

The St. Tammany Farmer.

"The Blessings of Government, Like the Dew from Heaven, Should Descend Alike Upon the Rich and the Poor."

D. H. MASON, JR., Editor.

COVINGTON, ST TAMMANY PARISH, LA., SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 1909.

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TWENTY-NINE WOUNDED. Negro In Monroe Shoots Up the Town With a Double Barrel Shotgun. Finally Killed and Strung Up and Body Burned On An Old Pile of Lumber.

Monroe, La., Aug. 24.—Twenty-nine citizens were wounded, four of them seriously, shortly after 9 o'clock this morning when a negro desperado, W. S. Wade, ran amuck with a double-barreled shotgun and his pockets full of cartridges, and waged a desperate battle with citizens and officers on one of the most prominent business corners of Grand and Desiard streets, approximately one hundred shots being fired before the negro fell to the sidewalk dead.

After the negro was killed the body was hanged in front of one of the Grand street stores, and after being cut down was publicly burned.

LIST OF THE WOUNDED.

Hugh Biggar, police officer, shot in abdomen and thigh; may die.
T. A. Grant, deputy sheriff, shot in neck and breast; may die.
Simon Marks, merchant, Tuskegee, Ala., shot in breast and face; may die.
Geo. McCormack, manager Ouachita Lumber Company, West Monroe, La., arm shattered.

The slightly wounded are:

Dr. A. A. Forsythe, Mayor of Monroe, shot in right leg.
D. A. Bread, banker and president North Louisiana Shingle Company, shot in shoulder.

Joseph Thompson, chief dispatcher Iron Mountain Railroad office, shot in head.

A. A. Grenly, lumberman, shot in head.

Manuel Abramowitz, clerk, shot in face.

Albert Marx, vice president Southern Hardware Company, shot in head.

C. E. Bynum, Jr., stenographer Southern Grocery Co., shot in face.

J. L. Kendall, train master of Iron Mountain Railroad, shot in body.

J. W. Merriman, agent Wells-Fargo Express Company, shot in hand.

Armand Baer, clerk I. Baer & Co., shot in back, arms and hand.

D. Ensell, traveling salesman, shot in face.

E. P. Davies, clerk Southern Hardware Company, shot in head.

M. Braun, blacksmith, shot in body.

Ray Fisher, messenger boy, shot in hand.

G. B. Edwards, steamboatman, shot in arm.

L. Haas, clerk, shot in head and breast.

Herman Abrams, merchant, shot in breast.

E. R. Ross, clerk, shot in body.

Fred McGrath, clerk, shot in hand.

D. G. Trousdale.

Three negroes, shot in face and body.

Wade's body was publicly burned after it had been cut down from a pole on which it hung for a half-hour or more after he was killed.

It was at first reported that Wade was half-crazed at the time of the shooting as a result of either cheap whisky or cocaine, but an investigation by the police this afternoon showed that when he purchased the shotgun, a few minutes before he opened fire on the first man, that there was nothing unusual in his manner or behavior. Other negroes who were with him in the morning say that he had not been drinking nor did he show any evidence of having taken cocaine.

The most probable theory is that the shooting was an act of revenge; that it was a coolly calculated scheme to "shoot up" the town and kill as many whites as possible in retaliation for the recent killing of two negroes near the Iron Mountain depot by policemen. This theory is strengthened by the fact that Wade is from Pine Bluff, Ark., from where the two negroes killed by policemen came.

Furthermore, Wade and Henry Staples, the negroes killed by Policemen Newman last Saturday night, are said to be close friends, and it is believed that all three negroes belonged to the same secret society.

Another report was that Wade made an unsuccessful attempt to rob the Bank of Monroe. This rumor was started by the fact that Wade first shot at J. J. Jordan, cashier of the bank, who was standing just outside the building talking to George McCormack. The negro then took refuge in a stairway just south of the bank entrance, from which position he conducted his battle until killed. Wade missed Jordan, but the entire load of shot entered the arm of McCormack, injuring him so badly that amputation may be necessary.

Another factor that increased the excitement was the entire unexpectedness of the affair. The first intimation anyone had was when Wade turned loose with a double-barreled breech-loading shotgun at Mr. Jordan. Wade at that time was standing almost in front of the bank. He then fired the other barrel at some men standing near, then retreated a few steps south into a stairway, where he reloaded, reappearing in a few seconds to fire at the nearest persons. He did not discriminate. The nearest persons were the objects of his aim. From then until finally brought down he conducted the same tactics. He would retreat in the stairway to load, jump out, fire both barrels, and retreat to reload. That his aim was good is evidenced by the fact that although he only fired about twelve times, twenty-nine were wounded.

