

# The Batesburg Advocate.

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NO. 26.

## GREAT DISASTER.

### Three Hundred Men Perish in a Johnstown Mine.

### BEEN IN OPERATION 50 YEARS.

### Cause of the Explosion Not Known.

### but Supposed to be Carelessness of Some Miner.

Johnstown was again visited by an appalling disaster last Thursday. It is only less frightful than the awful calamity of May 31, 1889, in cost of life, but in its terrible consequence it has brought the shadow of sorrow in hundreds of homes made desolate by a mine explosion, which took place in the Cambria Steel Company Rolling Mill mine, under Westmont Hill, at 12:20 o'clock Thursday afternoon.

How many are dead it may take several days to ascertain, but that it is a long and shocking list is certain. It may reach 200 or more men.

It was nearly an hour after the explosion before any general knowledge of what had happened got abroad. Men who came from the mines, escaping with their lives, told the terrible news and soon it spread like wild fire all over the city. In scores of homes there were the most pathetic scenes. Mothers, wives, daughters, sons and relatives were frantic with grief. Hundreds rushed to the point and, with sobbing hearts, awaited news that did not come from the ill-fated mine.

### THE WORK OF RESCUE.

At the opening across the river from the point the Cambria Iron Company police, with several assistants, stood guard, permitting no one to enter the mine, from which noxious gases were coming. It was nearly 4 o'clock when all hope of sending rescue parties from the Westmont opening was abandoned. Two men who had escaped from the mine, Richard Bennett and John Meyers, went back two miles to see what assistance could be rendered, but the frightful damp drove them back and they fell prostrate, and after a desperate struggle reached the outside. The doctors gave the men assistance and, after working with them half an hour, restored them.

Their story of the situation in the mine made it clear that the rescue work could not proceed from the Westmont opening, and then hasty preparations were made to begin that sad mission at the Mill Creek entrance. Soon after the news of the explosion reached the surface, Marshall G. Moore, mining engineer and one of his assistants, A. G. Prosser, made an attempt to enter the mine and they were followed by Mine Superintendent George T. Robinson, but the gases stopped their progress and they were compelled to return to the surface.

### RESCUERS OVERCOME BY GAS.

Mine Foreman Harry Rodgers, his assistant, William Blanch, and Fire Bosses John Whitney, John Retallick and John Thomas, were overcome by the gases, and it is feared they perished in an effort to rescue the miners. A son of Harry Rodgers then tried to reach his father, but he was quickly overcome by gas and was carried out unconscious.

William Stibich spent several hours at the Mill Creek opening. He said that he believed as many as 450 men were still in the mine. In his opinion, from all he could glean, not to exceed 150 had come out.

When the news of the explosion reached the surface, Marshall G. Moore, mining engineer and one of his assistants, A. G. Prosser, promptly made an attempt to enter the mine. They were followed by Mine Superintendent George T. Robinson. After much trouble they reached one of the telephone located in the mine and communicated with the Cambria general office. They were unable to give any details of the effects of the explosion, but feared the loss of life was large and that the damage to the mine was serious. Their progress was stopped by the deadly gases and they stated that an attempt would not be made to reach the scene of the accident, which is known as the "Klondike" in the miner's parlance. No entrance to the working portion of the mine can be effected from the main entrance. Many of the miners escaped at Mill Creek, a shaft reaching the mine near the power house at that point.

### NARROW ESCAPE OF AMERICANS.

About a score of Americans, who were at work in the Klondike district, noticed the presence of the fire damp in their apartment soon after the explosion occurred and started at once for the main entrance. They were almost overcome by the gas, but reached the outside in safety. One of the men who got out safely said it was not known what caused the explosion, and that it will probably never be known, as he believed none of the men at work in the Klondike district can be saved.

