

## BETTER PRICES

Plan to Obtain Them Proposed by Dr. Wade Stackhouse of Dillon

## TO BUILD WAREHOUSES

Farmers Would be Asked to Store at Least One Fourth of Their Cotton in These Warehouses and Hold It Until a Suitable Price Could be Had.

The following is the plan for holding cotton, proposed by Dr. Wade Stackhouse at Dillon, that caused so much discussion at the meeting of the Farmers' union in Columbia Thursday night:

"There is no shame greater than defeat. There is no joy like victory. The Southern cotton grower today is covered with the shame of defeat. Like the union army at Bull Run he is in full retreat; panic-stricken he has turned his back to the bears and is hustling to dispose of his crop under the cost of its production.

"Can we do nothing to stop this panic of our brother farmers, which not only threatens this crop, but points to a few years of depression which means a lower level of living to every man, woman and child in the South.

"The time to prepare for war is before it begins. We have lost the best time to prepare for this emergency, but I suggest the following plan:

"Build warehouses in each Southern State capable of holding one-fourth of the largest crop we are likely to produce. My argument is likely to South Carolina, but should be duplicated in each cotton State, and then combine into a whole.

"The farmers should put up the capital stock to erect the warehouses, which should be large storage houses and built at points where substitution and reshipping privilege can be secured. This would imply that warehouses would be built only in towns having more than one railroad, or having water rates and where ample fire protection can be provided—the small warehouse can never pay.

"Perpetual motion is no more impossible in physics than is the continued exercise of good business sense in the conduct of warehouses and in organizing a holding movement of cotton farmers.

"The warehouseman must be a man of character. He must be a fair bookkeeper. He must be a sworn weigher, capable of adjusting equitably differences as to moisture, damage, etc., on cotton. He should take the notes of farmers wishing to secure loans on cotton and forward the notes with warehouse receipts to the State trust company organized to handle these receipts. Such men can be found to do the leading buying cotton for the leading exporters. They are a set of capable men having good, hard, business sense.

## DEATH CAME SLOWLY

FORTUNE AND CREEPING DEATH WERE CREEPING.

A Miner Pinned in a Shaft by a More of Rock and Lived Thirteen Days. An old assay certificate, found on the body of J. J. D. Miller, who died in the shaft of his mining claim, 12 miles north of Bridgeport, Cal., told two stories when it was deciphered in the coroner's office there on Wednesday. One side told of gold in Miller's shaft. The other bore the penciled record of the man's seven days imprisonment, ended by death at noon Friday, October 13.

The body was found last Saturday with the left leg pinned against the side of the 15-foot shaft by a mass of rock. Miller stood upright with his head thrown back. The shaft is slightly inclined and he must have seen the sun, which stood on the meridian, as he wrote the last line of his diary.

"Friday, noon—the thirteenth day no hope."  
The certificate was rolled and had been replaced in his pocketbook. The daily record follows:  
"October 6—Frank Yarraguerre, Sweetwater: If help does not come, send this message to M. C. Miller, wife, Harrisonburg, Virginia, and wife what to do with the body. J. J. D. Miller."  
"This occurred Friday morning, October 6. It is now Saturday noon."  
"No help yet. Why did this come?"  
"Sunday night—it is cold and long. God help me. I forgive mother."

"Monday—it is now. Why did Dick forget? A drink of cold water would taste good. Am getting very weak."  
"Tuesday night—The end is near. Don't see how Dick can forget me."  
"Wednesday night—Guess tonight will be last: no hope; the end near."  
Thursday's record is illegible.  
"Friday noon—the thirteenth; no hope."  
The "Dick" referred to is Richard Barnes, a teamster on the Yarraguerre ranch, where the two men had been employed together. The body was found by Barnes.

Miller came to California a year ago from Virginia.  
An unsuccessful attempt was made by the authorities to communicate with his widow in Harrisonburg today.

"To make a smaller crop. To convince the public we must prove by the government institute that we have smaller acreage and have used less fertilizer."  
"To get a few farmers to meet at each county court house and resolve to cut the acreage and fertilizer bill is not going to be convincing proof to cotton spinners. To think such resolutions will be lived up to is as vain as the dream of a dreamer who dreamed he had dreamed something."

