

The Abbeville Messenger.

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Swallowed Up in the Surf.

News and Courier.

The painful intelligence reached the city yesterday afternoon, at about 5 o'clock, of the death by drowning of two young men on the beach of Sullivan's Island. The two unfortunate men were Mr. Louis Ludekins and Mr. Edward T. Shaw.

Mr. Ludekins was well and favorably known in Charleston and on Sullivan's Island. His family are at present residing in Aiken, and he was last summer and the previous season engaged as clerk at the New Brighton Hotel. Mr. Shaw was a son of Mr. P. R. Shaw, who lives at the corner of Smith and Montague streets, and does business at the corner of Chapel and Elizabeth streets. Mr. Ludekins was about twenty-five years of age and Mr. Shaw scarcely more than nineteen. From his connection with the hotel Mr. Ludekins was familiarly known to a large circle of friends in this and other Southern cities, and Mr. Shaw being a Charlestonian, the news of their death was received with sorrow and regret wherever it became known.

The story of the sad event was told to a reporter at the Charleston Hotel yesterday afternoon soon after the arrival of the steamer from Sullivan's Island. The relator of the circumstances was G. B. Ott, a young gentleman from Aiken, who was in bathing with Messrs. Shaw and Ludekins at the time of the drowning. Mr. Ott was a guest at the New Brighton Hotel, and was spending some time there, accompanied by a friend, Mr. E. S. McCrary, also of Aiken. Mr. Ott and Mr. Ludekins were old friends and at the invitation of the latter a party was made up to go in bathing, the party consisting of Mr. Ott, Mr. Ludekins and Mr. McCrary. Mr. Shaw did not go down into the surf until some time afterwards. It was about 12 o'clock and the tide was rising. The three young men went down from the bathing house little thinking of the sad events which were to take place within the next hour. They passed

beyond the breakers, and kept well out beyond them during the whole time of their bath. From what happened it is to be inferred that they unconsciously, although the tide was coming in, were moving out towards the channel, where, in fact, the drowning took place. Mr. Ott said that just before the disappearance of Mr. Ludekins they were close together. Mr. Ott was not a good swimmer, and Mr. Ludekins was teaching him how to take the surf bath with as little exertion as possible. Mr. Ludekins was supporting his friend with his hand, when the latter said that he did not think he was making much progress, and asked Mr. Ludekins to allow him to shift for himself. Mr. Ludekins complied and they separated. Just at that time Mr. Shaw was but a short distance farther seaward than Mr. Ludekins. Mr. McCrary and Mr. Ott were both between the two men that were drowned and the shore.

Soon after Mr. Ludekins parted from Mr. Ott

A VERY HEAVY WAVE

rolled in. Mr. Ott took advantage of it and turned his face towards the shore and was carried inward. Before doing that, however, his attention was directed to Mr. Ludekins for an instant. This latter gentleman being a good swimmer boldly faced the wave and plunged into it. Mr. Ott could not say whether, when he turned to look at Mr. Ludekins, Mr. Shaw was still in sight. He thinks, however, that he was not. When Mr. Ott had recovered an upright position he turned round and looked back in the direction in which Mr. Ludekins had disappeared. Mr. Ludekins was observed then by Mr. Ott at a considerable distance from the place where he had drifted into the wave. His head and shoulders were above water. Mr. Ott then thought that he heard

A CRY FOR HELP.

and that it came from Mr. Ludekins. But he imagined that his friend was "joking," as he knew him to be a good swimmer. The cry for help was again repeated and then Mr. Ott knew that Mr. Ludekins was in danger. He was, however, powerless to assist him. He did not dare venture out into the surf where the unfortunate man was drowning. Mr. McCrary, although not a good swimmer, made an attempt to reach Mr. Ludekins, but failed to reach him in time to be of any assistance. In fact the drowning man and Ott and McCrary

were too far apart for even a good swimmer to have reached a person in time to have saved him from death. When Mr. Ott, therefore, saw that any exertion of his would be useless without assistance he ran up as best he could through the surf in the direction of the bathing-house.

BOTH DISAPPEARED.

As he ran he looked back and, in what he took to be a very short space of time, both Ludekins and Shaw had disappeared. Mr. Ott said that he did not see Mr. Shaw struggling as if in any danger and he did not hear him utter any cry of alarm or distress.

