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The Columbus Dispatch.

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TWENTY-EIGHTH YEAR. COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1907. PRICE: FIVE CENTS

MINORITY LEADER ENGAGED IN FIGHT

JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS AND CONGRESSMAN DeARMOND, OF MISSOURI, HAVE BATTLE ON FLOOR OF HOUSE.

Missourian Questioned Mr. Williams' Veracity, and Insult Was Quickly Resented.—Dispute Arose Over Committee Appointments.

A special from Washington under date of Dec. 19th, says:

The spirit of rivalry that for five years has alternately smoldered and blazed between John Sharp Williams of Mississippi, leader of the minority, and David A. DeArmond of Missouri, leader of the minority opposition, culminated in a fist fight today on the floor of the house of representatives. The blows of Representative DeArmond caused blood to flow down the face of Representative Williams, and only the forcible intervention of friends cut the combat short.

Mr. DeArmond bore away a scuffed nose.

The immediate cause of the fight was the passage of the lie by Mr. DeArmond to Mr. Williams, resultant of a complaint by the former that the minority leader had broken faith in "burying" Representative Booher of Missouri by recommending his assignment by Speaker Cannon to the committee on coinage, weights and measures. According to the statements of the principals, Mr. Williams defended his action by declaring he had been told by Mr. Booher's colleague, Representative Lloyd of Missouri, that the committee assignment would be satisfactory to Mr. Booher. Mr. DeArmond bluntly questioned the truth of the statement, and after the failure of an effort on his part to transfer the scene of controversy, Mr. Williams struck Mr. DeArmond a blow in the face with closed fist.

The exciting incident will not be down in the official records of the Sixtieth congress, for the house had been some minutes adjourned when the first blow was struck. But there was no lack of witnesses. The organization of the house had been completed by the announcement of the speaker's assignment of members to committees, the Republican committeemen having been selected by the speaker and the Democratic by Mr. Williams. Groups of representatives were scattered over the floor, discussing the appointments. In the overlooking galleries loitered a score or so of women and four times that many men, viewing the aftermath of an interesting session. Mr. Williams, relaxed from the long strain of allotting preferment among the 167 fellow Democrats, whose minority strength he officially leads, was seated at ease at the desk of Representative Wallace of Arkansas, on the center aisle on the Democratic side. Mr. DeArmond approached, greeted him and took the adjoining seat. At once they engaged each other in talk, but pitched their voices so low that afterward only one or two members who were very close to them could recall anything they had said. They had been thus in conversation no longer than a few minutes, when both sprang to their feet, shoving their chairs back, and the gentleman from Mississippi struck the gentleman from Missouri a glancing blow on the nose. Some representative cried out: "Look, look at the fight."

Everybody looked, but so startled were they by what they saw that no one seemed for the moment to think of rushing forward and stopping it. Meantime Mr. Williams and Mr. DeArmond, wedged between the rows of desks, were still exchanging blows. Blood was flowing down the face of the leader of the minority, while Mr. DeArmond was endeavoring to grasp his opponent by the throat, at the same time receiving and vigorously returning blow for blow.

Then everybody awoke to the unseemliness of the scene and crowded around and made an end of it.

When asked for a statement regarding the difficulty and the causes which led up to it Mr. Williams said:

"The disagreement arose over a committee assignment. Mr. DeArmond called me to book for recommending his colleague, Mr. Booher, to no more prominent committee than that in coinage, weights and measures. I replied that I had been given to understand by him that Mr. Booher would be well satisfied with that assignment. Mr. DeArmond answered to the effect that I could have gained such an idea only by the operation of my imagination, or by a deliberate wish to misunderstand. I suggested to him that the floor of the house was no place for a quarrel or scene and asked him to desist. His answer was that he had never had any such understanding with me about Mr. Booher, as I had declared, and he added that my subsequent action was the result either of error or untruthfulness. I again suggested that the house was no place to settle a personal difference of opinion. He reported that it was not a matter of opinion, but of veracity, and said that he did not believe I had merely made a mistake. I then struck him and we exchanged blows. It is most regrettable that the floor should be selected for so unpleasant an affair."

Mr. DeArmond remained in the house for some little time after the encounter, and then left the chamber, but he subsequently returned and made a statement of the circumstances leading up to the affair from his point of view. According to Mr. DeArmond's version the episode arose over the question of the correctness of a conversation between himself and Mr. Williams about ten days ago regarding the committee assignments of some Missouri members, and particularly of Mr. Booker. Mr. DeArmond said he had spoken highly of Mr. Booker and the other members as being competent to sit on any committee, but that he had not specified to Mr. Williams any special committee on which he would like to have Mr. Booker or any other member placed. This, Mr. DeArmond said, Mr. Williams today denied, saying it was a matter of recollection between them. Upon DeArmond's insisting that he had not specified any committee or committees to which he desired to have his colleagues assigned, Mr. Williams, he said, brusquely repeated that it was simply a matter of recollection between the two.

