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TWENTY-EIGHTH YEAR.

COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1907.

PRICE: FIVE CENTS

A NEGRO SHOTS AND KILLS UNCLE

JOHN JOHNSON, A NEGRO LIVING
ON CLIFF OTTLEY'S PLACE,
KILLED HIS UNCLE ON
THURSDAY NIGHT.

The Shooting Occurred About Eleven
O'Clock and Resulted from a
Remark Made by the Uncle
About a Woman.

John Johnson, a negro living in the Cherokee neighborhood, shot and killed Jim Thomas, his uncle, about eleven o'clock last Thursday night. The shooting occurred on Mr. Cliff Ottley's plantation, "The Oaks," and resulted from a remark which Thomas made concerning the character of a negro woman living in the neighborhood. The two men were engaged in a conversation, which finally touched upon the woman in question, and the elder man made a statement that seemed to greatly anger his nephew. Johnson pulled out his revolver, and fired three shots at his uncle. Two shots went wide of the mark, but the third pierced Thomas' brain, producing instant death.

As soon as Johnson realized that the shot had proved fatal he took to his heels, but Mr. Ottley and his brother-in-law, Mr. T. G. Blewett, followed the murderer and captured him about half a mile from the scene of the killing. He was put under guard Thursday night, and on Friday morning Mr. Blewett brought his prisoner in and turned him over to Sheriff Eggleston.

Johnson says that he was drunk when he shot his uncle and claims to have no recollection of what occurred Thursday night. He says that he had drunk half a pint of whiskey, but while, from his statement, the liquor seems to have stunned his sensibilities, it apparently had no effect upon his pedal extremities, as he ran a good half mile before he was overtaken and captured. The crime seems to have been one of unusual brutality, as Thomas was not only the uncle of his slayer, but was a cripple and walked with great difficulty. The murderer will have a preliminary trial before Justice of the Peace Beverly Matthews next Tuesday morning.

The Loop Completed.

The Columbus Street Railway & Power Company has completed the construction of the loop at the Mobile & Ohio depot, and cars will soon be running over the new route, thus obviating the necessity of reversing the trolley poles on cars at this end of the line. The construction of this loop will greatly facilitate the movement of cars, and the company will be in good shape to handle the large crowds which come here to visit the fair this week.

Athletic Club Organized.

A number of the young men of this city, who favor things in the athletic line, held a meeting on last Wednesday night and organized the Columbus Athletic Club. Officers were elected and committees appointed to secure a suitable hall for a gymnasium and to arrange other matters for perfecting the organization. It is the intention of the club to have a track team, basket ball team and other athletic features will be represented. Mr. Henry Jensen, who is a competent instructor, will direct the work of the club. The officers elected are as follows: Mr. D. O. Darlington, president; Mr. Henry Jensen, vice-president; Mr. James McClung, secretary and treasurer, and Messrs. W. G. Paralta and G. W. Wood, managers.

A Small Blaze.

The fire department was called out about 11:30 o'clock last Wednesday morning by an alarm which came in from the Sixth ward and which was caused by a small blaze at a cabin owned by Mr. J. W. Steen on North Third avenue. The fire was quickly extinguished, the loss having been exceedingly small.

Speaker Cannon on The Issues.

Washington, Oct. 14th.—Speaker Cannon in Washington recently outlined the work of the Sixtieth congress when he said the minority would be so busy demanding tariff reduction and various other things that came within the category of what they called "reforms" and talking about these things that congress

would be able to accomplish but little in the matter of real legislation. Inasmuch as the speaker is the one dominating factor of the house of representatives, this allusion of his to what the Democrats will be may be accepted as an expression of his hope that they will do it. The speaker and the leaders of both houses are anxious that as little as possible shall be done by the Sixtieth congress for reasons so obvious that they must appear clear up to the reader who has kept in touch with national affairs even casually.

