

Last of Convict Lease System.

Atlanta, Ga., April 1.—At sunrise today Georgia shook off the last rag of her convict lease system. From one end of the State to the other hundreds of human beings were led from the cavernous depths of mines, from the sweaty heat of choking kilns, from the whirring damp atmosphere of factories—out into God's sunlight, from the control of harsh and almost brutal taskmasters into the service of the State.

Georgia has no State penitentiary. For years her convicts have been sold into the mines, into the brick kilns, into the factories, where private greed sometimes demanded and collected its last ounce of human flesh and its final drop of human blood. But the State decided to abolish this traffic in white as well as black slaves, so instead of selling it's 1,600 prisoners it will work them on the public roads.

The change went into effect at daylight this morning when the convicts were returned to the counties in which their crimes had been committed. Most of the unfortunates are blacks of a low order of intelligence, sentenced for every conceivable crime.

Though shackled and ironed, the convicts greeted the change with shouts of joy and weird hymns of thanksgiving. Negro preachers were at most of the stockades and led the blacks in their impromptu praise service. Special trains were waiting and the prisoners were transferred as rapidly as possible to their new quarters.

Strangely enough, some of the convicts cried at leaving scenes which had been part of the daily life of some of them for many years.

The new system, it is believed, will not only improve the health of the convicts but will assure Georgia the finest turnpikes in the South.

Catholic Priest Bankrupt.

Cleveland, O., March 31.—Rev. Father William McMahon filed a petition in voluntary bankruptcy before Judge Taylor in the United States District Court late today, giving his liabilities at \$1,500,000 and assets at \$75,000.

His insolvency is stated to have grown out of the failure of the Fidelity Funding Company, of New York, which was promoted by P. J. Kieran. Rev. Father McMahon is said to have been a director of the company and endorsed many of its notes.

From information gathered today in circles familiar with the affairs of the Fidelity Funding Company and P. J. Kieran, it was learned that the direct liability of Rev. Father McMahon through the failure of the Fidelity Funding Company, as appeared on the face of the accounts, was only about \$20,000.

Boston Promoter in Trouble.

Boston, Mass., March 31.—W. D. Owen, otherwise known as W. W. Fowler, who according to dispatches received here last night is being held by the police of Augusta, Ga., for the Boston authorities, is charged with having been implicated in a Mexican plantation development company in which a great many New England stock holders lost their investments. In connection with the promotion of this company, its chief promoter, G. E. Borges, is serving a long term in the State prison. Owen has been sought by the Boston authorities for some time. A police inspector will leave at once for the South to bring Owen to this city.

In Germany a mixture of tar and iron slag is used for paving.

Negroes Call on Mr. Taft.

Washington, April 1.—A delegation of negroes from Mississippi, comprising bankers, business men, lawyers and educators, called at the White House today to tender to President Taft whatever assistance they could render in helping him to work out the policies outlined by him in his inaugural address. The visit had to do solely with the so-called negro problem in the South.

In his address to the President the chairman of the delegation said:

"Like you, we do not believe that any satisfactory and lasting results can be reached without the cooperation of the representatives of the more than ten million negroes who are the bone of contention; like you, we do not believe that any satisfactory and lasting results can be obtained without the approval and cooperation of the dominant class, the whites in our section, and any policy that makes for peace between us, that means to bring us more closely together so far as the public good is concerned and the general uplift of our section, and in that uplift the uplift of the nation as well, is much desired by us, and our presence here is to assure you that the negroes of Mississippi will do their part in bringing about the desired ends, and hope not to so conduct ourselves at times as to embarrass your well begun administration."

500 Students Go on Strike.

New York, March 31.—More than 500 pupils at Manhattan College are on strike today. The boarding students have pickets out stopping the day students, who number 350, as they approach the college.

Many of the boarding pupils are packing up preparatory to leaving.

The trouble was caused by the dismissal of one of the students, an athlete. The students declare they will not re-enter until Nugent is re-elected.

After Money; Woman Shot.

Washington, Indiana, March 30.—A woman was shot last night as she picked up a decoy prepared after Banker N. G. Read had received a letter demanding that he deposit \$30,000 at a designated spot. A man accompanying the woman escaped unhurt. The woman was peppered with bird shot.

The woman, besmirched with blood, was taken to jail, where she was identified as Miss Zella Clark. She has been employed as a domestic.

