

# The Laurens Advertiser

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## CONVICTED RAPIST COMMITTS SUICIDE

### T. U. Vaughn Robs Electric Chair by Suicide

## SLASHED THROAT WITH A RAZOR

Final Chapter in the Life of T. U. Vaughn is Enacted When He Succeeds in His Fourth Effort to Commit Suicide While in Hands of Florida Authorities.

Tampa, Fla., April 8.—Thurston U. Vaughn, arrested here while teaching school at T. A. Earl, and held for sentence for assaulting four girls at the Odd Fellows' Orphanage at Greenville, slashed his throat with a razor in his cell in "murderers' row" in the county jail here tonight. He died almost instantly, having almost severed his head from his body with the stroke. It was his fourth major attempt at suicide and he had once tried to open a previous wound in his throat.

Vaughn had been kept in a straight jacket in the hospital ward after his attempts to kill himself the night of his arrest, but today he was moved to murderers' row and placed in a cell with three men charged with murder. Sheriff Spencer states he has no knowledge who authorized the removal of the straight jacket or of the man from the hospital, and an investigation is being made.

Meanwhile the presence of the razor is explained by the jailer. Jailer Hubbard states that Friday is shaving day at the jail and the razor goes the rounds of the cells. When it reached the murderer's row, Vaughn apparently hid his time. After the other prisoners in his cell had finished, Vaughn, it is said, was given the razor by one of his mates. Walking down the corridor of the cage apparently to the lavatory, and with not a show of bravado, the man suddenly halted, according to one of the prisoners. Like a flash he raised his right hand, the blade flashed in the dim stream of light from a nearby corridor and with a vigor that told of an intent purpose, the man brought his keen-edged blade against his neck over the leader just back of the right ear. His arm came on around with the initial swing all the way around to beneath the left ear. Nothing but a steadfast nerve and a determination of purpose seemed made possible such a powerful stroke, self-inflicted, saw physicians.

The head swung over to one side as the body fell to the steel floor. Prisoners shouted and there was a scurry throughout the corridors of the jail. A bristly carried the word to Jailer Hubbard and a hurry call was sent for county physician, H. O. Snow, who hastened to the jail. Meanwhile, the jailer and attendants at the hospital ward reached the cell and attempted to give some aid, but it was hopeless, for life had flown with the rush of blood from the jugular vein and other covered blood vessels feeding the brain.

When Dr. Snow arrived he pronounced the man dead and said no relief under the sun could have brought back the life which he said must have been snuffed out almost as the body struck the floor.

Meanwhile, chief of detectives, T. W. Blossom, mindful of the wife's "Good bye, dear, I'll meet you in Heaven," of two days ago, when she tossed him a kiss as she left the county jail after a visit, turned his mind to the woman, as soon as he had started the machinery for an investigation of the releasing of the prisoner from the straight jacket.

Full of a possible suicide pact. Police scouts scoured both Tampa and Port Tampa, a suburb nine miles from here where the couple had lived, seeking the woman. She was finally located and placed in the detention ward of the city jail in the city hall for safekeeping.

Jailer Hubbard refuses to discuss reasons if any for the change of the prisoner, but states that Vaughn was unusually rational last night and this morning. At dinner he ate the heartiest meal since he was arrested and shortly afterwards he was moved to what proved his death chamber of iron.

The body was removed after the

## IMPORTANT BILLS INTRODUCED AT OPENING SESSION

Emergency Tariff, Tax Reform, Soldier Relief and Other Measures Up, Propose Repeal of Excess Profits Tax.

Washington, April 11.—Bills designed to cover some of the more important problems before the present Congress was introduced today in the House. They included the emergency tariff, repeal of some war taxes and proposals for new ones, soldier bonus and soldier relief, federal budget, restriction of immigration and federal road building.

While the "five way" plan of veteran organizations for deferred compensation to service men because House bill No. 1, the tax question was foremost in the legislative proposals. Representative Longworth of Ohio, proposed the straight repeal of excess profits and war profits taxation. The suggestion was repeated by Representatives Bachrach of New Jersey, and Mott of New York, who proposed imposition of gross sales taxes at 1 per cent rates. The Bachrach measure also suggested reduction of normal income tax rates to 2 per cent, and application of the sur-tax to incomes above \$7,000 with a maximum of 40 per cent.

Chairman Fordney of the ways and means committee putting forward the service men's bonus proposal which provides for alternatives between cash payment, land settlement, insurance, vocational education and home building, left out taxation proposals, but Representative Gallivan, Democrat of Massachusetts, put in an exact duplicate of the bill as it passed the House last session. In further aid to veterans Representative Sweet, Republican of Iowa, introduced a bill to consolidate all boards and bureaus having to do with soldier rehabilitation, and Representative Feas, Republican of Ohio, suggested exemption from income taxes of all payments to veterans undergoing vocational training.

