



COUNTRY NEWS LETTERS

SOME INTERESTING HAPPENINGS IN VARIOUS SECTIONS.

News Items Gathered All Around the County and Elsewhere.

Clear Pond Cullings.

Clear Pond, March 5.—The farmers of this section were glad to see the rain Monday. They have their gardens planted and will soon be eating vegetables from them.

A fish fry was enjoyed by a crowd that gathered near the Clear Pond last Friday evening. Among those present were: Mr. J. R. Morris and family, Mr. H. J. Croft and family, Mr. C. E. Cope, Miss Daisy Murph, Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Royal.

A party was given at the home of Mr. O'Quinn in this section last Wednesday night. It was greatly enjoyed by all present.

Miss Meta Hughes was called to Ulmers on account of the illness of her sister, Mrs. Creech.

Misses Pet and Doris Folk dined at the home of Mr. Wesley Fender last Sunday.

Miss Daisy Murph spent last Sunday night at the home of Mr. Isaac Rentz.

Messrs. C. E. Cope and Rob Carter visited at the home of Mr. J. R. Morris Sunday.

Messrs. Jack Bishop and Ham Folk and others were the guests of Misses Pet and Doris Folk last Sunday.

Misses Mary and Laura Fender visited Clear Pond Sunday.

Mr. J. R. Morris and Mrs. M. A. Royal visited at the home of Mr. P. K. Hughes last Thursday.

Mr. F. C. Ayer has completed his new store at the little station, Ayer's. We hope soon to call it a town.

Mr. Roy Morris visited the home of Mr. J. J. Hughes Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. J. F. Mitchell and children visited at the home of the former's sister, Mrs. P. K. Hughes, Friday.

A Real Brick-bat.

Life is made up largely of brick-bats and bouquets, and The Herald gets some of both, as the following letter will attest:

"To The Herald, Mr. Editor, Dear sir:—I want you to stop sending me your paper. My subscription was out the 1st of Jan. and told you myself not to send the paper unless I renewed. I don't want no paper that duns a man on the paper by hand print. So don't send me no more of your papers. I don't wish to read such paper. So stop the paper. Don't send it and if I am due you anything for these few days let me know what it is and I will send it to you. I don't want any more hand print papers. And oblige."

Out of respect for the gentleman, the name is deleted by the censor. There appears to be no doubt about the fact that he wants the paper stopped. We might state that we have a pretty good memory, but we can't always carry in mind instructions to stop a paper when the subscription expires. We try not to carry any of them very long, for the fact is a newspaper is not the richest enterprise in the world, and we frequently need a little change about the office. The little "hand print" referred to is a rubber stamp imprint "Your Subscription Has Expired." It is not a "dun," as our friend misinterpreted it, but just a gentle reminder that the time for which the paper was paid has expired.

Good Grain Crops.

Inquiries among the farmers indicate that there is an excellent prospect for a good grain crop this year, notwithstanding the fact that a good portion of the oat crop was killed by the heavy freeze. The wheat prospects are especially fine.

A large portion of the acreage planted to oats was killed in January by the unprecedented cold spell, and had to be replanted. Spring oats never turn out as well as winter oats, but a good portion of the winter crop withstood the cold, and this acreage, it is said, bids fair to make a bountiful yield. This reminds us of what one farmer said Tuesday: That oats planted in drills were not killed, and those planted broadcast were killed by the cold.

The wheat crop was uninjured by the cold, and as the weather conditions so far have been very favorable to wheat, a bumper crop is promised in this county, and the acreage planted to wheat this year appears to be large.

Don't fail to read the story "Over the Top," commencing next week.

AMERICA IS NOT IN EARNEST.

Former Dentist to the Kaiser Tells How German Press Works.

New York, Feb. 28.—"The German press is carefully and adroitly continuing to foster the idea among the German people that America is not really in earnest about the war," declared Dr. A. N. Davis today in discussing the situation in Berlin just as he left it over a month ago. Dr. Davis, formerly of Piqua, Ohio, is the American dentist who lived in the German capital for fifteen years and numbered Emperor William among his patients.

