

COUNTRY NEWS LETTERS

SOME INTERESTING HAPPENINGS IN VARIOUS SECTIONS.

News Items Gathered All Around the County and Elsewhere.

Ehrhardt Etchings.

Ehrhardt, April 26.—Had a regular trash mover in this section yesterday. Weather cool; nearly frost this morning. Farm work is practically stopped.

The young men and ladies are wishing for a fine afternoon so they can go out to witness the ball game this afternoon between the Carlisle Fitting School team and the Ehrhardt team. They expect a pleasant time if it don't rain.

Mr. I. J. Zeigler has the contract of moving the seed houses belonging to the Southern Cotton Oil Co. They will be moved below Mill street and placed on outside of switch, and not between switch and main line as they now are.

Dr. J. L. Copeland will go to Charleston to-day on professional business.

Rev. D. B. Groseclose and Mr. Sam W. Copeland attended Orangeburg conference last week.

School picnics are in order now. One at Clear Pond Saturday was well attended. Must have been enjoyable, as a young merchant here did not return until Sunday afternoon.

Watch for Mount Pleasant picnic. Talking about it now and making preparations for speakers and other amusements for the occasion. Ascension day will be the day.

Dr. J. H. Roberts has purchased an auto. He has been practicing with it so as to know how to work its machinery. He has been getting on very well—only had to scratch the sand from the road once to get his machine to start off.

Mr. Durant and an agent from Columbia came in town this morning with two automobiles with higher wheels than most of them have. The party from Columbia claims to have run from there to Cottageville and back to Lodge Sunday and come from Lodge this morning, so Mr. Durant says. The wheels are about the size of an ordinary buggy wheel in height, but stouter.

JEE.

News from Kearse.

Kearse, April 26.—The Timrod Literary Society held its regular meeting Thursday evening. We were very sorry indeed to see so few of our members present. We hope for a full attendance the next meeting.

The following program was carried out:

Debate, Resolved that the abolition of the lien law is a stepping stone to the prosperity of South Carolina. Affirmative: Miss Ettie Kearse, Mr. W. H. Ritter; negative: Miss Eloise Brabham and Mr. Horace Kearse.

Reading:—Miss Pearl Breeland. Instrumental Solo:—Miss Leda Ritter.

The society will not meet again until May 7th, on account of services at the school house by Rev. E. A. Wilkes next Friday evening.

Mr. E. R. Collins, who has completed painting the home of Mr. H. J. Ritter, has returned to his home in Denmark.

Misses Leda and Sudie Ritter were the guests of Miss Eugenia Meng last Friday.

Messrs. H. J. and W. H. Ritter attended the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. John Miley, Wednesday, April 21st, at Crockettville.

Miss Eugenia Meng spent a few days with Miss Leda Ritter last week.

Irishmen and Italians Fight.

New York, April 25.—Fifty or more Irishmen and Italians came together in a race riot at Tenth avenue and Thirty-second street to-night and order was not restored until an Italian saloon and an Italian grocery store had been wrecked, 30 combatants clubbed by the police and 18 arrests made. The fight lasted 45 minutes.

The trouble is said to have started in the grocery store over an argument between two Irishmen and three Italians. A fist fight followed and the commotion brought a dozen Italians to their countrymen's assistance. The two Irishmen retreated into the street, where, reinforced by a score of their countrymen from adjacent tenements, the riot followed.

Don't fail to see my big arm rocker at \$1.50; she's a beauty. G. O. SIMMONS.

NEGRO KILLS POSTMASTER.

Pursuer Slain by Pursued and Lynching May Follow.

Sparks, Ga., April 26.—While searching for two negro men, who had in succession robbed the postoffice, a bank, a dry goods store and a drug store at Lenox, this county, early this morning, Assistant Postmaster Clifford Rutherford, of that place, was shot twice through the head and was instantly killed by Marshall Lewis, one of the negroes who had taken refuge in the railway station.

Lewis's accomplice was caught, but Lewis escaped and was later trailed down by dogs at Adel and was taken towards the Nashville, Ga., jail. The negro confessed and begged not to be taken back to Lenox. A hundred friends of Rutherford went to Adel late this afternoon with the intention of intercepting the sheriff. It is admitted that a lynching is imminent. Indignation over the murder is deep and if the sheriff fails to reach a substantial jail, the probabilities are that his prisoner will be hanged.

Rutherford, while seeking the robbers, put his head in the door of the depot waiting room and struck a match. At that instant two shots rang out and he dropped to the floor.

