

RUSS HELD FOR MURDER.

Young Man, Said to be Rival, Accused of Crime.

Wilmington, N. C., March 25.—As the result of the coroner's inquest and preliminary hearing before a justice in Columbus county, this State, to-day, Cleveland Russ, 21 years old, said to be a rejected suitor of Miss Squires, of Bladen county, was committed to jail without bond at Whiteville, N. C., for trial in the State superior court next month on the charge of having murdered Jerry Bigford, a well known young farmer and merchant, who was shot to death through a window in his home, near Freeman's, N. C., during Tuesday night, and who was to have married Miss Squires the night following the finding of his body in his home, where he resided alone.

A large number of witnesses were examined, including Chief of Police Edmundson, of Chadbourn, whose bloodhounds followed a trail four miles through swamps and across the river to the Russ home, where three brothers were arrested to await action by the coroner. Leading attorneys of Columbus county and Wilmington appeared on both sides at the hearing to-day, the prosecution urging strongly that jealousy afforded the motive and the bloodhounds were unerring, while the defense sought to set up an alibi by the brothers and others at the Russ home the night of the murder and claiming that the theory previously adopted by the officers directed the trail of the dogs to the house. Two of the brothers were released from custody, but were recognized as witnesses for the higher court. Miss Squires, the fiancée of the dead man, and her father were present for the inquest, but neither was introduced as a witness. All the parties to the affair are prominent in their respective communities. Cleveland Russ is being taken to jail at Whiteville tonight, but no violence is feared.

FIREMAN KILLED IN WRECK.

Frank Hardin, of Chester, Loses His Life.

Yorkville, March 24.—A special train of an engine, baggage car and passenger car on the Carolina & Northwestern railroad was wrecked to-day about two and a half miles south of Yorkville. The train was carrying about 65 passengers—Knights Templars and their relatives—from Chester to Yorkville to enjoy a banquet got up by the ladies of Yorkville. Fireman Frank Hardin, of Chester, jumped, and was instantly killed. Engineer Smyer stuck to his post and escaped uninjured, though the engine and tender both turned over. None of the passengers was hurt.

The wreck occurred on a straight stretch of track when the train was going about 18 miles an hour. The engine and tender and both cars left the track.

Col. Nichols and the Messrs. Davidson and other officials were on the train and did all they could to relieve the situation. The ladies of the party behaved splendidly, retaining their self-possession and urging the men to work.

The cause of the wreck has not yet been learned.

After the wreck the passengers were brought on to Yorkville by the southbound train, which ran down as far as the scene of the accident and returned with the wreck-bound passengers from the ill-fated special. They went back toward Chester on the southbound as far as the wreck, where another train was waiting to carry them home.

This is the first wreck on the Carolina & Northwestern in the last 15 years.

A track is being built around the wreck and traffic will soon proceed.

FIGHT OVER TELEPHONE POLE.

J. D. Prothro and J. H. Richardson, of Aiken County, Exchange Shots.

Aiken, March 26.—Yesterday afternoon a preliminary hearing was given J. D. Prothro, who resides near Aiken, before Magistrate Smoak, on the charge of assault and battery with intent to kill, the charge being made by J. H. Richardson, a farmer, who resides on the road upon which Prothro's rural telephone line runs. Near the place of Richardson, Prothro's telephone crossed the Postal wires, and he had to change the route slightly to avoid this. In changing a pole had to be placed near Richardson's place, in the right of way of the public road, on which Prothro had secured consent to place his poles. Richardson objected to the pole being placed near his place and a dispute arose over the placing of the pole there. It is charged that Prothro fired at Richardson 11 times with a rifle and that Richardson shot at Prothro three times with a shotgun. All the shots went wide and no injury was done. It is not known which fired first, as both claim the other fired first. After hearing the prosecuting side Magistrate Smoak bound Prothro over to the higher court under a bond of \$200, which was furnished.

DEAD AS RESULT OF KISS.

Trained Nurse is Infected from Kiss Bestowed on Patient.

Cumberland, Md., March 28.—Having become infected from a kiss bestowed by request on a patient dying of blood poisoning, Miss Marion C. Spier, a trained nurse, died here last night. Miss Spier nursed Mrs. Virginia Callan Carder, wife of Dr. Geo. L. Carder, a prominent society woman at the Allegheny Hospital, and was so kind to the sick woman that the latter asked her to kiss her as she was dying. The request was granted and, in a few days, Miss Spier was stricken with the same malady.