The unexpectedness was one cause of so many being injured. People rushed to their doors to see the cause of the shooting only to be greeted with loads of scattering shot, and a minute or two elapsed before citizens could arm themselves and attack the negro.

Hearing the fusillade and diving the cause armed men came hurrying from every point of the compass, and soon Wade was attacked from three sides. Guns were popping like firecrackers, and the fight assumed the proportions of a small battle. Doorways in buildings near the scene were filled with citizens and officers with leveled weapons firing at Wade every time he came out of his retreat to shoot, and others could be seen hurrying to the spot with rifles and shot guns.

Finally the negro fell, with a scream of mortal agony, to the sidewalk. It is not known who fired the shot that killed him, but it was either Mayor Forsythe or Policeman Biggar, both of whom were shot, the latter seriously.

As the negro fell, the crowd rushed forward, and that section of the city soon blockaded with men crowding to catch a glimpse of the crime-crazed negro. After lying on the sidewalk a short while some one secured a rope, and the body was soon swung to the awning in front of a drug store. It hung there a short while until Coroner Surghnor arrived, when it was cut down for the inquest.

After the inquest, which required very little time, the body again was hoisted up. It did not remain suspended very long the second time as it was soon cut down placed in a wagon and carried away. It was believed that this was the end, but such was not the case. The body was carried to a vacant lot near the City Hall, where was a pile of lumber. It was placed on this lumber, several cans of oil were poured over the pile, and a match applied. The flames sprang up immediately, and the body was lost sight of in the mass of flames.

Just as the crowd started to fire the funeral pyre Mayor Forsythe appeared and made an attempt to dissuade the crowd. His pleas and efforts proved useless. Some one struck a match, another shouted to the mayor that his clothes were on fire, and as he sprang backwards several additional cans of oil sent the flames skyward.

News of the burning quickly spread, and soon vast crowds were surrounding the lot. As the fire burned down more fuel was thrown on, and the fire was kept burning several hours.

Wade purchased the gun with which he did his work to-day a short time before the shooting from the Ouachita-Monroe Gun and Bicycle Co., only a block and a half from the scene of the shooting. It was sold to him by J. D. Herron, and Wade was very careful to examine the weapon and see that it was in good working order. He was asked if he needed any shells, but replied that he had all the buckshot shells he would need. It is fortunate that the negro did not have buckshot shells as he stated. He was using birdshot, and if it had not been for this fact between twelve and fifteen probably would have been killed, as a great many of the wounded were struck in vital parts.

He evidently was under the impression that his shells were loaded with buckshot, or would have bought them. It has not developed yet where the negro bought the birdshot shells.

During the affray several large plate glass show windows were broken. Many bullet holes were made in the doorjam of the stairway in which Wade hid, and the marks of bullets were left on nearby posts.

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To Destroy Boll Weevil

The State Crop Pest Commission has just completed a series of experiments at Mansura, Avoyelles Parish, in studying the hibernating habits of the boll weevil. The results of these experiments are really startling in their importance for they point the way to successful warfare against the weevil with unerring accuracy.

One of the objects of the experimental work at Mansura was to find out how many of the boll weevils could be gotten rid of by destroying the cotton plants at different times in the fall. To secure this information cages were made of wire cloth, each cage being 8x3 feet, and 6 feet high. In these cages were placed piles of trash, leaves, moss, stumps, etc., to form

winter quarters for the boll weevils such as they would find out-of-doors.

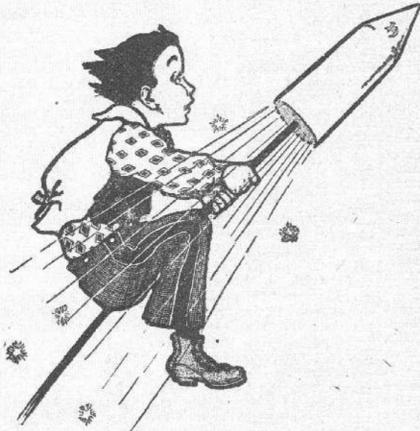
On September 23, 1909, a lot of live and active adult boll weevils were gathered in a near-by cotton field and placed in one of these cages and the cage securely locked. No growing cotton was in any of the cages. Thus these weevils were deprived of all food from then on. Had the cotton plants in the field been destroyed on September 23 the weevils there would likewise have been deprived of food. Therefore the number of weevils living through the winter in the cage must have been the same as the number living through the winter in the fields where the cotton plants were destroyed on September 23. If anything, conditions would favor a slightly larger number surviving in the cage than in the field, for in the cage the weevils were protected from birds, mice, "punkies," etc. A cage of this kind was started once a week from Sept. 23 to December 21, 1908, with freshly collected weevils from the cotton field. The past spring (1909) the cages were watched every day and as the weevils came out of the trash they were counted, recorded, and then removed from the cages. In this way a complete record was obtained of the number of weevils living through the winter in each of the cages. Following are the results:

