

Gainesville Daily Sun

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GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1906

TEN CENTS A WEEK

15,000,000 PEOPLE FACING STARVATION

And Appeal Is Made for Aid for Stricken Ones

WHOSE LANDS ARE INUNDATED

Conditions in North Kiangsu, China, are Appalling—Crops are Practically a Total Failure, and Food Supply is Almost Exhausted.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Official advices received here from the prefect of Hsinfaun regarding the famine in North Kiangsu, China, confirm the stories of suffering and want among the people of that section. The crops are reported as being almost a total failure in Taoyuen and it is stated that by the new year this meagre supply will be exhausted.

The conditions in Antong and Funing are still worse, the crops being practically a total failure. The country everywhere is under water and for a distance of 50 miles the people were compelled to wade through the water from knee deep to waist deep and in some places to their necks.

The prefect states that in the part of country immediately west of Tsingho, what formerly was a fertile plain covered with good crops and prosperous hamlets, is now a vast lake, extending 20 miles at the narrowest point and stretching for over 40 miles toward the southwest. An urgent appeal is made to the people of all foreign lands for aid for the stricken people, whom state department advices already have placed at fifteen million.

Facing Fines of \$3,100,000.

Toledo, O., Dec. 20.—The largest list of indictments ever returned in the federal court here was returned when the United States grand jury made its report to Judge Taylor. The indictments around which most of the interest centered were those against the Ann Arbor Railway and the Toledo Ice and Coal company. The Toledo Ice and Coal company was indicted on 155 counts for receiving rebates on ice shipments. The Ann Arbor railway was indicted on a like number for granting rebates. The maximum penalty is \$20,000 fine on each count. If convicted on all the counts, the fines would amount to \$3,100,000 in both cases. Six indictments were returned against the Great Lakes Dock and Dredging company for violations of the federal eight-hour law.

Dramatic Hearing at Mobile.

Mobile, Ala., Dec. 20.—A special from Montgomery says that a dramatic incident occurred during the hearing of a petition of habeas corpus in the city court. The petitioner, Mrs. P. J. Ralley, of Macon, Ga., had filed petition for her release from prison where she had been held upon instructions of her husband. The pathetic feature of the case was the appearance of the daughter, a pretty child of eight years, the custody of which Mr. Ralley petitioned the court to give to him. A compromise by the counsel of the parties settled the matter amicably, giving the child to his father in consideration of the husband rescinding his charges against the woman.

Mrs. Sage Loans \$1,500,000.

New York, Dec. 20.—Mrs. Russell Sage loaned \$1,500,000 to the Lands Purchase company on a piece of property on the south side of Wall street, just west of William street. The mortgage on the property is at 4 1/2 per cent, due Feb. 1, 1910. This makes nearly \$7,000,000 that Mrs. Sage loaned on Manhattan real estate recently.

Monsignor Adami Dead.

Rome, Dec. 20.—The death was announced Tuesday of Monsignor Adami, one of the most wealthy Roman prelates. During his life Monsignor Adami made valuable presents to Pope Leo XIII and Pius X. His gift to the latter being a gold pectoral cross set with brilliants and by his will he left \$1,000,000 to the pope.

COURT'S INVESTIGATION OF JAIL

Treatment of Greene and Gaynor at Macon, Ga.

Macon, Ga., Dec. 20.—There is an impression among officials who have to do with the keeping of Greene and Gaynor that the department of justice in Washington has been fully satisfied as to the treatment these prisoners are receiving in the county jail here. The threat of moving them followed the erroneous news accounts faked from Macon, and since they have been denied there will probably be no further serious concern. There may be still efforts on the part of higher officials to learn the true state of facts, but if this occurs, Macon officers will be pleased with the opportunity to establish the real facts.

The effort to meet the assertions with refutation has been well nigh successful, and both officials and prisoners are satisfied with the results. Marshal George White has been very much upset by the hurried orders and communications coming closely behind the newspaper statements, and has busied himself with seeing that every matter in connection with the treatment of the prisoners is proper and regular.

