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PALMETTO HAPPENINGS TOLD IN BRIEFS

Occurrences of Interest Gleaned From All Sections of the Busy Palmetto State

LAUREN'S TRAGEDY.

Officer Stone and Burglar's Fatal Fight.

Laurens, Special.—Few tragedies have so shocked the people of the community as the result of a deadly encounter Wednesday night between Patrolman McDuffie Stone and W. Frank Walker and an unknown burglar, whose outfit of tools indicates that he was a safecracker. The unknown yegman lies dead at the city station house and Patrolman Stone died at 6:30 Thursday afternoon. The story of the tragedy as learned from Mr. Walker and Mr. Stone is that in the course of their nightly rounds the two policemen met the through freight train from Spartanburg, which arrived here at 2:15, as is their custom. Upon reaching the depot Mr. Stone walked down one side of the train of cars and Mr. Walker down the other. Seeing a stranger with a little meal sack in his hand, Mr. Stone accosted him and inquired what he was doing.

"I am a trainman," replied the stranger. "I am going back to the caboose."

"Well, where is your lantern?" said Mr. Stone. "Train hands don't walk around here in the dark." Thereupon Mr. Stone advanced in reach of the man and laid his hand upon his shoulder, about to arrest him, such being instructions relative to loafers at the depot. As soon as Stone's hand touched the stranger he whipped out his pistol, a .45 calibre, magazine, from inside his vest and began firing, emptying the chamber, five of the shots taking effect in the body of Stone, one in the bowels, three in the fleshy part of the leg and one in the lower lip. So close was the range that Stone did not have an opportunity to draw or clinch his antagonist and together they fell to the ground.

They were so lying when Policeman Walker crawled under from the other side of the train, the stranger struggling to loose himself. He was almost free from the weakening hold of Stone and was reloading his pistol when Walker came upon him.

"Don't shoot," cried the stanger. "I am already shot to pieces," which of course was a bluff to gain time, for Stone had never drawn his pistol. "I will surrender," said he.

"Give me your pistol then," said Walker. Pretending to hand the pistol to the policeman, the stranger fired at Walker, who quickly drew and got the man to his death, four or five shots taking effect. In the sack which he held in his hand was a complete yegman's outfit with nitroglycerine, dynamite, keys, wrenches, etc. He had \$110.60 about him.

An Educated Pig.

Mr. J. B. Henderson, of Branchville, has a very fine milk cow that gives a great quantity of milk, and of which he is very proud, says the Anderson Intelligencer. For the past few weeks this cow has not been giving the usual amount of milk, even when the feed was increased and the best of attention given she still failed to give any more milk. Suspicion was aroused by this and thinking that someone was visiting his barn yard in the peaceful and still hours of the time when men should sleep, and appropriating the milk to their use a watch was made to find out the parties. The one that was getting the milk from this fine stock was found, and who do you suppose it was? One of these Berkshire pigs in the same lot had learned that this milk was the best of food for himself and he was peacefully making a meal on the milk that should have gone into the pail.

Southern Fire Insolvent.

Columbia, Special.—The only information that Commissioner McMaster has been able to secure from the insurance department of Louisiana in regard to the Southern Fire of New Orleans is that "Owing to the insolvency of the company the same has been placed in the hands of a receiver." Insurance Commissioner McGivney now in New Orleans examining affairs of Southern Fire.

South Carolina News Notes.

A snake at Mullins, S. C., swallowed half-dozen china eggs that had been placed in a hen's nest.

J. W. McCowan has been elected State Senator from Florence county to succeed the late Senator Nathan Gibson.

Deputy Sheriff Bruce, of Abbeville, county, shot Harrison Smith, colored, because the negro attacked him with an axe.

The annual convention of the Tri-State Medical Association will be held in Charleston February 16-17. The association is composed of the Carolinas and Virginia.

News Items of General Interest.

The business men of Marion, N. C., have organized a joint stock company to build an up-to-date hotel.

