

CHICAGO TO CHARLESTON.

Short Route Between These Two Cities Assured.

Cheraw, June 23.—It has become known here from an official source that the Atlantic Coast Line has entered into a contract with the Norfolk & Western road to connect with the latter road at Roanoke, Va., and thereby establish a short route from Cincinnati, Chicago and the West to Charleston. It is understood that the contract has been signed by both roads and that the Coast Line will soon award contracts for the construction of necessary road links.

At present the Coast Line owns a branch road from Wadesboro to Charleston, running through Cheraw. It is said that this road as far as Florence from Wadesboro will be straightened out, the grades reduced and 90 pound rails put down. This road will be extended from Wadesboro to Winston-Salem. At Winston-Salem the road will connect with a road now controlled by the Norfolk & Western to Roanoke, Va., and at Roanoke the connection will be made with the Norfolk & Western. It is said that the Norfolk & Western road has agreed to route port shipments over the road to Charleston. It is said further that the road will haul the coal from the Pocahontas fields in West Virginia.

SOBERED BY BEAN SOUP CURE.

Sheriff Devises Unique Method of Ridding Jail Boarders.

The "bean soup" remedy introduced by Sheriff William W. Worrell as one of his economy and reform plans, is not only saving Burlington county, New Jersey, several hundred dollars monthly, but it is making more real converts for temperance than any number of "gold" cures. Criminologists pronounce it a greater success than his "wash and work" edict.

Hoobs were the scourge of small towns in the county when Worrell went into office. Past conditions at the jail had made it a handy winter retreat, and hither they hid at the first frost, getting committed for some small crime. When Worrell made the tramp prisoners bathe, wash their cells, and do all the work about the jail, there was a bolt to other counties, and a big saving on the tramp board bill.

When the tramps deserted, the prison work was given to the habitual drunkards, who were sent up so often that the jailers regarded them as steadies. But in addition the sheriff prescribed a daily menu of bean soup for all such prisoners. One experience under the "bean soup" program, police officials say, is keeping more men sober than the "flag commission," which the recent legislature authorized to publicly blacklist drunkards.

Howls of some of the prisoners under the unchanging diet are reaching the outer world. Police Captain Shumard received this one, written from jail. It says in part:

"Dear Cap: I am writing to see if you can't get some of my time taken off. I don't like the bean soup they serve out over here now. They don't even use white beans any more. They make it out of yellow beans. But it's bean soup just the same, and nothing but bean soup, every day. Damn the beans!

"I'm a sobered man now and I can keep sober five months, for if you can get me out I won't come back to beans very soon.

"Cap, if you ever did anything for me in your life do it now."

Groom Failed to Appear.

Augusta, Ga., June 24.—The failure of the bridegroom to put in an appearance last night caused the indefinite postponement of the wedding of Allen A. Liles and Miss Emma Reynolds.

The groom-to-be had left his fiancée only a few hours before, apparently well, though showing signs of absentmindedness that was then attributed to the nervousness of the occasion. In the evening the guests had assembled to the number of 200, and the minister was present, but no groom. The party waited a long time while effort was made to find the missing man, but to no avail, and the wedding was called off. About midnight Liles, in a bedraggled condition, turned up at his apartments. He had been found in a lumber yard, and had no recollection of what had happened after leaving his fiancée in the afternoon. This morning he is still suffering from mental trouble, but physicians have pronounced it transitory.

Liles is of high standing and has never taken a drink in his life.

SHOOTS HARD-HEARTED GIRL.

Virginia Youth Attempts to Kill Lady Who Spurns Him.

Norfolk, Va., June 24.—William Wallace, aged 21, to-day shot Daisy Holcomb, aged 19 years, to whom he had long been paying court, in Portsmouth. A serious wound was inflicted in the shoulder. Wallace then shot himself in the abdomen. The girl was just leaving the Portsmouth knitting mills for her home. She refused to stop and talk with Wallace and he began shooting. Miss Holcomb is the daughter of W. Holcomb and is expected to recover, while Wallace, now at the King's Daughters hospital, will probably die.

KILLED BY LIGHTNING.

Farmer Hit by Bolt Which Strips Him of Clothing.

