

One Pickens Centinel

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NO. 29.

A ROW IN DARLINGTON.

AN ARMED MOB WANTED TO ATTACK STATE CONSTABLES.

The Cause of the Darlington Guards Taken from the Army to Make the Militia Powerless—The Full Story of the Affair.

COLUMBIA, S. C., March 29.—There came near being a big riot in Darlington yesterday over the raiding of blind tigers by State constables. The matter fortunately passed over without bloodshed, but the indications for some time were for serious trouble.

The first known of the trouble here was about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, when Governor Tillman received a telegram from Dispense, Floyd saying that a mob was being made and that a mob was on the streets armed with Winchester. From then on until 9 o'clock last night the wires between here and Darlington were kept hot with telegrams.

As will be seen from the story published below the mob took the arms of the Darlington Guards, leaving no armed organization to uphold the law. Governor Tillman promptly provided for the maintenance of the law by telegraphing to Sumter and putting the Sumter Light Infantry in readiness to go to Darlington and by arranging for a special train to take the company to Darlington.

The full story of the trouble is found in the following telegrams. These are all the telegrams which passed between the Governor and Darlington and Sumter and Charleston. The telegrams are published in the order in which they were sent and received and explain themselves.

DARLINGTON, S. C., March 28. Constables raiding. Armed men walking streets swearing they will shoot.

To Sheriff Scarborough, Darlington, S. C. I expect you to preserve the peace and see that the law is upheld.

Columbia, S. C., March 28. Fighting surging with guns swear they are going to kill.

Darlington, March 28. Wire me how many constables in Darlington. Keep me posted.

W. H. Lawrence, Darlington: Put your command under orders of Sheriff and preserve the peace.

Darlington, March 28. Guns taken away from Darlington Guards by mob.

Sheriff Scarborough, Darlington, S. C.: If you do not arrest those resisting the law and assist constables in their work I will be the worse for you.

Darlington, March 28. Six constables here. Not enough to hold crowd down. Winchester and shot guns displayed.

Captain Darlington Guards: I hear your arms have been taken by mob. Answer if this is true.

C. B. Swan, Darlington, S. C.: Sheriff has been ordered to assist you and Darlington Guards to obey his orders. Do your duty.

Darlington, March 28. No trouble here and no prospects of any, but a good matured crowd in town. I can keep the peace.

Darlington, March 28. Telegram received. Have conferred with Sheriff who says there is no danger of breach of the peace and no necessity for ordering out militia.

Darlington, March 28. All quiet. Don't anticipate any trouble. If necessary will wire.

To J. B. Floyd, Darlington, S. C.: Chief constable has been ordered to Darlington. Have warrants sworn out against all persons who assist the constables for riot, conspiracy and resisting an officer. Attorney General will come down tomorrow. Gaillard will make the arrests.

On receipt of your first telegram I went to the court house and was in consultation with officers of my command concerning it, when during my absence from the court a party of citizens went there and took possession of guns. On hearing of it I went to them and demanded that they surrender them immediately, which they did. I now have all the guns back and have taken such precautions as will effectually prevent a recurrence of the incident. Everything quiet.

At 9 o'clock last night the Governor got a telegram that everything was then quiet in Darlington.

The following telegram was received at 7 o'clock last night. It had evidently been written early in the afternoon:

Things look very squally. Threats being made. Guns and rifles being displayed. Have alerted constables all I can.

When the Governor heard that the arms of the Darlington company had been taken he sent and received the following telegram:

Can I get a special train to carry military from Sumter to Darlington. Answer quick.

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Sumter, S. C., March 28. The Sumter Light Infantry in uphold the law. A. C. PHELPS, Captain.

Yes, sir. Sumter, S. C., March 28. W. H. DELGAR, S. R.

Captain A. C. Phelps, Sumter, S. C.: Later advice reports things now quiet at Darlington. If I need you will wire.

The following telegram was sent to Chief Constable Gaillard at 5 o'clock in the afternoon: Take your entire force of constables, armed with Winchester to Darlington tonight. B. R. TILLMAN, Governor.