Immigration restriction, decided upon by the last Congress in enacting a bill limiting annual entrance of aliens into the United States to three per cent of the total residents of each nationality in the nation as found by the 1910 census, was proposed by Chairman Johnson of the immigration committee. His bill exactly duplicated that which President Wilson gave a pocket veto.

Representative Blanton, Democrat of Texas, whose battles with his associates in Congress have attracted some attention, came forward with a suggestion to reduce Congress from 435 members to 304, and re-appoint them according to the 1920 census. A number of other re-appointment bills were proposed, but would provide for holding the membership to its present limit. Mr. Blanton also proposed the elimination of the present travel allowance of 20 cents a mile for members and substituting therefor a payment of actual expenses, to be made upon sworn vouchers.

Representative Young, Republican of North Dakota for the ways and means committee introduced the emergency agricultural tariff, exactly as it was passed in February. Its effective period was fixed as six months after enactment instead of ten as in the vetoed measure of the last session.

Chairman Kahn of the military affairs committee again proposed a separate air corps, under a new executive bureau to control military aviation, and a separate proposal for federal regulation of civilian aviation to accompany it.

Chairman Good of the appropriation committee, introduced the federal budget bill, another of the measures vetoed during the former administration.

Col. T. D. Darlington came up from Charleston last week for a visit of a few days in the city especially to see his first grandchild, J. C. Todd, Jr., which arrived last week.

county physician's examination had been made, to a local undertaker's establishment, where it is being held, pending the receipt of word from Carolina authorities, or the arrival of officers who are said to have left Columbia yesterday for the man. If they do not want to take the corpse back the heartbroken widow possibly will be allowed to take the body for interment where she sees fit, probably in a local cemetery, as she has decided to make this city her home.

## GEORGIA FARMER FOUND GUILTY

Life Sentence for Georgia Farmer in Murder Case.

Covington, Ga., April 9.—John S. Williams, accused of the murder of eleven of his negro farm hands to halt a federal investigation of peonage, was found guilty of murder by a jury in Newton county superior court today and sentenced to life imprisonment. Motion for new trial was immediately filed and hearing on the motion set for April 30, at Decatur, Ga., before Judge John B. Hutcheson, who presided at the trial.

The verdict of murder with recommendation for mercy which under Georgia law automatically carries a life sentence, was read exactly 18 hours after the case went to the jury and was calmly received by Williams. A moment later, as his wife and children began to sob almost inaudibly he seemed to be struggling to restrain his own emotions. Just after court adjourned, the man's two daughters became hysterical and were led from the room by friends.

Williams appeared more affected by his family's suffering than he had been by the verdict. He was on trial charged specifically with the murder of one of the negroes found drowned in Newton county. Clyde Manning, a negro farm boss for Williams, and jointly indicted with him, testified that on Williams' order he and another negro, afterwards killed had done the killings.

Williams had maintained a cheerful attitude during the trial and had stoutly maintained his innocence, although having admitted he might be technically guilty of peonage, as he said he had paid fines for negroes and let them work out the debt.

Sentence was formally passed within a few moments after the verdict was announced. Judge Hutcheson restated the verdict as read by T. R. Starr, a farmer and foreman of the jury, and added:

"And the verdict is the sentence of the court."

The verdict was not in exact form, but in open court both sides agreed that it was legal by Supreme Court decisions and no exception would be taken.

The motion for a new trial was made on the grounds that the verdict was "contrary to the evidence; contrary to the law and without evidence to support it."

The jury was composed of seven farmers, the others being merchants, clerks and a barber. Most of the jurors were young men, six of them serving on a jury for the first time.

The case went to trial last Tuesday, one day being taken up with arguments for postponement and selection of a jury. The state took little more than a day to present its evidence while the defense relied solely on the unsworn statement of Williams.

The jury went out at 3:51 P. M. yesterday and was said to have taken more than five or six ballots, much of the time being devoted to discussion of the case. The first ballot stood six for a verdict of murder with no recommendations, thus carrying a death sentence, and the other six voting to acquit Williams, according to jurors.

Save for a brief recess for supper, the jurors considered the case until shortly before midnight, when they roused the judge and opposing counsel out of bed and had the entire charge repeated. Foreman Starr said the jury was not certain as to the exact point of law in doubt.

Williams will be taken back to Atlanta pending the hearing on his motion for a new trial.

Solicitor Brand has announced Manning will be tried on the murder indictment against him but no date has yet been set.

## ANNUAL VETERANS' DINNER

J. B. Kershaw Chapter to Give Annual Dinner at Presbyterian Church Saturday.

The J. B. Kershaw Chapter, U. D. C., is making preparations for the annual dinner given at this season to the veterans of the Confederate armies. The dinner is to be given this year in the parlors of the First Presbyterian church and all veterans of the county are invited to be present. The veterans are expected to gather at the Court House and march from there to the church.