Read is president of the First National Bank of this city. The letter he received demanded that he place the money in a box to be left at the east gate of a school building at 9 p. m. He was given instructions to leave the box and run for his life. Upon receiving the threatening communication, Mr. Read laid the matter before the police and at the appointed hour officers were secreted in neighboring houses. The bank president made his way to the gate, placed the box and ran as indicated. A few minutes later the man and woman in the case appeared at the gate, the woman running to the box and picking it up.

Some one fired from the school building, the woman gave a cry of pain and fell to the pavement. Her companion escaped.

Including every day in the calendar the exports of manufactures of the United States averages more than \$2,000,000 a day for the entire year.

Strikes Himself With An Axe.

Fayetteville, W. Va. March 31.—Harry Gibson, a prominent young man of this place, struck himself, it is alleged, on the head with an axe early today. Gibson then made his way to his room, where he requested a companion to kill him. He was taken to a hospital where it was stated his condition is serious. Gibson is a student at Staunton, Va., and is home on a vacation with a student friend.

It is alleged a girl friend of Gibson's attended a dance last night with another young man.

"If going with another young man was the only cause he had for trying to kill himself, then we say, what a pity he did not succeed."

Says Cuba Will Join the States.

The Raleigh Times.

Washington, April 1.—"Is Cuba coming into the United States?" asked Senator Carlos Garcia Valez the new minister from Cuba, who arrived in Washington last night.

Eventually, yes," he replied, "but with a different language and a different people; it will take some time to bring that about, although it is the commercial and political salvation of my country."

Senor Garcia continued: "I feel most kindly toward the United States because I owe my education and my point of view to it."

"I am an American Cuban," said Minister Garcia Valez. "My education and ideas are American. My purpose is to foster the relations between this country and my country. We owe a great deal to the United States and remember all that has been done for us."

Three Negroes Slain in Fight.

Elizabeth City, N. C., April 2.—One of the bloodiest brawls that has ever been known in this section occurred last night at Columbia, Tyrrel county, in which three negroes were killed and one terribly wounded. The trouble, it is reported, arose over two negroes from this city calling on Columbia damsels, which was resented. The two Columbia negroes laid in ambush across a bridge and when the Elizabeth City negroes passed fired into them. The visitors were evidently well supplied with guns and razors and a bloody battle followed. Nothing was known of the trouble until this morning when a white man passing heard some one say, "Don't cut me any more." Upon investigation the dead negroes with blood flowing, and razors and guns were found on the ground where they presented a horrible spectacle.

The surviving combatant is terribly cut up and wounded and has small chance of recovering.

Being carried home he died within four hours.

Murdered in The Philippine Islands.

Manila, March 31.—Dr. William Jones, the noted anthropologist of the Field Museum of Natural History, at Chicago, has been murdered in the Isabella Province. It is supposed to have been the work of wild tribesmen.

Dr. Jones had been in the Philippines two years investigating the wild tribes on the islands. For several months he had been studying the Ilongots living among them in the hills.

The government is now preparing to send a party to the scene to investigate the murder.

Jones—"Well, you and I won't be neighbors much longer. I'm going to live in a better locality."

Smith—"So am I."

Jones—"What—are you going to move to?"

Smith—"No. I'm going to stay here."

The Trained Nurse.

In days past woman's ministrations to the body that by sickness or accident found requirement for the soothing attention of her hands were confined to the Sisters of Mercy. The blessed record they have made is writ in but one book and that book is not opened to the human eye. Then, with the rack of war and the reign of pestilence came the Red Cross evangelists, but the institution of this later age is the trained nurse. She is the product of an advanced science and an enlightened age. Where, but a short time ago the trained nurse was a luxury, she is now a necessity. The first half dozen trained nurses in Charlotte had but little work to do. Their mission was not understood. People preferred to be waited on by the house servant or the neighbors and were contented with the dropping in once in a while by the doctor, or by a couple of collaborating doctors, should the case become serious. The trained nurse, however, was not slow to spring into popularity. It soon became realized that in sickness more depends upon proper nursing than medicine. Patients began leaving hospitals and telling how the trained nurse had saved their lives. More people began going to hospitals, more hospitals were built to accommodate them and more trained nurses were graduated to care for them. A dozen years ago, there were less than twenty-five trained nurses in Charlotte. There are one hundred and fifty—possibly more—at the present time. Their services are not confined to the hospitals, but their ministrations are to be had in every private home that applies for them. The wonder is that this sphere of usefulness for woman so long remained undiscovered. The trained nurse is one of the greatest blessings of the age we live in. In the home the greatest danger to the patient is over-care. Too often, in the desire to please him, he gets what he wants and it often occurs that one indiscretion in the matter of diet is sufficient to counteract all the previous good work of the physician. In the hands of the trained nurse the patient gets what he needs, not what he wants. Then, between the visits of the doctor, there is the record of his temperature, like an open book, a very important chart in the course of every illness. The trained nurse is the doctor's best ally and the patient's best friend. Man is always calling down blessings upon her, and in some cases calls down a blessings upon himself by marrying her. But when one gets married another steps in to take her place, so, fortunately for suffering humanity, the supply is in no danger of becoming exhausted.