The State Pensioners. COLUMBIA, S. C., March 28.—The State pensioners will, in a short time, receive the annual quota of the pension appropriation. For the past week the clerk of the pension board has been reviewing the rolls sent in by the various county pension boards, and the work is nearly completed. There are only three more counties—Fairfield, Marion and Kershaw—in which a further revision will have to be made before the board can take final action and order the preparation of the warrants to be sent to each pensioner. From the information made up there has been a total increase since last year of only ten pensioners. The number this year is 2,265, as against 2,255 last year. The ordinary expenses, etc., for this year will be paid out of the amount held over from last year's appropriation. This will include about \$1,100, the amount of the expenses of the several county boards. The per capita payment which each pensioner will receive for the year will not be less than \$25, and it is all to be paid at once. The warrants are to be sent to the several county clerks of court for distribution to the pensioners.

The following shows the number of pensioners in each county for this and last year:

Table with 3 columns: County, 1893, 1894. Lists Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Bamberg, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Calleton, Darlington, Edgefield, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Greenville, Hampton, Horry, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Lexington, Marion, Marlboro, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Richland, Spartanburg, Sumter, Union, Williamsburg, York.

Total. 1893. 1894. 2,255. 2,265.

FRUIT DESTROYED. COLUMBIA, S. C., March 28.—The weather during the past twenty-four hours has been the most destructive ever known in this section of the South, and as for the last week, nothing has been heard of to equal it. During Monday night the mercury fell as low as twenty-four degrees, and the thermometer for the twenty-four hours was just one degree above the freezing point. The temperature did not fall so low as it has in previous Marches, twenty degrees being recorded last year and twenty-one degrees in 1890. But these records were made the first week in March, and never before after the 20th of March has the mercury gone below thirty degrees. Thus it is seen that this March is keeping up its display as a record-breaker. The most remarkable fact about it all is that the crop and other vegetation cannot be estimated as yet. It is seen that all fruit, with the exception of apples, is killed beyond a doubt, and the farmers are going to be very heavy losers. He says that corn has been bleached, and that wheat and wheat and out crops. Mr. Bauer says the farmers throughout the State had planted earlier and much heavier than usual this year, and they are going to suffer a great deal. He says they had brighter prospects this year than has been known in years before.

The Late Freeze. CHARLESTON, March 29.—The cold wave came as predicted and has damaged crops in the neighborhood to a great extent. The freeze was severe in this section and many thousands of dollars would not repay the damages done in the single night. Not only that, but tonight an even more severe frost is expected, and this may add much to the damage. The farmers of the Neck, Mount Pleasant and Young's Island report the killing of cucumber, watermelon and squash vines. These will have to be planted over. The young strawberries and blossoms are being killed in the neighborhood to a great deal. He says they had brighter prospects this year than has been known in years before.

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A SUMTER SENSATION.

JUDGE BENET ACCUSED OF GAMBLING WITH CARDS.

He Indignantly Denies the Charge from the Bench, and Says He Was Only Engaged in a Social Game of Whist With Friends.

Week before last, the Sumter Freeman, an Alliance paper that is very much opposed to Gov. Tillman, remarked editorially that Judge Benet of this circuit, who has the morning court in Sumter, was a prototype of Judge Mackey. The Manning Times did not like this, and said some pretty sharp things about the editor of the Freeman, whereupon the editor of the Manning Times had the following to say in last week's paper:

"Since the Manning Times undertakes to report rumors about the favorable impression Judge Benet has made upon our people here, we regard it as essential to truth and to a future proper administration of justice that we should publish the rumors of a different character that are passing around thick and fast. We hear that since Judge Benet has been presiding in the court here, he has been almost every night playing cards with persons known as professionals. Of course every body has the right to play cards, but since his election was a notorious gambler, and since his election it was hoped he would try to mend his ways a little. It is distressing to think he has not done so. We know that the former grand jury has had attention called to this matter and we hope it will be well ventilated before we are through with it. We want no gambling judges."