Some one has correctly said that our duty consists in: Will to do right. Work for God's cause. Win to temperance.

CUT HIS THROAT.

Georgia Man Commits Suicide on a Train.

Swainsboro, Ga., March 26.—Hon. George H. Bell, former representative in the State legislature, recently released from the State insane asylum, committed suicide by cutting his throat while on the Central of Georgia train No. 4, from Atlanta to Savannah early this morning. He was found under a seat when the train reached Tombsboro by Conductor Robert L. Drake.

He first stabbed himself under the heart with a knife, which he obtained from a friend. When the conductor picked him up Bell reached into his pocket, took out the knife and cut his throat. He lived for thirty minutes, praying all the time to die. The body was taken to Wadley, and from there sent to this city to his relatives, who were grief-stricken when they heard the news. In the seat where he had been sitting was found a newspaper in which was an account of his wife's suit for divorce.

One month ago yesterday he, after a vigorous fight, was released from the asylum at Milledgeville, on the grounds that he had been illegally committed to that place. He had been confined there three years. The order of the judge was that he would be given liberty in thirty days, provided he was not legally committed to the asylum. The asylum authorities, however, let him go at that time. Since leaving, his wife has entered suit for divorce from him.

Early in life he was an actor in a Western company. He befriended a member of the company, Mrs. Blanche Burton, who was the means, a month ago, of obtaining freedom for him. After leaving the stage he came back to Swainsboro, where he started a newspaper, subsequently being elected to the legislature. He was about 35 years of age, and was the son of Dr. Green Bell. Mrs. Burton, who lives in Indiana, has been notified, and it is possible she will attend the funeral. No arrangements have been made.

PRAYED FOR DROUGHT.

No Rain After Angry Pastor's Petition to Heaven.

Bokhoma, Okla., March 16.—Like Moses of old, the Rev. Charles Ford, a Holiness preacher, called down a plague on Bokhoma, in the form of drought. As if in answer to his public prayers, scarce a drop of rain has fallen here for six months, until yesterday, when the minister prayed for the drought to end.

The initial prayer was made after the Rev. Mr. Ford had been denied a sum of money, which he claimed as back wages from the Frisco Lumber Company. During the drought, business was paralyzed, and hundreds of men moved their families, that were in actual want, to other parts of the State.

The Rev. Mr. Ford's congregation at Bokhoma is small, and in addition to his pastoral duties he worked at the mill of the Frisco Lumber Company. Six months ago, last September, the pastor resigned his position at the mill and said he had not received all the salary that was due him. He then announced his intention of asking the Lord to withhold rain from this locality indefinitely. The following Sunday he made his prayer from the pulpit.

Within a radius of fifty miles of this stricken town rain was plentiful on every side. The Red river and Little river, which run through adjoining counties, were brimful throughout the drought, but the nearest to a rain Bokhoma got was a thunder storm and a darkened sky.

The water supply gradually grew less, and the mills shut down. At the end of three months the big pond which supplied the water for the lumber company was as dry as tinder, and the plant was shut down. When the workmen's families began to suffer the minister announced that he would pray for enough rain to enable the mills to resume operations for a week.

In answer to his supplication, a heavy rain fell that night and continued throughout the next day. The mills started up and worked just eight days before the supply again gave out, and operations ceased.

In his farewell sermon the Rev. Mr. Ford told his congregation he would pray for rain as soon as he had crossed the river into another county, and bade them prepare to return to work. The next morning, yesterday, he took his departure, and three hours after he left Bokhoma the heaviest rain in more than a year set in. For six hours, an hour for every month of drought, it poured in torrents without letting up.

Dynamited by Black Hand.

Shamokin, Pa., March 28.—While asleep in a bunk car near Traverton to-day, Salvatore Belfore, a section hand on the Philadelphia & Reading railway, was blown to pieces by dynamite. The explosive had been placed directly where he was sleeping, by supposed members of the Black Hand, who escaped. The other Italians, also asleep in the car, were blown some distance from the wrecked car by the explosion.

TRIPLE TRAGEDY IN IOWA.

Crazed Mother Kills Herself and Two Children.