"He said this," said Mr. DeArmond, "in such a way as to leave no other inference than the one I suggested, and I told him I believed him to be a liar. He thereupon struck me, and I think I gave him as good. The next thing some one caught my arm and we were separated."

Prof. Meadows Assaulted.

A special from Starkville bearing date of Dev. 19th, says: When passing a negro cabin on College street, just out of the corporation, late last night, Prof. William R. Meadows, manager of the textile school of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, was attacked by a dog. He struck the dog with a small stick which he carried, whereupon a negro man rushed out of the cabin, cursing the professor and advanced on him in threatening manner. Prof. Meadows struck the negro and was badly cut with a knife which the negro carried in his hand. Not having a weapon, he fled, the negro following for some distance. The wound bled profusely, and so weakened the professor that he was an hour or two reaching his destination, a mile off, the A. and M. campus. When the trouble was reported to the officers so much time had elapsed that the miscreant had made good his escape, and has not been apprehended up to this time. If he is caught he will doubtless be handled roughly, as the citizens are very indignant over the uncalled for and brutal attack. Prof. Meadows is resting quietly, and while the wound is painful it is not considered dangerous.

Holidays at the Schools.

The students at both the public schools and the Industrial Institute and College will have a long holiday this Christmas. Classes at the college, Franklin Academy and the Barrow Memorial School were dismissed Friday afternoon, and lessons will not be resumed until Monday, Dec. 30th. Many of the students of the Industrial Institute and College will spend Christmas at their homes in various sections of the State, and President Whitfield has instructed all young ladies leaving the city to return on Saturday, Dec. 28th. This regulation has been adopted in order that the young ladies will have ample time to recover from the fatigue incidental to traveling by the time that lessons are resumed Monday morning.

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VETERAN ANSWERS FINAL ROLL CALL

CAPT. LOUIS WALBURG, A WELL KNOWN AND UNIVERSALLY ESTEEMED CONFEDERATE VETERAN DIED THURSDAY.

Deceased Was Member of Isham Harrison Camp, U. C. V., and Was One of the Pension Commissioners for Lowndes County.

Capt. Louis Walburg, an old and highly esteemed citizen of Columbus, died at the Columbus Hospital at 9:30 o'clock last Thursday evening, and his death, while by no means unexpected, brought genuine sorrow and grief not alone to his relatives but to many comrades who had served with him on the field of battle and who had enjoyed his friendship during times of peace. He was a man possessed of many noble qualities and not only served with gallantry on the field of battle but was faithful to his obligations as a man, having been at all times true to his convictions and loyal to his friends.

Capt. Walburg was a native of the Blue Grass State, having been born at Covington in 1837, and having therefore been at the time of his death 71 years of age. He came to Columbus shortly before the outbreak of the civil war, and when President Davis called for troops to go to the front in defense of the Confederacy was among the first to respond to the call. Capt. Walburg left here on March 27th, 1861, as a member of Capt. Wm. Wade's company, the command having gone to Mobile and thence to Pensacola, Fla. Upon arrival at Pensacola the company, together with others, went to form the Tenth Mississippi Infantry, which was under the command of Col. Moses Phillips, who died after six weeks' service, having been succeeded by Col. Robert A. Smith. While the regiment was encamped at Pensacola four of its companies were formed into a batallion of sharp shooters under command of Col. W. C. Richards, of this city, and Capt. Walburg served with this batallion, having been a member of Capt. Thomas Brownrigg's company. On March 6th, 1864 he was wounded in front of Marietta, Ga., and after having remained in the hospital at Marietta for several weeks was discharged, his wound having disqualified him for further service.

Upon his return from the war Capt. Walburg went to Artesia, where he was employed in the Sabola cotton mills. It was there that he met Miss Mary Childers, a sister of Messrs. John and Ed. Childers, of this city, who later became his wife, their marriage having taken place in 1867. After a short residence in Artesia Capt. Walburg returned to Columbus and secured a place on the local police force and served as captain of the force for a number of years. Later he was engaged in mercantile pursuits, but several years ago retired from business, and has since lived quietly at his home. Capt. Walburg was a member of Isham Harrison Camp No. 27, United Confederate Veterans, and was one of the pension commissioners of Lowndes county.

