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VERY DEPLORABLE TRAGEDY AT LANFORD STATION TUESDAY

Father Mistakes Son For Burglar.

OSCAR LANFORD MEETS DEATH

Capt. J. W. Lanford Mistakes Son for Burglar and Shoots Him With Repeating Rifle. Son Returns Fire Under Misapprehension, Wounding his Father.

Early yesterday morning the news was spread around the city that burglars had made a raid at Ora and Lanford Station in this county and that in the confusion following an attempt to catch him at Lanford Station, Capt. J. W. Lanford had shot and mortally wounded his son, Oscar Lanford, and himself had received a bullet wound from the pistol of his son. The burglar escaped during the fusillade, but if the officers are confirmed in their belief, he was later apprehended at Woodruff and yesterday about noon was placed in the county jail here. Jewelry and other things found on the person of the man arrested convince the officers that they have secured the right man.

The burglar made his first visit to Ora, a small station on the C. & W. C. railroad between here and Spartanburg. He ransacked the office of Dr. R. H. Bryson, but secured nothing that appealed to him. From there he was next heard of at the home of Mr. W. T. Blakely. Mr. Blakely saw him standing in his room and thinking perhaps that it was his son, George, hailed him, saying "Is that you, George?" The man replied "Yes," but backed through the bath-room and sleeping porch. Mr. Blakely saw that he was going toward Lanford Station so he telephoned Mr. Scott Higgins, giving the warning. Mr. Higgins notified Mr. Oscar Lanford and Mr. Jim Fleming, but remained at home himself on account of his wife who was afraid to stay alone. Mr. Oscar Lanford and Mr. Fleming awoke Capt. John W. Lanford and they awaited the burglar at the depot.

About 4:30 o'clock a man was seen to come down the road toward Mr. Drummond's store, which was in the direction of Ora but on the opposite side of the street from the depot, the railroad being on the east side of both. The man was seen to circle the store building, using a flashlight to light his way. For some reason, he decided not to enter this store and started toward the depot behind which the watchers here shielding themselves. Mr. Fleming thought it best not to halt him here, so advised the Messrs Lanford to remain still while he went around to the other end of the depot where he could halt the burglar with more safety. Fleming started around, but before he reached the end of the depot he heard Capt. Lanford cry "Halt" and the shooting began. Capt. Lanford, who survived the tragedy, was uncertain exactly as to what occurred, but in the confusion it appears that Oscar Lanford rushed in front of his father and between him and the burglar and received a bullet from Capt. Lanford's rifle. Being some distance apart, the son evidently mistook his father for another member of the gang and shot at him while falling the bullet wounding Capt. Lanford slightly on the inside of the thigh. Mr. Fleming, who carried a shot gun loaded with buck-shot, shot one time. Whether the burglar shot at all is not known. He made his escape toward Enoree and Woodruff. A man answering his description and carrying a flashlight and a few simple tools was arrested by Chief of Police Kellett at Woodruff yesterday morning and handed over to the officers from this county. Sheriff Watts is confident that he has the right man. In addition to the things mentioned above, the supposed burglar had on his person a scarf pin and heavy gold band ring, thought to be the property of Mrs. Blakely. He refuses to give any information as to himself. When arrested he was partially intoxicated.

Lanford Station was thrown into a great confusion by the tragedy and a pale of gloom was cast over the little town on account of the tragedy and its peculiarly sad circumstances. Capt. Lanford, though slightly wounded, is prostrate on account of the death of his son. Oscar Lanford was a man

THE McDANIEL GINNEY DESTROYED BY FIRE

Total Loss of Ginney Built near Laurens Cotton Mills Three Years Ago.

The McDaniel Ginney, located on East Main street near the depot and owned and operated by Mr. S. G. McDaniel, was totally destroyed by a fire of unknown origin between 2 and 3 o'clock Saturday morning. When discovered the blaze had already made such headway that the fire department was unable to save any part of it. By effective work, however, the seed house on one side of the gin and a large barn on the other side were saved.

The ginney was erected and supplied with machinery three years ago at an approximate cost of \$5,200. Seed and other things in the building brought the total value to nearly \$6,000. Mr. McDaniel carried insurance policy of \$2,800.

On account of the advanced stage at which the fire was discovered Mr. McDaniel said it was difficult to judge of the cause of it, although he expressed the opinion that it was caused by a lighted match or cigarette carelessly thrown among inflammable material by trespassers.

Mr. McDaniel spoke very highly of the work of the fire department and expressed his appreciation of their services and the services of friends who assisted. Because of the low pressure in the water mains, the pumping apparatus on the fire truck was especially valuable in saving the seed house and barn.

SALES WERE FEW.

Only Four Sales Held on the First Salesday of the Year.