Captain Greene and Colonel Gaynor are pleased with the statements that they have conducted themselves in courteous and polite manner toward the officials. They have apparently been contented with their lots as prisoners, and the agitation has meant no material change with them. They occupy cells, have access to the jail yards and occasionally get something sent in in the way of refreshments, but a deputy is always on guard and Jailer Hubbard generally knows what is going on at all hours. The two men will spend their holidays behind the bars of the county jail as other prisoners.

Morgan Differs with President.

Washington, Dec. 20.—In giving notice in the senate that at an early date he would call up his bill to control the direction and management of the Panama railroad, Senator Morgan remarked that as he read the President's Panama message, grave doubt was expressed as to the proposed location of the Gatun dam. The president, he said had made an earnest demand on congress at the last session to secure the passage of the bill for a lock canal, and that bill had passed. "It is too late to save his reputation as an engineering officer," added Mr. Morgan, "but it may not be too late to save this government from enormous loss."

Negro Asks for a Recount.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—Assistant State Attorney Ferdinand L. Barnett, who was the only republican candidate defeated in the recent election of municipal court judges, filed a petition with the clerk of the county court in which he asks a recount of the votes. The petition recites that Barnett, who is a negro, was duly elected to the office, but he was fraudulently counted out by the election judges.

Five Men Shot by Kentuckian.

Charleston, W. Va., Dec. 20.—In a row near the postoffice of Blue Creek last night, George Goodwin, a Kentuckian, shot five men, one fatally. William Armstrong, whose lungs were perforated, will die. After a race with the sheriff, who shot at Goodwin six times, Goodwin was captured and brought to jail here. The fight was the result of a trivial dispute between two of the men.

Fire Follows Train Wreck.

Houston, Tex., Dec. 20.—A head-on collision occurred at Thornton, Tex., between a passenger train that left here on the Texas Central and a freight train on the Santa Fe. Both engines were derailed and fire destroyed three freight cars and four coaches. The engineer, fireman and three mail clerks on the passenger train were injured. The passenger train ran into an open switch.

Pistol Bullet to End Trouble.

Albany, Ga., Dec. 20.—T. J. Thornton, merchant and farmer, at Morgan, Calhoun county, committed suicide by shooting himself in the head with a pistol. Despondent over financial affairs is said to have been the cause.

STRAUS' FIRST RULING FAVORABLE TO SOUTH

He Decides That States May Induce Immigration.

SOUTH CAROLINA CASE DECIDED

No Violation of Alien Contract Labor Law When State Encourages Immigration and Pays Transit Expenses of the Immigrants.

Washington, Dec. 20.—The first decision rendered by Secretary Straus, of the department of labor and commerce, was in the interest of the south, and upholds the right of a state to induce immigration.

This decision settles the legality of the Georgia immigration scheme.

The decision holds in brief, that, in the circumstances there is no violation of the immigration laws or of the law to prohibit the importation of alien contract laborers in the action of the state of South Carolina, in this particular case, in encouraging immigration to the state or in paying the extra expenses of the immigrants in coming to the state.

A similar ruling will beyond doubt be made on the plans proposed by the Georgia immigration society.

It is pointed out that there is a very essential difference in law between an immigration agent acting under state authority and receiving only supplemental subscriptions from private parties, and an agent employed directly by private parties or corporations, and whose commission from the governor is simply incidental. This is the point on which the Georgia case turns.

The case of North Carolina, now being investigated by Solicitor Earle, grows out of the employment by certain cotton mill interests of an immigration agent to represent them primarily. This case will be pressed. As stated, above, however, the department finds there is no ground for proceeding against Commissioner Wilson or any one connected with the importation of the Witteknid immigrants.

Indian Agency Cashier Suspended.