In the first place, the administration is demanding legislation the leaders are not willing to give, and if the time can be consumed by the minority in discussing their favorite theories they will be given abundant opportunity for debate. The more time taken up by them in this fashion the less opportunity for serious consideration of one or two matters the president will press home to every member when he calls at the White House. If there is one thing near to the president's heart it is the Philippine tariff bill, which virtually establishes free trade between the islands and this country. Dalzell of Pennsylvania, the high priest of protection, and Sereno E. Payne, the chairman of the ways and means committee, although both are administration leaders, at bottom do not believe in the wisdom of this proposed measure. Speaker Cannon himself is opposed to it, and there are dozens of influential Republicans who think the president has made a mistake in this phase of his policy.

The Philippine bill passed the house during the last congress, but was buried in committee in the senate. It was referred to the committee of which Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, the personal friend and mouthpiece of Mr. Roosevelt, is the chairman, and yet that influential leader could not muster enough votes in his committee to have it reported to the senate. In the coming congress the fight must be made over again in the house, and it is not certain under the political circumstances even if it can pass there.

It must be remembered that this is the last "lap" of the Roosevelt administration, and Federal patronage, which has been largely distributed, will not have the potency to compel action that it had in the past four years. The vote against the Philippine tariff proposition has been somewhat strengthened in the senate by changes in the personnel of that body so that the president can hardly hope to gain favor there. From all indications legislation giving the islands freer trade intercourse with the United States is doomed to failure.

If the president heeds the wishes of his party leaders in the two houses he will not urge amendment of the rate law during the coming session. To do so would be tantamount to opening up the whole question, for the president is certainly not blind to the fact that effort to strengthen the rate law, should he believe it to be weak in spots, would bring the whole subject once more into the field of general debate and that attack upon the whole structure would be renewed.

Such men as Senators Foraker, Elkins, Kean, Hale and others, who differ from the president as to the wisdom of his entire program on this subject, could not be expected to permit amendments asked for by the president to go through without submitting such material changes as their judgment may think would also make a better law. If the attempt is made to strengthen the act at this coming session, the result may be a weakening of the whole structure the president has built up. The consensus of official opinion seems to be that the law should be left as it is until it has been thoroughly tested and the courts have adjudicated such portions as may be ambiguous.

Speaker Cannon's program contemplates nothing more than the passage of the appropriation bills. This is the usual program of the short session and the long session of the Sixtieth congress is to be made as short as possible. No mistakes on the eve of a presidential campaign are to be made if avoidance of such a blunder is possible. There will be a pledge in the Republican platform that tariff revision is to follow the election of the Sixty-first congress and a Republican president in 1908.

The State fair at Jackson has the thanks of The Dispatch for appreciated courtesies.

SENSATIONAL BILL FILED IN CHANCERY

INJUNCTION SOUGHT RESTRAINING
NEGRO PASTOR FROM
IRRELIGIOUS AND IN-
CENDIARY TALKS.

James Waddell, Pastor of "Church of
God," Has Been Preaching Ra-
cial Equality—Members
Want Him Ousted.

One of the most sensational bills ever placed on record in Lowndes county was filed in the chancery court last Friday by certain members of the "Church of Christ," who seek an injunction restraining their pastor, a negro named James Waddell, from irreligious and incendiary utterances in the pulpit of the church. The bill was filed by Hon. Z. P. Landrum as attorney for Sid Wilson and other officers and members of the church, and the document names Matt Lary, Croli Whitfield and other followers of Waddell as defendants.

The bill recites that the "Church of God," whose members are all negroes, was organized about five years ago, and that until Waddell was called as pastor last January everything worked in harmony. It is alleged that instead of preaching the Christian doctrine, Waddell has injected racial and political issues in his sermons, and his utterances have brought about a schism in the church, some of the members siding with him and others being of the belief that such utterances as he indulged in should not be tolerated. It is set forth by complainants that they deem it unwise to repeat the language of Waddell, as to do so might engender friction between the white people and the negroes, but that his utterances are calculated to lead to "race hatred and antagonism, to impossible dreams of social, political and industrial equality, if not supremacy, over the white race."