Valdosta, Ga., April 26.—Following an approaching crowd of ten, officers at Nashville, Ga., made a fast trip in an automobile from that place and brought Marshall Lewis, the negro slayer, here.

Fairfax News.

Fairfax, April 24.—Now don't, please, sister Bambergians say, "Why, where is that place; it isn't on the map, is it?" Though not so old as your town, we certainly claim to be the most hustling and bustling town between here and Augusta (venerable Allendale maybe excepted).

A series of entertainments and plays lately show the strides we are making.

With a fine new brick school house and a new Steiff piano on the rostrum, we are better prepared for a crowd now than formerly. Just a few weeks ago our town entertained quite a crowd, who attended the play here given by local talent, conducted chiefly by Miss Annie Moye, Mr. and Mrs. Talley, and Prof. Campbell. Bamberg being the former home of Miss Moye, she induced the "Kearse Amateur Club," an organization recently established in the Olar and Kearse neighborhood, to visit Fairfax and give their play, "Miss Fearless & Co."

'Twas a beautiful sight on the evening of the 23rd to see such lovely, fresh, animated girls giving their time and talents, delighting a Fairfax audience and helping a good cause in their town. A large crowd greeted them and the hearty applause showed appreciation. Those girls certainly did well. They were: Miss Ethel Kearse, her chaperon in the play, Miss Cress Breeland, Misses Edna Chitty, Pearl Breeland, Evelyn Brabham, Mell Kearse, Vena Breeland, Salome Brabham, Alice and Ettie Kearse. Two gallant youths acted as escorts. Come again, girls, you will ever have a warm place in the hearts of Fairfax folks. Bambergians are familiar with this play, so we will not repeat.

Our little prospective prima donna as usual won all hearts when she sweetly sang, "One Little Girl." Truly, Sadie Harter is a wonderful child. At this writing the Kearse Amateurs are still taking in our town, and some of our youths will be inconsolable when they leave. As they have "cousins and aunts" in our town, it will perhaps bring Bamberg and Barnwell counties nearer to each other.

Our amateurs in Fairfax are invited to give their play at several neighboring towns, and possibly they will accept. Prof. Campbell and Mr. Sam Talley being so obliging are called upon often to do for the public here what half a dozen men generally do in other places, but may be others will rally to their help soon, or we will have to dress up a "dummy man" like the Kearse company did.

OBSERVER.

A friend in Florida, who has recently become a subscriber to The Herald, says he enjoys the paper very much, and that all his friends think it is the best county paper they ever saw, and they are astonished when he tells them the size of the town and county. They wonder how such a small county can support a newspaper such as The Herald.

IN THE PALMETTO STATE

SOME OCCURRENCES OF VARIOUS KINDS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

State News Boiled Down for Quick Reading—Paragraphs About Men and Happenings.

Last week in the city of Orangeburg an organization was formed to fight for prohibition in that county at the coming election on the question of dispensary or no dispensary. A. W. Summers, Esq., is president, and Rev. B. M. Foreman secretary.

Hon. E. J. Watson, commissioner of agriculture, and Prof. Ira W. Williams, in charge of the farm demonstration work in South Carolina for the United States government, were at Lexington Tuesday inspecting the demonstration farms which are under the supervision of G. A. Derick. Both were agreeably surprised at the progress made on these farms. Commissioner Watson took photographs of several patches of vetch, which crop is said to do better in Lexington than in any of the other counties in the State. Mr. Watson took snapshots at a bunch of beef cattle also.

Mr. James F. Jenkins has about five hundred acres in cultivation in Cherokee county, preparing his land for cultivation by the use of the steam plow. He has a 22-horsepower engine, with which he pulls two large ploughs, which cut seven feet and in this way he can break about ten acres of land per day. Mr. Jenkins says that quite a lot of his land is rough and hilly, but that this fact did not prevent his using the steam plow, he having broken nearly all of his land both this year and last with this plow. As a labor-saving device this plow is the greatest invention now in use on the farm.

Confesses to Killing Lover.

Harrisburg, Miss., April 22.—Mrs. Minnie Crosby confessed late to-day before the coroner's jury here that she pulled the trigger which sent the contents of a double-barreled shotgun into the head of J. R. McShane, whose decomposed body was yesterday found in a secluded spot near the Bouie street bridge in Leaf river swamp.

She sobbingly admitted that she had been intimate with McShane, having met him upon numerous occasions close to the spot where he was killed. She said her husband had intercepted the correspondence between McShane and herself and by threat of death if she disobeyed, had forced her to assist in decoying McShane into the swamp, where he might be slain.

