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WALHALLA, S. C.:

WEDNESDAY, JULY 19, 1905.

ROMANCE OF A MURDER.

The Killing of Treasurer Copes, of Orangeburg—Murderer Leaves Penitentiary.

Columbia, July 12.—The murder of Treasurer Copes, of Orangeburg, in the year 1896, has passed from the memory of the public, although it created an immense sensation in the State at the time. It is recalled at this time by the report, which is more or less well authenticated, that Murphy, white, who was convicted of the crime, is now in the Philippines, a private in the army, though what regiment or company he is a member of is not known.

A former penitentiary guard told a reporter that a relative of Murphy told him that, now that the whole thing was over, he would say that Murphy was in the Philippines, though his exact whereabouts in the islands he did not know. Superintendent Griffin said he had never heard the report until informed of it by a newspaper representative, but said he would make some inquiries, though it is hardly probable that anything will come of them, as Murphy most likely is living under an assumed name, and possibly has so changed in personal appearance that it would be difficult to identify him. Treasurer Copes was killed about 1896, having been on a tax collecting tour through the country. He was shot with a shotgun at a lonely place on the public road some miles from Orangeburg, and for some time there was no clue whatever to the criminal. Finally, Murphy, a somewhat worthless white man, was arrested and accused of the crime. A great deal of the evidence against him was circumstantial, but he was convicted.

His case went to the Supreme Court, was sent back, as the circumstances are recalled, and he was convicted a second time. Murphy was sentenced to be hanged. His aged father, however, succeeded in enlisting the services of M. P. Carrall, a prominent lawyer in Augusta, who obtained a great deal of circumstantial evidence going to prove an alibi. Much of this evidence was considered worthless by those who knew the source of it, but personal appeals, added to the alleged evidence, induced Governor Ellerbe to commute the sentence to life imprisonment.

Murphy was taken to the penitentiary for safe-keeping previous to final action. The Governor visited him in his cell once or twice. Newspaper men were frequent callers, and penitentiary authorities were constantly on the alert and made frequent endeavors to get Murphy to talk about the crime. Further than deny his guilt he would say nothing, and either tried to appear imbecile, or were actually somewhat so, though it was evident that he was a man of such mental capacity as to be accountable for any crime he may have committed.

After the commutation he was put to work about the penitentiary and his life was different from that of other convicts in the yard. He was placed in a cell in the old building with a white convict named Cullom, sent down from Oconee for highway robbery. Their cell was on the second floor, facing a long portico running around the building. By some means they managed to secret files and other tools about their persons, or in their cells, and after what must have been long and tedious work they were enabled to open the cell door. One dark night about four or five years ago, watching when the guard was elsewhere, they opened the cell door, crawled, likely, to the end of the portico, sliding down one of the supporting columns to the ground. The penitentiary yard is brilliantly lighted by electricity and a very

high, smooth brick wall surrounds the building. Notwithstanding this, the two men succeeded escaping the eye of the guards and scaling the walls and getting away. Before leaving one of them, at least, showed that he possessed the sense of humor to some degree. With charcoal written on the walls were sentences like the following: "Sorry to leave you," "God be with you till we meet again," "Good-bye, we are bound for South America." There were some others on a similar order mingled with obscenity.

Every effort was made to recapture the men, but they successfully eluded detection, and never were heard of until a few weeks ago, when the report that Murphy was in the Philippines reached here. Penitentiary authorities had forgotten the circumstance along with everybody else.

No information has ever been received as to Cullom. He may be in the Pacific Islands, too, but as his crime was not so serious as that of his cell partner, perhaps he did not think it necessary to get so far away from home.

Crimes Committed for Diamonds.

