

# The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear Not—Let all the ends Thou Aims't at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June 1, 1866.

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## EDMUND BIGHAM KILLED FAMILY

Florence Coroner's Jury Charges Bigham With Murder

SLEW HIS MOTHER BROTHER AND SISTER

One of the Most Horrible Crimes in History of South Carolina

Paralejo, Jan. 27.—The coroner's jury, which has been investigating the killing on January 15 of five members of the Bigham family near here, returned a verdict late last night charging Edmund Bigham, now in the Florence jail with the crime.

The verdict, delivered after about 15 minutes of deliberation, holds that Mrs. M. M. Bigham, Mrs. Marjorie Black, L. S. Bigham and John and Joe McCracken came to their death by gunshot wounds inflicted at the hands of Edmund Bigham.

Mrs. Bigham was the mother of the accused man; Mrs. Black, a sister; L. S. Bigham, a brother, and the two small McCracken boys, adopted children of Mrs. Black.

The hearing began at 2 o'clock yesterday and between 15 and 20 witnesses were examined, among these being Mrs. Edmund Bigham and her daughter.

Several hundred people from the surrounding country were in attendance, the court room being packed to capacity from the time the inquest started at 2 o'clock until the verdict was announced after 10 o'clock at night.

A number of witnesses testified as to threats they had heard made by Edmund D. Bigham against several of the murdered from time to time, these witnesses being workmen on the premises, both white and negro.

From the evidence, it seems that E. D. Bigham, L. S. Bigham and a number of negro men went to the woods for the purpose of taking up the weeks cutting of wood Saturday morning, January 15; that while in the woods one of the negro men requested L. S. Bigham to go with him to look over some land to work this year; that E. D. Bigham requested him not to go at that time that he, E. D. Bigham, wanted to see him; that one by one the cutters left the woods, leaving the two Bighams.

One witness testified that he heard shortly after leaving the woods a pistol shot but did not remember nor did he at the time pay any attention to the direction from which the sound of shot came. Another negro testified that he saw E. D. Bigham come out of the woods alone, about 100 yards from the Bigham home, join one of the McCracken boys, and walk on up the road, turning into the Bigham yard. This statement was also made by the negro's wife, who was with him in the road at the time, the McCracken boy having been sent to the west by Mrs. M. M. Bigham with an old vest which she had given the negro. He stopped to put the vest on and upon doing so looked back and saw Edmund Bigham come out of the woods. No one testified to having heard any shooting around the Bigham home.

Several of the cutters testified that they saw the pistol, which was found in the hand of L. S. Bigham, in the pocket of E. D. Bigham while he was taking up their wood. The pistol was positively identified by the witnesses.

## MONEY FOR WEAK SCHOOLS

Columbia, Jan. 28.—The department of public education and the state superintendent of education particularly, will likely find themselves in hot water, if the general assembly kills a bill, now on the house calendar, to appropriate \$170,000 to cover a deficit in the fulfillment of the act of 1920 to provide seven months' terms for weak schools. Prominent members of the house are against the bill, and its death will mean loss to school teachers in every county of the state.

The act of 1920, ratified in March, was construed by the department of education as being retroactive and on the strength of this interpretation teachers were paid advanced salaries for the entire 1919-1920 season. The law, however, was not retroactive and, according to legislators, applied only to the last half of the session. There is a disposition on the part of many legislators not to appropriate the \$170,000.

## Case in Bankruptcy Filed.

Charleston, Jan. 28.—A petition for involuntary bankruptcy supported by six large wholesale concerns was filed in the United States district court here yesterday against the Lemmon and Britton Dry Goods company, of Sumter. Those joining the petition were the Distributing Corporation, of New York; the Bowen-Dugan company, of Philadelphia; Clifton, Inc., of New York; the Armstrong-Cator company, of Baltimore; the Bluff City Shoe company, of Hannibal, Mo.; and the Bess-Stix Dry Goods company, of St. Louis.

Adelaide, Australia, Jan. 31.—Warren Kealoha, the Hawaiian swimmer, broke the world's record for one hundred meter event here, making the distance in fifty and one-half seconds.

## TERMS STATED TO GERMANY

Conditions of Reparations Payment Set Forth in Note

ANSWER REQUIRED WITHOUT DELAY

Allies United in Purpose to Make Germany Pay For War Damages

Paris, Jan. 30.—The document signed by the supreme council of the allies last night by which the reparations and disarmament decisions of the allies will be conveyed to Germany, was delivered today to Charles Bergmann, German under secretary of state for the treasury and head of the German delegation in Paris, with a letter of transmittal marked "confidential." The letter, with two notes on reparations and disarmament, totals 2,500 words.