President-elect Taft was entertained Saturday and Sunday at Charleston, where he went aboard the North Carolina bound for Panama.

Governor Patterson, of Tennessee, in his inaugural, expresses a sting from critics by inviting prosecution or impeachment.

WITH S. C. LAWMAKERS

Doings of Palmetto Lawmakers Told in Brief.

Tuesday was a busy day in the Senate. Balloting for U. S. Senator was part of the order. The following were among the new bills offered:

Mr. Hough—To amend the law with reference to compensation and salaries of county officers.

Mr. Sullivan—To regulate the sale of paints and prescribe penalties.

Mr. Hardin—To empower the grand juries to employ expert accountants and to provide for their compensation.

Mr. Lide—To provide for an election to determine the State's policy with regard to regulating the sale of alcohol.

Mr. Rogers—To prescribe attorneys' fees in foreclosure cases and to declare all contracts, mortgages and agreements in violation of the terms of this act null and void and to further provide for attorneys' fees in certain cases.

Mr. Clifton—To provide for the expense of conducting certain primary elections.

Mr. Clifton—To allow the circuit judges of this State traveling expenses.

Mr. Clifton—To allow certain widows above 45 years of age to participate in the pensions fund.

Mr. Crosson—To establish the office of State highway engineer, to define his duties, to fix his salary and to appropriate money to carry out the provisions of this act.

The House also cast its vote for E. D. Smith for U. S. Senator. Without any debate the house passed to third reading Mr. Browning's bill prohibiting the fraudulent use of the credit of corporations by the officers.

The House had some extended debate on Mr. Ayer's education commission to simplify and harmonize the laws of the State. The bill provided for a commission of seven to report back to the next general assembly. Without a word of dissent or discussion the House killed the Senate bill providing for a raise in salaries for State officials.

The Senate bill providing for an amendment to the constitution relating to municipal indebtedness was passed to third reading, it being necessary to call the roll on this. The amendment now becomes a law.

Mr. McMahan's bill amending the railroad incorporation law passed without debate.

Mr. Berg's marriage license bill was killed, although the author defended it vigorously.

In the Senate three unsuccessful votes were taken for Associate Justice of Supreme Court on Wednesday. Messrs. Thos. P. Cothran, of Greenville; D. E. Hydriek, of Spartanburg; Geo. W. Gage, of Chester; John C. Sheppard, of Edgefield; R. C. Watts, of Cheraw, are candidates and a deadlock is not improbable. The following are some of the new bills offered:

Mr. Mauldin—To prevent frauds by giving worthless checks, drafts and orders.

Mr. Mauldin—To empower the county boards of education and the several boards of trustees to establish kindergartens.

Mr. Sinker—To provide for submitting to an election in the manner in which spirituous liquors and other beverages shall be sold or whether or not they shall be sold in any county.

Mr. Sinker—To grant to the city council of Charleston all the right, title, interest and estate of the State of South Carolina in and to certain lands in the harbor of Charleston.

Mr. Otts—To ratify the amendment to section 7, article 8, of the constitution, relating to municipal bonded indebtedness.

Mr. Dick—To provide for the investigation of the State Hospital for the Insane.

Mr. Hall—To provide an additional remedy in homestead proceedings.

In the House the following bills were introduced:

Mr. Dixon—To require railroad companies in this State to file with the railroad commission a list of passes issued by them.

Mr. Williams—Prescribing a penalty for any person practicing law without having been admitted and sworn as an attorney.

Mr. Sinker—To devolve the duties with reference to the analysis and inspection of commercial fertilizers jointly upon the boards of trustees of Winthrop Normal and Industrial and Clemson colleges.

Mr. Todd—To make disorderly conduct on passenger trains a misdemeanor.

The following third reading bills were ordered sent to the Senate:

Mr. Browning—To prohibit the fraudulent use of credit of corporations.

Mr. Scarborough—To amend an act entitled "An act to prescribe the punishment for assault with intent to ravish."