"I have talked to two or three good attorneys as to the validity of a contract a farmer might make with the warehouse company to hold his cotton. They think such contract can be drawn so as to be legal. The acreage proposition would have to be worked the same way. If Mr. A planted 100 acres in cotton in 1911 and contracts with a warehousing company that he will plant only 75 acres in 1912 and provides that in case he breaks his contract that all cotton produced on land over and above the 75 acres shall go to the warehouse company. I think such contract could be made valid. If some strong bank could act as trustee for us in 1912 and they would say they had contracts in their vaults providing for a 25 per cent. reduction in South Carolina that would carry weight."

"In conclusion we can rally the panic-stricken farmers of today and win a partial victory for 1912. We can organize so that the present calamity may not happen in the future."  
"First, build warehouses to store fully 3,500,000 bales of cotton in the South. To be owned largely by cotton farmers."  
"Second, get legal contracts executed and properly signed to hold over any surplus."  
"Third, get legal contracts signed to reduce acreage the following year."  
"Fourth, preach in season and out of season."

## CHOKED BIG LINER'S PUMPS.

Had to Come to a Full Stop Out in Mid Ocean.

A remarkable experience on the voyage from London to Halifax was reported Friday by Captain Chambers of the Furness liner Durango. While in mid-ocean, the circulating pumps of the big liner came to a full stop, the circulating pumps were unable to account for the trouble. When the interior of the circulating feed pipe was examined it was found to be choked with a mass of fish. After the fish were removed the Durango proceeded at her usual speed. The vessel has passed through a school of fish and many of them were drawn into the feed pipe by the suction of the pumps. The fish taken from the passage were long and thin and of a kind unknown to Captain Chambers.

Ten Rioters Killed. Ten election rioters were killed at San Pedro Soula, Honduras, Sunday in a clash with government troops, according to information brought to Mobile by Capt. Wallas, of the Norwegian steamer Strangella.

Five Prisoners Break Jail. u. Trapsing Jailer Lowe and pinning his wife behind a heavy steel door, five prisoners made a quick escape from Glynn county jail at Brunswick, Ga., Wednesday afternoon.

## SHOT HIM DEAD

Edgar H. Farrar, Prominent New Orleans Attorney, Killed by Thugs.

## HAD ROBBED HIS HOME

When They Were Accosted on the Street They Pulled Out Pistols and Shot Farrar Down in the Street—They Were Run Down, Caught and Confessed.

At New Orleans, La., Edgar H. Farrar, Jr., son of the former president of the American Bar Association, was shot and killed at 10 o'clock Wednesday at the corner of Peniston and Magnolia streets, by two highwaymen.

Mr. Farrar was on his way to his office in the Hibernia Bank building when he was told by a neighbor that a standing on a corner opposite were probably a pair who had broken into the Farrar home the day before. Mr. Farrar started in pursuit of the men, who drew a revolver and who shot him. He fell in the streets dead.

The two men started to run and were pursued by a crowd of citizens. Special details of police and mounted officers were rushed to the scene and joined in the chase.

Young Farrar was a graduate of the University of Virginia. He was admitted to the New Orleans bar a decade or more ago and had practiced his profession in this city continuously ever since, with the exception of a year or two spent in Oklahoma. He was popular in social affairs, and had an extensive acquaintance throughout Tennessee, Alabama and other sections of the South.

Less than two hours after the shooting Mr. Farrar's assailants had been captured and had made a confession to the police. They are Leon Canton, alias J. C. Helms, and Lucien Canton, brothers, who live in New Orleans, aged 23 and 21, respectively.

Theopelus Rodgers, a tall, black negro, proved himself a hero in the capture of the Canton brothers. He gave chase immediately following the shooting. His legs made it impossible for the fleeing men to outdistance him, and soon he had Lucien Canton, the younger, in his clutches and held him until the police arrived. Rodgers gave directions to the officers as to the direction taken by Leon Canton, the one who did the shooting, and he, too, was soon captured.