The letter of transmittal, which is dated January 28, reads:

"Sir: The allied conference which met in Paris from the 24th to the 29th of January, 1921, has taken the following decisions:

"1. As regards the disarmament of Germany, the allied governments have approved the conclusions formulated in the note attached hereto.

"2. As regards the question of reparations the allied governments have unanimously approved the proposals formulated in that document, also attached hereto.

"The allied governments have no former occasions and again today, in consenting to fresh delays in the matter of disarmament, had due regard to the difficulties that surround the German government in the execution of the obligations which have resulted from the treaty of Versailles. They have formed the hope that the German government will not place the allies, who confirm their previous decisions under the necessity of envisaging the grave situation which will be created if Germany persists in failing to meet her obligations.

"Qualified delegates of the German government will be invited to a meeting in London at the end of February with delegates of the allied governments."

The reparations note bears the title, "An Agreement Between the Allied Powers for the Settlement of Certain Questions Relating to Execution of the Treaty of Versailles."

The note reads:

"Article 1.—For the purpose of satisfying the obligations imposed upon her by Articles 231 and 232 of the treaty of Versailles, Germany shall, irrespective of the restitution she is to make under Article 233 and of any other obligation under the treaty, pay:

"1.—Fixed annuities payable half yearly in equal parts as follows: (a) two annuities of 2,000,000,000 gold marks from May 1, 1921, to May 1, 1923; (b) three annuities of 3,000,000,000 gold marks from May 1, 1923, to May 1, 1925; (c) three annuities of 4,000,000,000 gold marks from May 1, 1925, to May 1, 1929; (d) three annuities of 5,000,000,000 gold marks from May 1, 1929, to May 1, 1932; (e) thirty-one annuities of 6,000,000,000 gold marks from May 1, 1932, to May 1, 1963.

"2.—Forty-one annuities running from May 1, 1921, equal in amount to 12 per cent. ad valorem of German exports, payable in gold two months after the close of each half year.

"In order to insure complete fulfillment of Paragraph 2 above, Germany will give to the reparations commission every facility for verifying the amount of the German exports and for the establishment of the supervision necessary for this purpose.

"Article 2. The German government will transmit forthwith to the reparations commission notes to bearer, payable at the dates specified in Article 1, Paragraph 1, of the present arrangement. The amount of these notes shall be equivalent to each of the half yearly sums payable under said paragraph.

"Instructions shall be given to the reparations commission with a view to facilitating realization by the powers which so demand, the share to be attributed to them in accordance with the agreements in force between them.

"Article 3. Germany shall be at liberty at any time to make payments in advance on account of the fixed portion of the summing.

"Advance payments shall be applied in the reduction in the fixed annuities provided for in the first paragraph of Article 1. For this purpose annuities shall be discounted at the rate of 8 per cent. until May, 1923; 6 per cent. from May 1, 1923, to May 1, 1925; 5 per cent. from May 1, 1925.

"Article 4. Germany shall not directly embark on any credit operation outside her own territory without the approval of the reparations commission. This provision applies to the government of the German empire, to the governments of German states, to the German provincial and municipal authorities and to any companies or undertakings under control of said governments or authorities.

"Article 5. In pursuance of Article 248 of the treaty of Versailles all the assets and revenues of the empire and of the German states shall be applicable to insure complete execution by Germany of the provisions of

## SENTRY SHOTS NAVAL OFFICER

Lieut. John C. Taylor Killed at Hampton Roads, Va.

Washington, Jan. 31.—A naval court of inquiry has been ordered to investigate the shooting of Lieut. John C. Taylor, of Greenville, N. C., a naval medical officer, at the operating base, Hampton Roads, Va., by a sentry last night. In the meantime Secretary Daniels has asked for a full report, the one he has received merely stated that the officer was shot and killed after he failed to halt when challenged by the sentry.

## WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL

Proposed Law to Settle Claims Without Recourse to Damage Suits

Columbia, Jan. 31.—An important bill to be introduced this week in the state senate by Senator Robinson, of McCormick, is the workmen's compensation bill. It has been engrossed and is ready for introduction, probably at the first senate session of the week, Tuesday afternoon at 3. The bill is 62 pages in length, the most voluminous measure of the present session so far.

The bill provides a schedule of compensations to be paid to employees injured in service of employers. There is an exemption in all classes, of five days, no compensation being paid until after this period of time.

