

LURED OVER RIVER AND SHOT TO DEATH

VERGARA KILLED BY BAND OF FEDERALERS AFTER THEY HAD CROSSED INTO TEXAS.

COLQUITT WIRES TO BRYAN

Texas Governor Denies Intention to Invade Mexico, But Wants to Apprehend the Murderers.

Austin, Texas.—Ranger Captain J. J. Sanders, reporting to Gov. O. B. Colquitt, made the direct charge that Clemente Vergara, an American ranchman, was shot to death while in the custody of Mexican federal troops, ostensibly en route from the jail at Hidalgo to federal headquarters at Piedras Negras, Mexico. Governor Colquitt telegraphed Secretary of State Bryan asking what method should be followed in an effort to apprehend those responsible for the killing of Vergara.

Captain Sanders, in his report, said: "Will advise that on the morning of February 13, five federal soldiers under command of Apolonio Rodriguez crossed the Rio Grande to an island belonging to the United States, taking therefrom eleven horses belonging to Clemente Vergara, carrying them to the Mexican side of the river. In passing the house of Vergara, which stands on the banks of the river on the Texas side, one of the men went to the river and called to Vergara, requesting him to come across the river, as the captain wanted to arrange with him about paying for the horses.

"Vergara and a nephew of his crossed in a skiff to the Mexican side, where two more men came to the water's edge, leaped into the skiff and struck him three blows on the head with a pistol, dragging him to the bank and carrying him to Hidalgo. On Sunday at 2 a. m. he was taken from the Hidalgo jail and started with guards ostensibly to Piedras Negras, but was shot to death after proceeding only a short distance. Vergara was born and reared in Webb county, Texas, and I am informed that he had a pass to cross the river, signed by Sheriff Sanchez, of Webb county, and Garza Galan."

The text of Governor Colquitt's telegram to Secretary Bryan was:

"Your telegram in answer to the one sent by me to the president is received. I do not want to invade Mexico with a military force. I asked your co-operation in maintaining the rights and dignity of this state and your consent to allow me to send state rangers, who are peace officers, in pursuit of those who are constantly transgressing our laws. Again I ask the president to advise me who is recognized by him as the constituted authority in Mexico. I repeat the inquiry and ask who you recognize as constituted in the state of Nuevo Leon, as I desire to present requisitions to the proper authorities of that state for the surrender of fugitives from Texas justice, notably those responsible for the theft of Clemente Vergara's property and his subsequent murder."

FAVOR COTTON SALES BILL

Measure Would Require Specification of Grades With Standard.

Washington.—The senate committee on agriculture and forestry submitted a favorable report on the bill introduced last spring by Senator Smith of South Carolina, to regulate the selling of cotton. The bill, designed to reform the rules and regulations of the New York and New Orleans cotton exchanges, would require any person or corporation in the making of an offer for future delivery of cotton, to specify the grade or grades contracted for. The secretary of agriculture would be required to standardize the grades of "upland" and "gulf" cotton separately, "gulf" cotton not to include anything below the grade of "good ordinary" or above "middling fair."

The bill further would require that in dealing with long-staple cotton the length of the staple shall be designated in all contracts and deliveries must be made according to contract.

Any dealings in violation of this system would be punishable by a fine not to exceed \$5,000 or imprisonment for not more than a year or both.

Two Guilty in Everglades Lottery.

Kansas City, Mo.—R. H. Martin and Joseph Borders, Kansas City, Mo., of the Florida Fruit & Produce company, pleaded guilty in the federal court at Kansas City to the charges of conspiracy and the conducting of a lottery in the sale of lands in the Everglades of Florida. Judge Van Valkenburgh reserved sentence. Martin and Borders were indicted with six other officers and agents of the lands company last November on the general charge of misuse of the mails. It was charged they misrepresented lands sold.

Freight Rate Case Postponed.

New Orleans, La.—The Georgia rates case, involving injunctions secured by the Atlantic Coast Line, the Southern railway and the Central of Georgia against freight rate reduction ordered by the Georgia railroad commission, were set by the United States court of appeals in session at New Orleans for hearing in April before the court in session in Atlanta circuit. Judge Pardo, Judge Newman of the northern district of Georgia and Judge Grubb of Alabama, will hear the cases in Atlanta.