### CARELESSNESS OF MINERS.

He also said that only a few days ago the officials issued an order to the employees in the mines not to play with the gas, and that the next day a young Hungarian was seen pushing his naked lamp along the roof of the mine in search of it. The mine foreman, Harry Rodgers, his assistant, William Blanch, and Fire Bosses John Whitney, John Thomas and John Retallick were overcome by the gases and perished in a heroic attempt to rescue the miners. Mining engineer Moore and George T. Robinson, sup-

erintendent, are at the head of a rescue party from the Franklin Slope and Conemaugh Mine. They are slowly working their way toward the scene of the explosion, but must light the gas every step of the way. Canvas screens are being used to wall all the side entrances and rooms so as to force a current of pure air ahead of the rescuers. Engineer A. G. Prosser, who, with Mr. Moore, entered the main opening, came to the surface at Mill Creek Thursday and immediately set about getting men and material to assist in the rescue. It will be absolutely impossible to state the loss of life until the rescuers reach the scene of the disaster, which may be several hours, possibly midnight.

### TRYING TO SAVE WHITNEY.

Harry Rodgers, the mine foreman, his assistant, William Blanch, with Fire Bosses John Whitney, John Retallick and John Thomas, were not in the Klondike when the explosion took place, but started down a short time later. It is feared all have perished. Griffith Powell and Thomas Foster, two other fire bosses, carried Mr. Whitney two hundred yards in the hope of saving his life, when they were compelled to drop their burden and save themselves. Mr. Whitney was unconscious when he was carried by his friends. The fifteen-year-old son of Harry Rodgers, whose father had his father had been overcome with fire damp, started down toward the Klondike to help rescue him, if possible, and he had no sooner entered the drift than the deadly gas almost overcame the lad and he had to be carried back. His tongue protruded its whole length from his mouth and men had to force his jaws apart with a stick to prevent his jaws from being pointed and sawed. Young Rodgers, who is employed in the mine, was among those who escaped through the Mill Creek shaft.

### THE BODIES OF FIFTY MEN.

Several miners have reached the surface who were working near the scene of the explosion. They say that they passed through a portion of the Klondike district, and saw the bodies of at least fifty men. The men who came out were foreigners and were in such an excited condition that it was impossible to get a connected story from them.

The mine has been open for about fifty years and is producing 3,000 tons per day. It is the property of the Cambria Steel Company. The families of the entombed miners are assembled in large numbers at the mine opening, but they cannot get any definite information and must endure a suspense of many hours.

### ARMORY AS A MORGUE.

The armory of Company H, 5th regiment, N. G. P., will be turned into a charnel house.

After a conference it was announced that the dead miners would be brought to the armory Friday. Planks have been laid on chairs in the armory and the removal of bodies will begin at an early hour in the morning.

### The ambulances of all the undertakers in the city are at Mill Creek in readiness to begin the transfer of bodies.

At midnight President Powell Stuchouse was seen at the mouth of the mine and gave out the following statement:

"The disaster is an awful one and came on us entirely unexpectedly. The mine had been inspected only three days ago and was pronounced in satisfactory condition. In the thirty years that the mine has been in operation no serious accident has occurred. The cause is yet indefinite, but I believe it was caused by gas escaping from the fifth heading, which was closed and was not being worked because it contained gas, into the sixth heading."

### THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES

is now placed at 125. No list of the names of the dead miners can be given, for the majority of them were foreigners, and were known only by check and not by name. The only way their names will ever be known, if the bodies are recovered in time for identification, will be by their families sending their names to us.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE MINE.

The mine in which the disaster occurred is one of the largest coal mines in the United States, according to the statement of officials tonight. From the entrance in the hill across the river from the point to the one at Mill Creek is a distance of three and three-quarters miles. The Klondike section, in which the explosion occurred, is about two miles from the Mill Creek entrance.

The mine is divided into a large number of headings, levels and sections. The sections run off to the left and right of the headings, and are known as right and left by the miners. The men who escaped this afternoon have spent years working in it. Otherwise they could never have reached the surface. Lights were out and there was no way for them to find their way to the top had they not known the mine perfectly.

### EFFECT OF THE EXPLOSION.

The few survivors who have escaped from the depths of the mine describe the condition as frightful. Outside of the "Klondike" the mines are safe and uninjured. Within the fatal limits of the mine the havoc wrought by the explosion is such as beggars description. Solid walls of masonry three feet thick were torn down as though barriers of paper. The roofs of the mine were demolished and not a door remains standing.

Brave attempts at rescue were made here. Mining Engineer Moore and his assistant, A. G. Prosser, tried to make some headway toward the imprisoned miners three and a half miles away, but they were driven back by

the deadly gases. Richard Bennett and John Meyers, two miners, were similarly driven back. Then the attempt at rescue work from the main opening was shifted to Mill Creek, five miles from this city.

