

Seven Keys TO Baldpate
By EARL BERR BIGGERS
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"Very good," replied the other. "Good night—and good luck."
The old man moved off down the passageway.
After him crept Mr. Magee. He followed the professor to the east balcony and saw him pause at the open window of No. 7. There the old man looked shyly about, as though in doubt. He peered into the room and one foot was across the sill when Mr. Magee came up and touched him on the arm. Professor Bolton leaped in evident fright out upon the balcony.
"It's a wonderful night," he said. "I was out for a little walk on the balcony enjoying it. Seeing your open window I was afraid."
"The night you speak so highly of," replied Mr. Magee, "is at your left. You have lost your way. Good night, professor."
He stepped inside and closed the window. Then he pulled down the curtains in both rooms of his suit and spent some time exploring. Finally he passed before the fireplace, and with the aid of a knife unlocked a brick. Under this he placed the package of money, removing the traces of his act as best he could.
"They can't play without me—I've got the ball," he repeated, with a smile. And, safe in this thought, he closed his eyes and slumbered.
The day's night must have a morning after. Mr. Magee awakened to his bed and suit 7 wrapped again in its favorite polar atmosphere. Filling the door leading to the outer room, he beheld the cause of his awakening—the mayor of Reuton. Mr. Cargan regarded him with the cold steely eye of a Dardan in action, but when he spoke he opened the jaws of a cocktail mixer.
"Well, young fellow," he remarked. "It seems to me it was time you got up and faced the responsibilities of the day. First of which, I may mention, is a little talk with me."
He stepped into the room, and through the doorway he vacated Mr. Magee came slinking. The unlovely face of the foe of suspicion was badly bruised, and he looked upon the world with no cheerful eye.
"You used you pretty rough last night in the snow," Cargan went on. "That's why I ain't disposed to go in for kid gloves and diplomacy this morning. It's my experience that when you're dealing with a man who's got the good old fish name of Magee it's best to hit fast and debate afterward."
"I used you roughly, Mr. Cargan," said Magee.
"No debate, mind you," protested the mayor. "Lou and me are making this morning call to inquire after a little package that went astray somewhere last night. There's two courses open to you—hand over the package or let us take it. I'll give you a tip—the first is the best. If we have to take it we might get real rough in our actions."
Mr. Magee slipped closer to the bed, as ugly look on his face. The mayor stared fixedly into Magee's eyes. The knight who fought for fair ladies in the snow lay on his pillow and considered briefly.
"I got what I go after," remarked Cargan emphatically.
"Yes," spat Magee, "but the real point is keeping what you get after you've gone after it. You didn't make much of an impression on me last night in that line, Mr. Cargan."
"I never cared much for humor," replied the mayor, "especially at this early hour of the morning."
"And I hate a fresh guy," put in Magee.
"I'm not fresh," Mr. Magee smiled. "I'm stating facts. You say you've come for that package. All right—but you've come to the wrong room. I haven't got it."
"The h— you haven't!" roared the mayor. "Lou, look about a bit."
"I look about all you like," agreed Magee. "You won't find it. Mr. Cargan, I admit that I hid for you last night. I saw you open the safe according to the latest approved methods, and I saw you come forth with a package of money. But I wasn't rough with you. I might have been, to be frank, but somebody beat me to it."
"Who?"
"The man with the seventh key, I suppose—that man Bland heard walking about last night when we were at dinner. Don't tell me you didn't see him in that mixup at the foot of the steps."
"Well, I did think there was another guy," the mayor answered, "but Lou said I was crazy."
"Lou does you an injustice. There was another guy, and if you are anxious to recover your precious package I advise you to wake him up to the responsibilities of the day, not me."
The mayor considered. Mr. Magee