Out of 1,037 adult weevils collected in the fields on September 23, 1908, 23 lived through the winter. Of 1,195 gathered in the field on October 6th, 15 lived until spring. Of 1,132 weevils collected October 12, 62 lived through the winter. Adding together these figures we see that out of the total of 3,364 weevils collected in the cotton fields between September 23 and October 12 only 105, or 3.1 per cent, succeeded in living through the winter. This simply meant that on the plantations where the cotton plants were destroyed before October 15, 1908, only 3 per cent of the weevils survived the winter to infest the present year's crop.

On October 19th a cage was started containing 922 adult weevils and on October 26 a similar cage was started with 1,294 weevils. Out of the 2,216 boll weevils placed in these two cages 340 or 15.3 per cent survived the winter. We may therefore safely conclude that on farms where the cotton plants were destroyed between October 15th and October 27th, last fall, an average of about 15 per cent of the weevils passed through the winter successfully.

Additional cages were started in the same manner on November 2, 9, 16 and 23, containing, respectively, 1,326, 1,326, 1,420 and 1,342 adult weevils.

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Out of this total 5,414 weevils 1,181, or 21.8 per cent, succeeded in living until spring, showing that where the cotton plants were destroyed between November 1 and 25 an average of approximately 22 per cent of the weevils survived the winter.

Cages started on November 30 and December 7, containing a total of 743 weevils, showed a winter survival of 210 of them, or 28.3 per cent. Therefore destruction of the cotton plants as late as November 25 to December 7 resulted in 28 per cent of the weevils living through the winter.

Out of 1,250 weevils collected in the fields on December 14 and 21 and placed in cages on those dates, 545, or 43.6 per cent, survived the winter. Postponing fall destruction of the cotton plants until the middle of December, or later, permitted over 43 per cent of last season's boll weevils to survive the winter and attack the crop of 1909.

These figures are so convincing that it is beyond comprehension that any farmer should continue trying to grow cotton without picking out his crop early and completely destroying the cotton plants—stalks, leaves, bolls and roots—long before the first autumn frost.

Destruction of the cotton plants before October 15, in this instance, allowed but 3 per cent of the weevils to live until the crop of 1909 was subject to their attack. Against this small number of over-wintered weevils, as has been repeatedly proven by experience, the planter can make a good crop by the use of proper early-maturing varieties and by the adoption of the intensive cultural methods. By leaving the cotton plants standing until after the middle of December last fall the farmer invited certain destruction of this year's crop, for when he starts the spring with 43

per cent as many weevils as he had the previous fall he cannot hope to make a crop by any known means under the sun.

Arguments are still being made against early fall destruction of the cotton plants by those who steadfastly refuse to see the plain facts placed before them, but the farmers who are destroying the cotton plants early in the fall are making money growing cotton, and the fact remains, despite all arguments, that there is no other way in which a paying crop of cotton can be made under the conditions as they now exist in Louisiana and as they will exist for many years to come.

Strangely enough, there are farmers who still argue that they cannot pick out the crop early enough to destroy the cotton plants by October 15 or November 1. The alternative is to have no cotton to pick out. Those who cannot so arrange their farm management as to follow our recommendation in this regard are simply advised not to grow cotton at all, for unless the weevils are destroyed—by destroying the cotton plants—early in the fall, a profitable crop is impossible.

Do not wait for sad experience to drive this lesson home to you. If you intend to grow cotton next year make all preparations now to pick out this year's crop as fast as it opens and destroy all cotton plants by cutting them down and burning them before October 15 or, at the latest, November 1.

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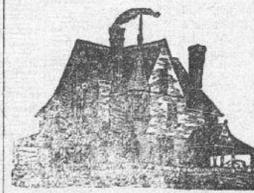
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