

# Abbeville Press and Banner

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## GOSSETT TRIAL COMMENCED HERE

### Grand Jury Brings in True Bill Against Kenneth and John Gossett, Charged With Rape -- Motion for Change of Venue Made

The grand jury brought in a true bill in the case of Kenneth and John Gossett, charged with rape, Monday morning, being out only for about an hour. J. S. Morse was foreman of grand jury.

The case of the two Gossetts, charged with criminal assault on two young girls here Sunday March 14, was called at 10 o'clock at a special term of court, Judge T. S. Sease, Spartanburg, presiding. The court room was crowded with people.

Proctor Bonham, of Bonham and Price, for defense, moved a change of venue, and Judge Sease will probably hear the motion argued Tuesday morning, though no definite time was set for the hearing.

Court was adjourned at 12 o'clock and the petit jurors excused until Wednesday morning.

In making his motion for a change of venue, Mr. Bonham mentioned among his reasons for asking the change that a request for militia has been made. Judge Sease said that he had made no request for militia and that such action should have been initiated by him; that in fact none but the court had the right to make request for a military company. He further said that had a military company come to Abbeville that he would not have allowed it to come into the court room.

On being asked by Mr. Bonham as to his attitude about making a request for militia to guard against mob violence, Judge Sease said that it was his inclination not to bring militia to Abbeville, but that he would come to a definite decision on that point after he had heard the argument on the motion for a change of venue and had read affidavits from citizens from various sections of the county as to the prevailing sentiment about the case. It is proposed by attorneys for defense to secure affidavits to show that a fair trial cannot be obtained for the two Gossetts in this county.

In making his motion for a change of venue attorney for defense said that the motion was made because a fair and impartial trial could not be obtained in the county; that the family connection of witnesses for the prosecution was prominent, while the two Gossetts were strangers in the county; that the jury would be awed by a show of military here; that defendants had been unable to obtain local counsel in the case, but the prosecution had been able to secure the services of one of the local bar, asserting that every member of the local bar had been approached, but that all had declined to represent defendants.

It was brought out that no order has been issued by Governor Cooper or the adjutant general for militia to be sent here during the trial.

At the request of Bonham and Price, attorneys for defense, Kenneth and John Gossett were taken from Columbia to Greenville and placed in jail there last Monday.

Solicitor H. S. Blackwell, of the Eighth Judicial Circuit, George Bell Timmerman, solicitor of the Eleventh circuit, and J. Howard Moore, Abbeville, are in charge of the prosecution. Mr. Timmerman has been employed in the case and is not acting in his capacity as solicitor Bonham and Price, Greenville, are counsel for defense.

One of the affidavits, secured from J. S. Morse, foreman of the grand

jury, relative to the possibility of a fair trial in Abbeville, is appended: **State of South Carolina, County of Abbeville.**

**The State vs. Kenneth Gossett and John Gossett Defendants**

Personally appeared before me Joel S. Morse, who, on oath says that he is foreman of the Grand Jury for Abbeville County. That he has lived in Abbeville all his life; knows the people of the County well and is familiar with local conditions. That he has heard discussed the case against the above named defendants, that in his opinion it would be safe to bring them back to Abbeville County for trial. That he believes in the interests of justice and of all parties concerned, the venue of the trial ought to be changed to some other County in the Circuit. That in his capacity as foreman of the Grand Jury, defendant wrote Governor Cooper to the effect, that he thought it would be best not to bring the defendants back to Abbeville County for trial.

Joel S. Morse.

### BOND ISSUE ELECTION CARRIES BY 82 VOTES

The bond issue election Saturday decided the question of \$450,000 bond issue for top soil roads in this county was carried by a majority of 2 votes, there being 309 votes for and 227 votes against.

A very small vote was cast showing the little interest that was manifested in the election in all parts of the county. The vote in Abbeville was 90 for and 62 against.

Three precincts voted against the issue; Central, 6 for, 40 against; Calhoun Falls, 19 for, 43 against; Lowndesville, 36 for, 39 against.

There were no votes cast at Keowee.