The prisoners were at once taken to the office of District Attorney Adams and the police say both confessed to their participation in the crime and then admitted, under examination, that they had robbed the Farrar home the day before. Officers visited the home of the Canton brothers and brought to the police station all of the articles which had been stolen from the Farrar home.

Edgar H. Farrar, Jr., was 32 years of age, and was married about five months ago. He lived only a few blocks from where he was shot down to the street.

Mr. Farrar was a member of the law firm of which his father is the senior member, and was one of the brightest young members of the Louisiana bar.

His father went to the scene of the shooting and had the body removed to his home.

DEMOCRATIC VICTORY TUESDAY. Governor Dix Confident That the Party Will Win Next Week. Predicting that the Democrats will win a decided victory at the polls next Tuesday, Governor Dix, of New York, in a statement Wednesday said that the Democratic party support all the Democratic nominees as "Democratic success now means continued progress, efficiency and honesty in the administration." His statement follows: "The splendid record made by the Democrat House of Representatives at Washington has won the confidence of the country, while the Republican party cannot escape responsibility for the deplorable industrial and economic conditions under which the people of the United States are now suffering. Republican executive and administrative policy have produced the very general and deep unrest and dissatisfaction in business circles which have caused great hardship among the people and generated an industrial and financial depression that has curtailed opportunities for employment and deprived the farmer, working man and business man alike of an adequate and just remuneration for his energy, toil and investments."

## ACTIVE WORK BEGUN

COTTON HOLDING MOVEMENT STARTED AT ONCE.

Trying to Carry Out Plan Adopted in Columbia by the Farmers and Business Men.

"To secure 13 cents a pound for cotton. "To open books in every county in the cotton belt to secure pledges from farmers to hold cotton. "To reduce cotton acreage for 1912 to not exceeding 60 per cent. of arable land held. "To publish daily the names of those who intend to hold their cotton for a higher price."

These are the features of the campaign for holding cotton with a view to relieving the present unsatisfactory condition that was launched throughout the States of the cotton belt Thursday by the South Carolina State Farmers' union. The plan was adopted at a meeting of the Farmers' union and business men held in Columbia Tuesday night and was contained in telegram addressed to the commissioners of agriculture and presidents of the State unions of the South. The telegram was signed by Commissioner Watson as president of the cotton congress of the South and E. W. Dabbs, president of the State Farmers' union.

The following is the telegram sent out Friday. "Following action of mass meeting, South Carolina farmers would urge you to take immediate steps to push with all vigor your possess, in every township and county, your State the holding movement on following lines, similar request being made of State Farmers' union president, your State. Open books each county seat for signature of farmers to pledge to hold stated number bales until September 1, 1912, or until the price has reached 12 cents; prosecute vigorous campaign each township for holding cotton and getting pledges; get also pledges to reduce cotton acreage for 1912 to not exceeding 10 per cent. of arable land held; for reports each day as to pledges filed and publish names of signers with number of bales pledged. Call for not less than two cents per bale from growers holding cotton to be sent immediately to secretary-treasurer, State union, to defray expenses quick campaign for pledges, publishing receipts daily. This plan already under way in South Carolina and quick and effective retirement of cotton seems assured. It is absolutely necessary to bring the individual producer into line right now if millions of dollars are to be saved to the cotton belt. Plans for the future can be agreed upon later, but a feasible quick campaign of this kind pushed simultaneously in all our States can and will effectively stem the present disastrous tide in this critical moment. I most earnestly appeal to your patriotism in the name of the masses of Southern people to act upon this matter and act quickly. Am arranging for whirlwind campaign through belt in holding cause for Senator Smith, President Barrett and other members of national committee organized at Montgomery. Kindly wire me immediately if in behalf every material interest in the South you may be relied upon to take the speedy action invoked."