Mr. Ott reached the bathing-house in a few minutes after both men had gone down, and the news from that point spread like wild fire over the Island.

THE BEACH WAS CROWDED

with the guests of the hotel and the citizens generally, all looking anxiously into each incoming wave and searching it for some news from the sea beyond, the utmost and intensest anxiety and excitement prevailed.

ONE BODY RECOVERED.

About three quarters of an hour after the occurrence a body was seen floating near the shore, a considerable distance north of the place where the drowning occurred. It proved to be that of Mr. Shaw, and it was immediately taken ashore. After disposing of the body and preparing it for transportation to the city last night the search was continued for the body of Mr. Ludekins, but up to the time of the departure of the boat from the Island (4 p. m.) there were no tidings of the missing man.

EFFORTS AT RESUSCITATION. Immediately after the body of Mr. Shaw had been removed from the water to the beach it was surrounded by a large gathering of sympathizing friends. Among those who had assembled was a number of ladies, who worked assiduously, aiding those who were vainly endeavoring to restore life to the body. Every possible remedy was tried, but it had long been quite extinct. Mr. P. R. Shaw, the father of the unfortunate young man went over on the 7:30 p. m. boat yesterday, and returned to the city last night at 10 o'clock with the casket, which was received at the Ferry wharf by a number of the friends of the deceased.

LUDEKINS' BODY NOT FOUND. Up to half-past 9 o'clock last night the body of Mr. Ludekins had not been recovered. All during the afternoon and until it was too dark for such efforts to be availing various parties of men were out in small boats sounding, with a view of finding the body. Everything possible under the circumstances was done that human aid could afford or ingenuity suggest, but without effect.

Upon his arrival in the city yesterday Mr. McCrary thoughtfully telegraphed to the friends of Mr. Ludekins the fact of his death, with the further intelligence that he would inform them whenever the report should reach the city that Mr. Ludekins' body had been found.

A REMARKABLE INCIDENT.

A remarkable incident occurred during the evening, which was related to a Reporter last night by a gentleman who arrived in the city on the last boat from the Island. He said that not long after the recovery of Mr. Shaw's body from the waves a dead shark was washed ashore at very nearly the same spot where Mr. Shaw was first seen floating after his death. There can, however, be no possible connection between the circumstances, in as much as Mr. Shaw's body was intact, and without the sign of a violent death.

THE INQUEST.

The information of the accident was given to Coroner DeVeaux yesterday afternoon at about 5 o'clock. The boat was not to leave the city until 9:30 p. m., and as the intention of the relatives of Mr. Edward T. Shaw was to have his body brought over to the city at 10:30 o'clock, the coroner determined to postpone the holding of the inquest until this morning at 10 o'clock.

ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

The following is the statement made by Mr. McCrary to Coroner DeVeaux yesterday evening in Charleston. "We went in bathing about half-past 12 o'clock at high water. Mr. Ott, Mr. Ludekins and I went in together. We were in the water about three-quarters of an hour, and Mr. Ludekins was about fifty yards from us towards the ocean. I think I heard him call for

help, and when I looked round I saw him

SINK AND RISE AGAIN.

"I then started to go towards him, but when I got about half the distance—twenty-five yards—from him to me I didn't see him any more. He had disappeared. As to Mr. Shaw, I don't think he was in the water more than five minutes when he was drowned. He was out where Mr. Ludekins was. I did not know Mr. Shaw. He was on the outside (farther out) of Mr. Ludekins, and disappeared suddenly. I don't think he struggled or I would have seen it. Mr. Shaw's body floated up in about three hours afterwards."

THE TRAGEDY OF 1884.