Mr. B...—An act to amend an act entitled "An act to limit the hours of labor in cotton and woolen mills."

The following bills were introduced:

for repeal of the lien law by vote of 35 to 35.

It met at night to pass uncontested bills to third reading.

Adjourned until Tuesday.

Among the new bills offered during the day were these:

Mr. Fultz—To amend an act relating to pensions.

Messrs. Utsey and Gasque—To provide for the taxation of timber.

Mr. Dixon—To enforce the liability of express or transfer companies in this State for damages arising from carelessness or neglect in transportation and delivery of goods in their charge.

Mr. K. P. Smith—Prohibiting the sale of cigarettes or cigarette paper in this State.

Mr. Todd—To protect the owners of bottles, boxes, siphons, tins or kegs used in the sale of soda waters, mineral or aerated water, porter, ale, beer, cider, gingerale, milk, cream, small beer lager, Wales beer, white beer or other beverages or medicines, medicinal preparations, perfumery, oils, compounds or mixtures.

Mr. Mauldin—To amend the State insurance law by providing for part insurance in old line companies and regulating settlement of losses.

Mr. McKeehan—Proposing to amend section 7, article 8, of the constitution relating to municipal bonded indebtedness.

Mr. Johnston—To fix the time for holding courts in the Eighth judicial circuit.

Mr. Weston—To enlarge the powers and duties of the commissioner of agriculture and immigration, to prescribe the duties of persons, firms and corporations subject to his supervision, to prescribe penalties for failures to perform the same.

The Senate adjourned to Tuesday evening.

The following bills were offered in the House:

Mr. Vander Horst (by request)—To require the drainage of phosphate mining excavations so as to better provide for the public health.

Mr. Brice—To prescribe the conditions upon which legal reserve life insurance companies may write in their policies and certificates that their legal reserve is secured by a deposit in the State in which they are chartered.

Mr. Mars—To amend section 1214 of code of laws of South Carolina 1902, volume 1 (criminal code) by prohibiting the transfer of children to another without the consent of the board of trustees of receiving school.

Mr. K. P. Smith—To fix the salary of the mayor or intendat of any city or town heretofore or hereafter incorporated under the general laws of the State.

Mr. Carey—To provide for hearing in the court of common pleas of cases in which the State has an interest.

Mr. Carey—To regulate the practice and procedure in appeals in cases in which the State is interested.

Charleston delegation—To submit question of dispensary or no dispensary in the State.

Mr. Cosgrove (by request)—To authorize cities having a population of 50,000 or more and located upon navigable streams to condemn private property for the purpose of extending, improving or protecting their water fronts.

The following bills passed their third reading in the Senate Friday:

Mr. Weston—To declare the wulful or wanton burning of any building which is insured a felony, and to provide punishment therefor. With amendments.

Mr. Bates—To amend section 2940 of the code, relating to the empanelling of jurors. With amendments.

Mr. Earle—Relating to the pollution of water courses.

Mr. Clifton—To further define and extend the liability of telegraph companies in cases of mental anguish or suffering.

Mr. Walker—To amend the law to provide for the issuance of bonds in public school districts in South Carolina.

Mr. Mauldin offered a bill to make it unlawful to pay dividends on stock in any corporation unless the same are actually earned on the capital stock of such company, and for any officer of such company to make any false statement in regard to such company.

Mr. Muckenfuss—To amend the lien law so as to require persons making advances to furnish itemized statements.

Mr. Mauldin—Relating to pensions. Senator Mauldin's bill as to stock companies provides that in the cases cited above there shall be punishment by a fine of not less than \$100 or imprisonment for not less than 30 days.

Mr. Muckenfuss' lien law bill provides this addition: "That it shall be the duty of the person making such advances to make out and deliver to the person for whom the advances are made at the time the advances are made a true and correct itemized statement, and showing, if money, the amount of principal and interest charged, and if supplies the amount, kind and prices charged for such supplies."

