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PUPIL'S WOUND FATAL.

Edward Foster, Shot by His Teacher, Pitts, at Inman Died on Friday—The Inquest.

(The State.)

Spartanburg, Feb. 27.—Edward L. Foster, the pupil of the Inman school in Spartanburg county, who was shot by his teacher, Reuben A. Pitts, on Tuesday last, died at the home of Mrs. Brown at Inman this morning at 11 o'clock.

The inquest over the Lody was held at the school house, the scene of the tragedy, this afternoon. Fifty citizens of the community were present at the proceedings which were conducted by Coroner Foster.

There appears to be a silent undercurrent of feeling against Teacher Pitts, quietly expressed, but no violent expressions are being indulged in. Pitts has friends at Inman also. The dead pupil is related to many residents of that place and belongs to a leading family. There is extreme reticence as to friction at school between teacher and pupil. Many persons were questioned, but very little satisfactory information was obtained.

THE FACTS OF THE SHOOTING.

Mr. Pitts had been in charge of the Inman school since last September. Of late he had some trouble with older male students. The afternoon before the tragedy he ordered Ed Foster to stay in because of disobedience. Tuesday afternoon Foster and four other male pupils were kept in. Pitts and Foster went to an adjoining room from where the three others sat, Pitts telling the pupils he would have to whip Foster. Pitts stepped back some distance, secured a switch and ordered Foster to stand up; struck two blows which Foster caught, and according to Pitts' statement, the three boys in the other room pushed in the door and came crowding in. Pitts then drew a pistol from his pocket and presented it, for the purpose of over-awing them. Foster was close, and Pitts, taking up the pistol Foster's hand, causing his arm and weapon to fall abruptly and the pistol to be discharged in Pitts' hand. The bullet, 32 calibre, entered Foster's abdominal cavity, about six inches below the navel, to right of median line, ranging inward and downward, and cut through a portion of the bladder before lodging.

After the shooting Pitts and the constable came to this city by private conveyance. Reuben B. Pitts is a graduate of Furman university, a native of Laurens and son of Rev. John D. Pitts, pastor of the First Baptist church of that city. He is a young man of slight build and delicate constitution. Ed Foster is a son of Gabe Foster of Inman.

THE CORONER'S INQUEST.

The story of the sad tragedy is best told by the complete inquest proceedings, embracing the testimony of the three lads who were kept in with Foster on Tuesday. There were present at the inquest G. C. Foster, father of the deceased, C. C. Featherstone, of Laurens, G. W. Nichols and Stanyarne Wilson of this city, of counsel for defense.

Tom Ballenger being duly sworn testified: "Mr. Pitts kept four of us in Tuesday afternoon and I asked me and Rome Wolfe and Jesse Ballenger to go into the other room and we had not been in there but just a few minutes until I saw Mr. Pitts step to the corner and get two hickories. He came back and said he guessed he would have to whip Ed. Foster. Foster said he didn't care about taking a whipping, but instead of that Pitts commenced whipping him and gave him two licks; then all four hands were on the hickory. We boys were looking through the crack of the door. Both were bent over and the next thing I knew I heard a pistol fire; don't know who fired the pistol. Pitts had pistol when I first seen it. I didn't see pistol until he went to put it in his pocket. Ed Foster was between me and pistol, and when I rushed in I saw Pitts put pis-

tol in his pocket. Pitts asked some of us to go for a doctor, and Raymond Wolfe went. Then Pitts left."

Tom Ballenger being questioned by jurymen stated he heard some words pass between Pitts and Foster after the shot, but was not sure what they were.

THE SECOND BOY.

Jesse Ballenger testified that "on Tuesday afternoon Mr. Pitts asked three of us boys to go into another room, me and Fred Ballenger and Raymond Wolfe. We had not been in there but a few minutes till we saw Mr. Pitts go to the corner and get two hickories. I never heard no words between them at all. Pitts hit Foster two licks; then both got hold of the hickories with all four hands a hold of the switches. They stooped over and then the pistol fired; don't know who fired pistol; never saw pistol till after shooting. Foster was between me and Pitts. Pitts had pistol when I saw it; then Pitts asked some one to go for doctor. We were all peeping through the crack of the door. Hadn't shoved the door in, it has no lock and stands kinder open. Made no attempt to go in till after pistol was fired."

