

The Herald and News.

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TWICE A WEEK, \$1.50 A YEAR

RACE TROUBLE WAS SERIOUSLY EXPECTED.

VAUGHANVILLE WAS THROWN INTO GREAT EXCITEMENT FRIDAY NIGHT.

Negro Odd Fellows Hall Was Burned—Assistance From Newberry Was Asked and Rendered.

Serious race trouble was threatened at Vaughanville, in the upper portion of the county, near the Laurens line, on Friday night. The trouble, however, seems to have passed over without other serious result than the burning of the negro Odd Fellow's hall, the members of which organization were supposed to be at the bottom of the trouble which was expected.

On Friday afternoon the report became circulated at Vaughanville that the negroes had sent to Chappells for arms, and that they would hold a meeting at the Odd Fellows' hall Friday night, after which they would wait on young Clarence M. Brooks, who on Saturday night a week ago shot and killed a negro, Raymond Sizer, as the coroner's jury said, in self-defense, and that they would also call upon the gentlemen who helped to bury Sizer. The account of this shooting, together with the evidence taken at the coroner's inquest, was published in The Herald and News at the time. Sizer was a prominent member of the negro lodge of Odd Fellows, which has long been a disturbing element in the community. It will be remembered that after the inquest Sizer's relatives or any other negroes refused to touch the body, and that a coffin was made and the body buried by the white people, the members of the coroner's jury and young Brooks' attorney, Mr. Cole L. Blease, assisting in the interment. The relatives of the dead negro had ordered a coffin from Cross Hill, but turned it back when it reached Vaughanville. Next day after the body was buried by the white people the negroes opened the grave, placed the body in another coffin, and reburied it at a point about a mile distant from the first grave. The reason for this action and why the negroes should wish to call upon the white men who buried the body, is unexplained.

Since Sizer's death the negro Odd Fellows, of which he was a member, have held very frequent meetings, a representative of The Herald and News was informed by the people of Vaughanville, and have made numerous threats. These threats, taken in connection with the reports which became circulated Friday afternoon, caused great excitement in the community, and serious trouble was feared.

A phone message was sent to Newberry for assistance at about four o'clock Friday afternoon, and a party of twelve immediately left for Vaughanville, twenty-one miles distant. When the Newberry party, accompanied by a representative of The Herald and News, arrived on the scene, there was no indication of trouble, except there were about thirty five white men in the little store of Mr. Whit Goodwyn, armed to the teeth with double-barrelled shot guns and small arms, and prepared to meet any trouble which might occur. The addition of the Newberry party made about fifty.

No negroes were seen, and their cabins looked deserted.

A meeting was called to order by Mr. Cole L. Blease and the situation was discussed. A detachment of twelve men was sent to the Odd Fellows' hall at about 9 o'clock to see if the expected meeting of negroes would be held. There was no light in the building and no one was found.

Shortly after the party returned to the store, the building, a loosely constructed, two-story frame structure, was seen to be ablaze, and it soon burned to the ground. The conflagration lighted up the country for miles around. The building was the property of the negro Odd Fellows and was not of any great value. The first floor was used for a negro school. It was situated about a quarter of a mile from Mr. Goodwyn's store and was near an old negro church. The fire occurred some time before 11 o'clock. How it started is not known.

The situation was again discussed. It was proposed to visit the negroes who are supposed to be the ring-leaders and to give them correction, but this motion was immediately opposed by Mr. Fred H. Dominick, who was seconded by Mr. Blease and the officers of the law, Deputy Sheriff Duncan Johnson and Constable C. G. Blease, and the proposal was almost unanimously voted down, the gentlemen present saying emphatically they had come to protect the white people of the community and young Brooks, and not to create a disturbance.

It was feared that trouble might result later in the night, and it was decided that the men should sleep under arms, and sentinels were posted. A number slept in the store and the others in the surrounding homes.

The representative of The Herald and News called upon young Brooks' father. Mr. Brooks said he was convinced that, had not prompt action been taken and assistance received, the negroes would have attempted hurt to his family, and especially his son, during the night.

