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ESTABLISHED 1894

THE DILLON HERALD, DILLON SOUTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 18, 1920.

VOL. 27 NO. 11.

### MCLAURIN RETURNS HOME.

Bennettsville Bank President Thought Dead Found in Atlanta.

T. B. McLaurin, president of the Mutual Saving Bank of Bennettsville, who disappeared from home last week and whose shoes and coat were found on the banks of Bluff's Falls, was found in Atlanta last Friday. He was taken to an Asheville sanitarium for a few days rest and his father, Former Senator John L. McLaurin, went up to Asheville Sunday and returned home with him.

Mr. McLaurin left a note on the banks of the river at Bluff's Falls stating that he thought it best "to end it all" and the supposition was that he had committed suicide. Relatives and friends began a search for the missing man and trailed him to Lilesville, N. C., where it was supposed that he took a train to Charlotte. Charlotte police could not locate him, however, and nothing was heard of him until Friday morning when he turned up in Atlanta.

An old darkey at Bluff's Falls told the searching party that a man answering Mr. McLaurin's description was seen to leave an automobile and go to a spot near the river bank the morning of Mr. McLaurin's disappearance. He built a fire and remained at the spot some time. Later he crossed the dam and went in the direction of Lilesville. The searching party followed this clue and at Lilesville were told that a man answering Mr. McLaurin's description came into a drug store with a transfer driver and ordered cold drinks. The man sat around until the train arrived.

This clue was followed to Charlotte and then on to Atlanta where Mr. McLaurin was located.

Following Mr. McLaurin's disappearance the Mutual Savings Bank of which he is president was ordered closed and the State bank examiner asked to make an examination. The examiner completed his examination Saturday and reported alleged worthless securities held as collateral by the bank to loans to Mr. McLaurin amounting to \$78,000.00.

The Mutual Saving Bank is still closed pending an adjustment of its affairs. The State bank examiner thinks the bank will be able to pay its depositors in full.

### DOWNWARD SLUMP IN MEN'S CLOTHING.

New York, Nov. 9. — Ready-made clothing for men will sell at prices close to normal this spring and summer. The downward slump is well under way, and there are apparently few obstacles to halt the rush of prices to the pre-war level.

Prominent clothing manufacturers made these predictions here today. Irvin Crane, executive secretary of the Clothing Manufacturers' Association of New York in an interview stated that prices would surely drop.

Gastner Browder, editor of *Clothier* and *Furnisher*, who is one of the best informed men in the clothing industry, said:

"Clothing prices will be pretty near normal this spring. Not quite pre-war, but pretty near it."

The executive committee of the National Clothing Manufacturers' Association meets here tomorrow and a fairly accurate estimate of next year's clothing prices will be announced.

In Chicago, where the United National Clothiers' Association is in convention, it was announced that clothing would be sold next spring at anywhere from 10 to 35 1-3 per cent below prices of a year ago.

Michael, Stern & Co., one of the largest retail stores in Rochester, announced today a cut in clothing prices of 33 1-3 per cent.

While price-cutting predictions are being made the mills and factories which combine to produce the clothing are standing idle. In New York alone 35,000 employees of the industry are not at work.

### ARCHDUKE FERDINAND LOOKING FOR A JOB.

Is there any American who aspires to the distinction of having an Austrian archduke for hotel or house porter, a valet, chauffeur, traveling companion or newspaper reporter?

Archduke Leopold Ferdinand, who would be next in line for the Austrian throne should Otto, eldest son of Emperor Charles die, is looking for a job. He speaks six languages fluently, including English, and because of that, in a letter to an American here, thinks he would be well qualified as head porter in a hotel, or a valet or chauffeur or traveling companion. He is modest in appraising his own value, but thinks he ought to be worth a minimum of \$5 a day to someone.

At present he is writing for a Berlin paper and is disclosing much of the inner life of the Hapsburgs. He writes under the name of Leopold Woelfling. As his present job will soon be at an end, he is looking for another. Since the Austrian government is undecided about continuing paying him his small pension and even if it should continue paying him the sum in Austrian crowns is so small when reduced to real money that it will not buy him any meals. The archduke was formerly a naval officer.