Muskogee, I. T., Dec. 20.—Lyman K. Lane, cashier of the Indian agency, has been suspended, following the investigation which Tuesday revealed a shortage of between \$6,000 and \$7,000. It is charged that money received during the present administration has been used to supply deficiency, which, it is alleged, existed during a previous administration. The matter had been placed in the hands of the district attorney.

Will Fight Steel Trust.

Chicago, Dec. 20.—The Tribune says that a bitter war which ultimately may have far-reaching effects on the manufacturing interests of the country was precipitated Tuesday when a number of farming machinery companies openly declared their intention to fight against the "trust" prices and methods of the iron and steel combine of the United States.

Madame Gould Victorious.

Paris, Dec. 20.—Madame Gould, the former Countess Boni de Castellane, has been victorious in the suits brought by creditors and money lenders against her with the object of making her jointly responsible with the count. Thirteen of the fifteen cases were dismissed by the court with costs against the plaintiffs.

Death Reveals Truth.

Phoenix, Ariz., Dec. 20.—M. Dereyian, who came here two months ago from Chicago, with Dr. Rowe, died Tuesday night of consumption. Dereyian claimed to be a son of a Russian admiral and to have a wife and son in Chicago. At the undertaking parlors it was discovered that the deceased was a woman.

Texas Sittings' Editor Dead.

New York, Dec. 20.—John A. Knox, one time editor and proprietor of the Texas Sittings, died suddenly Tuesday in his home. The cause of death was heart disease. He was born in Armoy, Ireland, in 1850.

SOLDIERS FIRE AT TRAIN.

Twenty Men of Ft. Barrancas Garrison Accused.

Pensacola, Fla., Dec. 20.—Charges have been preferred by a conductor of a train from Pensacola to Ft. Barrancas alleging that soldiers at that post fired on his car from ambush at 10 o'clock Tuesday night.

Officers of the post are investigating the trouble. The conductor avers that on leaving Pensacola for the fort, a distance of 10 miles, he had trouble with an artilleryman about this fare. When he attempted to eject the soldier from the car, his comrades rushed to his assistance, and one of them threatened the conductor with a club.

The street car man drew a revolver and stood off the soldiers, however. The artilleryman who caused the trouble was placed under arrest by the civil authorities.

On reaching Barrancas, the soldiers, about 20 in number, alighted. The car stops ten minutes at the fort before beginning the return trip. The conductor avers that with a short distance from the post on the return, a volley was fired at him. He was on the rear platform, and alighted, returning the fire with his revolver. He says his assailants, who he recognized as soldiers, then fled.

VICTIM'S WIDOW ON STAND.

Mrs. Parker Tells How Her Husband Was Killed.

Sylvania, Ga., Dec. 20.—Sylvester Sasser was put on trial in the superior court for the murder of Fayette Parker, a prominent farmer, some months ago.

Mrs. M. L. Parker, widow of the murdered man, was on the stand most of the day. She said her husband had returned home at 12:30 o'clock at night. As he was about to retire she asked him to extinguish the light, which stood on a table by an open window. He was shot through the window as he approached the window.

Sasser had been employed on the Parker place, but Parker had driven him away.

Hoof prints leading to and from the house were identified the morning after the murder as having been made by Sasser's horse, a son of Parker testifying to this effect.

Mrs. Parker became tearful when asked on the stand if she had been at Indian Spring, Ga., with Sasser a short while before Parker was killed. She indignantly denied this.

Jeweler Found Badly Wounded.

Atlanta, Dec. 20.—On entering a jewelry store at No. 6 Central avenue Tuesday night at 12 o'clock, Patrolman Gib Davis found the owner, W. M. McNeill, prostrate on the floor with a shot wound in his abdomen. Mr. McNeill, for some nights past, has been spending the night in his store, watching for burglars. On Monday night he caught one in the act. It is thought someone must have come to avenge the arrest of the negro thief. No one seems to know of anyone bearing enmity towards the man. He was taken to the Grady hospital at once. His injuries are not of a very serious nature. The assailant is unknown, for the wounded man would not talk.

Motor Boat Race Arranged.