"Every effort is being made to belittle America—even the highest officials are attempting to convey the impression that Germany has little to fear from the United States. Practically nothing is printed concerning America except the President's addresses on war aims and the possible basis of permanent peace. Even these are treated by the papers as if the President were speaking as a sort of detached person whose interest was the welfare of the world; not with the idea that they represent the earnest determination of the American people to see the war through to a successful conclusion.

"Not until Germany begins to feel the military pressure of the United States will the people realize the new conditions that confront them. Then I predict, the fostered enmity toward England will be as nothing to the hatred that will be poured out by the inspired press against America."

Meeting of the Civic League.

The Civic league held its regular meeting last Thursday afternoon at the home of Miss Alma Black. A yearly report was made by the treasurer, Mrs. Mike Ayer, upon her resignation. Mrs. Laurie McMillan was elected to succeed Mrs. Ayer. It was decided to pay out of the treasury money for the repairing of the play ground apparatus and for the upkeep of the cemetery on Railroad avenue. The deplorable condition of paper littered streets was discussed and it was decided to bring this matter before the town council in written form. Other matters pertaining to the health of the community will be reported to the council also. Mrs. Frank Bamberg was appointed a delegate to the Edisto district of the State Federation of Women's clubs, which is to meet in Orangeburg March 12. Others were appointed, but it is generally understood that any Civic league member may become a delegate if she notifies Mrs. Bamberg. This is essential because a report of the number of delegates has to be sent in to headquarters. It is desired that every member of the league give one or more afternoons to the supervision of the play ground. Following are the supervisors who volunteered their services: March 4, Miss Alma Black; March 5, Mrs. E. D. Carter; March 6, Mrs. Cornelia Hooton; March 7, Mrs. Jervy Smoak; March 8, Mrs. Charles Brooker; March 9, Mrs. Angus Erabham; March 11, Mrs. Frank Bamberg; March 12, Mrs. C. R. Brabham, Jr.; March 13, Mrs. C. J. Field; March 14, Mrs. J. A. Wyman; March 15, Mrs. J. A. Williams; March 16, Mrs. J. J. Brabham; March 18, Mrs. Jessie Carter; March 19, Mrs. Elise Walker; March 20, Mrs. J. W. Price; March 21, Mrs. Lee Risher; March 22, Mrs. Ayer; March 23, Mrs. E. B. Price; March 25, Mrs. A. W. Knight; March 26, Miss Franke Folk. Further volunteers will be enlisted at the March meeting of the Civic league, which will be in charge of the vice president, Mrs. G. Frank Bamberg.

How you can help the Civic league: By refraining from dropping paper on the streets.

By giving any surplus of plants you may have to Mrs. Cornelia Hooton to beautify the cemetery.

By remembering that we want every child below fifteen years of age at the play ground.

By keeping those over fifteen years away from the play ground unless they go there as supervisors.

By reporting to the Civic league president any place that should be beautified or cleaned up.

Women: By joining the league if you are an outsider, and by attending every meeting if you are a member.

By an earnest endeavor to make Bamberg a by-word for "clean and beautiful."

Subscribe for The Herald and read "Over the Top," starting next week.

IN THE PALMETTO STATE

SOME OCCURRENCES OF VARIOUS KINDS IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

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

United States Senator Benjamin R. Tillman has issued a statement, in which he announces that he will be a candidate to succeed himself.

The will be no Spartanburg music festival this spring. This announcement was made after a meeting of the directors of the organization held Saturday afternoon.

The coroner's jury investigating the death of the 12 people who were killed on the Southern train near Columbia last Monday afternoon, put the blame on the crew of train No. 18, and especially on Flagman H. Lockyer, who failed to place torpedoes on the track to warn train No. 42.

Corporal John Simmons, of Piedmont, S. C., was instantly killed, Capt. Peter Sorenson and Lieut. W. Hanna were injured seriously and three other officers received slight injuries from the explosion of a grenade at the school of fire, Schofield barracks, Honolulu, February 28th.

Robert R. Miley has just received notification that his name has been sent to the United States senate for confirmation as postmaster at Walterboro. Mr. Miley, along with three other applicants, stood the examination for this position December 12, and this is the first notification received as to the results of the examination.

