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RESPECT FOR LAW.

It is truly discouraging, as well as disgusting, to read what some people say about the lynch law. When a man, such as our Flagah correspondent, a devout church member, a former member of the legislature, and one having the reputation of a law abiding and law respecting citizen, advocates mob violence, when there is no excuse for it, those who believe that respect for law is the bulwark of our civilization can but feel discouraged over the outlook for the future.

son county that there is one who is not afraid to declare the truth. If the business men of Charleston really want to help business they will devote their time, energy and money to the construction of a modern system of docks, the establishment of manufacturing and mercantile enterprises, the promotion of steamship lines, the development and settlement of the thousands of acres of waste lands lying at her doors and other creative and wealth-producing industries.

Attention is directed to the card of Mr. E. W. Dabbs, inviting contributions from business men to assist in defraying the expenses of the campaign of education now being conducted in the interest of a business-like plan of marketing the cotton crop to the end that the farmers may obtain a fair price for their product.

It is a hard case when men come to a town of ten thousand population on business and although able and willing to pay for accommodations cannot obtain a bed to sleep in. There were twenty-two traveling men in Sumter in that fix last night and the best they could do was to spend the night in a chair in the hotel lobby. This is the report that was made this morning to Secretary Snell of the Chamber of Commerce, and presumably it is true.

Col. Roosevelt claimed the credit for electing President Taft, but not caring to stand sponsor for an alto ran, he is hands off in Mr. Taft's fight for re-election. When it comes to playing practical politics Col. Roosevelt is always there with the goods.

The only way the Charleston race track promoters can put through their scheme to establish a big gambling joint is to obtain the assurance that Gov. Bleasue will veto the act prohibiting betting on races that the legislature will pass when it meets in January. A guarantee that the anti race track law will be vetoed will enable the promoters to go ahead with their plans.

MINISTER DENOUNCERS LYNCHERS.

The lynching at Honca Path last week of the negro Willis Jackson was the subject of a terrific arraignment of lynching and lynchings Sunday by the Rev. John F. Vines, D. D., pastor of the First Baptist Church, in his morning sermon.

Dr. Vines' remarks were anything but general or vague. He made local and specific application of his text and did not hesitate to call names. Honca Path is in Anderson county, and it is only sixteen miles from the pulpit where Dr. Vines spoke to the scene of the lynching.

Dr. Vines severely condemned the attitude toward the lynching taken by a local newspaper. The editor of the Intelligencer, Mr. Victor B. Cheshire—a member of Gov. Bleasue's staff—is issued Wednesday an extra edition of his paper, containing an account of the lynching. The data for this article had avowedly been gathered by Mr. Cheshire on the spot, and the story contained frank if not boastful intimations that Mr. Cheshire himself had participated in the chase of the officers fleeing with the prisoner from the mob.

Dr. Vines said, among other things, that the people who mainly compose lynching mobs talk much of defending virtue, but are not themselves distinguished for virtue, many of them, indeed, live in a fashion to make a mockery of all virtue, and some of them are not guileless of relations with the black race which are directly provocative of the crime that lead to lynchings.

Dr. Vines referred in severe terms to the leading part admittedly taken in the affair by a member of the Anderson county legislative delegation, Joshua W. Ashley.

The sermon was the principal subject of conversation in Anderson Sunday afternoon.

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CRIMINAL COURT PROCEEDINGS

From the Daily Item, Oct. 18. The case of William Vaughn for arson, which was heard Monday, was terminated late in the evening when the jury brought in a verdict of guilty with recommendation to mercy.

Mr. L. D. Jennings represented the defendant and Mr. J. B. McLaughlin and the Solicitor represented the State.

The building burned was a gin house belonging to Mr. J. B. McLaughlin. The case has been hanging over for some time. The case of W. G. Pierson for assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature was taken up Tuesday morning by the court of general sessions, after a long wait to secure the attendance of witnesses and in order that other matters might be attended to.

After several objections, a full jury was secured and Mr. Fishburne was put on the stand to testify to the injuries he had received at the hands of Mr. Pierson. He stated that W. D. Pierson, a son of the defendant had come to him on the morning of September 16th with some cotton to be ginned and that he had given him tickets on what Pierson had said was his place in line. Later he had found that Pierson was wrong, and he had taken back two of the tickets and had given them to two negroes.

Later in the day W. G. Pierson had come in and asked him about the matter and he had told him that after he had found that Pierson was incorrect he had changed the tickets. Pierson had said something about he would see that his cotton was ginned and went out of the office. Later on Mr. Pierson stated to him that there would be trouble if his cotton was not ginned on the tickets first given his son. He had telephoned to Police headquarters, upon this threat being made, and a short time later, when he was crossing to the gin house, Pierson had suddenly grabbed him about the throat and commenced to choke him, at the same time gouging his eyes and later throwing him to the ground and pummeling him with his fists. He had tried to push Mr. Pierson off and his hand had in some way got into Mr. Pierson's mouth. Mr. Pierson biting it several times.

