

AIKEN MAN CHARGED WITH ARSON

Capt. J. Maxwell Richardson Arrested and in Jail.

CHARGED WITH BURNING BARN

Capt. Richardson Laughs at Charge—Evidence Circumstantial.

Aiken, May 16.—Intense excitement was created here today about noon when Capt. J. Maxwell Richardson, one time candidate for the office of Adjutant and Inspector General, and formerly a major on the military staff of Governor Blease, was arrested and lodged in jail upon a warrant, charging arson. The warrant had been issued at the instigation of B. A. Wharton, deputy to Insurance Commissioner F. H. McMaster, the deputy having been here for about two weeks past investigating the origin of a fire which early on the morning of Saturday, April 19, destroyed a barn, shed and office building belonging to Capt. Richardson's wife, they having operated a wood yard here under the name of the Aiken Fuel Company.

The preliminary hearing has been set for tomorrow morning, and it is understood that Capt. Richardson has retained the professional services of Col. Claude E. Sawyer and Messrs. Croft & Croft. Attorneys are already at work to secure bail for the incarcerated man, and it is not believed that this will be difficult.

It is admitted by the prosecution that all the evidence against Capt. Richardson is of a purely circumstantial nature and hinges around the allegation that Capt. Richardson, a few days before the conflagration, removed to his farm a lot of furniture that he had been storing for a negro woman named Martha Frayser; that when the fire occurred Capt. Richardson told her, and permitted the impression to go abroad, that her furniture was destroyed in the fire. But Capt. Richardson very easily contradicts this, and when visited at the jail this afternoon by The News and Courier correspondent, was quite jovial and self-complacent. He denounced the whole thing as "nothing but a frame-up, a continuation of certain political persecutions to which I have been subjected for some time." Capt. Richardson professed to experience not the slightest uneasiness as to his ultimate vindication.

Capt. Richardson laughed at "all that stuff about the furniture," as he characterized the situation, stating that the furniture over which he once held a mortgage, satisfied some time prior to the fire, belonged absolutely to the negro woman, Mary Frayser; that it was in his way and he had several times urged the woman to move it; that finally a portion of it was carried out to his farm and gotten out of his way, while the remainder of it was destroyed by the flames, and that the remains are still in evidence. He claimed that after Mary Frayser made an affidavit to the effect that the furniture had been moved to the farm and that he had told her it was all burned up, she came to him and told him what she had done and apologized, alleging, he stated, that she had been forced into it by the detective.

Capt. Richardson pointed out another contradiction in that one of the affidavits affirmed that the furniture had been moved on the morning of the 19th day of April, when as a matter of fact that was several hours after the fire occurred, and the furniture had been moved openly on the 17th, and he had so stated. He further called attention to the fact that he insurance, \$600, "a mere pittance," he termed it, was paid without any hesitancy. He also recalled the fact that when this same property was destroyed about three years ago by a fire set by the Southern trains, which runs alongside, he refused to accept the insurance and had the damage made good by the railway company without having to litigate.

Capt. Richardson is well known in military circles of the State, is a Spanish-American war veteran, former member of Governor Blease's staff, commander of the 1st company, artillery corp, N. G., S. C., now disbanded, and opposed Adj. Gen. Moore when the latter was first elected to office. Also he was once a member of the local councilmanic board.

PISTOL DUEL AT CONVERSE COLLEGE

Steward and Cook Wounded in Pistol Duel.

SERVANTS GO ON STRIKE

Negro Cook, Who Caused Trouble, Had Been Discharged

Spartanburg, May 15.—While two hundred Converse College girls were at breakfast this morning, J. D. Cheshire, a white man, steward of the institution, and John Mayes, a negro cook, fought a pistol battle in the kitchen, which adjoins the dining room. Both were wounded.

When the pistol shots rang out and negro waitresses, with bulging eyes, ran screaming from the kitchen into the dining room, the young women were greatly startled. They rose to their feet, and some prepared to flee. Mrs. Sarah M. Huber, the dean, finally restored calm.

Servants Go On Strike. After the shooting the negro servants of the College, including six cooks and twenty waitresses, went on strike. About thirty students, some of whom had been reared in luxury, volunteered their service. They donned aprons, cleared off the breakfast dishes, washed them, reset the table and prepared and served luncheon and supper.

Mr. Cheshire discharged Mayes, it is claimed, for stealing provisions. Mayes called this morning, it is said, to get the wages due him. Mr. Cheshire, according to report, handed him the money and asked him if it was the proper amount. "I don't want to have any more trouble with you," said the steward.

Negro Draws Gun. "Oh, you don't want to have any more trouble with me," repeated the negro, into whose eyes came an evil, sinister look, and at the same time he drew a revolver, according to report. Mr. Cheshire grasped the weapon at the muzzle, it is claimed, with his left hand. Mayes shot. Mr. Cheshire's hand, fearfully torn and burned, dropped limply to his side. Mayes shot again, the bullet struck Mr. Cheshire's breast bone and glanced off. Mr. Cheshire managed to draw his own revolver with his right hand and put five bullets into the body of the negro. Mayes was carried to the Spartanburg Hospital. His condition is desperate. Warrants were issued for Mayes and Mr. Cheshire. The latter was arrested, but was released on bond.

ARRESTED ON SUSPICION.

Two Strangers in Barnwell Jail Not Yet Identified.

