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HE SAVED HIS COIN, BUT LOST HIS WIFE

Index Journal.

A smooth band of swindlers have been operating in Greenwood according to a statement made yesterday by Mr. W. H. Palmer, cashier of the Peoples Bank at Hodges, who was the means of saving one of the negro customers from a loss of two hundred dollars. Mr. Palmer succeeded in saving the negro a nice wad of cash, but he couldn't save his wife who left him yesterday stating that she "couldn't live wid no fool nigger who ain't got no more sense than to let 'em take his money."

The swindle seems to have been confined to the negro population and especially the unsuspecting negro farmer who of late has been somewhat rolling in wealth. The game seems to be worked along this line; finding out that a certain negro has money in the bank or cash in his pockets, he is engaged in an ordinary conversation. As the two separate, the swindler stoops and picks up a pocket-book, which he has previously laid nearby on the ground. He announces to the victim that it has a \$500 bill in it which he is willing to split fifty-fifty provided the matter is kept a secret. The victim goes off to get sufficient coin to change the big bill in half, which he turns over to the swindler, who then tells him that he can get the \$500 by calling at a certain place at a certain time. Of course the certain place and certain time turn out to be certain fiction and the negro is out his half of the big bill.

The Hodges negro had evidently run across one of the swindlers. He went to the Peoples Bank where he had a nice little sum stored away and drew \$200 stating to Mr. Palmer that he would deposit \$700 the next day. After an explanation of how this was done, Mr. Palmer persuaded him to let the game alone, which he did. He saved his money and lost his wife.

The same game or one very similar has been worked in several nearby towns with more or less degree of success. Several negroes in Union donated a few hundred dollars to the cause and in all probability some in Greenwood have been caught. None but the one from Hodges has been heard of.

Abbeville Negro Also Bounced

To the Index-Journal.

Was reading in your paper of this date an account of a swindling game which a negro was trying to pull off on a farmer of the Hodges section to the sum of \$200 through the finding of a \$500 bill and which he would have succeeded in doing if it had not been for the action of Mr. Palmer, cashier of the Peoples Bank of Hodges. This brings to my mind a similar case which happened here at Abbeville a few months ago when a negro farmer was skinned out of \$85.00. In this case the negro crook picked up a pocket-book which he said to the unsuspecting negro near him that he had just found a purse containing a \$100 bill and that he would change it for him and say nothing about it if he would divvy up with him. The old negro only had \$85 which he gave him and the other negro in turn gave the negro farmer a signed due bill on the Paving Company and told him to present it to us the following morning and that it would be paid, as he was working for us and we owed him that amount. When the old negro presented the bill to me the following morning, I told him that we did not have any such negro working for us and he realized then that he had been "flim-flammed," and said he would have lost more had it not been for the fact that he gave the balance to his wife only a few minutes before.

W. Coppinger.

JOE BAILEY OF TEXAS IS TRYING TO COME BACK

A Gainesville Texas, special says: Former Senator Joseph W. Bailey today formally announced his candidacy for the gubernatorial nomination in opposition to what have been termed "regular Democrats."

Mr. Bailey in his announcement address excoriated "progressive Democrats" and the national administration, branded the federal prohibition and woman suffrage amendment invasions of states rights and expressed opposition to the league of nations.

Expenditures of the national administration were declared "extravagant" by Mr. Bailey, who said "they are spending our money like drunken sailors." To supply this money, he said, taxation "is rapidly approaching

the point of confiscation."

"There are three fundamental and insuperable objections to the league of nations," the former senator said. "The first is that it surrenders a part of our sovereignty into the keeping of an European council; the second is that it will involve us so long as it exists in European complication and the third is that it obligates the United States to furnish soldiers for wars in which we might not have the remotest interest."

TWO COUSINS DIE FROM GUN WOUNDS

Allendale, Feb. 23.—Allie, Cone, age 20 and Aubrey Cone, age 17 were instantly killed and John Brant, age 22, was slightly wounded in a gun battle in the parlor of the home of E. P. Phillips, a prosperous farmer residing four miles from here, about 8 o'clock Sunday evening. John Brant and his brother, Earl B. Brant, age 17, are under arrest.

The Cone boys were first cousins. All of the parties are prosperous young white men of this section. Although the shooting occurred in the presence of two of Mr. Phillips daughters, upon whom the young men were calling, details as to the cause of the fight are quite conflicting.

John Brant, it is said, claims to have killed both of the Cone boys. However, Miss Ruth Phillips testified at the coroner's inquest that John Brant killed Aubrey Cone and that Earl Brant killed Allie Cone. The dead men were buried this afternoon.

Special to The State.

Fairfax, Feb. 28.—Allie Cone and Aubrey Cone, sons of W. F. Cone, were killed in the parlor of Edward Phillips, near Sycamore, about 8 o'clock last night. John and Earle Brant, sons of Robert Brant, are under arrest.

According to testimony at the inquest the Cone boys went to the Phillips home and were in the parlor when the Brant boys came in about 8 o'clock and without many words firing commenced.