Mr. Mauldin's pension bill provides that all Confederate soldiers and sailors, being 64 years of age, who participated in the War Between the Sections for a period of 12 months, or honorably discharged therefrom, on account of wounds received or infirmity, shall be entitled to participate in the pension fund provided by the State for Confederate soldiers and sailors.

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Among bills of lesser importance the House passed the Richards' bill

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TAFT PLEASD WITH PROGRESS

After a Thorough Examination of the Plans for the Gatun Lock and Dam the Expert Engineers Pronounce Them Satisfactory.

Culebra, Panama, By Cable.—William H. Taft and the engineers accompanying him reached here from Panama Monday in a special train and made a detailed examination of the 14 miles of the Culebra cut. The fact that the existing plans for the lock and dam at Gatun are satisfactory to the visiting engineers has created a local feeling of optimism and the fears of delay in the completion of the work have been relieved.

Mr. Taft expected that the views of the engineers regarding the situation at Gatun would be favorable, and their findings consequently did not come as a surprise to him.

Mr. Taft and the engineers are very much gratified at the extent of the work accomplished at Culebra.

The Commissary Matter.

Mr. Taft called upon ex-President Amador, who is ill. Ex-President Amador and President Abadía have not been on friendly terms for a long time because of political differences. Mr. Taft wishes to make it plain that his cordiality is toward Panama as a whole and not toward one or another political faction, and he has endeavored during his stay here to treat all men and all parties in the same cordial manner.

Both sides of the controversy which has arisen through the commissary system will be given a hearing, but he will make no recommendation with regard to the treaty, which refers the question to arbitration. Without doubt the commissary will continue, although so called luxuries will be eliminated. Mr. Taft has expressed full confidence in the judgment of Secretary Root in this matter.

Prior to the visit of Mr. Taft and the board of engineers to the Culebra cut Monday, all dynamite was removed from the workmen so that possibility of accident to the President-elect might be avoided. Although not speaking for publication, the engineers do not conceal their satisfaction at the feasibility of the Gatun dam. Chief of engineers, Lieut. Col. Goethals, and the army engineers engaged in the construction work, are much gratified at the results of the investigation of the special engineers. Colonel Goethals said that naval vessels would sail through the lock canal by January 1st, 1915.

WAR ON OPIUM

International Opium Commission in Session at Shanghai.

Shanghai, China, By Cable.—With influential delegates from several nations in attendance, the meeting of the International Opium Commission was opened Monday. The object of the conference is to stamp out the opium traffic in China and eventually throughout the world. For years a determined crusade against opium has been carried on by the Chinese, and with the co-operation of England and the United States it is believed that it can be rendered effective and the people of the empire rescued from the greatest curse that has ever afflicted the country.

One of the most serious difficulties that confronts the anti-opium crusaders is the fact that the British government of India derives a large part of its revenue from the sale of opium as a State monopoly. About \$25,000,000 a year is the amount received by the Crown from the degradation of the Chinese through their addiction to the product of the "slumbering poppy."

For years British reformers have demanded that the production and sale of opium be prohibited in India. The British commissioners to the conference opened Monday are empowered to promise that if China can give satisfactory assurance that the cultivation and sale of opium will be prohibited in China, India will follow suit. According to the statements of Chinese commissioners, such an arrangement is likely to be made, and the traffic which has been called "the shame of Great Britain" and "the curse of China" is likely to be abolished.

North American Conservation Conference on February 18th.

Washington, Special.—Now that the Canadian and Mexican governments have both formally accepted President Roosevelt's invitation to send delegates to a North American conservation conference here the final arrangements are being rapidly put into shape. The conference will be held probably in the State Department and will begin on the morning of Thursday, February 18th. From present indications, the sessions will continue about three days.

Dog Fight Causes a Bloody Battle.

Huntsville, Ala., Special.—Steve Bridges and Alex Locke, brothers-in-law, and well-known farmers, engaged in a bloody fight near Jeff, Ala., Monday. Locke was chopped in the back with an axe and will die before night. Bridges telephoned that he would come in and surrender. The difficulty arose over a dog fight.