The result by precincts follows:

	For	Against
Abbeville	90	62
Gilliams Gin	16	4
Due West	26	19
Antreville	76	10
Central	6	40
Calhoun Falls	19	43
Donalds	19	9
Lowndesville	36	39
Rock Springs	5	0
Keowee	0	0
Level Land	22	4
Total	309	230

### THE WOMANLESS WEDDING

Rehearsals of the Womanless Wedding are being held every night and Miss Miller, who is directing, announces that the cast is being whittled into shape rapidly.

The public is promised a treat in Mr. Fred Cason as bride and Sheriff Burts as flower girl. Capt. Jack Perrin as mother of the bride will also prove a drawing card.

The show will be given in the Opera House Wednesday evening at 8:30 o'clock. Admission, 50, 25, with reserved seats at 75 cents. The proceeds of the show will go to the library fund.

### Professor Peterson to Speak

Prof. Verd Peterson, professor of agricultural education at Clemson and state supervisor of the teaching of agriculture under the Smith-Hughes law will address the Abbeville County Teachers at their meeting Saturday.

### Expect a Definite Military Policy In a Short Time

Washington, April 3.—The Senate cleared the way today for consideration of exchange proposing the establishment of a definite military policy. Debate on the army reorganization bill framed by the Senate military committee is to begin Monday and its passage in about ten days or two weeks is predicted by Senate leaders.

The bill differs radically from the House measure passed on March 18 in that it provides for compulsory military training, consolidation of the national guard, regular army, and reserves, composed of trained men into one citizen's army and also for a general staff eligibility system similar to that in the French army. The House bill left the compulsory military training issue for separate legislation and retained the general feature of the present army organization, with general features of the present army organization with provision for a regular establishment of 300,000 enlisted men and 17,000 officers, as compared with 280,000 and 48,000 respectively in the Senate bill.

### Colby Makes His New Broom Sweep Out Cobwebs

Washington, April 3.—Restoration of the State Department's diplomatic room, scene of many important international events, has been ordered by Bainbridge Colby the new Secretary of State.

Demand for office space during the war necessitated conversion of the room into three offices equipped with desks, book cases and filing cabinets. By the new secretary's order the war-time partitions will be removed, the room decorated and again be used for formal diplomatic events such as the exchange of treaty ratifications.

### Admiral Wilson Will Be the Next In Naval Row

Washington, April 3.—Admiral Henry B. Wilson, commanding the Atlantic fleet, will testify Monday before the naval board investigating Rear Admiral Wm. B. Fletcher's removal from the Brest command by Vice Admiral Sims. Admiral Wilson was Fletcher's immediate successor at Brest in October 1917 and held that command throughout the remainder of the war.

Convoy operations of Fletcher's command "might have been improved" if the admiral had laid down a general doctrine in writing, Commander H. D. Cooke, commander of one of the yachts of the Brest squadron, testified today. He added, however, that only one or two important elements of operation covered in the doctrine later promulgated by Admiral Wilson had not been prescribed in verbal conferences during Admiral Fletcher's administration.

### Thousands Put On Big Demonstration In Copenhagen

Copenhagen, April 3.—Enormous crowds are gathering outside the town hall and marshalling into columns to march to the royal palace, Amalienberg castle, carrying a resolution asking the King's help to prevent the calamity of a general strike.

The demonstration is headed by the town councilors. The resolution also demands the formation of a ministry comprised of men not responsible for the present crisis and who would be likely to obtain parliamentary support.

### King Calls Conference.

Copenhagen, April 3.—The King, in consequence of the visit today of a deputation of town councilors, accompanied by crowds numbering many thousands, has called the leaders of all political parties to a conference at the palace tonight.

### General Wood Winds Up Ohio

Columbus, Ohio, April 3.—General Leonard Wood, candidate for the Republican nomination for President, wound up his first trip into Ohio in the interest of his candidacy by addressing a mass meeting at Memorial Hall—his fourth speech of the day here—at 8 o'clock tonight.

In his speech before the Columbus colored Republican Women's club—Wood said:

"Government of the people, by the people, and for the people, courts untouched by politics, no class legislation, a square deal for everybody, a strong foreign policy, friendly relations with all nations, arbitration before resort to force, general participation in politics by women, business progress at home and abroad, a sound public school system with adequate pay for teachers, regulation of immigration, development of a strong American merchant marine and fostering of the back-to-the-farm movement—these are the things for which the United States should be working."

