

SOUTHERN COMPETITION

DESTROYING PROFITS OF NEW ENGLAND COTTON MILLS

The Fall River Mill Owners Decline the Propositions of Their Operatives—They Say Superior Advantages in Other States, Especially at the South Compel Reduction in Wages in Order to Manufacture at Any Profit—Other Mills Cutting Wages

Full River, Mass., December 21.—After an informal discussion, lasting nearly all of the forenoon, a formal meeting of the manufacturers' committee was held this afternoon and the answer to the operatives' proposition was framed. It recites the conditions affecting the industry in Fall River and the reasons for the proposed reductions of wages. The answer says:

"The manufacturers have carefully considered the three propositions submitted to them by the representatives of the various labor organizations there assembled. As you very well know, cotton mills in Fall River find confronting them a conditions of things which, to say the least, is startling; and the condition of the cotton cloth trade is such that the mills in Fall River find it impossible to dispose of their output at such prices as will admit of any return whatever on the capital invested. The competition which Fall River mills have to meet has been brought about in part by the philanthropy which the good people of Massachusetts have ever shown toward those of her citizens who have appeared to need her sympathy.

"The hours of labor in Massachusetts have been shortened more than in neighboring states and more than her manufacturers can stand. While such laws have apparently relieved the burdens of the operatives in the factories they have really worked to their financial disadvantage, because such laws have induced the competition outside of Massachusetts, where hours of labor are longer and where every inducement is offered capitalists to invest.

"The south has modern mills containing most improved machinery and a very low-cost labor. Massachusetts is handicapped by the shortest labor hours, an extremely restricted legislation compared with other and competing states. Mills must run and earn dividends for stockholders or there is no inducement for capital to invest in Massachusetts or in Fall River. It must be evident to you, as it is to the committee, that there is no money for stockholders nor for employes either when the mills are idle or running on short time, and that it is useless for all the Fall River mills to do all the curtailing of production. When we stop our mills every one else runs full time and if a curtailment of production here brings about better prices it is only temporary and simply offers an inducement for capital to build more mills, not in Fall River, but outside of Massachusetts.

"We work against ourselves every time we stop our mills without the cooperation of the rest of the spindles of the country, and in our opinion our competitors would be willing to join with us in curtailing production only when Fall River is able to manufacture cotton cloth at as low a cost as is possible elsewhere.

"The facts are that Massachusetts works fifty or more hours per week and other states have sixty-hour laws for labor. The southern mills run from sixty-six to seventy-two hours weekly and in some cases run day and night. "The cost of labor in the southern mills is very much lower than in New England and they claim advantages in water power, taxes, cheap transportation and cheap cotton, as well as in longer hours of labor. Their mills are as good as, but no better than ours, and the fact stares us in the face that they can undersell us in the market on account of lower cost of production.

"But reducing labor is not all. Some concert of action should be taken to see if legislation in this state cannot be made friendly to its industries, so that capital may be induced to stay here rather than go outside. "When it is considered that the mills in Fall River run less hours than in other states and that it is necessary for us to meet such a close competition in trade under such adverse conditions, it seems to this committee that nothing is to be gained by putting off for two months more the date at which a reduction of wages should go into effect, and inasmuch as the mills of Fall River have run during the past year or more under conditions so very discouraging and unremunerative, during which time we have tried the experiment of curtailment extensively, the committee of manufacturers feel that the situation is such that they must adhere to their decision that it is absolutely necessary to reduce wages in Fall River mills 11 1/2 per cent, said reduction to go into effect on the 3rd day of January, 1898, as voted by the manufacturers at a meeting held on the 8th day of December, 1897.

"Worcester, Mass., December 21.—The Millbury cotton mills, following the lead of the Fall River mills, has posted a notice of a cut of 10 per cent. to take effect January 3rd. This was expected and the owners say they were forced to make the cut by the condition of business.

