

WEBER'S WRONG-DOING.

WHILE SCHOOL COMMISSIONER OF CHARLESTON COUNTY

He Forged and Defrauded—A Life of Much Promise Blasted—The Superintendent of Education's Damning Report—The Amount of Shortage.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 15.—Last summer Mr. John L. Weber, of Charleston, who had been living in that city for many years, engaged in editorial work on the News and Courier, was elected to a chair in Trinity College, North Carolina. He resigned his position as school commissioner of Charleston County and his position on the News and Courier, and left Charleston standing high in the estimation of the people of that city. He was known to the world as a high toned, honorable and high cultivated man. He was well known throughout South Carolina and every one was sorry to see him leave, though all were glad to know of his rise in life.

It did not take long, however, for the terrible blow, which like the sword of Damocles, hung over the young man's head, to fall. About two months ago he came with crushing force, when it became known to the State authorities that something was wrong in the office which Mr. Weber had vacated. An investigation was started and soon the worst was ascertained. The facts have been known to the general public for weeks, before giving them to the public. About a week ago Mr. Weber returned to the State and went to Charleston upon the advice of his friends. Yesterday Superintendent of Education Mayfield, who has been investigating the matter, returned to the city and submitted to Governor Tillman the following report, which the Governor gave the press for publication. It tells the story of Mr. Weber's downfall in detail.

State of South Carolina, Executive Department, Office of State Superintendent of Education, Columbia, S. C., February 13, 1894.

Gov. B. R. Tillman, Columbia, S. C.

Dear Sir: Under the law county school commissioners are required to report to the State Superintendent of Education by the first day of October of each year, among other things, the amount of money collected and expended for schools during the year.

On the 3rd day of October, 1893, John L. Weber, who had been acting as school commissioner of Charleston county, filed his annual report with me, which showed the expenditures for the year to be in excess of the receipts. Being dissatisfied with the report, I sought an explanation. Mr. Weber has resigned and left the State to accept a position in Trinity College, located at Durham, N. C., and F. Horton Colcock has been appointed by you as his successor. Mr. Colcock was unable from the records in his office to explain the discrepancy I therefore prepared blanks and sent them to the school trustees of that county for the purpose of obtaining the desired information. In making up these reports, a discrepancy was discovered in the school warrants.

Mr. Weber has made a statement of the school commissioner's office, and find that this particular warrant has been raised from \$7.05 to \$97.05, by inserting the figure 9 in the margin in front of the figure 7, and writing the word ninety in the margin in the body of the warrant. I also find other warrants that have been raised, and others that were issued for labor not performed, and for school supplies and furniture that were not furnished.

The warrant for \$7.05, raised to \$97.05, above referred to, was drawn on "Isaac Hammond or order." The correctness of the claim is sworn to by him before the chairman of the board of school trustees issuing it, and both of them say the warrant was issued for \$7.05, and that amount was actually due. Isaac Hammond is a merchant of good financial standing and reputation, and engaged in business on Broad street, in the city of Charleston. He says that he turned the claim over to Mr. Weber to be countersigned by him as school commissioner, and that Mr. Weber brought his \$7.05 in cash, the amount due him. The warrant was certainly raised before it was presented to the county treasurer, Geo. H. Walker, for payment for it was paid by him. The check drawn in favor of "Isaac Hammond or order" for \$97.05. The check was presented to and paid by the Charleston Bank, Isaac Hammond's name being endorsed on the back of the check. The money was paid to the bank, who paid the money endorsed on the back of the check in blue pencil that he had paid it to John L. Weber. Mr. Hammond says that the endorsement of his name on the back of the check is a forgery and the signature in the bank say it is not his signature. The changes in the warrant appear to be in the handwriting of Mr. Weber. There was issued payable to "Isaac Hammond or order" another school warrant for \$60.00 which was raised to \$68.50. This warrant took very much the same course as the other above referred to, and the changes in it appear to be in Mr. Weber's hand.

