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The Columbus Dispatch.

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TWENTY-EIGHTH YEAR.

COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1907.

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PICKENS COUNTY RIOT HAS ENDED

NEGROES SUBJUGATED AND ARE PLEADING FOR MERCY—MANY APPEAL TO SHERIFF BURGIN FOR PROTECTION.

The Fact Developed That the Trouble Emanated From a Negro Society, and Lodge Rooms Throughout the County Were Burned.

The riot in Pickens county has subsided, and the smoke of battle has cleared away, leaving a negro, who was killed by his own brother, lying cold in death to remind members of the race that any effort to gain social and political equality will always prove futile. Before the riot had been in progress very long, the fact developed that the trouble was due to a negro society, the Gallilean Fishermen, which had a strong organization and maintained lodge rooms in various sections of the county. These lodge rooms were being used as arsenals, and in one of them which a party of white men visited last Tuesday night there were found thirteen Winchester rifles, seven shot guns and 300 loaded cartridges. There was a fight at this lodge which resulted in the routing of the negroes and the arms and ammunition were confiscated by the white men, who set fire to the building and who later burned other negro lodge rooms throughout the county.

This order of Gallilean Fishermen seems to have had a tendency to generate trouble between the races wherever lodges have been organized. There was once a lodge in Columbus, but its members became obstreperous and the lodge was broken up by white citizens, and its leader, a negro named Hodge, was forced to leave the city.

The main object of the raid Tuesday night was to capture Bob Lowe, the negro who shot Deputy Sheriff "Whig" Lowe, but that worthy made good his escape and went to some railroad point, where he boarded a train for Birmingham. There were seven of these negroes, all brothers, and they seem to have been the leaders of the recalcitrant blacks. Bill Lowe, one of the brothers, was killed and another brother, named Ben, left the county. It was rumored he had gone to Greene county to secure recruits and a party of white men started post haste on his trail. They were unable to overtake him, however, and as nothing has since been heard from him it is supposed he lost his nerve and was afraid to return to the scene of battle.

With one of their leaders dead and two more absent, the negroes soon began to lose heart, and fear and trepidation soon succeeded the vicious anger and brutal courage that had previously characterized their actions. They became contrite and penitent, and when Sheriff Burgin visited Reform Wednesday he was besieged by countless blacks, who begged for protection and who assured him that no further deeds of violence would be committed by members of the race.

Reports sent from Pickens county during the progress of the riot stated that at least seven negroes had been killed, but it is now known that these reports were greatly exaggerated. According to authentic information received late yesterday, only one death resulted from the riot, and the negro who lost his life was shot by his brother, who, firing at the officer who had his kinsman in custody, missed, and the bullet went through the brain of the negro prisoner.

Twenty-one negroes were arrested and had a preliminary hearing before Justice of the Peace A. W. Latham at Carrollton Friday. District Attorney Oliver, of Tuscaloosa, represented the State, and Mr. M. B. Curry appeared for the negroes. As a result of the investigation, ten of the negroes were held under bonds of \$200 to await the action of the grand jury and the others were released from custody.

Affairs of this kind are always exaggerated, and it seems that the number of fatalities resulting from the riot in Pickens county was greatly magnified. It was given out at one time that seven negroes had been killed, but authentic reports reduce the number to one, and this negro was killed by a member of his own race—a brother, in fact—who shot at an officer, and hit his brother.

Baptist Church Elects Officers.

The regular election of officers of the First Baptist Church took place last Thursday night. The membership of the church has grown so rapidly during the past few years that it was decided to increase the number of deacons from nine to fifteen, and six additional deacons were elected as follows: Messrs. E. C. Chapman, G. F. McCown, D. D. Richards, Hon. H. L. Whitfield, Dr. R. S. Curry, Dr. J. D. McCullough. The original board of nine deacons consists of the following gentlemen: Gen. S. D. Lee, president; Mr. J. L. Walker, secretary; Dr. A. A. Wofford, Judge Jas. T. Harrison, Messrs. W. N. Puckett, F. M. Jacob, B. L. Owen, T. O. Burris and J. A. Goree. The organization of the board will remain the same, the newly elected deacons acting in conjunction with the original members.