Of course no one objects to women having a reasonable amount of jewelry, what they can wear without ostentation or any great concern for its safety; such modest possessions are sanctioned by universal custom, and from all time jeweled rings and trinkets have been symbols of love and should remain so. Besides there is a beauty in precious stones just as there is in other stones not called precious stones—witness the opal, the most beautiful of them all. But when women value jewelry neither for its beauty nor its associations, but merely for its costliness, when they wear as much of it as they can simply to show that they have been able to buy that much or make men buy it for them, when their pleasure in having it lies chiefly in the knowledge that others envy them, then I say the love of jewels is an evil thing, based on arrogance and selfishness. And I cannot see what justification any woman who knows of the misery about her can find for spending half a million dollars or anything like it on jewelry!

It should be noted, furthermore, that the chief harm of this passion for jewels is not in the waste of millions involved, although that is bad enough, but in the stirring of envy, in the promoting of extravagance, in the urging of dishonesty. If we could know what crimes have been committed for the sake of diamonds we should see that there is some devil's hypnotism in the glittering stones and would have them all cast into the sea for general safety. Certain it is that no house where precious stones abound is free from evil desires. Servants are tempted, guests are tempted, strangers are tempted, even intimate friends are tempted. Who has forgotten the story of those stolen Newport jewels? And so the unfortunate owners of these wonderful necklaces, tiaras, plastrons, rivieres, etc., must hire men to guard them when they wear these coveted treasures or else leave them unsecured and unused behind stupid iron doors. There are palaces on Fifth avenue with safes for silver and jewels as massive as those in a bank. And there are millionaire homes where no one is ever free from the hard eye of a lurking detective. I know one such home where three detectives are on duty night and day, each one to watch the other two. That is one of the minor penalties of riches.—Exchange.

Medical Ignorance.

The late Jay Cooke was talking one day about Gen. Grant. "Gen. Grant," he said, smiling, "once described to me an illiterate surgeon in the employ of a certain northern regiment. "A promising young officer had been wounded, and this surgeon had dressed his wounds. Gen. Grant sent for the surgeon later to ascertain the young officer's chances. "He is wounded," said the surgeon to the commander-in-chief, "in three places." "Are these wounds fatal?" Gen. Grant asked. The surgeon nodded a grave assent. "Two of the wounds are fatal," said he. "The third is not. If we can leave him to rest quietly for a while, I think he will pull through."

The South Carolina Board of Medical Examiners held its annual meeting June 13, 14 and 15. There were 66 applicants for license to practice medicine; of these 44 passed and 22 failed, the percentage of failures being unusually high. The result has just been announced.

BROTHER BOUGHT POISON.

Was Found in Room When His Brother Keith Dargan Killed Himself.

Charleston, July 13.—The inquest held at Darlington to-day over the body of R. Keith Dargan, former president of the Independent Cotton Oil Company and the Darlington Trust Company resulted in the verdict, "Death by his own hand."

Several witnesses were called, and strange to say the last one summoned was Pegram Dargan, brother of the dead man, who was known to have been in the office when the suicide was committed, and all that this witness said was that the paper left by R. Keith Dargan told the story and that he had nothing further to say. The paper, which was a scrap, written with a lead pencil, said:

"I take this — with my own free will. Asked my brother to get it—make mistakes but no coward."

"Robert Keith Dargan." A drug clerk testified that he sold four ounces of carbolic acid on the afternoon of the tragedy and Dr. Edwards said that he had been hastily summoned to Keith Dargan's office and found R. K. Dargan dead from a dose of carbolic acid. Pegram Dargan called Dr. Edwards by telephone and was in the office with his brother when the doctor arrived. He told Dr. Edwards that he was present when Keith Dargan took the acid. He said he bought it and handed it to him with a bottle of whiskey, which it was thought would cause less pain. When asked by the doctor if he could not have prevented Keith Dargan from taking his life, he handed the doctor a paper and said that it was the dying statement of his brother and that he would answer no questions. R. Keith Dargan's handwriting and signature were identified.

The verdict of the jury was as follows:

"That the said Robert Keith Dargan came to his death from the effects of carbolic acid administered by his own hand as per written statement of deceased herewith attached."

As Pegram Dargan was not made an accessory by the verdict, the coroner will take no action against him. The solicitor may do so. But the opinion in Darlington is that he will never be called to account.

Dargan Ends his Own Life.

