

# Abbeville Press and Banner

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## ONE ARREST IN FLORENCE CRIME

**EDMUND BIGHAM PLACED IN JAIL ON CHARGE OF MURDER—AFFIDAVIT BY LAWYER INCLUDES STATEMENT BY ONE OF DEAD WOMEN WHEN MAKING WILL BEFORE KILLING**

Florence, Jan. 20.—The tragedy near Pamplico last Saturday afternoon which cost the lives of three members of the Bigham family and two adopted children, took a sensational turn this afternoon when Edmund Bigham, one of the two surviving members of the family and the first to appear on the scene of the tragedy, according to his statement, was arrested at the plantation home and brought to the county jail here. His wife accompanied him to the jail. Edmund Bigham was arrested by Deputy Sheriff M. B. Burch on a warrant sworn out by John W. McCracken the father of the two children killed. Coroner Smith and C. M. Rose, an officer of Pamplico, accompanied him. Bigham is charged with murder. He submitted to the arrest quietly and manifested little or no concern. He refused to make any statement tonight when seen at the jail.

The persons killed on the Bigham plantation last Saturday were: Mrs. M. M. Bigham, her daughter, Mrs. Margie Black; Leo and John McCracken, two adopted children, and L. S. Bigham, brother of Mrs. Black. The mother and the daughter and one of the children were apparently killed instantly. The youngest child died at 5 o'clock the following morning, and L. S. Bigham, who was thought at the time to have committed the crime, was found dead in the woods about a mile from the home at 11 o'clock the following morning. He grasped a pistol in his hand, and a bullet had pierced the right temple. The other four victims also died of pistol shot wounds.

**Negroes for Witnesses.**  
Coroner Smith said this afternoon that several negroes would be arrested and held as material witnesses. It is his opinion that now that Bigham is under arrest other testimony bearing on the case may be forthcoming.

In making the arrest of Bigham on the warrant of McCracken, the affidavit of Philip Arrowsmith, an attorney of this city, was given great consideration. In his affidavit Arrowsmith declares that he had been the attorney for Mrs. Black and for L. S. (Smiley) Bigham, two of the persons killed, since the spring of 1920 and that, therefore, he had become intimately acquainted with their affairs.

At the outset of the affidavit, which was sworn to before the coroner, Mr. Arrowsmith declares that Edmund Bigham has no interest in the estate of the late Senator L. S. Bigham, this having been conveyed to his mother and brother. He also declares that the payment of the bond escheated by Dr. Cleveland Bigham, who was convicted for the murder of his wife and sentenced to three years in the state penitentiary, had been provided for by deposit of amount sufficient to cover the bond in a local bank. The money was the proceeds of a mortgage on the estate lands and that Solicitor L. M. Gasque of this judicial circuit had in his possession the certificate of deposit. Mr. Arrowsmith also avers that he has in his possession all of the original deeds relating to the Bigham lands. Continuing, the statement says that on January 8, 1921, L. S. Bigham and Mrs. Margie Black came to his home and at their request he accompanied them to his office where Mrs. Black, who was greatly agitated, made the following statement:

**Fearful for Life.**  
"I signed three blank deeds in the presence of witnesses and left them with Smiley so that if anything happened to me my father's estate could be handled as my mother and Smi-

## PLANS FROM BORAH WINS APPROVAL

**Step Taken Toward International Disarmament—Negotiations Between United States, Great Britain and Japan Recommended in Bill**

Washington, Jan. 20.—A definite step toward international disarmament was taken by the senate foreign relations committee today in ordering a favorable report on the resolution of Senator Borah, Republican, Idaho proposing, negotiations between the United States, Great Britain and Japan to reduce naval programs.

Discussion of the resolution in the senate is not planned before next week and action on it at the present session is conceded to be in doubt. Advocates of the resolution, however, hope the senate debate will give impetus to general disarmament sentiment here and abroad.

The committee approved the Borah resolution without a roll call after it had voted down, 8 to 3 an alternative resolution by Senator Walsh Democrat, Montana, proposing American participation in discussion of the league of nations' disarmament commission. All democrats supported the Walsh measure and all Republicans voted against it. Senator Shields, Democrat, Tennessee, although absent was recorded in opposition.