Business in the city was practically at a standstill.

"They are not all dead. We ran across some of them alive," stammered Mr. Swan Tylar, at 1:25 o'clock tonight, when he staggered out of the shaft at Mill Creek.

Just how many, though, dead or alive, he was unable to say. He had been down in the mine since 2 o'clock in the afternoon with the rescuing party. The first victim brought to the surface was William Robertson accompanied by Dr. John B. Lowman.

"We have four with us," said the doctor. Robertson is in the worst shape. He is unconscious and badly hurt. We passed twenty-five bodies while getting out these four, who are yet alive. We counted them as we went along. They lay in all kinds of positions. One man was leaning against a door, not far from Robertson, just where he had been thrown by the force of the explosion. Froth was running from his mouth and he had undoubtedly died in great agony. Others were partly standing, partly reclining. They were in heaps and singly. The party with us has nearly reached the actual scene of the explosion and the work of bringing out the poor fellows ought to progress rapidly from now on."

It was nearly 12 o'clock before the first four live men and one corpse were brought up and laid on mattresses, rugs and comforts on the ground. They were not left long outdoors, as it was too cold there, but were carried into the boiler house nearby, and the doctors went to work on them, giving them restoratives and administering oxygen in the glare of the fires from the open furnaces.

At 12:15 A. M., this (Friday) morning, the general manager Moore, of the mines, who, with Superintendent Robinson, had penetrated to a considerable distance in the Klondike, had reached a telephone station and notified men at the main entry that he had found five of the bodies up to that time and had been only in the right rooms. From the brief report it was understood that Mr. Moore had gone as far as he could without endangering his life from fire damp, and had decided to go to the Mill Creek entry from there without further search.

Further news came a few moments later that Mine Superintendent Robinson, who had gone into the mine with General Manager Moore, had been unable to talk. He had been carried to the Mill Creek entrance. The mine employees stationed at the mine entry stated that the fact that Mr. Moore had penetrated so far into the mines showed that the fire damp was being cleared rapidly and with every prospect of being entirely driven from the mine before morning.

### A Convict Rewarded.

Gov. McSweeney Wednesday rewarded a convict for the saving of a guard's life near this city, granting him a pardon. The pardon was granted upon receipt of the following from Supt. Griffith of the State penitentiary: Dear Sir: I respectfully ask you to give Walter Anderson a full pardon for the reason that on the 10th day of March, 1900, while on detail work on farm, several prisoners overpowered and took Mr. Harling's gun from him. (Harling was the guard.) Some of the prisoners had Harling down on the ground when this convict, Walter Anderson, rushed to his relief, pulled the convicts off of him and saved him from being killed, for which I at once made him a "trusty," and he has ever since, as well as before, been a fine prisoner, humble, obedient and a good worker.

### Great Loss of Property.

A sandstorm has caused damage estimated at \$1,000,000 in the Indian valley on the Southern Pacific railroad in the Colorado desert. A whirlwind of one hundred acres had been made by digging artesian wells and planted in melons. Judging by last year, when only sixty acres were in cultivation, a profit of more than \$1,000,000 an acre would have been made. Three hundred carloads of melons, for which \$1,200 a car had been offered, were almost ready for shipment when the storm broke. For three days it raged with the thermometer 126 in the shade, and when it was over every bit of vegetation had been destroyed.

### Works of a Clondburst.

A special from Paris, State of Chihuahua, says a clondburst visited this section today covering an area of 50 square miles and doing damage to the extent of \$400,000. The big Patagonian dam, the largest in northern Mexico, broke with all the flood gates open and was completely destroyed. The San Lorenzo dam, which has been standing for over 350 years, was also washed away. This dam was built of solid masonry about 1570 and was in perfect condition until Wednesday.

### Three Mutilated Bodies.

Near Prudence, Enid, O. T. 30 miles southwest of here, the bodies of a man, a woman, two children, apparently members of one family, mutilated into almost unrecognizable masses were found today. The bodies had been stripped of all clothing leaving no means of identification. It is supposed that the family were strangers traveling overland and that they were robbed and murdered by men who then made off with their team and belongings.