Nothing unusual developed during the night and next morning most of the party returned to their homes, several remaining in case any further trouble occurred.

The negro Odd Fellows, whose hall was burned, The Herald and News man was informed by the people of Vaughanville, has exercised a baneful influence over the negroes of the community since their organization several years ago. The names of Isaac Fortune, Jones Pitts, West Bates, Jim Wade and Ben Watts were given as the ring-leaders. It is said the hall has been used as a general assembly hall for the negroes, where they met under the mantle of secrecy and hatched their schemes without fear of interruption. When a representative of The Herald and News passed by the site of the hall on his return home Saturday morning, the embers were still smouldering. Posted around on the trees were notices, signed by officers of the lodge, warning all against smoking on the premises.

This is the third race trouble threatened at Vaughanville in recent years. Several years ago it was said a negro doctor in the community, a negro named J. A. Leitner, was seeking to incite a negro

uprising and there was a great deal of excitement for a time, with the result that the doctor was run out of the community. A year later the same experience was repeated with another negro doctor, J. W. T. Patterson, with the same result.

Clarence Brooks, the young man who killed the negro Sizer, and whose act was the cause of the threatened negro uprising, is the seventeen-year old son of Mr. C. A. Brooks. He is under \$200 bond and it is said will be prosecuted.

It is a matter of congratulation to the people of the community and the whole county, that the affair on Friday night ended with so little serious results. Had there been any demonstration by the negroes there is no doubt that blood would have been freely spilt. All is quiet for the present, but it is not known at what time the trouble will break out again.

NEGRO REPORTED KILLED.

It has been reported on the streets of Newberry and elsewhere throughout the county that early Friday night a negro, carrying a lighted lantern, was seen near the Odd Fellows' hall, and that when he was questioned and replied that he was a black man, he was fired upon and killed. A representative of The Herald and News reached the scene shortly after 8 o'clock Friday night and remained until 7 o'clock Saturday morning, and no such act came within his notice. It may be that some one was fired upon, but it appears that the report that any one was killed is unfounded.

AN ORDERLY CROWD.

The party that went up to Vaughanville from Newberry went to protect the people of Vaughanville if it should be necessary and not to create a disturbance, and the Newberry party kept strictly within the purpose for which it went.

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS.

Items of More or Less Interest Condensed In the State.

F. A. Walker, a young mill operative of Columbia, accidentally shot and killed himself on Saturday afternoon while out hunting.

A mass meeting of the citizens of Dillon was held on Saturday at which a resolution was unanimously adopted strongly condemning the acquittal of James H. Tillman.

Sam McIlwain, an old negro about 70 years of age, was instantly killed in Lancaster on Saturday afternoon, by being struck and thrown off a trestle in the suburbs of the town by an outgoing passenger.

For the first time in her athletic history, South Carolina College on Saturday at Athens, Ga., defeated the University of Georgia on the gridiron, the score resulting 17 to 0. On the same day Clemson defeated the Georgia Techs, at Atlanta, by a score of 73 to 0.

About two weeks ago a man from the Northwest, well dressed and apparently well-to-do, wandered into Rock Hill. His memory seemed to have failed him entirely and for two weeks he could give no account of himself, not even his name. He was placed in a hospital and gradually his memory has returned and he has established his identity.

GENERAL NEWS NOTES.

Items of More or Less Interest Condensed Outside the State.

Secretary Moody has approved the estimates for the support of the navy for the next fiscal year, amounting to \$102,866,449, as against \$79,816,791, appropriated for the last fiscal year.

As the result of a fire in the Grady hospital, at Atlanta, on Saturday, a number of lives were threatened, and two negro women died from the effects of the excitement. The property loss was very small.

The Alaskan Boundary commission, which has been in session in London, to fix the boundary lines between Alaska, the property of the United States, and Canada, have reached an agreement which is a distinct victory for the United States.