SCENE OF CASTILLO'S HORRIBLE CRIME



This is the south entrance of the Cumbre tunnel which Castillo, the Mexican bandit, set afire, causing the death of a number of men. In the photograph an engine is seen drawing out the wreckage of the train that ran into the blazing tunnel.

7,465 BANKS ENTER SYSTEM

INSTITUTIONS THAT HAVE NOT COME IN NEW SYSTEM ARE SMALL.

Less Than Fifty National Banks Failed to Respond—Some State Banks.

Washington.—The new federal reserve system will begin business with a membership of seven thousand four hundred and sixty-five banks. This was known when, at the close of the last day on which the national banks could signify their intention of accepting the terms of the currency law, less than fifty of the 7,493 national banks of the country had failed to respond favorably. More than enough state institutions had applied for membership to bring the total to 7,465.

Official count of the banks and tabulation of their resources and liabilities will begin at the treasury department.

Most of the institutions that have not come into the new system are comparatively small, and it is estimated that 97 per cent. of all the capital and resources in the present national bank system is represented by those whose applications are in.

VILLA'S STORY OF KILLING

Rebel Leader Says Englishman Tried to Take His Life.

Chihuahua, Mexico.—General Villa's story of the killing of William S. Benton, told to reporters here, differs but little from the official statement given out at Juarez.

The Juarez statement declared that when Benton reached for his hip pocket Villa knocked him down with a blow of the fist. Villa said that when Benton made this move he poked his own pistol into Benton's stomach and then turned him over to the guards.

Villa insisted that Benton came to take his life, and referred to Benton's mission concerning the welfare of his ranch as a pretext to gain admittance. According to Villa, Benton, after the verdict of the court-martial, confessed his guilt and declined to ask for mercy. He merely requested that his property be turned over to his widow.

Mississippi Race Riot.

Robinsonville, Miss.—There were no indications here of further trouble between whites and negroes after the race riot, in which a white woman and two negroes were killed. White men, said to have been incensed by noise a score or more negroes made, formed a posse to arrest them. The negroes, it was claimed, began shooting and Love fell dead. In the exchange of shots two negroes were killed. The white men retreated when their ammunition was exhausted and the negroes fled.

19 Persons Poisoned.

Birmingham, Ala.—Every physician at Mountain Creek, a small town south of this place, was at work to prevent death to any of the 19 persons poisoned from eating "soused meat." Several traveling men to whom the meat was served at a hotel were among those taken ill. The meat was distributed by a local market man who had purchased it from a farmer. Town authorities are investigating the cause, but have reached no decision as yet.

BECKER MAY BE FREED

COURT DECISION PROBABLY MEANS BECKER CASE WILL BE DISMISSED.

Decision Alleges That Goff Was Unfair in His Treatment of Becker.

New York.—The conviction of former Police Lieutenant Charles Becker of the murder of the gambler, Herman Rosenthal, was annulled by the courts of appeals at Albany, the highest court in the state. He is entitled to a new trial, but it seemed probable that he might go free without facing a second ordeal. It was made known that District Attorney Charles S. Whitman believes that under the prevailing opinion handed down by the court, conviction a second time will be impossible.

Appeals taken by the four gunmen, "Whitey" Lewis, "Lefty" Louie, "Gyp the Blood" and "Dago Frank," convicted as actual murderers of Rosenthal, and whom Becker was accused of having fastigated to commit the crime, were not sustained and they will have to die in the electric chair, probably in March, except in the event of executive clemency.

Ossining, N. Y.—"It's a long lane that has no turning," Charles Becker said in the "death house" of Sing Sing prison, when he received news of the court's decision.

WOMEN BRAVE SNOW TO VOTE

Thousands of Them Took Part in Primaries at Chicago.

Chicago.—Thousands of Chicago women had their first real experience in Chicago with the ballot box and took part in the actual nomination of candidates for the city council. In wards in which women candidates were running in opposition to men for places in the city council, the women candidates toured the wards and hustled for votes in approved political fashion.

A snowstorm early in the day delayed many voters, and a movement fostered by many suffrage leaders, who believed that women should not formally ally themselves with any specific party, kept hundreds from voting at the primaries.

Jim Conley Is Convicted.

Atlanta.—Jim Conley begins the serving of a year's sentence on the charge of being accessory after the fact in the murder of Mary Phagan by Dr. Frank Conley took his sentence locally. He smiled when he was told by his attorney that he "had got off light." The second day's developments in the sordid trial proceedings in which Conley was principal were not sensational.