Some changes were made in the Borah resolution by the committee. One was the inclusion of the provision that any agreements between the United States, Great Britain and Japan for naval building reductions should be promulgated formally by treaty. Another amendment struck out Senator Borah's original proposal to negotiate for a 50 per cent. reduction in naval building, the committee deciding to leave this question open for whatever reduction might be arranged.

Confinement of the negotiations to the three principal naval powers as originally proposed by Senator Borah, was approved by the committee, a proposal by Senator McCumber, Republican, North Dakota, to include France and Italy in the parleys, being rejected.

Senator Borah plans to call up the resolution in the senate the first opportunity, probably next week.

## NEWS OF GLENN BASKIN

Glenn Baskin, who is making his home in Honea Path and is a member of the firm of Kay & Baskin, has been operated on in the Anderson Hospital for appendicitis and the good news comes to friends in Abbeville that he is making a satisfactory recovery.

## MOVING.

Mr. and Mrs. R. S. McCombs and family moved Friday to Fort Pickens having purchased the old Hemphill place from J. R. Woodhurst. Mr. Woodhurst has moved to the place on North Main street just vacated by Mr. J. A. Shands who has moved to the Norris place just beyond the city limits.

ley desired. All these papers were stolen from Smiley. I found them in Edmund's possession. When I attempted to secure possession of them Edmund flew into a passion and threatened to take my life as well as that of my mother. I gave up all hope of getting the deeds back and his conduct is such that I am afraid he will kill me at any moment and I want you to prepare my will, giving all of my property to my brother Smiley, and charging him, as I know he will, to take care of my mother and my two little adopted boys."

Mr. Arrowsmith further declared that he drew the will as instructed and it was witnessed by himself, G. T. Bryce and Marshall W. Bridges and that he incorporated in the will the statement of Mrs. Black to him regarding the threats against her life.

## GREAT RAILWAY REDUCES AGAIN

**Pennsylvania Orders Another Cut In Expenses—President Rea Calls for Utmost Economy Consistent With Safety And Efficiency**

Philadelphia, Jan. 20.—The Pennsylvania Railroad company today instructed all departments throughout the system to effect a further reduction in expenses of 10 per cent. as compared with the expenses in November, 1920. This is in addition to the 10 per cent. reduction ordered when the retrenchment campaign was started last month and which already has resulted in the laying off of approximately 30,000 men in the four regions of the system. Continued falling off of business was given as the reason for today's action. Freight traffic has declined 20 to 22 per cent. as compared with the early fall, the company announced.

"There is no arbitrary rule adopted," said a statement issued by Samuel Rea, president of the system. "The principle on which the reduction will be made is to secure the utmost economy consistent with safety and efficiency. The vice presidents, however, have been directed that in carrying out these instructions they shall do so in the manner best adapted to avoid, as far as possible, unnecessary disruption of the organizations or individual hardship."

"It is to be hoped that the reduction in business will continue for only a brief period. The management of the Pennsylvania railroad sincerely regrets that uninterrupted employment can not be assured to every faithful man on its payrolls. But the situation is a practical one and no way has as yet been devised in such circumstances as those now existing to avoid a reduction in expenses and working forces.

"As indicative of the severity of the conditions confronting the management it may be pointed out that the Pennsylvania railroad system now has on its lines 58,000 idle freight cars which is about 20 per cent. of the number owned, and that the idle cars are increasing daily. Freight traffic has declined 20 to 22 per cent. as compared with the early fall and all available information as to the prevailing conditions in the productive industries and general commerce indicates that a further slowing down in the freight movement must be anticipated before recovery can reasonably be expected. Regrettably, there is, therefore, no course open to the management except to curtail expenses accordingly."

## DUE WEST VISITORS

Mrs. J. P. Pratt and Miss Elizabeth Nickles were down from Due West Friday. Mrs. Pratt is the daughter of Col. R. H. Armstrong, one of the beloved old veterans of the county, and she brings the good news that he is as lively as ever and is in good health. Mrs. Pratt tells us also that Mrs. Purdy is making a success of the Erskine College Dormitory. She gives the boys plenty to eat and that they are devoted to her. She also tells us that Dr. Bell has a sick little girl, news which every one will be sorry to hear.

## MOVING AWAY

Mrs. J. E. Cheatham and her young son, are leaving Abbeville soon. They will go to the country and make their home with Mr. R. A. Keaton, the father of Mrs. Cheatham. Her friends regret her leaving. Mr. and Mrs. James Walker, of Atlanta, will occupy the Cheatham house.

