

## Three Murderers are Resentenced

Columbia, May 23.—S. J. Kirby, C. O. Fox and Jesse Gappins, convicted last August of the murder of William C. Brazell, a youthful taxicab driver of Columbia, were sentenced at Lexington today to be electrocuted June 16.

The trio last August hired Brazell's automobile on the streets of Columbia to drive them to Augusta and before they reached Lexington they struck him on the head, half stunning him. They then, while he was half lying on the running board, stabbed him to death, Cox confessing at the trial that he wielded the knife and "ground it in the wound." The body was then thrown into a nearby thicket. The men then proceeded beyond Augusta with Brazell's car when they had tire trouble. Kirby, who was alone at the time, met a chain gang guard and confessed. The three men were locked in the Augusta jail, which was later surrounded by a mob from this state in an effort to get the three men. For three days and nights armed men patrolled this vicinity in an endeavor to find the men. No trouble was experienced in getting the men to the state penitentiary. They were sentenced to electrocution on August 21. The execution was stayed by appeal to the supreme court.

## FIRE DESTROYS FAIREY HOME.

Owner Overcome by Flames and Smoke.

Branchville, May 17.—Fire destroyed the home of M. E. Fairey here Monday morning about ten o'clock. How it caught is yet a mystery. It is said that there had been no fire in the house since Sunday morning. The fire was not discovered until it was far under way as it caught between the ceiling of the second floor and the roof and as the house had a galvanized roof the blaze smothered and was not found until the rafters were burned. As soon as the alarm was given Mr. Fairey rushed upstairs and opened the door to the room where the fire had started and was soon overcome by the flames and smoke and had to be carried out of the house. He is recovered from his experience it is stated.

Practically all the furniture on the first floor was saved but that on the second floor was a total loss. Mr. Fairey had about \$3,500 insurance.

This makes the fifth house burned on this block in the last five years. This was the second in the past two weeks.

### Mr. Byrnes's Address.

We do not think that the objections to the Four-Power Pact have ever been stated more strongly or more lucidly or more succinctly than they were stated by Representative Byrnes in his address at the College of Charleston commencement Tuesday night. Mr. Byrnes exhibited a very complete grasp of the questions which he discussed and his address, which will be published in full in the Sunday News next Sunday, is an exceptionally comprehensive and informing review of the conditions and problems with which this country and the world are faced. It can be read and studied with profit by anyone who wishes to approach the big issues of the time understandingly.

Mr. Byrnes Tuesday night was in the house of his friends but there were many who heard him speak for the first time. Most of them appreciated already that he is one of the ablest and most alert men to go to Congress from South Carolina in years. What chiefly impressed his audience Tuesday night, as the comments yesterday clearly showed, was his profound and unmistakable sincerity.—News and Courier.



This B is busy,  
So should you B,  
And win a prize  
Quite easily.

## Asks Revocation Increase Order

Representative J. Carl Kearsa Saturday addressed a letter to the state tax commission seeking a revocation of the commission's recent order increasing the valuation of farm lands in Bamberg county from \$4.69 to \$6.40 per acre for purposes of taxation, information of which was published in The Herald last week. The letter, addressed to J. T. Durham, chairman, which was accompanied by a clipping from The Herald on this subject, is as follows:

Mr. J. T. Durham,  
South Carolina Tax Commission,  
Columbia, South Carolina.

Dear Mr. Durham:  
Our auditor, Mr. W. D. Rowell, has just called my attention to the fact that your commission has instructed him to raise the valuation of the farm lands in this county from an average of \$4.69 per acre last year to an average of \$6.40 per acre for 1922, making an increase of 36 per cent.

I was very much surprised to learn of this order, and I am at a loss to understand how the commission hopes to justify such an increase in the valuation of the farm lands in this county at this time. I feel that this order must have been issued without full knowledge of the conditions that exist in the agricultural sections of this county, and it is for the purpose of explaining these conditions that this letter is written. I feel that, when you have carefully considered the matter, you will promptly revoke the order just issued, and that you will issue a new order, directing the auditor to decrease the valuation in this county. If there ever was a time when valuations of the farm lands in this county should be decreased, instead of increased, it is now.

Last year our cotton crop was cut down by the ravages of the boll weevil to about 4,164 bales, as compared with an average yield of about 28,000 bales for the county; in other words, the yield was reduced about 85 per cent, the farmers making about 15 per cent of a crop. It is a known fact that the boll weevils are more abundant this year than ever before, so how can we expect a greater yield this year?

Unfortunately, the people of this county have not yet learned to raise other money producing crops successfully. Last year, the farmers tried tobacco, but the crop was practically a failure, and the price was so low that everyone lost money on what they planted. This year, the farmers are planting a little truck, but the industry is still in its infancy, and it is impossible to tell what will be the result.