After Mr. Pierson was pulled off him, he had been taken home, stopping on the way to be treated at the drug store and later on receiving treatment at the hands of Dr. China. There were numerous scratches about his face and neck at the time and his eyes were red and swollen. Later he had been troubled by his fingers and he had gone to Dr. China, who had dressed them. Several days afterwards he had been taken to the hospital, where the hand was operated on.

At this point in his narrative the wound was undressed by Dr. China and shown to the jury. Upon cross examination Mr. Fishburne admitted having cursed Mr. Pierson repeatedly after Pierson had attacked him. Other witnesses were then put up to tell of the fight. Dr. China told of the wounds which had caused blood poisoning. Witnesses were still being examined when court adjourned for its noon recess.

All of Tuesday afternoon and several hours Wednesday morning were taken in completing the case.

Mr. Pierson put up a plea of self-defense, which was testified to by a number of witnesses who were put on the stand Tuesday afternoon. The testimony offered by the defense differed in many respects from that set up by the State especially in the matter of how the fight began.

The testimony offered on the witness stand by the defense was practically as follows:

George Pierson had gone to the gin early in the night before the fight. He stated that he did not see the negroes, who were supposed to have arrived just before him, and did not know when they came. Other witnesses testified, however, that the negroes came just behind him. He said that he had told his father of the change in his tickets as soon as he got to the gin and that his father had gone into the office with him and two others to try to adjust the matter with Mr. Fishburne. Mr. Fishburne refused to listen to them at all and they had then gone out again. Later on his father was talking to Mr. Hudson when Mr. Fishburne came out of the office and beckoned to him. Mr. W. G. Pierson asked Mr. Fishburne if he meant him and Mr. Fishburne had nodded his head. His father had then gone over to where Mr. Fishburne was and talked to him a few seconds. Mr. Pierson then turned away and walked a few steps, but turned back and Mr. Fishburne hit him in the side. His father had then grabbed Mr. Fishburne on the shoulders and two had gone to the ground, one along side the other. He had not seen any of the fight after that. The other witnesses stated practically the same as this except that they said that Mr. Pierson

caught Mr. Fishburne around the neck, instead of on the shoulders. One witness stated that Mr. McDuffy pulled Mr. Pierson off Mr. Fishburne and that Mr. Fishburne got on top and beat Mr. Pierson in the face, but the other witnesses did not corroborate this statement, for all of the others stated that Mr. Fishburne seemed to be getting the worse of the fight, and Mr. Pierson himself stated that if Mr. Fishburne was ever on top he did not know it.

In his testimony in his own behalf, Mr. Pierson stated practically the same thing. He stated that when Mr. Fishburne beckoned to him that he had gone over to him thinking that he was going to adjust the matter satisfactorily, but that Mr. Fishburne, instead of doing this, had told him that he had better not make any trouble around there. He replied that he was not going to make any trouble, but that he was going to have his cotton ginned in turn according to the first numbers which were given his son. He had then turned off to go back to Mr. Hudson with whom he had been talking, when Mr. Fishburne had stated that his son had lied to get the tickets and that he would not change them. Upon this he had turned back, throwing down the whip as he did so, and had told Mr. Fishburne that he was a liar, if he said that his son was a liar. Fishburne had hit him in the side and he had grabbed him. They had fallen to the ground, side by side, and he had got on top. He said that he would not then have further hurt Mr. Fishburne, and so told Mr. Fishburne, if he had not hit him in the chest. When Mr. Fishburne hit him he returned the blow, striking him on the face twice. All the while Mr. Fishburne was cursing him, and cursed him afterwards, until he left the place.

Mr. Fishburne was put back on the stand to contradict the testimony as to Mr. Pierson's bringing in witnesses to testify that his son had come to the gin prior to the arrival of the negroes. He said that if the men were brought in he knew nothing about it, for Mr. Pierson had not told him that he had witnesses to prove that his son got there first. Mr. Pierson had said that "He'd be damned if he would bring any more cotton there, and that there would be trouble if his cotton was not ginner according to the numbers on the original tickets."

This was the case as it was stated by both sides and the judge in his charge made the usual statement of what constituted aggravated assault and when a man has a right to set up a plea of self-defense as was put up in this case.

The addresses to the jury were good. Mr. Jennings opened for the State and made a strong argument for conviction on the charge as made out in the indictment. He was followed by Mr. Clifton for the defense, who in turn was followed by Solicitor Stoll.

At the time that court adjourned for dinner the jury had been out for about two hours and had not agreed upon a verdict, but shortly after the afternoon session convened, a verdict of not guilty was reported.

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