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SOUTH CAROLINA NEWS ITEMS

News of Interest Gleaned From All Sections of the State and Arranged For Busy Readers

Court Martial at Spartanburg. Spartanburg, Special.—Privates C. Mae Quinn, Lester Holt and W. A. Holt, members of Company I, 1st regiment, South Carolina National Guard, pleaded guilty before a court martial here last week. Mae Quinn and Lester Holt pleading guilty to the charge of desertion and W. A. Holt to the charge of disobeying orders. Privates W. S. Rogers, James Wilds and Clarence Cobb, who were court martialed on the charge of desertion, pleaded not guilty and were tried, the case taking up the entire day. H. L. Bomar appeared for the defendants. The officers of the court were Capt. P. K. McCulley, Capt. P. C. Handley, Capt. F. I. Watson and Capt. J. Frost Walker, Judge Advocate. The trial attracted great interest, the chamber of commerce rooms where the court was held being crowded with military men and private citizens. It was the first military trial ever held in Spartanburg and the first of the kind ever held in the State. The court martial was ordered by Col. Lewis, commander of the 1st South Carolina regiment, and was the result of the above named privates refusing to respond when Company I was called out to protect the jail on October 10, when a mob attempted to storm the jail and lynch John Irby, colored, charged with attempting to rape Miss Leila Dempsey. Irby has since been convicted and sentenced to serve thirty years in the penitentiary. When the court convened the privates, under charges, all of whom were in uniform, together with the witnesses were brought into court. Privates Lester Holt and C. Mae Quinn pleaded guilty to the charge of desertion, and W. A. Holt entered a plea of guilty to the charge of disobedience. Quinn in making his plea of guilty broke down and cried. He said that it was his intention to respond, and that he went to the armory for his uniform and arms, but found the armory locked. Privates Cobb, Wilds and Rogers in their defense claimed that they were of the opinion that their term of enlistment expired October 1, and that they had turned in their uniforms and equipment and were not therefore subject to call to arms. The position of the company was that since they had not received written discharge from the colonel of the regiment they were subject to duty at any time. The court adjourned and the papers and findings of the court will be forwarded to Col. Lewis, commander of the 1st regiment. It will be ten days before Col. Lewis will make a report on the case.

Monarch Mill Meeting Held. Union, Special.—The stockholders of the Monarch Cotton Mills met here—S. M. Milliken and his party of northern capitalists being present. H. A. Hatch, of New York city, son-in-law of Mr. Milliken, was chosen president, in succession to P. E. Feat, deceased, and Mr. Nicholson, of this city, was reelected treasurer and general manager. A semi-annual dividend of 3 per cent was ordered paid on January 1.

Geologists Gathering Data. Blacksburg, Special.—Mr. A. L. Steritt, of the geological survey, is here with Prof. Sloan, gathering data of this quadrangle to fill in the map of this section being made by the geological survey. The topographical men were here in 1906 and they have the map all ready now excepting the geological data. When that is worked up the map will be complete.

Heavy Sentence Given. Spartanburg, Special.—The heaviest sentence ever imposed in this county for conviction on the charge of selling liquor was that imposed by Judge Klough on Col. Aaron Thompson of this county, who was convicted on three accounts. He was given a fine of \$1,500 or eighteen months in the penitentiary or at hard labor on the public works of the county. The case will be appealed. Motion was made for a new trial but was refused by the court.

Milliner Violates Game Law. Spartanburg, Special.—J. M. Goodlet, proprietor of a fashionable millinery store, recently arrested on the charge of violating the game laws of the State by displaying a hat trimmed with the plume of an egret, a non-game bird, in his store window, appeared before Magistrate Coan and pleaded guilty. He was sentenced to pay a fine of \$2. The case against Mr. Goodlet was brought by the Audubon Society.

Got Alcohol For Liquor. Anderson, Special.—M. B. Williams, a well known man of this city, died from taking wood alcohol. He had been drinking for several days and had been in his room since Monday. It is said that he mistook the bottle containing the poison for one containing whiskey. Williams was about 50 years old and a Mason. For the past four years he had been working as assistant to a well known dentist of the city.