Cotton Pledge. The following is the cotton pledge: "State of South Carolina, county of— We, the undersigned, owners of cotton of the 1910-11 crop, hereby pledge ourselves to withhold from the market the number of bales entered opposite our respective names until September 1, 1912, or until the price of cotton has reached 13 cents, and we do severally solemnly declare that we will regard this pledge as sacred. "We further agree not to plant, for the crop of 1912, more than 60 per cent. of our arable lands in cotton. "We hereby agree to forward to J. Whitner Reid, secretary-treasurer, State Farmers' union, Columbia, S. C., by postal money order two cents per bale for the cotton held to defray expenses of the holding campaign. Name, postoffice, R. F. D. No. number of bales withheld. Letter of Instructions. The following letter was sent out to the presidents of the county unions Friday by Secretary Reid: "In accordance with action taken at the mass meeting of the State Farmers' union held in Columbia Friday evening, I am directed by the president of the State union to address you this letter, impressing upon you the vital importance, not alone to the cotton producing interests of our State, but to the union itself, of your prompt, vigorous and earnest action upon the request made. We are at this moment facing a crisis which demands that the individual cotton producer shall be reached and reached effectively and it is the sense of all who participated in the deliberations held that we, as the farmers' organization in South Carolina, owe it to ourselves, to our wives and to our children to exert ourselves to the utmost for the next personal business, to secure in writing, pledges from each individual owner of cotton in every township in every county in the State feeling thus, the call has been sent out in an official manner to every other State in the Union that grows cotton for similar action to be taken simultaneously. "I beg herewith to inclose a copy of the call that has been sent to the other States, which will explain itself, and give you an accurate idea of the call that has been sent to the downward trend of the price of cotton. I also inclose a number of blanks of the cotton pledge that we wish signed by every man that can be

## TRIBUTE TO WOMEN

THE MONUMENT TO BE UNVEILED ON DECEMBER 14.

Joseph W. Barnwell of Charleston Selected by Commission as Principal Speaker—Exercises at Noon.

The commission having in charge the erection of a monument to the South Carolina women of the Confederacy meeting in Columbia Wednesday decided upon December 14 as the date for unveiling the monument. The exercises will begin at noon. The bronzes will arrive in Columbia during the latter part of November.

Gen. C. Irvine Walker of Charleston, chairman of the commission, will open the ceremonies incident to unveiling with an address. The principal speaker for the exercises will be Joseph W. Barnwell of Charleston. He will be introduced by Gen. Walker and during his address the monument will be unveiled.

Following the address by Mr. Barnwell, Gen. Walker will turn the monument over to the Confederate daughters and sons of South Carolina. A solid bronze railing will be placed around the base of the monument. This railing will be two feet high. The railing will have several panels of special design, including one of the Palmetto tree.

The monument will be located on the south side of the State house. All detailed arrangements for the ceremonies were perfected by the commission Wednesday. It was decided to erect a large stage near the monument. On the stage will be seated only veterans and daughters of veterans. Each camp of veterans, sons and daughters, will be invited to send two representatives each to take places on the stage. The general officers of the United Confederate Veterans, sons and daughters will also be invited on the stage.

The commission will endeavor to make arrangements with the railroads of the State to run trains to bring people from all sections of South Carolina to Columbia for the exercises at noon.

The members of the commission are Gen. C. Irvine Walker, Charleston, chairman; Col. Thomas J. Moore, Spartanburg; Col. C. A. Reed, Anderson; Capt. John G. Richards, Jr., Liberty Hill; Capt. Wm. E. Gonzales, Columbia.

reached through meetings or as individuals, and will ask that you see that this pledge be printed in your county paper, along with a copy of the message to the other States, and that you issue over your signature a call for every grower of cotton in your county to come to the clerk's office at the court house and affix his signature to one of those papers. We further most earnestly ask you, in discharging the duty of your responsible position in this crisis, to each day furnish by mail to me at Columbia a statement giving the names of the individuals that have pledged themselves to hold their cotton and to reduce their acreage in accordance with the pledge, stating opposite the name of each the number of bales that he agrees or pledges himself to hold.

"It is our purpose to endeavor as far as possible to send lecturers into your county to arouse and stimulate the people to a full sense of their responsibility in this quick-holding campaign, and I would suggest that both you and the county secretary and these lecturers carry a supply of blanks for pledges to each point visited, and that all of you get as many signatures as possible, file the documents in the clerk's office and forthwith forward the information to me. It is our purpose to collate this information each day and to publish the names of the holders in the newspapers with the number of bales held, not alone so far as this State is concerned, but the same thing will be done in each of the other States.