### SIX CHILDREN KILLED IN PANIC

Frenzied Men Trample Victims in Mad Rush from Theatre.

Maddened with fear by the cry of "fire," Italian, Greek and Assyrian adults trampled on the lives of six children in a lower East Side moving picture theatre Monday, says a New York dispatch.

The theatre was full of children when smoke from a faulty furnace in the cellar below percolated through cracks and crevices and frightened the theater patrons into the belief that a fire was raging.

A mad scramble for the exits was made. One of the children to the fore stumbled. In a twinkling scores had fallen on him crushing his life from him. Behind came frenzied adults tearing at the massed children in an insane passion to reach the door.

Arms and legs were woven into a tight human matting. Arms were seized and wrenched of sockets. Legs were broken. The little ones were stamped upon, kicked and struck with clenched fists.

The dead are: Pasquale Gomis, aged 11; Lesiee Guddice, 8; Elmira Alpina, 13; Joseph Ramiola, 11 Joseph Lombardi, 2; Dominico Maniscalco, 2.

In the hospitals ten children lie suffering from broken limbs and one from a possible fracture of the skull. In the homes hard by are scores who received minor injuries.

The theatre is a small brick structure standing in the heart of a densely populated district. In front of the theater, ironically enough, hangs the sign, "Children under 16 years not admitted except when accompanied by guardian."

The theater seats about 350 persons. It is estimated that more than half of this number were children.

A gallery in horseshoe formation extends over the orchestra of the theater.

Below the gallery is the basement where a furnace for heating the theater is located. The theater porter had coaled up the furnace, which possessed faulty flues. When the fire was started clouds of smoke rolled up into the theater.

Stricken with panic, a voice yelled "fire." This shout crystallized the uneasy snifflings of smoke into a stampede for exits.

There are no exits in the balcony and on the ground floor there are two, one which those seated in the orchestra could use and the other is situated at the foot of the staircase leading down from the gallery.

It was on this staircase that the fatalities occurred. The hundred children and adults seated in the horseshoe hurried themselves down the steps and in this wild rush several tripped and fell. Atop of them piled the others.

The pile of struggling knotted grown-ups and children jammed against the door. It is not known yet whether the door was shut or whether it opened inwards and was unable to function because of the push against it.

To add to the chaos hundreds from the crowded nearby tenements rushed up to the doorways to see what was taking place.

Mothers shrieked and grim fathers fought to gain admission and between the incoming and the maddened outstreaming theater patrons there was no progress whatsoever.

Outside the Italian mothers in handkerchiefs and gay skirts gathered, wringing their hands and wailing aloud. In the saloons on the corners small lynch parties organized. All about were knots where sympathizers jabbered vociferously in Italian.

In the meantime a few of the cooler headed reached over the heads of the tangled masses and lifted children, too frightened to cry, out of peril.

Mrs. Bella Thompson turned back from the street to rescue two children and fought her way up the gallery stairs in an effort to rescue more but was flung savagely down the steps and sustained bruises and confusions.

The police and firemen picked up the little ones off one by one. The crush was so violent that little girls and boys were pressed up into the air and sustained thereby the pressure of the crowd.

Tessie Guici's story is particularly pathetic. She has been entrusted with the care of two-year old Dominic Maniscalco. She was very proud of the trust. M. Pollandini, a man who lives near her, found her hand was clutched tight to the hand of the little child.

The other two-year-old was little Joe Lombardi, who has just emerged from the hospital. It was his first moving picture show. Throughout the performance he cowered his apprehension.

Peter Romano rescued four children. Fighting his way to the exit with the fourth child he was forced to club down several men who attempted to block his passage.

For hours afterwards the crowds swarmed about the theater, but no efforts were made to mob the proprietors or manager. The latter were taken to the station house and were grilled there by Assistant District Attorney Dinneen and Fire Chief Brennan and others.

"That fifty children were not killed is a miracle," said a witness of the tragedy. "They were piled in places four deep with their faces covered and their voices muffled beneath the tumbled mass of humanity. It was a death trap if there ever was one. If it had a real fire few would have escaped."