Upon seeing the above Judge Benet in open court at Sumter last Wednesday morning made the following statement:

I wish the attention of the members of the Bar and the jurors present and the jurors and officers of the Court concerning a matter which has arisen since the adjournment of Court yesterday. I wish to call your attention to a matter which I cannot well keep silent, which I left the Court House yesterday evening and got to my lodging I found in my mail a newspaper, published in this town, addressed to me and in certain places, on that paper I was openly charged with consorting with professional gamblers of Sumter and spending my nights card playing and gambling.

The charge has been made against me openly as a Judge. I have no means of redress, except to demand it from the bench as a Judge. The office I hold deprives me of the ordinary personal means of redress, and while it is true that office puts in my hands power by which I can defend myself, I do not use this power in my own behalf.

I do say as a true man the charge is false, absolutely false, without even the semblance of truth as a foundation for it.

Gentlemen, I feel I owe this statement to members of the Bar, of whose profession I am a humble member. I feel I owe it to the officers of the Court, who have been so kind and courteous to me. I owe it to the jurors who are present and the grand jurors who are absent, especially in view of my charge to the grand jury concerning their duty as officers of the law. I know I owe it to the people, whose representatives elected me to the office I now hold. I owe it to my family and to my country, whose interest I have enjoyed. I owe it to the office I now hold, however inefficiently. I owe it to myself and to those who bear my name to say that the man who has made this charge was what I utterly without foundation. I cannot comprehend what motive he had. I hardly know the man. I never cross his path, I know no reason whatever for his attack. He must have been shamefully misled upon by his informant, or must have willfully believed what he would tell him. I therefore feel that the only way to meet the published accusation is to do so thus promptly and publicly.

I cannot go into the newspapers. I will not. My hands are tied. I mean by proper sentiments comprehend what I mean by that. Good men know I mean by that. The best way to meet a falsehood is to confront it with the truth. And this is the simple truth: that during the three weeks I have been in Sumter my going out and my comings in have been seen and known by all who cared to see and know. Nothing I have said or done and nowhere I have gone would I seek to hide from the most blameless man and the purest woman. So far as that is concerned my conscience is clear.

Whenever I enjoyed the hospitality of friends I met good men and good women, and while in their company I did not see anything that had the appearance of evil or the suggestion of it. What probably is the only foundation for the charge is this—although it seems pitiful that I have to make the statements that follow matters purely of private life. On two occasions during these three weeks, and only on two occasions, I have seen or handled cards. I played whist in company with three other men who are players in the presence of ladies for one and a half or two hours at a time. We engaged in a harmless and innocent game of whist with no appearance or suspicion of money or gambling.

I owe it to the gentlemen who played with me, as they are charged with being professional gamblers, to say that if they are gamblers the fact is a revelation to me, for I never heard of them nor have I ever seen them gambling.

This is the only foundation for the charge that I have tonight been gambling and consorting with professional gamblers.

I assumed the gown of a Judge that I was to play the honest confessor and determination to perform the duties of that office so as to deserve the approval of good men and of my own conscience, and I to say the men who elected me to that office and to the charge of jury, if the man who made this charge can prove the truth of what he says I will take the robe of office off my shoulders and leave the Bench as I ought to do.

I have said enough. It is very true that when a falsehood starts on its way to the truth it is very hard to overturn. It may be the newspapers in certain. If they do. I hope they will also state that I have thus openly, and court-

ing investigation, denied it from the Bench.

I have no fear of investigation, if it conducted in the white light of truth and honesty. Having said this I leave the matter to the hands of the good people of Sumter who I think will not allow one who is comparatively a stranger to suffer from a false charge made by one of their fellow townsmen. I leave your town and country in a few days as when I do so I shall feel confident that I leave my character and reputation in good hands. This is my last word on this matter.

