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## GENERAL VILLA HAS DECLINED TO GIVE UP BODY

Retention Of Benton's Remains Looks Suspicious.

BELIEVE VILLA SHOT HIM

Hoped That Witnesses Can Be Secured To Substantiate This Theory.

El Paso, Texas, Feb. 25.—Gen. Francisco Villa, at Chihuahua, today refused to give up the body of William S. Benton, a British subject, executed in Juarez several days ago. His reasons, embodied in a private telegram, have aroused bitter feeling along the border.

"I will not give up the body out of respect to the dead," Villa's message said. "It was interred with all religious observances and a cross erected over it, and I will not allow the sacrifice of its removal."

This word came in response to a telegram sent by one of Villa's subordinates at Juarez, informing him that no personal idea should keep him from permitting the transfer of the body to the widow and informing him that perhaps he was not familiar with the storm of criticism that had greeted his failure to do so.

A definite refusal to give up the body was received by a consular representative of the United States late today and forwarded to Washington. The explanation came to Juarez.

Many persons here today said the refusal indicated to their minds that Benton was shot by Villa and that he feared to deliver the body lest its condition indicate the manner of death as other than by court martial.

It is hoped that within a day or two the statement of a competent witness to the shooting, alleged by enemies of Villa, to have taken place in his headquarters, may be obtained. American representatives of the Mexican federal government are working to this end.

Villa's statement, telegraphed from Chihuahua today, that Benton was guilty of four murders and making a charge of cattle stealing, was received by Benton's friends with derision. Three who knew Benton intimately asserted no charge of the sort ever had been brought against the Englishman.

United States secret service men today received information indicating that Gustav Bauch has met a fate similar to Benton's. Thomas D. Edward, consul at Juarez, repeatedly has been assured that Bauch was safe in Chihuahua awaiting a review of his case, wherein he is charged with being a spy.

Meanwhile Marion Letcher, consul at Chihuahua, after a search of jails and barracks and diligent inquiry, has been unable to find Bauch. Villa, in an interview last night, asserted to newspaper men that he not taken the German-American from Juarez at all.

## BUYS OUT COMPETITOR.

Norfolk Pepsi-Cola Company Enlarges.

Norfolk, Feb. 25.—The entire stock of the American Bottling Company has been purchased by the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company, of which M. Lipkin is the proprietor. The deal includes all of the office fixtures, machinery, crates, boxes, bottles and siphons. The bottles, boxes and siphons bearing the A. B. C. name and now in the possession of the trade thus become the property of the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company, and as it is desired that all of them be returned as soon as possible, the company has requested that it be notified—phone 4014—so that wagons may be sent for them.

The closing of this deal enables the Pepsi-Cola Company to serve the trade promptly and efficiently with soda water and sizer in addition to Pepsi-Cola and an effort will be made to increase the soda water portion of the business. The growth of the Pepsi-Cola Company is largely responsible for the deal, which takes over the bottling company and is a gratifying evidence of the popularity of the beverage. The office of the concern is at 137 Fenchurch street.—Advertisement.

Mrs. J. L. Lupton and family left for Marshfield City yesterday.

## THE LENTEN SEASON HAS BEEN USHERED IN

BEGUN YESTERDAY AND WILL CONTINUE UNTIL EASTER SUNDAY.

The holy season of Lent begun yesterday, known as Ash Wednesday, continuing through Easter Sunday, which comes this year on April 12th. The season is observed by all the churches in some degree, though more particularly by the Episcopal and the Catholic churches. As usual the season will be observed in New Bern.

The Forty Days of Lent are a commemoration and an imitation of the example of our Lord, who, immediately after his baptism, went into the Wilderness to fast and meditate before He entered upon His public ministry.

As a season it is one of the most ancient customs of the Christian Church, dating back to a period which is lost in the obscurity of early Christian history. It begins with Ash-Wednesday, so-called because in the early Church it was the custom to sprinkle the heads of penitents with the ashes of the palms, which were burned after Palm Sunday of the previous Lent. These ashes, following the ancient Jewish symbolism, were a sign of sorrow for sin.