### TARDIEU PURPORTS TO INSIDE FACTS ON PEACE MEET

Dwells at Length on What He Terms the "Question of Silence"

Paris, Apr. 3.—Captain Andre Tardieu, one of the French delegates to the peace conference, in another of his articles in Illustration dealing with the peace treaty of Versailles, dwells at length on what he terms the "question of silence" and gives some interesting sidelights on the peace conference.

Captain Tardieu recalls how the press placed great hope in the first of President Wilson's fourteen points which demanded that conventions be prepared with the knowledge of the general public. But, he says, its hopes were dashed when it became known that President Wilson himself declared this did not mean the making public of negotiations, but referred only to making public the debates on engagements made before they became definite. Former Premier Clemenceau is declared by M. Tardieu to have been the greatest advocate of publicity, but asserts that Clemenceau's efforts in this direction were not endorsed by the allied governments, which are said to have refused even his proposal to make public the terms of the treaty when it was ready to be handed to the Germans. They permitted only a summary to be published before the treaty was signed.

### Quotes Clemenceau.

Captain Tardieu quotes M. Clemenceau as having said:

"There is a general expectation among the public, which desires that all the subjects of our deliberations be known. It is to our advantage to show it the results of our work."

Difficulties begin at once, which continued to be multiplied for the next six months, comments Captain Tardieu. "If the conference had not been held in France, the French government would have been accused of defending French rights, but France's position was complicated by the conference being held in France. The press and delegates alike considered that the hospitality received from France imposed on France the special duty of protection for their benefit."

Captain Tardieu declares that to prevent the conference from pursuing its heavy task with excess indifference, A. J. Balfour, British representative at the conference and Stephen Pichon, one of the French delegates, received the newspapermen, but says that in March when the conference was considering certain much debated points, the supreme council asked them to abandon these recensions.

To the suggestion that if the public had been informed on peace conference doings, France would not have been obliged always to yield to the allies, M. Tardieu replied: "It is false that France always yielded. Generally, on the contrary, she obtained satisfaction."

He then gives a list of points proposed which France succeeded in having changed. Among them were immediate admission of Germany to the League of Nations, no inter-allied occupation of the left bank of the Rhine, no French occupation except for eighteen months, France to pay Germany for all state property in Alsace Lorraine, no cession of the Sarre mines to France and no special regime for the Sarr population.

### A Cold Easter is Forecast for the South Generally

Washington, Apr. 3.—A cold Easter is forecast for the south generally, the weather bureau announcing tonight that cold wave warnings have been ordered for Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and extreme Northwest Florida.

The southwest disturbances, central tonight over Eastern Oklahoma, is of profound type, the report said, and indications are that it will advance east-northeastward and be attended by cloudiness and rain in the states east of the Mississippi river during the next 36 to 48 hours. The disturbance has already been attended by showers and thunderstorms in the southwest states and Tennessee.

A decided fall in temperature is forecast for Sunday afternoon and night in Tennessee and the east gulf states and Monday in the Atlantic states.

### NEWSPAPER MEN HERE FOR GOSSETT TRIAL

The following newspaper men are here "covering" the Gossett case.

L. Mell Glenn, Anderson Daily Mail E. P. Eideman, Index-Journal; E. M. Henderson, Greenville Daily News; J. L. By Koon, Columbia State and W. J. Cormack, News and Courier.

### Plant Life Defends More On Air Than Temperature

Washington, April 3.—Government agricultural experts have discovered that plant life seems to depend on light rather than temperature for nourishment and may be controlled by regulating the hours of light and darkness.

The principle is revolutionary; but it rests on actual experiments in which it was demonstrated that plants subjected to alternate periods of light and darkness, in carefully determined proportions could be brought to maturity at any time of year.

"Greenhouse experiments" says an announcement by the Department of Agriculture, "prove that the flowering and fruiting period of practically any plant can be made to take place at any time of year by darkening the greenhouse in the morning and evening if the day is too long or by lengthening the day by artificial light if the day is too short.

"Spring flowers and spring crops happen to be spring flowers and spring crops because the days at the season of their flowering and fruiting have the proper number of hours of daylight."

