

# The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear Not—Let all the ends Thou Aims't at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June 1, 1886.

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## BIGHAM TO DIE ON JULY 14TH

### Judge Shipp Refuses to Grant New Trial and Passes Death Sentence

Florence, June 9.—Judge S. W. C. Shipp in the sessions court here this afternoon refused to grant Edmund D. Bigham a new trial and sentenced him to be put to death in the electric chair July 14.

Bigham was convicted of murder in connection with the killing of his brother, Smiley Bigham, and is indicted for murder also for the deaths of his mother and sister and the latter's two adopted children. The wholesale murder took place on the Bigham plantation in January, 1921.

Bigham was tried in March of last year. The supreme court dismissed the appeal and Bigham's attorneys sought a new trial on the ground of after discovered evidence which they declared, tended to show that Smiley and not Edmund Bigham did the killing. It is not thought the case will end here.

Unabashed by the sentence of death, Bigham argued with the court this afternoon before hundreds of spectators for the privilege of saying, "Some things I would like to tell now, as this may be my last chance to speak before these people." The court replied that "depending on how long you will take to tell them." Then as in an afterthought, the court added, "You might as well tell it, though."

### Abuses State Witness.

Immediately the doomed man pounced upon Philip H. Arrow-smith, local attorney, who was an important witness in the conviction of Bigham for the wholesale murder.

"I would have liked to have seen Mr. Arrowsmith here," he said, in opening. "I would like to have him standing right here," indicating the center of the court room. "I would tell the reason Arrow-smith accused me right to his—"

Whatever he intended to have said probably will never be spoken, for the court stopped him summarily with the reminder he was not up there to make a speech but to state any legal reason he might have why sentence of death should not be passed upon him.

"I never studied law," said Bigham, beginning on the line which the court had indicated he must follow in his discussion. "I am ready to meet my God and am not guilty. The reason I am convicted is because of the falsehoods which have been piled up against me. I may have to die, in fact, that's what I am up here in this prisoner's dock for now. It's hard to die for something one did not do."

"Jesus Christ had to die so. He prayed for the night to pass from Him. The people who testified against me and stuck out to have me killed did it."

### Pleads for Himself.

"If I knew the law, maybe I could state some reason why I should have a new trial—one more chance. No one knows it all except God and myself. If there's any way you could give me another trial, just one day more in court, I would appreciate it. The state has four other cases against me. I never had a fair trial. The verdict of that trial stands against me."

Bigham repeatedly avowed his innocence and as often averred that innocent blood would be shed when he was executed.

"I worked hard and had laid by some means," he said in the earlier part of his statement to the court. "But for my property, no one ever would have accused me. But they know that when the judge is turned onto me, it'll be money in their pockets."

Thereafter, he likened himself to St. Paul, to John, the Baptist, and to Christ Himself, all their blood having been shed innocently. "But I'll rise in glory with them."

He challenged the state to confront him, even when he will be buckled into the death chair in the penitentiary in Columbia, with one person who can say truthfully that he never did him a single wrong or injury.

### Letters Do Not Impress.

A. L. King, the attorney for the defense, betrayed far more emotion in conducting the hearing than Bigham ever manifested. Mr. King impressed his audience deeply that he does believe Bigham is an innocent man. But the facts presented by the solicitor, L. M. Gasque, weighed against him. Considering the letters and signatures, which were alleged to have been written by Smiley, for whose murder Edmund is sentenced to die, to Edmund while the latter was in Georgia, the court stated frankly he doubted their authenticity. He practically as good as said they were frauds and forgeries.

## ANOTHER OUTRAGE IN ANDERSON CO.

### Masked Mob Take Man From Home Near Belton and Beat Him

Anderson, June 9.—Further activities of what is believed to be the Ku Klux Klan in this county Thursday came to light today when it was reported here that a body of masked and robed men took Ollie Crompton from his home in the eastern part of Anderson county and escorted him to a remote spot near Cooley's bridge near Belton, then administered a severe whipping to him and admonished him to stop dealing in liquor. Crompton is said to have been returned to his home later in the night.

