

The Cheraw Chronicle

"Tis Not in Mortals to Command Success, but We'll do More, Sempronious, We'll Deserve It."

Volume 16

CHERAW, CHESTERFIELD COUNTY, S. C., NOVEMBER, 30, 1911

Number 5

BEATTIE MAKES CONFESSION OF THE MURDER OF HIS YOUNG WIFE

Expiates the Crime in the Electric Chair in Richmond—Was Executed Early Friday Morning—Kept His Nerve to the End.

Richmond, Va., Nov. 24.—Henry Clay Beattie, Jr., before his death in the electric chair at 7.23 a. m. today confessed to the murder of his wife. The statement which was given out in the rotunda of a downtown hotel follows:

"I, Henry Clay Beattie, Jr., desirous of standing right before God and man, do on this, the 23rd day of November, 1911, confess my guilt of the crime against me. Much that was published concerning the details was not true but the awful fact, without the harrowing circumstances, remains. For this action I am truly sorry, and believing that I am at peace with God and man and am soon to pass into His presence, this statement is made."

Minister's Statement.

Beattie's confession was followed by this statement by attending ministers:

"The statement was signed in the presence of the two attending ministers and is the only statement that can and will be made public by them."

Thanks to Friends.

"Mr. Beattie desired to thank the many friends for kind letters and expressions of interest and the public for whatever sympathy was felt or expressed."

Scene of Family Tragedy.

The scene of the crime was the penitentiary today. In his home in South Richmond the father, surrounded by his other son, Douglas, his daughter, Hazel, and two aunts of the condemned man, awaited word that all was over.

Death Was Instantaneous.

The shock that killed Beattie was given at exactly 7.19 o'clock this morning. Three distinct and separate times the current was turned on and at 7.23 it was shut off. Doctors W. T. and St. Julien Oppenheimer a minute later announced that death had been instantaneous. The twenty-two persons in the death chamber thereupon fled out, and the end of a lengthy and costly battle for justice had ended.

In addition to the two physicians there were gathered in the death house when Beattie appeared, the twelve witnesses to the electrocution as required by law, the Revs. John J. Fix and Benjamin Dennis, Maj. Jas. E. Woods, superintendent of the penitentiary, the electrician and four deputy wardens.

When the preliminaries were over, superintendent Wood, accompanied by two deputies, threw back an iron-studded door and started for the death cell. Instantly the death chamber was plunged in blackness with the exception of a vivid circle of light from the hooded and powerful lamp above the chair. The chair, an oaken bit of furniture, which except for its straps and steel bands might grace any library, was on a rubber mat. All but it was obscured, the dazzling rays from the low-swinging lamp throwing everything else into darkness so dense as almost to be felt.

Did Not Flinch.

The little party in the chamber heard the superintendent a few feet away droning out the death warrant. Beattie listened to it with intensity, but did not flinch. He stood during the reading, as is the custom, and when it was ended he swayed a trifle but quickly recovered. Then, without assistance he took his place between the guards and began his march to the unknown.

His entrance to the death chamber was as dramatic as anything he

had done since first he commanded the public eye. He halted for a brief moment on the threshold, looked on the chair with an inscrutable smile that had in it the hint of a sneer and then walked briskly forward. Not once did he deign to strive to pierce the blackness outside this circle of glowing light.

It had been feared that the prisoner would flinch when the dreadful moment came to seat himself in the chair. There was no trepidation and not a hint of hesitation in Beattie's attitude. Still wearing his peculiar smile, half amused and half cynical, he stepped lightly into the seat, settled himself as though he had been looking forward to the rest and assisted the attendants in adjusting the straps and clamps by placing his arms and hands in the proper positions. The only indication that he was under a nervous strain was disclosed by his tightly clenched left hand.

When the law was avenged and the witnesses were gone, the prison attendants removed the body to the mortuary room, which adjoins the death chamber. There it lay for four hours until an undertaker, authorized by the Beattie family to prepare it for burial, removed it to his morgue. Later it was taken to the Beattie home where funeral services, attended only by the family, will be held. Burial in the family cemetery will be on Sunday.

