

BETS FORTUNE ON SHOWER.

Wagered \$20,000 to \$90,00 That It Would Rain, and It Did.

"Jim" Fike, the Kansas wheat king, bet \$20,000 during August and September last year that rain would fall on his 7,000 acres of wheat in Northwest Kansas before the middle of May, says a Topeka special.

And he has won, almost 5 to 1, and his winnings may be 7 or 8 to 1. Fike never had such a wheat prospect in 15 years as he has at the present time. If he has only the average Kansas yield of wheat he stands to clean up more than \$90,000 on the one wheat crop. If rains continued through May and the early part of June, he stands to beat this by \$20,000 to \$30,000.

For five years Fike has been plunging in wheat, and he is now the biggest winter wheat grower in the country. Three years ago he had 180,000 acres of winter wheat that averaged eight bushels an acre, and he made \$30,000 profit. Two years ago he sowed 16,000 acres of wheat and lost every cent he had put into it. He did not harvest enough wheat to get seed for the crop that offers so fine a prospect at this time.

Gambling on the weather has been Fike's method of chasing the festive dollar for years. He was once a Kansas railroad commissioner, elected during the Populist days. He has bet more than \$250,000 in the last 10 years that rain would fall at the proper time, and he never lost entirely until last year. He had a bumper crop on 2,000 acres in 1903, and a crop that earned him \$20,000 in 1908. Since that year he has not had less than 8,000 acres in wheat in any year. But last year, after the most disastrous season he had ever experienced, Fike was forced to cut down his wheat acreage just half that of the former year.

Last summer Fike put in his wheat with extraordinary care. He bought the best Russian hard winter wheat seed he could get on the Kansas Agricultural college farms. He plowed two inches deeper than ever before. He has four 30-horsepower steam plowing engines, and two 20-horsepower gasoline engines to plow his fields. He plowed five inches instead of the usual three inches, and used two sets of harrows to smooth the grounds after each plowing.

Every one in Kansas has been watching the rain reports from the western part of the State. Kansas people are interested in Fike and his weather gambling. They want him to win and make a big "killing." Everybody is pulling for him. There were so many calls in the Topeka newspaper offices as to whether there had been rain at Colby, where Fike lives, that the correspondents there were directed to wire rain stories for every shower. The Rock Island Railway general offices for Kansas directed its agent at Colby to report specifically every day on rain, and the government weather offices loaned the railway agent some rain gauges.

Fike is like the chap playing the faro bank. He has worked out his system and just keeps on gambling until he break the bank. Fike has not made a real "killing" since 1903, although he made a lot of money in 1908 and has made some money each year until 1911. But this year he will hit the market in a way that Kansas will be talking about it for years. Incidentally there are a lot of other Kansans who will make a lot of money from their wheat fields.

Mrs. Schley's Pension Increased.

Senator Rayner, of Maryland, told the senate on Monday that the famous order for what is known as the loop of the cruiser Brooklyn in the battle of Santiago, given upon the spur of the moment and in the heat of battle, decided that conflict and saved the day for American arms.

Senator Rayner sought to make this point clear in a speech accompanying an amendment which he offered to the pension appropriation bill so as to provide a pension of \$150 a month, instead of \$50 a month, to the widow of Admiral Schley.

The senate adopted the amendment.

Senator Rayner said that the government is now paying nearly \$200,000,000 a year in pensions. He said that Admiral Schley's widow was in dire need of the pension and lacked even the means for erecting a suitable memorial at the admiral's grave.

Only "Dry" Place.

"Where can I get a drink in this town?" asked a travelling man who landed early one morning at a little town in the oil region of Oklahoma, of the "bus driver."

"See that millinery shop over there?" asked the driver, pointing to a building near the depot.

"You don't mean to say they sell whiskey in a millinery store?" exclaimed the drummer.

"No, I mean that's the only place here they don't sell it," said the bus man.

TANGIER ISLAND.

Where the People Do Without Jails, Lawyers, Horses and Cows.

There is a little island in Chesapeake bay, 125 miles South of Baltimore, where the world has stood still for more than a hundred years. Tangier island is five miles long and much less than a mile wide, but more than 1,500 people live on it. There is only one street, nine feet wide, without side walks, and the houses are all built along this street with narrow canals of the deep water of the bay between each two houses. There is only one church, presided over by a Methodist minister, and only one doctor, and there is no cemetery, the dead of each family being buried in the yard. There is no newspaper, no jail, no lockup and no lawyers nor any need for them. Everybody is deeply religious, and perversity is punished with a fine imposed by the deacon of the church.

The men go fishing and crabbing in sailboats early on Monday mornings and do not come home until Saturdays, when they have marketed their sea harvests in town on the mainland. There are no gardens, no horses or cows, but plenty of chickens are raised. Fuel is supplied to the islanders by sloops, which come every month or so loaded with wood and anchor off Tangier, sending small boats piled with cordwood and kindlings to every house by means of the little canals. The women wear sunbonnets and go barefooted, and there is an organ in nearly every home. Tangier was first settled by white people in 1666 and before that time was occupied by the Indians.