On being questioned by jurymen, Jesse Ballenger said he heard Pitts say nothing about shooting and heard no talk between Pitts and Foster. Pitts hollered "Lord a mercy" a time or two; entered room after pistol was fired; didn't hear Foster make any statement.

Questioned by Stanyarne Wilson of counsel for defense Jesse Ballenger said he entered just about time pistol was fired, but did not start in before shot.

Asked where the blackboard was in the room where he was waiting, Jesse Ballenger replied "nailed up beside the door on the wall and don't hinder opening door. Came to door when Pitts went for hickories, heard the licks, but could not see Pitts nor Foster. They were scuffling over hickories until shot fired; don't know who fired shot. Foster I think is larger and heavier than Pitts. We all came through the door at once, Fred Ballenger in front, but all practically together. When we reached room they were doing nothing; everything over with; Eddie was sitting on the floor and Pitts was standing somewhere in the room. I do not know if any one noticed Eddie was shot, I didn't. Pitts did not remain until doctor came; went on behind Raymond Wolfe."

Jesse Ballenger described how he and the other two boys peeped from adjoining room into main school building where Pitts and Foster were.

OTHER WITNESSES.

Policeman Frank A. Metcalf testified to Pitts coming to him and surrendering himself and weapon, 32 calibre Smith and Wesson pistol, one of the loaded chambers being empty. This was exhibited to the jury.

Tom Swell, a pupil of the school, testified to sitting on the road-side, 75 or 100 yards from the schoolhouse and heard scuffling and the report of a pistol. When he reached the schoolhouse Foster was lying on the ground.

THE THIRD BOY.

Raymond L. Wolfe testified: "Pitts told us boys to go into another room and we went; he kept Foster in here. He got his hickories and struck Foster two licks, and Foster grabbed them. They were scuffling and just as he shot we pushed door open. We came in and Pitts had pistol in his hand, and he said 'Lord God, I've shot him; somebody go for a doctor.' I went and when I came back Pitts was gone. Didn't hear him say anything about giving him a whipping. Foster said he did not want to take a whipping. I did not see pistol till after shot was fired. They were not scuffling more than a minute, if that; could not see what they were scuffling over. Ed had one hand over Pitts' head and the other one down; after the shot Ed gave way. Pitts had both hands on pistol after the shot holding it in front of him. At the time they were all bent over together the pistol fired.

They were nearing the south side of the house to the door."

THE ANTE-MORTEM STATEMENT.

The ante mortem statement of Foster was read as follows: State of South Carolina, Spartanburg County.

Personally came E. L. Foster before me and made oath that he is a resident of this county, and, being badly wounded by a pistol in the hands of one Reuben Pitts on Feb. 24, 1903, and dangerous and might prove fatal makes this his ante-mortem declaration: First, that Reuben Pitts is principal of Inman graded school and that on the afternoon of Feb. 24, 1903, the said Reuben Pitts caused me to stay in after school was dismissed; after words he called me up to him and said he was going to whip me. He sent three other boys out of the room. He asked me why I did not stay in on the day before. I said I did not miss but one word and would not take a whipping. He then ordered me to get up and said he was going to whip me; brought two switches from rostrum and laid one on bench; he gave me two licks. I then grabbed the switch and told him I was not going to take it. He changed switch from right to left hand and put his hand on hip pocket and drew a pistol threw it up in my face. I then grabbed pistol and tried to knock it off; he then fired it. It did not weaken me at first. I did not know that I was shot and I caught him by the hair he again threw pistol up. I then began to get weak and fell back on the rostrum. Fred Ballenger, Jesse Ballenger and Raymond Wolfe who were also kept in, who were in an adjoining room, came in when the pistol fired. Pitts said as I fell down "Just as I expected, you are all on me." He jumped up two or three times saying he was awful sorry about it. About that time Jesse Ballenger had my clothes unfastened. Pitts came up and wanted to know where I was shot. He then left the room saying he was going to give up. There was no one in the struggle with Pitts but myself.

(Signed) "Ed. Foster." Sworn to before me this February 24th, 1903. G. H. Camp, N. P.

The physicians' testimony as to death being due to gunshot wound of the abdomen, describing wound was submitted.

THE VERDICT.

The verdict of the jury was "that deceased came to his death by a pistol shot wound inflicted by Reuben P. Pitts on 24 Feb., 1903. E. E. Clement, foreman."

CHARLESTON WAS SNUBBED.

And the South Carolina Delegates to the D. A. R. Convention Was told to Know Why.

[New York World.]