When McShane kept the appointment he had made with Mrs. Crosby, near the bridge on Easter Sunday, his greeting was interrupted by the order of the husband, emerging from a plump of bushes, to throw up his hands. Mrs. Crosby says her husband then leveled his gun upon McShane and compelled her to pull the trigger.

The full charge of the gun struck McShane in the mouth. He ran a few steps, moaned pitifully and fell, expiring almost instantly.

McShane recently came here from Alabama. He was a young brick-mason.

Jury "Tied Up."

Greenville, April 25.—The jury which is hearing the charges of peonage in the federal court here against Joshua W. Ashley, member of the house of representatives from Anderson county, reported to Judge Bralley at 10 o'clock this morning that it could not agree upon a verdict. The court ordered the men to be held together through the day and night and to report again at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning. A report was current in the court room that the jury stood 10 to 2 for conviction. The foreman is reported as having said that while there was a possibility of an agreement there was scarcely any probability of it. Ashley to-day appears to be greatly worried. He has apparently given up hope of an acquittal and is now hoping for a hung jury.

In the event of a hung jury the charges will be heard again in the fall, in either Columbia, Charleston, Florence or Greenville. A conviction means that an appeal will be taken to the court of appeals at Richmond, Va.

George Barton, the safe-blower, who escaped from the jail here by blowing a hole through the rock floor of his cell, and who was captured near Asheville, N. C., and has since been in jail at Asheville, will be brought to the city tomorrow morning and this week he will be tried in the federal court for the robbery of the postoffice at Pelzer.

Among those attending the Sunday-school convention here this week we noted Mr. C. F. Rizer, of Olar; Capt. J. B. Guess, of Denmark; Rev. D. B. Groseclose, Mrs. W. B. Moore and Miss Lella Epps, of Ehrhardt; Dr. J. R. McCormack, of Govan.

FIRE IN ASHEVILLE.

Flames in Battery Park Hotel Drive Guests Into the Streets.

Asheville, N. C., April 25.—Fire which broke out in the laundry room of the Battery Park hotel here at 4 o'clock this morning caused about 20 guests to leave the building clad only in night garments.

During the excitement following the discovery of the fire the electric lights went out, adding to the confusion. Trunks were thrown out of the windows and some of the guests carried their clothes down the stairs in armfuls. The fire was soon extinguished, the damage amounting to only a few hundred dollars.

Among the guests were Mrs. Van Wyck, wife of Former Judge Augustus H. Van Wyck; Mrs. James Osborne, wife of a prominent New York lawyer, and Mrs. Olive Gremsted, of the Metropolitan opera house.

The Kenilworth inn, another large tourist hotel here, was destroyed by fire about two weeks ago.

It is said to-night that the damage to the Battery Park hotel laundry, which was partially destroyed by fire at 4 o'clock this morning, will amount to more than \$1,000. The insurance on the entire laundry is placed at \$1,500. The origin of the fire is unknown.

The damage to the engine room of the hotel proper will not exceed \$300.

The 200 guests of the hotel were awakened when the alarm was turned in, but all returned to their rooms later, when it was seen that the hotel itself was in no danger.

"Sheehey Mike's" Companion.

Laurens, April 24.—Messrs. Steve Owens and L. K. Willis, of Laurens, have returned from Atlanta, where they were summoned by Postoffice Inspector H. T. Gregory to identify one James Martin, now in prison there on the charge of robbing the Bonifay, Fla., postoffice. This man Martin said he was in Laurens on January 28 with "Sheehey Mike," and Messrs. Owens and Willis, who saw the two men and talked with them, went to identify him. Upon returning to the city both these men state positively that Martin was the pal of "Sheehey Mike," who was killed by Officer Walker. It is recalled that the two yegmen were at Watts mills on the afternoon preceding the tragedy and that Owens talked with Sheehey Mike.

As stated in previous dispatches from this place, Solicitor Cooper, who has kept up thoroughly with all the proceedings, holds that this man Martin cannot be handled at all by the Laurens authorities, and that it will be useless to bring him here for trial. He was in no way implicated in the killing of Officer Stone, and there was no robbery in Laurens.

Duncan Made Reply.

Mr. John T. Duncan appeared before the supreme court this morning and made formal answer to the charges of contempt of court brought against him by the attorney general for practicing law in violation of the order of the court disbaring him. Mr. Duncan's answer was seven and a half typewritten pages long. He contended in it that in the case referred to he was not attempting to practice law, but had merely offered to pay the fine of \$10 against the negro and let him work this out on his farm; that he had returned the \$5 paid by the man's wife and destroyed the mortgage she gave him for \$10 on her personality.

