

COUNTRY NEWS LETTERS

SOME INTERESTING HAPPENINGS IN VARIOUS SECTIONS.

News Items Gathered All Around the County and Elsewhere. Ehrhardt Etchings.

Ehrhardt, Oct. 3.—Mrs. Charles Ehrhardt, who has been at the Riverside Infirmary in Charleston, came home yesterday much improved.

Messrs. Max Walker, Shack Ehrhardt, W. H. and Ernest Ritter went to Indian Fields camp meeting Sunday.

Messrs. W. H. Redmond and Frank Kinsey went to Williams Sunday afternoon. Some one said they intended walking home.

Several of our young folks went grape hunting Saturday. They were successful, so far as grapes were concerned.

The railroad company has concluded to run a Sunday train, commencing yesterday. Did not bring us any mail however, and very few passengers. It is too new—not known enough for the public to take advantage of it yet.

Cotton comes in as fast as could be expected from the short crop that is made. Some of the farmers say their crop of cotton will not reach half as much as last year. Not as good as they thought it was when growing; fruit too small and scattered. JEE.

Country Correspondence.

Mrs. J. W. Hill and two little sons visited her mother Mrs. Susana Polk McMillan, Sunday. Her sister, Miss Sudie, was taken to a hospital Saturday. Her many friends hope she'll soon be herself.

Miss Alma Sandifer, who is teaching near Hightower's Mill this session, visited her mother's family Saturday and Sunday.

We are sorry to report Mr. J. Pearson's loss of a mule last week. Loss of horse or mule power is not so easily replaced.

Miss Elma Boynton, of Ulmer, recently visited her sister, Mrs. W. F. Hughes.

Mr. J. W. Hill took his little daughter, Virginia, over to Dr. Horlbeck, of Columbia, Friday for eye treatment. She has been absent from school for several days, but we hope she will soon return.

NEW YORK HAS BIG FIRE.

Large Area Swept—Property Loss About \$1,500,000.

New York, Oct. 3.—Fire in the vicinity of 24th street and 11th avenue early to-night swept an area of 500 by 300 feet, causing damage estimated at \$1,500,000. Chief Croker announced that it was the greatest burned area during his experience in New York city.

The flames spread to the storage warehouse of the United States Express Company. Firemen are attempting to save the branch depot of the Standard Oil Company.

The space swept over comprises almost three acres of lumber yards, factories and stables on 11th avenue, 24th and 25th streets. For nearly three hours the fire was beyond the control of the fire department, and it was stopped at length by apparatus, which combined, threw water at the rate of 25,000 gallons a minute. Five hundred horses were rescued from the stables, and in spite of the size of the blaze and difficulty in fighting it, it was remarkably free from serious accident.

One fireman was badly hurt by a bucking hose and several others were less seriously hurt.

The fire started in the lumber yard of Moore Brothers, 11th avenue and 24th street, quickly destroyed it and soon ignited a kindling wood factory, which was likewise burned.

Besides these structures, the following were either destroyed or badly damaged:

Six story factory of the New York Metal Ceiling Company, stables and storehouse of James J. Duffey, contractor; the Pennsylvania Hotel, three-story structure; warehouse of the United States Express Company, vacant two-story building of the Metropolitan Iron and Steel Company, four-story factory of the Atlas Metal Bed Company.

For a while the flames threatened the Baltimore and Ohio freight yards and the specialty department of the Standard Oil Company, but hard work checked the blaze in time.

All fires are costly, but the cost of burning tobacco in this country annually foots up an appalling sum, and there is no insurance recoverable.

A STRANGE OCCURRENCE.

Covey of Fat Partridges Caught in Hotel Bedroom.

Messrs. Sheffield and Wolf, two well-known traveling men from Savannah, had a rather unusual experience in Mr. Wolf's bedroom at the Pifer hotel in Sylvania, Ga., Tuesday night, when they flushed up a small drove of partridges in the room, about midnight.

The two gentlemen had been sitting up talking shop, and taking an occasional drink of ice water in Mr. Sheffield's room, until about twelve o'clock, when Mr. Wolf went across the hall to his own room and struck a light. As soon as he did so he was startled to hear the well known whirr of partridges, as they rose from the floor at his feet and sailed across the room. Rubbing his eyes to see if he was dreaming of being out in the woods with gun and dog, he was fully convinced when another large, plump partridge rose from the floor and, in its flight, struck him on the head.