Monday, though the first salesday of the year, was a very quiet one, due to the unusually bad weather and the fact that there were only four small tracts of land put up for sale. All of these were through the Clerk of Court's office and were as follows:

J. C. Smith et al, vs Mrs. J. A. Chesney, 34 acres near the town of Waterloo, sold to E. P. Walker for \$1,020.00.

Commercial Bank of Rutherfordton, N. C., vs Nora Mills et al, 41-2 acres known as the Dr. Poole homeplace, sold to R. A. Cooper, attorney, for \$1,900.00.

Andrew Garrett vs F. W. Williams et al, one acre near Watts Mills, sold to R. E. Babb, attorney for \$20.00.

T. E. Jones as administrator, 56 acres near Fountain Inn to C. C. Jones for \$1775.00.

Mrs. Henrietta Parkins.

Mrs. Henrietta Parkins, wife of the late Capt. Charles Parkins, one of Greenville's oldest and best known women, died early this morning at her home, 128 Howe street, after a lingering illness. She was in her 81st year.

Mrs. Parkins was born July 11, 1836, in Laurens county, the eldest daughter of Jefferson Sullivan. She married Captain Charles Parkins in 1866. He preceded her to the grave seven years. She is survived by one brother, two sisters and seven children.

In the death of Mrs. Parkins, Greenville has lost one of her loveliest characters. She was a good neighbor and kind and loving mother. From her early girlhood she was a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, South. For the past six years she had been a sufferer, but bore the affliction with great fortitude.—Greenville News.

Mr. W. B. Blakely, who lives on R. 3, came in Monday and as he said, started off the new year right by renewing his subscription to The Advertiser.

about middle aged, married and with several children.

The capture of the fugitive was due largely to the prompt efforts of the local officials in getting the news of the tragedy circulated and asking officers in nearby towns to be on the look-out. Policeman Kellett, who caught the man, is from Sullivan township, this county, and is widely known in the county, having been a candidate for sheriff last summer.

COLUMBIA WINS FIGHT FOR FARM LOAN BANK

Carolina Capital Gets One of Twelve, Georgia, Florida and Two Carolinas Comprise the District.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Two days later than the prescribed time for receiving Christmas presents, but probably none the less appreciated for this slight delay Columbia this morning was given one of the farm loan banks by William G. McAdoo, secretary of the treasury, and the members of the farm loan board after one of the most interesting and exciting contests with 150 other cities throughout the country.

Columbia did not win the fight for the bank without effort. It got into the game when, months ago, it was practically certain that there would be a farm loan bank in the near future.

Following initial efforts made at that time, it kept on fighting and when about three weeks ago, it was stated that it might lose the bank, instead of sulking its business men took hold of the situation with renewed effort, the result being the presentation of the bank this morning. That Columbia has won the fight in competition with such cities as Birmingham, Nashville, Jacksonville and others, 150 of them altogether, speaks well for the concerted business activity of the capital city. Had its citizens failed to keep up their fight, especially when it looked as if they were whipped, Columbia would have lost, instead of winning a magnificent victory.

MRS. CELISTA ROBERTSON.

Widow of the Late Lewis Robertson. Died at her Home in This City Saturday.

Mrs. Celistia Robertson, widow of the late Lewis Robertson, died at her home, the old Robertson Hotel, in this city Saturday morning after an illness of a few hours. Death was due to a collapse incident upon advanced age.

Mrs. Robertson was in the 87th year of her age, her husband having preceded her to the grave about eight years ago. Before marriage she was a Miss Owings, she and her husband having been residents of the Gray Court section of the county. She is survived by two sons, Messrs W. C. P. Robertson and Watt T. Robertson, and one daughter, Miss Mary Robertson, all of this city.

The funeral services were held at the Robertson burying ground near Gray Court Sunday, being conducted by Rev. W. A. Fair, pastor of the First Methodist church of this city.

Mrs. Robertson was a gentle, kindly woman, beloved by all those who knew her. She was greatly attached to the old home and seldom during recent years left its walls.

Postal Receipts Increase.

Assistant Postmaster D. M. Norwood states that the postal receipts for the fiscal year just closing, including receipts from stamps, postal cards, box rents and second class matter, amounted to \$13,057.39. The year's business shows a gain over 1915 when the receipts were \$11,861.00. By reaching the \$13,000 mark this office earns an increase of \$100 per year for its postmaster, the salary being increased from \$2,200 to \$2,300. None of the other employees of the office profit by the increase.

Annual Association Conference.

The above meeting will be held with the First Baptist church on January 12th. Every church in the association is expected to send their pastor and at least two lay members. The following is the program:

The morning service will begin with the devotional meeting at ten o'clock, conducted by Rev. W. R. Collins.