Valdosta, Ga., June 25.—D. J. Thornton was instantly killed by a lightning bolt this afternoon on the farm of W. B. Fender, at Mineola. With several others he was at work. When the storm threatened he took refuge under a big tree, taking his team of horses with him. The lightning stripped him of clothing. Both horses were killed also. Mr. Fender was in an automobile a few feet away and was unhurt.

DROWNED IN MOUNTAIN LAKE.

White Carpenter Loses His Life Near Hendersonville.

Hendersonville, N. C., June 24.—The construction of artificial lakes by building dams across the gorges has contributed wonderfully to the beauty and pleasures of this mountain region, but that a lake country has dangers was impressed rather grimly last Saturday by the drowning at Kanuga of a white carpenter named Stepp and the efforts, novel in this region, by a diver brought from Norfolk, to recover his body, have further emphasized it. Stepp and two others endeavored to cross the lake in a bateau which the former had built and which was big enough only for one. Consequently the bateau capsized in 30 feet of water. A gasoline launch came to the rescue but Stepp had lost his hold on the overturned boat and had disappeared beneath the water before it arrived. The attempt to bring the body to the surface by exploding dynamite proving unsuccessful, a diver with his apparatus was telegraphed for and came Tuesday, but his efforts failed until this morning, when the body was recovered.

The accident created considerable excitement and hundreds of people visited Lake Kanuga, three miles from Hendersonville, to watch the operations of the professional diver.

Vote With Your Eyes Open.

The following editorial from the Beaufort Gazette will be read with interest in view of the approaching dispensary election in this county. Mr. Christensen, editor of the Gazette, is State Senator from Beaufort county, and was a member of the investigating committee whose revelations resulted in the overthrow of the old State dispensary system. We do not know that Mr. Christensen is a prohibitionist, but certain it is that he is not an advocate of the old State dispensary. The editorial will well apply to every county in which an election is to be held:

"If the voters of this county, after duly weighing the reasons for and against, decide to vote for prohibition with a sincere purpose to enforce such a law they will thereby show themselves willing to make a money sacrifice in a great cause.

"But they should not delude themselves by any mistaken ideas of the financial consequences of voting out the dispensary. The proceeds of the dispensary in this county pay about one-third of the running expenses of the county, a large part of the expenses of the towns of Beaufort, Port Royal, Yemassee, Ridgeland and from their share of the funds the schools of the county are receiving about ten thousand dollars a year.

"If this revenue is withdrawn there is going to be a very serious disarrangement of public finances. In the course of time this problem of where to get the money would work itself out to the advantage of the whole county under a strictly enforced prohibition law. But if prohibition is simply going to transfer these profits from the sale of liquor from the public treasury to the pockets of the blind tigers the situation will be deplorable indeed.

"We repeat, if the voters, considering all the facts and weighing all the possible consequences, decide to vote in prohibition with the purpose of enforcing prohibition, and then do enforce it, the end will be better than the beginning; but if they blindly vote to overthrow the present order regardless of consequences, or are misled by careless and untrue statements into that course, the end may be much worse than present conditions."

HELD ON FRAUD CHARGE.

Young Man of Brevard, N. C., Arrested at Spartanburg.

Spartanburg, June 25.—A young man who registered at the Spartan Inn last night as T. R. Wells, Brevard, N. C., has been arrested on the charge of working some kind of a flim-flam bank check game in Brevard. It is also stated that he is wanted in Asheville and Greenwood on similar charges, though he claims that he settled his trouble in Asheville and Greenwood. Wells had just arrived at the hotel and was sitting in front of the hostelry enjoying the cool mountain breezes when an officer took charge of him. About ten days ago the hotel received notice from the Battery Park at Asheville, to be on the lookout for a man named Wells, who had stung the hotel for considerable sums. An officer arrived from Brevard to-day and took charge of the young man.

Negro Enters Lady's Room.

Aiken, June 25.—Some excitement prevails near Ridge Spring in this county. Sheriff Raborn received a telephone message this morning asking him to come at once, as an attempt at criminal assault had been made. The sheriff left at once and returned late this afternoon. The sheriff found that a well known young lady of that place had awakened during the night to find a negro in her room. The negro placed his hand over her mouth to prevent her crying for help, but, though she succeeded in arousing the family, the negro escaped. Up to this afternoon the negro had not been captured. It is not known whether or not the negro was attempting to commit an assault or was in the act of robbery at the time, and perhaps thinking the young lady awake had placed his hand over her mouth to prevent her calling help. The negro is described as being a dark ginger cake colored boy about 16 years of age, weighing about 125 pounds, and was barefooted, carrying a sack containing his shoes, a hat and cap. The officers are on the lookout for him.