When he had finished reading the return the attorney general directed the court's attention to the fact that Mr. Duncan had not denied that he had advised the woman as to the legal rights of her husband and that he was to get pay "for his trouble." He offered to allow Mr. Duncan opportunity to amend his answer in this respect, but Mr. Duncan evinced no desire to do so.

The court took the matter under advisement and will render its decision later.—Columbia Record.

Editor Shot by Teacher.

Warrenton, Va., April 24.—As the outcome of a long standing feud Prof. J. D. Harris, principal of the Warrenton high school, shot and, it is thought, fatally wounded W. A. Thompson, associate editor of the Warrenton Virginian, on Main street to-night. The excitement is intense and reports are conflicting. Thompson was removed from the scene of the tragedy to the Warren Green hotel, where he is being attended by doctors. He is shot through the body three times and his recovery is doubtful.

Prof. Harris gave himself up and was placed in charge of an officer.

TUNNELED INTO A BANK.

BOLD PROFESSIONALS COULD NOT OPEN SAFE.

Passageway Beneath Ground Lined With Tools—Booty Secured Amounted to \$1,400 in Change.

Suffolk, Va., April 22.—After tunneling under four buildings, a warehouse, grocery store, insurance office and drug store, burglars picked their way through several feet of concrete and cement, gaining entrance to the Bank of Suffolk vault through the floor.

They secured all the loose currency, gold and silver, but finally failed to open the inside safe, the wheel and other parts of which were blown away in the attempt. They then made their getaway with the booty.

The robbers, who evidently had been on the job for weeks, finished their work Sunday or Sunday night. The theft was discovered Monday morning, but bank officials gave no hint of the loss to the public or police until yesterday, although the Pinkerton agency was notified and now has men on the scene.

The booty, which consisted of loose money placed about the vault Saturday evening after the time lock had been set, included \$800 in currency, \$300 in gold, and the rest in silver, totaling \$1,479.54. Packages containing \$125 in nickels were opened and left, the contents being strewn about the floor.

A Pinkerton detective entered the hole in vault floor, and followed the tunnel, the sides of which were worn slick as a rat hole, to its beginning, which had not previously led to a hole one hundred feet away, which had been cut through the floor of a warehouse adjoining a grocery. The dark passageway was lined with modern burglars' tools, candles, cigarettes and cigars, newspapers and the remains of many repasts.

Food and soft drinks were secured from the grocery, whose shelves had been mysteriously depleted. A subterranean bed had been made of bags and boards. The thieves, who may have been at work a month, are believed to have slept by day and emerged from their work scene but rarely.

As long as ten days ago clerks in the drug store, which is next the bank, heard strange sounds, as the men were attacking the cement of the vault floor. The robbers entered the warehouse by climbing a telegraph pole and entering a window.

This is the first visit of bank burglars to Suffolk since 1876, when "Big Frank" McCoy, Tom McCarmack and another were run down after a chase through the Dismal Swamp.

Will Vote on Liquor Question.

Tallahassee, Fla., April 22.—The McMullen bill, providing for the submission of the question of State-wide prohibition, passed the senate on final reading this afternoon by a vote of 24 to 7, amid scenes of wildest confusion. This bill has the support of the Anti-Saloon League and all elements of the prohibitionists, to whom the overwhelming majority accorded in the upper house was no less a surprise than to its opponents.

The McMullen bill is identical with the Hilburn bill in the house, and when it comes up in the lower house a motion will be made to substitute the senate bill for the house bill and it is possible that a vote will be reached this week.

The bill provides for the submission of the question of State-wide prohibition to the qualified voters of the State at the general election to be held in November, 1911.

When the McMullen bill reached the house, the bill was immediately referred to house committee on constitutional amendments.

The mother of Senator McMullen died last night at her home at Hillsboro, yet the author of the bill remained at his post throughout the day.

Wanted in Denmark.

Bud Owens, colored, was arrested in this city this morning upon information received here from Southern Railway detectives. Owens is believed to have been the negro who stole the satchel at or near Denmark some time ago, which it is alleged, contained \$8,000, or papers representing that amount. Owens is an old resident of Orangeburg, and has been at Denmark for sometime past. The detectives were expected in the city to-day to investigate the matter.—Orangeburg Evening News.

AN UGLY AFFAIR.

Investigation by Insurance Commissioner's Office.