10:30 to 11:00—Every member canvass. Samuel H. Templeman.

11:00 to 11:45—Systematic Giving. Rev. R. J. Williams, Rev. R. G. Lee.

11:45 to 12:30—Atlanta Baptist Laymen's Convention—

(a) What is it? C. B. Bobo.

(b) Who should go? W. C. Wharton.

(c) Will it help the Laurens Association? C. H. Roper.

12:30—Sermon by E. M. Lightfoot.

GERMAN PROPOSALS REJECTED BY ALLIES

Declared War Maneuver by Allies.

JOINT NOTE IS SENT FROM PARIS

Entente Refuses to Consider Teutonic Note which it Considers Empty and Insincere. Responsibility for the War Charged to Germanic Allies.

Paris, Dec. 30.—In reply to the offer of Germany and her allies for a peace conference, the Entente Allies, in a collective note, declare, that they "refuse to consider a proposal which is empty and insincere." The note was handed to the American Ambassador, Wm. Graves Sharp, today by Premier Briand, and was made public simultaneously in London and in Paris.

The Entente Allied governments, insist that no peace is possible so long as they have not secured reparation for violated rights and liberties and the free existence of small states and have not brought about a settlement for the future security of the world. The note declares that the proposal of the Central Powers is not an offer of peace, but a "war maneuver." It is declared to be founded on "calculated misinterpretation of the character of the struggle in the past, the present and the future."

The note does not specifically outline the definite war aims of any of the Entente governments, except Belgium. Before the war, it is pointed out, Belgium asked for nothing but to live in harmony with her neighbors. Assailed in spite of the treaties guaranteeing her violatibility, Belgium the note says, has taken up arms to defend her independence and "her neutrality violated by Germany."

Belgium's aim which is declared to be the only aim of her king and government, is described as "the reestablishment of peace and justice. But they only desire peace which would assure to their country legitimate reparation, guarantees and safeguards for the future."

The note, which is the joint act of the Entente Powers, declares that the present strife was desired, provoked, and declared by Germany and Austria-Hungary, and that Germany made no effort to bring about a pacific solution of the trouble between little Serbia and Austria-Hungary, as did Great Britain, France and Russia.

A peace concluded upon the German idea would be only to the advantage of the Central Powers says the note, while disasters caused by the war demand penalties, reparation and guarantees.

The German overtures are described as a calculated attempt to influence the future course of the war and to end it by imposing a German peace. The overtures also are said to have the effect of intimidating neutral public opinion as well as to stiffen opinion in the Central Powers "worn out by economic pressure and crushed by the supreme effort which has been imposed upon their inhabitants."

House Burned at Watts Mills.

One of the larger houses of the Watts Mills company, occupied by Mr. Jim Thomas, was heavily damaged by fire Friday night about 7 o'clock. The blaze originated in one of the closets and spread very rapidly, almost ruining both the building and the furniture. The city fire department went to the assistance of the mill department and rendered valuable aid. Mr. Thomas carried no insurance on his furniture, but the company had the building insured up to a reasonable amount.

To Take Mr. Hilton's Place.

S. F. Miller, of Vaughnville, Hampton county, has accepted the position made vacant at the graded school by the resignation of Mr. R. C. Hilton, who has accepted a position in the war department at Washington. Mr. Miller is a graduate of The Citadel and has had several years experience as a teacher. In addition to his duties in the class rooms, he will have charge of the military training of the boys. Mr. Hilton, who had made a very efficient teacher, has many friends here who regretted to see him leave.

MANNING'S ANNUAL MESSAGE WILL BE BRIEF

Deal With Broad Problems. Special Message for Particular Subjects. The Insurance Muddle.

Columbia, Dec. 29.—Governor Manning returned this morning from a hunt with Mr. B. M. Baruch on his estate in Georgetown County, and at once began work on his annual message to the general assembly. He is gathering material for the message and will begin dictating it to his stenographer at the first opportunity. The governor has intimated that his annual message will be comparatively brief and that it will deal only with the broad problems facing the administration. He expects to deal through special messages with particular subjects.

Important matters which the governor is expected to touch on in his communication to the lawmakers include, insurance, legislation, tightening up on the prohibition law, the highway commission act, amendments to strengthen the state warehouse system, finances and education.

On the question of finances the governor is expected to send a special message and he will probably do this after conferences with Chairman Christensen of the senate finance committee, Chairman Liles of the house ways and means committee, State Treasurer Carter, Comptroller General Sawyer and Chairman A. W. Jones of the state tax commission. It is probable additional sources of revenue will be recommended by the governor.