Lent culminates in Good Friday, and ends on Eastern Even, followed by the gladness and rejoicing of Easter Day, on which the Resurrection of our Lord, after His crucifixion and death, is celebrated.

"The word 'Lent' is the Anglo-Saxon for 'Spring,' that being about the season of the year upon which it usually falls. Its time is determined by Easter, which is determined by the March new moon. The season itself is an expression of the universal need, felt by all Christian people, and indeed by humanity in general, for special seasons of revival of the spiritual life and for self-examination and awakening the consciences of the indifferent. No communion in Christendom is without its special seasons of revival and denial, when religion is the matter of first interest.

What those churches that celebrate the historic season of Lent aim to teach, first of all, in their Lenten services and Lenten acts, is self-control that will enable us to command all of our powers, mental, spiritual and physical; that will discipline those powers and put them absolutely under our control and at our disposition, and so through this self-control to reach spiritual fitness—that fitness of mind, spirit and body that will enable us to do efficiently and satisfactorily and successfully the work that we are to do for the glory of God and for the welfare of our fellow-men.

## MURDER, ROBBERY AND ARSON IS INDICATED

PISTOL SHOT HEARD AND STORE WAS FOUND IN FLAMES

Charlotte, N. C., Feb. 25.—A charged body, believed to be that of Clerk Preston Lyerly, and the statements of citizens who were attracted to Smith-deal's store at Barbers Junction, N. C., by a pistol shot at 8 o'clock, go to indicate that a safe was robbed, murder probably committed and the store fired by the robbers at that place tonight.

The first to arrive on the scene say two boxes were against the front door of the building, the safe door was open and a lamp turned low gleaming feebly on the floor beside it, while flames were spreading from the rear of the place all over the store. No attempt was made to see if the contents of the safe had been tampered with, but in the limited time a hurried search was made for Lyerly who was supposed to have been in the store.

He could not be found, but by the light of the embers when the building was in ashes a body was found in what had been the back part of the building. This is supposed to be that of Lyerly, as it is practically certain that he was in the store at 8 o'clock.

No examination was made of the safe tonight. Sheriff McKennis with deputies from Salisbury are searching for a clue to the robbers, if such there were, but the affair tonight is a seemingly impenetrable mystery.

Mrs. Lamar, the handsome young wife of former Congressman William S. Lamar of Georgia, has returned to Washington with her husband and they will make that city their home.



## LIEUTENANT BECKER IS GRANTED NEW TRIAL

Trial Judge Goff Erred In Many Of His Rulings—Much Interest Manifested In Case

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 24.—The conviction of Charles Becker, a former New York Police lieutenant, of the murder of Herman Rosenthal was reversed and the convictions of the four gunmen for the same crime was affirmed today by the court of appeals.

Justice Goff, the court held, erred in many of his rulings in Becker's trial and appeared to be prejudicial in his attitude toward the defendant. The reversal was based solely on test grounds. No attempt was made by the court to say whether the weight of evidence against Becker was sufficient to warrant his conviction. It was pointed out, however, that the testimony against him was given by witnesses of low class, and as much of it was open to doubt, he therefore was entitled to a fairer trial than he received.

All of the seven members of the court, except Judge Werner, who acted as presiding judge when the appeal was argued, concurred in the prevailing Becker opinion which was written by Judge Hiscock. In a dissenting opinion Judge Werner said that the main contentions of the State had been amply proven to warrant conviction.

Schepps Case Not Settled. The much mooted question as to the status of Sam Schepps, who, the jury

in the Becker case decided, was not an accomplice to the crime, still is unsettled. The prevailing opinion merely said there was no doubt in the minds of some of the court as to the propriety of excluding Schepps as an accomplice.

