

The Caldwell Watchman.

VOL. XXV III

COLUMBIA, LA., FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 1914

NO. 5

TO SAVE COTTON GROWERS MILLIONS

THIS IS OBJECT OF BILL INTRODUCED IN HOUSE BY CONGRESSMAN LEVER.

WOULD DETERMINE GRADES

Appropriation Asked to Provide for Investigation and Spreading of Information Among Farmers.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Washington.—The saving of millions of dollars now lost annually by cotton farmers and small manufacturers is the object of a bill which Representative Lever of South Carolina, chairman of the house committee on agriculture, has introduced. The measure would appropriate \$50,000 to be used by the secretary of agriculture in determining relative spinning values of the different grades of cotton as already standardized by law, and for demonstrating the results of this work to producers and consumers of cotton.

The department of agriculture already has standardized the nine grades of cotton and is concluding its first investigation for testing the waste, tensile strength and bleaching qualities of these grades.

The house committee on agriculture has been advised that Texas alone is losing \$40,000,000 because neither buyers nor sellers have any appreciation of the value of this year's off-color cotton in that state. Buyers from the gulf ports were said to be going into the interior and buying up low grade cotton at about 7 cents a pound, shipping it to Galveston and then revamping it and selling it for 14 cents a pound.

This condition of affairs, Mr. Lever said exists to an extent in every cotton-producing state.

"The cotton farmer in the sale of his cotton is absolutely at the mercy of the local buyer in the matter of grades in 99 cases out of 100," said Mr. Lever. "Except for the determining factors of dirt, trash and stains the farmer has no way of knowing what grade of cotton he is about to sell, and is forced to sell at the grade determined by the buyer, and many of the buyers are almost as lacking in information as the farmer himself. Some action must be taken to secure the sale of the South's cotton crop for its intrinsic value."

STEAMER LOST, 98 PERISH

No Doubt Remains as to Fate of German Boat.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Hamburg, Germany.—No doubt remains that the German steamer *Acilia* is lost with its crew of 48 and 50 passengers.

A telegram from Punta Arenas, Chile, received here says the bodies of two of her officers were picked up among a mass of wreckage in Moat Channel, north of Pictou Island, Tierra Del Fuego. Indians in the vicinity declare that a big steamer sank there some time ago.

The *Acilia* was a vessel of 3,600 tons net, built in 1900 and chartered by the Kosmos line. She left Corral, Chile, on October 27, for Hamburg.

A telegram from Valparaiso reported finding two of the *Acilia's* boats in Aguirre bay, Tierra Del Fuego, containing the bodies of her second mate and two seamen.

Suffragettes Threaten King.

London.—"The king has got to see us, or we shall know the reason why," Mrs. Darce-Fox told the militant suffragette leaders in London. It was at a meeting called to reopen the campaign for equal suffrage after the recent lull, and the women showed plenty of fighting spirit. "The suffragettes had not anticipated that his majesty would refuse to see a deputation of women on January 27," declared Mrs. Darce-Fox. "The next deputation will go to Buckingham palace prepared for all emergencies."

Militia May Not Get Pay.

Washington.—Secretary Garrison has issued a statement which militia officers consider makes it plain that the war department is not committed to the principle of paying the militia. The secretary reiterates his statement made to the militia officers who were here throughout last week that if details of a bill could be agreed upon he would take the question up with President Wilson, but he emphasized the fact that he has reached no conclusion.

WILL MAKE CONGRESSMEN TAKE STAND ON SUFFRAGE



MRS. MEDILL McCORMICK.

Chicago.—Members of the Congressional Committee of the National American Woman Suffrage Association will begin a canvass at Washington to determine the view of each member of Congress on the proposed Federal amendment for votes for women. This was made known by Mrs. Medill McCormick, chairman of the Congressional Committee, who came to Washington to assist in beginning the work, which will be under the supervision of Mrs. Sherman M. Booth of Chicago, a member of the committee.