Seigler Guilty of Manslaughter.

Aiken, June 7.—"Guilty of manslaughter!" is the verdict, returned at 5:45 o'clock this afternoon, of the jury sitting on the case of James G. Seigler charged with the murder last fall of Policeman Wade Patterson. The defendant was stunned by the verdict, for as it was read his face grew stony and expressionless. It is stated on good authority that the prisoner and his counsel expected an acquittal or a mistrial, the latter being equal in this country to an acquittal.

The quick return by the jury of a verdict created much surprise, for no return was expected until tomorrow morning, and if even then it was generally expected that the result would be a mistrial.

The jury was out on the case just four hours and thirty minutes, the case having been given into their hands this afternoon at 1:15 following a charge of an hour by the presiding judge, Hon. Hayne F. Rice.

Attorney W. Q. Davis, acting for the defense, gave notice of a motion for a new trial. This motion will be heard by Judge Rice to-morrow morning, after the defendant has been sentenced.

In the State of South Carolina conviction of manslaughter lays the prisoner liable to a sentence of not less than two, nor more than thirty, years.

Left \$60,000 to Bellboys.

Albany, June 8.—Three gentlemanly hotel bellboys are rolling in wealth because of the courtesy they showed to an old lady, Mrs. Hannah Dwight Greene, aged 81 years, when she died a few months ago, expatiating on their friendship and affability, divided her entire estate of \$30,000 equally among the three young men in her will, which was protested here by Surrogate Vanderzee.

The lucky bellboys are Edwin J. Greenwood, Thayed's Hotel, Littleton N. H.; George Hadenburg of Providence, R. I., and Frank Donegan of the Hotel Westminster, Boston.

While an old resident of this city, Mrs. Greene spent the last years of her life at the hotels where these young men work. She was the aunt of the widow of "Lucky" Baldwin, millionaire sportsman and mining speculator, and of Charles and Samuel Bowles, owners of the Springfield Republican, and her estate represents the savings from allowances which they made her for years previous to her death. Much of her money was invested in New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad and United State Steel stock.

Preacher and Girl Arrested

Atlanta, June 7.—Another scandal involving a preacher and a pretty girl was unearthed yesterday when police officers entered a room at the Terminal hotel yesterday and arrested the Rev. William Lee Popham, of Louisville, in company with Miss Maude Estes, also of Louisville.

The preacher's defense was that the young lady was his fiancee, and that they had intended to be married, but had been forced to put off the ceremony until July.

After being taken to the police station and put under bond, both of the parties left town.

The Rev. Mr. Popham is the author of a number of volumes of poetry, in which love and romance are said to figure prominently.

BRAKEMAN CRUSHED TO DEATH

Southbound Railroad Coal Train Wrecked at Cheraw.

Cheraw, June 5.—At 12:30 to-day, as the first section of the Southbound Railroad's through coal train, going south, reached the switch at the northern end of the "Y" here, the engine struck the frog and jumped the track, carrying six loaded cars with it. They tore up the two tracks and ploughed up the ground for one hundred feet, and then the engine and the first four cars were overturned, and were piled up, a complete wreck.

Conductor Moore jumped and saved himself, but Engineer Epling got caught underneath the engine, and was painfully, but not seriously, scalded. He managed to get himself loose from the wreckage and crawl out.

The fireman jumped and suffered a sprain and a small fracture in the leg. Brakeman Eady, colored, of Florence, was caught under the overturned tender of the engine and crushed to death beneath the coal. The wrecking train arrived from Florence at 4:30 and got busy, but the Southbound passenger train, due at 5:30, had to take the C. and L. and Seaboard tracks in order to get by.

To Pray 36 Hours.

Atlanta, June 6.—Nearly 1,000 people have decided to pray without ceasing all night long and possibly for 36 successive hours without stopping for either food or sleep, in the hope of forcing upon the personal attention of God the terrible muddle in which the Tabernacle Baptist church of this city has recently found itself through a difference of opinion among members of the congregation.

The congregation is so split on a number of questions, including that of whether or not the pastor, Dr. McArthur, should wear a robe or not when he preaches, that they have practically given up hope of coming to a peaceful conclusion by mere human methods. Consequently they decided to appeal directly to the Lord, and in order that there may be no uncertainty about His getting a full insight into their plight, they propose to pray long and all together.

Severs Child's Head With Knife.

Washington, N. C., June 5.—Yesterday afternoon John Gibbs, of Bath, N. C., near here, went to his home and, taking his little two-year-old girl up in his arms, retired to his bedroom and with a butcher knife entirely severed her head from her body.

Gibbs then carefully wrapped the corpse in a sheet and hiding it under the bed, fled from the room and the house. His movements after leaving the room, however, had created suspicion among the members of the family, and his sister went to the room to investigate and found the headless body. Gibbs was soon after apprehended.

At the coroner's inquest Gibbs admitted the crime. Asked why he committed the deed, he declared it was the result of trouble which he could not longer endure.

Just a year ago Gibbs's wife, a bride of one year, died in giving birth to the child. He has never recovered from the blow. Sunday his sister was brought home a corpse and was buried Monday afternoon. The funeral evidently deranged his mind, as he killed the child immediately after reaching home from the cemetery.

