

# THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Edited, Owned and Managed by  
PERCY W. MAER.

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The Dispatch covers Northeast Mississippi and Northwest Alabama, the territory tributary to Columbus, like the dew.

**HOT SHOT FOR SHERIFF.**  
From facts recently developed, the officials of both Jefferson county and the city of Birmingham have strayed from the path of righteousness and in chasing the almighty dollar have been guilty of acts which, to say the least, are questionable and which have brought upon them the most severe criticism from their constituents.

It will be remembered that several weeks ago Alderman Forney was tried by the council and found guilty of misconduct on account of his connection with the purchase of a lot, and now Sheriff Higdon is on the griddle. The grand jury last week investigated the official acts of the sheriff, and while the majority of the jurors voted to ignore the accusations made against him, a minority report in which he was severely excoriated was submitted the Judge Weaver.

The minority report, which is signed by four members of the inquisitorial body, charges Sheriff Higdon with using his office for personal gain rather than for the purpose of enforcing the law, and strongly urges that steps toward his impeachment be immediately taken. It is further claimed that the sheriff was a hindrance rather than a help to the grand jury in its investigations, it being alleged that subpoenas for witnesses which were placed in his hands were never served, but were left in the office of the clerk of the court with no returns marked thereon.

The people of Birmingham are greatly wrought up over conditions which exist in both municipal and county politics, and at a mass meeting which was recently held freely expressed their indignation. Some of the papers there are urging a commission form of government, and this will doubtless solve the problem so far as the city is concerned, but only the legislature or a constitutional convention can change the organic laws of a county, and the one thing that can be done to bring about an honest administration of county affairs is to elect honest men to office.

**BRYAN'S BIG VOTE.**  
The total popular vote in the recent presidential election was made public last week, and it is gratifying to Democrats to note the large number of votes polled by their candidate. Mr. Bryan received 6,383,132 votes, while Taft received 7,637,676. Mr. Bryan made a big gain over the vote of 1904, his vote having been 1,315,211 in excess of that polled by Judge Parker four years ago. Taft made a small gain over the preceding election, his vote having been greater than that of Roosevelt when he was pitted against Parker by a total of 14,190.

A somewhat surprising feature of the report is the light vote polled by Hiseen, the independence candidate. Mr. Hearst's protegee ranked fifth in the list of candidates, having polled only 83,196 votes. The prohibition, populist and socialist-labor candidates received smaller votes than in 1904. The heaviest loss is shown by the populists, who, with the same candidate, registered 83,312 votes less than in 1904, when their total was 117,135. Chafin ran 17,284 votes behind the vote of the prohibition candidate in 1904, while Gilhaus, the socialist-labor candidate, received only about fifty per cent. of the vote polled by Corrigan four years ago.

The aggregate exceeds by 1,341,531 the total number of votes polled in the election of 1904. The total vote four years ago was 13,510,708, while the total in the recent election was 14,852,239.

Sousa refers to selections rendered by the phonograph as "canned music," and now we have the "canned" wedding trousseau. Domenico Petrucci, a Stellan enroute from the old country to El Paso, Texas, where he was going to be married, recently ar-

rived in New York with seven tin cans in his trunk. These cans were tightly sealed, and aroused the suspicions of the customs officials, who procured a can opener and proceeded to examine their contents. The cans were found to contain various articles of feminine wearing apparel, which Petrucci was carrying to his fiancée. None of the articles were dutiable, and Petrucci declared that he had placed them in cans through fear of the "Black Hand."

It is a generally acknowledged fact that the people of Mobile are not at all in sympathy with the prohibition law adopted by the Alabama legislature at its last regular session, and many conflicting reports have gone out as to the course to be pursued by the municipal authorities in enforcing the law. The latest report is that a fund amounting to \$25,000 has been raised for the purpose of testing the constitutionality of the law. It is said that the money is to be given to two attorneys, who have agreed to go before the supreme court and have the law declared void.

The body of Chief of Police Biggery of San Francisco, who several weeks ago disappeared from the police patrol boat during a trip between Oakland and San Francisco, has been found, having been picked up by a tug one day last week. Biggery was mixed up in the municipal graft schemes which are now being vigorously investigated so vigorously in the California metropolis, and it is believed that he committed suicide.