I was informed by our treasurer this morning that about 20 per cent of the taxes for last year have not yet been paid, and I am sure that a great part of those who have paid used money that was made in previous years. I doubt whether a half dozen farmers in the county made enough on their farms last year, above operating expenses, to pay taxes. Now, I ask, in the face of these facts, is it fair to increase the valuation of the farm lands of the county, and thereby increase the farmers' taxes?

The leading economists agree that one of the basic rules for taxation is "ability to pay." It can hardly be said that the farmer's ability to pay has been increased during the past year, and, on the other hand, it can readily be seen that it has been decreased.

I realize that the present valuation of \$4.69 per acre appears rather low, but when it is considered that less than one-fourth of the acreage in this county is under cultivation—that a great part of the acreage is in swamps and low lands and is practically worthless—it is then realized that the present valuation, which represents an acreage valuation of all lands, is not too low as compared with other counties.

You will remember that the whole trend of legislation last year was to reduce the amount of taxes on visible property, and particularly on farm lands. This was done because the legislators, who are the representatives of the people, realized the strain that the farmers were under, and sought to lighten their burdens. A material reduction was made, the levy being reduced from 12 to 7 mills. This will give the farmers and owners of visible property considerable relief, but, if the valuation of farm

## Democrats Ask for Lower Taxes

Columbia, May 17.—The Democratic state convention today heartily endorsed Woodrow Wilson and wished for him long life. It extended greetings to James M. Cox. The convention in its platform held that the system of deflating was being pressed by the Republican party, and that the gold bug is worse than the boll weevil bug. The platform report then advises the adoption of these principles; protection is criticized, the agricultural bloc in Congress is endorsed and commended the members of Congress for working with the bloc. It wants Congress to provide a system of short-term farm credit. The platform favors income, luxury and excise taxes and demands that such laws be put on the statute books. The lowest rate should be placed upon lands that produce the living of the people. Indeed if possible, they should be exempt; the platform goes on and says "the highest rates should be placed upon lands held for speculative purposes and all luxuries. Let the necessities be free."

The platform holds that the commission form of government has proven a failure. The platform committee recommended, "We condemn the practice of our general assembly in electing members of their own body to the various offices required by law to be chosen by it. We believe that all officers except judges should be elected by a direct vote of the people, and thus kill the evil practice."

The platform then suggests: "Our judicial circuits should be reduced to a number sufficient for the business of the state."

The report then says, "While our state expenditure may be extravagant they cannot compare with the burdens imposed upon the people through the defective system of county government. It is astounding how indifferent the average person is as to what becomes of county funds and the great loss resulting from the improper care and preservation of county road machinery, tools, supplies, etc."

Frauds perpetrated by contractors and others fitch from the county treasurer thousands of dollars annually. A state auditor is recommended. Strict enforcement of all laws is demanded especially the prohibition statute. In convictions the platform insists on prison sentences and no alternative of fine.

The platform condemns legislation on Sunday. A section is devoted to education and a full seven months' term is demanded for every white child in the state. Liberal support is asked for all educational enterprises.

Congressman Dominick was opposed to a general approval of the agricultural bloc.

Mr. McCleod defended the bloc and held that the bloc was committed to oppose W. H. R. Harding's reappointment on the federal board. Mr. Dominick feared Democratic support for protection as a result of combinations.

### Road Contracts Let.

Contracts for the state highway from Barnwell through Elko to the Aiken county line were let Friday. Simpson & White, who are just completing the Kline-Barnwell road, were awarded the contract for the stretch from Barnwell to Elko, their price being \$19,629.79. There was just \$250 difference in the bids of the three lowest bidders for this job. Mr. Teague, of Augusta, who has done considerable road building in Aiken county, received the contract for the road from Elko to the Aiken county line, his bid being \$9,194.57. These figures are considered very low and the county officials are to be congratulated on saving the taxpayers some money on the jobs. It is understood that work will begin immediately.—Williston Way.

lands is to be increased 36 per cent, what relief will the farmers receive? Surely, it cannot be contended that the actual valuation of the farms have increased. It is too well known that they have materially decreased. I trust that, after your commission has carefully considered these facts, you will revoke your order calling for an increase, and that you will leave the valuation as it is at present, or, if any change is to be made, that you lower it in accordance with the actual decrease that has taken place in the value of the farm lands throughout the county.

Very truly yours,  
J. CARL KEARSE.

## Storm Damages the Olar Section

Olar, May 22.—A severe wind, rain and thunder storm struck Olar at 5 o'clock this afternoon and did considerable damage to property, but there were no personal injuries. About thirty-five shade trees were uprooted and several residences slightly damaged by trees being blown across them. Dr. C. B. Ray's automobile was damaged in like manner.