who had hastily made the rounds of the three rooms, came back with empty hands.
"Well," said the mayor, "I might as well admit it—I'm up in the air. I don't know just at this minute where to get off. But that state of affairs don't last long with me, young fellow. I'll go to the bottom of this before the day is out, believe me. And if I can't do anything else I'll take you back to Reuton myself and throw you in jail for robbery."
"I wouldn't do that," smiled Magee. "Think of the awful job of explaining to the white necktie crowd how you happened to be dynamiting a safe on Baldpate mountain at midnight."
"Oh, I guess I can get around that," said the mayor. "That money belongs to a friend of mine—Andy Rutter. I happen to go to the inn for a little rest and I grab you dynamiting the safe. I'll keep an eye on you today, Mr. Magee. And let me tell you now that if I catch you or any of the bunch that's with you trying to make a getaway from Baldpate there's going to be a war break out."
"I don't know about the other hermits," laughed Magee, "but personally I expect to be here for several weeks to come. Whew! It's cold in here. Where's the hermit? Why hasn't he been up to fix my fire?"
"Yes, where is he?" repeated Mr. Cargan. "That's what everybody'd like to know. He hasn't showed up. Not a sign of breakfast, and me as hollow as a reformer's victory."
"He's backslid," cried Magee.
"The quitter," sneered Max. "It's only a quitter would live on the mountain in a shack anyhow."
"You're rather hard on poor old Peters," remarked Magee, "but when I think that I have to get up and dress in a refrigerating plant I can't say I blame you. If only the fire were lighted—"
He smiled his most ingratiating smile on his companion.
(To be Continued.)

JUDGE ERNEST GARY DEAD.

Senior Circuit Judge Passes Away in Columbia.
Columbia, July 1.—Ernest Gary, judge of the Fifth circuit, died shortly after noon yesterday at his home, 1520 Gervais street, Columbia, in the 56th year of his age and in his 23rd year of continuous service on the bench. He was the senior circuit judge among the 13, his election having antedated by some years that of the judge next him in point of seniority. Judge Gary had been in bad health for several years.
Judge Gary was born January 29, 1859, at Cokesbury. He was the second son of the late Franklin F. Gary, M. D. His father was a surgeon in the Confederate States army during the War Between the Sections, was for several terms a member of the general assembly, was chairman of the State board of health, was president of the South Carolina Medical association and in Masonry was most excellent grand high priest. "Quick perceptions, studious habits and a most genial disposition characterized Dr. Gary and made for him many friends."
Earliest of the known American ancestors of Judge Gary was John Witherspoon, born near Glasgow in 1670, who fled with his family to Ireland under the persecutions of the Stuarts and thence emigrated in 1734 to that section of South Carolina now known as Williamsburg county. Witherspoon was the grandson of Mrs. Lucy Welch, herself a granddaughter of the doughty Scottish preacher and reformer, John Knox, whose wife was Lady Margaret Stewart, descendant of Robert, Duke of Albany, second son of Robert II, King of Scotland.
Judge Gary's mother, who survives him, was before her marriage Miss Mary Caroline Blackburn, daughter of the late Stephen Blackburn of Newberry county and descendant of William Blackburn, an officer of the American army who died in the battle of King's Mountain. She is perhaps the only woman living who has had three sons on the bench at the same time.
Ernest Gary was for several years a student at the Cokesbury Conference school in his native village. He read law in Augusta, in the office of his uncle, Maj. Wm. T. Gary, and afterward was the law partner at Edgetfield of another uncle, Gen. Mart. W. Gary, until Gen. Gary's death in 1881. He then became associated in the practice of law at Edgetfield with N. G. Evans and this partnership endured until 1892, when Mr. Gary ascended the bench.
Meantime Mr. Gary had been actively in public life. He became a member of the general assembly in 1886, was re-elected in 1888 and again in 1890 and served in the house of representatives with conspicuous ability, notably as chairman of the judiciary committee. He was also county chairman of the Democratic party in Edgetfield, was a delegate to several Democratic State conventions and in 1893 was an elector-at-large on the Democratic national ticket.
Gen. Joseph Brevard Kershaw of Camden, having declined reelection as judge of the Fifth judicial circuit, Ernest Gary was elected by the joint assembly in 1892 to succeed him and since then as his several terms have expired he has been re-elected.

IMPROVING ROADS.

Improvement of Road Between Black River and County Line May Bring Tobacco to Sumter.