Gibbs was remanded to jail to answer the charge of murder.

College Boys Heroes.

Columbia, June 5.—Lucius K. Jennings, of Spartanburg, who graduates from the University of South Carolina in the law department next week and Leroy Bruhan, also a student of the university, were instrumental yesterday in rescuing from a watery grave several men, who were washed down in a flood at Dent's pond, near this city.

Derrick Thomas, his two brothers and several other men were working on a dam at the pond when two flood gates gave way during the heavy rain. The men were washed down against a new dam that was being built below the old. They were pinned against the piles and would have been drowned had the college students not formed a human chain and drawn them to earth.

Derrick Thomas had his leg horribly mangled, and to-day it is said, he will not live.

His leg will likely be amputated. The other workmen were slightly injured and bruised. The students were at the pond fishing. One of them brought Thomas to a hospital in the city while the other stayed and tended the injuries of the men at the pond.

Boys' suits and pants, also children's wash suits, a full line, prices low. F. G. MERTINS, Augusta, Ga.

BIG BUSINESS DEAL.

J. T. Shuler Acquires Oil Mill at Aiken.

Aiken, June 6.—J. T. Shuler has closed a deal involving several thousand dollars by which he acquires the property in Aiken of the Southern Cotton Oil company and the plant and business of that concern, which has been operating the Aiken oil mill for a number of past years.

The deal has been on for some time, but has just been confirmed by the head office of the Southern Cotton Oil company, Mr. Shuler being notified to-day that as soon as the papers are signed the property will be turned over to him.

Mr. Shuler stated that it is his intention to organize a stock company and enlarge the plant. He has just returned from Swainsboro, Ga., where he inspected Jesse Thompson's new process of making cottonseed meal. This process will be employed at the Aiken oil mill in the future. The company which Mr. Shuler is to form will also put in two new system cotton gins and besides making cottonseed oil will mix and sell fertilizer.

The Southern Cotton Oil company will be given until July 15 to move their stock and wind up their business affairs in Aiken. The new company will be operated independently. This is one of the biggest business deals that has been put through in Aiken in a number of years.

Gives Million Dollar Bond.

Cooksville, Tenn., June 5.—Mrs. J. C. Barnes was arraigned to-day before Squire J. R. Douglas in the circuit court room in this city.

Mrs. Barnes shot and killed Mrs. W. W. Judd Saturday evening on the platform of a coach of the Nashville shopping train, jealousy being responsible for her deed. Mrs. Barnes said her home had been wrecked by Mrs. Judd.

Mrs. Barnes was accompanied by her husband, J. C. Barnes; her brother, H. T. Hearst, of Evansville, Ind.; her counsel and a number of friends. The defense announced ready for trial. The prosecutor, W. W. Judd, husband of the victim of Mrs. Barnes, announced that he was not ready for trial, as he had not had all of his witnesses summoned.

The defense agreed to a continuance, but insisted upon bail for Mrs. Barnes. At first the prosecutor refused to agree for Mrs. Barnes to make bond, but later consented to her giving bond in the sum of \$50,000. The case was then set for Thursday afternoon at 1 o'clock.

When Mrs. Barnes's bond was prepared she and her husband signed it and immediately a stream of citizens and business men of the city and county crowded around the desk and the bond was signed as long as there was enough space left on the margin to contain a signature. The bond is worth a million dollars.

May Not Pass Through.

Atlanta, Ga., June 5.—While the friends of Thomas B. Felder do not believe he has ever violated any criminal statute in South Carolina, neither do they propose to let the governor of that adjoining State get his hands on Felder if they can help it. They figure that it would be a bitter pill for Mr. Felder and a triumph for Cole Bleasie if he could succeed merely in jailing Felder over night.

Therefore they are going to advise and try to persuade Mr. Felder not to go through South Carolina at all on his way to the Baltimore convention but to travel around by Chattanooga and Cincinnati.

It is believed that Mr. Felder will accept their advice, as he has been avoiding passing through South Carolina ever since Bleasie first issued the warrants against him. Mr. Felder is now in Chicago.

Death Saves Woman from Trial.

Spartanburg, June 6.—Mrs. Adeline Tessiner, who was awaiting trial on a charge of being accessory to murder, dropped dead at her home at Drayton mills this afternoon. As she was sitting on the porch talking to neighbors and exhibiting no symptoms of illness, she suddenly clutched at her heart and with a deep groan, toppled over. A physician, who was hurriedly summoned found life extinct.

Mrs. Tessiner was recently released from the county jail on bond. She was accused of having assisted her daughter, Mrs. Julia Taylor, to kill the latter's child. The two women were arrested after the body of the infant was found in an old well at Drayton mills. Mrs. Taylor at first denied all knowledge of the crime, but after being in jail several days, confessed that she was the mother of the baby and charged Noah Rabb with having made away with the infant.

A warrant was sworn out against Rabb, charging him with murder, and he is awaiting trial with Mrs. Taylor.

Mrs. Tessiner was about 60 years old.

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