The tragedy of yesterday recalls an equally sad event of the same kind which occurred on the Island a little over two years ago, and in which Miss Ella M. Benjamin lost her life. The previous tragedy occurred, however, not at the same place as that of yesterday. It was on the beach near the breakwater which ends at the fort. It was on the afternoon of the 15th of August, and a number of children were bathing on the front beach, near Dr. Kinloen's house. Miss Ella M. Benjamin, a lady from Summerville, who was staying on the Island, was bathing with them. Julian Reid, a little son of Mr. Loughton R. Reid, of Charleston, who was among the children, got beyond his depth, and was in imminent danger of drowning when Miss Benjamin saw his peril, and being a good swimmer at once went to his rescue. She reached the drowning child, caught him in her arms and held him above the water for nearly fifteen minutes until a boat in which were two colored men camp up. The little boy was lifted safely into the boat and the men then turned their attention to the heroic woman who had saved him. The prolonged efforts to save the life of the child, however, had doubtless exhausted her strength. She kept about until she had saved the child and then quickly sank beneath the waves. It was a gallant and heroic act, and the incident at the time attracted general attention.

A WARNING REPEATED.

At that time the *News and Courier* took occasion to call attention to the fact that some precautions were absolutely necessary to make surf bathing on the Island safe. The hint was taken by the New Brighton Hotel proprietor, and the space in front of the beach was roped in. A storm, however, removed these ropes, and they have never been replaced. It is impossible at this time to tell the cause of the death of the two young men who perished in the surf. Bathers who have been in the habit of bathing on Sullivan's Island, are familiar with the treacherous undertow and rarely venture out beyond their depth. Mr. Ludekins was a good swimmer, and his death is difficult to account for, unless, having been in the water for too long a time, he was seized with a sudden cramp which rendered him powerless. On the other hand, this would scarcely account for the death of Mr. Shaw, who had only been in the water a short time.

There have been rumors of late of the presence on the Island beach of sharks in more than usual numbers, and a bather in the surf recently is said to have been bitten by one. The story, however, was received with grave doubts by many, and the sharks at least cannot have caused Mr. Shaw's death, because his body shows no signs of an attack by these monsters of the deep.

The sad affair is altogether unaccountable. It was freely discussed, but no one could arrive at a theory which would account for the double tragedy. After this warning it is hoped that precautions will be taken against any future accidents of the kind.

The C., C. & C. R. R.

Mr. R. W. Haddon, of Due West, S. C., one of the Directors of the Carolina, Cumberland Gap & Chicago Railroad is in Aiken in the interest of that road. Col. Bowen, President of road, has secured the services of 100 convicts, who will be put to work grading the road from Aiken to Crofts's Mill. To enable the President to do this, it is necessary that \$10,000 be raised in and around Aiken, the money to be used for feeding the convicts and paying for guards, etc. When Trenton is reached the road will come into money, as every town along the line has voted a subscription to it, and the rest of the work will be

easy. Mr. Haddon, accompanied by Cap. W. W. Williams, is actively canvassing our citizens in aid of this grand project, and is meeting with encouraging success. The money subscribed now will not be called for until October.—*Aiken Journal and Review.*

The "Tillman-Dawson Alliance."

Greenville News.

In the *Weekly News* of August 17th under the caption, "Information wanted," you ask the following questions: "Have Captain F. W. Dawson and Mr. B. R. Tillman had a conference of any kind, by correspondence or otherwise, and have they made an agreement or understanding as to their respective courses in any matter effecting the public interests or politics of this State?"

"If there has been an agreement or understanding between them, what is it?"

As I know no reason "why they should not be answered," I will cheerfully give you the light you seek. This can best be done by a short statement of facts.

When I commenced the agitation of the issues which form the core of the farmers' movement, viz. The establishment of a real agricultural college and the reorganization of the department of agriculture, the *News and Courier* was emphatic in its approval of the college idea, and did not oppose the other. I started out as an agricultural reformer—without any design or desire to make the movement a political one, except to the extent of securing the necessary legislation. Soon, almost before I knew it, I found myself swept off my feet, as it were, by a grand uprising for political reform, reduction of taxes, purification of the government and correction of abuses being the leading ideas. Ten years of republican misrule, followed by ten years of democratic jacobinism and a growing disregard of the rights and wishes of the masses, had laid the mine. I struck a match for another purpose and the explosion known as the "farmers' convention" followed. Its reverberations have not yet died away and its effects, past and to come, upon the future of this State are plainly to be seen.