Out of the multitude of tempests in teapots at the congress of the D. A. R., held in Washington last week, there came a tempest large enough for a tea kettle at least. The South Carolina daughters blew it up.

Mrs. Fairbanks, the president general, in her annual address included the names of all the States she had visited and gave at some length the courtesies extended to her. But Mrs. Fairbanks spoke so low that only a few tiers of delegates heard a word she said. Everybody applauded just the same.

After it was all over a little South Carolina woman peeped up. "What did she say about the way we all entertained her down in Charleston? We were so far back we couldn't hear a word."

She got a typewritten copy of the address. South Carolina did not appear in it. Then the South Carolina delegates hunted up the president general. She explained that the typewriter girl had got things mixed, and had left out a "splendid" notice of the "magnificent courtesies extended at Charleston."

Notwithstanding the explanation the South Carolina delegates felt hurt, and at the reception which the president general held at the Congressional library no daughter of South Carolina appeared with a badge on. Only two were there at all. A meeting of the delegation was held later, and it was decided not to attend Mrs. Fairbanks' reception.

MURDERED FIVE WOMEN.

Three of Them His Wives—Confession of Albert Knapp, Notable in the Annals of Crime.

Five murders, the victims of which were all women, and three of them his wives—such is the revolting record of Albert Knapp, of Hamilton, Ohio, given on Thursday in a sworn confession by the murderer before Mayor Bosch. The murder of his third wife, Annie Goddard Knapp, which led to Knapp's arrest yesterday in Indianapolis was done, "I don't why," to quote the prisoner.

HIS VICTIMS.

Knapp's confession, which was sworn to before Mayor Bosch, is as follows:

"On January 21, 1894, I killed Emma Littleman in a lumber yard in Gest street, Cincinnati; on Aug. 1, 1894, I killed May Eckert, in Walnut street, opposite the Y. M. C. A., in Cincinnati; on Aug. 7, 1894, I killed my wife, Jennie Connors Knapp under the canal bridge in Liberty street, Cincinnati, and threw her into the canal. In Indianapolis, in July, 1895, I killed Ida Gebhard. On Dec. 22, 1902, I killed my wife, Annie Knapp, at 330 South Fourth street in Hamilton, and threw her into the river at Lindenwald. This is the truth.

(Signed) Albert Knapp. "I make this statement of my own free will and not by the request of any officer or any one else."

(Signed) Albert Knapp. The confession clears up the mystery at least of one death—that of Jennie Connors Knapp, Knapp's second wife. This woman's body was found in the sluggish waters of a canal near Cincinnati. Bruises were discovered on the head but an investigation led to no definite conclusion concerning the manner of her death.

The most recent of the murders to which Knapp has confessed—that of his third wife, Annie Goddard Knapp of Hamilton, led to his arrest at the home of his fourth bride in Indianapolis. An uncle of the victim, hearing of Knapp's marriage to a Miss Gamble in Indianapolis a few days after the mysterious disappearance of his niece, formerly Annie Goddard, started an investigation.

The police were prepared for a gawson story today, Knapp having admitted his guilt of the Goddard murder last night, but they were dumbfounded at the revelations which the prisoner made when put under oath.

After his confession Knapp admitted that he had repeatedly assaulted women. He said:

"I met the Littleman child in the lumber yard and choked her to death when she made an outcry. I went into the room with the Eckert girl and sat down with her. She cried and I strangled her with a towel and hurried from the house.

"I was mad at my wife, Jennie Connors Knapp, when I killed her. We were walking along Liberty street. I sat her down under the bridge and choked her to death. I deny that I poisoned her. I never told any one I did. After she was dead I threw the body into the canal.

"Ida Gebhard I killed, but my memory is not clear as to what I did. I cannot tell what made me kill people. I could not help it. Some kind of a desire to kill took hold of me and I could not resist the temptation to kill. I am sorry for my crime, but now I hope they will be easy with me."

After the confession a formal charge of murder in the first degree was filed.

Attorney C. E. Tenner, of Cincinnati, was allowed to see Knapp and told him to make no further statement. Knapp was surprised that his people had secured a lawyer for him.

Knapp talks much of the Pearl Bryan murder and is afraid of being lynched.

Knapp is now suspected of strangling three women at Evansville, Ind., and of killing women else-

where. He was in the Cincinnati house of refuge when 17 years old.

KNAPP IS INSANE.