Masked and white robed men Thursday night kidnapped Robert Sullivan, secretary and treasurer of the Orr cotton mills, and Miss Ruby Floyd, from Sullivan's car on Benton street, carrying them to Eureka church, several miles out, where Sullivan was said to have been beaten and warned to stop association with the Floyd girl. Sullivan and the girl were returned here and each denied that Sullivan had been beaten. Charges of disorderly conduct are pending against the girl for an alleged disturbance in her neighborhood a short time ago.

Police and county officers say they have been unable to find any clue to the identity of the men who kidnapped Sullivan and Miss Ruby Floyd or beat Crompton.

Anderson, June 9.—While Anderson was still talking today about the kidnapping here last night of Robert W. Sullivan and Miss Ruby Floyd, it became known that Ollie Crompton was taken from his home at Williamston last night and hooded by masked men.

Crompton told police his captors charged him with being a bootlegger and advised him to sell no more liquor. No arrests have been made in either case and Solicitor L. W. Harris said today he had not decided whether or not to seek a grand jury investigation of the kidnapping.

Sullivan, who is a well known cotton mill man, was warned by his kidnapers not to be seen again in the company of Miss Floyd, but he declared he made no promise and they were said to have gone riding together again tonight.

## QUESTION IS UP TO EXECUTIVES

### Union Heads Call on Rail Managers to Answer

Cincinnati, June 9.—Six railroad presidents, accustomed to solve the "complex problems of the railroads" were called upon tonight to announce a solution of "how much fuel shall be put in the human boilers of sectionmen and their families, so that they may produce and maintain a safe roadbed," by the heads of eleven railway labor organizations, who Tuesday decided to take a strike vote of their memberships as a protest against further wage cuts, due July 1.

The statement was in reply to a joint statement issued by H. E. Byram, president of the Chicago Midland and St. Paul; Hale Holden, Chicago, Burlington and Quincy; W. H. Finley, Chicago and Northwestern; J. E. Gorman, Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific; C. H. Markham, Illinois Central, and S. M. Fellon, Chicago Great Western.

Pointing to the rail executives' assertion that the employees "are interested sincerely in their jobs and their homes and few employees in any industry have more good reasons for doing so," the union leaders declared this statement convicted them of accepting "as just and reasonable the minimum wage of 23 cents an hour, \$11.04 a week, \$46.92 a month and \$563.04 a year, which is proposed for the section men."

The labor heads declared they "welcomed the opportunity to discuss with practical railroad officials the problems of the industry" and asserted "the hope for the railroad industry rests largely on the extent to which railroad officials discuss frankly with their employees the problems not alone of the industry, but of the employees themselves."

They, therefore, asked a "frank discussion" of the executives' statement that the employees "have been expecting a reduction are making preparations to meet the new scale."

## W. P. G. HARDING RECOMMENDED

Chicago, June 9.—President Harding in a message from the administration committee of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce today was urged to reappoint W. P. G. Harding as governor of the federal reserve board.

ly with diminishing hope for the defense, Bigham seemed to take on a desperate, haunted look. It was the first betrayal of any feeling in the matter that has escaped him, in word or appearance since the trial more than a year ago.

## UNIONS APPEAL TO HARDING TO HALT PAY CUTS

### Approximately \$110,000,000 Will Be Lopped From Pay Rolls of Workers by Order of Labor Board

Cincinnati, June 8.—(By the Associated Press.)—President Harding will be appealed to by the leaders of 1,200,000 railway workers, part of whom have already received wage cuts from the Railroad Labor Board, due July 1, in an effort to stave off further reductions in their pay envelopes. It was decided at a conference of rail union heads tonight.