### NEGRO LYNCHED BY LAURENS MOB

Laurens, April 2.—After an interval of nearly seven years, a Laurens negro had been executed without due process of law. Joe Steward, aged 25, who has been employed for a year by a local coal dealer, was last night about midnight, as near as can be ascertained, taken from a station house cell, carried to the foot of Cemetery hill and hanged from the North Harper bridge over Little river. The rain soaked body was cut down and taken to an undertaker this morning.

Upon the arrival of the coroner, inquest proceedings were started with Solicitor Blackwell representing the state in the examination of witnesses. After four or five men had testified, including Chief of Police Blakely and Sheriff Reid, on motion of the solicitor, adjournment was taken until a future date with the view of ascertaining, if possible, additional evidence in the case.

Dr. W. D. Ferguson, who examined Steward's body, testified that five stab wounds were on the body and his neck had been broken. Death was due to hanging and the wounds were not serious in his opinion.

The lynching of Steward was the result of a fight earlier in the night with a party of young white men, three of whom were more or less painfully cut with a knife wielded by Steward. The fight occurred on a back street near Harrison Punter's shop. The negro received five stab wounds from which he bled freely until medical attention was given him.

It is said that the fight came about by Steward taking up for another negro, who, it was alleged, offended a young white boy by crushing against him as the negro was leaving the opera house about 7 o'clock. The boys, it is said, started to get the offending negro when they encountered Steward, who challenged the boys and used abusive language which led to an immediate fight. All wounded parties had to have the attention of doctors. Up until 11 o'clock everything appeared quiet and most people went home. Chief Blakely and another policeman were on duty. The officers left the station house for a short time and when the chief returned the negro was gone. He had been removed from the cell, the door of which was forced open, and taken out through the rear of the building. So quietly was the work done that no one has been found who heard any unusual noises about the station at the alleged time of Steward's removal from his cell. It was not thought necessary by the officers to place the negro in jail as everything was apparently quiet and there was no apprehension of further trouble.

### TEN PERSONS MEET DEATH BY DROWNING

Ferry Boat at Harpers Ferry Breaks Cable and Upsets, Throwing Passengers in Swollen Stream—One Young Man Saves Himself

Ten persons were drowned while crossing the Savannah river on a ferry at Harpers Ferry, four miles west of Lowndesville, Sunday evening at 6 o'clock. The recent rains had swollen the river and when the ferry boat got out into the swift current the cable parted, upsetting the ferry boat, throwing the passengers into the river. Only one of the passengers, Thomas Bradshaw, managed to reach shore and save himself.

The drowned are: Lucy and Allie May Bradshaw, Alice Meschine and Charles Meschine, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Watters, Albert Sutherland and three sons of Walter Manning.

With the exception of Mr. and Mrs. Watters all of those drowned were children. Mrs. Watters had only been married a month and was a Miss Scoggins before her marriage. She was a school teacher.

Alice and Charles Meschine were children of E. C. Meschine. Albert Sutherland was a son of N. B. Sutherland, a juror in the Gossett case.

The ferry boat with its load of passengers was going from the South Carolina side to the Georgia side of the Savannah river at the time of the accident. The drowning was witnessed by only a few people and the river was so swollen that no help from the shore was possible in time to do any good.

None of the bodies had been recovered at noon Monday.

It is understood that Thomas Bradshaw, who saved himself, swam out first to the Georgia side, then plunged back in the swollen stream and swam to the South Carolina side.

### County Teachers Meet Saturday

Announcement is made that the Abbeville County Teachers' Association will hold the last meeting of the session at the court house, Saturday afternoon at one o'clock. Refreshments will be served just before the meeting and all the teachers are requested to assemble in the court house in time to have their lunch before the hour of meeting. Prof. Verd Peterson, of the State Superintendent's office will talk to the teachers on the teaching of vocational agriculture and Misses Mary Burton and Georgia Ott of the city schools will have some of their pupils give recitations in reading in the primary grades.

This being the last meeting of the session a full attendance is desired.

### Rained Out at Long Cane

On account of the heavy rain there was no preaching and congregational meeting at Long Cane Church Sunday. It was announced however, that services will be held next Sunday, the Rev. H. C. Fennell in charge. Afterwards there will be held the congregational meeting scheduled for last Sunday. Dr. Fennell will preach at Warrenton at 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

### COTTON MARKET.

Spot Cotton	41.00
May	40.25
July	37.72
October	34.74
December	34.04