South Bridge, Mass., December 21.—Notices have been posted at the Fiskdale cotton mills in Sturbridge, that on and after January 3rd, the wage scale will be lowered. The notices do not state the amount of the reduction, but it is understood it will be between 10 and 12 per cent, or about the same as that contemplated by Fall River and New Hampshire mills. The Fiskdale mills make print cloths and employ 400 persons. It is thought the cut down will be accepted without controversy.

Aurelia Hampton's Dental (Special to The Messenger.) Raleigh, N. C., December 21.—Aurelia Hampton, the woman from Asheville, who was in the criminal insane department at the penitentiary and who charged and convicted Kirby Smith of improper relations with her, writes that John R. Smith's statement that she had written a letter saying she had testified falsely against Kirby Smith is absolute falsehood.

THE SILVER HEELS

THE SUSPECTED FILIBUSTER RELEASED

There Was No Evidence Upon Which to Hold Her on the Charge—She Cleared Last Night for the West Indies

The schooner Silver Heels which was investigated on Saturday by United States District Attorney C. B. Aycock, on the drunken statement made by her mate, Alfred Thompson, that she carried a cargo of munitions of war out from New York and transferred them at sea to the famous filibustering tug Dauntless, cleared last evening at 5 o'clock for Barbadoes, British West Indies. She was refused clearance on Saturday, until released by the United States treasury department. She carried a cargo of lumber for the Kidder Lumber Company and was allowed clearance papers upon orders from the treasury department at Washington. She went down the river last night and doubtless by the time The Messenger goes to press she is out on the high seas. A. G. Ricard, Esq., acted as attorney for the Silver Heels during her troubles in this matter.

RELEASE OF THE VESSEL. The following Associated Press dispatch was received last night from Washington:

Wilmington, N. C., December 21.—Assistant Secretary Spaulding today issued orders for the release of the Silver Heels at Wilmington, N. C. This step was taken on a report by the United States attorney that he could obtain no evidence upon which to proceed against the vessel. The master, mate and crew all swore that the vessel left New York October 17th and was drifting at sea for fifty days on account of storms and had not until now reached Wilmington. The master and mate swear the vessel had no arms or ammunition aboard and did not deliver any to any other vessel.

HOW'S THIS BIT OF NEWS? In its personal column The Irish World and American Liberator of December 18th, says, under the head of "O'Brien":

"After having successfully assisted in the landing of seventeen filibustering expeditions on the coast of Cuba, under the direction of the Cuban Junta, Captain John O'Brien, otherwise 'Dynamite John,' has returned to report the safe delivery of the cargo sent to Cuba on the schooner Silver Heels. The Silver Heels' cargo was in charge of General Nunez and Captain O'Brien and was delayed so that the tug Dauntless, which was sent to carry the cargo, was obliged to put into Key West for coal and make a second trip before the arms were landed on the north coast of Cuba. After the work had been completed Nunez and O'Brien were landed on the coast of Florida."

THE STATE'S FINANCES

Receipts and Disbursements of the State Treasurer for the Last Fiscal Year—Report of the Legislative Committee on Examination of the Accounts

(Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., December 21.—The legislative committee, of which B. F. Dixon is chairman, late this afternoon completed its examination of the offices of state treasurer and auditor and make written statements that it finds all disbursements supported by proper warrants, the books neatly and correctly kept and all officers courteous and attentive.

Treasurer Worth furnishes me with the financial statement. The public fund receipts for the fiscal year ending November 30th were \$1,208,691; brought forward from last year, \$88,353; total, \$1,297,044. The year's disbursements of this fund were \$1,294,725, leaving a balance on hand of \$3,319. Of the receipts, sheriffs paid \$325,834, the penitentiary \$134,516, tonnage tax on fertilizers \$5,362, North Carolina railroad dividends \$35,013, Atlantic and North Carolina railroad \$25,322, and other companies \$7,490, property tax on railroads \$71,000. Of disbursements the chief were: Agricultural department \$3,362, Agricultural and Mechanical college, colored, \$23,623; Eastern hospital \$40,000; legislature \$70,000, interest on bonds \$302,947, judiciary \$62,361, Agricultural and Mechanical college at Raleigh \$22,436, experiment station \$15,000, insane asylum at Raleigh \$5,450, blind institution \$40,000, penitentiary \$134,516, deaf mute school \$35,000, pensions \$102,757, public printing \$30,519, Western hospital \$60,000, Normal and Industrial college \$25,000, state university \$25,000. Receipts of the educational fund were \$23,043, and \$5,116 was brought over as balance from last year, making total \$28,148. The largest disbursement was to schools—\$42,078 and the balance on hand is \$28,729 against which there are outstanding \$24,711 of unpaid warrants for schools, leaving the account overdrawn \$1,041.