"After a careful consideration of every plan suggested in the present crisis, the one that we are putting in operation, but the only one that is open to us at this hour of need promising success, and we feel that it is the duty of every man charged with the safe-guarding of the interest of the producing classes in this State to throw aside as far as possible all personal work and devote themselves for the moment to the earnest discharge of this patriotic duty, which means the conservation of a vast sum of money that justly belongs to our people, which can not be conserved, unless our men heed the call to arms and go into the battle with the spirit that has animated our people ever since the commonwealth was founded.

"In regard to the two cents per bale, in order that the accounts may be kept without any danger of misapprehension or misplacing of funds, it is earnestly desired that you advise and direct every man who signs the pledge to remit this small sum by postal money order direct to me by mail. We desire postal money order remittance for the reason that it enables us to keep an exact record and any miscarriage in the mails can be easily traced immediately upon complaint, and, further, there is no charge for collection. "In sending in your daily reports, simply use one of the blanks, a supply of which is sent you, thus making a duplicate of the record in the hands of the clerk of the court. "We desire you to show this letter and all of the accompanying documents to the clerk of the court of your county, ask him to receive and keep these pledges on file and assist you in every way possible with the undertaking. I feel sure that there is not a clerk of court in the State who will not be willing to lend this measure of assistance to a cause which means so much to the people.

## TALK IT OVER

Farmers Consider Plan to Relieve the Cotton Market Situation

## MUCH INTEREST SHOWN

Committees From State Farmers' Union Will Consider Cotton Holding Facilities to Publish Names of Cotton for Higher Price.

Those Who Give Pledge to Hold Thursday morning by a meeting of the executive committee of the State union in the office of the State secretary, Mr. J. Whitner Reid, in the Hook building, at 9 o'clock. A meeting of the warehouse committee will be held Thursday evening in the office of the secretary at 7 o'clock, and the day will be climaxed by the general open meeting of the union Thursday evening at 8 o'clock in the Richland county court house, on Washington street.

All the members of the committee were present at the meeting Thursday morning, which opened about 9 o'clock. President E. W. Dabbs of Sumter is a member ex-officio, as also is Mr. Reid, the secretary. The other members are Messrs. H. T. Morrison, McClellanville, Douglas, McIntyre of Marion and A. D. Hudson of Newberry. It was stated at the conclusion of the meeting that only routine matters had been transacted, and that nothing of special interest to the general public had taken place.

A meeting of the warehouse committee was to have been held Thursday evening. This committee is composed of seven members, from the different congressional districts of the State and has a supervision over the Farmers' Union Warehouse Company of South Carolina, recently commissioned by the secretary of state with a present capital of \$200,000. Stock subscriptions are being solicited for this scheme for cotton storage, from members of the union throughout the State, the first installment of which, 30 per cent, is due on December 1.

The committee will look into the situation generally to find what progress has been made, and what further steps are to be taken, etc. The members are, in the order of their districts: Messrs. H. T. Morrison, McClellanville, chairman; Alfred Aldrich, Barnwell; B. Harris, Pendleton; B. F. Keller, Spartanburg; J. B. O'Neal, Halloway, Newberry; W. H. Curry, Rhems, and W. A. Spacker, Bishopville.

The meeting Thursday night was well attended and there were a number of interesting plans proposed to help the farmers in their fight to secure a fair price for cotton. Dr. Wade Stackhouse of Dillon was the plan for relieving the situation. The plan was immediately adopted, but after discussion a number of features of the plan elsewhere in this paper. One plan submitted to the conference was to organize the landlords and thereby keep the price of cotton up.

Mr. Clinkscales proposed that pledges be secured from the cotton growers in the various counties of the State to hold their cotton and that the acreage be reduced. He proposed to have a report of the names of those who promised to hold cotton made daily in the papers of the State. He was of the opinion that if the farmers will stick together the situation will be much better within ten days. Mr. Clinkscales was very enthusiastic and urged more confidence among the planters.