Recently Supervisor Pitts has had a force of men from the chain gang working on the road from the new crossing on Black River to the county line near Sardinia. This road has been much improved and is now in pretty good condition. It is thought that this work may mean considerable to Sumter during the summer, as it may induce the people from around Sardinia to bring a part of their tobacco to Sumter. There is a great deal of tobacco planted in this locality and it is expected that the Sumter market will be sufficiently strong to warrant the people coming here to sell. Formerly this tobacco has all gone to Manning or Olanta.
Work will also be done on this road from the new crossing at Black River toward Sumter before the tobacco season sets in, so that persons bringing produce will have a good road all the way to Sumter.
The recent intensely hot weather has delayed work on the new road between Black River and Shiloh, it being so hot down in the cypress bottoms, where the gang was employed that it was thought best to set them to work somewhere else until the weather became cooler, as the heat was dangerous to the men on the gang and the animals used with the gang.

WINTHROP EXAMINATION FRIDAY.

Several Scholarships Offered by Organizations.
Examinations for entrance and scholarships to Winthrop College will be held Friday at the court house, beginning at 9 o'clock in the morning, or as soon thereafter as feasible. While there are no vacant county scholarships this year, there are a number of free scholarships for which students desirous of attending Winthrop College may compete.
The Winthrop Chapter of Sumter County has offered a free one year scholarship to some girl from the county; the U. D. C. are giving a full four-year scholarship and a scholarship for one year in the business course; The State Federation of Women's Clubs are giving two free scholarships, which will be contested for by pupils throughout the State.
This year applicants will have only three subjects for examination, history, English and mathematics, geography being dropped.
On the same day as the Winthrop examinations, examinations will be held for the College of Charleston.
Examinations for entrance and scholarships to Clemson College will be held on the following Friday, July 10th. There is one vacancy for a full four-year scholarship from this county this year.

HEALTH EXPERTS AT WORK.

From The Daily Item, July 2.
The party of health experts in charge of Dr. H. R. Carter, senior surgeon, and of whom Drs. Robert C. Derivaux, D. M. Mulloy, H. A. Taylor, M. LePrince, are members, which arrived in the city yesterday afternoon on this morning commenced their work, Turkey Creek being the initial field, of mosquito eradication and are making good progress.
The party was taken over the city and throughout the outskirts in automobiles yesterday afternoon and shown conditions here. This prepared them for the work they had to do and they were ready to set out this morning.

Madcap Madge.

Following is the cast of characters staging Madcap Madge at the Academy of Music, on July 8th, 1914. The play was written by local author, and local talent will stage it. All intermissions will be pleasingly filled by the best musical talent that Sumter affords, accompanied by orchestra. Come and let us entertain you for a couple of hours, with fun and frolic. Proceeds will go to swell the Civic League library fund. Come one, come all. Popular prices. Adults, 50c; general admission, children under 12 years, 25c.

Full Cast.

- Scottn Jenkins... Mrs. Laura Lobby
- Madcap Madge... Miss Kristinsson
- Mary Ann... Miss Georgia Peetham
- Betty Dewdrop... Miss Clara Childs
- Farmer Dewdrop... Marion Seabrook
- Fred Dunlap... Warren S. Fisher
- Robert Rothmann... Keister Mack
- Frank Devore... Arthur Harby
- George Hawley... Harold McCoy
- Cap... ..
- James Haycock... George Beetham
- Bob Robbins... Ambrose Peetham
- Sam Shicker... B. R. China
- Postman... ..

Real Estate Transfers.

W. B. Wilson to Virginia Harby Prince, lot on Church street, \$3,000.
Eble Wilson and Lizzie Vaughn to Wm. Nelson, lot in county, \$75.

NEW EXPRESS RATES IN EFFECT

Changes Recommended by South Carolina Freight Rates Association and Ordered Put into Effect by Railroad Commissioner.