CUBAN REPUBLIC

STARTED AGAIN

Major-General Gomez Inaugurated as the New President.

Havana, Cuba.—Major-General Jose Miguel Gomez was inaugurated President of the restored Cuban Republic, and within an hour after he had taken the solemn oath of office, administered by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the American officials who had been in control of affairs since the autumn of 1905 had departed from the island.

The American Provisional Governor, Charles E. Magoon, who escorted General Gomez to the palace and there turned over to him the reins of government, sailed on the battleship Maine. The Maine was followed out of the harbor by the battleship Mississippi and the army transport McClellan. An immense crowd gathered along the sea walls to witness the spectacle, and a swarm of sailing, tug and small boats accompanied the ships to the open sea.

The departure of Governor Magoon and the military officers, who served as advisers during the period of intervention, leaves about 2,000 American troops still on the island, under command of Major-General Thomas L. Barry. These will be returned to the United States.

Cuba begins her new period of independence under conditions which seem prosperous. It is believed that the people will realize their opportunity and endeavor to make their second attempt at self-government a lasting success. The island is prosperous and the revenues are increasing steadily.

Inauguration day was brilliant with sunshine and intensely warm. Crowds began gathering in front of the palace in the early forenoon. All the ships in the harbor, including the American battleships, put on gala attire of flags and pennants and bits of signal bunting. The day marked the anniversary of the birth of Jose Martí, the apostle of Cuban liberty, and the anniversary began at 9 o'clock in the morning with the placing of a wreath on the memorial tablet on the house where he was born.

At 11 o'clock Alfredo Zayas was inducted into office as Vice-President of the Republic in the Senate chamber, this ceremony being brief and simple.

It was just after noon when General Gomez stepped out on the palace balcony on the second floor, accompanied by Governor Magoon and the Supreme Court Justices. The crowd cheered heartily, and then there was silence as the Chief Justice read the oath of office, and General Gomez in a voice hardly audible through the below pledged himself faithfully to hold and defend the laws and the constitution.

The new President made a speech of a few words from the balcony, and then, as the crowd cheered again, returned into the palace, where Governor Magoon read his final official address and the commission from Washington, D. C., authorizing him to turn over the island affairs to President Gomez and the new Congress. General Gomez read his reply in Spanish.

Governor Magoon's speech was in the form of a letter addressed to the President and Congress of the Republic of Cuba. After stating that by the direction of the President of the United States he relinquished to President Gomez the power and authority which had been held and exercised by him, Governor Magoon declared the provisional administration at an end.

In closing Governor Magoon, on behalf of President Roosevelt, the Government and the people of the United States and himself, as retiring Provisional Governor, extended heartfelt felicitations and good wishes for the success of the new administration.

President Gomez, in accepting the letter from Governor Magoon, said in part:

"We receive from you the government of Cuba which you turn over to us in compliance with the instructions of the President of the United States. The constitution shall be upheld in all its integrity, because our chief concern will be to preserve it inviolate. We shall faithfully adhere to the treaty between the United States and Cuba."

Telegrams of congratulation from President Roosevelt, President-elect Taft and Secretary Wright were read in Spanish to the throng, and while congratulations were being extended to President Gomez, Governor Magoon hurried away.

5000 CATS ARE SENT TO JAPAN.

Rat Extermination Planned to Fight the Plague.

Washington, D. C.—Five thousand cats, whose sole mission is life, or rather in their nine lives, henceforth is to serve as rat destroyers in Fair Japan, have been shipped from Chicago. The purpose of this cautious feline invasion is to aid in fighting the plague, which is spread by rodents.

Implement and Seeds Active.

Preparations for spring are evident in improved demand West and South for fertilizers, seeds, agricultural implements and kindred lines.

Less Butter Stored.

The amount of butter in storage in New York City is less than last year. On hand at the same time last year.

Advance in Wool.

The wool market is strengthened by the advance at the London auction sale.