JAPAN IS SHAKEN; DEATH TOLL LARGE

EARTHQUAKES AND VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS SPREAD RUIN OVER BIG AREA.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Tokio.—Japan is facing further disaster. Hard upon reports that ten million people are in need of food in northern Honshu and Hokkaido and that many are dying from starvation, comes the news that earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are spreading death and ruin in the South.

The islands of Kishiu and Shikoku, to the South, were the victims of seismic disturbances. Craters suddenly discharged great volumes of flaming rocks and ashes, spreading terror over the Southern empire. Ashes are falling as far north as Osaka.

First reports were that untold thousands of persons had perished but later news has led officials to believe that these reports were greatly exaggerated. There is no way in which the loss of life can be determined as yet.

Official reports of the disaster brought out the following general features:

The small island of Sakuri is covered with a layer of lava and ashes in places several feet deep. Beneath this lie many corpses, whose number will probably never be known.

Any estimate of the dead must include a large number of refugees who were drowned while trying to swim from Sakura to the City of Kagoshima. Kagoshima, last week a prosperous town of 60,000, is in ruins. Even stone buildings collapsed under the weight of the hot ashes.

An official dispatch from Miyakonojo says that another volcano, located at Kirshima, to the northeast of Kagoshima, broke out into eruption on January 12, throwing the vicinity into complete darkness. No great damage was done.

All Americans who were in the vicinity are safe. Information to this effect has been received here from Carl F. Deichman, the American consul at Nagasaki, who telegraphed as follows:

"A private telegram states that Americans in Kagoshima fled to Sendai, near Kagoshima. All safe."

Several American missionaries were stationed at Kagoshima.

Williams Confirmed by Senate.

Washington.—The nomination of John Skelton Williams, now assistant secretary of the treasury, to be controller of the currency and as such ex-officio member of the federal reserve board, was confirmed by the Senate in executive session. The only opposition to the confirmation of Mr. Williams was voiced by Senators Bristow of Kansas and Wm. Alden Smith of Michigan. Senator Bristow alone voted against Williams.

CONVICTS MUTINY, SEVEN MEN KILLED

THREE ARMED PRISONERS MAKE BREAK FOR LIBERTY FROM OKLAHOMA PRISON.

SLAY ALL WHO OPPOSE THEM

Protect Themselves by Placing Girl Before Them—Are Finally Shot to Death.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

McAlester, Okla.—Seven men were shot to death and three persons were wounded when three convicts attempted to escape from the state penitentiary and were slain by guards. One of the men murdered by the convicts in their mad dash for liberty was John R. Thomas of Muskogee, formerly United States district judge and once congressman from Illinois.

Despite the illusion caused by the three men in trying to shoot down every one who came in their way, no general attempt was made by other convicts to join in the delivery.

The three mutineers were encouraged by their less desperate fellows, who cheered the onslaught of the armed prisoners. So rapidly did the three convicts shoot down those in their path that they reached the prison gate before the guards could return their fire.

Use Girl as Shield.

The desperadoes had taken the keys from the turnkey, John Martin, whom they had wounded and had sheltered themselves through the prison yard by holding Mary Foster, a telephone operator, in front of them until the only shot fired by guards in the yard hit the girl in the leg. Outside the gate the men seized the horse and buggy of Warden Dick and dashed away, only to be shot to death by pursuing guards. One of the convicts fought to the last, their stolen horse lashed to a gallop by the other two. They fired their last cartridge at the oncoming guards, who poured in a deadly fire from horseback.

How the men obtained the weapons and planned the escape has not been discovered, but a rigid inquiry will be begun soon.

The Dead and Wounded.

John R. Thomas, Muskogee, formerly United States district judge.

H. H. Drover, superintendent Penitentiary Department.

Patrick Oates, assistant deputy warden.

F. C. Godfrey, guard.

China Reed, under sentence for two years for larceny.