Charles H. Weifenbach, of Dayton, Ohio, choked his wife to death in bed at 5 o'clock on Saturday morning. He offered no excuse save that they had spent the night quarrelling. He gave himself up to the authorities.

The International Bank and Trust Co., of Mexico City, Mexico, which had a branch institution in New York, has failed. Within the past week depositors took out more than \$600,000, and the bank could not stand the strain.

Fifteen persons were killed and forty injured on Saturday in a collision on the Pennsylvania railroad near Trenton, N. J. The persons killed and injured were laborers on a work train, which while standing still waiting for orders, was run into from the rear by a gravel train.

United States Consul General Skinner, of Marseilles, is preparing to make an expedition into the wilds of Abyssinia, to propose to King Menelick the opening of diplomatic relations with this country. Mr. Skinner will start in about a week and will be accompanied by guards.

The employes of the Pacific Express Company, in St. Louis, have gone out on a strike. The officers of the company say their business is not being interfered with to any considerable extent, but it seems that the business on several of the lines has been considerably tied up. The strikers say they are satisfied with the conditions.

About fifty girls, employed in a rag factory in New York, went out on a strike and the firm refused to raise their wages and employed Italians to carry on the work. When then Italians came out of the factory in the afternoon they were attacked by the girls and a free fight ensued, in which several of the girls were stabbed, one of them seriously.

In order to vindicate his negro policy in the South, President Roosevelt is throwing the influence of his administration to elect the Republican ticket in Maryland, and thus discredit his political enemies and greatly feared rival for presidential honors, Senator Gorman. This interference has aroused the outspoken indignation of Senator Gorman and other leaders of the State.

KILLED HIS OWN CHILDREN.

Physician, Near Asheville, Crazed by Drink Beats His Three Children to Death with a Hammer.

A special from Asheville, N. C., to Raleigh, N. C., dated Saturday says: One of the most terrible crimes ever committed in North Carolina occurred today, when Dr. J. V. Jay, a well-known physician of Buncombe County, living at Barnardsville, twenty miles north of Asheville, killed with a claw hammer his three children, aged 2, 4 and 9 years. It is said that Jay had been drinking heavily for nearly two weeks, and last night forced his wife to leave home. Mrs. Jay returned this morning, and was preparing breakfast, when her husband attacked her again and ran her out of the house. She started for a neighbor's to get help and left the children crying on the porch. When the mother was gone Jay killed all three of the children, whose lifeless bodies were found lying on the porch. After committing the deed Jay went into the house and attempted to set it on fire, but the men who returned with Mrs. Jay rushed in and overpowered him, and extinguished the flames. Jay was then bound hand and foot, and Sheriff Reed notified. The sheriff brought Jay to Asheville tonight.

Dr. Jay, when asked tonight if he did not know that he was killing his children said that he knew he was, but that he just could not stop; that he loved his children and he knew he was going to kill them. He says he is sorry he committed the crime, but that it can't be helped and there is no use to grieve over it.

After the tragedy Dr. Jay wrote to his wife saying: "I have committed an awful crime. Will you forgive?"

To this Mrs. Jay replied: "I forgive you and hope to meet you in Heaven."

The Resignation of Dr. Cromer.

Dr. Geo. B. Cromer, who has successfully served as president of Newberry College for a number of years, has resigned this position and will return to the practice of law, in which profession he had won an enviable reputation when he left it to take the presidency of the college. Dr. Cromer's retirement from the head of the institution where he has made so splendid a record is a great loss, not only to Newberry College; but to the cause of education generally. With voice and pen he has done much to advance both secondary and higher education in the State, and his has been one of the voices "crying in the wilderness," preparing the way and making the paths straight for the coming of better and grander things educationally than we have ever seen. Dr. Cromer is highly popular wherever he is known and his friends all over the State look for fresh laurels to be won by him in the work to which he will soon devote his energies.—Sunter Herald.

Dock Wilson, colored, has been convicted of rape in Marion County, the crime having been committed upon an 8-year-old negro girl. Sentence has not yet been passed, but the negro will probably suffer the death penalty.