The amount of a third school warrant issued to Walker, Evans & Cogswell, and they paid him \$60.00 in cash, which they charged to him on the account. On June 17, 1893, the additional purchases amounting to \$21.21. Adding the \$25.02, the \$60.00 and the \$51.21 together we have \$137.13, the amount of the account. In the meantime he paid \$10.25. On June 17 a fourth school warrant was issued to Walker, Evans & Cogswell for \$41.88. Adding the \$35.00, the \$10.25 and the \$41.88 together we have \$137.13, exactly balancing the account. There is no way by which I can decide whether this warrant (\$41.88) was raised or not, all figures and body of the warrant all in the hand of Mr. Weber. Purchases continued, and on August 15, 1893, the account amounted to \$8.60. This credited with \$6.50, the price of a school commissioner's book bought of Walker, Evans & Cogswell and charged to Weber, leaving \$2.10 due from the account, but subsequent to that time paid for by the county commissioner. Walker, Evans & Cogswell getting the money and crediting Weber's account with one amount. The \$6.50 taken from the \$2.10 leaving \$4.40 more on the account, no other payment having been made.

The four warrants collected by Walker, Evans & Cogswell and the price of the school commissioner's book, paid for by the county commissioner, (\$66.50, \$59.25, \$85.00, \$41.88) make a total of \$252.63 of public funds paid to them. The total amount of all articles charged on this account, including the school commissioner's book, that were purchased for the public schools, and for which they received the benefit is \$284.75. From the \$252.63 taken and there is left \$32.12 paid out of the public funds to Mr. Weber's private account.

It is, perhaps, but proper for me to say, in this connection, that Walker, Evans & Cogswell do a very large business, and that these transactions occurred in the ordinary run of their business, and that they are wholly innocent of any wrong intention or corrupt dealing, having had confidence in Mr. Weber's honesty.

The county board of examiners of Charleston and Berkeley counties agreed to hold a joint teachers' institute for white teachers in the city of Charleston in the month of July, 1892, each county to bear one-half of the expenses of the institute. The board of examiners of the counties of Charleston and Berkeley and Colleton agreed to hold a joint teachers' institute for colored teachers, to be held during the month of July at Summerville, each county to bear one-third of the expenses. Mr. Weber drew \$200 from the School fund of Charleston as allowed by the law for this purpose. I. D. C. Porcher, school commissioner of Berkeley county, paid over to him \$65 from the public funds of that county, drawn as provided for by law. I sent Mr. Porcher a check for \$30 on the Peabody education fund in my hands for institute purposes, which he turned over to Mr. Weber. I sent Mr. Weber a check for \$60 for Charleston and Berkeley counties, and these accounts, (\$200, \$65, \$30, \$60, and \$355 in Mr. Weber's hands for institute purposes. The cost of the white institute was \$155, and that of the colored \$60, aggregating \$215, which taken from the \$200, leaves \$15 in Mr. Weber's hands unaccounted for.

In 1893 the county boards of examiners of Charleston and Berkeley counties agreed to hold, during the month of June, in the city of Charleston, a joint institute for white teachers, and a joint institute for colored teachers. From the public school funds of Charleston county was drawn \$200, and A. H. DeHay, school commissioner of Berkeley county, paid over to Mr. Weber \$115 from the public school funds of his county, making \$315 in Mr. Weber's hands unaccounted for. The white institute cost \$135, and the colored \$95, making \$230, which taken from the \$315 leaves \$85 in Mr. Weber's hands unaccounted for.

In October, 1891, Mr. Weber drew from the public school funds, on general account, \$138.00 for school vouchers showing for what purposes this money was expended.

In August, 1891, a warrant on the school funds was issued by the trustees of school district No. 1 to Minus Black for \$6 for labor. This warrant was raised to \$16, and the changes seem to be in Mr. Weber's hand.

In February, 1892, a school warrant was issued by the trustees of school district No. 3 to one D. A. Bell for \$9 for school supplies. The supplies were never furnished, and the warrant was raised to \$93.75.

In February, 1892, a school warrant was issued by the trustees of school district No. 2 to one D. A. Bell for \$6 for school supplies. The supplies were never furnished, and the warrant was raised to \$69.45.

In February, 1892, a school warrant was issued by the trustees of school district No. 1 to one D. A. Bell for \$8 for school supplies. The supplies were never furnished, and the warrant was raised to \$89.

In February, 1892, a school warrant was issued by the school trustees of district No. 4 to one S. A. Cunningham for \$6 for school supplies. The supplies were never furnished, and the warrant was raised to \$63.50.

Weber. There are only two schools in this district. Inspection of one of the schools, and information as to what work has been done, and furniture furnished to both, indicates that these claims are without merit, the work not having been performed. A warrant has been sworn out against Weber, charging him with violating the laws of the State, and he was arrested in the city of Charleston on the 6th day of January, instant, and gave bond for his appearance to answer any charges that may be preferred against him in the court of General Sessions for the county of Charleston.