### ROBBERY OF TRAIN IS BIGGEST

Bandits Break Into Treasury Car on C. B. & O. Railway and Get Away With More Than \$10,000,000.

Omaha, Neb., 14.—Efforts were being made tonight to recover between five and twelve million dollars stolen by train bandits when they broke into a mail car on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railway, between here and Council Bluffs, early today. Scores of secret service men, postoffice inspectors and details of police worked throughout the day searching for the robbers and their loot.

A portion of the loot was a treasury shipment of gold from the United States mint in San Francisco to the United States treasury in Washington, it was reported. Besides the gold there was a vast quantity of currency, bonds and registered mail.

"There is no use to deny it was the biggest train robbery in 25 years, if not in the whole history of the country," said Captain Charles Shafer of the Council Bluffs police tonight. He had worked on the case all day.

Mr. Eberstein, captain of police of Omaha, charged the robbery was committed by persons familiar with the government's method of shipping gold.

"Somebody connected with the department, somebody on the inside, was in the plot," he said. He had heard unofficially the shipment exceeded \$10,000,000.

### Officials Make No Statement.

Government officials working on the case would make no statement. They said the amount of loot secured might not be known for 30 days. The car was made up in San Francisco last Wednesday and consisted of a shipment of money, stocks and bonds from many different California towns and cities. It was addressed to banks in numerous cities on the Atlantic seaboard. It was understood there was a heavy shipment for Chicago and another for New York, in addition to a great gold shipment from the San Francisco mint to the treasury department in Washington.

"Until complaints of the shipper and consignee have been received, postal officials said, the department has no way of checking up all the different shipments and the amount. The treasury shipment of gold was contained in a number of strong boxes.

### Came Into Omaha.

The treasury car came into Omaha on a Union Pacific train and was transferred to the Burlington at this place. It was put in the center of the Burlington's fast mail to Chicago. When the car left Omaha it was securely locked and bolted. At the Union Pacific transfer, between Omaha and Council Bluffs, the train stopped. At that time the treasury car was still intact.

Half an hour after leaving Omaha the train drew up at the Council Bluffs depot. A postal clerk attempted to pass the treasure car but found the door locked from the inside. Suspecting robbery he summoned other postal clerks. The door was broken down. The interior of the car was in disorder. Instead of being half filled with registered sacks of mail, it was almost empty; boxes of gold from the mint that were said to be in the car could not be found.

### A Window Broken.

A window on one side of the car had been broken. The gold and mail bags were thrown through the window while the train was in motion. The robbers were supposed to have leaped from the window after completing the robbery. Passing between the transfer and the city depot the "rain runs at not more than five miles an hour.

An hour was required to organize a posse and search the line the train had traveled. There was evidence of the loot having been loaded in waiting automobiles.

"The plot was well organized and executed," said Chief Eberstein. "It was the work of professionals, assisted by someone on the inside. The bandits knew just what they were looking for. They knew which of the six cars carried registered mail and wasted no time on cars carrying only ordinary mail."

Postal inspectors had a "lead" up on which they were working late tonight, but no arrests have been made.

More than 500 officials and newspaper men were working feverishly on the case tonight.

Garages are being searched throughout Omaha and Council Bluffs. Guards have been placed on all road crossings and close watch on incoming and outgoing freight and passenger trains is being maintained.

A report that the treasure had been taken by automobile to the Missouri river and loaded on a motorboat was being investigated.

### Fork.

Misses Marguerite and Annie Dameron spent the week end with Mrs. W. S. Floyd of Floydale.

Mr. Eugene Marley of Columbia spent Sunday at the home of Mrs. L. K. Bethea.

Mrs. Oliver Carmichael spent last week with relatives at Kentucky.

### BETHEA GETS 30 YEARS IN PEN.

Negro Charged With Killing Deputy Sheriff Kitchin Submits to Second Degree Murder — Evidence Indicated that Fatal Shot Might Have Been Fired by Negro that Kitchin or Rural Policeman Smith Killed.