On December 1st pension checks aggregating \$402,000 were issued, thus practically taking up all the balance in the treasury.

Miners Threatened by a Mob Charleston, W. Va., December 21.—Governor Atkinson is in receipt of a telegram from General Spillman, of Parkersburg, informing him that a mob is forming in Pomeroy, Ohio, to cross the river into West Virginia to drive the men out of the mines of the Consumers Coal Company at New Haven. The general advised the sheriff to look into the matter and the sheriff wired back that he would be in New Haven with a force of deputies tomorrow and would prevent trouble. In the meantime the state militia is ready to move when called upon.

Will Pasture Their Stock on the State Farms—A Murder Near Raleigh (Special to The Messenger.) Raleigh, N. C., December 21.—Halifax county farmers, upon whom State Senator Clark and others last winter placed the iniquitous law allowing stock to go at large during the winter, say they will drive all their cattle to the state farms. Mewboorne says he will place guards around farms to prevent this.

At Garner, six miles from here, this afternoon a murder was committed, one man almost severing another's head with an axe.

Rev. B. W. Spillman is re-elected Sunday school agent by the Baptist state mission board.

Southern Express Company Robbed Atlanta, Ga., December 21.—Special to The Constitution from Columbia, S. C., says: A package containing \$1,000 in cash was stolen from the Southern Express Company, en route between Sunday morning and Monday morning of this week, and the city is now full of the best secret service men on the pay rolls of the express company and of the Pinkertons.

RUSSELL AND MEWBOORNE

HOLD A CONFERENCE OVER PENITENTIARY MATTERS

Fine Showing of the Raleigh Banks—Stock Bought by Farmers Last Spring Being Sold Under Mortgage-Collector Simmons Officially Notified of Appointment of His Successor—A Girl Petitions for the Pardon of Her Seducer—Hydrophobia from a Cat's Bite

Messenger Bureau, Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 21.

After a conference with Governor Russell James H. Mewboorne, the new penitentiary superintendent, left today for a tour of inspection of the convict farms on Roanoke river. It is quite probable that within the next few months a definite conclusion will be reached as to whether these farms shall all be maintained, there being opposition to the renting of land, to the use of convicts on farms. If any farms are abandoned the state will have to pay the lease money, as the contracts of lease are cast-iron ones, and have some years yet to run.

The five banks in this city make a showing today of over \$1,750,000 on deposit, more than at any other place in the state. The Citizens' National leads in amount, having over \$500,000.

The deputy revenue collectors in this tier of counties say they are told the farmers will not plant next year over half as much land in cotton as they did this year. They cannot get advances from merchants. Last spring they bought much stock, mainly mules, and are unable to pay for it, so a good deal of the stock is being sold under mortgage.

Today the funeral of John A. McDonald was held here, his remains having been brought from Asheville.

Revenue Collector Simmons has received official notice of the appointment of E. C. Duncan as his successor. Simmons said this morning that he did not see how it was possible for Duncan to take charge before February 1st, as he is not yet confirmed, congress does not again meet until January 3rd, and he must give bond and a revenue special agent will have to be sent to make the transfer of the office.

Many Masons will go to Asheville tonight in order to attend the meeting of the grand lodge there tomorrow to lay the cornerstone of the Vance monument.