CUTS WIDE SWATH IN GEORGIA TOWN.

Escaped Convict Swindles People Right and Left in Little Town of Climax, Ga.

Charles Harding, alias A. D. Oliver, confidence man, financier and escaped convict, in jail here, is wanted in several States and a legal fight over his disposition is anticipated. His financial deals in this vicinity, covering a period of four months, involve several hundred thousand dollars. Nearly a dozen banks were caught by worthless checks and many of the most prominent and substantial men of this and surrounding counties were also made victims.

Hardin's bride has been served with papers ordering her to produce all diamonds and jewelry her husband gave to her, and it is understood that she will file suit for divorce. Oliver maintains a stolid silence, but he does not deny that he escaped from the Mississippi penitentiary last December, where he was serving a long sentence for obtaining money under false pretenses.

Harding arrived in Climax last January on a midnight train. He registered as A. D. Oliver at the only hotel in the little town. He remained in the village several days before he began his financial deals.

Then he purchased the Climax bank, a private institution, giving in payment a check on a bank in New York. He immediately took charge of the bank, retaining Cashier Hall as his assistant. Then he began buying all sorts of property.

Secretive About Antecedents.

Georgians are usually rather conservative, and they want to know something about the identity and social standing of the man with whom they do business. Questions along this line were propounded to the stranger.

"My ancestry does not matter," he said in reply. "This is a business deal, and not a social affair. I will pay for what I get. What more do you want? The question of who I am and where I came from is unimportant. This is a case where money talks."

This attitude impressed his listeners and the questioning was not pushed. Oliver, as he was known here, refused to say where he came from, but as he used checks on a New York bank and his conversation was filled with casual references to New York men whose names are known everywhere, it was assumed that he came from the metropolis.

The stranger became busy at once after buying the Climax bank. Nothing was too big, nothing too little, for his consideration. Whatever he bought he paid for, partly in cash and the balance in deposit slips on the Climax bank, or with checks on New York.

As the operations became more extended he used checks on the Climax bank, these checks being certified by Cashier Hall. The checks were taken unquestioningly and the country was flooded with them. The signer of the checks was affable and talkative on any subject except his previous history and ancestry. On these points he continued silent. Apparently he had no existence before the hour when he dropped off the midnight train at Climax.

Wins a Wife.

Oliver began paying attention to Miss Rosebud English, the daughter of the landlady of the hotel in Climax. He was an ardent wooer and the young girl was captivated by his polish, his manner and his fabulous wealth. He had bought two automobiles and he often took her riding.

When she accepted his proposal he gave her a solitaire diamond ring larger than any ever before seen in Climax. He followed this gift with other diamonds and jewels when they were married, and the wedding was the most brilliant ever seen in that town.

No one doubted that Oliver was worth five or ten millions. Only a man of such wealth could have carried out the financial and business deals he had on hand. He bought the hotel owned by his mother-in-law, he bought the only lumber yard in Climax and he bought timber and farming lands.

When he could not find an industry already in operation that suited him he organized one.

He extended his operations from Climax. He bought the Bainbridge Lumber Company's plant and he bought banks in various places. In other towns he organized banks, taking most of the stock himself, but finding the money paid in by other stockholders convenient in taking care of such checks as demanded attention.

He began the erection of a fine home for himself and another for his brother-in-law, D. B. Price. They are now nearly finished, work on them having stopped abruptly when the collapse of the house of cards came. The lumber for the house was taken from the lumber yards he had bought and the workmen and contractors were paid with checks on Oliver's bank.

The Bubble Bursts.

Then the collapse came. So many of Oliver's checks came to hand that the convict-financier could not take care of them. He apparently knew that he had reached the end of his rope, that further "kiting" of checks was impossible.

Suspicion was first directed to his shaky financial condition when he tried to sell his expensive automobiles for a song. He offered cars that cost him several thousand dollars for a few hundred cash.