Leaders of the electric railway employees' organization, which Tuesday decided to take a strike vote of their membership, agreed tonight to outline a letter to the president presenting their argument for higher wages, or at least no further reductions. A committee of union executives was appointed by E. M. Jewell, president of the railway employees' department of the American Federation of Labor, to draft the letter.

Approximately \$110,000,000 will be lopped from the pay rolls of the 400,000 shop crafts and the 500,000 maintenance of way men under orders of the board July 1. The new rates of pay will range from 54 cents an hour for mechanics' helpers to 70 cents for mechanics. The maintenance of way men will get from 23 to 35 cents an hour.

These rates were branded as "starvation wages" by the union leaders and it is their intention, in the letter to President Harding, to demand whether the country's chief executive thinks these wages sufficient "to maintain an American standard of living and properly sustain a family."

It is understood that the letter will contain specific figures on what the railroad men consider an adequate wage and will endeavor to refute the position of the Railroad Labor Board as set forth in their recent wage reduction decisions. The letter was only in tentative form tonight and may not be ready for transmission to Washington before tomorrow night, union leaders said.

## CAMPAIGN FOR FORD SCHEME

### Farm Federation Advises Drive at Congress on Muscle Shoals Plan

Washington, June 11.—A campaign for acceptance of Henry Ford's Muscle Shoals offer at this session of congress was begun tonight by the American Farm Bureau Federation, whose Washington correspondent, Gray Silver, forwarded to state secretaries of the organization a circular suggesting that members of congress be informed "in unmistakable terms" of the sentiment of the farmers toward the plan.

"There is no assurance," said the letter, "that the proposal will be still proffered if it is not accepted before adjournment. The offer was made one year ago and the time has come to say 'yes' or 'no.' This cause is worthy of your most active support. Members of congress can not reflect your desires unless you tell them in unmistakable terms that you want a vote on the Ford proposal and that you want it accepted at this session."

The federation, which under Mr. Ford's offer would be one of three farm organizations having membership on an administrative board organized to regulate fertilizer sales and audit the transactions of the plant, calls attention to the differences that have arisen in the house military committee over the question and suggests that the Gorgas plant controversy "is not the true issue before congress."

"It has been raised by the Alabama Power company," the circular continues, "which is acting as the mouth piece of all the special interest groups that are opposed to the Muscle Shoals development. The real issue is between the consuming public and these special interest groups. These great interests are the fertilizer manufacturers and allied interests, the by-product coke ovens with their related steel interests, the water-power cup, the aluminum monopoly, the chemical combine and the financial interests."

It is declared further in the circular that the Ford proposal "inaugurates a new method of developing our great natural resources with low interest rates and amortization of the cost," in addition to giving to a board of farmers the regulation of distributing methods.

## LENINE CONVALESCENT

### Bolshevik Premier Able to Walk in His Garden

Moscow, June 12.—Premier Lenine's condition continues to show improvement, it is stated in official circles and he is now able to walk in the gardens, and dictate letters.

## Evelyn Recovers Health



Here's Evelyn Nesbit and her Japanese pool at Atlantic City. She has gained 15 pounds in several weeks—and she denies she's engaged to a beron or chauffeur or anyone.

## THREE REPORTS ON FORD'S PROPOSAL

### Majority Report Says Ford's Bid for Muscle Shoals Only One Worthy of Consideration

Washington, June 9.—Three separate reports setting forth recommendations for action by congress on proposals for the Muscle Shoals projects were made to the house today by members of the military committee. Acting chairman McKenzie, who drafted the majority report, declared the Ford proposal to be the only one found "worthy of consideration" and asks acceptance by the house, provided the Gorgas plant is not included. Concurrence in the majority report, except for reference to the Gorgas plant is voiced in one minority opinion by representative Wright of Georgia, who is supported by the democratic members, in a third report, opinion is adverse to the acceptance of the Ford offer unless modified in other sections than respecting the Gorgas plant.

