions: For service for ninety days to six months, \$15 per month; from six to nine months, \$20 per month; from nine months to one year, \$25 per month; more than one year, \$30 per month.

Death of Mrs. Mary Lee Harrison.

Mrs. Mary Lee Harrison died Saturday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Wash Irvin, and her remains were buried Monday in the Wentworth cemetery. Mrs. Harrison was 78 years of age, and had been in declining health for some time.

The death was peaceful, the deceased having been a consistent Christian from her girlhood. She is survived by her husband and several children. Mrs. Lewis, a daughter, residing in Reidsville. The other children are: Mrs. M. E. Evans, of Kansas; J. T. Harrison, California; Mrs. M. A. Irvin, Stoneville; Mrs. Wilna Meador, Danville; Mrs. Studie Lewis, Danville; C. T. Harrison, Tennessee; Mrs. Lucy McAllister, Tennessee; Jessie Harrison, Tennessee; F. M. Harrison, Reidsville, and Mrs. Hatlie Sampson, of California.

It is said of Mrs. Harrison that her chief delight was in administering to the sick and needy, going wherever and whenever her services were needed to comfort and cheer the distressed.

The Sulzer joint resolution for the termination of the treaty of 1832 between the United States and Russia, because of the latter's discrimination against Jewish American citizens, passed the House Wednesday night three hundred to one.

The State board of public buildings and grounds have decided upon the site for the location of the monument to be erected in Capital Square, Raleigh, by Colonel Ashley Horne, of Clayton, to the women of the Confederacy, at a cost of from \$10,000 to \$12,000.

With the passing of another day without the discovery of any more live men in Cross Mountain, Tenn., mine, hope for the rescue of the 50-odd men still unaccounted for reached its lowest ebb. So far 37 bodies have been brought out of the mine and several more have been located.

The annual meeting of the North Carolina division of the National Farmers' Union is in session at Wilson. One of the most interesting features of the convention will be the annual reports showing the remarkable growth of the organization during the past twelve months. During the year just closed 14,000 new members were enrolled in this State.

Senator Cummins, of Iowa, in a speech Wednesday urged speedy action on his bill providing for a review by the Supreme Court of the United States of the decree of the United States Circuit court for the Southern district of New York, approving the reorganization of the American Tobacco Company. He said that "the welfare of the people, the stability of business and the wants of Congress imperatively require that this decree shall be reviewed by the Supreme Court, in order to know whether this decree is all that the anti-trust law will do for the people."

CHICAGO IS CHOSEN

Republican Convention to Be There Next June.

Bitterness is Conspicuous by its Absence at the Two Sessions of the National Executive Committee Held in Washington.

Washington, Dec. 14.—With little trace of friction the Republican National committee met here Tuesday and formulated the preliminary plans for the campaign of 1912. The program agreed upon was carried out expeditiously in two short sessions aggregating barely more than two hours.

Chicago was chosen as the convention city and the call was issued for the assembling of delegates on Tuesday, June 18, to nominate candidates for President and Vice-President. Acting Chairman John F. Hill, former Governor of Maine, was unanimously elected chairman of the committee after the acceptance of the resignation of Postmaster General Frank H. Hitchcock, which went into effect on April 1, 1909. William Hayward, of Nebraska, was elected secretary to serve until the new national committee is organized in Chicago in June.

The committee adhered to the convention call of 1908 and the primary question, which had been the sole disturbing topic before the committee, who left it as it was four years ago. The champions of Presidential preference primaries and State-wide primaries for the selection of delegates to the convention in States where primary laws are not operative, were defeated. They were led by Senator Borah, of Idaho, who contented himself with a minority report from the sub-committee on call, of which he was chairman, and with a brief speech to the committee.

This meeting was unique in two respects. There was a complete absence of bitterness and the proceedings were conducted with open doors.

YOUNG COUPLE MURDERED.

Two Masked Men Commit a Terrible Crime in Cleveland County.

Mr. and Mrs. Dixon, a young couple residing at Fallston, near Shelby, Cleveland county, were murdered by two masked men Tuesday night, after which the home was robbed of about forty dollars. The crime was one of the most horrible that has ever been committed in North Carolina.