Complainants further allege that Waddell claims to possess a special gift from on high which enables him to communicate directly with God, and that his utterances consist in part of a lot of gibberish which belongs to no known language and which is palpably and blatantly a delusion and a fake. It is further recited that the "Church of God" is under the supervision and control of a "general council," which meets semi-annually, and that this council has silenced Waddell and forbidden him to preach, but that notwithstanding this order Waddell continues to discharge his duties as pastor, being upheld by certain officers and members of the church who share his views and ideas.

The bill recites that the conduct of Waddell is likely to result in serious conflict between the white and black races, and asks for the issuance of an injunction restraining him from further occupancy of the pulpit until the matter is finally adjudicated in a court of equity.

Judge McCool, after having examined the bill, issued an injunction as prayed for, and Waddell will not be permitted to continue his incendiary utterances from the pulpit of the church.

Mr. Jordan An Applicant.

Mr. Allen Jordan, of this city, is an applicant for the position of United States Marshal for the Northern district of Mississippi, to succeed Mr. J. A. Toler, whose term expires January 18th, 1908. Mr. Jordan has been a consistent Republican all his life, and thinks that his loyalty to the party entitles him to recognition at the hands of the president. Should Mr. Jordan be so fortunate as to secure the appointment it will be for a term of four years from January 18 next.

We wish to direct attention to the change of ad of the Columbus Clothing Company which will be seen in this issue of The Dispatch. This reliable old clothing firm are using their space to call attention to the merits of their well known and serviceable lines of men's and boys' clothing.

Mr. J. B. Thames has resigned from the city police force and accepted a position as lineman for the Western Union Telegraph Company.

Mrs. Percy Coleman, of Aberdeen, is expected to arrive in the city today for a week's visit to Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Vogel on College street.

First State Bank to Build.

It is probable that the First State Bank will soon begin the erection of a handsome new building at the corner of Main and Market streets. Although the board of directors have as yet taken no definite action regarding the matter, the sentiment in favor of a new building is practically unanimous, and it is believed that within a very short time work will be under way. While no plans have as yet been decided upon, it is known that the building will be erected at the corner of Main and Market, occupying the sites at present occupied by the bank building and the Osborne building, which was purchased by the bank some years ago with this very purpose in view.

The business of the First State Bank has grown so rapidly during the past few years that increased accommodations are absolutely necessary, and the directorate is composed of progressive business men who will not hesitate to provide for this increase by the erection of a more commodious structure. As stated above, no plans for the new building have as yet been decided upon, but it will be a modern, up-to-date structure that will in every way meet the requirements of the bank and which will be an ornament to the city.

South Not Hostile to Railroads.

New York, Oct. 15th.—That the South is not hostile to railroads is one of the declarations appearing in President W. W. Finley's statement to the stockholders of the Southern Railway, a portion of the report of which for the year ending June 30 last has just been made public. In fact, President Finley says there is a growing feeling among shippers and travelers in that part of the country in favor of a reasonable treatment of railroad enterprises. The statement then cites as an indication of the rapid industrial expansion of the South that last year no fewer than 860 new plants of various sorts were installed along the Southern Railroad's lines, that the capacity of many older plants were enlarged.

Rickman-Clark.

Mr. Samuel F. Rickman and Miss Annie Clark, both of Ethelville, Ala., were married at the home of the bride's cousin, Mr. C. H. Mays, in this city last Sunday afternoon, the ceremony having been performed by Rev. T. G. Slaughter. The bride was visiting at the home of Mr. Mays, and the groom, accompanied by Dr. J. H. Donohoo, Mr. Slaughter and Mr. T. J. Hancock, came in from the afternoon train. The bridal party returned to Ethelville on the six o'clock train, and were met at the depot by a large delegation of friends. The newly married couple spent the night as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Hancock, and are now pleasantly domiciled at the home of Mrs. I. A. Spruill.