Not long ago Thomas Robertson, a young farmer of this county, was convicted of seducing Julia Hester, a young and pretty country girl, and was sentenced to seven years imprisonment. He asked for a new trial but the supreme court refused it. Now he is on the roads at work. Julia Hester's attorneys are preparing a petition to the governor for Robertson's pardon, upon condition that he pay \$1,100, so as to enable her to buy a home. She has signed the petition. Of the amount a great deal will go to her attorneys. The question now is whether the governor will assent to a compromise by granting a pardon.

Work on the Baptist female university here is suspended until the spring. The exterior work is very nearly complete.

The new superintendent of the penitentiary will look strictly into the matter of supernumerary employes, of whom it is said there are fifty whose services can easily be dispensed.

The cotton in the burned steamer Ariel at Norfolk was shipped foreign by a Raleigh firm. The loss is of course fully covered by insurance.

The Southern Varnish Company sustains a loss of \$4,500 by the burning of its building at Greensboro. The loss is \$5,000, with \$3,500 insurance.

Five of the six Greensboro people bitten a few nights ago by a mad dog have gone to Baltimore for the Pasteur treatment. Dr. Robertson, bitten by a cat at Guilford college, has hydrophobia.

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS

The Stanley County Railroad Bonds Declared Invalid—Judgment Affirmed in Case of Broadfoot vs Fayetteville—Riley Pate Committed to Life Imprisonment

(Special to The Messenger.) Raleigh, N. C., December 21.—The supreme court declares the issue of bonds by Stanley county in aid of the construction of the Yadkin Valley railway invalid. The constitutional requirements as to the passage of the act authorizing the issue were not observed, as the journal of the lower house showed, and this is held to be competent evidence.

Governor Russell commutes to life imprisonment the death sentence of Riley Pate, who in Yancey county, murdered a 15-year-old companion. The father of the latter, all the jurors and many citizens urged clemency. The boy is a degenerate.

The supreme court files an opinion in the case of Broadfoot vs. Fayetteville, affirming the judgment of the lower court.

HALIFAX COUNTY FARMERS

Will Pasture Their Stock on the State Farms—A Murder Near Raleigh (Special to The Messenger.) Raleigh, N. C., December 21.—Halifax county farmers, upon whom State Senator Clark and others last winter placed the iniquitous law allowing stock to go at large during the winter, say they will drive all their cattle to the state farms. Mewboorne says he will place guards around farms to prevent this.

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CITY AFFAIRS

Proceedings of the Board of Audit and Finance Yesterday Afternoon—Report of the Artesian Well Committee

The board of audit and finance met in regular session yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock, the members in attendance being Messrs. H. C. McQueen, H. A. DeCover and John H. Webber. Absent, Chairman W. H. Chadbourne and Mr. C. W. Yates.

In the absence of the chairman, Mr. McQueen was made chairman pro tempore. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The clerk of the board made his report of his examination of the books of the city treasurer and tax collector, for the month of November, showing: Cash on hand November 1st, \$12,666.29; receipts for the month of November, \$12,676.30; disbursements in November, \$9,775.63; balance to December account, \$15,567.27.

Communications were received from the board of aldermen stating that they had elected D. B. Sutton, Esq., city attorney, that they had appropriated \$300 to pay the city's part of the repairs to the city hospital. Action on the appropriation for the hospital was deferred.

The clerk read the following report of the committee appointed by the board of audit and finance and the board of aldermen with reference to the boring of an artesian well by the city:

Wilmington, N. C., November 27, '97. To the Board of Audit and Finance: The committee to whom was referred the contract for an artesian well, desire to make the following report: We appointed a meeting with the committee from the board of aldermen and invited the Clarendon Waterworks Company to confer with us. Messrs. Divine, Kidder and Robertson, representing the waterworks company, came to the meeting and made a contract for an artesian well of 12-inch diameter and proposed to get a supply of good water as soon as possible.

They very frankly stated that they would furnish drinking water in various parts of the city—as many as 12 faucets and six places for watering stock—free to the city. Having no objection that the waterworks company will do what their representatives expressed themselves as willing to do, we recommended the board of aldermen take the necessary steps to get a written agreement, covering the above, from the company, that they may have a reasonable time to carry out the agreement, and that the city authorities do nothing towards boring a well.