## SENATORIAL RACE.

### The Candidates Speaks to a Large Crowd at Orangeburg.

### LATIMER GOES FOR EVANS.

### These Two Candidates Attack Each Other and Indulged In Crimination and Recrimination for Some Time.

The senatorial campaign meeting was held at this place on last Thursday. The party came over from Sumter, where they had spoken on Wednesday. The following account of the meeting by its regular correspondent. He says Orangeburg never does anything by halves. It is that unity of action and confidence of her people in each other that makes Orangeburg one of the finest counties in the State. Nothing gives these people more pleasure than to attend a campaign meeting, so when the announcement was made that big and brave candidates for the Senate would speak at Orangeburg Thursday fully 1,500 people gathered around the stand, erected on the east side of the Court House, and gave the candidates the greatest inspiration they have received on this campaign. Everybody expected "hot stuff" and they were not disappointed. Every candidate made votes, but how the ballots will add up no one knows.

### THE MEETING.

The Senatorial meeting was called to order by County Chairman W. O. Tatum at 11:15 a. m., and an earnest invocation was offered by the Rev. H. B. Browne, a presiding elder of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The first speaker introduced was

### COL. W. M. ELLIOTT.

Col. Elliott was at the disadvantage of being the first speaker, knowing that his speech would be criticised by his able competitors, who would note everything he said. Col. Elliott said that the old Black District had at various times covered nearly half this State, and if he had represented half of it, why not stand him further and make him Senator for the whole State? He told of his record in the civil war and his work in behalf of his home people in the dark days of reconstruction. He was chosen to lead a forlorn fight in his district and terrible contests followed each election, yet his Congressional record of fourteen years was able. The total amount of appropriations obtained is in round numbers \$5,000,000.

Col. Elliott spoke of the wonderful improvements in the manufacturing interests of the county and, as we are becoming a nation of exporters, it is necessary to improve the transportation facilities on "God's highways." He spoke of the Appalachian forest preserve and how beneficial its establishment will prove to the South in the prevention of destructive overflow of our Southern rivers.

### THE HON. J. J. HEMPHILL.

Col. Hemphill threw handsome bouquets at the ladies.

A voice: "Praise the gals if you don't get a vote."

We will do ourselves an injustice if our representatives content themselves with getting appropriations; we need leaders in Washington from the South who can protect our political interests. He charged that the Democratic committee had reported adversely on one occasion, but Col. Elliott called him down and reminded him that he made such a statement before and it was not true. Mr. Hemphill yielded to Col. Elliott's correction and passed on to the Philippine Islands, denouncing our Oriental expansion and spoke of our Oriental trade, especially the small returns accruing to us from the Philippines. He said that in the discharge of his duties as a lawyer he has often been called away from South Carolina to attend to professional matters. Some of his competitors want to say that he had given up his citizenship, but again he deemed it expedient to tell of his home connections in Chester—the same statement he made at Chesterfield Court House. Col. Hemphill received a beautiful bouquet of flowers.

### EX-GOVERNOR EVANS.

Mr. Evans felt the inspiration of an old-time orderly campaign audience. He told why he entered this and the former Senatorial campaign. It took his competitors five years to tree McLaurin, and now they all come here and want to be Senator. Dan Henderson went all over this country cursing old Ben and everlastingly connected with the Reform movement. Now he comes here preaching unity, but give me the peas and Henderson the cake." He spoke of Latimer's charge that it was said of him he took \$15,000 out of the bond deal. He denounced it again. If anybody will find it I will divide and give them two-thirds of it. Latimer says that his record is clean. We shall investigate this little matter. "He denounced the transportation trusts," said Mr. Evans, "but that pure, honest, Dr. Stokes, whom you all loved."

A voice: "Let him alone now; he is dead."

But Mr. Evans went on to read the charges made by Dr. Stokes in the Yorkville Enquirer, and which have already been printed. Latimer was up at Tirzah claiming all the credit for the free rural delivery, when Mr. Grist reported his statement in a daily paper and thus caught up with Mr. Latimer, claiming what did not belong to him. On that trip to Cuba he (Evans) was

down there, and Tillman and Norton came with Mr. Latimer. Tillman told him that he was Latimer's guest, and supposed that Latimer was paying for it. "Tillman had been caught up with one with a free pass and you can rest assured that you could never catch that old bull in a similar scrape again." You are asked to believe Stokes a liar and to believe him.