Part of the roof was blown off Cleveland Morris's store. Part of a skylight was blown from the Rizer Automobile company's garage and the front glass broken.

C. H. Brabham's car was carried up the street as if being driven at a rapid speed and the top was taken off by the wind.

Doubtless considerable damage was done to the crops.

### BOARD NAMES TEXT BOOKS.

For Use in Public Schools Next Five Years.—Advance in Price.

Columbia, May 20.—Adoption of text books for the public schools of South Carolina was completed by the state board of education yesterday after several days of conference on various texts which had been submitted. The board of education has been in session several days and yesterday announced that its work had been practically completed.

Approximately 32 contracts with book publishing houses remain to be signed up, but this work will be completed within a day or two. Representatives of various publishing houses have been in Columbia in numbers recently and many texts have been brought to the attention of the board. The books for the next five years will be somewhat higher in price, it was understood yesterday, than they were under the old contracts as the cost of practically everything that goes into their making has advanced in recent years.

J. E. Swearingen, state superintendent of education, when asked yesterday for a list of the books adopted by the board, said that a list had not been prepared for publication. He said, however, that the list would be available in a few days.

The law of the state, as is generally known, provides for a re-adoption of text books for the public schools every five years. The books adopted by the board at its meeting will be used over the state in the schools during the next five years. Provision is made with the book companies whereby old books may be exchanged in part payment for new books, this arrangement saving much money to the people of the state.

### MULLINS CITIZEN SUICIDES.

R. Mills Shoots Self After Wounding Merchant.

Mullins, May 17.—R. Miles is dead and Ben Snyder is possibly fatally injured from shots alleged to have been fired by Mr. Miles in Mr. Snyder's store about 10:30 o'clock this morning.

At the coroner's inquest this afternoon the verdict was that "R. Miles came to his death by gun shot wounds inflicted by his own hand."

The bullet which ended the life of Mr. Miles was fired into the temple. Dr. J. Hagood Smith, who examined Mr. Snyder's wounds, is of the opinion that the bullet entered Mr. Snyder's back, ranged the full length of the left lung and barely missed the heart. His condition is very grave.

The story as told by Mr. Snyder is that Mr. Miles came to the store early this morning for a settlement for an iron safe which he had sold to Mr. Snyder. It is alleged that Mr. Miles contended for a sum in advance of the agreed price and that the shooting followed in consequence of Mr. Snyder's refusal.

Mrs. Snyder was in the store at the time but knew nothing of the misunderstanding until the shots were heard.

Ike Sheer, a brother-in-law of Mr. Snyder and a clerk in the store, had left the building a few minutes before.

Mr. Snyder is a nephew of Mr. Miles and both have been in the clothing and dry goods business here for a number of years. Mr. Miles was the oldest clothing merchant in Mullins and by hard work and attention to business he had amassed a small fortune. About 90 days ago he sold out his business to Mr. Snyder.

## Two Will Die; One Gets Life

Columbia, May 20.—With expressionless faces F. M. Jeffords, Ira Harrison and Glenn Treece, convicted here this evening at 6:16 o'clock of the murder of John C. Arnette on the night of May 6, heard their sentences pronounced by Presiding Judge W. H. Townsend, the two former to die at the state penitentiary by electrocution on June 15 and the latter to serve the remainder of his life behind prison walls. Treece was recommended to the mercy of the court.

There was absolutely no demonstration in the crowded court room as the jury filed in with the verdict after it had been out three hours and nineteen minutes. The prisoners were placed in the dock with a heavy cordon of officers around them and Judge Townsend cautioned the audience that none would be allowed to leave until after the court had completed its business. All doors were then closed.

The three men were sentenced at 6:30 o'clock. There was no noise to break the calm judicial pronouncements of the judge except the sobbing of some of the women relatives of the condemned men. As sentence was pronounced they were taken to the state penitentiary, two to be placed in death cells, and the other, Treece, to labor out the long years of his life in custody.

Today the trial went into its fifth day. It was coupled with the arguments of attorneys for Treece and Jeffords and the closing argument of Solicitor Spigener. The jury was then allowed to go to its meal.

On the night of May 6 the dead body of J. C. Arnette, joint proprietor with F. M. Jeffords, was found in a partly overturned automobile in a lonely dell at Colonial Heights, a suburb of Columbia, with his head crushed. The theory of the case as developed by the state, was that the deed was due to a conspiracy between Jeffords and two employees of the filling station, Ira Harrison and Glenn Treece, for the purpose of obtaining \$4,000 in partnership insurance, through which complete interest in the business could be bought by the three.