The decision in the case of the four gunmen, "Gyp the Blood," "Whitey" Lewis, "Dago Frank" and "Lefty Louie" was unanimous. They had averred that the evidence against them was insufficient to warrant conviction and that the court had erred in handling their cases, but these contentions were held to be groundless.

The date for the execution of the gunmen soon will be fixed by the Court. Regarding Sam Schepps, the opinion said:

"While the presiding justice permitted the jury to find that Schepps was not an accomplice of Rose and the others, and therefore guilty like them, of the murder of Rosenthal, some of the members of the court believe that the finding was opposed to the overwhelming weight of the evidence."

Attention was called to the fact that Becker never was directly connected with the crime, but that the testimony of the others who were jointly suspected convicted him.

## COLLECTOR KEITH'S JOB TO BE GIVEN ANOTHER

SECRETARY MCADOO WILL BE ASKED TO REMOVE HIM AT ONCE.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 25.—Either tomorrow or next day, providing an engagement can be made, Senator Simmons and Representative Godwin will call on Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo and ask that Collector of Customs B. F. Keith, of Wilmington, be removed from office and that Col. Walker Taylor be appointed in his place. It is believed the change will be made within the next ten days, perhaps earlier.

Col. Taylor has already been recommended for Keith's job, and as he is a gentleman of unquestionable standing, there is little doubt that he will be named in short order. Col. Taylor has been recommended by Senators Simmons and Overman, every member of the State delegation in the House and by hundreds of other loyal Democrats.

Collector Keith stated while in Washington several months ago that he would resign any time his resignation was asked for. It is believed the request will be forthcoming shortly.

## ANOTHER NEW BERN MAN IS MENTIONED

Washington, Feb. 25.—It is a good guess to say that Thomas Warren, a lawyer of New Bern, will succeed Charles A. Webb as chairman of the State Democratic Committee. He is able and has friends high up in North Carolina Democratic circles. He has friends in Washington who would like to see him elected chairman.

## DUPLIN MAN DRINKS POISON BY ACCIDENT

ALBERT SMITH DRANK CARBOLIC ACID, MISTAKING IT FOR WHISKEY.

Kinston, Feb. 25.—News reaches this city of the unintentional suicide of Albert Smith, a farmer of Duplin county. Smith had been on a protracted drinking spree, during which he visited relatives here. Returning home, he took a swallow from a bottle of carbolic acid, probably mistaking it for whiskey. Although he lived 20 minutes he was not fully conscious afterwards and could make no coherent statement. It is believed that Smith's mind was not right when he drank the acid. He was 35 years of age, a successful planter, and owner of a considerable estate in the vicinity of Resaca. He was a member of the Presbyterian church and a Woodman of the World. A widow and four children survive.

The corporation commission, on complaint of the town officials at LaGrange, has ordered work on the depot being built for the Norfolk Southern railroad there held up until investigation can be made of the protest that the foundation of the building projects into the street past the building line.

In meetings and by canvassing members of Queen street Methodist church here raised nearly \$5,300 at the rate of \$100 a minute to abolish the church debt of \$6,000.

Negro prisoners on the second floor of the Lenoir county jail set fire to a blanket and caused a little excitement and much smoke yesterday. The inmates were threatened with suffocation when the jailer extinguished the blaze.

## THE RED TAG SALE BEGINS THIS MORNING

READY WEAR GARMENT COMPANY OFFER SOME REMARKABLE VALUES

Down at the Ready Wear Garment Company's store on Pollock street a Red Tag sale is in progress and hundreds of ready to wear garments have been placed on sale at prices which are so low that they cannot but seem ridiculous.

This sale means the closing out of many beautiful suits and coats several times worth the price for which they are to be sold. There are sport coats ladies coats and suits, etc., at prices which cannot but attract the purchaser.

The Red Tag Sale is so called because on every garment will be found two tags, a red one and a white one. On the white tag is marked the former price while on the red one is to be found the sale price. Prospective purchasers of coats and suits would do well to visit the Ready Wear Garment Company's store today and any day this week.