The bill provides that for total incapacity, the weekly compensation shall be fifty per cent of the regular wage, not over \$20 and not less than \$6, during incapacity. After 500 weeks the compensation would be reduced to one-third the usual wage.

For partial incapacity the compensation would be fifty per cent of the difference between the wage before the accident and that after return to work.

The following schedule of compensations would be provided for the loss of parts of the body; thumb, fifty per cent of wages, for sixty weeks; first finger, thirty-five weeks; second finger, thirty weeks; third finger, twenty weeks; fourth finger, 15 weeks; first phalanx of any finger, one-fourth of the above figures. Loss of a great toe would be compensated at the rate of half the regular wage before the accident, extending for thirty weeks time; one of the other toes, half pay for ten weeks.

The loss of a hand would, under the provisions of the bill, call for compensation to the extent of seventy-five per cent of the wages received before the accident, for a period of 150 weeks; the loss of an arm would call for the same proportion of compensation, for a period of 200 weeks; the loss of a foot, for 125 weeks; the loss of a leg, for 175 weeks; the total loss of vision in one eye, fifty per cent of wages for 100 weeks.

The loss of both hands, both arms, both feet, both legs or both eyes, as regarded, in the bill, as total incapacity.

The bill would create an "Industrial Commission" to have charge of administering the provisions of the bill, this to consist of three commissioners, each to receive a salary of \$4,000. An appropriation of ten thousand dollars would be made to finance the commission and its work, this to be collected by the state as a tax against all liability insurance companies, three per cent on all premiums paid within the state. The "Industrial Commission" would keep records of all accidents in the state and would be employed full-time in enforcing the compensation law.

This bill is not expected to pass the legislature, however. It is stated that there is much opposition to it already.

The present arrangement.

"The proceeds of the German maritime and land customs, including in the proceeds of all import and export duties and of any tax subsidiary thereon, shall be constituted special security for the execution of the present agreement.

"No modification which might diminish the proceeds of the customs shall be made in the German customs laws of regulation without approval of the reparations commission. All German customs receipts shall be cashed on behalf of the German government by a receiver general of German customs appointed by the approval of reparations commission.

"In case Germany shall make default in any payment provided for in the present arrangement—

"(1) All or part of the proceeds of the German customs in the hands of the receiver general of German customs may be attached by the reparations commission and applied in meeting the obligations in respect of which Germany has defaulted. In such case the reparations commission may, if it think necessary, itself undertake the administration and receipt of the customs duties.

"(2) The reparations commission also may formally invite the German government to proceed to such increases of duties or to take such steps for the purpose of increasing its resources as the commission may think necessary."

## THE LEGISLATURE THIS WEEK

Forecast of The Measures of Importance That Will Be Considered

Columbia, Jan. 31.—Possibly the most important, though not the most spectacular event in the general assembly this week will be the introduction of the general appropriation bill, by the ways and means committee of the house of representatives. It is expected that this will be placed on the desk of the speaker of the house on Thursday, ten days sooner than it was introduced last year.

One of the most interesting events of the week in the halls of legislation will be the election of a speaker of the house, to succeed Hon. Thos. P. Cothran, who Friday qualified as associate justice of the supreme court. Speaker Pro Tem J. B. Atkinson, of Spartanburg, will in all probability be elected, though Claude N. Sapp, of Columbia, will be nominated and will make a strong race. Representatives Owens and Mower are also mentioned for the position.

As soon as he is elected the new speaker will likely announce a date for the election of a new member from Greenville county, this to be done at the instigation of the Greenville delegation.

It is expected that the stock law fight, which has held an exciting place on the boards during recent days, will produce a new sensation with the introduction during the week of a state-wide stock law, allowing no county or township exemptions, and putting an end, if passed, to "free grass" forever.

Among the bills that will bring forth debate this week are the two moving picture censorship bills, one in each legislative branch, both introduced from Spartanburg, by Representative Harris and Senator Rogers, and both on the calendars with unfavorable reports, but with prospects of a battle scene, the bill by Representative J. B. Atkinson to empower the public service commission to regulate rates and service of all public utilities; the bill to appropriate \$170,000, to make up the deficit in the carrying out of the provisions of the seven-months school term act of the 1920 legislature, about which Governor Cooper will likely have to send some message to the legislature; and Representative Owens' bill to repeal the act providing for insurance of public buildings by the state sinking fund commission.