Report on Insurance. Columbia, Special.—In his forthcoming first annual report to the Legislature Mr. McMaster, the new State Insurance Commissioner, will have some interesting and encouraging remarks to make concerning domestic mutual insurance doing a fire business, showing the remarkable savings to policy-holders on both city and country property these concerns chartered under the "mutual protective association act" have made over "old line" insurance. They "tell a story of honesty and fraternity that entirely over shadows the failures of the few which have attempted to cover the whole State." Mr. McMaster mentions one Charleston company, the Carolina Mutual, which is 57 years old, has \$130,000 in cash and investments. It weathered the great Charleston fire of 1861, through the loyalty of its members meeting all its heavy losses then, which have been fully saved back to them in reduced insurance since. He also mentions favorably the Hibernian Mutual, the Germania Mutual and the Merchants' Mutual, all Charleston companies confining themselves to Charleston City property. These Charleston companies, the report says, "have been the means of saving, I believe without exaggeration, hundreds of thousands of dollars to the citizens of Charleston." Mr. McMaster's comments are most encouraging to the movement that has started in the South to do the South's insurance business at home at less cost to policy-holders and keeping all the money at home.

Corn Contest Not Decided. Gaffney, Special.—A large number of farmers came to Gaffney on the date fixed for deciding the corn contest which has excited so much interest among the farmers of Cherokee county this season. A number of them was disappointed, however, as the committees were not ready to report as to the yield for the reason that some of the contestants have not finished gathering their product. The farmers were met by Mr. C. L. Goodrich, from the office of farm management of Washington, D. C.; Mr. C. P. Hartley, of Washington, who is in charge of corn investigation from the bureau of plant industry, and Mr. Ira Williams, also of the bureau of plant industry. These gentlemen spoke entertainingly and instructively along their particular lines, and after the speaking Mr. Goodrich awarded the prize of \$5 to Mr. T. C. Petty for the best display of seed corn. The prize offered by the Merchants and Planters' Bank for the largest yield will be awarded later after the various committees on measurements, etc., have reported.

Mill Meeting Held. Spartanburg, Special.—The annual meeting of the Spartan Mills, Lockhart Mills and the Gainesville Cotton Mills were held last week. The old board of directors and officers of all three of the mills were re-elected and the usual dividends declared. The meetings were attended by S. M. Milliken and party of New York millionaires, who are making their annual trip of inspection to the mills in this section, in which they are interested.

Fire in Bamberg Cotton Oil Mill. Columbia, Special.—Fire destroyed the gin house and crushing mill of the Bamberg Cotton Oil Mill, causing a loss of approximately \$76,000, partially covered by insurance. The buildings and machinery of the mill are valued at \$36,000 and the raw material destroyed at about \$40,000. The insurance as stated by Mr. W. B. Brabham, manager of the mill, is about \$35,000.

Explosion at Rock Hill. Rock Hill, Special.—The mangle in the Rock Hill Steam Laundry exploded, wrecking the rest of the machinery, blew a hole eight feet square in the side of the brick building, forced out all the doors and shattered the glass in the windows. No one was in the building except Mr. Farthing, the manager. He was badly stunned, but not otherwise hurt. The damage to the machinery is estimated at about fifteen hundred dollars, but that to the building was not estimated.

An Unusual Find in Branchville. Branchville, Special.—While digging a well on the place of Mrs. M. E. Murray in Branchville a few days ago, some rare geological specimens were discovered. The well had been dug about 15 or 20 feet when a substance was found that was in striking contrast to the remaining soil. On examination it was found to be a bed of phosphate rock, intermixed with shark's teeth, fossils and bones of prehistoric animals.

Cotton Burned on Railroad Platform. Anderson, Special.—Fire which is believed to have been started by a spark from an engine burned 25 bales of cotton and damaged many more on the Blue Ridge Railroad platform at Pendleton, fourteen miles north of Anderson. The railroad will be the loser as the cotton had been billed for shipment. President Roosevelt declares for the "open door" policy for labor and capital alike at the White House.