Not being a collecting officer, and having no power to recover the money that has been thus wrongfully taken from the public schools, I therefore respectfully ask that you direct the proper steps to be taken to recover the money. Inquiry elicits the fact that Mr. Weber's bond is good.

While it is foreign to the issues here-at-hand, I beg to mention with attention to the fact that the amount of poll tax collected in Charleston county, while very much in excess of the amount formerly collected, is still very much less than it should be, and to urge that the law be enforced, if possible, against those persons liable to this tax.

Respectfully submitted,
W. D. MAYFIELD,
State Superintendent of Education.

The Work of Winds.

HOUSTON, Tex., Feb. 9.—Last night at the high bridge over White oak Bay, on the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railroad, when the passenger train came along the engine passed safely over, but the baggage and mail car jumped the track and rolled down the embankment, followed by the smoker which landed on top of them. The wreck presented a frightful appearance. Joe Elliott, brakeman, was sent back to flag the freight train, soon due. He had not proceeded a hundred yards when a volley from ambush was fired upon him. The bullets took effect in his body. The crew at work on the train were buried in the cars and faced to go to the flagman's assistance. He, however, crawled, bleeding and wounded back to the train and now lies dying. In the mail car was Low Morris, agent, badly bruised with several bones broken. His first thought was of his mail and he remained in the car until he was rescued by a fireman. His press messenger, was found in his car with his ribs broken and in a critical condition. J. W. Carter, baggage master, injured about the head and internally. A relief train was made up here and sent to the scene. The wounded were brought in and taken to the hospital. Posses are now out on the scene and great excitement prevails.

The Remembrance of an Orphan.

SPARTANBURG, S. C., Feb. 10.—The sudden death of Mr. Joseph Jennings, the founder of the Jennings Orphanage, caused sorrow and regret throughout our county and town. Her history is an unusual one. She was the daughter of Mr. Monseel Jennings, who died at his home near Cedar Springs, about a year ago. While very young she married her husband being killed in the war. She was eighteen years of age when left a widow. A few days later she married Mr. Joseph Jennings. Her health was weak, but a little child was born to her. She died, and her Godson claimed it again however, and dependency seized the mother. One day she heard of an orphan babe in a forlorn condition being at Glenn Springs. She persuaded her husband to take her to see it. They found the little outcast sick, dirty and almost dead. After a short consultation Mr. and Mrs. Jennings decided to take the baby home with them. It soon filled the place in their hearts of their dead baby. From this time Mrs. Jennings gathered the little waifs to her heart and home, and until there were fifteen at the house. Her death, and from this time, the invalid of years standing, was a well woman. Her little cottage had only five rooms but they were kept in spotless condition, and a neater set of children was not to be found in our county. Who will fill her place? She was big-hearted, strong-minded and affectionate in manner—she was a humanitarian.—State.

A Bishop on Trial.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 9.—For the first time in the history of the Catholic church a bishop was arraigned before a civil justice of the peace to answer to the charge of criminal libel preferred by the State. The charge against him was that he had published a libelous article in a paper, and the charge against him was founded on a letter sent to the pastor of Palmyra, notifying the congregation that Father Michael J. Corbett had been suspended and warning all Catholics not to hold communion with him. Bishop Bonomus was represented by a large array of attorneys, while the state attorney sat at the side of the plaintiff, of St. Louis, editor of the Watchman, and famous as an ecclesiastical lawyer. On a motion to quash, Father Phelan, after expounding the canonical law, turned to Bishop Bonomus and, pointing his finger at him, said: "But what we want to show is that this bishop has lied. It was a lie in that he had never suspended Father Corbett." In this strain Father Phelan continued for half an hour, hurling invective after invective at the bishop, who colored at each thrust.

A Divisive Convention.

CHESTER, S. C., Feb. 13.—Charles Jagers and Gus Richards, who were arrested here Saturday night by Police-William Williams for bringing liquor into State were tried today before Trial Justice Leckie. Assistant Attorney General Barber for the State, and Paul Hemphill for the defendants. The case lasted for six hours and the jury stayed in ten or fifteen minutes and brought a verdict of guilty for Gus Richards. People here were not surprised at the verdict as Jagers claimed the liquor and gave the sheriff the key to open it. His sentence was to pay a fine of \$100 or go to jail for thirty days. He was taken to jail to serve his sentence.—Journal.