Tom Lane, Paul's Valley, under five-year sentence for forgery.

Charles Koozts, Comanche county, serving 40-year sentence for manslaughter.

The wounded:

John Martin, turnkey, shot through neck.

C. L. Wood, guard, shot through arm.

Mary Foster, telephone operator, shot through leg.

WOULD LOAN ON FARM LAND

Government Would Aid Farmers Under Bills Just Introduced.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Washington, D. C.—Senator Norris has introduced a bill for a bureau in the Department of Agriculture to lend money on farm land at four per cent for a period of five years, to be repaid at the rate of one-fifth each year.

Money would be loaned for the purchase of land, to pay debts or for farm buildings. The bureau would get its funds by issuing three and one-half per cent United States bonds.

A farm credit bill was also introduced in the house by Representative Bathrick of Ohio. Under this measure a new bureau in the Treasury Department would lend 60 per cent of the value of farms on mortgages at four per cent. The money would be obtained by issuing three per cent government bonds.

Honor Convicts Do Good Work.

Dixon, Ill.—Honor convicts from the Joliet penitentiary, who without guards have been making roads for nearly five months, have broken camp and returned to their prison cells. Fifteen of the original thirty-five men who were sent to "Camp Hope" on their honor not to escape have been pardoned or paroled. Only one man broke his promise and he was returned to prison. The work accomplished has been highly satisfactory, according to the county commissioners.

ARMY ENGINEERS ENDORSE CANAL

MAKE FAVORABLE REPORT ON PROPOSED INTERCOASTAL WATERWAY.

OUTLINE LOUISIANA ROUTE

Cost of Seven-Foot Channel From New Orleans to Sabine River \$4,712,000, Is Estimate.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Washington.—The board of army engineers has submitted a favorable report to Congress upon the proposed intercoastal canal from Choctawhatchee Bay, Fla., to the Rio Grande in Texas, which will be constructed principally in Louisiana, Texas, Alabama and Florida. Congress will be called upon to appropriate from \$6,632,000 to \$23,786,000 for a canal either five feet in depth and forty feet wide or nine feet in depth and one hundred feet wide.

The most interesting part of the report to Louisianians is the section devoted to the proposed waterway from New Orleans to the Sabine river. The engineers have divided this portion of the proposed canal into three parts, for purposes of recommendation, as follows:

The first part extends from the Mississippi river to Bayou Teche. For a channel five feet deep and forty feet wide \$426,000 is asked; seven feet deep and seventy-five feet wide, \$1,655,500, and for a channel nine feet deep and one hundred feet wide \$2,242,000 is needed. The engineers recommend a seven-foot channel, and say that the Harvey canal route might be used.

The second part extends from the Teche to the Mermentau. The engineers recommend the Hanson Canal route in this section, with the Center-ville route as an alternative.

The third part extends from the Mermentau to the Sabine river. The engineers recommend the route lying north of Lacassine and Sweet Lakes.

The total cost of the project from New Orleans to the Sabine on the seven-foot basis, as recommended, will be \$4,712,000, out of a grand total of \$15,723,000 for the whole project.

WALTERS READY FOR TRIAL

Accused Kidnapper Is Turned Over to Louisiana Authorities.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Columbia, Miss.—W. C. Walters, alleged kidnaper of Robert Dunbar, is ready to face trial in Louisiana and will not take an appeal from the decision given by the Mississippi Supreme Court, turning him over to the Louisiana authorities.

Attorney H. C. Rawls, representing Walters, said that should an appeal be taken to the United States Supreme Court it would result in a delay of one or two years, and that by that time, should the court decide adversely to Walters, Bruce Anderson, being so young would probably have forgotten the witnesses for Walters. It is claimed by Walters that the boy now in the custody of Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Dunbar at Opelousas, and whom they claim as their son, is Bruce Anderson, a lad turned over to him by a woman in North Carolina.