D. L. GORE, C. W. YATES, H. C. McQUEEN, H. A. DeCOVER, B. F. KEITH.

On motion the above report was adopted and the resolution sent over by the board of aldermen appropriating \$4,000 to have an artesian well bored, was laid upon the table.

Bills were audited and approved as follows: For current expenses, \$2,264.25; quarantine expenses, \$205.55; coupons, \$180.

Among the bills approved were the following: Bill of the law firm of Ricard & Bryan for \$100 for legal services in securing the dismissal of the suit of Mrs. H. Kure, by being struck by the tongue for the alleged killing of her husband, H. H. Kure, by being struck by the tongue of a steam fire engine; bill of Messrs. Ricard & Bryan for securing the dismissal of the case of Highsmith vs the city of Wilmington, for \$5,000 for false arrest; bills for \$25 to pay the expenses of Chief W. R. Joyner, and \$30.50 to pay the expenses of Assistant Chief H. P. Haney, of the Atlanta fire department, both of whom came here to consult and assist in organizing Wilmington's paid fire department, and the bill of J. O. Brown for \$38.85 for repairing the truck of Hook and Ladder Company No. 1.

The board adjourned subject to the call of the chairman.

Progress Toward Disembodiment of China

Berlin, December 21.—The Cologne Gazette maintains the accuracy of the statement that the Russian occupation of Port Arthur was connected with the visit there of the British warship Daphne about a week. As a proof, it points out that there was neither Russian ships nor a Russian consul at Port Arthur at the time the Daphne visited the harbor and it argues that Russia could not have learned of the visit through Chinese complaints.

The Cologne Gazette embarrassed the government today by declaring that the other powers would soon follow the example of Germany and Russia, now that the partition of China had actually commenced. Other papers have expressed opinions in a singular vein.

It is hinted that Prince Henry's destination is another point than Kiao Chou and that he will receive the supreme command in the China seas.

London, December 22.—According to a special dispatch from Shanghai, the British squadron will make a demonstration at Che-Foo on the north coast of the Shan-Tung promontory, as a warning. It is supposed, that Great Britain intends to oppose the division of China without consulting her. It is reported there that Russia has offered China a loan to pay off the indemnity of the war with Japan, and it is believed, says the dispatch, that Japan and England are acting in concert to preserve China from disintegration, favoring the idea of a protectorate over central China, with a capital at Nanking.

A special dispatch from Brest says the French cruiser Jean Bart has been ordered to proceed immediately to China.

A German-Chinese commission has been arranged, according to a dispatch from Shanghai to The Daily Mail, to settle the boundaries of the occupied district at Kaio Chou; and it is evident, therefore, that the occupation will be permanent. The dispatch says it is rumored in Shanghai that the British intend to occupy Talien-Wan, south of Pe-Chi-Li.

Two Engineers Killed

Chicago, December 21.—Two men were killed and two seriously injured this afternoon by a car-end collision on the Chicago and Eastern Illinois railway at Cayuga, Ind. The dead are J. S. Hodson, engineer; and L. B. Horton, engineer. The injured are J. K. Horton, fireman, legs broken; H. W. Kellogg, airbrake inspector, head badly cut. Passenger train No. 7, in charge of Engineer Hodson ran into an open switch and crashed into the rear end of a freight train which lay on the side track. Hodson saw the danger a moment before the collision. He applied the air brakes and reversed his engine, but was unable to escape. Horton was a new engineer, learning the road. Both men were badly crushed. No passengers were injured.

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A FEARFUL TRAGEDY

Miss Lella Herbert, Daughter of the Ex-Secretary of the Navy, Suffering from Extreme Melancholia, Leaps from a Third Story Window and is Killed

Washington, December 21.—Miss Lella Herbert, daughter of ex-Secretary of the Navy Herbert, of Alabama, jumped from her bed room window, in the third story of her father's house on New Hampshire avenue this city, this forenoon and sustained injuries from which she died in a short time afterward. She had been confined to her room for some time, the result of an accident while horseback riding in Virginia.