Messrs. Wolf and Sheffield succeeded in catching the covey and they proved to be large, fat ones, nearly grown. It is supposed that they flew in at the open window late the afternoon before, and were roosting in the room, as they are more plentiful than chickens in the fields and gardens around Sylvania.

Graft Cases to be Pressed.

Columbia, Oct. 1.—The scene of the alleged "graft" cases has been shifted from Columbia to Chester and Newberry. Attorney General Lyon will press the big conspiracy indictment at Chester at the term of court beginning there on October 31 and the "Hub" Evans indictment at the term of court in Newberry in November.

The "conspiracy" indictment was handed out at Chester last fall. The Newberry indictment came during the past summer.

The fall term of court for Chester county opens October 31 and lasts for two weeks, Judge Ernest Moore, who was recently appointed by Governor Ansel to hold the courts of York, Chester and other counties in the late Judge Danzler's place, being the presiding judge.

The court at Newberry opens November 28. Attorney General Lyon will be able to return from Washington in time to attend the court at Newberry.

The case to be pressed at Chester, it is understood, is the "conspiracy" indictment. In this indictment the amount involved in alleged defrauding in which the State lost money, is \$133,000. In this indictment are implicated members of the board of control and agents of whiskey houses.

The conspiracy indictment is the famous indictment of the dispensary "graft" cases. In this indictment is named the alleged rebate schedule, which played so much of a part in the trials held here.

It is known here that there have been a number of conferences recently between those indicted and their attorney, the latter of the most part residing in this city. One of the members of the old board of control who is to be tried at Chester, Mr. John Black, has been tried here once, the case being declared a mistrial by Judge R. Withers Memminger, when a copy of a newspaper was found in the room of the jurors.

Two of those named in the conspiracy indictment, Messrs. Joseph Wylie and John T. Early, have turned States evidence and have testified on the stand here. Mr. Morton A. Goodman will also not be prosecuted as he is the one who gave the attorney general the information in the "Hub" Evans' case, which is the one to be tried at Newberry. It is also worthy of note that Chester is Mr. Wylie's home town.

The only whiskey agent named in the "conspiracy" indictment, who will probably be tried, is Mr. H. Lee Solomons, who lives at Estill. A true bill was returned at Chester as to his indictment, Mr. H. L. Ferguson being foreman of the jury.

The charge against the board of directors in the conspiracy indictment is that various amounts were paid for alleged bribes and rebates, which, it will be recalled was a big feature of the Black trial in this city was had and that the State lost \$133,000 by the alleged conspiracy in the year 1906.

One of the vainest regrets of adult life is that when we are sorely hurt and buffeted we can no longer go and tell mother and get her blessed balm and comfort.

IN THE PALMETTO STATE

SOME OCCURRENCES OF VARIOUS KINDS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

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

Senator E. D. Smith is quoted in the newspapers as saying that he thinks cotton will bring higher prices this fall than any time since the war. Wouldn't it be just too bad if the farmers followed Smith's advice and held their cotton and lost money.

Insurance Commissioner McMaster will enforce the law requiring all hotels of over three stories to put in fire escapes. The law went into effect October 1st. A number of the hotels in Columbia and elsewhere have not complied with the law, and warrants will be sworn out against them. The penalty is \$100 a day.

A new paper, to be called the Tri-County Enterprise, is to be started at Batesburg, and John Bell Towill, formerly a member of the State dispensary board and now under indictment for "graft," will be the editor. Will the paper be a Blessé "organ"? It was said that Towill supported Blessé in the recent primary.

Negro Burned for Usual Crime.

Montgomery, Ala., Oct. 4.—Six hours after he had committed criminal assault upon Mrs. Hiram Stuckey, a prominent young woman of Covington county, Bush Withers, a negro "trustee" at the Henderson convict camp, was taken from the warden late last night while en route to prison at Andalusia, tied to a stake by an infuriated mob of 400 men and burned.

The lynching was conducted in a quiet and orderly manner, after which the mob, formed from adjoining towns, dispersed to their homes, leaving no traces of their fury save the ashes of the negro.