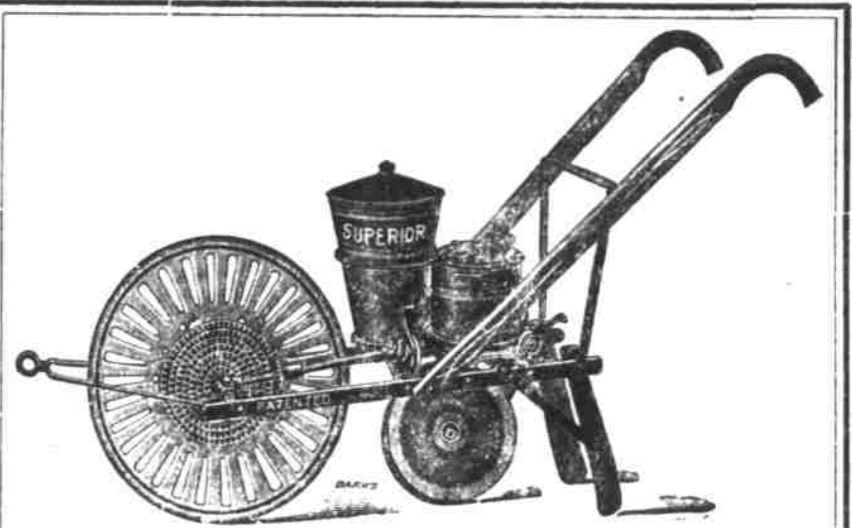
"The News takes pleasure in publishing and endorsing the above from the Charlotte Chronicle."

Struck By Train.

Macon, Ga., April 1.—Mrs. Imogene Compton, of Athens, Ga., while crossing the railroad trestle to make a train for her home this afternoon, was struck by the Macon-Athens local on the Central of Georgia and instantly killed. Her body was horribly mangled and hurled to the ground, 100 feet below. The woman's 10-year-old son, Clarence, was with her and escaped injury by prostrating himself beside the rail on the end of the crossties.

A Three Headed Calf.

Roanoke, Va., April 1.—When J. W. Wade, of Graham, Va., entered his cow barn this morning, he found a three headed calf, that had been born last night. The calf is healthy and grips the mother's teats with first one mouth and then the other.



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City Official Short.

Baltimore, March 31.—Examination of the books of the office of city register tonight shows a shortage of more than \$57,000 in the funds of that office.

Will F. Dewns, stock clerk in the office named, is under arrest, after having been twice released on bail. His first bail was fixed at \$5,000 and later doubled. He was arrested late tonight after the magnitude of the shortage was discovered.

Effective on Entire Line.

Richmond, March 31.—The Southern Railway Company announces that when the advanced passenger fares are put into effect on its Virginia lines, the entire system of mileage books in use on its lines in the States of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee will be extended to Virginia.

Eight Hundred Mile Dog Race.

Seattle, Wash., April 1.—Sporting men of the northwest are talking about the 800 mile dog race, which will be run from Fairbanks to Nome, Alaska, this month. This event is the feature of the sporting year in that section of the country. Thousands of dollars exchange hands annually on the results. Last year the race was 400 miles, but the committee in charge deemed it advisable to lengthen the distance, and this spring an 800 mile course will test the prowess of the canine contestants.

The race will be held under the auspices of the Nome Kennel Club, and is a selling event. The winning team receives a \$10,000 cash prize, and \$5,000 will be disbursed among the other entrants, according to their position at the finish.