Of all the subjects to be dealt with by the chief executive, what he will have to say of insurance legislation will probably be of the greatest interest. The special commission's report is now before him and he has not as yet given any indication of whether he agrees with the findings of that commission or will make changes. He has an open mind on the subject, it is known and is gathering all of the available information and discarding that which does not answer the situation and taking the best ideas from everything and everywhere.

What Governor Manning will have to say about the National Guard of the state will attract attention. At the recent conference of governors in Washington, he was quoted as saying that he believed the National guard was doomed and whether he will repeat this statement in his message and suggest some other form of citizen soldiery is not known. The governor, like all other patriotic citizens in South Carolina is known to be proud of the record which the guard has made but he feels that the sacrifices entailed are too great for the men to lay aside their business and be sent away for months to patrol a boundary. The governor will undoubtedly eulogize the National guard for it has won merited praise.

The governor has not made any statement but it is believed that he holds the opinion which a great many other well informed men do, that until the caste system is discarded from the regular army, there is going to be trouble in getting it recruited up to war strength or even to peace strength. He may have something to say along this line in his annual message for he has two sons in the National guard, one the captain and the other a sergeant in the cavalry troop, the Charleston Light Dragoons, now doing border service in Texas and he can speak from first hand information.

Governor Manning expects to devote every minute of his spare time between now and the convening of the legislature to writing his message.

Card of Thanks.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Tumbling, of Ora, whose little infant girl was claimed by death several days ago, wish to express their thanks to the friends and neighbors who were so kind and thoughtful of them in their bereavement. The child was but three months old and had been sick but a short time.

Mr. and Mrs. Humbert Bereaved.

News was received in the city yesterday afternoon of the death of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Humbert's infant son at a hospital in Spartanburg. The child was about six weeks old and the only son, being named after its grandfather, Capt. J. B. Humbert, of Princeton.

MEXICAN SITUATION BECOMING UNCERTAIN

Carranza Will Probably Reject Protocol.

VILLA IS NOW GAINING STRENGTH

Army Officers are Urging Pershing's Withdrawal as a Military Step. Suppression of Bandit Forces by Carranza's Army Now Seems Doubtful.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Increasing evidence that Gen. Carranza's government is being menaced by the bands of insurgents, coupled with the prospects that the first chief will not accept the Atlantic City protocol, unless the conditions it attaches to the withdrawal of the American troops is eliminated, has brought the Mexican situation to a stage of uncertainty, that is causing growing concern here.

While officials admit that the conditions they confront are embarrassing, and some high army officers are urging that Pershing's men be withdrawn as a military step and regardless of the conditions it is insisted that so far there has been no change in the administration policy. The American members of the joint commission, which drew the Atlantic City protocol will meet here Tuesday to go over Gen. Carranza's request for modification and to consider whether any basis is offered for further conferences with the Mexican commission.

Chas. A. Douglas, an attorney for Carranza government, saw Counsellor Polk of the State Department today, and is understood to have made a further plea for withdrawal of the troops.

Several army officers of high rank are no longer attempting to conceal their impatience over the joint commission's failure to secure ratification of an agreement and openly are urging that the altered conditions in Mexico make it imperative to bring the 12,000 men now in Mexico to positions on the border where they could be handled to better advantage if it became necessary.

Reports to the State and War Departments, supported unofficially, indicating that Villa is rapidly gaining strength in Northern Mexico, that makes his suppression by the Carranza army appear doubtful. At the same time followers of Felix Diaz are said to be making trouble in the South, while Manuel Palacé and other rebel leaders are gaining ground in the Central portions of the Republic.

The official advices indicated that Carranza forces in Saltillo, two days ago were anticipating an attack by Villa forces. The governor of the State had directed that the government archives be prepared for removal and prominent civilians and officials had sent their families to the border. Successes of the Villa forces about Torreon, were confirmed by the advices.

Villa's operations in the past few weeks have convinced army men here that he and other leaders of the reactionary movement are following a plan of campaign having for their immediate object the recruiting of an army and the collection of equipment rather than the occupation of territory. It is pointed out that Villa has entered towns of importance in the Northern Mexico, eight times since he resumed operations on a larger scale, only to surrender them again without a struggle. The net result has been to add to his fighting strength materially.

Unofficial reports today, that the bandit leader was on his way to Chihuahua again caused no surprise here, since it is known that Gen. Murguia's force there is not well equipped with ammunition and many stories of disaffection in his army have reached government agents on the border. It is expected that Villa will make every effort to dispose of the Murguia force before the arrival of Gen. Obregon, reported to be on his way to Chihuahua to take command.

In a considerable area of Tuxpan, Manuel Palacé, who has been in control there for about two years, has recently extended his operations toward the South without opposition.

Mr. J. C. Stone left last Thursday for Atlanta to spend some time with his son, Mr. W. Guy Stone.