In addition to his two brothers-in-

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ARTHUR CROWDER SUCCEEDS COMPTON

JACKSON MAN IS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE COTTON STATES LEAGUE TO FILL VACANCY OF STACY COMPTON.

Mobile Is Given Until January 1st to Pay Withdrawal Fee.—Other Important Business Transacted at the Recent Directors' Meeting.

The directors of the Cotton States League met in annual session at Gulfport last Tuesday, and every club in the league was represented, there having been present at the meeting, which was held in the Great Southern Hotel, Frank Scott, Vicksburg; J. C. Pratt, Gulfport; W. C. Banks, Columbus; A. C. Crowder, Jackson; Allen McCants, Meridian; H. T. Hartwell, Mobile. These gentlemen, together with Stacy Compton, the retiring president, constitute the league directorate, and in addition there were present Manager McCay and Secretary Colzson, of the Mobile club; Secretary Tatum, of Gulfport; and Manager Blackburn, of Vicksburg.

Quite a lot of business was transacted, one of the most important matters to come before the directors having been the election of a president to succeed Stacy Compton, who refused to stand for reelection. Mr. Compton, after having submitted his annual report, stated that it would be impossible for him to continue to serve as chief executive of the League, and Mr. Arthur C. Crowder, of Jackson, was elected to succeed him. Mr. Crowder has for some time past been president of the Jackson association, and has handled the affairs of the club in a most acceptable manner. He is thoroughly acquainted with the workings of the league, and will make a worthy successor to Mr. Compton. Mr. T. D. Tatum, of Gulfport, was elected vice-president. Mr. Tatum was secretary of the Gulfport association last year, and in that position rendered valuable service.

Another important matter that came up for consideration was the proposed withdrawal of Mobile from membership in the league. When the proposition providing for the withdrawal of the Mobile club from the league was presented to the directors they decided by a practically unanimous vote that the Gulf City must pay the $2,500 forfeit provided for in the national agreement before securing her release. The matter was discussed at some length, and it was finally decided that Mobile must pay the $2,500 forfeit by January 1st, 1908, or remain in the league another year.

Several cities are anxious to fill the vacancy that will follow should Mobile retire, applications for franchises having been received from Lake Charles, La., Monroe, La., and Selma, Ala. It is understood that Hattiesburg and Natchez are also anxious to secure admission, and a committee composed of all six of the directors was appointed to look in to the applications and also investigate the advisability of increasing the organization to an eight club league.

A committee consisting of Messrs. W. C. Banks, A. C. Crowder, H. T. Hartwell, Allen McCants, Frank Scott and T. D. Tatum was appointed to revise the constitution, with special reference to the division of gate receipts. Under the present method, the visiting club is given forty dollars for every game played, and the question of inaugurating a change in this respect has been freely discussed during the past year. In the majority of the leagues each team takes fifty per cent of the gate receipts, and this rule is likely to be adopted by the Cotton States directors.

No provision was made for the purchase of a pennant for the winners of the 1907 championship. Mobile finished first last season, and Manager Bernie McCay, who led the team to victory, was much disappointed that the emblem of prowess and strategy was not forthcoming.

The next meeting of the directors will be held at Meridian Thursday, January 2, at which time the committee appointed to revise the constitution will make its report. This committee will also investigate the player and salary limits, and all of the matters left open will come up for adjudication at the January meeting.

Found Dead in Bed.

Mr. Ed. Ervin, who for some time past has been employed as overseer of the plantation in the Trinity neighborhood owned by Messrs. J. T. W. Hairston, Jr., and Jamie Billups, and known as the "Deering Place," was found dead in his bed Saturday morning, one of the negroes who went to awaken him having found him lying cold in death. Mr. Ervin had visited Columbus Friday, and seemed to be in his usual health and spirits. He returned home Friday afternoon, and after having given some instructions to the hands on the place, retired to his room. Nothing was seen or heard of him until the following morning, when the negro found him a corpse, and it is supposed that his death resulted from heart failure.

Mr. Ervin, who was about fifty years old and who was unmarried, was a member of a family of prominence, having been the brother of Capt. "Ary" Ervin, a member of the legislature. He was a man possessed of a generous heart and a genial disposition, and had numerous friends and relatives in the western section of the county to whom his death is a source of profound sorrow.

The interment will take place at Jeniatown grave yard at ten o'clock this morning, the funeral services being conducted by Rev. W. T. Freeman.

Ghost Failed to Walk.