### Lumberton Robesonian.

Thirty years in the State prison at hard labor was the sentence imposed upon John Henry Bethea, negro, charged with shooting and killing Deputy Sheriff J. A. Kitchin, by Judge Lloyd Horton. Bethea entered a plea of second degree murder, which was accepted by the State.

The trial came up Friday afternoon and was completed about 7:30 Friday evening. While no jury was impaneled in the case, the evidence was taken for the records. A special venire of 100 men had been summoned from which to select a jury.

Rural Policeman W. W. Smith, who was with Deputy Kitchin on the night of July 2, last, when he was shot, was the first witness put on by the State. Mr. Smith testified that he and Deputy Kitchin had started to search for a blockader on the night of the murder. When near the Seven Bridges they came upon a car stopped in the road. They stopped just before reaching the car for another man to pass. After the other man passed, Mr. Smith drove the car beside the one standing in the road. He then saw two women jump out of the car and run. This aroused his suspicion and Deputy Kitchin stepped out of the car and he followed.

Deputy Kitchin went around in front of the car where John Henry Bethea was standing, and he (Smith) looked into the car. He found that the car was loaded with whiskey and called to Deputy Kitchin, advising him that the car was loaded with liquor. At that time the firing between Kitchin and Bethea began. He did not know who shot first. He started the car and met Ben Bethea, John Henry's brother. Ben had something in his hand and he took no chances, but fired at him, the bullet entering Ben's forehead.

He fired one other shot at Bethea as he was fleeing. Deputy Kitchin was following after Bethea and when he fired all the bullets from his pistol he called to Smith for his gun. Mr. Smith asked him not to shoot any more, as the two women were in the road about Bethea. Deputy Kitchin never fell, but told him he was paralyzed when they went back to the car. He then rushed Deputy Kitchin to Maxton and sent him to a hospital at Hamlet.

Sheriff R. E. Lewis testified that Smith told him the same story the next day after the killing and that the two women in the car told him that John Henry Bethea was the man in front of the car when the officers drove up. The women also told him that the men said they would kill any officer about their liquor.

Deputy Sheriff A. H. Prevatt, called to the stand, presented Deputy Kitchin's hat. The hat had two bullet holes in the brim, one in the front and one through the edge of the left side. No other witness were put on by the State.

The defense put on a number of character witnesses. J. D. Manning of Dillon, S. C., testified that he had known Bethea for a number of years and that up to the time of the killing, his character was good. J. H. Meadors, an officer of the Bank of Little Rock, S. C., said he had known Bethea for a long time and considered him "a very good negro." After the killing the negro sent word to him that he had confidence in him and wanted him to advise him what to do. He informed him that he would have nothing to do with the matter until he placed himself in the hands of the law. Later Bethea, through somebody else, asked if he would take him to Columbia and see that he had good counsel if he surrendered to him. He sent the negro word that he would. Bethea came in and he carried him to Columbia in an auto and placed him in the county jail. While on the way to Columbia Bethea wanted to talk to him about the killing, but he advised the negro that all he wanted to know was, did he kill Deputy Kitchin. The negro said he would swear he did not shoot Kitchin.

J. B. Gibson, an attorney of Dillon, said he knew Bethea as a "good negro." F. M. Huggins, of Lumberton testified that he had known Bethea and never heard anything against him. T. L. Smith, an attorney, of Cheraw, S. C., testified that he had some dealings with Bethea and found him "all right."

E. B. McLaurin of McColl, S. C. testified that he was at the hospital at Hamlet the night Deputy Kitchin went there. He helped carry him to the operating room. He asked the officer how it happened, that Deputy Kitchin said he did not know, but he killed the man that got him.

W. B. McLaurin of Marlboro county, South Carolina, testified that Rural Policeman W. W. Smith told him he did not know who killed Bethea, he or Deputy Kitchin.

Magpie Barnes, colored, testified that she was one of the two women in the car the night Deputy Kitchin was shot; that she, her sister, Cain Manning, Ben Bethea and John Henry Bethea were all along; that they left home on the morning of July 2 that Ben Bethea stopped at a house between Raeford and Fayetteville and the others went on to Fayetteville; that the whiskey was placed in the car while it was stopped at

### TOO MUCH KISSING.

Wife Asks Court to Adjudge Her Husband Insane.