In addition to the new deacons, other church officers were elected as follows: Mr. E. C. Chapman, treasurer; Mr. Frank Owen, clerk; Mrs. George Gatlin, organist. The following Sunday school officers were elected: Mr. J. A. Goree, superintendent; Mr. E. E. Richards, secretary; Mr. E. H. Childers, Jr., assistant secretary; Miss Ollie Sanders, organist.

The newly elected deacons will be ordained at 3 o'clock this afternoon at the court house, which is being used by the congregation of the First Baptist while their magnificent new edifice is in course of construction. In the exercises incidental to the ordination of the deacons, Rev. W. A. Hewitt, pastor of the church, will be assisted by Rev. W. T. Hudson, of West Point. The ordination services will be very interesting, and the people of Columbus are extended a cordial invitation to be present.

Bishop-Richards Wedding.

An interesting wedding of the month was that of Miss Agnes Bishop and Mr. Daniel Dupree Richards, which took place on the evening of Wednesday, December the fourth. It was a pretty home ceremony, to witness which old friends of both families gathered informally. The decorations of festooned evergreens and cut flowers were gracefully arranged in parlor, halls and library, and the marriage service, performed by the Rev. J. J. Hill of the First Presbyterian Church, was given an added solemnity by the impressive prefatory words of the minister. Miss Bishop was exceedingly handsome in a gown of white crepe de chine, en traine, trimmed with lace and pearl passementerie, the costume finished by a filmy veil, caught with a crescent of pearls, tipped with diamonds, the gift of the groom. She carried a shower bouquet of bride's roses. Her traveling suit was of brown cloth, with at waist in harmony. Shortly after the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Richards left for prominent Southern cities. Their wedding was encompassed by the hearty good wishes of countless friends.

Initial Concert of the College Orchestra.

It was generally regretted that a rainy disagreeable night ushered in the initial concert of the college orchestra, for the performance was highly creditable and merited a large audience. Those who braved the elements were more than compensated by the admirable work of the orchestra, which is in every way a tribute to the able directorship of Miss Winn. The program was splendidly rendered. Miss Winn, Miss Brown, Miss McCarty, of Birmingham; Miss Cornelia Aldrich and several of the music pupils contributing beautiful numbers.

The many friends of Major Taylor, one of the best liked tenors artists in the city, who is engaged in the pursuit of his work at E. B. Beard's barber shop, will regret to learn of the death of his brother, Mr. H. C. Taylor, in Jackson, Mich., the past week. At the time of his death he was warden at the Michigan State penitentiary, located at Jackson.

Mr. R. E. Cheatham has returned to his home in this city from an extended trip through Texas and the Indian Territory.

Mr. R. D. Donoho, the clever book-keeper for Mayo & Weaver, was on the sick list a few days the past week.

Mr. Faulk has returned to the city from a visit to his family in Missouri.

STOCKHOLDERS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE

ACCORDING TO JUDGE McCool, STOCKHOLDERS OF THE NEW SOUTH PLOW CO. CAN NOT BE HELD FOR ITS DEBTS.

Suit Was Brought by B. F. Avery & Sons, Who Claim \$3,000 Damages for Infringement on Patent Rights Suit Was for \$3,000.

Col. William Baldwin is in receipt of a letter from Chancellor J. F. McCool, stating that in the case of B. F. Avery & Sons vs. the stockholders of the New South Plow Company he will render a decree in favor of the defendants. The plaintiffs claimed from the New South Plow Company \$3,000 as damages for alleged infringement on patents, and last spring secured in federal court at Aberdeen a judgment for this amount. The company had failed, however, and its property had passed into the hands of other creditors, so it was impossible to enforce the judgment.