In submitting his plan Dr. Stackhouse said he had seen the suggestion that each farmer be asked to sign an affidavit that if 75 per cent. of the farmers agreed to reduce 25 per cent. that his pledge would become binding. This would put a premium on lying and surely none of us would like to see such a strain put on our farmers next year. The contract plan is the only solution I can see. Of course the contracts could be drawn so they would not be binding unless a given per cent. of farmers signed up.

"But some one croaks that your plan is as weak as the plan of the mice when they agreed to bell the cat. "I will say the American Federation of Labor is a gigantic organization; but who questions they have great power. They contend for a few cents to be added to a day's work. Southernmen producing cotton are organized labor in the North. While they are fighting for a few thousand dollars in wages, we cotton farmers are fighting for the greater money prize on earth losing this year about \$300,000,000 by our slothful neglect to organize.

"The brickmasons of New York city meet and organize and agree that a certain price per day shall be charged to lay brick. Some one tries to do not want to join the union tries to cut the price. They call him a 'scab,' and make it so uncomfortable that it is best to charge union prices or move on to some other country. "We will have some stabs among our farmers, but they will be an exception, and soon public sentiment will become so strong that if they do not join the procession they will be cordially hated as was a deserter in the War Between the States." Dr. Stackhouse's plan is published in this issue if this paper. Read it.

Twenty-Four Drowned. The French steamer Diolbah sank at sea Wednesday and twenty-four persons were drowned. The Diolbah was towing the French steamer Liberia for Marseilles when the latter fouled her, tearing a hole in the Diolbah's side, causing her to foundered.

## AUDUGON SOCIETY

HOLD ANNUAL MEETING IN COLUMBIA ON WEDNESDAY.

Matters of Importance Discussed by the Members—James Henry Rice Re-elected Secretary.

The annual meeting of the Audubon Society of South Carolina was held in the Loan and Exchange bank building Wednesday. There were 300 members represented. M. O. Dantzer, the president of the society, was unavoidably detained on account of the serious illness of his brother, O. M. Dantzer, sheriff of Calhoun county.

Moreover, President Dantzer having served two full years, now retires from the presidency. The society saw him with regret, and passed suitable resolutions, testifying to the value of the moral and active support he has given the cause of bird protection during his incumbency. His successor has been named, but will not be announced until he is officially notified—and has accepted.

The society feels that its moral position is stronger than ever, although no gain in membership has ever been secured on account of the lack of active field work. "The matter of extending the society's usefulness by increasing membership and changing the mode of securing members was taken under advisement and a plan adopted which will be published in full later. This in the main looks to securing a permanent endowment, so that the society may become independent of small annual dues.

One of the main duties devolving on the society by law is the suggestion of suitable legislation. The society reaffirmed its belief in the resident hunters' license as the only practical means of enforcing bird and game protection, and will ask the general assembly to reconsider its action and pass such a license. Recent events have strengthened the society's determination to secure for the farmers of the State the protection for their crops and lands, to which they have always been entitled, and which they have never received from the general assembly.

For the present there has been no change in the officers, outside of the president, James Henry Rice was re-elected secretary. The treasurer's report showed a small balance to the credit of the society, not counting the money borrowed last year, and the return of which was recommended in a special message by Gov. Ansel, voted by the general assembly, but vetoed by Gov. Blease.

The Audubon society feels content with results so far, and is ready for a campaign more active than ever waged before for the protection of the birds. The society now enters upon the sixth year of its work. RICHESON FORMALLY INDICTED. Minister Will Be Tried for Poisoning Girl.

After he had been formally served at Boston with the indictment charging him with poisoning his former sweetheart, Avis Linnell, the Rev. Clarence V. Richeson was visited in the Charles street jail late Wednesday by Attorney John L. Lee, of Lynchburg, Va., a criminal lawyer prominent in the South, who probably will direct the accused minister's fight for acquittal.