Attorney Rawls wrote to the district attorney at Opelousas asking when the next term of court convenes and stating that the defense only wants time to get its witnesses together. Mr. Rawls stated that witnesses would come from Mississippi, Louisiana, Georgia and North Carolina. "If Walters must be tried in Louisiana," declared Attorney Rawls, "Opelousas is the place we prefer. It is there that the people know Robert Dunbar, and we believe that they know that the boy now held by Mr. Dunbar is not the real Robert Dunbar."

WOMAN TAKES HER OWN LIFE

Ill Health Causes Wife of Mooringsport Mayor to Kill Self.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Shreveport.—Mrs. Louis Crist, aged 42 years, wife of the mayor of Mooringsport, in the Caddo oil fields, committed suicide in a guestroom at a Shreveport hotel by shooting herself in the breast with a pistol. Despondency over bad health is supposed to have prompted her deed.

No note was left, but it developed that Mrs. Crist for several years had been in poor health. A few weeks ago she underwent an operation, but did not improve satisfactorily.

GULLATT'S NAME REJECTED

Senate Refuses to Confirm Man Appointed to Ruston Postoffice.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Washington.—Another chapter in the Ruston, La., postoffice row was written here when the Senate rejected the nomination of S. I. Gullatt for postmaster at that place. Mr. Gullatt was first nominated during the extra session of Congress through the efforts of his brother-in-law, Congressman Aswell. The appointment was opposed by Congressman Elder of the Ruston district and Senators Ransdell and Thornton and the Senate failed to confirm the nomination.

President Wilson again sent Mr. Gullatt's name to the Senate when the regular session of Congress opened and the Louisiana senators and Congressman Elder again strongly opposed the appointment. The result was the formal rejection of the appointment by the Senate.

MIDWINTER FAIR SUCCESS

Large Crowds See the Exhibits at Baton Rouge.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Baton Rouge.—The Midwinter Fair held here for two days was more successful than even hoped for. Great crowds attended, including many from out of town. The pavillion was packed with agricultural, health and other exhibits, while the temporary stock buildings were filled with fine horses, cattle, swine and agricultural displays.

The last day's program included athletic sports and a live stock parade. The fine specimens filed by the review stand and were made the subject of moving picture films.

BICKHAM GOES TO PRISON

Banker Is Convicted and Given Ten-Year Sentence.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Franklinton.—Houston D. Bickham, former president of the Commercial Bank of Bogalusa, was convicted of wrecking that institution and given the maximum sentence of ten years in the penitentiary.

A few hours later, Bickham was on his way to Baton Rouge to begin serving the sentence, having decided to make no further fight.

Bickham asked to be taken away at once. Remaining in jail in a parish where he had spent a lifetime and knew every inhabitant was unbearable, he said. In Sheriff Simmons' penitentiary party, besides Bickham, were four negroes, shackled together. Bickham was free of handcuffs, a privilege extended by the sheriff on account of faith and long friendship. Accompanying them were his two brothers—Hamp and DeWit Bickham. Hamp Bickham carried a loaded shotgun, fearing a second attempt would be made on the prisoner's life.

Bickham betrayed no emotion when the verdict of the jury was read. Mrs. Bickham, who had remained at her husband's side throughout the trial, did not at once give way to her emotions but as she walked from the court room a few minutes later she burst into tears.

A few minutes later the convicted bankers, members of his family and his attorneys were in conference. District Attorney Brock was then called in and the latter informed Bickham that if he would accept the maximum sentence of ten years and agree not to fight the cases further, he would nolle prosequere the remainder of the cases pending against Bickham. Otherwise, he declared, he would press the other cases to trial. Bickham agreed to accept the sentence of ten years and a few minutes later sentence was imposed by the court.

A few hours later Bickham was on his way to the penitentiary. Half the population of Franklinton was at the depot to witness his departure and before he boarded the train District Attorney Brock and many others in the crowd grasped his hand in farewell.