When the Avery people found it would be impossible to enforce the judgment against the New South Plow Company as a corporation, they brought suit in the chancery court of Lowndes county against the stockholders of the defunct company for \$3,000, the amount of the alleged indebtedness. The suit was filed last September by Hon. W. H. Clifton, of Aberdeen, attorney for the plaintiffs, and the case was argued before Judge McCool at the October term of chancery court. In the bill of particulars it was alleged that while the capital stock of the company was \$100,000, only \$37,500 had actually been paid into the treasury, leaving \$62,500 still due. Plaintiffs contended this sum represented a legal asset of the company and that all stockholders who had not paid in full for the stock were responsible for its debts in ratio to the number of shares that each held. All stockholders whose names could be learned were made party to the suit, and nearly all were represented by their respective attorneys, Col. William Baldwin, Messrs. Betts & Studvant and other prominent members of the local bar having appeared in the case.

After having listened to argument by attorneys on both sides of the case at the October term of chancery court, Chancellor McCool took the matter under advisement, and nothing was heard from him until last Friday, when Colonel Baldwin received the letter stating that he had decided to render a decree in favor of the defendants. Some of the most prominent business men of the city were named as defendants, and they are to be congratulated upon the outcome of the suit.

The members of Tombigbee lodge, No. 12, Knights of Pythias, are thinking seriously of erecting a building to be owned by the lodge. The Masons, Elks, Odd Fellows and Woodmen of the World all own buildings in Columbus, and the Knights of Pythias, who have one of the strongest lodges in the city, are naturally desirous to become their own landlords. It has been suggested that the lodge erect a handsome building with a theater and two or three stores on the ground floor and lodge rooms above. The building could be arranged so as to contain several flats or suites of rooms to be leased to single gentlemen, the rapid growth of Columbus during the past few years having brought about a demand for apartments of this kind. By an arrangement of this kind, the lodge could derive a handsome revenue from rentals, and the venture would prove very profitable. The scheme is still in an embryonic shape, but the Pythians are considering the matter, and a building may be erected at some date in the near future.

At a regular meeting of Tombigbee Lodge No. 12, Knights of Pythias, which was held last Tuesday night, the rank of page was conferred upon Rev. W. A. Hewitt and Mr. Ed. McKissick.

At a regular meeting of Tombigbee Lodge No. 12, K. of P., last Tuesday night, Mr. O. M. Lawrence was elected to membership.

Mrs. J. A. Gilliland, of Hartsell, Ala., is in the city on a visit to her parents, Dr. and Mrs. R. S. Curry.

CHRISTMAS TRADE HAS COMMENCED

NOTWITHSTANDING THE MANUFACTURED PANIC HOLIDAY TRADE IS GOOD AND MERCHANTS ARE SATISFIED.

Banks Are Furnishing Currency for the Purchase of Cotton, Which is High, and There is Plenty of Money in Circulation Here.

Although we are supposed to be in the midst of a great financial panic and the weather last week was exceedingly disagreeable, Christmas shopping has commenced with a rush and the merchants are being liberally patronized. The stores were crowded with shoppers Thursday, and while the damp atmosphere made life out-of-doors rather unpleasant Friday, many people heaved the elements and the streets and stores were fairly well filled with people who desired to purchase holiday gifts before the stocks had all been picked over.

The banks are furnishing the brokers money with which to buy cotton, and there is plenty of money in circulation. The market, which recently declined fifty points on the strength of a bearish estimate on the total crop, is recuperating rapidly, practically the entire loss having already been regained. Farmers who have been keeping their cotton housed on their farms are bringing it to town, and the high prices which the staple commands has naturally put a considerable sum of money in circulation.