HERE IS A MESS!

Seems as if The State Tax Machinery is Paralyzed.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 14.—Some bumbling has been done by the last Legislature, it seems, which is liable to cause the State serious trouble. It looks now to a good many who have made a most careful examination of the county government act, passed at the last session of the Legislature, as if it has caused a paralysis of the tax machinery of the State government, as far as the making of assessments for taxation are concerned. The man who drew up the bill, Mr. John Gray Evans, it is supposed, as far as now appears, has made it read so that after January 1, 1895, all the present laws on the subject of making assessments, etc., conflicting with the new act shall be considered repealed, and the officers made away with by the new county supervisors and a county board of road commissioners. Of course existing laws hold good until the date mentioned. So far so good.

The man who prepared the law, however, goes on down to Section 6 and says that all the duties, powers, etc., of the present township boards of assessors are "now and hereby abolished." There have evidently been some serious omissions, and the law as presented is presented of all this ground work machinery being abolished "now," while no other provision is made for any other scheme until January 1, 1895. And in Section 7 the county boards of equalization share the same fate. Then again it conflicts with itself when it provides for the election of a county supervisor and fixes the election at the next general election; requiring in the meantime that the county board of equalization share the same fate. Then again it conflicts with itself when it provides for the election of a county supervisor and fixes the election at the next general election; requiring in the meantime that the county board of equalization share the same fate.

There is only a short time remaining before the township boards will have to act and it is now a serious question greatly puzzling the State officials to what to do. There's no way of getting the Supreme Court to decide upon the matter, and unless that body should consider the repealing clause in the matter of time, as applying to the whole act, every taxpayer could rush into court and play havoc with the government. A prominent man, who is very much concerned in the matter, said yesterday, that it appeared to him that the only remedy was for the Governor to appoint the new boards, but then would come the trouble referred to about the repealing clause.

It is thought that Governor Tillman is for once in his life puzzled and does not yet know what steps to take. Every one seems to be completely at sea as to what construction to place upon the garbled act, and all the officials seem afraid to act, for they cannot tell what will happen if the matter is carried by the courts. It means everything to the State government and is a vitally important matter.

The Sheriff Killed.

WHARTON, TEXAS, Feb. 9.—News has just come to town that Sheriff Hamilton Dickson was killed about 3 o'clock, in company with Sheriff Townsend, of Columbia and Deputies Hope, Hearart and Wells that had located Braddock, the murderer of Constable Townsend at Weimar. While entering a thicket on the east side of the river, about three miles below Rancho Grande, Braddock was suddenly discovered. He began firing at close range upon Sheriff Dickson, who was killed instantly. Immediately one of the posse made short work of Braddock. The murderer was shot and killed in an instant. Mr. Dickson was married only a few weeks ago. Braddock, the dead desperado had been arrested for train robbery and killing two negroes, but released. A few weeks ago he was put, off an excursion train and fired into, for which he was locked up at Weimar. When Constable Townsend went to feed him Braddock cut him to pieces and shot him dead. Constable Hearart returned at 10 o'clock with the news that when H. H. Moore, who had been helping Braddock, was called on to surrender he fired on the officers, but without effect. They returned the fire, killing Moore. The negro who has been supplying Braddock with food was brought in and jailed.

Judge Brawley Gets Congress.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Judge Brawley has served his last day in the 53rd Congress. He is going home to-night, and he will resign as a member of the 1st district of Governor Tillman from Charleston. Yesterday and to-day Judge Brawley has been engaged in taking leave of his many warm friends in the House. The veteran Judge Holman took an affectionate farewell of the Charleston member, throwing his arms around his neck and saying: "Brawley, I sincerely regret that you are going to leave us. I have not always been able to go with you in all the measures you have advocated, but I have taken a strong fancy to you, and I wish you God-speed always." Representatives McCree, Bourke Cockran, Chairman Wilson and, in fact, nearly all of the leading members on both sides of the House are personal friends of Judge Brawley, and they parted with him with profound regret. He has been regarded as one of the staunchest Administration men and was a member of the select committee of fifteen known as the "steering committee" in the House. Judge Brawley will qualify and enter upon his judicial duties at once.

Death of Representative John H. Jones.