This afternoon the following authorized statement was made by a gentleman familiar with all of the facts of the suicide:

"Miss Herbert at the time of the occurrence was suffering from acute melancholia. It developed several weeks ago as the final result of injuries received by being thrown from her horse last spring. The melancholia was not insanity in the sense of being accompanied by delusions. At the same time there was profound depression and as is always the case in this type of disease, there was great danger that suicidal tendencies would develop. For this reason nurses were provided to maintain the closest watch. No suicidal tendency developed, however, until yesterday when, for the first time, Miss Herbert made an attempt to get out of the window, but was restrained by the nurse. This led to additional caution and two nurses alternated in constant watchfulness of the patient. She was at all times rational, quiet and gentle and it was supposed the disease would yield to treatment. Early this morning the nurse on duty noticed a small spot of blood on the bed coverings. She inquired what it meant but the invalid endeavored to pass it by lightly. On making an investigation, however, the nurse found that the under bedclothes were saturated with blood and that Miss Herbert had severed the artery of her wrist with a pair of scissors. Feeling that the emergency was great, the nurse hastened to the door and sounded an alarm. In this momentary withdrawal from the bedside Miss Herbert leaped out and sprang from the window. The plunge was made head first and she landed on the asphalt pavement. This injury alone was sufficient to have caused death from concussion and it was doubtless the cause. Aside from this a cursory examination indicated that the skull was fractured. The severance of the artery also would have resulted fatally. When the physician reached her, Miss Herbert was still breathing but died about an hour after the leap."

The coroner returned a verdict of suicide during temporary insanity. As the facts in the case were clear, he decided that an inquest was unnecessary.

Mr. Herbert was not at home at the time, being on his way here from Alabama. He was notified by telegram of his daughter's death.

Miss Lella Herbert was the eldest of ex-Secretary Herbert's three children and was a charming figure in Washington society. She came with her father to Washington when he was elected to congress and at once took charge of his household affairs, making the Herbert home one of the most attractive and comfortable in Washington from the spirit of true southern hospitality which gave it an atmosphere of its own among fashionable homes.

When her father became secretary of the navy, in President Cleveland's second administration, Miss Herbert was called upon to take her place in the circle of cabinet ladies where she met with success the heavy social responsibilities placed upon her youthful shoulders. Socially she was exceedingly popular and her presence was sought at all gatherings. Her social triumphs here were repeated in Europe, where she went to attend the great naval demonstration at Kiel. Within the past year she has not enjoyed robust health, but this only induced her to redouble her devotion to out-of-door sports and exercise and it was while regaining her health by outdoor riding that she met the accident that indirectly resulted in her death.

Is it a Significant Visit?

Fayetteville, N. C., December 22. (Correspondence of The Messenger.) Vice President St. John, of the Seaboard Air Line railroad, was here yesterday, in company with General Gill receiver, and Captain J. W. Fry, general manager of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley railway. In view of the reported lease of the one road to the other, special significance is attached to the visit.

Miss Hattie McQueen, daughter of the late Neil McQueen, former sheriff of Cumberland county, will be married to Mr. Preston Stamps, in the Presbyterian church at Lumber Bridge, tomorrow. Miss McQueen is much loved and esteemed here, and she wishes for her happiness will be especially cordial.

Fall River Operatives to Strike. Fall River, Mass., December 22.—The cotton manufacturers are confronted with the prospect of a strike, as many of the operatives are determined to oppose a reduction of wages. A section of the union officials and members favor a strike at seven mills on January 3rd. The mill which they suggest are the Union, Sagamore, Border City, Shove, Chace and American. These mills employ about 11,000 operatives. Another plan of action proposes a strike at all of the mills on March 1st. The manufacturers are waiting to hear from M. C. D. Borden, of New York, owner of the Iron Work mills who has as yet taken no action on the wage question.

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