Judging from statements of commercial travelers who make regular trips through this territory, Columbus has fared much better than the majority of her sister towns and cities during the financial panic. In most of these places the withdrawal of bank deposits was limited, while in some towns the banks refused to pay out any money whatever. In Columbus, depositors who had balances to their credit have always been allowed to draw out money at will, and for the past two weeks the banks have been advancing money to cotton buyers. The traveling men all agree that Columbus is the most prosperous city in Mississippi and declare that business is better here than in any other point in the State.

Presbyteries Consolidate.

At the annual meeting of the Mississippi Synod recently held in Jackson, a resolution providing for the consolidation of the Tombigbee and New Hope Presbyteries was adopted, and in compliance with this resolution a meeting was held at Tupelo last Wednesday night, at which time the consolidation provided for was effected. The name of the new organization is the East Mississippi Presbytery, and its jurisdiction embraces fifty-four churches located in different towns and cities in the eastern portion of the State.

Rev. W. V. Fryerson, of this city, was elected moderator of the new Presbytery, and Mr. J. W. Allen, of Booneville, was elected stated clerk. The next meeting will be held at Pontotoc in April. At the meeting which was held in Tupelo, Columbus was represented by Rev. J. J. Hill, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, and Mr. John A. Silas.

Honor Roll.

Following is the honor roll of the first grade, Barrow Memorial School: McClellan Cash, Albert Conner, Nell Grider, Sam Hankins, Sam Hankins, Sam D. Harris, Clarence Lofton, Leonard Roth, Richard Stallins, Melvin Thomas, Carl Usery, Johnnie Wright, Priscilla Brenst, Mae Childers, Marguerite Devine, Josie Duncan, F. May Fothergill, Marie Hopkins, Louise Keaton, Agnes Roth, Velma Stimpson, Wilma Stolzer, Estelle Warren, Louise Tesh.

Mr. J. A. Carr, of the Mississippi Insurance and Advisory Rating Association, is in the city for the purpose of re-rating Columbus. This is a task which will engage him for several weeks, and it is expected a substantial reduction in rates will be made when his work is completed.

Mr. Lucius Lide has recently resigned his position with Sternberger & Sons and taken a lucrative and congenial position with the Stewart-Gwynn Company.

Colonel Montgomery Corrected.

The following statement was given out recently by C. C. Smith, of Insmore, Claiborne county, and speaks for itself:

"As chairman of the Board of Prison Trustees, I wish to reply to an interview given out by Col. W. A. Montgomery, and published in the Jackson Daily News of Dec. 7, in which he says in part:

"I see that the present Board of Trustees has negotiated a sale of 1,000 tons of cotton seed at \$12 per ton, and I desire to publicly say to the outgoing board, which is claiming the honor of making a big sale, that if they did not get more than \$12 per ton for the seed they ought to put the State of Mississippi \$2,000 over and above the amount they will receive for the 1,000 tons of seed."

"I can not see why Colonel Montgomery should jump into print to criticize the actions of the present Board of Prison Trustees until he was certain that he was correctly informed. The records of the Board at its office (and they are accessible to the public) will show that they have sold no seed at \$12 per ton, and that the lowest figure received by them for cotton seed is \$17 per ton. I wish to say in behalf of the two retiring members that they are gentlemen of unimpeachable character, and have proven themselves to be men of integrity and ability and always earnest and faithful in their endeavors to advance the interests of the State. While both have large personal interests they have never failed to discharge their duty to the State when duty called them. I only hope the incoming Board will prove as faithful, earnest and tactful as the outgoing Board has been.

"C. C. Smith.

"Chairman Board of Trustees." Colonel Montgomery is a member of the next Board of Trustees, of which Mr. Smith is also to be a member by virtue of his re-election.

Mr. E. M. Waller, who for several months past has been connected with the Columbus Railway, Light and Power Company, has tendered his resignation, and left last week for Muscatine, Ia., where he goes to accept a lucrative position with an electric power company. Mrs. Waller goes to Knoxville, Tenn., to spend the holidays with relatives, and will later join her husband in Muscatine. During their brief stay in Columbus, both Mr. and Mrs. Waller have made many friends, and their departure is a source of regret to many.