Barnwell, May 16.—Two very suspicious characters were arrested here Wednesday by Policemen F. M. Cave and W. A. Hayes and, being unable to give a good account of themselves, were lodged in jail pending the receipt of answers by telegrams sent out for information concerning them. When asked for the name of some person or persons who could identify them they gave the name of a telegraph operator in Charleston. This man was sent a telegram, but to date nothing has been heard from him.

As one of the suspects resembled very closely a picture of a fugitive from California and tallied with the description in every particular but that of weight, the authorities in that State were communicated with and they wired back to hold the man and send photograph and full description. The photograph will be made today and forwarded to California. The California fugitive is wanted for murder.

When the arrest was first made it was thought that perhaps the men were connected with the gang of "yeggmen" who are working in this State.

Out of the Course.

Owing to fog, a steamer stopped at the mouth of a river. An old lady inquired of the captain the cause of the delay.

"Can't see up the river," replied the officer.

"But, captain, I can see the stars overhead," she argued.

"Yes," said the captain gruffly, "but until the boiler busts we ain't agoin' that way."—Everybody's Magazine.

CAN SHIP LIQUOR INTO THIS STATE

There is No Law Prohibiting Its Importation.

CAN COME IN FOR PERSONAL USE

The Webb Act Defined by State Supreme Court

Columbia, May 15.—That there is no statute by the State of South Carolina prohibiting the importation of whiskey from another State for personal use and that the Webb act gives the State the right to enact such a statute, if it so desires, is the decision of the supreme court in deciding a case testing the constitutionality of the Webb act which was passed by congress, withdrawing the protection of interstate commerce from whiskey shipments from one State to another. The supreme court held that the old dispensary act forbidding the ordering of whiskey for personal use from other States, having been declared unconstitutional, before the passage of the Webb act, could not be vitalized by the passage of the Webb act.

Intention of Act. "It is not the intention of the Webb act to interfere with the policy of the State in regard to the importation of liquor but merely to provide that the enforcement of a State statute would not be interfered with or hampered by the interstate commerce laws," says the decision.

"In other words, the act in this respect is passive," continues the decision, "while it is incumbent on the State to enact legislation of an active nature if they are desirous of prohibiting the importation of liquor for personal use or other purposes but even if congress had undertaken to give validity to an unconstitutional State statute it would have been beyond its powers."

Power of Legislature. "While the legislature can not pass an act, validating the provisions of the dispensary statute which we have declared to be unconstitutional so as to give it a retroactive effect, it nevertheless, has the power to adopt a statute with similar provisions having a prospective effect, prohibiting alcoholic liquors from being imported into this State."

"Such a statute would not contravene any provision of the United States constitution. As we have already said, the recent act of congress divests intoxicating liquors of their interstate commerce character and invests the respective States with power either to prohibit the importation absolutely or allow it only for sale and use through a dispensary. The classification of the counties, so as to allow the sale of liquor in some of them while it is not prohibited in others, would not be violative of section 1 of the 14th amendment to the constitution of the United States which provides that no State shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the full protection of the laws."

Case from Richland.

The case arose in Richland county through W. W. Atkinson bringing a suit to secure an injunction against the Southern Express company from enforcing its order refusing to deliver shipments of whiskey in South Carolina for personal use. The injunction was granted by the court, the decision being written by Chief Justice Gary and concurred in by Associate Justices Woods, Hydrick and Watts. Associate Justice Fraser says: "I concede that the above statement so strongly made is correct, but I dissent from the judgment. The regulation complained of in the petition refers exclusively to interstate commerce, and I think this court has no jurisdiction to interfere."

A test case was brought under the same conditions in Kershaw county and the court granted the injunction in this case on the same grounds as that from Richland.

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STEVENSON MAY RUN. Said to Have Decided to Seek Senatorial Toga.

Washington, May 16.—While the positive statement said to have been made to friends here a day or two ago by W. F. Stevenson, of Cheraw, that he would enter the race for the United States senate next year from South Carolina the fight now appears to be a three-cornered one between Mr. Stevenson, Senator E. D. Smith, incumbent, and Cole L. Blease, governor of South Carolina. Mr. Stevenson is said to have told intimate friends not later than the early part of the present week that he had definitely decided to make the race. There have been rumors here for some time that Mr. Stevenson would enter the senatorial fight.

Mr. Stevenson is said to have held an important conference with some South Carolina political leaders within the past day or two and the announcement made to them as a result of the meeting has now become generally public.

The South Carolina congressmen are taking no sides in the matter and are saying nothing for publication.

HAD FORMED SUICIDE PACT. Groom Shoots Self and Seriously Wounds Bride.

St. Paul, Minn., May 17.—J. J. Curl, arrested by the Federal authorities last Wednesday on the charge of receiving fraudulent checks through the mails, late today shot and probably fatally injured his bride of two days and then shot himself, dying half an hour later. Curl failed to appear in Court this morning for hearing, having been released from the county jail on \$1,000 bond.

Notes written by both, found tonight, disclosed that there had been a suicide pact and that Curl shot his wife and then turned the weapon upon himself. Before lapsing into unconsciousness at the hospital tonight Mrs. Curl told attendants she had swallowed a quantity of poison to make her death more certain.

Curl is said to have been born in Norfolk, Va. A short time ago he came to this city, where he held an important position with a construction company. Curl, it was claimed, padded his pay roll and cashed checks drawn against fictitious names.

LODGE MEETING. Bamberg, Lodge, No. 38, Knights of Pythias meets first and fourth Monday nights at 7:30 p. m. Visiting brethren cordially invited.

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