The crime for which the negro was lynched was committed early yesterday afternoon when he went to the farm of Mr. Stuckey for the purpose of getting drinking water for his fellow convicts who were employed at a camp nearby. Entering the house, it is declared the negro assaulted Mrs. Stuckey, who was alone, after which he cudgelled her into insensibility in an effort to still her cries. This morning it is reported the woman is in a precarious condition with little hope of recovery. Fracture of the skull is feared.

Before lapsing into insensibility Mrs. Stuckey informed her rescuers of the assault, naming the "trustee" whom she knew, as the perpetrator of the deed. The negro was caught and hurried to the stockade of Samford, six miles from Andalusia.

Upon hearing rumors of a mob, Warden J. L. Long, at 9 o'clock attempted to spirit the convict to the prison at Andalusia, but was intercepted on the outskirts of the village, where his charge was taken from him, tied to a stake, shot and burned.

The negro was sent up from Morgan county in 1901 on a charge of robbery. Up to the time of yesterday's assault he had been regarded as a faithful employe at the lumber camp and served as water boy for the convicts. He was about 30 years old.

Planter Mysteriously Shot.

Rome, Ga., Sept. 29.—D. J. Miller, a well known planter of Everett Springs, this county, was brought to a sanitarium here to-day suffering with a wound in the abdomen believed to have been inflicted by a charge from a shotgun. He is not expected to live, and refuses to tell how or why he was injured.

It is said that Miller and his wife have been separated for some time; that they met and a quarrel ensued resulting in Miller being shot by his son. No arrests have been made.

Drink Carbolic Acid.

Covington, Ky., Sept. 29.—While playing doctor to-day a son and a daughter of Thomas Cobb swallowed carbolic acid and died soon afterwards. They were aged 5 and 7 years. The children were playing in the kitchen of their home during the absence of their mother. They found a bottle of carbolic acid.

"Let's play doctor," one suggested.

They obtained two spoons and two glasses and divided the acid into two portions, which they swallowed.

Their screams of agony brought the mother from a neighbor's but before a physician could reach them both were dead.

WESTERN HOSPITALITY.

It's Always at Home Whether the Folks Are or Not.

We were in the sand hill country and lost, says Ella W. Peattie in the Youth's Companion. Noon found us wandering hungry and tired among these pale yellow hillocks and chased by tumbleweed, which dried, globular shaped and of the least possible weight, scurried up and down the "draws."

One of our number, although not a resident in that country and ignorant of the roads, was perfectly familiar with the customs of the people. "We'll be coming across a house somewhere in here," he told us. "We'll find folks right enough if we keep on."

"But they may not be willing to serve three hungry travelers," one of us said. He turned a look of simple wonder upon the speaker and made no reply.

Presently a habitation lifted its low roof in the wilderness. Our leader was soon hallooing to the inmates, but he had no response.

"The folks are out," he said with no diminution of cheerfulness, although the rest of us were feeling afresh the pangs of hunger.

The western man drove to the barn, unhitched the team and put the horses in the stalls, giving them feed from the bag in which we had carried, and then went to the house, and calmly walked in. We followed him with some timidity.

"What are you going to do?" we asked.

"Do?" said he with ill concealed irritation. "What should I do but get dinner?"

"In another man's house—and he absent?"

"Well," said the western man with heat. "I guess he'd think we were about as near fools as they make 'em if we didn't feed ourselves if we were hungry. And what's more he wouldn't thank us for going to his place under the circumstances. We're complimenting him, that's what we are."

We said nothing more but helped get the dinner. There were prune sauce, stewed, and a great loaf of gingerbread. We ate heartily, and so far as two of us were concerned with a sense of excitement, something like that which a burglar must feel.

The excellent meal finished, our leader gave us his opinion that we had better wash the dishes and not leave them for the women folks to do. We agreed, and with some awkwardness but excellent results put the dishes, clean and dry, back into their right places.

Our leader took a fifty cent piece from his pocket and laid it on the table.

"They'd be mighty mad if they knew who was leaving that," he remarked, "but as they're not likely to find out it can't do no hurt."

A curious country we thought where the offense lies in paying for what one has taken and not in the taking of a thing uninvited.