As matters got further involved Oliver prepared to get away. He went to Climax and got his wife in

an automobile, brought her through Bainbridge and went to Brinson, where he prepared to board a train. He was taken into custody there by L. C. Toole, a merchant, who had several of his checks, and T. E. Gurr, a capitalist, who was interested in several of his ventures.

He was brought to Bainbridge in his automobile, his wife joking and laughing with his captors, as her faith in the integrity of her husband had not been shaken.

Mrs. Oliver insists now that she never learned anything from her husband regarding his identity or his past; that he never told her where he came from, and that she was content to accept him for what he seemed to be.

After Oliver's arrest he insisted that if he were allowed to go to New York he would be able to raise money to meet all his obligations. He offered to pay the expenses of a guard if permitted to make the journey. At one time it looked as if this offer would be taken and the man permitted to leave the jurisdiction of the Georgia courts.

But this proposition provoked such a storm that soon his true status was fixed, and it was seen that he had never had any money; that all his great financial operations had been on credit or on money belonging to others.

Identified as a Convict.

Then Sheriff Jones, of Aberdeen, Miss., arrived and identified Oliver as Harding, an escaped convict, and further deception was impossible.

Soon after Oliver's arrest there was considerable talk of lynching as his dupes began to realize their losses. This feeling of anger was increased when it became known that the city marshal of Climax had known Oliver's prison record since March, and had had a picture sent out by the Mississippi authorities requesting his apprehension.

Further details of Oliver's financial transactions are coming in hourly. Banks at Whigham, Quincy, Havana, Pelham, Cairo, Thomasville and other towns have admitted cashing Oliver's checks. The first checks that he drew on a New York bank were protected by checks drawn on the Climax bank and certified by Cashier Hall.

Great sympathy is expressed for the young wife. She is not censured for trusting the man who was able to deceive the shrewdest business men in the community. Her own relatives have suffered heavy financial losses through Oliver's deals.

The ex-convict's affairs are in such a tangled condition that it will be weeks before they are straightened out and the full extent of the losses are known.—Bainbridge, Ga., special to Baltimore American.

Things You Should Know.

A mile is 320 rods.
A mile is 1,760 yards.
A mile is 5,280 feet.
A rod is 272 1/4 square feet.
An acre contains 43,560 square feet.

An acre is 2,088 1/2 feet square.
A pint of water weighs one pound.
A solid foot contains 7.48 solid pints.

A square foot is 144 square inches.
An acre contains 4,840 square yards.
A quarter section contains 160 acres.

A square yard contains nine square feet.
A solid foot contains 1,728 solid inches.
A gallon of water holds 231 solid inches.

A solid foot of water weighs 62 1/2 pounds.
A section contains 640 acres.
A bushel (struck) contains 2,150 solid inches.
A gallon of milk weighs eight pounds and ten ounces.

Hoke Smith Suspends McLendon.

Atlanta, Ga., June 24.—Gov. Hoke Smith, who retires from office on Saturday, to-day suspended from office Chairman S. G. McLendon, of the State railroad commission because of Mr. McLendon's recent decision in refusing to order State railroads to reduce rates between Savannah and Atlanta known as the "port rates."

A feature of the suspension is that Mr. McLendon was a successor of Joe M. Brown, now governor-elect, who succeeded Gov. Smith on Saturday, and whom Gov. Smith dismissed from his position as railroad commissioner about two years ago.

Gov. Smith said that Mr. McLendon was suspended because he was opposing the platform upon which the governor was elected and was pursuing a course which the governor thought detrimental to the interest of the State. He will send a special message to the legislature tomorrow giving the reason for the suspension.

The "port rates" controversy was for lower rates on iron and coffee. Several Atlanta firms petitioned for this reduction, claiming that other cities, particularly Nashville, enjoyed lower rates from Georgia ports than did Atlanta. In his opinion deciding against this petition Mr. McLendon said that to grant the lower rates would be equivalent to interfering with interstate commerce, which the State railroad commission had no right to do.

Held on Abduction Charge.

Spartanburg, June 24.—James Galloway, a young man of the Cherokee Springs section, was committed to jail to-day by Magistrate Kirby on the charge of abduction. It is charged that Galloway on Sunday married a Miss Sheppard, daughter of a farmer of the Cherokee section, and that she was under the age of 16. The ceremony was performed by Notary Public Chapman.


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