A military board, provided under the law passed by the last legislature creating a State reserve militia, was announced by Governor Manning as follows: Governor Manning and Adjutant Gen. W. W. Moore, ex-officio, and Col. H. T. Thompson, of Columbia; Lieut. Col. Julius E. Cogswell, of Charleston, and Capt. S. T. Lanham, of Spartanburg.

Fitz Hugh McMaster, for ten years insurance commissioner of South Carolina, resigned his office Thursday, eight days prior to the expiration of his term. The resignation was accepted by Governor Manning, who that afternoon commissioned W. A. McSwain, of Newberry, Mr. McMaster's successor, elected at the last session of the General Assembly.

Another profiteer in flour has added to the treasury of the Red Cross, according to the State food administration. Food Administrator Elliott has received a check from a dealer in the State for \$135.25 for excess charges for sugar. The food administrator followed his usual course and allowed the dealer to contribute to the Red Cross, as non-understanding of the rules was pleaded.

To Survey Government Road.

Two government engineers arrived in the city Monday to confer with Supervisor McMillan regarding the survey of the government highway through Bamberg county. Mr. McMillan carried the gentlemen over a portion of the road Monday. A surveyor is expected in the city the last of this week to commence the survey of the road, which runs from New Bridge, on the Edisto river, to Buford's Bridge, on the Salkehatchie river. It is expected that the work of surveying will be completed within the next few weeks, and everything will be in readiness to commence work on the road as soon as the money is available, which will be about July first. This will give Bamberg county a highway completely across the county from the Barnwell county line to the Orangeburg county line.

An Untrue Report.

As an indication of certain propaganda that is being broadcasted throughout the country, might be cited this incident: A respectable colored citizen Saturday said that he had "heard" that no more white men were going to be sent to the army; that only negroes were now going to be sent to the war. Of course, to the informed person, it is unnecessary to state that there is no truth in any such statement, and such rumors could only be calculated to cause resentment on the part of the negroes. The man was asked who told him this, but he could not give any definite information; had just heard it. Anyone who would wilfully tell such a tale ought to be punished and severely punished. There are many kinds of traitors in the country.

CAUSES INDIGNATION.

Negro Breaks Into House of White Man, Making False Statement.

Newberry, Feb. 27.—There is a good deal of excitement and indignation among the people living a few miles west of Kinards, on the border line of Newberry and Laurens counties, over the conduct of an unknown negro whom a posse and officers are searching for. Last night about midnight a negro went to the home of Andrew Merchant, on the Newberry side of the Ninety-six road, the dividing line of the counties, waked him up and told him that his brother, George Merchant, who lives about a mile distant, on the Laurens side, was very sick and he had been sent to tell Mr. Andrew Merchant and ask him to come at once. Mr. Merchant dressed himself and started for his brother's home as quick as he could, but when he got there found that his brother was in his bed asleep and well and that the negro's story was false. Suspecting something wrong, Mr. Merchant hastened back home, but in the meantime the negro had returned and knocked at the door, and when Mrs. Merchant went to the door and asked who was there he ordered her to open the door, threatening to break it down if she did not. She refused to open the door, and he broke open a window. Mrs. Merchant had got a gun and snapped it at the negro, but it failed to fire. He did not get into the house. Her screams were heard by a near neighbor, who started in that direction and fired a pistol. The negro was frightened by the screams of Mrs. Merchant and the firing of the pistol and took to his heels. In a short while the husband returned from his brother's and he and Mr. Monroe gave the alarm and a crowd was soon collected from the near neighbors, who went in search of the negro, but as neither Mr. Merchant nor Mrs. Merchant knew the negro the crowd had no clue to go on and failed to find him. He was described as a black negro wearing a white hat. The people telephoned for blood hounds, but with what success has not been ascertained here.

Killed by Train at Blackville.

Jesse Reid Maxwell, conductor on Southern railway freight train No. 55, operated between Columbia and Savannah, was killed at 1:15 o'clock Sunday morning at Blackville when he fell between the cars of the moving train. Mr. Maxwell was walking along on top of the cars, passing from the caboose toward the engine and the supposition is that he lost his equilibrium and fell directly between two of the cars. Death was instantaneous. The body was taken to Walhalla, his former home, leaving Columbia at 7 o'clock Monday morning in a private car attached to train No. 15.