Mr. Rickman is a clerk in the store of Messrs. Hancock & Pridmore at Ethelville, and is a most deserving young man. His bride is a pretty and attractive young lady, and is universally admired. The young couple have numerous friends who join The Dispatch in extending congratulations and best wishes for a long and happy married life.

Gen. Lee an Honored Guest.

Gen. Stephen D. Lee left yesterday for Vicksburg, where he goes to participate in the ceremonies incidental to the visit of President Roosevelt, who will arrive in the Hill City tomorrow morning and spend a portion of the day there. The ceremonies celebrating the president's visit will include a drive through the National Military Park at Vicksburg, and Gen. Lee, who is one of the park commissioners, will ride in the carriage with the president.

Mr. Craddock Boyd, a very popular young gentleman of the Dunbar neighborhood, has accepted a position as assistant cashier at the local mill of the Mississippi Cotton Oil Company, and will make his home in Columbus during the coming winter. Mr. Boyd is well known here, and his numerous friends are glad to welcome him to the city.

Mr. T. T. Richards, who for some time past has been in the West in search of health, has returned to Columbus. Mr. Richards recently had a spell of dengue fever, and for a while was very sick. The trip home proved beneficial, however, and his numerous friends hope for a continued improvement in his condition.

SOUTHERN CUTS DOWN EXPENSES

TWO DIVISIONS ARE ABOLISHED
AND FORCE OF EMPLOYEES
MATERIALLY REDUCED
AT ALL ITS SHOPS.

Shops Now in Course of Construction
Here Are Being Built by the
Southern Railway, and
Work Will Continue.

It seems that the Southern Railway is having a hard time to make its earnings pay the interest on its bonded indebtedness, and a policy of rigid retrenchment is to be inaugurated. With a view to cutting down expenses two of the smaller divisions are to be abolished and the forces of workmen now employed at the various division shops are to be materially reduced. The divisions which have been ordered discontinued are those having headquarters at Durham, N. C., and Chattanooga, and while many of the employees will lose their positions some will be transferred to other divisions where the work will naturally be increased.

At a number of places where improvements are in progress work will be indefinitely suspended, it being impossible to carry on these improvements with the limited force of workmen that is to be retained. The order, however, will not affect the improvements at this place, where shops and a roundhouse are being erected. This work is being done by the Southern Railway in Mississippi, which, although a subsidiary corporation, is in some respects independent of the parent organization. The work here is well advanced, and will be pushed forward to completion.

It is generally understood that the finances of the Southern Railway are not in a very opulent condition, and a short time ago it was stated that a receiver would soon be appointed. President Finley denies that statement, however, and gives the stringency of the money market as the cause of abandoning contemplated improvements. He says that at the present time money cannot be obtained at any reasonable figure, and that it would be folly to proceed with the improvements until normal conditions are restored.

Meridian's Tragedy.

Meridian, Miss., Oct. 15.—A fatal shooting affray occurred at 8:19 o'clock tonight in front of the staircase of the Suttle building, at the corner of Twenty-second avenue and Eighth street, as the result of which J. W. Davis of Laurel is dead, and Webb and Frank Key of Kemper county now languish behind the bars of the county jail, awaiting trial as the slayers. Davis is a brother-in-law of the Keys, who are sons of Jim Key, whose home is about midway between DeKalb and Porterville.

The trouble grew out of family matters. Davis courted Miss Bertha Key several months past, and it is claimed, was instrumental in causing her to err. The family, as soon as the facts were known, called upon him to right her wrongs, insofar as was possible, by marriage. This he at first declined to do, but later consented, bringing the young lady to Meridian to secure the license. The couple put up at a local hotel while in the city, but some slip in the arrangements occurred that prevented a consummation of the ceremony. Miss Key returned to her home, but a short while after was wedded to Davis. The honeymoon was short-lived, however. The groom soon deserted his bride, and again she returned to her parents. Relatives of Miss Key again conferred with Davis, advising him to leave the State, and consenting to let the matter drop provided he would stay out of Mississippi. This he is said to have promised.