Breathitt county, Kentucky, the home of feuds and the Mecca of assassins, is to the front again. Ed Callahan, the noted feudist, and ten members of his gang, have been arrested for firing from ambush upon Rash Sebatin. It is claimed by Sebatin that he was fired upon while passing Callahan's farm, a fusillade of bullets having come from the barn.

A wealthy Russian maniac named Petrof, who died at Moscow the other day, had all his money brought from the bank to his sick room and burned. He then called in his relatives, and after having shown them the ashes congratulated them upon having escaped the evils of wealth. This is an evil from which few of us desire to escape.

It is rumored that John W. Gates is to put a circus on the road next season, and the Memphis Commercial Appeal wants to know if Vice-President Fairbanks will be offered the position of giraffe.

**Hearst is Sued.**  
New York, Dec. 18th.—Following charges made by Jno. D. Rockefeller, Jr., concerning alleged libelous publications in William R. Hearst's New York American, in which Rockefeller declares he was accused of originating a peonage system, S. S. Carvalho, president of the Star Company, publishers of the American, has been arrested and arraigned before Magistrate Finn.

Rockefeller also made complaint against Bradford Merrill and Edward H. Clark, treasurer and secretary of the Star Company. Clark was in California and Merrill was not found at his office.

Carvalho was paroled in the custody of his attorney, Shearn, until the hearing, December 26.

Chicago, Dec. 18.—Under the orders of the district attorney, reports of an alleged peonage system, in a stockade at Summit, a town about thirty miles from Chicago, is under investigation. It is alleged that the plant has a stockade thirty feet high surrounding it, and that workmen, kept always in debt to their employers, are kept prisoners.

Officials of the plant call it spite work, and say they have only taken means to prevent strangers entering their premises without authority and to protect themselves from labor troubles.

Miss Willie Maude Locke, one of Mayhew's charming young ladies, is visiting her sister, Mrs. J. C. Johnston, for a few days.

**Wanted.**  
A good milk cow, one that is fresh or will be within the next two weeks. If you have a good one, write prices, etc., to The Dunkirk Company, Elizabeth, Miss. 20-3t

**For Sale.**  
Tombigbee Mill stock. Apply at office to Jesse P. Woodward, Dispatch building. 20-2t

Nothing better could be selected for a Christmas present for the old folks than a Morris chair. The City Furniture Company has a beautiful lot of them. 29-1f

What shall I buy for the home folks? What's the matter with a handsome leather upholstered chair? At the City Furniture Co. 29-1f

**Sheriff's Sale.**  
State of Mississippi.  
Lowndes County.  
J. Ater vs. Aaron Hahn. 3192.  
Buder Bros. vs. Aaron Hahn. 3196.  
J. W. Stansell vs. Aaron Hahn. 3292.

By virtue of a writ of execution in each of the above entitled cases to me directed from the office of the clerk of the circuit court, R. J. Gunter, clerk, in and for the said county of Lowndes, State of Mississippi, I will, on Monday, the 4th day of January, 1909, the same being the first Monday thereof, proceed to sell, and will sell, in front of the courthouse door of said county, in the city of Columbus, to the highest bidder, for cash, within the hours prescribed by law, all the right, title, interest, claim and demand of said defendant, Aaron Hahn, in and to the following described property lying and being in the city of Columbus, county of Lowndes and State of Mississippi, the same having been levied on by me, under said executions, to-wit: Part of lot three in square three, south of Main street, and described as commencing at the northwest corner of said lot three, from thence running south one hundred and sixty (160) feet, thence east twenty-two (22) feet, thence north one hundred and sixty (160) feet, thence west twenty-two (22) feet to the place of beginning.