Magistrate Jas. O'Neill, in Adams street police court, Brooklyn, yesterday committed Edward A. Stoddard, 30, of No. 157 Harrison street, veteran of the 165th infantry, to the observation ward at Kings County Hospital because he kissed his wife too much, says a New York dispatch.

His wife was complainant, and when men in the court room looked upon her more than one opined that he didn't blame Stoddard. A pretty little woman is Mrs. Stoddard.

"Your honor," she said to Magistrate O'Neill, "he was kissing me with kisses and love. He kissed me on the street, in church, at home, I counted 300 kisses last Monday, and the good Lord only knows how many on Sunday. He kissed me until I felt I was dying from his kisses, and then he wanted me to smile."

"A strange world," soliloquized the court. "Most women protest because their husbands do not kiss them enough."

Mrs. Stoddard said her husband has been acting irrationally and complaining that some one is trying to shock him with electric batteries. She said he was gassed and wounded in France and she feared his mind was affected.

She is 32 and has an eight year old daughter. They have been married ten years.

### Why the Printer Lost His Job.

Out in Missouri a farmer gave a printing office an order for sale bills. The job was promised for June 30th, the date being just before the prolonged drouth started.

The printer decided to take a few parting drinks, he took several then he happened to remember the bills that were promised for delivery that day and staggered to the office to get out the job. The farmer called for the bills, paid for them and went home and next day he started to put them up. This is what they read when he came down to the list of articles to be sold.

25 cows broke to work, 11 head of cultivators coming in soon, 10 head shoveling boards with scoops, 8 piano mares, 120 rods of canvas belting better than new, DeLaval cow with ice cream attachment, McCor-mick binder, foal, Poland China Bob sled due to farrow in April, 14 head of chickens with grass seed attachments in good working order, 2 J. I. Case heaters good as new, Spraying outfit can be ridden by children, 15 Billy Goats, 70 bushel capacity with spraying nozzles, and other attachments. Many other articles too numerous to mention, which I expect to get at night between now and sale.

By W. L. ROAK, Arline, Idaho.

### Oak Grove.

Rev. C. S. Felder will preach his last sermon for this conference year at Bethesda next Sunday morning before leaving for the annual conference which meets at Georgetown next week.

J. S. Fair and family attended the marriage of Mrs. Fair's sister, Miss Mary Ray Carlisle at Bennettsville last Thursday evening to Mr. Luther Martin of Mullins.

W. R. Dunn who far the past few months has been merchandising here has sold out his stock of goods and returned to Blenheim.

The good weather of the past few weeks has been very beneficial to the farmers in gathering their crops and in many of the fields very little cotton remains.

the place Ben stopped; that a puncture of a front tire caused them to stop near the Seven Bridges; that John Henry was at the front of the car jacking it up when the officers came up. That she got out of the car when the officers came up so she would be on the ground and could run if anything happened. She did not see Cain Manning when the shooting took place and did not know where he was.

Caswell Breeden, colored, testified that Ben Bethea had shot a man "in the fore shoulder."

John Henry Bethea, the defendant, said he was 30 years old, that his home was near Little Rock and he owned around 100 acres of land where he lived; that the car he was driving on the night of the killing belonged to him; that he was married and has five children; that he was in the act of jacking up his car when he saw two men. One man came towards him and said "Don't run, or I'll shoot you." He asked, "What's the matter, white folks?" as he turned a bullet struck his finger and he ran; that he had no gun and did not own a pistol. The defendant then told of his surrender to Mr. Meadors the last Saturday in July.

He said that he spent a while at the home of a "peg-legged" negro, near Maxton, after the shooting, leaving there about 2 o'clock the following morning. When asked how he got to the negro's house, he said he did not know, as he was lost.

John Henry is a black, thick-lipped negro and wears a mustache. The solicitor was assisted in the prosecution by Messrs. G. B. Patterson of Maxton and T. L. Johnson and J. Dixon McLean of Lumberton, while the defendant was represented by the firm of Messrs. McIntyre, Lawrence & Proctor of Lumberton. A large crowd witnessed the trial but there was no disorder.

