

## NEGRO OPENS FIRE ON SUMTER POLICEMEN

Officer Lawrence is in Hospital as Result of Wound Received at Hands of Negro Desperado. Officer J. H. DuRant Has Miraculous Escape from Serious Wound. Reward is Offered For Negro.

Officer J. M. Lawrence is now in the Toumey Hospital suffering from a very painful wound which he received early this morning at the hands of a negro desperado, identified as Willie DuRant, and the escape of officer J. H. DuRant from a very serious and in all probability a fatal wound from the pistol in the hands of the negro, is stated as being nothing short of miraculous.

The unfortunate affair occurred at 4 o'clock this morning on Dingle street, between Sumter and Main streets, not far from the Main street corner. Officer J. H. DuRant and J. M. Lawrence, both riding bicycles, were coming back toward Main street from making their rounds at the warehouses of that district, and saw two negro men walking down Dingle street. Both police officers got off of their wheels, Officer Lawrence being in advance of Officer DuRant. One of the negroes stopped when he came up to Officer Lawrence but the other negro walked on past. When this second negro walked a short distance, Officer DuRant turned his flash light on him. Immediately at this instant the negro drew his gun and opened fire upon Officer DuRant from a distance of about twenty feet. Officer DuRant had also drawn his gun and began exchanging shots with the negro. The first bullet from the pistol of the negro hit Officer DuRant directly in the side, the bullet passing through his thick overcoat and being then deflected after it had struck a piece of steel on a belt which the officer was wearing. Officer DuRant felt the impact of the bullet but was

unscratched by it. The second bullet from the negro's pistol hit Officer Lawrence in the middle of his chin and passing through his neck came but just at the base of his right shoulder. The wound is a very painful one but not extremely serious. Both the negro and Officer DuRant continued to exchange shots until both had emptied their guns. The negro was all the while retreating, and managed finally to evade the officer in the darkness of the early morning. Officer J. H. Lawrence required immediate attention as his wound was bleeding freely. Assistance was rendered by employees at the Southern Railway yard, and Officer Lawrence taken to the Toumey Hospital, where he was given the best of medical attention.

The negro is well known by Officer DuRant and was positively identified as being Willie DuRant alias Pidney DuRant. The city is offering \$50 for his arrest and conviction and the police department of the city is offering an additional \$50 reward for information that will lead to the arrest of the negro by the police department. His description is given as being a dark colored negro boy of about 21 years of age. Round face and thick lips. Height about 5 feet 4 inches. When last seen was wearing a cap and a brown suit of clothes. He is an ex-convict, having been convicted and sentenced to serve 5 years for attempting to wreck a Seaboard passenger train near Florence about a year ago but made his escape after only serving a short time. The negro is one of the most desperate of criminals that this neighborhood has had to deal with in some years.

Reports from the hospital state that Officer Lawrence is resting as well as can be expected. His friends are everywhere expressing their regret at his having received this wound and are wishing for him a speedy recovery and are hopeful to see him out again soon.

Everyone is rejoiced at the escape from injury of Officer DuRant, who has a souvenir of the occasion both

the bullet that hit him and also also the bullet which wounded Officer Lawrence, this latter bullet having fallen out of Officer Lawrence's collar when he was getting out of the automobile which had carried him to the hospital. The bullets were from a 38 caliber pistol.

It is the hope that this vile and desperate criminal is soon to be brought to account for his desperately murderous designs.—Last Thursday's Sumter Item.

### WANT BOARD ABOLISHED

New York, March 21.—Basing their demand on charges that the railroad labor board has submitted their members to "unfair treatment" through "improper decisions," the Eastern Federation of the Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers, Express and Station Employees, today petitioned President Harding and Congress to abolish the body. The organizations represented approximately 85,000 employees of 22 Eastern railroads.

### NEWS PARAGRAPHS

FROM WASHINGTON

(Continued from page two)

depends on who gets the bonus.) The treaties made by the Disarmament Conference are held up in the Senate. This conference, by the way, was provided for six years ago in the Naval Appropriation Act of 1916, in a Democratic Congress and the law signed by a Democratic President. Even the money to cover the expenses was then appropriated; all Harding had to do was obey the law and call it. On foreign immigration there has been an utter failure to legislate. The taxation laws have been revised with measures which even the Republicans admit are unsatisfactory compromises. Taxation has been reduced very slightly and the expenses of the government not at all. The Irrigation and Reclamation Bill has been lost in the Committee—no action of any sort. Budget reform a failure. Almost every member of the House who has spoken on the subject has attacked it. And so on through the list—many thousands of bills introduced, billions of dollars appropriated in excess of pre-war appropriations, but no relief afforded to anyone anywhere. Wheat has risen in price—but it is all out of the hands of the farmers; they get none of the benefit, but all of the people have to pay more for their flour and their bread. In only this one thing has the Administration kept its promise, and this promise has been kept to the ear only, for the increase at this time is an evil instead of a good.

Germany is again meeting her reparations payments. It must be galling to a million or two of Germans democrats, who helped put Harding in the White House, to realize that it was Secretary Hughes' imperative note to Germany, just after Harding was inaugurated, that settled Germany's fate in this respect. The Government of Germany, knowing how much German-Americans had done toward the election of Harding, delayed and stalled in every possible way until Harding reached the White House, depending on his moral support to weaken and break down the demands of the Allies for settlement. But Hughes spoke on May 3, 1921, saying: "This Government strongly urges the German Government at once to make directly to the Allied Governments clear, definite and adequate proposals which would in all respects meet its just obligations." It was that sentence which broke the hopes of the German Government and caused it to bow in the dust before the French and English. Did Republican politicians lead the German-American voters to believe the Harding Government would lend its moral aid and support to the Fatherland? If not, how did it happen that this solid vote was cast for Harding? And what are those voters' feelings now when they think of Hughes' note?

A Missouri editor has suggested a new way to pay the bonus—he gets the idea from the recent action of the Senate in voting Henry Ford's seat to Newberry. He says it should be easy, if a seat in the Senate is worth \$200,000, why not sell them all to the highest bidders and use the money to pay the soldiers? And then there is the Supreme Court—the big predatory interests should be willing to pay a million dollars a piece for five or six of the jobs, and a few millions for the Presidency—last time it cost the Republican party almost nine millions to pick that plum. And then there is the control of the House—the tariff beneficiaries and the fellows who have to pay the big surtaxes might use a lot of the jobs at \$100,000 each. Even Herrick's seat might get a bid.

A Washington undertaker advertises a funeral for \$125.49 that is guaranteed to please even the corpse and invites "any interested party to investigate." Could that word "party" refer to the now holding all three branches of the Government?

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M.....

## TO-DAY

### Is Yesterday's Tomorrow!

Tomorrow's not so far away, nor is the goal you seek, Today you should be training for the work you'll do next week, The bigger job is just ahead, each day new changes bring— Suppose that post were vacant now, could you take charge of things?

It's not enough to know enough to hold your place today, It's not enough to do enough to earn your weekly pay, Some day there'll be a vacancy with greater tasks to do— Will you be ready for the place when it shall fall to you? Fall in line and be young at fifty.

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