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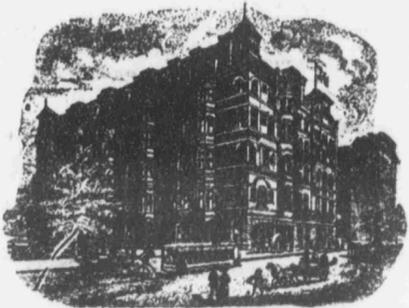
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EDUCATORS FACED DEATH

Special Train Bearing Ogden Party Wrecked and Burned—Four Train Employees Lose Life.

While rounding a curve inside the yard limits of the Southern railroad at Greenville, S. C., and running at the estimated speed of 50 miles an hour, the special Pullman train bearing Robert C. Ogden and 100 members of the Southern conference for education, which had but a few hours before closed at Columbia, S. C., crashed into the rear end of a freight train at 7:55 o'clock Saturday morning, killing four persons and injuring a score of others. None of Mr. Ogden's guests was killed.

The dead are: Charles M. Cope, white, brakeman of the special, Columbia, S. C.; John Little, W. W. Cummings, J. F. Hayne. The last three were negro employes on the dining car.

The injured are: Professor Henry W. Farnam, Yale university, arm broken and cut on head; Mrs. Henry W. Farnam; St. Clair McKelway, editor Brooklyn Eagle; Dr. Julius D. Dreher, Roanoke college; Robert M. Ogden, secretary to President Ogden; Mrs. J. G. Thorp, Cambridge, Mass.; Bishop W. N. McVickar, of Providence, R. I.; James Hunter, engineer on special; Walter Kershaw, electrician on special; Conductor Edward Acker; John F. McCoy, agent Pennsylvania railroad; R. Shull, negro cook on St. James (dining car); Geo. Williams, waiter on diner Waldorf. All were more or less badly bruised or cut.

The combination baggage and club car and two diners, together with the locomotive and a freight car, were piled into a heap, and in an instant fire broke out in the cooking end of the diners. Dr. McKelway, Professor Farnam, Mrs. Farnam, Mrs. Thorp, Dr. Dreher and Robert M. Ogden were eating breakfast in the second diner, which was torn to pieces. The floor collapsed and the passengers were picked up from the track. The seven sleeping cars behind the diners were left intact, but the shock sprung many locks, imprisoning the occupants. Seth Low and Mrs. Low, Bishop McVickar and others were rescued when the doors were smashed open with axes. The passengers in the St. James were quickly saved, but the three negroes could not be saved. They breathed the flames and died. When he saw that the crash could not be averted, Engineer Hunter of the Ogden train applied the emergency brakes and jumped.

Dr. St. Clair McKelway had a narrow escape from cremation. He was pinned down by a heavy timber and could not move. The rescuers dragged him from under the beam just as the flames were reaching him. He was unconscious, but soon revived.

Among the passengers were Charles B. Aycock, ex-governor of North Carolina; Dr. A. B. Draper, state commissioner of education of New York state; Dr. Arthur B. Kinsolving, Robert Treat Paine and George Foster Peabody.

Practically all of the baggage, said to be valued at \$12,000 was destroyed. It is claimed that a misunderstanding of orders led to the accident.

As a result of the wreck President Ogden abandoned his trip to other points, and the special left Saturday night for New York, Professor Farnam and wife remaining in Greenville in a hospital.

EDWARD AGAIN VISITS PARIS.

A Hint to Germany That France and England are Getting Close Together.

King Edward arrived in Paris at 9:20 o'clock Saturday evening and was met by British Ambassador Bertie, no French officials being present in accordance with his majesty's wish.

King Edward's arrival for three days' stay inaugurates the first of a series of brilliant events covering the next two months which, through accident or design, promise to exert important influence in showing the world—and Germany in particular—France's strong position among the nations of Europe.

Florida State News.

Edwards Admits He Lied.

Claiming that he was forced by intimidation and promises of reward to make alleged confession that he was alone guilty of the murder of Hon. N. M. Epps, the late superintendent of the Leon county schools, Isham Edwards, colored, under sentence of death, denies that there was a scintilla of truth in his sworn statement, and says that the men convicted with him are equally guilty.

To a newspaper reporter who visited him in his cell Edwards denied the truth of the confession sworn to and signed before J. C. Andreu, notary public, on March 18, last, and makes some sensational charges as to the methods which he alleges have been employed to secure a confession from him which would acquit his companions of any connection with the crime.

In his former confession Edwards said that there was no one present when he shot Mr. Epps; that neither Nelson Larkins nor George Caldwell knew that he was going to kill Mr. Epps, nor did either of them have anything whatever to do with the killing.

When seen at the jail by the reporter Edwards was loth to talk. He first said that his confession as published in the Jacksonville Sun was true, but when Jailer Patton, who accompanied the reporter, walked away, the convict suddenly became loquacious and told an entirely different story.

"Those other two boys," he said, "are in it as much as I." He said that he, Larkin and Caldwell had grown up together, and that all were friends. That he had borrowed Larkin's gun to go hunting, and that when he returned he found Caldwell and Larkin in the latter's store. That Caldwell had had a quarrel with Mr. Epps, and had not been paid for some work performed; that the three went down the road together and were together when Mr. Epps was shot. He confesses that it was he who did the shooting, but claims that the \$2.20 taken from Mr. Epps' pockets was divided between the three and that they afterwards played craps together.