CHANGE AT WATTS MILLS

Resignation of Mr. Hammett Accepted and Successor Named. Laurens, Special.—At a meeting of the directors of the Watts mills Mr. J. Adger Smythe, of Pelzer was elected to succeed Mr. W. D. Hammett, of Home Path, resigned. The resignation of Mr. Hammett was made necessary because of his recent election to the presidency of the two Anderson mills, making his duties too arduous. Mr. Smythe will at an early date move his family to Laurens. It is understood that the matter of issuing some preferred stock was considered at the meeting last week. Upon suggestion of Mr. Smythe it was decided not to issue any more stock.

Incendiarism Alleged. Lexington, Special.—Sheriff Corley was informed that the barn of Mr. James Oswald, who resides near Steadman, a little station on the old line of the Carolina Midland railroad, had been burned on Thursday night about 12 o'clock and that it was thought that the fire was the act of an incendiary. Sheriff Corley immediately sent Deputy Sheriff Miller to the scene to make an investigation.

State News Items. Gen. J. C. Boyd said recently that the cost of the militia for defending the negro, John Irby, at Spartanburg, would mount up into several hundred dollars. Gen. Boyd thinks that Gov. Ansel did exactly right. On account of the conditions immediately following the crime, he thinks that Gov. Ansel would have done wrong had he failed to provide protection. Better to have too much protection than none at all. The expenses will be \$1.50 per day for each militiaman on duty, in addition to traveling expenses of La... company to and from Spartanburg on two occasions and the squad to Columbia and return.

Comptroller General Jones and the State superintendent of education, Mr. O. B. Martin, are at work on their annual reports and will have them ready for the printers soon. Gov. Ansel has not yet commenced work on his annual message but will begin shortly. There is much speculation as to his attitude on prohibition since three of the counties voting out the dispensary makes the State exactly divided in number and representation on the question. It is probable that the governor may renew his recommendation of last year. He has the matter now under advisement.

The Rutledge county commissioners have been appointed with the exception of one from Clarendon to the proposition. R. B. Smith, of Kingstree is the commissioner from Williamsburg opposed to the plan. J. J. Eaddy, of Leo, Williamsburg county, J. H. Prosser, of Hannah, Florence county and W. D. McFadden of Lake City, R. F. D. No. 1, Clarendon county, are the commissioners favorable to formation.

Gov. Ansel has not as yet made any decision on the petition for the pardon of Mrs. Carson, the white woman who is serving a life sentence from Spartanburg on the charge of killing her husband 13 years ago. He has the petition under advisement and may render a decision or may refer it to the State pardon board. Gov. Ansel has not yet appointed two members of the State dispensary commission to fill the vacancies created by the resignation of B. F. Arthur and C. K. Henderson, who are receivers for the dispensary fund. The governor has the matter under advisement and may make his appointments later.

Gov. Ansel has appointed on the Calhoun dispensary board T. T. Hane, vice W. G. Peterkin, resigned. Hane was recommended by the commissioners.

Gov. Ansel has appointer A. T. Johnson of Talatha magistrate for Aiken county, vice Jesse Green, resigned. Green was recently elected supervisor for Aiken. Johnson was recommended by the delegation.

Comptroller General Jones is sending out through The State printing office the blanks and books to be used in connection with the paying of taxes. Mr. C. C. Muller, manager of the printing office, states that all records as to early delivery have been broken.

Mr. R. W. D. Rowell, auditor and county superintendent of education of Bamberg county, was in Columbia as the messenger for the election commissioners. He paid an official visit to Comptroller General Jones.

The supreme court will meet on November 24 with a very large, long list of appeal cases.

Briefs of General News. Owing to the sudden death of General Count Huelsen-Hasler, Emperor William has deferred until later the audience with Chancellor von Buelow.