NEWBERRY COURT INDICTS FELDER

SOLICITOR HANDS OUT BILL

Charge is Atlanta Lawyer Offered

Chairman Evans Bribes Running to \$250,000.

Newberry, Nov. 27.—An indictment was handed to the grand jury in the general sessions court here this morning, charging Thomas B. Felder, of Atlanta, with bribery. The charge is that he attempted to bribe H. H. Evans, in 1905, while Evans was chairman of the board of directors of the State dispensary. At that time Evans was on the board with John Bell Towill, of Batesburg, and L. W. Boykin, of Camden.

Evans, Towill and Boykin were this morning sworn as witnesses before the grand jury. Governor Blease was in court at the time the indictment was handed out by Solicitor Cooper.

The indictment follows a warrant sworn out some months ago by H. Frank Kelly, then secretary of the dispensary winding-up commission. This warrant was placed in the hands of Sheriff Buford of this county, who went to Atlanta for Felder but was powerless to arrest him, because Governor Brown of Georgia refused to honor the requisition issued by Governor Blease of South Carolina.

The indictment comes after an investigation by the winding-up commission. Judge Gage charged the grand jury that they should find a true bill, the requisition before them satisfied them beyond a reasonable

THE CHERAW BOARD OF TRADE HELD ANNUAL MEETING TUESDAY

Officers Elected For Another Year—Cotton Mill Proposition Discussed—An Instructive Talk by Senator John L. McLaurin.

The annual meeting of the Cheraw Board of Trade was held in the Council chamber Monday night. It was well attended and many matters of importance were disposed of.

As chairman of the committee on new enterprises, Mr. William Godfrey, in his report, stated that after the president, the chief engineer and other officers of the Bluff Falls Power Co., had visited Cheraw, they had recommended to their company that they run their wires into Cheraw. This, says Mr. Godfrey, assures the people of Cheraw of the Bluff Falls power as far as they can be assured and still not have it. Mr. Godfrey reported a new cotton mill proposition, and after several gentlemen had been called on for their views, a motion was made and carried that a committee consisting of Messrs. William Godfrey, S. T. A. McManus and E. Walker Duval be appointed to ask for twenty volunteers who would undertake to raise \$5,000 each in stock for the new mill, that being the amount necessary for the citizens of Cheraw to raise. The cotton mill proposition

was endorsed by the board of trade, and with the cooperation of the members we hope to soon have a cotton mill for Cheraw.

After other committees had reported, including the report of the retiring president, Mr. E. Walker Duval, which is published elsewhere in this issue, the officers for the ensuing year were elected, as follows:

President—Capt. W. T. Thrower.
Vice President—L. M. Evans.
Secretary and Treasurer—D. L. Tillman.

When the business of the board was finished, the president, in a few complimentary and appropriate remarks introduced ex-Senator John L. McLaurin, of Bennettsville, who talked very interestingly and instructively for a short time. The Senator seems to be afraid of the newspapers and for that reason we will not publish his address as we, at one time, thought of doing.

When Senator McLaurin had concluded his address a rising vote of thanks was extended him for remaining over in Cheraw and addressing the board of trade.

Felder to Evans of the \$250,000 in lawful money of the United States, being practically a repetition of the second count in a different form.

The famous "T. B." letter, addressed "Dear Hub," which was made public given to the press by Governor Blease, as a letter written by Felder to Evans, bears date Atlanta, October 2, 1905, and the indictment appears to be grounded upon the matters set out in this letter.

CAN YOU ASK MORE.

Your Money Back for the Asking. You Promise Nothing.

We are so confident that we can furnish relief for indigestion and dyspepsia that we promise to supply the medicine free of all cost to every one who uses it according to directions who are not satisfied with the results. We exact no promises and put no one under any obligations whatever. Surely nothing could be fairer. We are located right here where you live, and our reputation should be sufficient assurance of the genuineness of our offer.