Also part of lot five (5) in square three (3), south of Main street, and described as beginning on the south side Main street at a point thirty (30) feet west from the northeast corner of said lot five (5) in said square three (3); from thence running southwardly parallel with Market street along the west line of a lot sold the 24th day of December, 1895, by Levi Donnell, executor of Henry W. Hunt, deceased, to Alfred Thacher, one hundred and fourteen (114) feet, thence westwardly parallel with Main street thirty-one (31) feet and six (6) inches, thence northwardly parallel with Market street one hundred and fourteen (114) feet to south side of Main street, thence eastwardly along the south side of Main street thirty-one (31) feet to place of beginning, reserving, however, an alley ten (10) feet wide on the south end thereof for the benefit of the public.

Also part of lot five (5) in square three (3), south of Main street, described as beginning at the northeast corner of said square three (3), from thence running south along Market street to a stake one hundred and fourteen (114) feet, thence west thirty (30) feet to a stake, thence north parallel to and with first line one hundred and fourteen (114) feet to a stake on Main street, thence along Main street east thirty (30) feet to place of beginning.

Levied on as the property of defendant, Aaron Hahn, and will be sold to satisfy judgments and costs in above cases.

W. D. Prowell, Sheriff. 12-9-1f  
December 8, 1908.

**In the Circuit Court of Lowndes County, State of Mississippi, In Vacation.**  
Owing to the necessity of calling and holding, in the interest of public business, a special term of the Circuit Court of Lauderdale County, State of Mississippi, on the third Monday in January, A. D. 1909, it is hereby ordered and adjudged by the undersigned, John L. Buckley, Circuit Judge of the Tenth Judicial District of the State of Mississippi, that the first week of the regular January term, A. D. 1909, of the Circuit Court in and for the County of Lowndes and State of Mississippi, be and it is hereby pretermitted, and that on the third Monday in January, 1909, the day on which said regular January term, A. D. 1909, of said court, would otherwise convene according to law, the sheriff of the County of Lowndes and the State of Mississippi will open and adjourn the said regular January term, 1909, of the Circuit Court of the County of Lowndes and State of Mississippi, to the fourth Monday of January, A. D. 1909, to-wit, the 25th day of January, 1909, and that all parties, witnesses and jurors be, and they are hereby, directed to attend the regular January term, 1909, of the said Circuit Court of Lowndes County, State of Mississippi, accordingly, on, to-wit, the fourth Monday in January, 1909.

It is further ordered and adjudged by the said John L. Buckley, Circuit Judge of the Tenth Judicial District of the State of Mississippi, that the clerk of the Circuit Court of Lowndes County and State of Mississippi shall give two weeks' notice of this order to all concerned, by publishing this order in some newspaper published in the County of Lowndes and State of Mississippi, and that the proper costs of said publication shall be paid out of the County Treasury.

Done in vacation, at Enterprise, Clarke County, Mississippi, on this, the 4th day of December, 1908.

John L. Buckley, Judge of the Tenth Judicial District of Mississippi. 13-2w

**For Sale.**  
The A. J. Smith modern two-story home on South Third street. This is a modern, new home in every respect, and it is a rare bargain at the price asked. It is near the M. & O. depot and in a good neighborhood, and we can arrange liberal terms on the same. Let us show you this property and quote you its price. Maer Realty Company.

A resolution providing for a revision of the house rules was recently voted down by congress, and "Czar" Cannon still reigns supreme.

A coated tongue, foul breath and clogged condition in the bowels suggest the use of Prickly Ash Bitters. It is just suited for such ailments.

**Handsomest Lot on Main Street.**  
For a quick sale. Price only \$2100.00. Maer Realty Company.

**THEIR EVE OF NOEL**  
BY Virginia Leilia Wentz  
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"MERCI, monsieur!" cried the concierge as he cheerfully took the silver coin. "A happy Noel, monsieur!"

Lansing Drake entered the little impasse on the broad Avenue du Maine shaking his shoulders, for his back ached. He had been working at the Louvre for five steady hours—till the very last fraction of light held out. Why not? What part had he in the festivities of these happy French people? Was not he one of the homeless ones, separated by the width of an ocean from his family?

In his studio apartment he threw himself on a divan with a pipe and a Journal Amusant. But the Journal was full of allusions to the season, and somehow he sighed. The eve of Noel—Christmas eve! It had been the very best time of the year over there in his dear southern home. What were they doing now? Getting the things ready for the trees, and tying up the wreaths of holly with red ribbon, and hanging a branch of mistle-oh, pahaw, what right had he to think of such things tonight?