## SENTIMENT DIVIDED ON BOND ISSUES

Owings Project Carried in Last Week's Election While Musgrove Project Failed.

Final and official returns on the two bond issues voted on last week by taxpayers of the county showed that sentiment was divided on the two projects. The election went in favor of the Owings project and against the Musgrove project as the tabulated vote below will show. While the result of the Musgrove bond issue was apparent after a part of the returns were in, the outcome of the Owings issue was in doubt until Princeton, the very last box, was in. It was thought probable that the Princeton voters might follow in the steps of their neighbors, the Hickory Tavern voters, who were also on one of the improved roads, and vote against the projects but they voted the other way instead, going 12 to 3 for the Owings project and 12 to 2 for the Musgrove project, removing the last lingering doubt as to the Owings project.

Very little interest was taken in the election outside of those communities which would have materially benefited by the roads and those communities which showed a distinct aversion to the issues. The Laurens city box polled hardly a third of its strength while the county as a whole polled about half the normal vote. No election was held at the Goldville and Gray's Store boxes. Women were conspicuous by their absence, only three women casting their ballots at the local box.

The following is the final result of the election as compiled by Deputy Clerk of Court who acted as clerk to the commissioners:

Owings Project		
	Yes	No
Laurens	132	49
Laurens Mill	22	5
Watts Mills	29	7
Ora	5	24
Langford	0	42
Youngs	10	18
Pleasant Mount	6	19
Stewart's Store	15	1
Cook's Store	0	26
Thompson's Store	25	20
Owings	72	5
Gray Court	103	10
Dials	10	6
Shiloh	0	33
Woodville	1	38
Hickory Tavern	6	17
Princeton	19	3
Poplar Springs	1	38
Daniel's Store	0	44
Mount Pleasant	3	18
Tip Top	0	28
Ekum	0	38
Waterloo	21	19
Cross Hill	30	3
Mountville	4	55
Hopewell	4	24
Clinton	175	4
Clinton Mill	14	0
Lydia	13	1
Renno	1	31
Langston	10	17
Total	731	584

Musgrove Project		
	Yes	No
Laurens	55	123
Laurens Mill	19	8
Watts Mills	27	9
Ora	1	28
Langford	0	42
Youngs	6	17
Pleasant Mount	0	25
Stewart's Store	12	2
Cook's Store	0	23
Thompson's Store	24	21
Owings	56	17
Gray Court	102	15
Dials	4	11
Shiloh	0	33
Woodville	0	37
Hickory Tavern	5	18
Princeton	12	2
Poplar Springs	0	34
Daniel's Store	0	44
Mount Pleasant	0	16
Tip Top	0	28
Ekum	0	38
Waterloo	6	23
Cross Hill	33	10
Mountville	8	17
Hopewell	9	9
Clinton	177	22
Clinton Mill	14	0
Lydia	13	1
Renno	1	31
Langston	9	18
Total	584	825

Mr. John F. Bolt left yesterday for Dunbarton, in Barnwell county, to visit his daughter, Mrs. B. F. Owens.

## SOLDIER OF WORLD WAR BURIED IN GRAY COURT

Eugene Peden, Son of Late J. Thos. Peden, Buried Last Thursday.

Funeral exercises were held in Gray Court last Thursday over the body of Eugene Peden, whose body was brought home last week from France where the young soldier gave up his life for his country during the World War. Young Peden was the son of the late J. Thos. Peden and was among the first to go over from this country, he having volunteered in a regular regiment soon after the outbreak of the war, and was the first man from this county to be killed in battle. His body was brought home at the request of his father, who did not live to see his son's remains.

On the same day the body of Miss Lizzie Owings, who died at Conway Tuesday night, was buried at Dials church. Miss Owings was a stenographer by profession and was so engaged in Conway when sickness overtook her. She was the daughter of Mr. Tom Owings, who survives her with two sisters, Mrs. A. M. Owings and Miss Anna Owings.

## COOPER FAVORS CANCELLING DEBT

Sacrificing of Dollars Not as Great as Already Made by Sacrificing of Lives.

Spartanburg, April 7.—Gov. Robert A. Cooper advocated America's cancelling every cent of Europe's war debt in his address to the farmers here today. He said that at first he thought the countries should be made to pay every cent, but now he realizes that they can not even pay the interest, let alone the principal. So the best thing to do is to cancel it and begin over. Then Europe will begin to buy American produce, will begin to buy American cotton, and prosperity will return in earnest. This would be nothing more than America's contribution to the cause.

In speaking of the farmers, he urged a marked reduction in acreage, saying that if the farmer made the mistake he made last year that he will but retard the approach to "normalcy." Whether the farmers make a big crop or a small crop normal conditions will return, but a big crop will delay that return.