Edwards alleges that before he was taken to Tallahassee for trial he was constantly being beaten by a prisoner named Will Alfred, and others who attempted to force a confession from him, and that through fear of bodily harm he was compelled to make a confession.

Work for Good Roads Goes Forward.

The State Good Roads Convention held in Tallahassee the past week was a decided success. Speaking of the convention, State Organizer A. S. Mann said:

"Those who attended were men who, by experience, were able to speak for their section. They took occasion to see as many of our lawmakers as possible. As a result, nearly all of the members were interested, and expressed freely their desire to give any assistance they could in pushing the improvement of the highways of the state. All favored a liberal assistance. Not one in either body was opposed. With all in favor of pushing the work of improving our roads, it only remains to find out how it can best be done.

"There seemed to be no call for haste. Consequently it was decided at the meeting of the good roads committee to do nothing as to drafting a bill until a further expression of workers in the cause from all parts of the state, as nearly as possible, could be had, and as state organizer I was requested by the committee and Hon. H. W. Long, the president of the organization, to make this announcement of a delay on account of a desire for the fullest possible expression from the workers covering the state. "I was requested to ask an expression in writing from such upon the law or laws needed for the early completion of the work, as well as the sentiment for road improvement."

The rowing races between the crews of the various battalions of the North Atlantic fleet at Pensacola Saturday afternoon resulted in the Maine winning the Pensacola challenge cup, the trophy presented to the fleet last year by the citizens of Pensacola, which is to be rowed for annually. The Maine won the four races with ease and the Kearsarge and Iowa came next.

Another oil company, backed by ample capital, has just been organized at Ocala, and if there be oil in Florida they will certainly find it. This company has purchased the machinery and the lands belonging to the old Pearson Oil and Gas company and will soon begin operations in a systematic manner.

Peonage Case Falls Through.

Judge Locke of the federal court at Jacksonville has issued an order sustaining the demurrer to the indictment against John W. Bennett and Richard Bennett of Bradford county, who were indicted on the charge of holding Maggie Williams in peonage on July 1, 1903. All parties are white and the Bennetts are prominent citizens. Judge Locke's order virtually dismisses the case. This is the only case of peonage ever alleged in Florida.

The citizens of Tampa are rejoicing over the validation by the legislature of the bonds for the purchase of the Tampa Bay hotel property by the city. Nothing now stands in the way of the consummation of the deal and the town authorities will doubtless take immediate action to secure this valuable property. The price at which the city has been offered the property by Frank Q. Brown, president of the Ocean and Gulf Realty company, which owns it, is \$125,000, which is ridiculously low as compared with the original cost to its first owners, the Plant Investment company, which is said to have spent nearly three million dollars in acquiring the land and erecting the buildings.

Senator Canova has introduced a bill in the legislature to prohibit the manufacture and sale of cigarettes and cigarette papers in the state. The first section provides that hereafter it shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture or sell or give away in this state cigarettes or cigarette paper. By the word cigarette is meant not only what is commonly known as cigarettes, but any and all articles incased in paper, or other wrapper, and not composed entirely of tobacco in both filler and wrapper and intended to be used for persons to smoke. By the words cigarette paper is meant such paper as is used, or intended to be used as wrapper for cigarettes.

The passage by the house of Mr. Melton's bill providing for a "governor's mansion" has already set the wiseacres to speculating as to where the aforesaid "mansion" will be erected, or whether one already constructed and declared to human use will be utilized for the purpose of properly housing the chief magistrate of the state. It is already hinted, indeed, that, should the Melton bill become a law, the historic old mansion owned and occupied by Mrs. Ellen Call Long, on the outskirts of Tallahassee, will be chosen as the new home for the long line of Florida governors yet to come.

The Tampa board of public works held an important meeting the past week, at which it was decided to issue a pamphlet setting forth the excellent financial condition of Tampa. Its bonded indebtedness, resources, etc., with a view to placing it in the hands of the bond buyers of the country in order that the city may secure the best possible offers for its bonds recently validated by the state legislature. The board decided to hold a special meeting at an early date to fix a date for receiving bids for the street paving the other contemplated public improvements.

Three companies of coast artiller, the seventh, fifteenth and twenty second—left Pensacola the past week on a special train for Manassas, where they will engage in the annual maneuvers of the army. The companies are under the command of Colonel Hubbell, commander of the local artillery district, and it is expected that they will be absent for at least two months.

Fire at White Springs totally destroyed the immense sawmills, dr kilns and veneering plant of R. and B. F. Camp, also the commissary, two million feet of lumber and several houses. The aggregate loss is estimated at \$250,000. This was one of the most complete millings and veneering plants in the state and its destruction throws a large number of men and boys out of employment.

The Pensacola chamber of commerce, Monday, decided to bring complaint before the interstate commerce commission against the Louisville and Nashville railroad company. This done in order to compel the road to give Pensacola an equal rate with other gulf ports.