A clatter of sabots across the flagstone court—the small daughter of the concierge fetching water from the common tap; from the Boulevard Montparnasse the toot of a St. Philippe du Roule train and then silence.

then the window was lifted. She threw out some crumbs to some cold looking sparrows. The last rays of the winter sun touched the fine, white parting that separated the burnished waves of hair.

If he only dared speak to her! She might misjudge him before he had a chance to show his intentions. But he would do it. He would seize the moment while this fit of madness lasted and speak to her. In sner mood of courage might be unequal to it. He hurried out of the room and stood, hat in hand, in the court close to her window.

"I am your neighbor across the way, mademoiselle," he said. "It is a month since I first saw you, and I've been wanting to know you so much, so much. I have no means of obtaining an introduction, and at the risk of your displeasure and your scorn I have ventured to speak to you tonight, to tell you how the little Christmas carol you sang just now somehow flew straight to a fellow's heart and made him think of home and all the old familiar joys of the season."

He held out a card. His hand shook a trifle. But the girl did not notice. She was looking at him steadily, after the first start of surprise, the color coming and going in her cheeks. But in her eyes was no fear, no displeas-



IF HE ONLY DARED SPEAK TO HER!

lence. Drake was picking up his paper again when—

The snow lay on the ground:  
The stars shone bright—

Ah, it was the quaint old English carol, with its liquid, sweet melody, which he'd learned at his mother's knee, and it was the American girl across the court who was singing it!

When Christ our Lord was born  
On Christmas night.

No wonder the tears came to his eyes. That particular carol and that particular girl made up a combination to which he was a bit sensitive if the truth had been dragged from him. Just that very morning he had written home:

"There's a little American girl opposite. I don't even know her name, but the mere sight of her keeps me straight. She's all alone, and she's evidently studying music. As for her singing, she has the most beautiful voice the good God ever saved from a lost violin, a voice to make you pray, little mother, to turn your laughter to tears, to turn your tears to laughter."

From the day when he had first seen her, watering her geraniums on the sill, the window across the court yard had become a sort of shrine. And at each new glimpse of her an unformed prayer of thanks surged up within him that a creature so lovely had been sent by heaven to keep the word "gentleman" stainless, to make it a thing to strive for and to take a cleanly comfort in.

She was a stranger too. It was a bond between them. Tonight perhaps she was suffering like him from homesickness and loneliness. How soon he could make her forget all that! They could have a revelation of their own and a jolly little supper, laughing together in sheer happiness of a mutual understanding of the Christmas spirit abroad. Unchaperoned? What would they need of a chaperon, they two-toilers for the sake of art, comrades in arms made equal in rank by the blessed chance of being both strangers in this wonderful old Paris? There was a moving gleam of something behind the geraniums yonder. The cheesecloth curtains stirred, and

ure, rather the expectancy of an explorer who, venturing far, finds the present good, though that to come be unknown.

Presently they went out and hailed a fiacre.

"Where shall it be?" asked Drake.

"Laure's? Volin's? Peter's? No, I have it. Marguery's."

So they drove to Marguery's, and Drake ordered a bouillabaisse (to be quite reasonable) and a langouste mayonnaise and a bird and some sweets.

They had a very jolly little supper indeed and no end of amusement watching the merry looking French people at the tables, all devouring bouillabaisse and other nice things.

"And to think," cried the girl as the clock struck 11, shivering with pretended alarm, "that I'm sitting here at this hour, unchaperoned, in a French restaurant—with a man who hasn't even been conventionally introduced!"

"Don't!" cried Drake abruptly. "Come! We must be going home. It is a bit late."

She was silent while they left Marguery's and hailed a fiacre. Then she broke out in a queer little voice that was low and tremulous:

"I think you must have a sister. You take such good care of a girl."

The fiacre rolled into the glare of an overhead arc light, and he saw her looking at him with a half mysterious, half divine gratitude.

"Please don't do that," he answered in a hushed voice. Something inside him was pounding furiously. Something at his temples beat and throbbed.

"Don't do what?"