## OFF TO NEW ORLEANS

Mrs. Frank B. Gary left this afternoon for New Orleans where she will spend a month with her sister, Mrs. Weed. Mrs. Henry Riley, of Richmond will join Mrs. Gary on the trip and the three sisters will hold a pleasant reunion.

## POLICY OUTLINED IN ALIEN CASES

**Labor Department Explains Its Position—Secretary Wilson Speaks in Highest Terms of His Assistant's Administration**

Washington, Jan. 20.—The policy of the department of labor with respect to the arrest and deportation of radical aliens, concerning which it has had clashes with the department of justice, is announced for the first time by Secretary Wilson in a statement made public today at the White House. It was summarized as follows:

"No person shall be arrested except upon sworn affidavit based upon condition and belief.

"No person when arrested shall be held incommunicado.

"Every person arrested shall be entitled to counsel immediately upon being taken into custody.

"They shall be confronted with the evidence and shall be permitted to furnish testimony and be heard in their own behalf.

"Excessive bail shall not be required.

"These safeguards of American liberty, having been provided, if it is then shown by the evidence that any alien is deportable under the so-called anarchist law, we will deport him with as little compunction as we would attack an invading enemy. We will not deport any one simply because he has been accused or because he is suspected of being a 'red.' We have no authority to do so under the law."

The labor secretary's statement which also contained a vigorous defense of his assistant, Louis F. Post, was embodied in a letter sent by Secretary Tumulty to Col. Henry D. Lindley, chairman of the executive committee of the American Legion, who presented at the White House last October resolutions adopted by the legion, formally asking for the dismissal of Mr. Post from office because of his attitude with regard to deportation of radicals.

It is understood that the legion's request was referred by the White House to Secretary Wilson and that the statement by him was sent to the White House in reply. It also represented the president's reply to the legion's request for Post's dismissal.

In defending his assistant, Secretary Wilson said he had not only faithfully carried out instruction with respect to aliens but he was "among the ablest and best administrative officers in the government service," and "one of the truest Americans I have ever come in contact with."

## THE BEARS IN CONTROL

The cotton market today was in the hands of the bears. January futures in New York closed at 16.40 against 17.10 yesterday. Spots were down 70 points. The market has lost nearly two cents from the highest point of a week ago.

Not much cotton was offered on the local market, the prevailing prices of the early part of the week being still offered.

## A SICK BABY.

Mary Salome, the lovely little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Harris, has been ailing for several days and Wednesday developed pneumonia. Miss Kendall of Columbia is here nursing the little girl and her aunt, Miss Salome Bookman is also here. The little girl has been pretty sick and today is holding her own. Everyone hopes to hear good news from her soon.

## MRS. HARPER IMPROVING

Mrs. W. G. Harper was operated on at the Riverside Infirmary in Charleston for appendicitis Wednesday and the news from her bedside is that she is getting on nicely and will soon be out again.

Mrs. Harper spent Christmas in Abbeville and friends here are glad of good news from her.

## HOUSE MEMBERSHIP NOT BE INCREASED

**By a Vote of 198 to 77 Houses Keeps Present Number—12 Seats Will Be Shifted From Eleven To Eight States.**

Washington, Jan. 20.—The House of Representatives voted today against increasing its membership from 435.

This action was taken by adoption of an amendment to the reapportionment bill which sought to increase the total to 488. Under the amendment 12 seats would be shifted from 11 to 8 states.

The vote to keep the membership at 435 was 198 for to 77 against.

The vote for adoption of the amendment proposed by Representative Barbour, Republican, California a member of the Census committee which reported the bill, was so overwhelming that advocates a bigger house said they realized it would stand. The amendment means that the following states will lose seats two years hence: Missouri 2, and Indiana, and Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Nebraska, Rhode Island and Vermont one each. California gain 3, Michigan 2, Ohio 2 and Connecticut, New Jersey, North Carolina, Texas and Washington one each.

## PICTURE TO BE GIVEN TO CREATE INTEREST

At the meeting of the parents and teachers Wednesday afternoon it was decided to make a cooperative effort to increase the attendance of mothers at the future meetings of the Parent-Teacher association. The association believes that the best means of reaching the mother is through the child so the members resolved to purchase two beautiful framed pictures, copies of masterpieces, and hang them in the room of the grade, one at the graded school and one at the high school, which had the greatest number of mothers at the next meeting of the association February 15th. So long as the grade that first wins the picture has the greatest number of their mothers present at the meetings the picture remains in that room. If a grade should win the picture three successive times it shall become their permanent property and a new picture will be offered by the association.