Regarding the closing of the John Griffith company, which was booked for a performance at the Columbus Theatre last Thursday night and which failed to show up, a special from Jackson, Tenn., bearing date of Dec. 17th says:

A dramatic company presenting Mr. John Griffith in "Richard III." here Saturday afternoon and night, disbanded after the evening performance. It is said the manager returned to New York without paying the company, and that in consequence they are stranded. One of the ladies of the company, whose father is an Elk, is receiving kind attention from the local lodge of that order, and it is understood will be furnished means to settle her board and transportation.

H. L. Bowlin Makes Assignment.

H. L. Bowlin, who for several years past has conducted a general merchandise business in the Masonic Temple on Main street under the firm name of Bowlin Bros., has made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors. The assignment was filed on the office of the chancery clerk last week, and Mr. W. C. Glyder is named as assignee. A list of the creditors filed with the assignment shows the liabilities to be something over forty-five hundred dollars, while the assets consist of a stock of general merchandise, the value of which is not given. Mr. Glyder has filed bond in the sum of $2,000 for the faithful performance of his duties as assignee.

The assignment was general and was for the benefit of all creditors, but since the instrument was filed the First State Bank and Messrs. J. L. Walker & Co., two of the principal creditors, have secured attachments on the stock. Mr. Bowlin owes the First State Bank $1,544.60, while the indebtedness to Messrs. J. L. Walker & Co. amounts to $202.05.

CHRISTMAS BRINGS RUSH OF BUSINESS

AS THE HOLIDAY SEASON APPROACHES THE PEOPLE ARE THRONGING STREETS AND STORES LOOKING FOR GIFTS

Many Former Columbians Are Here for the Holidays.—Christmas Services at Various Churches.—Other Notes of Interest.

As Christmas approaches the crowd of holiday shoppers is increasing, and last week saw the business that our merchants have experienced for a long time. It is said that the people of Columbus spend more money during the ten days just preceding Christmas than in any other weeks of the year, and Columbians have been twenty days short of the Christmas days. It is said the cash which they are spending now. No numbers' checks on clothing house certificates have been issued in Columbus, and the people are the long green both in the purchase of Christmas presents and the liquidation of accounts. We are supposed to be emerging from a great financial panic, but at no time has the local monetary situation been easy perhaps, and just at present there is an abundant supply of ready money in circulation.

Columbus is a prosperous and progressive city, and as a prosperous city makes happy people Columbians are in a state of mind to enjoy into the festivities of the holiday season with the true Christian spirit. While those who are prosperous are helping those and relieving the needy which wealth and affluence bring, they will not forget others who have been unfortunate, and the wants of the needy will be liberally provided for. It is the custom of the Silver Tea Circle of King's Daughters to distribute clothing and provisions among the poor every Christmas, and the custom will be observed as good this year. There was a special meeting of the members of the Columbus Rifles Friday afternoon which was held under the auspices of the King's Daughters, and many contributions were received. These donations will be supplemented by cash and checking supplied by the organization, and on Monday and Tuesday the Christmas baskets will be delivered to the unfortunate men and women whose limited means make it impossible for them to provide Christmas dinners for themselves and their families. The King's Daughters are indebted to people for all who have been unfortunate, and readers of The Dispatch who may have knowledge of persons who are in destitute circumstances are requested to send their names and addresses to some officer or member of the organization, in order that their needs may be supplied.

While the several churches of the city will have no union services, Christmas will be celebrated by the different denominations in their customary and preferred manner. At St. Paul's Episcopal church there will be services at 11 o'clock Wednesday morning and at the Catholic Church of the Annunciation there will be mass at 8 a. m., 9:30 a. m. and 5 a. m., while at the First Presbyterian church there will be a Christmas tree at 7 p. m.

Christmas is a day of home comings and family reunions, and many former Columbians who are now residents of other cities are here to spend the holidays. While many people are coming in, others are going out, and every departing train during the past few days has taken its quota of happy passengers who will spend the yuletide season at their homes in other places. The Christmas holidays at the Industrial Institute and College began Friday afternoon, and many of the students left the city on the evening trains. Studies will not be resumed until Dec. 30th, and many of the young ladies took advantage of the long holiday, and will watch the burning of the yule log with loved ones at home.

The holiday season should bring to all mankind peace, joy and contentment, and The Dispatch wishes its readers everywhere a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Holiday Fares.

Spend the Holidays at home. Reduced fares via Mobile & Ohio R. R. Apply to M. & O. Ticket Agents for particulars.

Valuable Property

¶ We have the four cottages owned by Mr. Frank Gardner on South Seventh Street, for sale. ¶ These cottages are close to the M. & O. depot and the manufacturing district, within one block of the Barrow Memorial School, are right on the car line and are always rented. ¶ The four are adjoining occupy the entire west front of the square and they can be bought at a bargain. ¶ For further information see

Maer Realty Company.