Cincinnati, Feb. 26.—The parents of Knapp tonight said Albert was insane and his confessions should not be believed. Albert has been giving so much trouble they believed he would be better dead. Mrs. Sadie Wenzel, his sister on hearing of the confession went to the Cincinnati police headquarters and thence to Hamilton. She said her brother when five years of age was kicked by a colt and later struck by lightning and but for her parents she would have had him adjudged insane.

HESTER'S COTTON STATEMENT.

For the 180 Days of the Season the Aggregate of the Bales 106,000 Ahead of the Same Time Last Year.

New Orleans, February 27.—Secretary Hester's weekly cotton statement, issued today, shows for the twenty-seven days of February an increase over last year of 106,000 bales, and an increase over the same period year before last of 173,000. For the 180 days of the season that have elapsed the aggregate is ahead of the same days last year 118,000 bales, and ahead of the same time year before last 657,000. The amount brought into sight during the past week has been 165,802 bales against 192,440 for the same seven days last year and 156,255 year before last.

The movement since September 1 shows receipts at all United States ports to be 6,574,256 bales, against 6,439,131 last year; overland, across the Mississippi, Ohio and Potomac rivers, to northern mills and Canada, 845,335 bales, against 873,328 last year; interior stock in excess of those held at the close of the commercial year 250,590 bales, against 309,457 last year; Southern mill takings 1,184,500 bales, against 1,059,943 last year. The total movement since September 1 is 8,854,081 bales, against 8,738,859 last year and 8,197,989 year before last.

Foreign exports for the week have been 108,035 bales, against 141,377 last year, making the total thus far for the season 5,060,531 bales, against 5,102,978 last year.

The total takings of the American mills, North and South and Canada, thus far for the season, have been 2,823,019 bales, against 2,703,431 last year. Stocks at the seaboard and the twenty-nine leading Southern centres have decreased during the week 95,718 bales, against a decrease during the corresponding period last season of 58,233.

Including stocks left over at ports and interior towns from the last crop and the number of bales brought into sight thus far for the new crop the supply to date is 9,069,755 bales, against 9,008,540 for the same period last year.

THE WORLD'S VISIBLE SUPPLY.

New Orleans, February 27.—Secretary Hester's statement of the world's visible supply of cotton, issued today shows the total visible supply of cotton, to be 3,920,952 bales, against 4,034,343 last week and 4,437,989 last year.

Of this the total of American is 2,863,952 bales, against 2,987,343 last week and 3,300,989 last year and of all other kinds, including Egypt, Brazil, India, etc., 1,057,000 bales, against 1,047,000 last week and 1,047,000 last year.

Of the world's visible supply of cotton is now afloat and held in Great Britain and Continental Europe 1,951,000 bales, against 2,322,000 last year; in Egypt 177,000 bales, against 252,000 last year; in India, 252,000 bales, against 542,000 last year; and in the United States, 1,201,000 bales, against 1,322,000 last year.

The Tri State Medical Society of the Carolinas and Virginia concluded its annual sessions in Columbia on Thursday. Dr. Furman, of Greenville, was chosen president, and Dr. Hughes, of Laurens, was re-elected secretary for the ensuing year.

ROOSEVELT'S SOUTHERN POLICY.

The National Republican Editorial Association Falls to Endorse the President's Policy.

Washington, February 27.—The National Republican Editorial Association today adopted a resolution saying that prosperity is the complete vindication of the value and success of Republican ascendancy, and the great achievements of the strong, progressive and brilliant administrations of Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt constitute the highest appeal for continued Republican supremacy.

Senators Hanna and Dapew made short addresses. Senator Hanna was enthusiastically received.

Strong opposition to the endorsement of the President's so-called Southern policy was developed at the session of the executive committee, where the interest of the Convention centred. Robert Mitchell, of North Carolina, the only outspoken opponent of President Roosevelt at the Convention, who was not a member of the committee on resolutions, stated plainly to the members that he would oppose in open session the endorsement of the President's policy in regard to the negro question. When resolutions were presented to the Convention no mention of disfranchisement or other Southern questions was made. Members of the committee denied that any such resolution had been contemplated. It was stated, however, by Mr. Mitchell that the question of endorsement on this point had been proposed by a New York delegate and that it was voted down by the committee, after a warm discussion, in the interest of harmony.

John A. Schleicher, of New York, was elected president and Robert Mitchell, of North Carolina, and Minor B. Lewis, of Virginia, members of the executive committee.

REPUBLICANS SEAT WAGONER.