We learned afterward that our leader had not overstated the case. It was the custom of the hungry to feed themselves at any man's board and for the weary to rest on any man's bed. Not to have done so would have been to give affront to those who had the food and the bed.

Attorney Sues Mrs. Whittle.

Columbia, Sept. 30.—Attorney Frank G. Tompkins, of this city, has filed a suit against Mrs. Alice D. Whittle for \$2,713.18, as the amount he alleges she owes him, because of the compromise made by Mrs. Whittle and her husband for \$18,087.90. Mr. Tompkins having been employed by Mrs. Whittle and the case settled out of court. Mr. Tompkins was, under the original contract, to get 5 per cent. of the amount to be recovered, \$40,000.

This is the suit brought following the recent action of Mrs. Whittle to recover jewels Mrs. Whittle gave Mr. Tompkins as a retainer.

"Lily White" Meeting Next.

Washington, Oct. 4.—John G. Capers, of Washington, Mart Floyd, postmaster of Spartanburg, and L. W. C. Blalock, of Goldville, arrived in Washington to-day from New York, where they attended John Hays Hammond's dinner to the National Republican league Saturday night. Prior to the trip to New York, Mr. Floyd had attended the meeting of the National Association of First Class Postmasters at Richmond, being the only South Carolina postmaster present. It is stated to-night that a call may be issued in a few days by Capt. Capers for a Republican gathering in Columbia the latter part of the month. It is understood that a "lily white" affair is planned.

MURDER SUSPECTS IN JAIL

MURDERERS OF PAUL WILLIAMS IN LEXINGTON JAIL.

Officers Say They Have Positive Proof of the Murder But Beyond This are Silent.

Lexington, Oct. 4.—Nineteen men are in the Lexington jail to-night, twelve of them charged with being implicated in the murder of Paul Williams, freight clerk in the Columbia office of the Southern Railway, on Saturday night. The others are being held as witnesses. The men were brought from Augusta on train No. 130 to-night, coming in a private coach in charge of Sheriff P. H. Corley and the following officers of the Southern Railway: H. T. B. Boye, inspector special service Southern, Washington; S. G. LaFar, special agent, Charleston; N. X. Bullock, special agent, Columbia; J. D. Ehney, special officer, Columbia; E. H. Armes and C. E. Corley, of Lexington.

Crowd Meets Train.

A large crowd met the train at the depot. The men were marched to the jail a mile from the depot with Deputy Sheriff S. J. Miller in the lead. When the jail was reached there were fully 200 people along the street, all anxious to get a glimpse of the men.

Two of the men were picked up at Graniteville this morning and are being held on suspicion. They give their names as Ralph Ingle and Carl Shefflet. They are both white.

Those charged with implication in the crime are: Ed White, Paul Lewis, Frank Anderson, Elijah Clarke, Roy Rich, Jack Johnson and Garland Brown, negroes; John Wilson, J. O. Cabe, Haden Hooper and Geo. Nichols, white.

There are several others who are held as witnesses. Their names could not be learned to-night.

Say Proof is Positive.

Sheriff Corley went before Magistrate T. F. Hahn, at North Augusta this morning, and swore out the warrant. The officers state that they have the most positive proof against the men, a number of eye-witnesses having been found. Sheriff Corley said to-night, as did the other officers with him, that the credit for the arrest of the men is due to the efforts of Chief of Police Elliott and his force of men in Augusta. Mr. Bullock of the Southern said that Chief Elliott should have the praise.

Felton Gilbert, the negro who was picked up in Columbia on Sunday and who alleges that he was roughly treated while on the train and finally thrown from the car while it was in motion and injured, was brought from Columbia by Deputy Sheriff Miller this afternoon and is being held in a room to himself. Gilbert says that he will be able to identify his assailants upon sight and he will be given an opportunity to-morrow morning of doing so.

Under Special Guard.

The jail is under special guard to-night. The men charged with the crime and the witnesses are being kept in separate cells.

It is not known whether the accused will ask for a preliminary. The officers of the Southern Railway will remain in Lexington until after to-morrow, awaiting developments. Should a preliminary be ordered Chief Elliott of the Augusta police force will come over and appear as a witness.

