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## Fisher and O'Day.

**Question as to Whether They Are to be Kept in Jail or Sent to Penitentiary, Pending Appeal, Submitted to Governor.**

Having, by letter, submitted to Gov. Heyward the question as to whether Fisher and O'Day shall be kept in the jail here or sent to the penitentiary, pending their appeal to the Supreme court, Sheriff Hunter received yesterday the following reply from his excellency:

Hon. Jno. P. Hunter, Sheriff,  
Lancaster County,  
Lancaster, S. C.

My Dear Captain:

I am in receipt of yours, 18th inst., which has been duly considered.

Replying, beg to say that it has been my custom to order prisoners brought to the penitentiary only when I am convinced that the jail, in which they are being confined, is unsafe or that the prisoners are in danger of violence. If you make a statement to me that in your opinion the Lancaster County jail is unsafe, I will have you bring Fisher and O'Day to the penitentiary.

As regards keeping your prisoners in a cage in the jail, I am under the impression that these cages are kept in the county jails for the purpose of confining the prisoners, who are of such a desperate character that in the judgment of the Sheriff it is unwise to give them the run of the jail. If Fisher and O'Day are men of such character, in my opinion you have a perfect right to keep them so confined.

If I can serve you further in this matter I will be glad to hear from you. Very truly yours,  
D. C. Heyward,  
Governor.

Upon the receipt of the foregoing letter Sheriff Hunter sent the Governor the following:

"In reply to your favor of yesterday's date, I would state that in my judgment, the Lancaster jail is unsafe to keep safe crackers or any desperate violators of the law, unless kept in the iron cage, in which I now have the safe-crackers, John Fisher and Charles O'Day.

To keep these prisoners in this cage away from fire by which they may warm during cold weather, may be detrimental to their health, and for this reason, as well as some other reasons stated in my communication to you of the 18th, inst., I would be glad to be instructed to place them in the penitentiary, there to be kept while the appeal is pending, etc."

Ladd Mobley has accepted a position as manager of D. A. Hurley's office in Kershaw and left Monday morning to take charge of the office.—Rock Hill Herald.

## Ugly Charge.

**Against White Man in Columbia--Identified by Young Lady as Party who Attempted to Assault Her--The Accused in Jail.**

The State, Oct. 19th.

An attempted assault upon a young lady, a daughter of one of the well known families of the county, led to the arrest yesterday afternoon of Dan Slocum, a white man who has recently come to Columbia to engage in the feather renovating business with the National Cleaning company.

Slocum and one of his associates, Joe Elam, were arrested at Strickland's livery stables on Taylor street on a warrant sworn out before Magistrate Lykes. The arrests were made by Mr. Lykes, W. S. Green, acting as his constable, and Patrolman Lamb of the police force.

The attack upon the young lady is alleged to have been made at her home in the county about 12 miles from the city on Tuesday. It was not allowed to become known until yesterday, when after a conference of the young lady's relatives the warrant was drawn and the arrest followed within an hour afterwards. Slocum was taken immediately to the police station and when the young lady arrived and he was ushered into her presence she identified him immediately and positively. Later in the afternoon the prisoner was turned over to the custody of the sheriff and was placed in the county jail, where he now is.

It is said that Slocum and a young man named Cooper were in the country canvassing for work. They drove up to the home of the young lady's father and Slocum going up to the door, where he was met by the young lady, told her what his business was and asked if she had any such work to be done. Some discussion of the matter followed and Slocum was invited into the house to examine the articles to be renovated. The young lady was alone at home and when they entered the room Slocum is said to have seized her but her resistance was so determined that she broke away from him and escaped. The man then left the house and drove away.

The arrest of Dan Slocum on the charge of criminal assault yesterday brought about the arrest of all of his associates in the cleaning or renovating company with which he is connected, except one who could not be found in the city up to midnight last night. The men arrested besides Slocum are R. A. Eubanks and Joe Elam. The fourth man who has not yet been arrested is Alvin Johnson. The two named are being held at police headquarters until certain information now in possession of the police can be investigated. Elam is the only one of the men who is married. He and his wife are boarding at the corner of Plain and Sumter streets but the boarding place of the others could not be learned.

## Court Proceedings.

**Sessions Business Ended and Civil Cases being Heard--Chiefly Damage Suits Against Railroads.**

The case against Henry Pratt for killing old man Simeon Morgan was being tried when THE NEWS went to press last Tuesday evening. The jury rendered a verdict of acquittal.

The sentence imposed on Fisher and O'Day, convicted of safe cracking, was 15 years in the penitentiary. As previously noted, the case will be carried up to the Supreme court.

The court of Common Pleas was opened Wednesday morning. The following cases have been disposed of: A. W. Heath Company vs J. G. Howie, action for claim and delivery of personal property—verdict for the defendant.

J. A. Hasseltine vs. Southern Railway, an action for damages on account of detention at Burroughs, Ga., for not having a health certificate; verdict for \$1000. The defendant company has given notice of motion for a new trial.