Thomas James, a locomotive engineer, killed himself in a Petersburg, Va., hotel.

Receivers of the Jamestown Exposition bought several buildings back, in hope of selling to the Government.

President-elect Taft, who spent Sunday with President Roosevelt at the White House, announces that he will certainly call Congress in special session to revise the tariff.

The Daughters of the Confederacy elected officers and decided to meet in Houston, Texas, next year. President Roosevelt calls upon the farmers all over the country to meet and set forth what can be done to improve farm life. Senator Foraker issued a statement explaining his Standard Oil affiliation.

PALACE TO COTTAGE

Mayor Tom L. Johnston Goes Into Bankruptcy HE WAS ONCE VERY WEALTHY Mayor of Cleveland, For Years Credited With Possessing a Large Fortune, Announces That He Has Lost Everything and Will Be Compelled to Move Into Smaller and Less Expensive Quarters.

Cleveland, O., Special.—Mayor Tom L. Johnston, who for years has been accredited with possessing a very large fortune announced that he had lost everything and would be compelled to give up his beautiful home on Euclid avenue and move into smaller and less expensive quarters. The mayor also stated that he would give up his automobiles and other luxuries, as he could no longer afford to keep them. His fortune was wrecked, the mayor declared, by his devotion to affairs of the estate of his dead brother, Albert, who was heavily interested in traction property in the East.

After Albert's death a question was put up to him whether he should resign his office as mayor and take up the management of Albert's estate.

"I decided that I would not. I had entered the fight in this city with certain ideals before me. I wanted to fight privilege and special interest, and I had already decided to give up working for dollars. So I concluded to stay right here and do what I could to help my brother's children at long lastance.

"Why did I choose the course I did? I'll tell you. I wanted happiness and nothing else when I closed up my business affairs and took up civic activity. "And I've been happy, too. "I'm going to be happy yet, too. We may have to go back to a cottage, but that's the way we started, and we can look upon life just as joyfully there as we did in the big house on Euclid avenue. "They tell me my enemies are planning to bring financial trouble upon me. I've been expecting it. "My enemies are capable of doing that. One may expect nothing else from special privilege. Let them make any sort of attack upon me that they choose. I'll never give up and they'll always find me at the front.

"If I had been a coward—if I had run away from this fight for the people of Cleveland—I could have saved my fortune and built it up. But I had chosen my course. I haven't been laboring as mayor with the expectation of being rewarded by the gratitude of the people. One cannot count on that. It's pleasure in doing work that I like that has kept me in the fight. "I have never made a single penny out of the street railways since I became mayor. I don't feel discouraged. I'm a free man, and that means a great deal to me. Don't you suppose it will be worth something to me to have my friends realize that I entered the mayor's office rich and left it poor? "I'm going to keep on just as I've started. I'm going to be a candidate for mayor again when this term is over."

Chauffeur Killed in Auto Crash. Washington, Special.—Noble Davis a chauffeur, was killed and several others were injured by the overturning of an automobile near Hyattsville, Md. The automobile was owned by Joseph Strasburger, a merchant of this city, and Davis, who was his chauffeur, had taken out a party of his friends in the machine.

Famous Federal Scout Dies at Mount Vernon, N. Y.

Mount Vernon, N. Y., Special.—Col. John C. Babcock, who was one of the principal scouts for the army of the Potomac during the Civil war, died at his home here. Colonel Babcock was 72 years of age. At the outbreak of the war he enlisted at Chicago in the Sturgis Rifles. He was later assigned to the secret service of the army under Major Allen, and it was he who discovered General Lee's forward movement which ended at Gettysburg.

"Fighting Bob" Evans to Become a Builder of Railroads.

Los Angeles, Cal., Special.—"Fighting Bob" Evans is to become a builder of railroads and a developer of harbor waterways. This became known when it was announced that he had been chosen chairman of the directors of the Los Angeles Harbor Company, which is building a railway system from San Pedro harbor to points in Southern California.

Officials of the harbor company stated that Admiral Evans is expected to assume the duties of the company.

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