## CANDIDATES FOR STATE OFFICES

### List of Those Who Have Filed Pledges and Paid Assessments

Columbia, June 12.—The time for candidates to file their pledges expires one week from noon today. Most of those expected to enter the campaign have filed their pledges. The campaign opens on Tuesday of next week.

The following candidates have filed their pledges:  
For Governor: Thos. G. McLeod, J. E. Swearingen, George K. Laney, C. L. Blease and J. T. Duncan.  
For lieutenant governor: J. K. Owens, Bennettville.  
For state treasurer: S. T. Carter.

For adjutant general: Robert H. Craig and Thos. B. Marshall, both of Columbia.  
For attorney general: S. M. Wolfe.  
For commissioner of agriculture: B. Harris.  
For congress: F. H. Dominick, of Newberry, and Sam H. Shepard, of Newberry, in the third district; P. H. Scoll, of Kingstree; Jerome P. Pate, of Darlington; W. R. Baringer, of Florence, and A. H. Gasque, of Florence, in the sixth district; W. Turner Logan, in the first district; James F. Byrnes, of the second district; J. J. McSwain, of the fourth district; W. F. Stevenson, of the fifth district; and H. P. Fulmer, of Orangeburg, and A. J. Betha, of Columbia, in the seventh district.

Three solicitors' offices are vacated this year, and all three incumbents have offered for re-election. They are: Frank A. McLeod, of Sumter; A. F. Spigner, of Columbia; and L. M. Gasque, of Marion.

## CAPTAIN HUMBERT DEAD

### Member of Famous "Wallace House" Which Regained White Supremacy

### Harding's Sunday Guests

Washington, June 12.—President Harding returned to Washington today after an over Sunday cruise in the Mayflower with Attorney General Daugherty, Secretary Mellon and Senator and Mrs. Newberry as his guests.

## SERIOUS FEUD BREAKS OUT IN VIRGINIA

### Serious Outbreak of Lawlessness is Reported in Louisiana County

Richmond, June 12.—Herbert Buckley, a lumber worker, has been placed in jail and warrants sworn out for a number of others as the result of what authorities describe as a serious feud near Pendleton, Louisiana county, Virginia, in which Buckley was tarred and feathered by a band of masked men Thursday night and the subsequent shooting up of the home of a preacher named Glenn, said by authorities to represent the faction opposing Buckley and his friends.

## Liquor Smuggled On Naval Vessel

### One Thousand Quarts Seized at Norfolk When Vessel Docked From Trip to West Indies

Norfolk, Va., June 10.—Approximately 1,000 quarts of liquor valued at \$10,000 were seized by marine guards of the navy yard today in a raid on the naval transport Sirius, under orders of Rear Admiral Philip Andrews, commander of the Norfolk navy yard. Officers and men of the ship are confined to their ship under guard.

The Sirius is commanded by Comdr. W. J. Kelton, U. S. N. R. F., and Ensign Harry C. Mechtold, paymaster in charge of cargo aboard the Sirius. Both Commander Kelton and Ensign Mechtold were among those confined to the ship at the time of the raid, but Admiral Andrews announced tonight that they, with some other officers and men, had been permitted to leave the vessel.

Both Admiral Andrews and Admiral Bodman, commandant of the Fifth naval district, announced that a searching investigation would be made under the direction of Admiral Andrews.

## STORM HITS NEW YORK CITY

### Death List Placed at Fifty and Many Others Injured

New York, June 11.—A violent storm accompanied by shifting winds that reached a velocity of 88 miles an hour took the lives of more than 50 persons injured more than a hundred and caused enormous property damage in the metropolitan section late today.