JONESVILLE, Feb. 10.—Capt. John H. Jeffries died here this morning. Capt. Jeffries had been to Columbia to attend a meeting of the board of trustees of Jones College, and was taken sick here on his return. He suffered intensely for a week with blood poisoning, contracted in nursing a sick son after having a finger hurt on a wire fence. Capt. Jeffries was a member of the Legislature from this county, and State lecturer of the Farmers' Alliance. Many old soldiers in Kershaw's brigade will collect him from Manassas to Appomattox.

THE FARMERS' ALLIANCE.

IT WILL BE KEPT OUT OF POLITICS IN FUTURE.

Return of Secretary Duncan From the Meeting of the National Alliance at Topeka—The Condition of the Order in South Carolina.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 14.—Col. D. P. Duncan, the secretary of the National Farmers' Alliance, has just returned from the annual meeting of that body at Topeka, Kan., and gives much information about the meeting and the general condition of the order, as shown by the reports presented from the different States.

The most interesting feature of the information afforded by this officer yesterday was the announcement of the exact strength of the Alliance in this State, as shown by the official report. The Alliance has all along been considered an important factor in South Carolina politics, and it will surprise a great many to know that the president of the State Alliance reported that there were 15,000 members of the order in this State who had kept their dues paid up to date. He further reported that the membership of the order in this State, as shown by the rolls, was 38,000.

Col. Duncan says that twenty-four States in the Union were represented at the national gathering by thirty-five delegates, and several States sent full reports. North Carolina reported a membership of 26,000 paid up men. Col. Duncan says there has been no real increase in the membership of the Alliance, viewed as a national order, during the past year, but that it has held its own better than they thought it would. A great many had gone into it expecting a hasty business revolution. He says in the following States: North and South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Texas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York, Indiana, Michigan, Colorado, South Dakota, California, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Utah and Illinois.

Col. Duncan says that the Alliance is a party, as it is in the North and South States, but that it is not a party in the South that anywhere else. He says this is due to the fact that in a large measure that the Alliance did not in the South leave and go into the Populist party, as it did in the North and South States. He says that the Alliance was an order for political purposes only, but now their ideas have been changed, as is shown, he says, by the following address issued to the Alliance people of the country by a committee of the order, the order of which the new president, Marion Butler, of North Carolina, was the chairman:

"To the members of the N. F. A. and L. U., and to all whom it may concern: Since the inception of this grand organization there have been those who thought that when some political party championed our political demands, that then the mission of the organization was ended. This belief is based on the belief that a political party will take care of the interests of the farmers. This is a fatal mistake. Besides it is proven by the acts of every other class of citizens (except politicians) that they do not rely on parties alone but organize for influence on any and all parties.

Every wealth producer of America should ever keep the following truths before him:—First—That sooner or later all political parties are controlled by politicians. Second—That the only power that can secure the justice that is the right of every citizen is from sense of justice, but always through policy, fear or gain. Therefore the class of citizens represented by the Farmers' Alliance and Industrial Union can never hope for or secure the justice that is their right, and a constant menace to those who dare trifle with the rights and liberties of the people. Hence the Supreme Council solemnly warns those who are true to the principles of the Alliance that they would make a most fatal mistake if they give up the organization which is the only power that can force these reforms through any political party, and if indeed we were living under a perfectly just government today, the organization would still be absolutely necessary as a great moral force to keep it so.

But our Supreme Council calls upon you to ever remember that the organization has a great mission perform outside of political reform. If the wealth producers of America are to keep pace with the march of civilization they must do it through social and industrial union. We have not only grown in mind and heart by such association and contact but we pool our intellect for the mutual advancement of our best interest. We declare our mission to be to enable us to carry out the mission of the Alliance. Therefore, in conclusion the Supreme Council appeals to every one who believes in the principles of the Alliance to stand by and extend the organization not only to secure the benefits that come from organization but also to make the reforms that are so much needed. We shall enact these reforms through any political party that we can get our hands on.

Col. Duncan says that the Alliance is much stronger in South Carolina than anywhere else, owing to the excellence of the work of the ex-changes. He says the exchanges have been doing better work in these two States than anywhere in the United States. He says the Alliance, as a body, intends to keep clear of politics. All enemies, Col. Duncan says, intend to vote for the best man—that is men who favor their demands and measures which they think for the best interests of the country at large.—State.