Des Moines, Iowa, March 27.—In a fit of despondency, resulting from a long illness, Mrs. John Lynch, living on a farm near Cedar Rapids, this afternoon cut the throats of her five-weeks-old baby, her 3-year-old son, and her 4-year-old girl. The frenzied mother then attacked her two other children, but they escaped to a neighbor's house. When help arrived Mrs. Lynch had cut her own throat and set the house afire. Neighbors rescued the little girl, who may survive. The house was burned to the ground, and the two bodies were incinerated. The husband of the demented woman was absent at the time.

KILLS HIMSELF WITH RAZOR.

R. C. Adams Inflicts Fatal Wound on Himself.

Walhalla, March 25.—R. C. Adams died early this morning at the home of Mrs. G. W. Eaton. On Tuesday evening Mr. Adams attempted suicide by cutting his throat with a razor. While the wound proved a fatal one, Mr. Adams had his right mind since the deed, and seemed to regret that he did not die instantly. Bad health was evidently the cause of this deplorable act, as Mr. Adams has been an invalid for 40 years.

On Tuesday he bought his coffin and made all funeral arrangements, looking carefully to the financial part. He came here more than a year ago and was often seen upon the streets, but while he was most pleasant in conversation he showed that he was dejected in spirits.

His remains will be shipped to New Bedford, Mass., his former home.

He wrote his relatives and friends there Tuesday and doubtless they are looking for the worst.

He called at the hardware store to purchase a pistol, but none was sold him. He procured an old one somewhere and had snapped several times upon loaded shells, but they failed to explode. After his rash act on Tuesday night a letter was found on his dresser addressed to Mrs. Eaton. Along with the address were words: "To be opened after my death."

Negro Committed for Trial.

Gaffney, March 27.—The negro preacher Jackson was brought here Thursday from Greenville, where he was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Paul Lipscomb and lodged in jail. He demanded a preliminary examination, and it was held by Magistrate Phillips, who recommended him after taking the testimony of the father and two brothers of the little girl upon whom the attempt was made. The child testified that she was in the house with two little children, both smaller than herself, when Jackson came in and asked her to kiss him and had other offensive talk to her, whereupon becoming frightened she caught up the baby and started to leave the house. When he attempted to take the child from her, she escaped, and when she reached the door saw her mother and older brother coming and Jackson left. The father testified that Jackson saw him after the attempt and told him that he was tempted by the devil and that he had used language to the child for which he was sorry, and that he had been praying for forgiveness ever since. The attempt was made on the 19th of May, 1908, at which time the child was only about 10 years of age. Jackson left the next day for parts unknown, since which time Sheriff Thomas has been trying to get him located. The little girl is a bright looking child of about 11 years, and gave her testimony in a very impressive manner. Jackson is a brutish looking negro of about 45 years of age.

FIGHT ON TARIFF RATES.

East and West Opposed on Hides and Lumber Schedules.

Washington, March 28.—The fate of lumber and hides in the proposed new tariff law probably will not be decided until the conference reports on the bills have been approved by both the senate and house. The clashes on these schedules have occurred largely between the representatives of the East and West and there is a prospect of the differences becoming so sharp that the Democrats from the Southern States may determine the outcome.

The supporters of protection on hides express hope of inducing the senate committee to recommend the continuance of the Dingley rates. The Western senators on the committee have proved strong advocates of the restoration of the duty, while Senator Lodge is said to stand almost alone in his campaign for free hides.

Champions of the movement to take the duty off lumber entirely are not so sanguine of success as the advocates of free hides, so far as their contest in the committee is concerned. Senator McCumber, in accordance with the instruction of the legislature of North Dakota, is prepared to carry the fight to the floor of the senate.

Regardless of the votes of the committee the advocates of free lumber and free hides have been promised separate votes on these questions in the senate. There is a well defined rumor in the senate that the committee on finance will uphold the principle declared in the bill of making the established rate the minimum with a 20 per cent. retaliatory increase to countries which fail to give their best rate to the United States. If it should be decided to revise this proposition so as to make the established rate the maximum and give to the most friendly nations a favored rate of 20 per cent. less, it is asserted that the rates in the Payne bill would have to be raised all along the line on the theory that all great nations would take action so as to be given the lower rate.

During the consideration of the bill thus far all of the rates which depend upon existing treaties have been laid aside to be considered when the maximum and minimum features are taken up.

Big Fire in Jacksonville.

Jacksonville, Fla., March 28.—Fire at 1 o'clock this morning in a three-story building on Forsyth street, for a time threatened the entire business district. The loss is estimated at \$350,000, partially insured.