## AVIATORS INJURED AT AUGUSTA

### Airplane Falls at Camp Hancock

Augusta, Ga., June 11.—Maj. E. C. Brainard, United States marine corps, and Lieut. R. T. Allworth, United States air service, both of Ellington Field, Texas, were injured here this afternoon when the airplane in which they were traveling crashed to the ground at the landing field at the Camp Hancock site. Lieutenant Allworth is the more seriously injured. The extent of his injuries have not been determined, although physicians fear that his skull is fractured. He was badly lacerated about the head and body. Major Brainard sustained a broken left arm and cuts and bruises about the face.

## SEARCHING FOR STORM VICTIMS

New York, June 12.—Daybreak this morning found hundreds of parents, children and relatives still standing vigil at the docks awaiting the arrival of police boats which, during the early hours had searched the waters of Long Island sound for additional victims of yesterday's storm. More than fifty persons are thought to have lost their lives and upwards of a hundred injured in tempest, which roared out of the hills of New Jersey, beat the Hudson into foam, and white capped breakers, and swept across New York city. The property damage is estimated to be from one million to three times that much.

## CAPTAIN HUMBERT DEAD

### Member of Famous "Wallace House" Which Regained White Supremacy

Laurens, June 11.—Capt. Joseph E. Humbert, widely known as a leading citizen of the state, successful farmer and prominent layman in the Methodist church, died at his home near Princeton, Laurens county, this morning at 5 o'clock. The funeral will be held at Mount Bethel church at 11 o'clock tomorrow.

## NEW IRISH CONSTITUTION ADJUSTED

### London Newspaper Announces That Satisfactory Agreement Has Been Reached

London, June 12.—The articles of the new Irish constitution have been revised so satisfactorily, the Evening Star asserts today that Dublin will be returned to the whole six points raised by the British signatories to the Anglo-Irish treaty have been adjusted, the newspaper says.

London, June 12.—Colonial secretary Churchill announced in the House of Commons this afternoon that it would be more convenient and in the general public interest if he deferred the statement on Ireland, expected today, until Tuesday or possibly Thursday.

## Wage Reductions Expected Soon

### Estimated to Cut \$40,000,000 From Rail Workers—Clerks To Be Affected

Chicago, June 11.—Wage reductions estimated at not exceeding \$40,000,000 for 350,000 additional railway employees whose wages the carriers seek to lower through the railroad labor board, are expected to issue from the board within a few days, it was reported today. The new decision will make a total of approximately \$150,000,000 to be cut from the annual pay rolls of the roads.

The bulk of those the new cut will hit are railway clerks who number approximately 200,000. Their pay, it was said today, would not be cut more than five cents, however, and certain chief clerks and other supervisory clerical forces may not feel the order at all. About 5,000 train dispatchers, generally considered as subordinate officials, while coming under the pending decision will not suffer any reduction, according to authoritative information. Supervisory officials in the shop crafts whose pay was recently slashed \$50,000,000 likewise received no cuts.

Coal passers, oilers and water tenders, included in the general classification of stationary engineer and firemen, and freight handlers and other common labor included in the station employees' group, are expected to receive a reduction of approximately five cents an hour, the same cut applied to common labor in the maintenance of way department. There are about 125,000 unskilled laborers in these two classes.

Signal men and marine employees numbering 15,000 and \$90, respectively, are expected to come under the reduction but no figures were available to indicate the amount of their cut.

Anticipating a reduction, however, D. W. Helt, president of the signal men, declared the board would "probably hamstring us" and added that he expected his men to vote to strike as soon as the decision was issued. E. H. Fitzgerald, president of the electricians, wise declared further cut was unreasonable and that his organization would begin a strike vote immediately when the decision is announced.

## Bonus Measure is Held Up

### No Action in Sight for the Next Ten Days

Washington, June 9.—Efforts to obtain Senate consideration of the soldier's bonus bill will be deferred for at least ten days, it was stated today authoritatively.

Whether it will be taken up by agreement among Republican leaders or without the consent of some remains to be determined.