Confidence in ones self and a willingness to sacrifice another dollar for the good of the masses is what is needed. Every one should be as willing to sacrifice a dollar to hasten normal conditions as he was to give his son for the peace of the world. He said that he could not understand why the former soldiers, those who made such a sacrifice in the world war did not rise up in their might and demand that this country sign the peace treaty and take her position beside the other nations of the world. Instead the country has drifted until now it will be several years before this country can take her stand where she belongs. Europe has lost confidence in America and it will take time to reestablish that confidence.

## CIVIL COURT JURORS

April Term of Court of Common Pleas to Convene April 25th with Judge W. H. Townsend Presiding.

The April term of the Court of Common Pleas will convene Monday morning, April 25th, with Judge W. H. Townsend, of Columbia, presiding. The following jurors have been drawn for the term:

W. R. Garner, J. O. Strubling, D. R. Chapman, J. F. Abercrombie, J. M. Donnan, J. R. Fuller, O. F. Ropp, S. S. Beeks, Andy E. Jones, E. M. Stewart, C. L. Milam, G. W. Webb, W. L. Lollis, C. H. Sims, Thos. A. Nickels, J. F. Carlisle, L. E. Martin, B. L. King, Gary C. Spearman, C. M. Babb, J. M. Henderson, Henry B. Gossett, R. L. Whitlock, L. T. Curry, Geo. D. Babb, J. P. Watts, S. L. Moore, A. C. Whittle, R. C. Turner, Russel E. Poole, E. E. Sargee, J. E. Switzer, P. L. Abrams, E. G. Fuller, B. H. Garrett, B. C. Armstrong.

## New Store Opens

Announcement is made in another column of this paper today of the opening of a "Cash and Carry" grocery store in this city. Mr. J. B. Kilgo will be the proprietor of the store, which will be located in one of the store rooms on the west side of the square now occupied by Benchoff's 5 and 10 Cents store. The opening will be held Saturday. Mr. Benchoff will continue to occupy one of the stores.

## HARDING REJECTS LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Approves Peace by Resolution of Congress

## SEPARATE PEACE WITH ENEMIES

President in Inaugural Address Gives His Endorsement to Separate Peace with Central Powers Without Endangering the Position of This Country's Allies.

Washington, April 12.—President Harding addressing an extra-ordinary session of the sixty-seventh congress today declared against the existing League of Nations and favored a separate peace with the central powers.

"In the existing League of Nations world governing with its super powers," said the President, "this republic will have no part. There can be no betrayal of the deliberate expression of the American people in the recent election; and, settled in our decision for ourselves, it is only fair to say to the world in general and to our associates in war in particular that the league covenant can have no sanction by us. . . . Manifestly the highest purpose of the League of Nations was defeated in linking it with the treaty of peace and making it the enforcing agency of the victors of the war. . . . There can be no prosperity for the fundamental purposes sought to be achieved by any such association so long as it is an organ or any particular treaty, or committed to the attainment of the special aims of any nation or group of nations. . . . In rejecting the league covenant and uttering that rejection to our own people and to the world, we make no surrender of our hope and aim for an association to promote peace in which we would most heartily join. . . . In the national referendum (the last election) we pledged our efforts toward such association and the pledge will be faithfully kept.

In the plight of policy and performance we told the American people we meant to seek an early establishment of peace. The United States alone among the allied and associated powers continues in a technical state of war against the central powers of Europe. This analogous condition ought not to be permitted to continue. To establish the state of technical peace without delay, I should approve a declaratory resolution by congress to that effect with the qualifications essential to protect all our rights. Such action would be the simplest keeping of faith with ourselves and could in no case be construed as a desertion of those with whom we shared our sacrifices in war, for these powers are already at peace.

"Such a resolution should undertake to do no more than thus to declare the state of peace which all Americans crave. It must add no difficulty in effecting, with just reparations, the restoration for which all Europe yearns, and upon which the world's recovery must be founded. Neither former enemy nor ally can mistake America's position, because our attitude as to responsibility for the war and the necessity for just reparations already has had formal and very earnest expression.

"It would be unwise to undertake to make such a statement of future policy with respect to European affairs in such a declaration of a state of peace. In correcting the failure of the executive in negotiating the most important treaty in the history of the nation, to recognize the constituted powers of the senate we would go to the other extreme, equally objectionable, if congress or the senate should assume the function of the executive. Our highest duty is the preservation of the constituted powers of each and the promotion of the spirit of co-operation, so essential to our common welfare.

"It would be idle to declare for separate treaties of peace with the central powers on the assumption that these alone would be adequate, because the situation is so involved that our peace engagements can not ignore to old world relationship and the settlements already affected nor is it desirable to do so in preserving our

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