We wish to correct a statement recently made in these columns that Mr. Will Cline would be the deputy sheriff under Sheriff Frazier's administration. Mr. Cline's former business interests will prevent him from accepting the office which was tendered him. Mr. Frazier will have to see Mr. Richard Frazier, as the deputy sheriff.

Mrs. W. F. Horton, of Piqua, Ga., who has been in the city for several months visiting her daughter, Mrs. B. E. Cowart, returned to her home Wednesday last, accompanied by Mrs. Cowart and one Magraw, who will spend the remainder of the month there.

Mrs. E. L. Hamilton, of Jefferson City, Mo., who has been spending the past several weeks in the city on a visit to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. I. C. Bricker, returned to her home on Friday last.

The many friends of Capt. Louis Walberg, one of the older citizens of Columbus, and a man who has been a fixture here for years, will regret to learn of his recent illness.

Mrs. S. B. Mefine arrived from Gulfport last week, and will spend several weeks in Columbus. During her stay here she will be a guest at the Stone Hotel.

Mr. A. T. Taylor has returned to his home in this city from a stay of several months in southern Texas.

Mr. Walter Locke, one of the young collegians of this city, is home for the holidays.

Mr. E. A. Lorenz, a well known hardware salesman, spent Friday in the city.

Mr. N. D. Robinson spent a few days in the city the past week.

COSTLY WRECK ON OLD RELIABLE

SOUTH-BOUND FREIGHT ON THE MOBILE & OHIO WAS WRECKED NEAR PENN STATION FRIDAY—26 CARS DERAILED.

Track Was Blocked for a Considerable Time and Trains Were Delayed via Meridian, Tuscaloosa and Columbus—No One Hurt.

There was a serious wreck on the main line of the Mobile & Ohio railroad last Friday morning, when a freight train left the track, derailing about twenty cars. The train was an extra freight, going south, and most of the cars were loaded with coal. The accident occurred at a point near Penn Station, which is only a few miles south of Arzoo, during the early hours of the morning, and though no one was seriously injured, the track was blocked for several hours.

The wreck resulted in a serious delay to passenger traffic and it was necessary to detour all passenger trains. Southbound trains left the main line of the Mobile & Ohio at Meridian, traveling to Tuscaloosa over the Alabama Great Northern, and thence over the Montgomery division, via Columbus, to Arzoo, where they crossed their regular route. With the southbound trains this procedure was reversed, the trains leaving the main line at Arzoo and proceeding to Meridian via Columbus and Tuscaloosa. The detour a lot of additional work on the Montgomery division. There were numerous train wrecks to be handled, and the knights of the key were kept in a rush until the track had been cleared.

Real Estate Talk.

Will the panic, the financial depression, last the real estate market? Not at all. On the contrary, it will do it good. People are being educated daily in the value of money, and money is being hoarded, and things of increasing value which do not hold as many dollars as they used to. With this education comes the desire to invest in something tangible, real, permanent, enduring—something which will not be swept away by a panic or a depression, which will stand through all crises and all calamities, which will supply all needs, all desires, all necessities. Such an investment is real estate, and while the real estate market will not boom as it once did, it will still be a safe and profitable investment, and people will have investments where they always had.

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Mr. A. F. Brown, an experienced contractor from Meridian, Miss., has been in the city and visited the grounds of the penitentiary. Mr. Brown has a large number of plans and is prepared to do all kinds of heavy building. He does all kinds of grading, making a specialty of concrete and masonry work. Mr. Brown's headquarters are at the Riverside Hotel, 100 Main street, and he will appreciate an opportunity to bid on any work in his line.

Major J. T. W. Baldwin is returning to his home in the Crawford neighborhood. Major Baldwin is a leading citizen of the penitentiary, a representative of a prominent family of that section and the best of his efforts will be successfully rewarded.

The Yapt' News Suit at Kestman's Special prices.