New York, Dec. 20.—The proposed motor-boat race from Miami, Fla., to Nassau, N. P., is practically arranged. Sir William Gray-Wilson, governor of the Bahamas, has taken a keen interest in the race. The United States arrangements are in the hands of Major John Sewell, of Miami, and a citizens' committee. The proposed course, which is 160 statute miles, leads from Miami across the Bahama banks. The date of the race has been set for Feb. 1, and the navy department has promised that a suitable vessel will be available for duty as escort to the tiny fleet.

Young Man Adjudged Insane.

Macon, Ga., Dec. 20.—Bron James, a young cotton mill operative, was adjudged insane by a jury, and he will be sent to the state sanitarium at once. He was taken into custody by the police on a charge in which insanity seemed apparent, and the verdict is the result. He was an employee at the Wilttingham mills.

FIFTEEN YEARS IS GIVEN TO TURNAGE

Convicted of Attempted Criminal Assault.

STATEMENT MADE BY VICTIM

In Passing Sentence Judge Roan Declared that But for Recommendation of Jury He Would Have Given the Limit of the Law.

Atlanta, Dec. 20.—"But for God coming to my side just at that moment," dramatically declared Mrs. Carrie Comstock, as she rose from the witness chair in the superior court room, and pointing at Robert Turnage, "that man would have dishonored me. But," she continued, "as he passed his hand over my face I seized one of his fingers in my mouth, and clenched my teeth upon it. Then he struck me in the face, broke my nose, and when I finally tried to escape, struck me on the head with a water pitcher, and carried me as I lay prostrate and helpless."

It took the jury but a short time to determine the fate of Robert Turnage, a young white man but 28 years of age, tried in the superior court under indictment for attempted criminal assault upon Mrs. Carrie Comstock, the wife of a city water meter reader, who in pursuance of her business as a solicitor for a cooking propound, called at the house where Turnage was, in the afternoon of Dec. 7, and, upon being admitted to the house by Turnage to see "the lady of the house," was brutally assaulted by him. Guilty, with recommendation to mercy, was the verdict of the jury, immediately after the rendition of which Judge Roan said:

"Stand up, Turnage. Have you anything to say why sentence of the law should not now be pronounced upon you?" asked Judge Roan.

"Only this, judge," said the prisoner, without the flicker of a nerve as he stood shoulder to shoulder by the side of his white-haired father, who trembled when he heard the verdict. "That I made a truthful statement on the stand."

"In deference to the jury," said Judge Roan, "I will sentence you to serve 15 years at hard labor in the penitentiary. The maximum punishment I might inflict would be 20 years, which is what, but for the recommendation of the jury, I would have imposed upon you. Yours is one of the most brutal crimes I have known of, and but for the interposition of Providence, this good woman, who has a kind, motherly Christian face, would have been your victim. I cannot strongly enough characterize your cowardly and brutal attack upon this good woman."

Physically, Turnage bears none of the earmarks of a degenerate. He has a clear skin, is well-formed, and is apparently above the average as regards intelligence. His defense was that he was mentally irresponsible at the time of the assault, and this plea, put forth by his attorneys, Madison Bell and Mark Bolding, was thoroughly ridiculed by Solicitor General Charles D. Hill, who represented the state.

"Think of it!" cried Mr. Hill. "If one ear is larger than the other, if your palate is high and you love oysters and have short fingers, the case is made out. You are crazy! That's all that needed, according to the remarkable statement made by the defendant's witness, Dr. S. E. Roberts."

J. W. Turnage, his head whitened by the passage of many years, the father of the plumber on trial, testified that his son had always been of a roving disposition, slept in the woodshed at home, and did other unconventional things. Besides, the father declared, the son inherited the taste for drink from his grandfather.

Madge Turnage, the sister of the defendant, declared that her brother was quarrelsome without reason, and without cause, had threatened her and her brother. Professor S. L. Rowser testified that Turnage was drunk on the day he arrested him after the alleged assault.