Mr. Latimer answers all this by saying that he brought a few Yankees down here, and pleads the Charleston Exposition as one of his excuses. Mr. Evans said that Mr. N. D. Harris, one of Latimer's best friends in Belton, had written him that Latimer had told him that he had offered Stokes an annual pass, and that Stokes accepted it. Also that Latimer had offered Mr. R. A. Lewis, of Belton, a pass to Mexico, but he had refused it. Again, Mr. Latimer offered Mr. Rufus Hill, of Anderson, and his brother-in-law, Clarence Hill, free transportation to Mexico, and that both accepted. Mr. Evans also charged that Latimer was in favor of turning over \$3,000,000 worth of property in Washington to the Pennsylvania Railway. In these things he had simply responded to Latimer's invitation to inspect his record. Mr. Evans said that he was president of a little railroad nine miles in length between Pickens and Anderson. He is proud of this, for every cent of money in this little road belongs to South Carolinians.

He is now living in Spartanburg, and has the confidence of every man, woman and child in the city, besides the support of the two papers, and believes that he will get 8,000 out of the 9,000 votes in the county. He spoke of his opposition to the Cuban war, and said that we ought to swart Cuba off for a "nigger" and then kill the "nigger." He is standing on his record and asks the votes of South Carolinians.

### LATIMER IN REPLY.

Mr. Latimer started off by saying that he is not responsible for this letter being brought into the campaign and therefore, the consequences must rest with the man who is using it. Mr. Latimer's denials and admissions were the same as made at Conway, but as to the new matter, the charges concerning, or coming from, Belton, he was as silent as the grave. Also the matter of giving that property, valued at \$3,000,000, in Washington, to the Pennsylvania Railway. He admitted all the junketing trips and said there was no law against accepting free transportation as the Legislature had killed it, but when Mr. Evans took him up on this he admitted that the Legislature had killed it, but the Governor had vetoed it. He admitted that he had gone West.

In this it was understood that he referred to his Mexico trip, but who went with him was not stated.

Mr. Latimer turned on Evans and said: "You were charged with taking \$15,000 in that bond deal. You have gone down into the grave to bring something up against me, but the man that made that charge still lives. Why don't you bring him here? (Cries of "Hurrah for Latimer.") Rion, of Augusta, knows about it. Why did you not bring him?"

Evans: "I could not get him, but I got an affidavit from his denying it, and read it in the campaign."

Mr. Latimer said that if anyone could prove that he tendered Dr. Stokes an annual pass over a trunk line that he would withdraw from this race. He spoke of his personal friendship for Dr. Stokes, and said that three weeks before Dr. Stokes' death because a letter from Dr. Stokes, stating that he wanted to come up and visit him. If there was any enmity he never knew it until these letters were produced. He said that Evans got into the Executive Mansion by swinging on to Tillman's coat tails. To this Evans replied: "You never would have got into Congress without Tillman."

Latimer: "After all Ben Tillman has done for you, you said that he had lined his pockets with rebates."

Mr. Evans denied this.

Mr. Latimer went into his Congressional record and told what he had done including getting an appropriation of \$15,000 for Newberry College. Although he had been warned in Sumter Wednesday on the street not to repeat his goat story, he did repeat it here to-day and applied it to Mr. Hemphill. He told of his transactions in copper stock and thought it a fair and legitimate way of making money. He obtained an option on a certain block of it and sold it at an advanced price. He did this after Congress adjourned. In conclusion he said: "If you do not think that I did right, don't vote for me. I will not have an office except on honor." (Cheers.)

### THE HON. D. S. HENDERSON.

Mr. Henderson was at last put on his metal and made the best speech he has made on the campaign. He was born, he said, in Colleton, and not a dishonest dollar has ever passed through his hands. Elliott, Latimer and Hemphill, who have been in Congress so long, have not brought salvation to South Carolina. Latimer poses as a farmer, saying two words always for himself and one for the farmer. Col. Elliott tells that he has fought negroes for fourteen years and now, as a reward, asks to be sent to the Senate. He told how they settled the negro question in Aiken forever. Mr. Hemphill has been in Congress ten years he did not set the world on fire, but after all these years he comes back and wants to go to the Senate. Evans said that he defeated him (Henderson) in Aiken, but he did not. Ben Tillman defeated him and not Evans. He ran on the Shepard ticket and Evans had Tillman at his back. Ben Tillman knows him and respects him and believes him (Henderson) to be an honest man. "The campaign," said Mr. Henderson.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.)