On the house calendar this week are four bills proposing amendments to the state highway act, all with unfavorable or divided committee reports. Two of these, one introduced by Pickens delegation and one by Representative Owens, of Marlboro, would put the issuing of automobile license on the clerks of court. Another by the Barnwell delegation would provide for the expenditure of the two-million levy for roads in the counties. The fourth, introduced by Representatives Pradford and Dickson, would reduce the license on motor trucks.

Tuesday night at 8 the senate will resume debate on the bill introduced by Senator Jeremiah Smith, of Horry, to exempt his county from the state stock law.

During the week a bill "fathered" by the league of Women Voters of the state, will be introduced in the legislature, to raise the age of consent from 14 to 16, and also providing for prosecution of women found guilty of leading young boys from the straight and narrow path.

The senate will Tuesday night also consider a resolution, already passed by the house, directing the state treasurer to pay to the Palmetto National bank, of Columbia, the sum of \$15,000, with interest at 4 1/2 per cent from maturity, which was borrowed on behalf of the National Guard, by direction of the 1920 general assembly.

Both branches of the general assembly have invited Mrs. Maude Wood Park, president of the National League of Women Voters, a resident of Washington, to address the legislature on the evening of February 10, on behalf of the women's organizations of the state and their legislative program. The women are interested in a number of measures now passing through the legislative mill. During the next few days a bill will be introduced, it is said, to require the women to pay poll tax. This is suggested by the League of Women Voters.

## DETROIT BANK SHOT UP

Detroit, Jan. 31.—Three detectives were shot by three bandits who held up the Morton Bond company's office in the public square downtown this morning and escaped with ten thousand dollars in Liberty bonds. Two detectives will probably die.

## HORSES AND MULES SMOTHER

Raleigh, N. C., Jan. 30.—Thirty-three horses and mules, property of the United States government, were removed from box cars here today, having smothered to death between Norfolk and Raleigh, while they were en route from Camp Lee to Camp Jackson, at Columbia, S. C.

## GREAT HORROR IN SOVIET RUSSIA

Twenty Million People Suffering Acute Starvation According to Information Brought to Light

LENINE'S EARLY DOWNFALL PREDICTED

Prominent Russians Who Oppose Radical Rule Submerging Differences and Planning United Front

New York, Jan. 30.—The veil which for many months has completely hidden conditions in Russia, due to the action of soviet leaders in barring visitors from the rest of the world, is being withdrawn a little by the conference, now in session in Paris, of the all Russian constituent assembly.

Prominent exiled Russians who opposed the rule of Lenin and Trotzky are now submerging their differences in an effort to present a united front against bolshevism. They are disclosing in Paris reports from associates still in Russia picturing conditions not before clearly presented to the world. These reports are being received by cable by A. J. Sack, director of the Russian information bureau, who is the authorized spokesman in this country of all the Russian elements opposed to bolshevism attending the Paris conference. In a statement today summing up the reports which have reached him, Mr. Sack explains why the conference is to be regarded as an event of international importance and incidentally he discloses for the first time that there is a famine in Russian villages this winter "probably not less acute than in China."

"Thirteen million people have begun to suffer acute starvation this January," he said, "and seven million already in December of the past year."

On the basis of the data he has submitted, he declares, on behalf of his associates, that the downfall of bolshevism is inevitable.

His statement says in part:

"The situation within bolshevist Russia is critical. The economic life of the country is destroyed, according even to the bolshevist official data. According to No. 256, of the official bolshevist daily Pravda, which contains a comparative table of manufacturing outputs for the first half year of 1920, as compared with the corresponding period of 1914, the present output of iron in bolshevist Russia is only 12 per cent of the output before the war; steel, 4 per cent; cotton, 20 per cent; coal 25 per cent. The area under cultivation is only 24 per cent as compared with land cultivated in 1914.

"The bolshevist regime is both a political and economic failure and its downfall may be expected at any moment. After that Russia may plunge into complete anarchy. If this will happen the Russian crisis will last for many years, keeping all Europe and the rest of the world under great strain and preventing everywhere the return to normal economic and political conditions.

"It is of importance therefore, for the entire world that the downfall of bolshevism in Russia should not mark an increase of anarchy in the country but, on the contrary should stir up processes that would bring about speedy political and economic recuperation of Russia. This is possible only on two conditions:

"First that the Russia democratic forces should be properly organized and ready to work at the time Russia opens for their activity, and the other is that the world should come to the realization that the Russian problem is the central European and therefore the central world problem of today, and that the forces that work for Russia's regeneration should be given all the moral and material support they need for the successful fulfillment of the great task before them.