Canceled Postage Stamps Have No Use in Red Cross Work.

Don't waste time and energy saving canceled postage stamps for the Red Cross. Somebody, somewhere, has started one of those pleasant but likely-to-be-annoying fictions concerning the value of postage stamps which have served their original purpose. This time the idea spread abroad is that the American Red Cross has devised a method of extracting the dyes from the canceled stamps and putting the dye to practical use. There is nothing more in this scheme than a figment of someone's imagination; but the postoffice department reports that several bags of old stamps have accumulated through the good will of persons who have thought they were doing something to help win the war. Within the last two weeks, also, scores of letters have been received at Red Cross headquarters, from persons asking information regarding the matter.

The Red Cross wishes to advertise, as widely as possible, the absolute falsity of the report that used postage stamps have any value through the extraction of the dyes contained in them.

Eggology.

Mrs. Youngbride: Our cook says those eggs you sent yesterday were quite old.

Grocer: Very sorry, ma'am. They were the best we could get. You see, all the young chickens were killed off for the holiday trade, so the old hens are the only ones left to do the laying.

Mrs. Youngbride: Oh, to be sure! I hadn't thought of that.—New York Sun.

SEVENTEEN ARRESTS MADE

FARMERS AND BUSINESS MEN OF BARNWELL CO. ARRESTED.

Charge is Denied By All.—Investigations Under Way By Governor, Sheriff and Solicitor.

Columbia, Feb. 28.—Judge William H. Townsend this afternoon granted bond to seventeen prominent farmers and business men of the town of Fairfax and of Barnwell county, alleged to have participated in the lynching near Fairfax last Saturday afternoon of a negro man, Walter Best. The negro, a few hours before, had shot to death William Wilson, a young garage man of Fairfax, and was being taken to Barnwell by Sheriff J. B. Morris and Deputies J. F. Grubb and John B. Ross when a mob of between 75 and 100 men took the negro from the county officers at Duck Branch bridge about a mile or more from Fairfax. They carried Best into the nearby woods and shot him to death.

Warrants Sworn Out.

Acting on "information and belief" Sheriff Morris, of Barnwell county, swore out warrants for the 17 men before Magistrate E. W. Holman, of Barnwell, for alleged murder and they were placed under arrest today. Those arrested were: C. H. Sanders, merchant and farmer, Fairfax; J. R. Blount, restaurant keeper, Fairfax; John Dunbar, Allendale; O. B. Lyles, Fairfax; E. G. Connelly, traveling man, Fairfax; Oscar Carlton, farmer, Kline; G. A. Sanders, automobile man, Fairfax; W. B. Sanders, Fairfax; B. B. Best, clerk, Fairfax; S. W. Dominick and Leo Todd, automobile men, connected with the Fairfax Motor Company; Lawrence Harter, clerk, Fairfax; H. H. Young, telegraph operator, Fairfax; Simms O'Neal, farmer, Fairfax; Frank Harter, farmer, Fairfax; and George Hogg.

Released on Bond.

Judge Townsend released C. H. Sanders, John Dunbar, O. B. Lyles, E. G. Connelly and Oscar Carlton on \$7,500 bonds each and the remaining twelve defendants on \$5,000 bonds each. The total amount of the bonds amounts to \$97,500, which was immediately put up by the attorneys of the accused, Edgar A. Brown and J. Emile Harley, of the Barnwell bar. The seventeen defendants were brought to Columbia this afternoon in charge of a deputy sheriff and part of them appeared at the hearing.

It was brought out at the hearing, which began shortly after three o'clock, that three investigations into the lynching are under way—one by Governor Manning, another by Sheriff Morris and a third by Solicitor R. L. Gunter, of the second judicial circuit in which Barnwell county is situated—and that a large number of additional arrests are expected.

Determined On Thorough Probe.

Columbia, March 2.—"There will be a thorough investigation by this office of the lynching at Duck Branch bridge, near Fairfax, Barnwell county, last Saturday afternoon, and those who participated will be vigorously prosecuted that the law may be vindicated," said Governor Manning today following a conference with Sheriff J. B. Morris, of Barnwell county, and Attorney General Thomas H. Peeples.

