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GEORGIA JUSTICE

Last week there was a sensational trial in the State of Georgia. Georgia likes sensations, but Georgia is a great state. There are times when the people over there do all kinds of ridiculous things but when a great occasion arises, they generally come to the scratch.

And so it was in the Williams case. John S. Williams was a wealthy Georgia planter. Like a great many farmers he undertook to run his farm with laborers gotten from the stockades in Atlanta and Macon. He believed this kind of labor better than free labor. In order to be sure that the negroes charged with crime did not escape he resorted to practices which caused him to be charged with peonage.

And when he was about to be charged in the Federal Courts with this offense, it is charged by the grand jury of Jasper county that he had a wholesale slaughter of negroes on his farm, the negroes killed being those who had been gotten from the jails and the stockades and who it was evident might become witnesses against Williams.

A jury of his countrymen has said that he is guilty of murder. They have said so, although the chief witness was a negro boss on the Williams farm, and although there was the usual effort to create sentiment in Williams favor on account of race prejudice. A jury composed mostly of farmers did not heed the negro argument. They followed the evidence, and the corroborating evidence was sufficient to convince most people that the negro was telling the truth.

The verdict is a notable triumph for the law. It has been too often said that in the South on account of race prejudice white men may commit any kind of crimes against negroes and go unwhipped of justice. The verdict of this Georgia jury of farmers and other good citizens warns us that if this has been true in the past, it is no longer true. Other verdicts so warn us. Only last week a white man in Anderson County in this State was convicted of manslaughter for the killing of a negro man. Crime is crime wherever it is committed and by whomsoever it is committed. And it is refreshing to know that the people who serve on the juries so decree.

The Williams case emphasizes the arguments we have been endeavoring to give to our readers respecting the danger of working the kind of labor which Williams worked. The congregating of large numbers of negroes charged with crime, and there holding them in a kind of bondage is not healthy for the community. Out of the practice, whether it be in Georgia, or in South Carolina, will grow crimes of greater enormity than the crimes for which the laborers are charged. It was true in Williams case, and it will be true in other cases. Slavery is unlawful under whatever name it may be called, and all right-thinking people will join forces with the powers that be in an earnest endeavor to wipe it out of existence wherever it is in existence. No form of compulsory service is to be tolerated by the law and none should be tolerated by civilized people.

The enforcement of the law as it is written and as it was written at Lee's surrender need not encourage the negro to think he is a special favorite of the law officers. He must take his medicine if he is guilty of crime just like other law-breakers. As Williams will be punished for ordering his negroes killed, so will Manning, his negro boss, who was Williams executioner, also pay the penalty. He deserves some credit for telling the truth, and for helping to unearth the crimes which Williams sought to bury, but this will not excuse him from paying the just penalty which the law demands of him.

The law must be obeyed by white and black alike.

BOND MONEY COMING

Chairman Stark of the Highway Commission informed the Press and Banner this morning that he had received Saturday a telegram from the bond purchasers, saying that the bonds would be printed at once, and that within a week they would be forwarded here for signature.

As soon as the bonds are signed, they will be sent back to the purchasers, and the money will be forwarded to the Highway Commission. The money will be received Chairman Stark thinks within the next two weeks.

Under the terms of the Act creating the Highway Commission and authorizing the bond issue, this money is to be deposited in the banks of the county, in amounts proportionate to their capital and surplus, so that all the banks will receive a portion of the money. The rate of interest which the banks will pay has not yet been determined, but it will likely be as much as five per cent. as most banks are offering this much at present for time deposits.

As the money will not be used for perhaps two years, that is not all of it, the money being paid out only as the work progresses, this money will help the banks to assist their customers somewhat in the way of advances. Money is badly needed by the farmers just now, and good deposits in the banks were never more welcome. Parties who must have help will do well to see their banks and make their wants known.

OF INTEREST TO ABBEVILLE

Among the recent weddings in the State in which Abbeville people are interested was that Saturday at Greenwood of Miss Edina Dargan to Mr. R. H. Cain, of Little Rock. Miss Dargan is a daughter of the late Rev. Marion Dargan and was a little girl when he was pastor of the church at Abbeville.

Miss Ernestine Faith Cornish, daughter of the late Rev. A. E. Cornish, is also remembered in Abbeville and friends wish her happiness in her marriage this week to Mr. Chalmers Swinton Murray of Edisto Island. The marriage was solemnized in Christ Episcopal church in Charleston.

Dick Reynolds, who is remembered by the people of Abbeville who danced the old fashion German and lancers, was married last week in Bennettsville and with his bride is visiting his home people in Greenwood.