New express rates for intra-state shipment in South Carolina went into effect yesterday, July 1, which are a radical change from the formerly existing rates. The new rates tend toward an equalization of rates and are based upon a much simpler classification that before. The new rates are higher in some cases, remain the same in some cases and are lower in other instances. While it would be impossible to say just what effect they will have on the general public upon whom the company depends for most of its business, it seems from a cursory investigation that the new rates will to a great extent lower the cost of small shipments, while it will to a similar extent increase the cost of larger shipments.
The new rates for intra-state shipments are based upon the inter-state express rates which were formulated by the inter-state commerce commission and put into effect by all express companies on first of February by order of the inter-state commerce commission. The State is divided into blocks and the rates are based on mileage, according to the block into or from which the shipment is made. There are comparatively little changes on the whole, probably, from former rates. Formerly there were five classes of shipments, while the new rates provide for only two classes of shipments.
The putting into effect of the new rates has kept the express company employees busier than usual for the past few days, but it is thought that ratings will come easier, after the new rates are absorbed by those who have to deal with them.

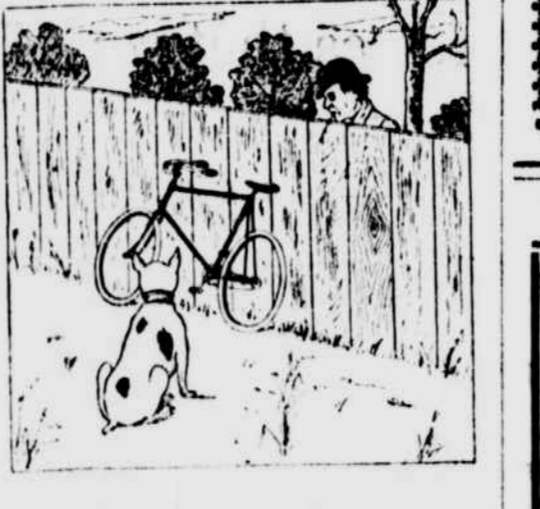
FAMOUS CORN RAISER DEAD.

Bennettsville, July 1.—Zachariah J. Drake, who has held for a quarter century the world's record for maximum production of corn upon a test acre, having harvested from one acre in 1889 corn to the amount of 254 bushels, died Tuesday night in his 71st year at his plantation home near Drake. The funeral and interment will take place Thursday morning at the Drake cemetery near Blenheim.

Capt. Drake was a member of one of the oldest of American families, the first of them having come over from England and settled on the coast of Virginia. This original sturdy immigrant, who was an officer in the American army during the War of the Revolution, is said to have been in direct line of descent from Sir Francis Drake, England's great admiral.

Details of Capt. Drake's still unrivaled feat in corn production is given in circular 15 of the State department of agriculture, commerce and industries, Commissioner Watson had been in search of contemporary data on this record crop, but had nothing of the sort, except memoranda contained in a handbook of the department and an old copy of the "Book of Corn," until there was found in a scrapbook compiled by the late R. Means Davis of the University of South Carolina an original clipping of the circumstantial report printed in 1889 in The American Agriculturist. It was under the auspices of this journal that the contest was conducted in which Capt. Drake made his record. The account covers six printed pages of law brief size. The dimensions of the field and the quantity harvested are certified to by Wm. B. Alford, registered civil engineer and also magistrate; J. C. Campbell, representative of The American Agriculturist; P. L. Breeden, planter of Marlboro; S. A. Brown, editor of the Marlboro Democrat, and by three witnesses on behalf of Capt. Drake, these being G. V. W. Dunn, J. W. Reynolds and John J. Tart.

Manchester, N. H., July 2.—Three men were burned to death this morning when a lodging house on Elm street was destroyed by fire.



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PLAY GROUND FOR CHILDREN.

Apparatus Ordered and Grounds Will Be in Readiness Sometime During Month.

The apparatus for the playground, which the Civic League is preparing on the lot on the corner of Main and Bartlett streets, which was offered to the Civic League for this purpose by the trustees of the China estate, has been ordered and is expected here sometime during the month, when it will be installed and it is thought that the children's playground will be in readiness for them by the middle or latter part of the month. The lot has been built up and levelled off by the city force under the direction of the Civic League and will be a great boon for the smaller children, who have long needed just such a place in which to take exercise and fresh air.

A JUST PARDON.

Alabama Convict Twenty Years for Stealing Fifty Cents.