## MURDERED AT SEA.

### One Man of the Crew Shoots Down Another Without Warning.

A special from Pensacola, Fla. says The American schooner, Mary, Sanford, which arrived Saturday afternoon had an eventful voyage from Bluefields, Nicaragua, to Pensacola, during which time one man killed another and the crew of his shipmate, Captain McDonald was glad to reach here, and as soon as possible had the murderer in jail.

The Mary Sanford left Bluefields on June 24 and when four days out in latitude 15.40 and longitude 81.45, A. M. Nicholson, the first mate, killed Fred, Reed a West Indian seaman at 4 a. m.

Reed, it was learned, had been ordered to some duty about the sails, but the particular job was not done according to the liking of Nicholson, who ordered Reed to do the work over. The latter did not relish this and made insulting remarks to the mate, who without any bandy of words, whipped out a 44-calibre revolver and filled the negro's body with four bullets, either one of which would have proved fatal. The seaman died within 20 seconds after being shot.

When Captain McDonald saw what had happened, he ran and overpowered Nicholson, took the pistol from him and threw it overboard. The mate was then placed in irons and kept so confined, and under strict guard until the vessel reached the Pensacola quarantine station, when the United States marshal's office was told of the murder on the high seas and Nicholson brought here and locked up. He will be given a preliminary trial before U. S. Commissioner Tunison tomorrow morning. Since he has engaged legal advice he refuses to talk and give his side of the occurrence.

To The Journal's representative one of the ship's officers stated that immediately after the killing four West Indian seamen, countrymen of the dead man, openly resented the murder of Reed, and many times did things looking as though the murderer would swing from a yard arm. The captain, white mate and steward were the only white men on the vessel, and the combined watchfulness of this overworked quartette prevented a marine session of Judge Lynch's court. The West Indian were said to have been a most revengeful class and various conspiracies were nipped in their incipency by the white crew, who gleaned knowledge of the plots by the boasting of the conspirators who offered to have the lives of all the ship's officers when they were prevented from laying hands on Nicholson.

Reed's body was wrapped in sails and hurled at sea, a few miles from the location of where the shooting occurred. He had repeatedly made trouble for the ship and is spoken of as having been a dangerous man. Nicholson belongs to a prominent family at Halifax, Nova Scotia, and has followed the sea for many years.

The Mary Sanford, lying the American flag, is a frequent trader here. The murder will necessarily have to be heard in the United States court, which convenes here next month. And this is the first capital crime to be heard or docketed in the federal court of this district for years.

### A Simple Remedy.

The troublesome little red ants that appear as if by magic about midsummer, and take complete control of the pantry at the time when summer heat makes other trials hard to endure, may now be routed by a very simple remedy. A practical housewife made the discovery by accident, and it has been found satisfactory in every instance in which it has since been tried. Simply mix five cents worth of tartar emetic in an equal amount of white sugar, make it quite moist with cold water, put it into small dishes and set it on the shelves where the ants are troublesome. The ants will disappear quite as mysteriously as they came, and there will be no dead ones lying around on shelves and floor. Do not throw the mixture away, but save it for further attacks, as it can easily be moistened and used again when we go to the pantry some warm, moist morning and find sugar bowl, cookies and all sorts of sweets and cereals, swarming with the troublesome summer pests.

### McLaurin May Decline.

Some people in the South Carolina circle in Washington who claim to have inside information as to affairs in this state seem to think that, after all, Senator McLaurin may not be appointed to the federal judgeship of the court of claims. Not because they do not think the president would appoint the senator if he desires the honor, but because they believe that after all the talk concerning the senator that he may not care to accept the place. He may prefer to remain in the senate until the end of the next session of congress, when his term will expire, and then to re-enter the practice of his profession, either in South Carolina or in Washington. The senator, it is stated by his friends, has received many tempting offers, but he has accepted none of them, and it is said he may decline the judgeship if offered.