Robert Keith Dargan, formerly president of the Independent Cotton Oil Company, and the Darlington Trust Company, of Darlington, committed suicide on Tuesday of last week by taking four ounces of carbolic acid. He left a note saying that it was his own act and a letter addressed to his wife. Dargan was about 40 years old.

The suicide of Dargan was the thrilling and sensational climax of a most sensational case. Some years ago Dargan organized the Independent Oil Company, capitalized at one million dollars, and two months ago he helped to organize and became president of the Darlington Trust Company, after he had been forced out of the oil concern by friction. The bank loaned money to the oil people and the loans were pressed several days ago. Payment being impossible both concerns went into the hands of receivers. It was estimated that the oil company owed half a million dollars.

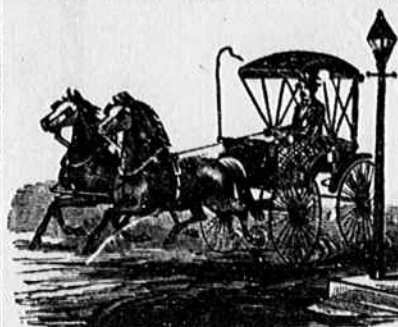
Dargan was the active spirit in the oil business hereabout, and when the smaller plants were consolidated some years ago he was the manager. It was claimed for him that he was an expert in the business, but the affairs have not been progressing well of late, the intimation being that the wreck of the companies was due to speculation in oil.

The investigation of the books, which had just begun, led to much talk, it being said that the most sensational disclosures would be forthcoming. Since the matter first went to court Dargan has been terribly depressed, and not much surprise was expressed over the news of his tragic death.

The Secretary of State last week issued a commission to the Anderson Farmers' Union Warehouse Company, which will have a capital of \$20,000. The incorporators are J. B. Douthitt and B. Harris.

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By a clubbing arrangement with the Charleston Semi-Weekly News and Courier we are offering that paper and The Keewee Courier for \$1.50 per year. The Keewee Courier is recognized not only as the best paper in Oconee county, but it is rated among the best county papers in South Carolina. The Semi-Weekly News and Courier is an excellent journal, published on Wednesdays and Saturdays, gives the detailed news of South Carolina as a special feature, and carries the full Associated Press dispatches from all over the world. The combination of the two papers at \$1.50 gives our present readers, as well as new subscribers, an opportunity to secure two of the best papers in the State (three papers a week) for 50 cents more than the regular price of either. Let us send you two of the very best papers in South Carolina for almost the price of one.

A number of Aiken county farmers lost heavily by the failure of the Planters' Cotton Factorage Co., of Augusta, Ga., last week. The total loss in Aiken county amounts to over \$5,000. One man lost his entire crop of 12 bales, while others lost as many as 23 and 24 bales, though not their entire crop.

RYDALE'S TONIC

A New Scientific Discovery for the BLOOD and NERVES.

It purifies the blood by eliminating the waste matter and other impurities and by destroying the germs or microbes that infect the blood. It builds up the blood by reconstructing and multiplying the red corpuscles, making the blood rich and red. It restores and stimulates the nerves, causing a full free flow of nerve force throughout the entire nerve system. It speedily cures unstrung nerves, nervousness, nervous prostration, and all other diseases of the nervous system.

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BRIDGES TO LET.

THE Board of County Commissioners will let, to the lowest responsible bidder, at the respective bridge sites, on the days mentioned, the contract to rebuild the following bridges: Thursday, July 20, 1905, at 10 a. m., the Hudson bridge, over Chauga. Saturday, July 22, 1905, at 11 a. m., the High Falls bridge, over Little River. Specifications for each bridge made known on day of letting. Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. L. H. V. HOBSON, Supervisor. July 5, 1905. 27-28

South Carolina Military Academy,

Office of Chairman Board of Visitors, Charleston, S. C., July 6, 1905.