Mr. Dixon was summoned from his home to his barn shortly after dark. Upon his arrival there he was seized by the two masked men, who cut his throat and otherwise abused him unmercifully. Death followed in a short time.

From the barn the men went to the home, cut Mrs. Dixon's throat and left her for dead. A colored man passing the home heard the woman's piteous appeal for help. He rushed into the house and found Mrs. Dixon lying on the floor with blood flowing from the throat. The negro ran out and gave the alarm. Before dying Mrs. Dixon gave a description of the men.

It is reported that certain parties had an old grudge against Mr. and Mrs. Dixon, and that these are suspected of being guilty. Two negroes have been arrested who were unable to account for their whereabouts at the time the crime was committed.

Mr. P. H. Williamson asserted Tuesday in a very positive manner that the weather forty years ago was a counterpart of the balmy, spring-like days we have been having the past week. When asked how he remembered it so well, he replied by saying that Tuesday was his 40th wedding anniversary and that for this reason he remembered very distinctly about the weather. What is the saying about "Blessed be the bride the sun shines on"? We know of no couple who have lived more happily together or who have enjoyed so much sunshine in their home as have our esteemed friends, Mr. and Mrs. Williamson.

ASKING FOR PARDON

A Case Similar to That of Edgar Stripling's.

T. B. Whitson, Who Killed a Man in This State Forty Years Ago, With Escaped From Penitentiary, May Be Pardoned.

Lieutenant Governor Newland is making a special effort to induce Governor Kitchin to grant a pardon for T. B. Whitson, who thirty years ago was charged with the murder of a man named Kitburg, was later convicted, and is now serving sentence under remarkable circumstances. The Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Whitson and Mrs. Nelson, daughter of the convicted man, were in Raleigh this week to see Governor Kitchin.

T. B. Whitson and his brother, Will Whitson, were convicted of the murder and sentenced to be hanged and Governor Carr commuted to life imprisonment. Two years later T. B. Whitson escaped and fled the State and Will Whitson was pardoned after three years' service. T. B. Whitson was located in Kentucky when he escaped and prospered, leading an exemplary life and raising an interesting family. He became superintendent of a Sunday School.

The story of how Whitson came to be brought back to North Carolina is not so different from the undoing of Stripling, Danville's chief of police, the early part of this year, and his being taken back to Georgia, where he is serving a long term in the penitentiary, except that a church row out in Kentucky proved the undoing of the North Carolina fugitive after he had for years been a faithful worker in that very church. It reads like fiction, even unto one of George Barr McCutcheon's exaggerated experiences in a faraway country. His life in Kentucky and the cause of his being given away are anything but creditable to him, and pictures largely a petty soul of another man bent on a revenge. Although it may have been right that the escaped murderer should be brought back to serve his sentence for the crime he committed, at least all the manhood is not gone from him, nor has his heart forsaken him.

In his Kentucky home he was an ardent church worker and was superintendent of the Sunday school of the town. But along came a row in that church and it divided into two factions. It seems there was a sentiment among a large part of the membership that the preacher was crazy and therefore should be retired from the pastorate. But Whitson, the leader of one of the factions, did not share this sentiment and stood by the preacher. Like all family and church rows, it became one of the worst rows in the history of that county. Finally, the preacher was sent to an asylum. In that State there seems to be some sort of arrangement by which if a citizen will agree to take care of a person committed to an asylum and will give bond that he does no violence, the person committed may be taken out and given to the care of the person giving such bond. Thus Whitson went to the asylum and gave bond for the preacher and he was released.

This so incensed the leader of the other faction that he determined to get even with his fellow churchman. He wrote to the authorities in North Carolina and gave them information as to Whitson's whereabouts, which led up to his arrest and his being taken back to serve the sentence imposed upon him many years before. Acting upon that information the North Carolina authorities wired to have Whitson arrested and he was taken to the penitentiary at Raleigh last March 8.

It was Governor Newland who prosecuted Whitson as collector when he was convicted many years ago. Now he is seeking the pardon and county authorities and the people generally are represented to be urging the pardon, which may be granted at any time now.

Mr. David G. Flaek is critically ill at his home near town.



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