Both of the Cone boys were under 21 years old, and the Brant boys, too, are under 20 years of age. Sheriff Bennett was notified and soon had the Brant boys in custody and lodged

them in the Barnwell county jail.

Both the Cone and Brant families are prominent and well to do people.

BRITISH TOAST FIRST PRESIDENT

London, Feb. 23.—Three hundred prominent Britons and Americans as guests of the lord mayor of London his afternoon toasted Washington as 'one of the heroes of the British age' and acclaimed love of justice, freedom, humanity and peace as common bonds uniting the two people.

The occasion was luncheon commemorating the first American president's birthday anniversary and marking the first of a series of unctious in connection with the tercentenary of the Mayflower's sailing.

Viscount Brice, the former British ambassador to the United States, proposing the toast, "Success to the tercentenary celebrations," said the celebration would be celebrated in America and Holland, and he hoped it would be celebrated no "less heartily in England." He declared that the two nations must stand for their common ideals in peace as they have in war, and called attention to the fact that "the problems of peace are harder than those of war times."

Lord Burnham, in seconding this toast, affirmed "what we need is understanding not only of the eye and mind, but, above all, of the soul."

The Mayflower's manifest, he added, represented the greatest cargo of "concentrated essence of world power in the world's history." He declared that the reestablishment of the old Washington home on Sulgrave manor would be the erection of "a temple to the future of mankind."

The American ambassador, John W. Davis, in responding, said there was no reason why Britons and Americans everywhere may not "again rededicate themselves to the perpetuation of the ideals for which Washington stood. Of all the mad and misguided men, in the world today, declared the ambassador, he is most mad and misguided who would cast the apple of discord between the two English speaking nations."

Lord Reading proposed "the memory of Washington and the friendship of the British and American peoples.

He characterized Washington as "the man who defeated us and one of the best men we ever produced."

The luncheon was presided over by the lord mayor.

Among the principal guests were: John W. Davis, the American ambassador; the arch bishop of Canterbury, the bishop of London, Viscount Brice and the Earl of Reading, both former ambassadors to the United States; Sir Auckland Geddes, minister of national service and reconstruction; H. A. L. Fisher, minister of education; Sir George H. Perley, Canadian high commissioner in London; Andrew Fisher, Australian high commissioner in London; Sir Thomas Lipton, Viscount Mersey, Viscount Burnham, Lord Weardale, Baron Riddell, Sir William Tyrrell and Rear Admiral Harry S. Knapp, commander of the American naval forces in European waters.

MR. RIVERS OF CHESTERFIELD WAREHOUSE COMMISSIONER

News and Courier.

J. Clifton Rivers was unanimously elected to succeed the late Capt. W. G. Smith, for a term of four years. He was unopposed, his only contender, A. A. Richardson, of Columbia, not allowing his name to be offered. The election of Mr. Rivers took but a minute to be consummated, after he had been nominated by W. R. Bradford, of York, chairman of the ways and means committee.

The new warehouse commissioner was born at Mt. Croghan, Chesterfield county, January 27, 1876, and was graduated at the Chesterfield high school in 1892 and from Wofford college in 1894. He married Miss Mary E. Allen, of Mt. Croghan, September 1, 1901, and is the father of ten children. Mr. Rivers has been a farmer in Chesterfield county all his life and is one of the leading agriculturists of his section.

The new commissioner receives an annual salary of \$3,000.

German surgical instruments are being sold in the United States at from 20 to 40 per cent below American prices. The surgical instrument industry developed greatly here during the war.

"What a Piece of Work is Man!"

But man is a noble animal, splendid in ashes and pompous in the grave, solemnizing natiivities and deaths with equal lustre, nor omitting ceremonies of bravery in the infamy of his nature.—Thomas Browne: Urn Burial.

A SOLDIER'S LAMENT!

Washington, D. C.—War Department officials state that the plan for distributing surplus Army foodstuffs to the housewives is meeting with great success—News Item.

So this is the latest in peace-time atrocities—

Housewives are buying our leftover chow!

Back from the dead come the mess-shack monstrosities,

Lord God of Battles, be good to me now!

Think how we worshipped the thought of the dining-room—

Now all its charms are but memories to bless—

Chamber we prayed about, now you're a pinning-room—

"Unlimber intrinching tools, fall in for mess!"

Season, embalm, resurrect or arrange the stuff—

Silly! Corned willy will still be corned bill,

Camouflage, ruffle, dye—you'll never change the stuff,

Old fish is gold-fish—we've been through the mill!

Reinforce, nickel-plate, perfume with daffodil,

Stir it or shirr it, slumgullion is slum;

It's a waste, for the taste would be strong in a half a gill—

We're off the flavor for ages to come.

So mother (or wifey), you must bear the brunt for me,

Food Sherman meant when he said war was hell;

If you fal for canned rations you may have to hunt for me,

The Sherman for peace is the H. C. of L! —Home Sector.

The national debt of Great Britain is now \$37,205,000,000.