Should a mother have children in more than one grade her attendance will count for one point for each grade in which she has a child enrolled.

The officers of the association are very anxious to secure a 100 per cent attendance and membership of the mothers of the schools and are determined to at least double the attendance at the February meeting over what it was Wednesday afternoon. Each mother present Wednesday was requested to bring another member with her February 15th, and the grades in both high and graded school are working in earnest to secure the pictures next month, and to hold them.

Mrs. W. P. Greene, Mrs. Amos B. Morse and Mrs. J. D. Fulp were appointed on a committee to arrange a parent's program for the next meeting which promises to be something unique. This will be the first time that the school children or teachers have not furnished the program.

## NO SERVICE.

Rev. C. E. Peele wishes it known that there will be no service in the Methodist church Sunday. Work on the church is still in progress but he hopes to have it finished by Sunday week.

## MRS ALBERT MILLER BEREAVED

News was received in Abbeville this week of the death of Mrs. McCrae at her home in Monroe on Tuesday. Mrs. McCrae is the mother of Mrs. Albert Miller, who has many friends in Abbeville who sorrow with her in her loss.

## VOUCHER FOUND FOR GREAT SUM

**ABADIE TELLS OF HIS INVESTIGATION—FORMER DIRECTOR GENERAL OF EMERGENCY FLEET CORPORATION ASKED TO APPEAR BEFORE COMMITTEE TO TESTIFY**

New York, Jan. 20.—A voucher for \$260,000 "for personal expenses of an officer of the Bethlehem Shipbuilding corporation" was found in an audit of the main offices of that company Col. E. H. Abadie today informed the Walsh congressional committee investigating the shipping board. He identified this "officer" as Charles M. Schwab who was then director general of the Emergency Fleet corporation. The voucher was made for the month of October, 1918. "One hundred thousand of this amount" he testified, was arbitrarily charged to ship construction.

It was learned prior to adjournment today that Mr. Schwab had been asked to appear before the committee to testify.

The voucher in question, Colonel Abadie added, was not seen by him nor was its alleged amount or purpose verified. He said it was reported to him by Mr. Morse of the firm of Perley, Morse and company, expert accountants, employed by him as comptroller of the shipping board to make an independent audit of shipbuilding companies. He also testified that from what he knew of Mr. Schwab, he would be the first man to condemn any injustice by his corporation toward the government. He added that while the voucher in question was not accompanied by supporting papers he thought it could be explained. Asked if it might not represent Mr. Schwab's expenses for that month as an officer of the fleet corporation the witness replied that had it been so, the amount should have been covered by a fleet corporation voucher.

The subject was brought up by Colonel Abadie in explaining certain matters connected with his resignation from the board, involved in which was a dispute with Chairman Payne in the employing of the auditing firm to make an audit of American ship yards.

He charged that Martin J. Gillen, then special assistant to John Barton Payne, chairman of the board, had connived to get him removed.

The auditing brought on a dispute with Chairman Payne as to his, Abadie's authority to order it.

"The first intimation I had that my resignation would be acceptable" he said, "was when Gillen asked me to meet him and wanted to know if my heart was all right and could I stand a shock. I was then told that at an executive meeting of the board it had been decided to accept my resignation if it was tendered."

Colonel Abadie said he filed his resignation and it was accepted and he was given a month detached duty.

## NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Mr. A. S. Thomas, who has charge of the welfare work in one of the mills controlled by Messrs. Deering, Millikin & Co., in Massachusetts, has been selected as Executive Secretary by the Board of Selectmen of Abbeville Cotton Mills. Mr. Thomas was in Abbeville a little more than a year ago, and knows something of the work to be done here. He has not yet decided fully whether he will accept the position offered him, but it is likely that he will.

Mr. Thomas is elected to take the place of Mr. J. A. Roscoe who recently resigned his position with the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Thomas has been engaged in this line of work which he is elected to do for a number of years, and has made a great success of it. It is hoped that he will decide to come to Abbeville to take charge of the work for the Board of Selectmen.