Captain Dawson left for Europe in January, the *News and Courier* up to that time having been my friend. During his absence the paper somersaulted and began to attack the movement by a series of insidious editorials aimed at the "call" for the convention and intended to bamboozle the farmers or divide them. And these changed to strongly antagonistic editorials immediately after the convention adjourned. Some days after the adjournment Capt. Dawson returned home and I wrote to ask him whether he dictated the course of the paper while away and to learn whether I could still use his columns. He replied he had not, and that the paper was open to me for any legitimate purpose. He said he was still an advocate of a farmers' college but could not swallow some things which the convention had recommended. I suggested that if we could have a conference an agreement might be reached. He agreed to this and we met in Augusta in June, and we discussed the whole of the work of the farmers' convention, or what I deemed its important work. Not one word was said about any man's candidacy, not one word about any combination or alliance. The conversation related solely to existing abuses, many of which had not been broached by the farmers' convention and the whole of it might have appeared the next day in print without exciting any surprise or comment. We made no agreement of any kind, but parted with the tacit understanding that the *News and Courier* would advocate and urge the establishment of an agricultural college, as it had done from the start, while I would cease my attacks on the citadel. This is the agreement and the whole of it. I did not undertake to keep others from advocating the abolition of the citadel, and there was no subsequent agreement between us as to any man's candidacy. It can be now seen upon what small foundations rests the lie, started the night before the State convention met, about the "Dawson-Tillman-Sheppard combination."

The Columbia ring, which had started that lie and then packed the galleries of the opera house in the interest of the candidate of their choice, are welcome to their victory. It remains to be seen whether Colonel Richardson will prove

the pliant tool they hope for or whether he will redeem the pledge he has made. The farmers of South Carolina are awake at last, thank God! and will know how to reward or punish him and others according to their deserts. As I am on the witness stand, and mention has been made of the "parallel courses of Mr. Tillman and of Capt. Dawson in the State convention," I will simply state why I voted for Messrs. Sheppard and Hutson—we did not run together on attorney general and all other votes were purely accidental, certainly not the result of any "understanding." Edgefield voted solidly for Mr. Hutson for two reasons: First, because of resentment against Greenville, which had found votes for everybody but Governor Sheppard.

Secondly, Edgefield and Hampton are in the same congressional district and are on very friendly terms.

As regards my support of Gov. Sheppard: Long before Gov. Thompson's resignation and therefore before there was the least probability of his being a candidate, Gov. Sheppard and I had discussed the issues presented by the farmers' convention and I found him in full accord with us in everything except the calling of a constitutional convention and the abolition of the military academy. Therefore when he became Governor and was naturally considered in the race as his own successor, I had to decide as between him and others. We made strenuous efforts to find a strong candidate of our own. We had tried to convert some men whom we thought available, but failed. They couldn't "see it," and when the convention met we were virtually at sea. We lacked 40 votes of being able to control the nomination and therefore were forced to a choice among the avowed candidates. Now why did I urge Gov. Sheppard as our candidate?

First, because he came nearest being on our platform. Without any selfish or ulterior design, so far I could see, he had so expressed himself long before Gov. Thompson's resignation, and reduced his ideas to writing in my request, after I had decided to support him.

Second, he is a man of ability, who has filled every position he has occupied with credit to himself and to the State. He pays his debts one hundred cents on the dollar and there is no blot on his escutcheon, that I ever heard of, and he had fallen heir to the office, so to speak. I have been accused of hypocrisy in voting for a lawyer after making such a blow about farmers' rights and the question asked, why I did not oppose him in our county convention? I had no reason to oppose him. He was in accord with our views. We had been playmates at school and friends ever since. He lived in Edgefield and was her son. What reason did I have to antagonize him? I had never clamored for a "New Deal" and I had asserted that the farmers' movement only aimed to secure our rights—not to ostracise or impose on other classes.

I am damned by the editors and reporters because they say this is my purpose, and when I disprove it by voting for a man who is not a farmer I am damned because I do so. I am in the interesting situation described in the dog-erel.

"He can and he can't,
He will and he won't;
He'll be damned if he does,
And he'll be damned if he don't."

The farmers of South Carolina must decide the question as to whether I have betrayed them, misled them or deceived. I do not claim to be infallible, but I do claim to be honest and unselfish. I defy any man to prove the contrary. If the people send the right men to the legislature we will secure our rights as farmers and all needed reform politically. If we do not, I will then, if alive, try to find out why and to tell them who is to blame. B. R. Tillman.
Edgefield, S. C., August 24, 1886.