ONE vacancy in a State Beneficiary Scholarship, to be filled by competitive examination, exists in Oconee county. Application Blanks may be obtained at once from Col. C. S. GADSDEN, Chairman, Charleston, S. C., or from the County Superintendent of Education. These applications, fully filled out in every particular, must be in the hands of the Chairman on July 31, in order to receive consideration. (Signed) C. S. GADSDEN, Chairman Board of Visitors. July 12, 1905. 28-30

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS.

ALL persons indebted to the estate of John B. King, deceased, are hereby notified to make payment to the undersigned, and all persons having claims against said estate will present the same, duly attested, within the time prescribed by law, or be barred. PEARL KING, Qualified Administratrix of the Estate of John B. King, deceased. P. O., Anderson, S. C. July 12, 1905. 28-31

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS.

ALL persons indebted to the estate of J. W. Cary, deceased, are hereby notified to make payment to the undersigned, and all persons having claims against said estate will present the same, duly attested, within the time prescribed by law, or be barred. J. T. CARY, J. E. CARY, Qualified Executors of the Estate of J. W. Cary, deceased. July 12, 1905. 28-31

W. C. HUGHES, CIVIL ENGINEER.

Engineering Work, Farm Surveying, Terracing and Drainage. ADDRESS: RICHLAND, S. C. 26-30

Legal Advertisements

NOTICE OF FINAL SETTLEMENT AND DISCHARGE.—Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will make application to D. A. Smith, Esq., Judge of Probate for Oconee county, in the State of South Carolina, on SATURDAY, the 22d day of July, 1905, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, or as soon thereafter as said application can be heard, for leave to make final settlement of the estate of John T. Richey, deceased, and obtain final discharge as Administratrix of the said estate. DORA J. D. RICHEY, Administratrix. June 21, 1905. 26-29

NOTICE TO DEBTORS AND CREDITORS.

ALL persons indebted to the estate of Mrs. Mahala A. Brown, deceased, are hereby notified to make payment to the undersigned, and all persons having claims against said estate will present the same, duly attested, on or before the 17th day of August, 1905, or be barred. W. O. WHITE, Master. July 5, 1905. 27-32

OPENING BOOKS OF SUBSCRIPTION

NOTICE is hereby given that the Books of Subscription to the capital stock of "THE OCONEE COUNTY RAILWAY COMPANY" will be opened at the following places on the following days, to wit: At the store of J. W. Shirley, at Townville, S. C., on the 6th, 7th and 8th days of August, 1905; at the store of E. C. Marett, at Fair Play, S. C., on the 12th, 14th and 15th days of August, 1905; at the store of W. L. Thomas, at Tugaloo, S. C., on the 17th, 18th and 19th days of August, 1905; at the store of James Bates, at Oakway, S. C., on the 21st, 22d and 23d days of August, 1905, and at the Bank of The Peden & Anderson Banking Company, at Westminster, S. C., on the 24th, 25th and 26th days of August, 1905. J. W. SHELOR, Chairman Board of Corporators. July 5, 1905. 27-31

Advertisement for THE HEGE LOG BEAM SAW MILL WITH HEACOCK-KING FEED WORKS. ENGINES AND BOILERS, WOODWORKING MACHINERY, COTTON GINNING, BRICK-MAKING AND SHINGLE AND LATH MACHINERY, CORN MILLS, ETC., ETC. GIBBS MACHINERY CO., Columbia, S. C. THE GIBBS SHINGLE MACHINE

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Table with columns for EASTBOUND and WESTBOUND, and rows for stations like Walhalla, West Union, Seneca, etc., with times in A.M., P.M., and M.

Table with columns for EASTBOUND and WESTBOUND, and rows for stations like Belton, Anderson, Pass Dept, etc., with times in P.M., A.M., and M.

* Flag stations. Will also stop at the following stations to take on and let off passengers: Phinney's, James' and Sandy Springs and Toxaway.

Nos. 11 and 12, first class passenger, daily; Nos. 9 and 10, daily except Sunday; Nos. 5 and 6, Sunday only; Nos. 4 and 7, second class, mixed, daily except Sunday; Nos. 3 and 8, second class, mixed, daily.

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