Further than the statement that they have positive proof of the slayer of Williams, the officers will not give out anything. Should all the men have to be kept locked up the sheriff will have a problem on his hands, as the jail will hardly hold them and it is likely that some of them will have to be sent to the penitentiary.

According to the statement of the officers, Chas. Hagenbeck, head of the circus, did all in his power to help find the guilty parties. He even went so far as to tell the officers to hold the entire company over if necessary.

Arrested on Arson Charge.

Lexington, Oct. 1.—Jake Gadsden, a negro, was lodged in jail last night with the charge of arson resting against him, it having been alleged that he set fire to the house of H. E. Vansant, a prominent lumber dealer of New Brookland, on last Monday night. Gadsden was arrested upon suspicion, but nothing has been learned as to the nature of the circumstances connecting him with the crime. However, the negro bitterly denies his guilt.

There is no doubt but that the cotton crop is very short in this section, but if the price keeps up the farmers will not be in such bad shape after all.

NEWSPAPER DESTROYED.

Manager Says Labor Unions Responsible for Explosion

Los Angeles, Cal., Oct. 1.—The building occupied by the Times Publishing Company was destroyed by fire early this morning. The death list is estimated at between fifteen and twenty.

The fire was preceded by an explosion in the building, which was immediately enveloped in flames. The explosion occurred on the second floor of an addition to the old building. Crowds say they saw many men fall back from the windows into the flames. Other leaped and were injured. The entire building was in ruins at 1:45.

In addition to the complete plant of the Times, the building contained the large jobbing and commercial plant of the American Engraving Company. The property loss is estimated at \$500,000. There are said to have been three distinct explosions.

The Times plant was run by electricity and no steam boilers, so far as known, were in the building. Flames followed the explosion, and those in the building had little chance to escape. The force of the explosion was greatest in the mechanical department of the paper, and the most of the dead and injured were members of that department.

Harry E. Andrews, managing editor, said the building was destroyed by dynamite, by enemies of industrial freedom. He said the Times itself could not be destroyed, but would soon be reissued from an auxiliary plant and would fight its battles to the last.

Gen. Harison Grey Otis, owner of the Times arrives from Mexico this afternoon.

The management places the blame for the explosion on labor unions, with which the paper has long had a bitter warfare. It is charged that unidentified persons placed a charge of dynamite in a blind alley running into the center of the building. The explosion was heard for miles. All the windows in the vicinity were shattered. There were between fifty and seventy-five employes in the structure at the time. It is not yet known how many lives were lost.

No other cause than dynamite is advanced by witnesses except one by William Firman, a telegraph operator, who said he detected an odor of gas throughout the building in the night and called attention thereto.

Harry Plake and William Irwin were arrested and locked up on suspicion, the former a few minutes after the explosion, the other still later.

Responsible heads of the paper, including Harry Chandler, assistant general manager, had narrow escapes. Chandler said there was no doubt the outrage can be laid to the doors of labor unions. Wesley Reeves, his secretary, has not been found since the fire. It is believed he lost his life. Chandler, two hours after the fire, ordered printing presses, linotypes and a stereotyping outfit for a new plant from New York.

The issue of the Times was gotten out to-day from the office of the Los Angeles Herald and an auxiliary of the Times in another part of the city. The latter was established two years ago and equipped, Chandler says, with the expectation that the present plant would some day be destroyed.

Bomb Under His House.

Los Angeles, Oct. 1.—The secretary of the Merchants and Manufacturers' Association telephoned to the police station this morning that a charge of dynamite had been found under his house. Police were sent to investigate and said they had found a bomb.

Los Angeles, Oct. 1.—Assistant Manager Chandler says an attempt to destroy the Times' auxiliary plant was made a few minutes before the explosion at the main office. The chief of police says the building was apparently wrecked by dynamite. He said his men found some things which seem to point to the authors of the calamity.

The union labor parade, scheduled for Monday, was called off after a meeting of the city officials and officials of the various labor councils.

The known dead are Harvey C. Elder, Chas. E. Lovelace, J. Wesley Reeves, R. L. Sawyer and Harry L. Crane.

A laugh can hardly be called the center of gravity.

The wise man will not disturb a sitting hen nor a quarrelsome woman.

Why are some newspapers like a man with cold feet? Because they suffer from poor circulation.