Home Fire Insurance Company of New York and Leroy Springs & Co. vs Carolina Division of the Southern Railway, action for loss sustained by reason of cotton fire at Lancaster depot a few months ago; verdict for plaintiffs for \$766.

A suit by S. A. Broom against the Seaboard Air Line for damages sustained in alighting from defendant's train at Vanwyck was being tried yesterday afternoon.

## New Telegraph Company.

**Lancaster One of the Points to which the Eastern Telegraph Co. will Extend its Lines.**

Charlotte News.

A company to be known as the Eastern Telegraph Company has applied to the State of South Carolina for a charter to conduct a commercial telegraph business in that State.

The Eastern Telegraph Company will by means of a simplex appliance, operate over the private telephone line of the Catawba Power Company between this city and Rock Hill, S. C. The simplex arrangement to be used is a get up of Mr. W. O. Gaffney, which is of very simple construction, but splendid results can be obtained.

The Eastern Telegraph Company has made arrangements with the Postal Telegraph Company to connect with the lines of the Postal Company at Charlotte and an office will be opened for business in Rock Hill within the next two or three weeks or just as soon as the necessary arrangements can be perfected.

It is the intention of the Eastern Telegraph Company to extend its line to Chester, Lancaster and Yorkville, S. C., within the course of a few months.

## Mysterious Affair.

**Peculiar Conduct of a Stranger at Osceola--Suddenly Disappears while Waiting on Train--Leaves a Fine Overcoat, with Bloody Shirt, Among Other Things, in Pockets.**

A rather remarkable incident occurred last Tuesday at Osceola, a station in this county on the Seaboard Air Line.

About 2 o'clock in the afternoon a stranger, a well dressed young white man, who came walking the railroad track from the direction of Waxhaw, approached some hands who were grading a side-track at the station and asked them if there was a postoffice nearby. They directed him to the building not far off, where he accordingly went. On entering the office he asked the postmaster, Mr. W. R. Gordon, who is also the railroad agent, for a stamp, which was given him, he at the same time handing Mr. Gordon a nickel. After receiving his change the stranger asked several questions as to when a train would be due, Mr. Gordon telling him that a train going north would arrive at 5.20.

About this time Mr. J. A. Gregory, the contractor from whose hands the stranger had gotten directions to the office, walked in and joined in the conversation. The stranger became restless, would not sit down but kept walking about the room in an excited manner. His hat was pulled down over his eyes and he would occasionally cast furtive glances at Messrs. Gordon and Gregory, never at any time looking directly at them.

After repeating several times his questions about trains, the man finally asked Mr. Gordon for permission to leave his overcoat—a nice new one—with him while he stepped outside for a moment.

Nothing has been seen of the stranger since, and his overcoat is still at Osceola.

The next morning Mr. Gordon's attention was directed by some one to the fact that flies were swarming over the coat; whereupon an examination was made of it. In the pockets were found a sweater, three freshly laundered collars and a gentleman's dress shirt, which had apparently been worn once or twice. The right side of the shirt, extending from the collar downward, was saturated with blood, as though the wearer had been cut or stabbed in the neck. It was the bloody shirt that had attracted the flies. There is no mark on any of the garments indicating the name of the owner.

The mysterious stranger is described as a man about 25 years old, 5ft 8 inches high, clean shaven and with dark sandy hair.

## A Burning Question.

**The Condition of the Public Roads in the County--They Need Work and Plenty of It--Strong Appeal to the Proper Authorities to Get Busy.**

I see the grand jury has again called attention to the bad condition of our public roads and reported our Supervisor for not carrying out the law in having them worked; "and here the matter ends," says the people. Our roads are bad, too bad, and I don't believe there is a man in the county that wants to see them improved and made good worse than myself. This is my excuse, for about ten articles that I have written on "Our Roads," and this will be my excuse to write until somebody has them worked. Our roads have been worked less than one day a year for the last ten years and now they are needing a little work.

I have lately traveled in Union, Chesterfield, Kershaw, Fairfield and Chester counties, and I find the roads in each one of the adjoining counties being improved, and why not in Lancaster county too?

If a hand fails to work, the overseer reports him; if an overseer fails to work, the Supervisor reports him; if a supervisor fails to work, the grand jury reports him, and here the matter ends. We have about twenty six hundred men subject to road duty in our county, and the law I am told requires 4 days a year for each hand; now our roads have not been worked but about one half day a year (or "less than one day") for the past ten years. Let us see for a minute what we have lost—taking a hand to be worth 50 cents a day. Twenty-six hundred hands three days a year amounts to 3900 dollars a year, and for ten years, thirty-nine thousand dollars. This is why our roads are so much worse than the roads of other counties.

We are losing about four thousand dollars worth of work a year that the law requires. It would pay our county richly to pay our sheriff one thousand dollars a year extra to see that our roads are worked according to law. To work our roads will benefit every class of people in our county, but the farming class especially, and will not hurt anybody.

I call upon the road hands, the overseers, Supervisor, and our county authorities to help get better roads—and in addition to general improvements would like to see some permanent road building going on.

T. M. Belk.

For results, advertise in the Lancaster News.