Mr. Lee arrived Wednesday but he took up immediately the work of preparing the defence and conferred at length with former Judge James R. Dunbar, his son, Phillips R. Dunbar, and Congressman Robert O'Harris, who have been retained in Mr. Richeson's interest. Reports that the family of Miss of the accused, had decided to discontinue financial support to the minister's defence, were scouted by Attorney Dunbar, who was retained by Moses Grant Edmunds, father of the young woman. Mr. Dunbar said: "Any statement that Mr. Edmunds has ceased to have faith in Mr. Richeson is absolutely false. Mr. Edmunds still retains absolute confidence in the integrity and innocence of Mr. Richeson."

## BANDITS HOLDS UP TRAIN.

They Fleed When a Switch Engine Was In Sight.

Rock Island passenger train No. 45 was held up and robbed Wednesday between Bridge Junction and Hurlbert, Arkansas. According to latest advices the bandits escaped after wrecking the express car in an effort to blow open the safe with nitro-glycerine. It is said that several registered packages of unknown value were obtained from the mail car. Six masked men held up the train. The robbers boarded the train when it slowed down near Hurlbert, 11 miles from Memphis, intimidated the engineer with weapon display forcing him to back his train for several miles.

The express and mail cars were detached and hauled ahead short distances. The mail pouches were ransacked and seven nitro-glycerine caps fired into the express car safe. In the midst of their pillage the robbers were frightened away when a switch engine searching for the overdue train approached from Hurlbert. Four Killed by Train. While crossing the Louisville & Nashville railroad at Huston's Crossing, in Bourbon county, Friday afternoon, Miss Lena Hughes, her sister, Mrs. Barton Harp, and two children, Ruth and William aged 3 years and 5 months, respectively, were struck by a fast train and instantly killed.

## DID SHE DO IT

Nine Deaths in Chicago Arouse Suspicion of Murder Most Foul

## WIDOW MAY BE CHARGED

The Deaths Include Two of the Woman's Husbands, Several of Her Relatives and Intimate Acquaintances, All of Whom Died Under Similar Circumstances.

Chicago police Wednesday pursued their investigations into the death of nearly half a score of relatives and acquaintances of Mrs. Louise Vermilya, to make certain whether the similar demises constituted only a remarkable series of coincidences, as Mrs. Vermilya asserts.

Nine deaths are included in the list with which Mrs. Vermilya's name has been connected, including two husbands, two stepchildren, three children and two roomers at board.

Developments Wednesday, following the establishment of police surveillance at the woman's home, came from several cities where she had lived. Pending the report of the toxicologists who are examining the viscera of the last of those whose deaths have occurred beneath Mrs. Vermilya's roof, the police have made no arrests. No positive evidences of crime have been uncovered.

The following facts became known: That while Mrs. Vermilya has said one of the deaths, Richard T. Smith, a conductor, was on a boarder at her home, a former roomer asserts the two claimed previously to have been married, and that they lived together as man and wife.

That while the woman told the police that she had assisted an undertaker at Crystal Lake, a former home, in embalming bodies, the undertaker there denies that she ever had any such experience. She gave this as a reason why she could discuss the deaths with composure.

That R. N. Brington, a photographer of Peoria, the brother-in-law of conductor Smith had made love to the widow following Smith's death, so as to investigate suspicions he then had about the reason for his relative's death; that the widow had told him part of her matrimonial history, which he described to give to the coroner.

That Smith died during convulsions, and after drinking some substance, whether medicine or not being unsettled, but that the doctors gave the cause of death as acute gastritis.

That two conductors who had worked with Smith on the railroad told the coroner that Smith had told them he was living with Mrs. Vermilya, though not married to her, and that he has been threatened with death by another suitor of the widow, an undertaker.

That Bissonette was really engaged to be married to Miss Lydia Rivard, of Kanakake; this was shown by the filing to-day of the policeman's will in which Miss Rivard was named as his fiancée. Mrs. Vermilya was a witness to ascertain whether the widow had shown jealousy of the policeman's intended wife.

In a talk with the police of Peoria Brington said Mrs. Vermilya had periods of mental depression in which she was fond of talking of death. He said: "She told me it seemed funny to her that nearly every one she knew and cared for died and asked me if I was afraid of death."