"The importance of the present Russian conference in Paris is in that it lays the foundation for unity of all the Russian democratic forces opposed to bolshevism, and that it secures for them active sympathy and cooperation of the international democratic forces. We look upon this conference with great hope, trusting that it opens the way for Russia's and the world's regeneration."

## KIDNAPPED IN CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles, Jan. 31.—Mrs. Gladys Witherell, who disappeared from her home Tuesday was found today a prisoner in a house on a ranch seventy miles from here. Two men were arrested.

## ALABAMA LYNCHERS ON TRIAL

Hamilton, Ala., Jan. 31.—The trial of Sergeant Robert Lancaster, one of the nine members of the Alabama National Guard, who was indicted in connection with the lynching of William Baird, a miner, was set to begin here today. Each man will be given a separate trial, the state's attorney deciding against group trial.

## NEW TREATY WITH JAPAN

Senator Makes Attack on Proposed Japanese Agreement

SAYS IT IS CAMOUFLAGE

Colby Declares Californian at Error in Matter and Unduly Alarmed

Washington, Jan. 29.—The attack on the proposed agreement between Japan and the United States as to the status of Japanese in this country which was made today by Senator Johnson, of California, was characterized by Secretary of State Colby in a statement tonight as proceeding "upon a quite erroneous assumption as to the trend and purport of the conversations which have been going on for some weeks between Ambassador Morris and the Japanese ambassador."

The plan for agreement is now before the two governments and was said by Senator Johnson on the basis of statements "from authoritative sources" as to its provisions to mean in the end "a continuance of Japanese immigration and increase in the Japanese population in the west."

In his statement of reply tonight Secretary Colby said that Senator Johnson was "not informed as to the course of these conversations and I am therefore surprised that he should feel called upon to throw himself into a defensive posture against dangers which he described, but which, I am informed, he has been assured do not present themselves.

"The state department is charged with the duty of pursuing these important discussions with sober regard to the facts," the secretary's statement continued, "and this it has sought to do with a proper consideration for every interested point of view.

"I am not speaking in any spirit of criticism of Senator Johnson, with whom I have long had the most agreeable and friendly relations, but he must know, as a member of the foreign relations committee of the senate, that even if the fear to which he gives expression, that the state department is moving too rapidly in the direction of a treaty, that a treaty can have no effect without its submission in due course to the senate, and, under the latter's practice, its minute examination by the senator's committee."

Senator Johnson issued a statement criticizing the reported agreement between Japanese Ambassador Shidhara and American Ambassador Morris dealing with the status of Japanese in America.

When "stripped of diplomatic camouflage," Senator Johnson said, that reliable information he had regarding the agreement was that it provided for repeal of California's anti-alien laws.

A new "gentlemen's agreement" for exclusion of Japanese which "does not exclude" also is proposed, Senator Johnson declared.

Senator Johnson's statement follows:

"From authoritative sources it is stated that the agreement between Ambassadors Shidhara and Morris embraces (1) an exchange of diplomatic notes defining passport regulations, etc., which would 'tighten up' the present gentlemen's agreement relating to exclusion of Japanese from this country, and (2) a treaty defining the rights of the nationals of each country, and which will, in effect, abrogate and destroy the alien land laws of the state of California.

"Stripped of diplomatic camouflage this means that our representative and Japan's have agreed upon the repeal of the land laws passed by the state of California and prohibit the passage of those contemplated by many other western states. Japan has ever insisted upon the control of her own people, and, therefore, will not agree to an exclusion treaty, but will enter into a so-called gentlemen's agreement which will not exclude. The new gentlemen's agreement, notwithstanding its additional phases, can be just as loosely administered as the present one, and just as in the case of the present gentlemen's agreement it will be honored more in the breach than in the observance. The result will be under the suggested arrangement, if adopted, a continuance of Japan's immigration and increase in the Japanese population in the west."

## Auto License Tax.

Columbia, Jan. 31.—Monday is the last day on which automobile and truck and motorcycle owners and dealers can operate in the state without a 1921 license, and remain within the law. The month of January is allowed, under the law, for securing of new licenses. In recent days the state highway offices have been rushed, to deliver the license plates called for.

The license bureau reported this morning that up to the beginning of operations today there had been issued 42,999 plates for 1921, of which 37,877 were automobile licenses, 3,195 truck licenses, 1,670 dealers' licenses and 157 motorcycle licenses. There remained to be issued, when the license department began business for the last day of January a total of 52,971 plates to be issued for automobiles and trucks Monday, and 751 for motorcycles. The total collections to date have amounted to \$355,828.