We want every one who is troubled with indigestion or dyspepsia in any form to come to our store and buy a box of Rexall Dyspepsia Tablets. Take them home, and give them a reasonable trial, according to directions. If they don't please you, tell us and we will quickly return your money. They have a very mild but positive action upon the organs with which they come in contact, apparently acting as a regulative tonic upon the relaxed muscular coat of the bowel, thus overcoming weakness, and aiding to restore the bowels to more vigorous and healthy activity. Three sizes, 25c., 50c., and \$1.00. Remember, you can obtain Rexall Remedies only at our Store—The Rexall Store.—Ladd's Drug Store, Cheraw, S. C.,

The B. Y. P. U. will meet at 6:45 on Sunday night. Topic—The Coming of Christ. Leader—Mr. S. I. Cato. All members are urged to be present on time. Special music has been arranged both for the B. Y. P. U. and for the night preaching service.

Sample Neckwear for ladies. H. W. Harrall.

CHERAW TO HAVE PRIMARY ELECTION

A PROGRESSIVE STEP TAKEN

Meeting Held Tuesday Evening Well Attended and Club Organized With Large Membership.

As per call issued last week, a meeting was held in the town hall Tuesday evening at 8.00 o'clock and the Cheraw Municipal Democratic Club was organized. The meeting was organized by calling Capt. W. T. Thrower to the chair and the election of Mr. S. G. Godfrey as secretary.

The object of the meeting was stated by J. N. Stricklin, and Hon. W. D. Evans then introduced the following resolutions:

Resolved, That we, the citizens of Cheraw in mass meeting assembled, do proceed to organize a political club to be known as the Cheraw Municipal Democratic Club, the purpose of which is to provide for the adoption of the Primary plan of nominating a Mayor and Wardens and such other officers as may be desired, under such rules and regulations as now govern the holding of primary elections for county officers.

Resolved 2, That after the enrollment of such names of those present who wish to join the Club, the following officers shall be elected: President, Vice President, Executive Committee consisting of 3 members, Committee on Enrollment, Committee on Registration.

Resolved 3, That the first Primary Election shall be held..... day of..... that the President and the Executive Committee shall have authority to provide such rules and regulations for the holding of the primaries and fix the dates for holding the same, said rules not to be inconsistent with the rules adopted by the Democratic County Executive Committee.

On motion the resolutions were adopted by a unanimous vote, and in accordance therewith the following

Deposit your money

IN

The Bank of Cheraw

Cheraw, S. C.

STRONGER THAN ALL OTHER BANKS IN THE COUNTY COMBINED

4% compounded quarterly in savings department

Bishop Guerry Will be in Cheraw Next Sunday.

Right Rev. W. A. Guerry, D.D., the Bishop of the Diocese of South Carolina, will be at St. David's church on Sunday morning next. He will preach and administer the right of Confirmation at the 11 o'clock service.

Mr. J. P. Stogner, of Helena, Ark., reached Cheraw on Friday after his father's death, and after spending a few days with his mother has returned to his home.

Big Line Sample Skirts—Voils, Panamas, etc., \$3.50 to \$12.00. Great bargains. Latest styles. H. W. Harrall.

Mrs. P. H. Joyner, of Princeton, N. C., spent the week end with her mother, Mrs. Laura S. Craig.

Big line sample Waists—50 cents to \$5.50 Great Bargains. Latest Styles. H. W. Harrall.

doubt; if not, to find "no bill." In addition to the former members of the dispensary board sent before the grand jury, it is understood that several letters purporting to have been written by Felder to Evans and others were submitted to the jury.

The indictment is drawn under section 261 of the criminal code and contains three counts. In effect, it charges that Felder, on or about October 2, 1905, offered H. H. Evans of Newberry, then chairman of the State dispensary board, a large amount of stock in a company organized by Felder, to influence Evans' vote to secure orders for liquor from the company so organized. The first count charges that on the date named Felder offered Evans \$50,000 of the capital stock of this company organized under the laws of one of the States of the United States, said State being to the jurors known.

The second count charges Felder with offering Evans \$250,000 of the preferred stock of this company and the third count charges the offer by