ONE HUNDRED AND TEN

The city treasury is fuller this morning by one hundred and ten dollars, due to the fact that Chief Johnson and his men brought in eleven gamblers Saturday night, each of whom contributed the sum of ten dollars. The following constitute the eleven: Rob Jackson, Jim Washington, Monroe McClinton, Charleston Fisher, Clarence Beltcher, Simms Goodwin, Arthur Mattison, Will Crawford, Young Kennedy, Turner Brown and Will Brown, all of the colored persuasion.

The city came near making it one hundred and fifteen, and would have done so had not Arthur Mattison fallen down on the job. Saturday night after he had put up his bond for his appearance, Arthur appeared again before Chief Johnson and wanted to know how much extra it would cost to keep his name out of the paper. Arthur didn't mind being caught so much as having his name handed around in the paper so that his brethren in the church would know that he had been in bad company.

Simms Goodwin, who was one of the contributors, was before the mayor only a few days before charged with wife-beating and was assessed thirty-five dollars by the mayor. Simms is getting to be one of the chief supports of the present administration.

AFTER THE STILLERS

Deputy Sheriff Cann and officer R. P. Martin have been on another outing, looking up the liquor manufacturers. This time they turned up a desville section, and discovered fifty gallons of mash, a fermenter, a doubling keg and a worm, on lands of E. W. Harper, rented by Monroe and Cliff Crittenden. A path led directly from the home of the Crittendens to the place where the liquor machinery was found. The

still itself was not in place and it was not captured.

Arrests will probably be made in the next few days. The officers of the county as well as the federal officers are on the alert for all kinds of offenders against the law, and especially for the liquor-makers these days, and by the time the officers finish with them, there will not be many who escape.

Other places are being watched, and the officers promise other disclosures in the next few days.

MEETING TOMORROW

The regular monthly meeting of the Parent-Teacher association will be held in the graded school building tomorrow afternoon at four o'clock. The holders of the prize pictures for this month are Miss Sara Perrin's section of the sixth grade and Miss Coan's section of the second grade. The children of these sections are working particularly hard to get all the mothers representing their sections out to the meeting tomorrow in order that they may hold the pictures another month but some of the other

grades are working just as hard in an endeavor to get the pictures moved.

Miss Kilgore's class in expression will furnish the entertainment for tomorrow's meeting after which several matters of business will be taken up by the association.

THE REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The "regional conference" announced to be held in the Baptist church Sunday afternoon was attended by representatives of a large number of churches in this section. Among visiting ministers were the Rev. Dr. G. W. Gardner, the Rev. Dr. Ernest J. Smith and the Rev. O. W. Triplett, of Greenwood, the Rev. H. C. Smith of Donalds and the Rev. Dr. J. C. Solomon of Calhoun Falls.

The speakers for the occasion were the Rev. Dr. Solomon and the Rev. O. W. Triplett. The former is pastor at Calhoun Falls and Mount Carmel, while the latter is a member of the evangelistic staff of the Baptist State Mission Board. Both these gentlemen made appropriate and forceful addresses upon the subject of the Baptist 75 Million Campaign.

THE BOYS CLASSES AT SUPPER

Boys of the classes in the Baptist Sunday school enjoyed a social evening in the basement of the church Friday night from eight to ten o'clock. Supper was served by the girls belonging to the Girls Auxiliary, aided by older young ladies of the Y. W. A. Plates were laid for forty guests, and there was a perfect bevy of pretty young girl waitresses. The tables were adorned with beautiful cut flowers.

Mr. Bristow, the pastor, presided, and called upon a number of the boys for table-talks. James Cox was the first speaker, using as his subject "Lot's Flea" and evoking a round of applause. Other speakers included Tom Howie, George Wood, Louis Bristow, Ellis Poliakoff and a number of others. T. V. Howie told the boys a real "spook" story of his own experience. Misses Elizabeth Edmonds, Mary Barksdale, Kathleen Schroeder, and Ruth Howie told original stories which were interesting.

The boys voted the occasion one of unusual merit, and hope to have another similar gathering ere long.

FOR THE APRIL BRIDE

Mrs. James A. Hill gave a delightful party Saturday afternoon at her home on Greenville street in honor of Miss Eugenia Robertson. The house was beautifully decorated in bowls of roses and the time passed most pleasantly to the eight tables of ladies who spent the time playing bridge.

A salad course was served at the beginning of the afternoon by Misses Judith Hill, Maria Neuffer, Lillian Richey and Kate McDill.

Miss Judith, the accomplished daughter of the house and Miss Maria Neuffer treated the guests to a piano duet which was greatly enjoyed.

Mrs. Lucas will entertain Tuesday morning and Mrs. G. E. Calvert in the afternoon for Miss Robertson.

SPENDING SUNDAY

Mrs. J. G. Edwards, Miss Helen Edwards, Miss Julia Mabry and Mr. C. E. Yoder went to Edgefield Sunday and spent the day with Dr. and Mrs. John G. Edwards. They made the trip through the country.

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