Hon. J. J. Butler, of Missouri, Democrat Forced Out of the House by a Republican Rough-shod Action.

Amid scenes which recalled the memorable and exciting days of the Fifty first congress, when party feeling ran fiercely and the hall of representatives sounded with denunciation of the alleged "high handed methods" of the majority, James J. Butler of Missouri was unseated on Thursday by the house of representatives and George R. Wagoner was seated in his place. The Democrats had decided at their caucus this morning that if this case was called up they would prosecute a filibuster from now until March 4, regardless of consequences to legislation and they began the fight as soon as the gavel fell at noon. Roll call followed roll call and it took over three hours to approve the journal of yesterday's proceedings. Then when the clocks were cleared the case was called. A spirited debate of two hours followed and finally after repeated roll calls the case was brought to a vote. The Democrats then attempted to block things by leaving the hall but enough absentees were finally brought in to make up the necessary quorum. Mr. Dabzell of Missouri, who was in the chair declined to recognize the demand for a division and Mr. Richardson, the minority leader, stood in his place and denounced his course in unmeasured terms amid the jeering of the other side. The handful of Democrats present were overridden roughshod and Mr. Wagoner was seated, by a vote of 161 to 2, the chair declining to entertain the point that no quorum was present. This still further aroused the ire of the handful of Democrats on the floor. "I did not believe the chair would be guilty of such an action," cried Mr. Richardson, while Mr. Williams, Democrat of Mississippi, from his seat shouted that the speaker put a proxy in the chair to do it. Mr. Wagoner was then escorted to the bar of the house and sworn in.

GENERAL NEWS NOTES.

Item of More or Less Interest Condensed. Outside of the State.

Ten masked robbers entered the home of Christian Joehlin, two miles from Toledo, O., on Thursday, bent the whole family, including an 18-months old girl, into insensibility, helped themselves to edibles and drink and \$300, and left. They notified the family that they would return for \$20,000.

W. J. Thompson, who formerly traveled for a Louisville, Ky., house, was shot and fatally wounded in his residence at Maxton, N. C., on Thursday, by E. N. M. Lean, a nephew of Thompson's wife. Both men were under the influence of liquor.

Capt. Alfred Lander Rives, for some years manager of the Panama Canal Company and who was the father of the Princess of Troubetzkoi, died at his home in Virginia last week.

Mrs. Cornelia Cole Fairbanks was unanimously re-elected President General of the Daughters of the American Revolution at the recent convention held in the city of Washington.

President Roosevelt was the chief speaker at the great mass meeting held in Carnegie hall, New York, on Thursday night, "to do honor to the character and labors of John Wesley." The meeting was under the auspices of the New York Thank Offering committee, which had charge of the local work of the Methodists' Twenty Century Offering of \$20,000,000.

R. J. Gatling, the inventor of the Gatling gun, died very suddenly at his home in New York last week.

There was a two million dollar fire in Cincinnati on last Thursday, more than one half of the best square in the city, bounded by Vine, Fourth, Walnut, and Third streets including the Piko building and opera house, being completely destroyed.

Senator Burrows, chairman of the Senate committee on privileges and elections, has filed a protest against the seating of Reed Smoot, Senator-elect from Utah, on the ground that Smoot is a polygamist, having at the present time two wives.

Jon Kosman, the negro convicted in Greenville of killing Samuel Williamson, was legally hanged on Friday.

Edwin L. Burdick, president of E. L. Burdick & Co., and of the Buffalo Envelope Co., was hit in the head with some blunt instrument and killed at his home in Buffalo Friday night. There is no clue to the murderer.

SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS.

Items of More or Less Interest Condensed. In the State.

Wm. J. Roberts, a car inspector, stepped from a train into the way of a passing locomotive in the Columbia freight yard on Thursday last and was run over and killed.

Mr. W. T. Joynes, a prominent citizen of Oconee County, died very suddenly at his home near Richland on Tuesday.

Capt. J. O. Westfield, a prominent citizen of Greenville, was stabbed on Thursday by a porter of the Mansion House. Capt. Westfield had gone to the negro's house to collect rent. The negro handed him a \$5.00 bill. Capt. Westfield told him he would give him the change later, whereupon he was stabbed by the negro. Wounds will probably not be fatal.

That the paper which tries to please everybody at once soon pleases its competitors by dying.

That those who patronize the paper systematically and persistently are the most level-headed and reliable citizens of the community.