"Look like that."

She not only looked like that, but more so.

"Young man, young man," laughed she, with mock warning, "I fear you are wishful of turning a girl's head."

"The Lord be good to me!" he broke out, his pent-up passion of dreams rushing to his lips now that the barrier fell. "Don't you see it's because I—well, I'd hoped to pass the evening without telling you that I loved you—that's why I was hurrying you home."

**Dr. Birdsong Gets Life Sentence.**  
A recent special from Hazlehurst says: With head bowed with grief, and the remorse that will linger for years, for a brief moment's mad deed stinging him to tears, Dr. Tom Birdsong, charged with the murder of Dr. A. B. Pitts at this place, cried out in court today, just a moment before a sentence of life imprisonment was imposed upon him. "Oh, if I could, if I could—I would give my life if I could bring back the life of the dead man."

Those who had stood for an early trial and in bitter words denounced the murderer of a popular and harmless man, stood about the courtroom and heard the convicted murderer cry out, and as the tears streamed down his face hundreds of other eyes dimmed and overflowed, in sympathy for him whom they had condemned, and in sorrow over his great remorse. The scene, for its brevity and stirring features, has seldom had an equal in any court in the land.

When court convened this morning by the consent of the counsel for Dr. Birdsong the motion for a change of venue was withdrawn. Birdsong arranged to plead guilty, and by the consent of all concerned the case was given to the jury with the understanding that Birdsong be given a life sentence.

The jury was out three minutes, returning with a verdict of "guilty as charged," and a life sentence was imposed. Just a moment before sentence was imposed, Dr. Birdsong dropped his head and with every nerve tingling with grief cried out, "I would give my life if I could bring back the life of the dead man."

Court adjourned with the ringing sorrow and repentance of the prisoner ringing in its ears.

Dr. Birdsong shot Dr. A. B. Pitts down in his office on Thursday, December 18. It is alleged that Birdsong had been in the habit of drinking in his office and having companions with him who were at times noisy and boisterous. Dr. Pitts had objected to the carousals. Thursday morning Dr. Birdsong entered Pitts' office and after remonstrating with him about meddling went down to his own office and after securing a pistol came back to Pitts' office and shot him dead.

He will be sent to Jackson tomorrow to commence his term of imprisonment. A signed agreement was also entered to the effect that the friends of Birdsong did not attempt to secure for him a pardon.

**Montgomery Leaves Jackson.**  
Jackson, Miss., Dec. 17.—Jackson's last hope to retain the services of Roy Montgomery, manager of last season's peanant winning team, has gone glimmering.

A telegram received from Secretary J. H. Farrell, of the National Association of Baseball Clubs, announces that he has approved Zanesville's draft for Montgomery, and the ex-lawmaker will be in charge of the Zanesville team of the Central League next season.

Yesterday was the last day for drafting from class L leagues, and Zanesville had her application for Montgomery on file by a safe margin. This approval of the draft not only deprives Jackson of her last chance to retain Montgomery, but it also means that Charley Frank, of the Pelicans, will not be able to make a claim for his services. It will be recalled that Montgomery finished the season with New Orleans, having been loaned to Manager Frank by the Jackson association.

Montgomery is now at his wife's home in Danville, Ill., and will spend the Christmas holidays in "Uncle Joe" Cannon's town, after which he will go to Zanesville and commence the work of organizing his team. It is understood that Zanesville has a good reserve list.

The fact that Natchez will not apply for a franchise in the Cotton States League gives Jackson an opportunity to enlist the services of Charles Smith, the ex-Birmingham player, as manager for the approaching season. Smith is now looking after his farm and sawmill near Brookhaven, and it is understood that he is in a receptive mood, and would accept the management of the Lawmakers if the proper terms are offered him.

**Lost.**  
Alligator hide pocket book, containing twenty dollars and valuable papers. Finders will be rewarded by returning to New-Orleans Gaster at Southern Express office. 12-29-1f

Our first supply of  
**Singles?**  
Xmas candy has just been received; expect two more shipments this week. L. E. Mayfield, agent.

Mr. Sam Meek of Washington is spending the holidays with relatives in the city.