

The Bamberg Herald

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"JUSTIFIABLE" HOMICIDE.

The other day in the upper part of the State a coroner's jury, according to the press dispatches, rendered a verdict "completely exonerating" a man who shot and killed another man in his barn. Some coroners and coroner's juries have a queer and exaggerated idea of their duties in connection with inquisitions. If we understand the law in the matter, a coroner's jury is to determine by what means and at whose hands the deceased came to his or her death. That and nothing more. As to whether or not the killing was justified is a matter for the general sessions court jury to determine after hearing the evidence in the case. In this particular case, no doubt the man who did the killing was technically and legally not guilty of murder, and yet it is because human life is held so cheap that the State of South Carolina has a reputation for homicides scarcely equaled by any other section of the world. The press dispatches in the case here referred to state that the dead man came to the farmer's house and asked for water and got it, and then went toward the barn. Later the farmer saw a light in the barn and went to investigate, taking his gun along, which was all right. Calling on the man to get out and the man not complying, he shot and killed the intruder. Inasmuch as the stranger was an intruder and a trespasser, doubtless no jury in South Carolina would do otherwise than acquit the farmer. And yet, is he blameless? Was it necessary to shoot to kill; was it necessary to shoot at all? Is it not true that men shoot to kill in such circumstances because they are following a precedent and knowing that they will be acquitted? Most people will dismiss the matter by remarking that the dead man was nothing but a tramp. Yet it was a human life, just as much as, if he were a millionaire. Anyway, it is certainly not for the coroner's jury to determine the guilt or innocence of the man behind the gun.

Five men were convicted of murder and sentenced to be electrocuted in the Greenville court in the recent session, including one white man of some prominence. This is a record that we do not believe has ever been equaled in South Carolina, that in five separate trials convictions should result carrying the death sentence. Having no knowledge of any of the Greenville cases, we would not attempt to offer comment on these convictions, other than to remark that if juries all over South Carolina looked upon murder as did the Greenville juries we would confidently expect a decided decrease in the number of homicides in our State.

The Herald is frequently asked by advertisers and others to give space to publicity matter in connection with some article they sell or some firm they represent. The Herald has always declined to give space to publicity matter in connection with advertising or without it, and our reason is that publicity matter is nothing but veiled advertising, written in a shrewd manner to get advertising without paying for it, and if we should publish such matter it would be really better advertising than display space, because it purports to be written by the editor and to have the editor's sanction and approval. All advertisements in The Herald are bona fide and paid for. While we would not knowingly accept any fake advertising, we cannot personally know the merits of all advertised articles. We recently received an order for some \$13 worth of advertising, and along with it a request to run an article about the manufacturer, with a picture, the value of the space requested being about \$5. Of course we declined, for the same reason that a merchant, after selling a customer a

suit of clothes would decline to throw in a pair of shoes. But we declined for the further reason that to have published this article would have been equivalent to giving our personal endorsement to the article about which the story was written. We had not the slightest knowledge of this particular commodity, which does not in any way imply that it is not all that is claimed for it. We ask our advertisers to bear in mind that our advertising space is for sale, and is never under any circumstances cheapened by being given gratis. Our experience is that anything not worth paying for is not worth anything. If advertising matter is not worth paying for, our advice is not to advertise.

OFFERS THE TOWN TEAMS.

A citizen of Bamberg, who is a prominent farmer and business man, has asked The Herald to say something about the city's streets. We do not attach any blame to the city council for the condition of the city's streets. The city council certainly appears to be trying to do something for the town, and we would not hinder with criticism. But this gentleman made a remark which is worth passing along. It was this. He stands ready to contribute five teams for at least three days, or an equivalent of fifteen teams for one day, to be used in improving the streets of Bamberg, of course contingent on others doing the same thing. This citizen, like the majority of others in town, is rejoicing to see the work of improvement going on on Main street, and he fully realizes that in order to pave the main thoroughfare the city treasury is being heavily drained. At the same time, he says that an automobile can scarcely travel six miles an hour on any of the streets of the town. That it would be quite impossible for the town at this time to undertake to improve all the city streets he understands fully, but he feels like The Herald that the farmers and others owning teams hereabouts would gladly co-operate with the council by providing teams for hauling clay. Inasmuch as this would be the biggest item in street improvement, it would appear that it would almost solve the problem. It might be further stated that this same gentleman is paying something like \$500 for Main street paving in front of his property.

A large number of Herald subscriptions expire the first of each month during the fall. It causes us no end of inconvenience to have to discontinue papers, because in nearly all in-

stances the subscribers renew promptly as soon as they miss a copy. Also it is not possible for us to print extra copies just for the purpose of supplying subscribers who have missed a copy after they failed to renew in time. It is our custom to notify subscribers a week or two in advance that their subscription will expire on the first of the following month, and if they would promptly send us their renewal on receipt of these cards it would save us trouble and prevent them missing any copies. However, in case we should overlook notifying you, your label will inform you when your subscription is out. We notify you merely as a reminder. Don't wait for the notification card if your paper expires the first of next month.

All the Same to Him.

It was the husband's afternoon off, and he thought he would take the children for a little outing. "My dear," he said to his wife, "suppose we take the children to the Zoo today." "Wh, dear, you promised to take them to mother's." "All right, if it's all the same to the children."

NOTICE!

There will be a meeting in Copeland's Hall in the town of Ehrhardt, S. C., on Friday evening, Sept. 26th, at 5 o'clock p. m., for the purpose of organizing the Ehrhardt Building and Loan Association. Everybody who wants to build a house come, as well as those who are disposed to help. Hon. J. Wesley Crum, Jr., will be present to assist us.

W. D. BENNETT.

R. P. BELLINGER

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