## PETITION SENT TO THE GOVERNOR

### Ask That Jesse Gappins' Sentence Be Commuted to Life Imprisonment

Columbia, June 12.—A petition signed by twenty-seven people, eleven of them jurors who sat on the case, was filed with Governor Harvey this afternoon, asking that he commute to life imprisonment the sentence of death imposed on Jesse Gappins, one of the trio sentenced to die next Friday for the murder of William Brazell. The governor indicated that he would not consider the petition.

## DEFENDS NEW STEEL COMBINE

### Corporation Wants an Investigation by Department of Justice Pushed

Washington, June 8.—Denying that the merger of the Bethlehem Steel Corporation and the Lackawanna Steel Company will operate to restrain trade, the two companies asked the Federal Trade Commission today to dismiss the complaint issued against the consolidation by the commission on June 3rd.

Coincident with the filing of answers to the complaints by the two corporations, C. D. DeGessard, their counsel, called at the department of justice and assured Attorney General Daugherty the companies were anxious to place immediately at his disposal all facts regarding the proposed merger. Delay would seriously handicap the companies he asserted, asking that the investigation be pushed forward as speedily as possible.

Mr. Daugherty was understood to have informed Mr. DeGessard that the department's investigation would be expedited.

"Each company filed separate answers to the commission's complaint, denying the authority or jurisdiction of the commission 'over the transactions alleged in the complaint.'"

In the Bethlehem reply signed by E. E. McMath, secretary of the corporation, it was asserted that neither the Lackawanna Steel Company nor any of its subsidiaries was now engaged in competition with the Bethlehem Company nor any of its subsidiaries. It was also asserted that the carrying out of the attempt of May 26, 1922, and the operation by the respondent (Bethlehem), directly or through its subsidiaries of the properties of the Lackawanna Steel Company will not violate the provisions of "any law of the United States."

The Bethlehem reply admitted some of the points set forth in the commission's complaint but took issue with the commission's figures concerning production of certain railroad accessories by the Lackawanna company.

Both companies, in their answers, took up the commission's complaint, in detail and answered each allegation, admitting some charges and denying others, but reaching the conclusion that the merger would not in any manner run counter to existing statutes.

The department of justice made a statement with reference to today's conference, which said in part: "The investigation on the part of representatives of the department of justice in New York and Buffalo will continue and as soon as possible after the necessary additional information has been furnished a final hearing will be held if necessary, and a report made to the senate in response to the resolution."

## CONDUCTOR KILLED ON CAR

### Drunken Negro Stabbed Him To Death

Richmond, Va., June 11.—H. L. Burleson, 23 years old and unmarried, of Williamsburg, Va., a conductor in the employ of the Virginia Railway & Power company, was fatally stabbed by a crowd of negroes in South Richmond late this afternoon, bleeding to death on the running board of an automobile in which he sought safety.

Burleson's slayers made good their escape before the arrival of police and as far as the authorities know still are at large, although four negro suspects had been arrested up to a late hour tonight and are being detained in Third police station. They were subjected to a grueling examination and are believed by police to be implicated in the killing, if one or more are not Burleson's actual slayers.

The trouble arose over a drunken and obstreperous negro passenger, who upon being approached by the conductor and ordered to desist, became abusive and cursed the street car man. The latter sought to eject the unruly black when other blacks rallied to his aid. Their actions became so menacing the conductor jumped from his car and sought escape in an automobile which was proceeding alongside the trolley and whose driver, sensing the danger to the street car man, signalled him to leap aboard.

The blacks followed and, dragging Burleson from the automobile, inflicted wounds with knives that shortly afterward resulted in the death on the running board. When an ambulance arrived in response to an emergency call Burleson was dead.

The murder took place in what is known as the black belt in South Richmond. The crime has caused much excitement and a considerable crowd of blacks assembled and temporarily at least frustrated efforts to apprehend the slayers of Burleson.

The demand for Will Hays in the movies exceeds the supply.

We are shipping Swiss cheese to Switzerland and may start sending Eskimo pie to the Eskimos.