PLANTER TAKES OWN LIFE

Will B. Graham Leaves Letter Blaming Financial Troubles for Act.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Shreveport.—After writing letters to his wife and son, in which he explained that on account of financial troubles he planned the tragedy some time ago, and would have enacted it sooner had it not been for his desire for the family to pass the holidays happily, Will B. Graham, aged about 50 years, one of the best-known Red River planters, residing at Red Chute, Bossier parish, lay down on a hotel bed while fully dressed, placed a pistol at his right temple and pulled the trigger. The bullet emerged through the left temple, causing death almost instantly.

Graham was prominently connected in Caddo and Bossier parishes.

HOWELL FREED OF POISONING CHARGE

MAN HELD FOR DEATH OF STEP-DAUGHTER ORDERED RELEASED BY COURT.

JUDGE FINDS NO EVIDENCE

States, However, That He Will Instruct Grand Jury to Make Inquiry into Charge.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

Ruston.—Casper Powell, the 21-year-old white man, who was charged with giving poison to his 8-year-old step-daughter, Mary Long, on December 21, from the effects of which she was alleged to have died in convulsions, has been released. Judge Holstead ordered that Howell be released, ruling that the evidence adduced was insufficient to warrant even detaining the accused for grand jury action. The judge added, however, that he would instruct the grand jury to investigate, Howell not to be in custody pending the inquiry.

The strongest witness for the defense proved to be Dr. C. H. Carson, Jr., chemist of the Louisiana Industrial Institute, placed on the stand by the state. He stated that careful examination failed to reveal the presence of any alkaloid poison in the girl's stomach. The defense offered many character witnesses. Mrs. H. B. Triasell testified that the child was critically ill the day before it died, suffering from a collapse from the effect of a crushed foot received by being run over by a train December 19. Dr. A. J. Adams, a Simsboro physician, said the child's liver and spinal cord were enlarged by strain and shock from the accident.

WILL AID SUGAR GROWERS

Charles Godchaux Quits Bank Presidency to Enter Fight.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

New Orleans.—Charles Godchaux, who resigned the presidency of the Whitney-Central banks to take up the fight to make sugar production pay in this state, has announced that he has plans for the organization of a large company among the sugar people, the objects of which will be to cooperate in the selling of sugar and enable the sugar people to hold their sugar and sell it to the best advantage, instead of putting it all on the market in about a month.

Mr. Godchaux said that the sugar situation was demoralized and the planters were alarmed and discouraged, and he believed that some steps ought to be taken to encourage them and to devise plans to develop the planting and handling of the crops on the most economic basis. He gave up his brilliant banking situation to do this, and hopes to be able to lead the sugar people into success. The company will, besides helping to market sugar profitably, encourage the production of other crops and stock and aim to help the planters generally.

Mr. Godchaux said that the plan so far was tentative and no definite organization had been arranged, but he hoped to be able to develop a strong working organization. The plan will include canning factories and all agencies that will enable the planters to handle and sell their crops.

It is expected that every sugar planter in the state will participate in the organization.

KILLS HIMSELF IN OFFICE

Facing Shortage in Accounts, Lumber Company Employee Ends Life.

Montgomery.—Van Miller, of Carson, shot himself through the right temple in the office of a lumber company in the presence of a young lady cashier, and some of the office force. The shot produced almost immediate death. The cause was an unaccountable shortage of \$3,000 in his cash.

Mr. Miller was born and reared near this place and his remains were brought here for burial. He leaves his wife and several children. He was the son of J. R. Miller, of Verda, who is justice of the peace of his ward.

Louisiana Debaters Named.

Baton Rouge.—Louisiana's varsity debaters, who will meet Tennessee and Texas this year, were elected by the faculty committee on debating, as follows: A. B. Whitlow and Fisher Middleton, principals, and J. M. Bennett, alternate for the affirmative team; A. S. H. Trappey and T. J. Magee, principals, and R. H. Lee, alternate for the negative.