Income Tax Opposed.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 13.—The Charleston Chamber of Commerce celebrated its 110th anniversary today with a handsome banquet. At the meeting the morning resolution was unanimously passed requesting the Senators of South Carolina to oppose the income tax clause of the tariff bill, unless by doing so the Federal and all around it. The Chamber also appointed a special committee to take suitable action in opposition to the Federal bill, amending the Interstate Commerce act, and to attempt to secure some change in discriminations in freight rates against the Southern ports.

SOLVING THE QUESTION.

Attorney General's Opinion on the Tax Middle.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 15.—The trouble referred to yesterday in regard to the bungling of the new county government act, created quite a stir among the State officials at the capitol. The seriousness of the condition of affairs was not exaggerated, and it is still a matter which is causing the Governor considerable worry. He yesterday morning officially requested the Attorney General to give him an opinion in regard to the matter and that official did so. This, however, is simply the opinion of the State's attorney in the matter, and of course that opinion would not effect the decision of the Supreme Court if the matter ever reaches that body in the proper form. It is the custom of the court, however, as shown in past decisions to look at the general objects of the legislature in making a law, and no doubt it would be construed as the Attorney General construes it. If there were a plenty of jurisdiction for the court to render a decision on the other side, and then there would be a serious state of affairs. Here is the opinion of the Attorney General, and it speaks for itself:

His Excellency, Governor B. R. Tillman, Sir: Your note asking if the act approved January 1, 1891, to complete the immediate devolution of the duties of township and district boards of assessors upon the officers mentioned in such act, received. In reply would say that if section 6 be taken and construed itself, a mere cursory examination might leave the impression that a hiatus exists, but an examination of the whole act giving effect to every section, regarding the inter-dependence of every provision, will show beyond doubt, that the act contemplated the change of the county board of supervisors, as mentioned in section 1 providing for the appointment of county supervisors. Section 7 provides for county boards of commissioners, and section 8 declares that "the county supervisor, together with the chairman of the boards of commissioners in the several townships, appointed by the Governor, shall constitute the county board of commissioners, of which said board the county supervisor shall be chairman."

It is to be remarked that there cannot be a county board of commissioners without the appointment of a county supervisor. So there coming into existence as such board is to be measured by and coexistent with the time of his appointment—beginning at the same time.

Now let us see the time of his election or appointment, and the beginning of his duties. Section 2 declares that he shall be elected at the "next general election thereafter, whose term of office shall be two years and until his successor shall have been elected and qualified."

Section 1 provides for the abolition of the offices now known as county commissioners, devolving their duties upon the county supervisors, etc., from and after January 1, 1895. Now, it is very plain to be seen that such county board created dependent upon the election of a supervisor, cannot come into existence until after the next general election, at which general election he is to be voted for. The term of the boards of township commissioners by section 5 is made coexistent with that of the Governor by whom they are appointed, and such section is also to be read in connection with section 2, showing their appointment for the same term.

As a result of this construction I have the honor to report that in my judgment these officers do not come into existence until after the next general election, at which time the present machinery of county government continues.

Respectfully,
OSMOND W. BUCHANAN,
Attorney General.

Found a Million.

ST. FRANCISCO, Feb. 10.—If the story told by John F. Ryan, a submarine diver, is true, the steamer Brother Jonathan has at last been found, after being absent 30 years at the bottom of the sea. The Brother Jonathan was lost on July 3, 1865, about 10 miles northwest of Crescent City, with 147 passengers and crew and \$1,000,000 in treasure on board. Numerous unsuccessful attempts have been made to locate her. Ryan's story is apparently substantiated by the production of one of the ship's fixtures bearing the name Brother Jonathan in brass letters, which he picked up on the deck of the wreck. "Several years ago, while captain of a steamer running on Puget Sound," says Ryan, "I had under my command a vessel named the Brother Jonathan, which was the only survivor of the disaster. He said he could take me to the scene of the wreck, and was sure he could locate the exact spot where she lay. A few weeks ago he came again and I accepted his offer." "After arriving in the vicinity of where the ship went down we located her in a remarkably short time in several hundred feet of water. I went down to the vessel and walked across her deck and all around it. More blood will not be light enough for me to see, and I had to feel my way everywhere. Apparently the Brother Jonathan is in excellent condition, and I have hopes of raising her."