The uncompromising stand of Governor Manning and the arrests already made by Sheriff Morris indicate that probably more arrests will be made in connection with the lynching of Walter Best, a negro, at Duck Branch bridge, following the killing of William Wilson, a young automobile man, at Fairfax last Saturday. The negro was taken from Sheriff Morris and two of his deputies about one and one-half miles from Fairfax on the highway to Allendale by a mob of white men variously estimated at between seventy-five and 100 and taken into a nearby woods and shot to death. Thursday seventeen prominent farmers of Fairfax and adjacent territory were arrested on warrants sworn out by Sheriff Morris, charged with complicity in the lynching, and were granted bonds aggregating \$97,500 that afternoon by Judge William H. Townsend, at Columbia.

Governor Manning has received a letter from Solicitor R. L. Gunter, of the Second Judicial Circuit, in which the county of Barnwell is situated, stating that the solicitor will do everything in his power to see that those participating in the lynching

BALFOUR'S REPLY TO HUNS.

Says German Militarism Must Be Crushed Forever.

London, Feb. 27.—Foreign Secretary Balfour, replying today to the speech of Count von Hertling, the German imperial chancellor, regarding the doctrine of the balance of power, said that until German militarism had become a thing of the past and there was in existence a hall or court armed with executive powers making the weak as safe as the strong, it would never be possible to ignore the principles underlying the struggle for the balance of power.

Mr. Balfour told the House of Commons, which he was addressing, that he was unable to find in von Hertling's speech any basis for fruitful conversation or hope of peace. The chancellor's attitude concerning Belgium, said Mr. Balfour, was completely unsatisfactory, and his lip service to President Wilson's propositions was not exemplified in German practice.

Lord Robert Cecil, minister of blockade, referring to the von Hertling speech, said:

"It would be foolish to enter into negotiations unless there was a reasonable prospect of success. We do not desire to repeat the experiment of the Brest-Litovsk negotiations."

SENTINELS SLEPT; MUST DIE.

Though He Has Authority to Execute, Pershing Refers Their Cases.

Washington, February 28.—Four American soldiers, caught asleep while doing sentry duty in the first line trenches, have been sentenced to death, but Gen. Pershing although he has authority to carry out the sentences, has referred their cases to the war department for review.

These are the first cases of the kind since the American troops went to France. One soldier has been executed there for an unspeakable offense on a French child and in his case Gen. Pershing acted swiftly, without as much as referring it to Washington.

In these cases, however, some extenuating circumstances may be found for men, tired and nerve worn by front line duty in a hitherto unknown manner of warfare, to save them from the death penalty at the hands of their own fellows.

President Wilson, probably, in the end, will review their cases. Going to sleep on sentry duty has long been recognized as an unforgivable offense, punishable by death, and such cases, rare as they have been in the American army, have furnished some of the most absorbing incidents of its history.

Long Ride Before Him.

A cyclist who stopped at a village inn boasted about his abilities as a rider to such an extent that the landlord ventured to make a wager with him.

"Look here, mister," said the innkeeper, "you can't ride up and down this road until the church clock strikes six."

"Done," said the cyclist. "It's just close on five now," and the next minute he was speeding down the road.

"After about an hour's riding the cyclist shouted to one of the bystanders, of whom many had assembled:

"I say, has the church clock struck six yet?"

"No, you idiot," was the blunt reply. "Our church clock never strikes at all."—London Tit-Bits.

The following sign is painted on a fence in the neighborhood of Rochester: "Kash paid for little kalves not morn to daze old."—Life.

are brought to justice.

"I am determined that there will be a thorough investigation by this office of the lynching at Duck Branch bridge, near Fairfax, Barnwell county," said the governor in his statement, "and those who participated will be vigorously prosecuted that the law may be vindicated."

"I had a conference with the attorney general and Sheriff J. B. Morris, of Barnwell county, this morning on the lynching. I received a letter from Solicitor R. L. Gunter, of the Second Judicial Circuit, in which Barnwell county is situated, and he assured me that he would do everything in his power to see that those connected with the killing of Walter Best are brought to justice.

"I am glad to see that Sheriff Morris had a good memory for names and faces and had the courage to call names when the time came."