The H. and W. B. Drew printing plant is a total loss. The fire is said to have been caused by lightning striking the electric wires which ignited in the storage rooms on the east end of the third floor. A heavy rainstorm occurred during the fire which aided the firemen considerably and the flames were confined to the Taylor block.

A RACE ON ICE.

The Skates That Got Away and Those That Were Saved.

Thackeray once asked one of the men who let out skates on the Serpentine whether he had ever lost a pair through the omission to exact a deposit, and he replied that he had never done so, except on one occasion when the circumstances made it almost pardonable.

A well dressed young fellow was having his second skate fastened on when he suddenly broke away from the man's hands and dashed to the ice. The next instant a thickset, powerful man was clamoring for another pair.

He was a detective in pursuit of his prey, and a very animating sight it was to watch the chase. He was, as he had boasted, a first rate skater, and it became presently obvious that he was running down his man.

Then the young fellow determined to run a desperate risk of liberty. The ice, as usual, under the bridge was marked "Dangerous," and he made for it at headlong speed. The ice bent beneath his weight, but he got safely through.

The sheriff's officer followed with equal pluck, but, being a heavier man, broke through and was drowned.

"His skates," said the narrator of the incident, "I got back after the inquest, but those the young gentleman had on I never saw again."—London Telegraph.

An Interesting Speaker.

A Baltimore man had decided that he must administer a stern lecture to his 6-year-old son, Harry. The boy had been naughty, but did not seem to appreciate the fact; and it was with some reluctance, therefore, that the parent undertook a scolding.

He spoke judiciously, but severely; he recounted the lad's misdeeds, and duly explained the whys and wherefores of his solemn rebuke, his wife the while sitting by, duly impressed.

Finally, when the father ceased for breath and incidentally to hear the culprit's acknowledgement of error, the lad, his face beaming with admiration, turned to his mother and said:

"Ma, isn't Pa interesting?"

Some Excuses.

An Englewood school teacher showed Gerald Sullivan, of the Englewood, (Ill.) Times a few letters from parents of pupils. The first was an excuse, and read: "Missus Teacher, Pleas excuse my Johnnie from absence, he had the measles to oblige his father, Carl Smith." Another one, who objected to the "alcoholic instructions," read: "Miss Bland, My boy tells me that when I drink beer, der overcoat from my stomach, gets too thick, pleas be so kind as not to interfere in mine family affairs. John Dash." Another one was: "Please excuse Willie for not being at school yesterday. I took him out for a little pleasure to see his grandmother's grave."

CAPERS TO RETIRE.

Resignation, When it is Tended, Will be Voluntary.

Washington, March 24.—John G. Capers, commissioner of internal revenue, conferred with President Taft and Secretary Carpenter to-day. Practically every State with a quota of job hunters is trying to get this position. Ohio alone has three or four men hungry for the place. The president is resisting the pressure with the intention, it is said, of continuing Commissioner Capers for some months at least.

Commissioner Capers stated to-day that the subject of his retirement had not been discussed with the president or with any one else at the White House. Mr. Capers intimated, though, that it is his intention to return to his law practice as soon as he can complete some work upon which he is engaged and which he thinks should receive his attention and not that of a new man. Mr. Capers will no doubt hand in his resignation. His doing so will be voluntary as the situation now looks and the time for its presentation will be based upon his legal connections and upon the wishes of the administration.

It has been pointed out to the president that there are a number of matters pending before the ways and means committee in regard to the tariff upon which it is necessary for Commissioner Capers to appear before the committee. He has prepared himself for these hearings.

Mr. Capers, his friends say, has had under advisement for some months a number of good offers to return to private practice, either here or in South Carolina, and as these have been tempting he has kept them under consideration with a view of acceptance, when he felt that the interests of the government would permit his retirement.

It is known that Postmaster General Hitchcock appreciates the political work of Mr. Capers in the last campaign and will ask the president to retain him for a period at least.

NEGRO PREACHER HELD.

Charged With Assaulting Little Girl in Cherokee County.

Gaffney, March 26.—Sheriff Thomas has been notified that a negro preacher named Elijah Jackson has been arrested in Greenville county and is being held for him. Jackson is charged with an attempt to commit a criminal assault upon a little girl, the child of respectable white parents, who reside a few miles from Gaffney. The attempt was made last fall and Sheriff Thomas has been unremittent in his attempts to locate Jackson since that time. Jackson fled immediately after the commission of the crime and it is thought that he has been in hiding in Anderson and Greenville counties ever since.

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