Having Read T. Mass. SAN ANTONIO, Tex., March 28.—The Southern Pacific officials here today received news of a startling nature from the agent at Sierra Blanch where the united industrial army, commanded by General Frye, is camped. This news is to the effect that at least 400 of the men of the army are in a starving condition, and that they are so weak for lack of food that they are unable to walk and some of them cannot even stand up on their feet, having gone without a large portion for three days. There is no large number of men in the army and these are the greatest sufferers. There is absolutely nothing but a desert of sand of cacti for many miles around Sierra Blanch and the army has no means of obtaining supplies or food of any kind. Their sufferings are beyond description. Plans were made by the men to try and commence committing depredations upon the railroad companies trains and property if they were not hauled out of the place within the next few hours. There is no longer any great uneasiness among the railroad officials and negotiations were closed this evening with the people of El Paso for the removal of the army to San Antonio on a special train, which will leave Sierra Blanch to-night. The railroad company has agreed to take the army to San Antonio. Gen. Frye has agreed to lead his army, arriving at Sierra Blanch last night. He is doing his utmost to prevent the men from committing depredations and will accompany them to San Antonio. The military authorities here state that if the army were to go they would have no authority to corral the men and make them continue their way West.

A dispatch was received here to-night from Sierra Blanch describing the condition of the industrial army, which left that place to-night at 9:30 o'clock on a special train, provided by the people of El Paso, for San Antonio. This dispatch states that when the army arrived at Sierra Blanch, some of the men were so weak that they desired to be repudiated that they dropped in their tracks and were picked up and carried to camp by their comrades. A beef and 400 pounds of flour were at once purchased by the army and the men, which made one good meal. The men are now well and their stomachs would not retch in the food. Yesterday morning another beef was slaughtered and the men had another meal. General Frye desired to get the men to leave on foot, but the military authorities could not walk, owing to the weakness. The dispatch further states that the men are gentlemanly and that there are ministers, lawyers, merchants and mechanics among them.

Forced to Resign. WASHINGTON, March 28.—This official announcement was made at the Treasury this afternoon:

"Mr. J. B. Brawley, Sixth auditor of the Treasury Department, today tendered his resignation to the President, to take effect upon the appointment and qualification of his successor, Mr. Brawley is a citizen of Maryland, a lawyer by profession, and was appointed auditor April 19, 1893. The position pays \$3,600 per annum. No action has yet been taken on his resignation, and it is not known when it will be accepted. This is the first prominent official appointed by the present administration who has resigned. His resignation is understood to have been forced. For some time past the relations of the sixth auditor of the Treasury, Mr. Brawley, have been pleasant and harmonious. He was quite a scene in Secretary Carlisle's room between the sixth auditor and the Secretary. Secretary Carlisle has not been impressed with Mr. Brawley's executive capacity. The work of the sixth auditor's office is far behind; methods employed were not business-like, and Postmaster General Russell, Secretary Carlisle and the President, six weeks ago, came to the conclusion that a change was necessary in the office. Mr. Brawley called at the Treasury Department yesterday and formally tendered his resignation. The sixth auditor's office audits all the accounts of the Postoffice Department. It is the largest auditor's office in the Treasury, and is as large as the entire Agricultural Department.

A Very Strange Story. COLUMBIA, S. C., March 27.—A remarkable story comes from Monticello, S. C. A few nights ago Tom Suber one of Capt. T. M. Little's tenants, called to him and told him that his corn house was open. He aroused himself at once and going to the house he found the second year and found the corn in his corn house. He found two negroes working on the sympathies of the old captain to be released from the fetters and declared that they would remain there in charge of a trusty colored man. He called to it finally and they took the corn and made it free of the corn house. When the captain went to his own home the negroes all lay down, some on beds and some on the floor. When all seemed to be asleep, one of the thieves, Simon Beatty, took his knife and cut the throat of the trusty thief, (Harry Miles) and then he cut the wind pipe of the other two thieves now began begging and working on the sympathies of the old captain to be released from the fetters and declared that they would remain there in charge of a trusty colored man. He called to it finally and they took the corn and made it free of the corn house. When the captain went to his own home the negroes all lay down, some on beds and some on the floor. When all seemed to be asleep, one of the thieves, Simon Beatty, took his knife and cut the throat of the trusty thief, (Harry Miles) and then he cut the wind pipe of the other two thieves now began begging and working on the sympathies of the old captain to be released from the fetters and declared that they would remain there in charge of a trusty colored man. He called to it finally and they took the corn and made it free of the corn house. 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