Eyes of Slain Girl Photographed.

Aurora, Ill.—Yielding to persons who have faith in some of superstition, the authorities here have photographed the eyes of Theresa Hollander. State's Attorney Tyler admitted this, saying that it was the belief of many that the retina of a murdered person retains the image of the murderer. But whether the negative held by the authorities showed anything of this nature was not revealed by the state's attorney. Neither did he say whether it would be introduced as evidence in slugging to death of Miss Hollander.

WEST IS NAMED GEORGIA SENATOR

APPOINTEE ONE OF BEST KNOWN MEN OF SOUTHERN GEORGIA.

WILL FINISH BACON'S TERM

Has Been Prominently Identified With Politics in the State for Many Years.

Atlanta.—Governor Slaton appointed William Stanley West of Valdosta, one of the best known men in the state, to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator A. O. Bacon, whose death occurred in Washington, February 14.

Governor Slaton did not write any formal announcement. He merely walked out into the reception room saw that the newspapers were all represented and spoke one word: "West!"

In an instant the news traveled throughout the capitol and was flashed to all parts of the city and state.

Commenting on the appointment, Governor Slaton said:

"It was only a moment ago that I came to a definite decision. Any time up to five minutes ago I was free to change my mind. I had told no one of my intention."

Colonel West was naturally gratified when he heard the news of his appointment.

When seen after the statement had been made at the capitol that the governor had appointed him, Mr. West said:

"I have been in Atlanta for several days, but I have not obtruded myself upon the governor. After the burial of Senator Bacon my friends not only from all parts of south Georgia, but throughout the state, notified me that they would present my claims to the governor. Many of them asked me to meet them in Atlanta for a conference on the situation and I have been here for a few days with that end in view. I was impressed from the beginning that this was a south Georgia appointment and my friends were good enough to take the position that I was the man for the place. Frankly I do not know whether I am or not, but I do know that I have at all times been a loyal and a zealous supporter of Governor Slaton and that I have been unflinching in my zeal in behalf of the section of the state from which I come. I have never let my enthusiasm in behalf of south Georgia lessen my advocacy of what I believe to be for the best interests of the state at large and I consider myself fortunate in having as many friends in the upper part of the state as I have in the section around my home county."

William Stanley West, the oldest surviving son of James and Mary A. West, is a leading member of the Lowndes county bar, with residence and office in the city of Valdosta. He was born in Marion county, Georgia, August 23, 1849; was educated in Mercer university, where he graduated with the degree of bachelor of arts, subsequently receiving the degree of master of arts from the same institution, completing his education when he was 33 years of age. While a student there he was honored with the presidency of the Cleronian Literary society and was anniversary of that society in 1880.

In the early portion of his business life he was engaged in teaching, continuing in this occupation for some time after leaving college. He was then identified with sawmilling and lumbering interests, as well as other enterprises, after which he graduated in the law department of Mercer university, and was admitted to the bar upon completing his course.

From 1892 to 1897 he served as a member of the lower house of the state legislature, and in 1898-99 was a member of the state senate. In 1900 he declined a return to the lower house, but was elected to that body in 1902 and served until 1904. In 1905-06 he was again returned to the state senate without opposition, and was then elected president of that body. In 1908, he was sent as a delegate at large from the state of Georgia to the national Democratic convention, held at Denver, Col.

Snow Throughout the South. Atlanta.—Atlanta was in the grip of the most persistent snowstorm she has had in years. The snow was by no means confined to Atlanta, but on the contrary Atlanta was one of the last cities which the blizzard visited. Snow fell in Charleston, Savannah and the cities of the mountain sections before it began to fall in Atlanta. The snow stretched its blanket over the entire south all the way from Richmond to New Orleans, leaving out only a small part of Florida and possibly a few isolated spots here and yonder.

Canadian Pacific Won't Use Canal.

Washington.—Assurances that the Canadian Pacific railroad has no intention of attempting to evade the provision of the Panama canal act barring railroad-owned ships from the canal, reached Washington through official channels. With this assurance came a further declaration that the Canadian Pacific would not send its fleets through the canal even if there were no question about its right to do so, because the company's officials could see no advantage in changing present routes.

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