### FOOD FOR FISH.

Hundreds of Tons of American Products Going to Waste in Havana

American products valued at millions of dollars are tied up at the port of Havana seemingly without prospect or hope of early delivery.

Conditions have become so menacing from the standpoint of health that hundreds of tons of foodstuffs on which war prices are paid on the island, already have been dumped into the sea. There is such an utter congestion on the wharves that it has not been possible however to dig through the growing pile of boxes and reach many decayed shipments.

Warning against a possible epidemic was sounded this week by the chief sanitary officer of Havana, who declared that "while the people were being taxed almost beyond their means, enormous quantities of needed articles are rotting on the docks and endangering public health."

### MUCH OF DRUNKENNESS AMONG AMERICANS.

Havana, Nov. 13.—About the only persons seen on the streets of Havana who show symptoms of over indulgence in intoxicants are Americans. This does not mean, however, that all the Americans who come here drink to excess.

Beer and light wines are so much a part of the Latin life that it has no intoxicating effect. They drink moderately. But some visitors from the dry land seem to drink constantly, once they find a bar.

Cuba happens to be the nearest "foreign country" to the States, and government officials here declare that much of the growing travel is due to the fact that the island isn't dry. It is a big item of revenue, and has helped to put up prices for every thing.

### COST HIM \$500 TO WHIP STENOGRAPHER.

Raleigh, Nov. 11.—L. K. Rutter, Raleigh mill supply man, charged with assaulting his stenographer by whipping her with switches, was today fined \$500 by Judge Kerr in Superior court.

Rutter offered a plea of guilty. His attorneys asked for mercy, contending the humiliation resulting from the crime had been such that Rutter's family was forced to leave the state. Rutter offered no excuse for his action, which attorneys for the prosecution declared put Rutter in the class with Thaw and Frank, a moral degenerate, who should get the maximum punishment.

### HENRY GRADY TO THE COTTON FARMER

In 1888 Henry W. Grady had a vision of undisturbed farm prosperity for the South. The fullness of the day which he foresaw has not yet come or our farmers would not dozes break, there will be no low priced cotton forced on an unwilling market.

"When every farmer in the South shall eat bread from his own fields and meat from his own pastures, and disturbed by no creditors, and enslaved by no debt, shall sit amid his teeming gardens, and orchards, and vineyards, and dairies, and barn-yards, pitching his crops to his own wisdom and growing them in independence, making cotton his clean surplus, and selling it in his own time, and in his chosen market, and not at a master's bidding—getting his pay in cash and not in a receipted mortgage that discharges his debt, but does not restore his freedom—then shall be breaking the fullness of our day."

### HEAVY FIRE LOSS AT HAMER.

A. K. McLellan's Big Ginnery and 300 Bales of Cotton Destroyed.

The big ginnery at Hamer owned by A. K. McLellan was completely destroyed by fire at an early hour Friday night. Besides the ginnery, 300 bales of cotton, 300 tons of cotton seed, two seed houses and other outbuildings went up in smoke. The loss is estimated at \$75,000.00, with only \$18,500.00 worth of insurance.

The ginnery had been running all day and was closed down Friday night at the usual hour. Between 10 and 11 o'clock flames were seen shooting through the sides of the seed houses. A few minutes afterwards flames were seen to shoot from the ginnery and those who reached the scene first found that the interior of the gin was a mass of flames. There was no fire-fighting apparatus at hand and all the spectators could do was to stand by and watch the property go up in flames.

The ginnery was built just a few years ago at a cost of \$30,000 and was one of the largest individual ginning plants in the county. It served a wide area and the loss falls heavily not only on Mr. McLellan but upon the entire community.

Everything points to the fact that the fire was of incendiary origin. When the flames were discovered not only the gin house and seed houses were burning, but five wagons loaded with seed cotton were in flames. The wagons along with the cotton were completely destroyed. The cotton and wagons belonged to parties in the neighborhood who reached the gin too late that night to get their ginning done. An automobile which belonged to one of the gin employees was destroyed.