From what I learn, the gold in the ship's locker was in different parts of the vessel, and with the aid of light I anticipate no difficulty in locating it. In the spring I shall make preparations to recover the lost treasure."

MYSTERY OF THE SWAMPS.

A GHASTLY AFFAIR WHICH PUZZLES THE CORONER.

Finding of the Dead Body of a Uka-wa White Man Near the City—A Unusually Strange Search Yesterday.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 12.—At noon yesterday a negro girl named Elsie Meyers, accompanied by another named Caroline Jefferson, came to Police Officer Jones upon the streets apparently very much frightened, and told him they had walked up the Atlantic Coast Line track from a point about five miles from the city. They told him that just beyond the trestle, at Hampton's pond, about twenty-five or thirty feet distant from the right side of the trestle, they had found the body of a white man lying in the water. They stated that they had seen the man's shoes and other clothing on the trestle. They said that he looked like a tramp, but had evidently been dead for several days, judging from the swollen appearance of his face. Officer Jones notified Chief of Police Reddick, and the chief of police forthwith notified Coroner Knoch. In a short time the body was brought to the city, and considerable excitement was caused. It was generally supposed that the man was one of the desperados who had been in the houses on the Hampton place during the early portion of last week. It will be remembered that this party of desperados was fired into and the general belief was that this man was wounded and crawled off into the swamp to die.

About 2 o'clock Coroner Knoch, accompanied by Deputy Pollock and Dr. Frank Green and newspaper men, departed in the rain to hold an investigation. They drove to the scene of the supposed trouble and began to search for the remains of the man. This search was very complete, and continued for several hours in the pouring rain, but although several miles of the swamp land was gone over by the searchers, never a trace of the alleged dead man could be found. Coroner Knoch, after getting wet through to the skin, stated that it was the first time in his experience as coroner that he had ever had to search for a dead body. He stated, he says, the exact location has always been pointed out to him. After a search of about three hours, the coroner and those assisting him finally gave up the search and returned to the city, reaching here at about 6 o'clock.

Upon his return to the city Coroner Knoch, when he left, had no further information than that given him by the chief of police, sought Officer Jones and obtained from him the whereabouts and names of that officer's informants. This morning the coroner will take charge of these witnesses and carry them down with him for the purpose of locating the body. It is determined to solve the mystery, let it cost what it may. He believes the body is to be found, and if it is not found, he will very likely be made to suffer for the chase, but the officers of the law were compelled to lead yesterday afternoon in the pouring down rain.

The coroner and all others who heard the story of the two women are inclined to the belief that this dead man, about whom there is so much mystery at present, is one of the desperados referred to above. There were some very amusing incidents of the search yesterday afternoon, and not the least was the disappointment of the newspaper men, who wasted nearly all of the day in such a fruitless search as was shown by the statements made at the very damp conference held under a dripping tree at the completion of the search for the purpose of deciding whether to return to the city or resume the search until darkness fell. Every man in the crowd was pretty wet, but not a single one wished to remain longer, or even accompany the coroner back this morning.—State.

A Mountain Vendetta.

GREENVILLE, Feb. 14.—Another killing has occurred in the Deader County. Steve Howard, a brother of the celebrated Big Kill, who died with his boots on, killed Uly Pittman on Sunday afternoon near the house of John Reemore, on Uly Mountain. On Sunday morning Pittman, who was a young man, had a fight with old Shack Howard, but the two were separated before any damage was done to either. Later in the day Mitchell Howard, a son of Shack, and the two went out to hunt for Uly Pittman. More blood will flow, as the Pittman family are fighters and this is the locality where twenty men have been killed during the past ten years.—News and Courier.

Fatal Explosion.

WILKESBARRIE, Pa., Feb. 13.—A very extensive cave in occurred at the Gaylord mine of the Kingston Coal Company at Plymouth this morning. A large number of miners and laborers were at work under a section of the roof which has for some time been considered weak without any warning. The roof, consisting of rock and coal, fell in. It is not known as yet whether any of the men were killed outright, but it is known that thirteen of them are hemmed in in one of the gangways. Their safety is now shut off and the chance of living for any length of time is very small. An army of rescuers are hard at work trying to reach the entombed men. The relatives of the men placed in the mine are gathered about the shaft and their lamentations are pitiful. The section of the mine, in which the men are imprisoned, is a portion of the Bottom vein, which at this point is very thick, and they were engaged in placing large timbers as a prop and support for the roof.