

## MINISTER A SUICIDE

A Prominent Pastor Takes His Own Life

## CONFRONTED BY UGLY CHARGES

Prominent Baptist Minister Under Investigation on Grave Charges, Taxes His Own Life—Run on Two Peoria Banks, of Which He Was President.

Peroria, Ill., Special.—Rev. Geo. H. Simmons, pastor of the First Baptist church, president of the inter-state Savings Bank, and of the People's Savings Bank, and recently appointed manager of the Yates senatorial campaign was found dead in bed. He has been under investigation by the State's attorney, the two banks, and his congregation on the gravest charges.

The body was found by his wife when she called him to breakfast. He remained down town until late at night, disposing of some business matters. In a letter found beside him he said this was his last night on earth, and he wanted to leave a message of undying love to all. In part it said:

## CONGRESS AT WORK

What Our National Law Makers Are Doing Day by Day.

The Senate did not have an opportunity to hear the discussion of Mr. Patterson's resolution on the action of the Democratic caucus as was partially promised but gave the entire day to a review of the prerogatives of the Senate in the matter of framing treaties. The question was raised by Mr. Bacon in a speech on his resolution requesting information concerning the Algebra conference. He talked for almost three hours and was followed by Mr. Spooner, who spoke for considerably more than an hour. Both speeches were interspersed with debate largely between Messrs. Bacon and Spooner and there were two or three very sharp clashes between them.

Mr. Bacon's speech was in the main a plea for the right of the Senate to "advise and consent" in the matter of the negotiation of treaties and was largely a reply to Mr. Spooner's recent speech on this question.

### Bailey Plies Party Lash.

For the first time in many years, the Senate chamber was made the scene of an effort to administer party discipline to member of that body, and the occurrence was one of so many dramatic details that the many witnesses will not soon forget it. Mr. Patterson was the subject of the effort and Mr. Bailey to whom in the absence of Mr. Gorman, Democratic leadership is conceded, was the instrument of his party in the incident.

The last line—"Time fails me should I attempt to write personal messages" indicates that he was dying as he wrote the letter to a close.

Physicians believe that death was caused by cyanide of potassium. Coroner Baker has taken charge of the body. The People's Savings Bank did not open Tuesday morning. Cashier Cook said the bank would remain closed until some plan of action could be determined. There was a run on the bank and a large crowd surrounded the building. The Inter-State Savings Bank was also the object of runs Monday and Tuesday. Cashier Anicker said they would be able to stand the strain.

### Vote on Rate Bill.

By continuing its session practically to 7 o'clock the House concluded all preliminary steps to the passage of the railroad rate bill, ordered a roll call on the measure, and put off the final action until Thursday noon.

The time for amendment came at 4 o'clock and for three hours following one amendment after another came up, was read, debated in some instances, and went down to defeat. So fierce was the struggle to amend that often when a paragraph of the bill was considered in the reading, a dozen members waved their amendments and shouted for recognition. Not one of these was adopted.

Previous to this exciting procedure, the House had been entertaining for five hours by the oratory of its best speakers. Bourke Cockran, of New York, gave his approval to the measure in an elaborate speech. Mr. Mann, of Illinois, followed, when the majority leader, Mr. Williams, expounded the measure and congratulated everybody on its success. Chairman Hepburn closed the debate in a comprehensive speech dealing with the arguments of its opponents and the terms of the bill.

### Rate Bill Passes, 346 to 7.

The House passed the Hepburn railroad rate bill, 346 members voting for the bill. Seven, all Republicans, voted against it. Applause greeted the announcement of the result by the Speaker. Littlefield, of Maine; McCall and Weeks, of Massachusetts; Perkins, Southwick and Vireland, of New York, and Sibley of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Sullivan, of Massachusetts, voted "present," and was not paired. There were 28 members paired, but these pairs were general political ones. None of them was made on the lady members' behalf.

The House adjourned for the day.

### Decomposed Body Identified.

Pittsburg, Special.—The badly decomposed body of a man with a bullet hole through his head, which was found in a thicket on the outskirts of Roanoke, Va., is that of Stanley C. Armstrong, the cashier of the Washington National Bank, who mysteriously disappeared from this city on January 2. The identification was made possible when the number 24324, attached to the body was identified as the number of the accident insurance policy carried by the missing cashier.

### Alabama Mob Kills Negro.

Montgomery, Special.—John Cotton, a negro was shot to death Sunday at Elizabethtown by a mob of white men. Saturday, Cotton, who was drunk, entered Jim Phillips, a gun salesman and the white men administered a thrashing. That night as Phillips sat in his room, someone fired upon him with a shotgun loaded with small shot. Several window panes were broken, but Phillips was not injured. There was evidence that Cotton had fired the shots.

## Nine Negroes Cremated.

Baltimore, Special.—About three o'clock Tuesday morning an isolated small frame house near the village of Curtis Bay, in Anne Arundel county, was consumed by a fire in which were burned to death nine colored persons, only one of the inhabitants escaping alive.

## House Maid a Suicide.

Montgomery, Ala., Special.—Bethia Marsden, a house servant employed by a well-known family here, was found dead in her bed. A bottle of chloroform by her side and a sponge saturated with the fluid indicated suicide. This was made certain by a letter addressed to J. W. Douglass, of Washington, D. C., stating that she intended killing herself and thanking him for past kindness.

## NOW BACKS DOWN

Dispensary Investigation Committee Takes Back Water

## NOT TO PROBE PRIVATE AFFAIRS

South Carolina Dispensary Investigating Committee Announces That It Has Decided Not to Hear Evidence of the Special Committee.

### Columbia, S. C., Special.

Wednesday afternoon session of the dispensary investigating committee was characterized by some exciting and more or less sensational and dramatic incidents, though the evidence which the spectators had been led to believe would be brought out was shut off by a decision of the commission.

The Supreme Court room, where the sessions of the committee are being held was crowded. At the opening of the session, Representative Lyon made a statement to the effect that he and Senator Christensen, in obedience to the committee's instructions, had visited the three home cities of the three members of the board of dispensary directors, with a view to bringing out a comparison between the proprietor owned by the members of board before going on the board, and what they owned now. He said that they were now ready to go into this matter and that there were a number of witnesses present from Newberry, the home of Chairman Evans, ready to testify.

The other members of the committee

got their heads together on the judge's rostrum, which overlooked the seats occupied by Messrs. Lyon and Christensen and their detective, Mr. Klingenberg, and Attorneys Welsh and Bellenger for the other side.

While the conference was going on,

Chairman Evans pushed open the side door and strode in, his thumbs in his vest, and a cigar in the corner of his mouth.

"Hubby on the spot," he called.

After circulating through the crowd of spectators, he threaded his way into the bar enclosure and, leering at the detective, assumed a belligerent attitude.

It was felt that some trouble

might be expected at the after-

noon's session and there was a current of suppressed excitement running through the room. The material at hand was in a highly inflammable state and, but for the coolness of those who had this official business in charge, it is likely, that serious results would have ensued.

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