### An Indian Hanged.

Arch Conley, an Indian, and Dick Fleming, were hanged upon the same scaffold in Salsbury, N. C. last Tuesday. Conley paid the death penalty for the murder of a young negro last November. Fleming was hanged for committing an assault on a white woman last February.

## THE OREGON OUTLAW.

### Who Has Killed Six Men Since June 9 Still at Large.

### BLOOD HOUNDS ON HIS TRAIL.

### Fully a Thousand Men are in Pursuit of Him Including a Posse Which Takes Train to Cut Him off from Cedar Mountain.

Harry Tracy, the convict who has killed six men and wounded several others since June 9, is being hotly pursued by men and dogs in the country southeast of Seattle and will probably be slain or captured. His pursuers who have with them two fine bloodhounds are only a short distance behind him.

Tracy made another extraordinary escape from one of the posess after his Wednesday afternoon. Word was received at the sheriff's office that Tracy had been at the house of Mrs. Gerald near Renton for five hours. Fifty armed men at once hastened to the scene. When they reached the place they scattered and took possession so they could watch the house to the best advantage. The peculiar actions of Mrs. Gerald convinced the men that Tracy was still in the house. On the arrival of Sheriff Cuddehe the posse closed in on the house only to learn from Mrs. Gerald that Tracy had left the house by a rear door ten minutes previously while the posse were taking up positions to watch the place, hid for a few minutes in some of the bushes and then quietly slipped through the woods toward Palmer.

### THE WONDERFUL COOLNESS

and daring of the convict was never more fully exemplified than in this instance. In the back yard of the Gerald home, Anderson, the man whom Tracy had kept a prisoner from the time he left Port Madison, was found to a tree. Tracy had tied Anderson while the posse was in full view of the house. The bloodhounds were let loose on his train and are reported to be only a few minutes behind him. Fully a thousand armed men are now engaged in the pursuit, including a posse which has taken the train for Palmer to intercept Tracy in his flight toward Cedar Mountain.

News was received at the sheriff's office Wednesday that Harry Tracy was at Rancher Gerald's house, below Reno, on the Cedar Mountain road.

Old son of Ranecer Gerald arrived at the sheriff's office with a gold and a silver watch, saying that Tracy had arrived at his father's house at 10:30 o'clock Wednesday morning and after eating a hearty meal had sent him to a neighbor's house with the two watches, with instructions to try to sell them. Tracy said if they "were given away" he would kill the whole family, the boy included. The boy, knowing that it was Tracy, concluded to bring the watches to the sheriff's office, hoping that the desperado would remain there until a searching party could arrive. The watches were found in the possession of those stolen from Johnson. Young Gerald described Tracy accurately, and the officers think he is trying to make the Palmer cutoff by the Cedar Mountain road, Johnson's white boat, used by Tracy in his escape from Port Madison, has been found on the flats near Seattle.

### SEVENTY FIVE PER CENT.

### State Board Fixed that Standard of Valuation for Taxation Purposes.

The several committees of the state board of equalization charged with the equalization of assessments of real estate in South Carolina for taxation, and also with the assessment of cotton mills, fertilizer mill and cotton oil mill plants, worked all of Tuesday afternoon and evening and all of Wednesday morning as well, and it was not until 4 o'clock that they were ready to report their action to the full board.

The important "per cent committee" recommended the adoption of a 75 per cent basis of market value for taxation of all property subject to equalization by the board, provided that after obtaining proper information from the counties the board may lower the percentage if not injurious to the several counties. A strenuous effort was made to change this so as to make the basis of valuation 65 per cent, but this failed by a vote of 14 to 14, the chairman casting the decisive vote in favor of the committee's report. This report was then adopted as follows:

"Your committee appointed to fix the percentage on property beg leave to report that they recommend that the following resolution be adopted: "Resolved, That all property subject to equalization by this board be put on a basis of 75 per cent of its market value, and that the county auditor and county chairman of each county be required to furnish the comptroller general, before the next meeting of this board, a sworn statement, according to their best knowledge and belief, showing what per cent of its market value property was assessed at in their county. Provided, That when this information has been obtained, the board may lower this percentage to such a figure as will equalize the taxes and at the same time provide a sufficient amount to meet the requirements of the various counties."

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