There is an extremely ugly situation down at Scranton, in Williamsburg county, regarding two alleged incendiary fires there, with a mass of evidence gathered by Deputy Insurance Commissioner B. A. Wharton in the form of affidavits, tending to show that P. M. Lee, a Scranton merchant, instigated the fire that on the night of December 23 last destroyed his store and stock of merchandise, insured for \$4,000, and which, it is alleged, was set by Charles P. Johnson, his clerk, with whom he afterwards set up in business under the firm name of Lee & Johnson, and tending also to establish that Lee out of revenge against Mr. Winlow Wright, the Scranton bank man, caused Mr. Wright's store to be burned about a month later, after threatening to shoot Mr. Wright because the latter made some unfavorable recommendations as to Lee's financial standing or condition.

An hour after Mr. Wharton left there yesterday evening and within less than two hours after Charlie Tate, a defenseless old negro, who had testified against Lee, had appealed to Mr. Wharton for protection, the old negro, it is alleged, was taken to the rear of Charlie Johnson's store, by his brother, Bert Johnson, and given an unmerciful beating.

Late last night Bert Johnson was placed under arrest by Special Officer R. E. Knight and put in the guard house. Friends of the Johnson-Lee faction protested against the arrest, and the lives of witnesses at the investigation were freely threatened. The Scranton mayor, Mr. M. L. Gasque, on the advice of Mr. Wharton, wired the governor as follows:

"Lives of witnesses testifying before deputy insurance commissioner concerning recent fires here are threatened by accused. Advise me quick."

The governor replied: "If parties threaten lives of witnesses take out criminal warrant against them and have them arrested. Send for sheriff to protect witnesses."

The understanding is that the sheriff is now at Scranton in charge of the situation, though he had not been sent for at the time Mr. Wharton left last night, and the governor has heard nothing further this morning.

The marshal of the town, Mr. S. N. Walsh, made an affidavit before Mr. Wharton that Lee was carrying a repeating shotgun about with him, saying the witnesses were up to some "damned meanness" and that he proposed to kill "one damned man" if he testified against him. The mayor also reported that Lee was making threats. The old negro, Charlie Tate, came to the deputy commissioner after this and reported that he had been warned by Charlie Johnson that he would "catch hell" from P. E. Lee that night. Mr. Wharton asked the mayor to protect the poor old negro and advised telegraphing for the sheriff.

Mr. R. B. Cannon, of Cannon & Jackson, insurance agents, with whom Lee insured his stock for \$3,000 in August and an additional \$1,000 in November, made an affidavit that Lee hurried to them \$60, in payment in full of all premiums, late the night of the fire, which occurred about four o'clock the next morning. He also stated in his affidavit that Lee's brother, R. L. Lee, of Charleston, had asked for suspension of payment of the insurance, as he (R. E. Lee) owned the goods, for which his brother had never paid him a cent; that he could prove that his brother planned the fire, and his clerk, C. P. Johnson, put the match to it; that his father knew that Lee was responsible for the fire. R. L. Lee was to come to Scranton the first of January and take charge of the store.

Mr. Wharton brought back a number of affidavits tending to show that Lee had the bulk of his stock hauled away just before the fire, much of it being stored in his barn.

There were other affidavits concerning alleged threats of revenge on the part of Lee against Mr. Wright, that Wright's waterworks system was tampered with just before the fire, and that Lee was seen coming from the direction of the fire just as it started.

Four Arrests in Scranton.

Scranton, April 22.—As a result of an investigation held here Tuesday and Wednesday by Deputy Insurance Commissioner Wharton relating to the burning of P. M. Lee's store last December, the following men were arrested by Sheriff Geo. J. Graham: P. M. Lee, C. P. Johnson, Bert Johnson and C. F. Kamrow. The two Johnsons are brothers and acted as salesmen for Lee. Kamrow is Lee's father-in-law. They were taken to Kingstree jail to-night to await trial.

Another Wreck on S. A. L.

Abbeville, April 24.—Seaboard Air Line local freight train No. 7, in charge of Conductor J. R. Nickles and Engineer Horton, was wrecked to-day nine miles north of Abbeville, near Long Cane siding; 11 cars left the track. The colored brakeman was seriously if not fatally injured. Three white tramps were caught under the cars and badly injured. This train was wrecked at the same place several weeks ago and Engineer Moore and Fireman Nickles lost their lives. Conductor J. R. Nickles and the injured brakeman were also in that wreck. Through passenger train No. 32, for the North, was delayed here four hours until the wreck was cleared.