It was contended that the three men had a conference two weeks before the commission of the deed and decided on its methods. The idea was to entice Arnette into the rear of the filling station, slay him, take him to a high viaduct, dump the automobile containing the dead body, thereby simulating accident. Two attempts to murder Arnette previously had been made, contended the state, on two nights previous to the actual commission.

It was contended that Treece watched while Jeffords and Harrison slunk in the rear of the filling station awaiting the proprietor. When he came back he was hit on the head with a stick by Harrison, but not felled; then Jeffords threw Arnette, choking him into insensibility.

Both men then took Arnette between two automobiles, Jeffords crushing his head into a pulp with an automobile axle, it was charged. Arnette's body was then thrown into the front seat of his own car, Harrison getting in beside it and Treece climbing into the rear. The car was then driven to the point designated in the conspiracy, but the presence of two street cars prevented its propulsion over the bank. It was then, with Treece out of the car, taken to the spot where found. The state then contended that the car was rolled slowly down a deep declivity by Harrison, in the endeavor of overturning it, making the crime appear as a natural accident.

The three men then joined, Jeffords and Harrison later going back to the filling station, setting it afire in an effort to destroy evidences of a struggle in the rear of it. The fire was discovered in time to prevent destruction of the building.

The three men were arrested shortly after the commission of the crime and Harrison confessed to the police. The case has created decided interest in Columbia and vicinity, and not in recent criminal history has such crowds thronged the Richland county court house.

According to the best obtainable information tonight, there will be no appeal from the verdict.

### Tough One.

"Do you call that a beefsteak? It makes me laugh!"  
"I'm glad to hear it, sir. Most people swear."—Kasper (Stockholm.)

## Branchville Man Shot on Highway

E. A. Cole, an employee of the Cameron Lumber company, sustained painful injuries Saturday night in the lower part of this county as he was returning from Branchville. Just as he crossed the river on the Branchville-Smoaks highway, he was shot, it is alleged, from ambush. The matter was reported to the Bamberg county authorities, but up to Tuesday afternoon no arrests had been made, although it was stated that there was strong suspicion as to the perpetrator of the deed. The following dispatch concerning the matter is clipped from Tuesday's State:

Branchville, May 21.—Saturday night about 10:30 o'clock E. Alex Cole, sawyer for the Cameron Lumber company, was painfully but not seriously shot in the left shoulder while going home.

He had been to Branchville with his wife and children and just as he crossed the river bridge on the road from Branchville to Smoaks some one shot him.

From tracks it appears that the party was standing only about ten feet from the road and about the same distance from the river. Fortunately most of the load of bird-shot and slugs went into the rear of the auto seat.

Blood hounds arrived from Newberry about 10 o'clock Sunday morning but were unable to do anything. It is generally thought that the shot was meant for some one else and not for Mr. Cole.

### WAS ENEMY OF WHITES.

Waika, Proud Chippewa Chief, Passes to Happy Hunting Grounds.

Peter Waika, 87 years old, the last of the Waikas, proudest branch of the long line of Chippewa Indian chiefs, is dead.

The aged Indian carried with him to his grave the strain of pride and all of his hatred of the "whites," which for years made the Waika Indians the outstanding braves of the many tribes inhabiting the Great Lakes section. He died of exposure to the cold, an element which for years he scoffed at.

The Waikas inhabited the region now known as the Bay Hills and the Waika river and bay district in Chippewa county, Michigan, when the first white missionaries and settlers pushed their way into the wilderness. The tribe, with its centuries old pride, looked with disfavor on the white man, who came and cleared their lands and then broke them with a plough.

Peter Waika until the last maintained the same feeling of hatred that befit the final survivor of his race. His friends say that he grew more and more melancholy year by year as he watched the forest disappear and the white man's modern inventions take their places.

### WOMEN OF AFGHANISTAN.

Policy of the Men to Keep Them in Ignorance.

Like the Arab, the Afghan considers it unnecessary and even unwise that women should learn to read or write. No girls are admitted to the bazaar schools and no mullahs are employed to teach them, and Afghanistan knows nothing of women teachers.

The trade of Afghanistan is moved entirely in caravans and is largely in the hands of Hindoos and Tadjiks. There is not a mile of railroad in the kingdom, the Amir fearing that steel highways would make isolation impossible.

Apart from rugs, a few xylophones, some crude adornments for women, a little silk and felt are a few simple woven tissues, no products of native skilled labor are on the market. And even much of what is produced in these few lines is merely an imitation of western or eastern art. Small industries supply only the most urgent needs of the lower classes.

The rich people buy their luxuries from abroad and the poor make shabby shift with the cheaper fabrics.—Asia Magazine.

### Specimens of Magnificence.

Teacher—The word "grand" is used in the sense of "splendid, sublime, noble, and the like. Can you give an example of such use?"

Little Bobby—Yes'm. Grand dukes and grand larceny.