For a couple of months all went well, but last week Davis again ventured to visit the Key neighborhood. He did not come in contact with any of his adversaries, but the news of his presence in the community, in view of his contract, incensed the brothers of the young lady, and they determined to have a reckoning. A search for Davis was at once instituted, and shortly it was learned that he had come to Meridian. Armed themselves, the brothers followed Tuesday morning, and the first meeting since their arrival occurred tonight.

In company with Messrs. Scott Pigford and Roy Verbeke, the Keys had

just emerged from the Public Theater, and were standing just a little to the east of the entrance of that resort, when their victim was observed approaching from the direction of the postoffice. Davis evidently did not see his adversaries until within a few feet of them, for he walked steadily ahead until confronted by one of the young men. Without a word, both of the Keys drew pistols from their pockets and began firing. Davis, although armed, never drew his revolver. A number of people were close by when the shooting began, and a larger crowd gathered when it ceased. Of the seven bullets fired, six took effect in the man for whom they were intended, and no one else was struck.

When the smoke cleared away, the Keys turned, and in company with Mr. Elberse started for the courthouse to surrender to the sheriff. They were overtaken by Chief of Police W. M. Howdorth, placed under arrest without any offer of resistance, and conducted to the police station, where they were detained for a short while, and from there carried to the county jail in a cab and given into the custody of Judge Wagner, who locked them in a cell on the second floor.

Davis fell to the sidewalk during the fight, and was so badly wounded that he was unable to arise after it was over. bystanders picked him up and carried him to the hospital office of J. B. Mount & Company, where he was attended by Dr. S. H. Hixson and given such relief as could be afforded until an ambulance could be called and convey him to the hospital. He died on the way to the hospital.

It developed today that the shooting of Walter Davis by the Keys last night has been looked for by certain parties for a year. Today District Attorney Curtis, whose home formerly was in Kemper county, and who knew both families, said:

"I saw Davis several months ago that so far as lay in my power, personally and officially, I would endeavor to prevent the Keys taking the law into their own hands, but that in order to prevent trouble to be had been left on the way first train. It was only a few hours after talking to Davis that I saw the Keys here, the two older ones, in town. I apprehended at once what that meant. I went up to them and told them exactly what I forewarn was coming, and got from them a promise that they would not commit any violence while here. They reluctantly gave me the promise on condition that I would get Davis to leave the State forever. They frankly said that after the wrong he had done them Mississippi was not large enough for their family and Davis at one and the same time. I saw Davis and he left. I did not know where he went, and if I had I would not have told the Keys boys, for I knew their blood. Anyway, the next thing I knew they had learned that Davis was at Laurel, and without saying anything to their friends the Keys went there after him. He was brought back to Meridian by them, and only their promise to me and their father saved Davis that time. It was plain then if Davis did not leave the county his life was not worth a straw, and I again went to him and begged him, for his own sake and to save our section from a bloody event like last night's, to go to Oklahoma or some point where he could start life over again. He promised me again he would do so. It was lucky for Davis that I had to deal with older and wiser thoughtful men than those who did the shooting last night. They felt greatly the wrong that had been done them, and they are peaceful and law-abiding men, given in nature Jeffersonian, and they recognized the gravity of such a step as that contemplated. Had I seen the boys yesterday, and been aware at the time that there was in town, I would have intervened, and finding that I could not reason with Frank and Webb, I would of course have taken steps to have at least postponed the tragedy."

The remains of Walter Davis were taken to Seola at noon today and will be carried on to DeKalb, where the funeral will be held Thursday morning. The interment will be at Seok cemetery.

Hon. S. A. Witherspoon and son have been retained to defend the Keys boys. Hon. M. F. Bruhan has been retained to assist District Attorney Currie in the prosecution. No date has been fixed for the preliminary hearing.