Mobile, July 2.—Frank Williams, a Hale county convict was paroled today by the Governor after serving twenty of a fifty year sentence for stealing fifty cents. His health is broken.

New York Cotton Market.

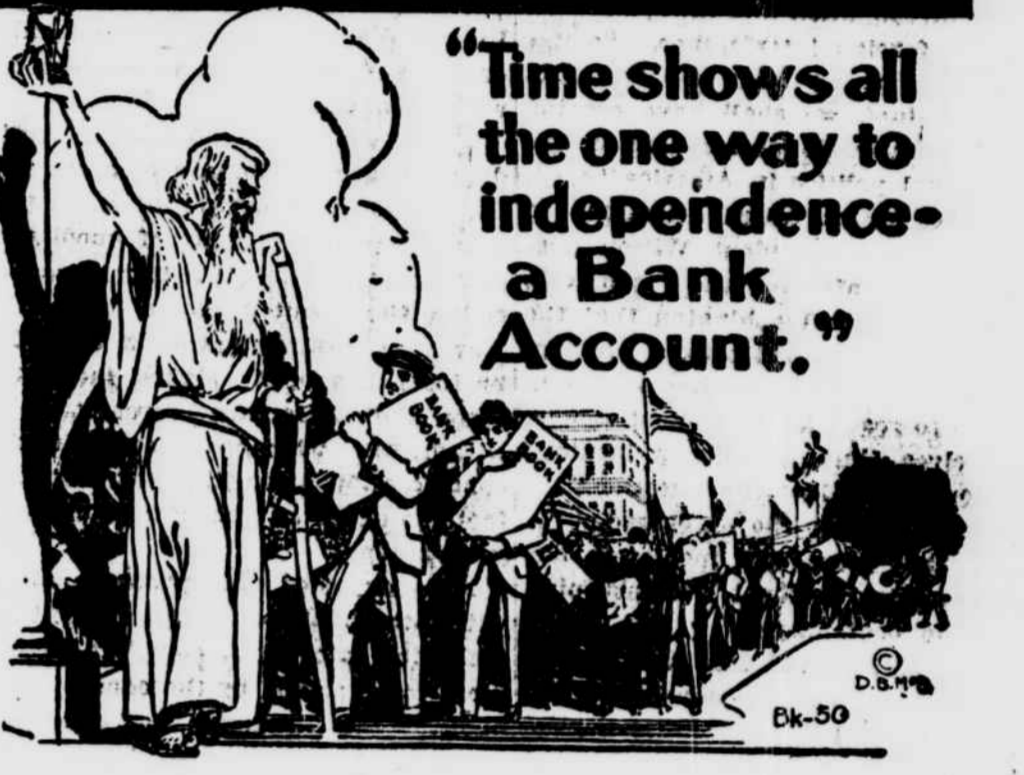
New York, July 2.		
	Opening	Close.
July	12.65	12.58
Oct	12.45	12.28
Dec	12.54	12.39
Chicago Produce Exchange.		
Chicago, July 2.		
	Opening	Close.
Corn	65 1-8	65 1-2
Ribs—July . . .	11.67	11.70
Ribs—Sept. . . .	11.62	11.70

A license to marry has been granted to John I. Johnson of Asheville and Clara Odom of Sumter, colored parties.

Coroner D. W. Owens this morning signed his bond and sent it to the Secretary of State. His commission goes into effect as soon as this bond is approved.

Geo H. Hurst,
Undertaker and Embalmer.
Prompt Attention to Day or Night Calls.
AT J. D. Craig Old Stand, N. Main
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July 4th—Independence day marks our Nation's fight for liberty, and should remind all to strive for individual independence by starting a bank account.
Without effort there is little chance for accomplishment and none for opportunity. If you earn money, it is a duty to save part of it and we are ready to aid those who have the desire to become independent. Start with \$1.

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YOU are wasting energy in trying to carry financial details in your mind. It's the want of good banking service which forces such procedure. The check Account system of this bank promotes economy, increases business prestige, and supplies the wants of many business men.
The First National Bank
OF SUMTER

1905 1914
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C. G. Rowland, Prest. G. L. Warren, Cashier