## FUGITIVE CAPTURED

Chief Lupton Picks Up Fleeing Negro

Chief of Police C. Lupton again displayed his remarkable talent as a detective late Tuesday night when he placed under arrest a colored man whom it is believed is wanted at Dunn, N. C., on a charge of carrying a concealed weapon.

A day or two ago Chief Lupton received a message from the authorities at Dunn asking him to be on the lookout for Smith and a description of him was furnished. Since that time the officers have been watching for the fugitive and it was Chief Lupton's good fortune to pick him up on Middle street Tuesday night.

The Dunn officials have been notified of the arrest and an officer is expected to arrive here this morning to take Smith in charge.

## COLD WEATHER CAUSES BAKES TO BE DEFEERED

Owing to the disagreeable weather the ladies of Christ Parish Guild have deferred beginning service of "bakes" until Saturday week March 7th, when they will have on sale a variety of good things cakes, jellies, deserts of different kind, candy, beaten biscuits etc. The ladies hope the public will remember the date and they ask for a liberal patronage.

## CHAS. E. EMMERT NO LONGER SUPT. ROPER LBR. CO.

Resigned To Accept Position In Louisiana

LEFT THIS CITY LAST NIGHT

Presented With Handsome Loving Cup By Officers and Employees Of Company

Charles E. Emmert who has for the past three and a half years been the superintendent of the local plant of the John L. Roper Lumber Co. has resigned from this position and left last night for Chicago, Ill. from which place he will in a few days go to Louisiana where he has accepted a position with a large lumbering manufacturing concern.

During the time that he has been in charge of the Roper Lumber Company's plant at this point Mr. Emmert has won the love and esteem of every member of the office force and in fact every man in the employ of the company and it is with regret that they see him depart for a new field.

Attesting their esteem the officers and employes of the company yesterday presented Mr. Emmert with a handsome silver loving cup. The cup is a thing of real beauty and on one side is inscribed the following inscription: "Presented to Charles E. Emmert by the officers and employes of the John L. Roper Lumber Company as a token of their love and respect." The presentation was made in the office yesterday afternoon and this was crowded with the officers and many of the employes who had assembled to bid Mr. Emmert farewell.

The cup was presented to Mr. Emmert by William Dunn, Jr., and his remarks were well timed and appropriate. In response Mr. Emmert said that it was with regret that he was leaving for a new field but that his thoughts would always be with the men at the New Bern plant of the Roper Lumber Company.

Not only has Mr. Emmert won the esteem of his fellow workers but has gained a wide circle of friends since coming to New Bern to make his home and the city regrets to lose him and his family. Mrs. Emmert will leave in a few days to join her husband in their new home.

A. T. Gerrans of Louisiana has arrived in New Bern and has assumed the position as superintendent of the Roper Lumber Company's plant.

## TWO THOUSAND PAIRS OF SHOES WERE SOLD

STANDARD SHOE COMPANY'S SPECIAL SALE A BIG SUCCESS

Two thousand pairs of shoes, comprising almost every style, shape and color, is a remarkably large number of shoes to be disposed of in one day's time, but an even larger number than this were disposed of yesterday by the Standard Shoe Company at their special sale which was begun yesterday morning.

Promptly at 9 o'clock the doors of the establishment were thrown open long before that hour prospective purchasers had begun to congregate in front of the store and when the doors were finally opened there was a rush for the bargain counters.

There are more than ten thousand pairs of shoes in this store and every pair must be sold as the managers have decided to get rid of the stock which was in the store when the sale started and some real values await New Bern people.

## PROFESSOR T. B. ATTMORE TO RICHMOND

Professor T. B. Attmore, of Stone-wall, who is county superintendent of public instruction of Pamlico county, was here yesterday on his way to the educational meeting in Richmond.

C. E. Harrington passed through the city yesterday enroute from Newport to Jacksonville.