Reunion of Orr's Regiment of Rifles

The annual reunion of Orr's Regiment of Rifles took place on Tuesday, the 17th instant. Social intercourse fully and pleasantly, occupied our time until about 11 A. M. on Wednesday, when by invitation of the executive committee, Col. J. J. Norton briefly recounted the action of the regiment at Fredericksburg, on the 13th of December 1862. Col. Miller, the last Colonel of the Regiment and President of the Survivors' Association, was, much to his and

our regret, prevented from being present, on account of the serious illness of his wife. The other officers of the Association were also present, all except Col. B. F. Crayton, the Treasurer.

He called the meeting to order at 2 P. M. on Wednesday, and Col. Norton was on motion, called to the chair, and T. A. McElroy, elected Secretary, and Sandy Springs was chosen as the permanent place of annual meeting, but the fixing of the time was left to the Executive Committee.

The old officers of the Association were unanimously re-elected to wit: Col. G. M. D. Miller, President; Lieutenant Col. J. T. Robertson, 1st Vice-President; Major Leonard Rogers, 2d Vice-President; Adjutant W. G. Keith, Secretary; Quartermaster B. F. Crayton, Treasurer, and an executive committee of one from each company. The executive committee was charged with the preparation of a constitution and rolls of information as to those who at any time had been members of the Regiment. At the close of the business meeting a photograph of the members of the regiments present at that time was taken.

During the meeting, about 100 survivors and about 700 citizens were present. The survivors of two other companies, the Gist Rifles of the Hampton Legion and Company—of the 22d Regiment S. C. V., that at the same time with us.

Among the many pleasing incidents of the occasion was the presence of Mrs. Orr, widow of our first Colonel.

The hospitality of the Sandy Springs neighborhood was well maintained.

A Survivor.

The Vacant Place Filled.

Columbia Bureau News and Courier. The State Democratic executive committee, met in the reading-room of the Hotel Jerome at 8 o'clock this evening, and organized by unanimously electing Col. J. W. Moore, of Hampton, chairman, and Willie Jones secretary.

Balloting for adjutant and inspector general was immediately begun. On the nineteenth ballot Capt. M. L. Bonham, Jr., editor of the *Abbeville Messenger*, received the nomination.

Of the committee the following members were present: W. H. Brawley, S. P. Wingard, L. T. Izlar, J. W. Moore, G. S. Mower, J. A. Hoyt, T. Johnson, G. W. Shell, R. E. Allison, T. H. Clark, G. W. S. Hart, S. P. Smith, R. D. Lee, W. J. Talbert, and F. W. Dawson.

On the first ballot, Bonham received 3 votes, Marshall 2, Farley 5, McKissick 1, Holmes 3, Coward 1, Mills 1. On the last ballot Bonham received 8 votes, Marshall 2, Farley 4, and McKissick 1.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the members of the State Democratic executive committee, some of whom have served with him, and all of whom are familiar with his public record, do hereby express their high appreciation of the zeal, energy and ability displayed by Gen. James P. Izlar, the retiring chairman, during the two successive terms of office through which the Democratic party has been uniformly successful, and covering the period of the national election, in which South Carolina cast her elective vote for Grover Cleveland, the present President of the United States.

It was decided to open the campaign about the first of October. A large mass meeting will be held in each Congressional district at which the candidates will speak, but the usual canvass of every county in the State will be dispensed with, except when a county asks for a special meeting, and in that case the executive committee will provide for such a meeting. The times and places for holding the mass meetings in the Congressional districts will be decided upon at the next meeting of the executive committee.

The meeting adjourned at 11 o'clock, subject to the call of the president.

An Enterprising, Reliable House.

T. G. Perrin can always be relied upon only to carry in stock the best of everything, to secure the Agency for such articles as have well-known merit, and are thereby maintaining the reputation of being always enterprising, and ever reliable. Having secured the Agency for the celebrated Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, will sell it on a positive guarantee. It will cure any and every affection of the Throat, Lungs, and Chest, and to show our confidence, we invite you to call and get a Bottle free.