

CURRENT COMMENT IN MISSISSIPPI.

Jackson Jail-Turkey Suicides Because He Failed to Be a Gentleman.

With Feet on Desk, After Writing Note, Puts Bullet Through Heart.

Body of Barton, Who Leaped to Death, Sent to Napoleonville Home.

Application Made at Jackson for Franchise for Construction of Electric Belt Line.

THE PICAYUNE BUREAU,
203 Scutter Building,
Jackson, Miss., Dec. 2, 1908.

"I have tried to be a gentleman and have failed. I intend to die in five minutes. Regards to all. Yours truly,

"JOHN H. GILL."

Directly after writing the above curt, brief note this afternoon the man who signed it placed the muzzle of a pistol against his breast and fired, and less than a minute afterwards he was dead. Gill was the turkey at the city jail, where he had been employed for several years, filling the position with idleness and regard for the trust imposed thereby. Those who know him best assert that no one was further from being a victim of melancholia than John Gill, who was always bright, cheery and given to garrulity, and a good conversationalist.

The preparations for the deed were evidently deliberate and well thought out. Gill having attended to his duties up to the last minute and then went to the little office room near the front entrance. He wrote the message quoted above, seated himself in a rocking chair, placed his feet on the desk in front of him and picked up the pistol. Just at this moment the negro cook at the jail happened to pass through the corridor and noting the man with the pistol, uttered a word of caution as to accidental discharge, and passed on. Before he had gone a dozen steps the report rang through the building, and the cook hastened back to find that the weapon had in truth "gone off."

The dead man laid also in writing given the address of sister living at 114 Second Street, Albany, N. Y., but omitted the name, though a telegram was sent to the indicated number, with a view to locating the sister.

John Gill had lived here for eighteen or twenty years, and for the greater part of the time followed his trade, that of Journeyman painter, and bore a good reputation. He was 50 years of age and unmarried.

The fate of young Samuel Kennedy Barton, who yesterday evening, in a fit of despondency over business reverses, ended his own life by jumping through the window of a fourth-story room in the Martin-Gladie building adjoining the Edwards House to the pavement below, is generally and sincerely deplored. Although not a native of the city or State, during his comparatively brief residence, Mr. Barton and his family had compelled respect and regard by their fine business and social qualities and counted their friends and associates by the hundreds. He was descended from a prominent Louisiana family, the Bartons of St. Mary and Assumption parishes, and was a son of the late Carroll Barton, who was one of the successful sugar planters and manufacturers of lower Louisiana, both parents having died some years ago, the death of his father having occurred more recently. Accustomed, as he had been to the best that the material side of life affords to those in a position to attain them, and possessing pride of birth and family, the young man came to this city with the intention of making a start and had been engaged in the coal and wood business for some two years, and seemed to do very well. Therefore considerable sums were being accumulated, and it was known that only last Saturday the initial steps for securing a voluntary bankruptcy order had been taken. The realization of this failure and the sense of unfulfilled obligations preyed upon him that for several days Kennedy Barton had acted as a deranged man, and his determination to end his life by having been disarmed of his pistol by his brother earlier in the day.

Accompanied by his brother and other relatives here, including a sister, Mrs. Chas. Gordon, the body of the young man was taken this morning to Louisiana via New Orleans, the interment to be made at Napoleonville, where other relatives reside.

Contractor John F. Barnes has finally completed and turned over the new Young Men's Christian Association building to the members, this being the result of many years of hope and work, as well as the efforts of the trustees who have financed and pushed the undertaking.

The newly-chosen Secretary, Robert Ringor, of Little Rock, Ark., has arrived, and was in conference to-day with the Board of Directors relative to the details for the opening which will be early in next year. Mr. Ringor is an experienced and practical man and has entered into the work for which he was chosen with zeal and energy, and will be a valuable addition to the community.

The Board of Aldermen and Mayor of Jackson have now before them a definite proposition for a belt line franchise, submitted to them at the last night's public meeting, which, owing to its importance, has been left open for further consideration, and is in the hands of a regular committee for investigation and report. The franchise is asked for by Dr. H. V. Powers, W. Q. Cole, H. L. Bradley, L. B. Cheatham and others who form the Mississippi Belt Line and Terminal Company, who in their application, ask for the granting and conveyance of a right of way for tracks, switches and turnouts, or buildings necessary, through certain specified streets, which if carried out would form a belt line not less than ten miles.

An amendment was offered to this instrument, which provides for the yearly payment by the proposed corporation of 1 per cent of the gross earnings of such franchise, until January 1, 1915, and for the next ensuing five years one-half of 1 per cent. It is further provided that the franchise shall cease to be in effect and valid unless the Mississippi Belt Line Terminal Company shall have begun business within twenty months from the date of granting.

The most connected with the proposition are all men of means and ability and financial and executive standing in the city and State, and the proposition is made in good faith, and it is understood that immediately upon the granting of the franchise others are ready to come in and take stock. It is thought that the matter will be taken up by the City Board at a special meeting which may be in about a week or ten days, or at such time as the Committee is ready to report.

There will be but few changes in the personnel of the State Penitentiary employees during the coming year, or those selected by the Board of Trustees, the Board having made their formal selections at this session. The office affairs will be in the hands of Lawrence Yeager, Secretary, with Mrs. S. B. Spickard as Assistant Secretary. W. F. Marshall, of Union County, succeeds H. F. Simpson, of Copiah, as Traveling Sergeant, the latter having resigned a fortnight ago. Rev. W. J. McGehee, of Water Valley, former Chaplain, was chosen to succeed Rev. Webb Brames, of Jackson, and the surgeons will all succeed themselves, as follows: At Barhaman, Dr. A. McCullum, of Edwards; Belmont, Dr. A. Christman, of Tchula; Oakley, Dr. L. B. Neal, of Raymond, and Rankin, Dr. A. Farley, of Jackson. The selection of farm sergeants is vested in the Superintendent, and as to these Mr. Neyslands has expressed no intentions as yet.

Dr. A. S. Orne, accompanied by Mrs. Orne, who are in the State looking into the possibilities for a Mississippi juvenile court system or law, reached the city yesterday evening, and had a pleasant interview with Governor Noel, who is in thorough sympathy with the idea, and who has expressed himself along the same lines since the assumption of his gubernatorial duties. Dr. Orne takes the position that it is not a reformatory law or system that is needed or desired, but rather that the State make provision for the help and development into good and useful men and women of the waifs and unmanageables, who are found in almost every community and section. There are numerous ways in which this idea can be carried out in practice, and one of the most practical that suggests itself to Dr. Orne, as well as others who have conferred with him, is for the setting apart of a certain tract or certain tracts of land near the property of the State, where industrial and agricultural training schools under

wise management and oversight may be established. He would not hold out the idea of a reformatory, as such are understood to be for average juvenile mind, and which would be under the oversight of some suitable persons, to which youthful delinquents might be sent direct from a system of juvenile courts, established somewhat on the Ben Lindsey plan. Such places could be located and such courts established at comparatively trifling cost, and with moderate help from the State. If an adequate system could be begun without imposing anything of an extra burden upon the taxpayers.

During his stay in the State Dr. Orne is seeing personally all the members of the Legislature possible, and at the same time is seeing and talking with those who exert influence upon the minds of their communalities and their lawmakers.

Governor Noel did not leave for Meridian to-day as he had intended, there having been a confusion in his mind as to the date for the Convention of Daughters of the American Revolution, which is to-morrow evening instead of this evening, so that Governor and Mrs. Noel will leave for Meridian this morning. The Executive will return and spend Friday and Saturday here and leave Sunday morning for the National Capital for the string of events in which he is scheduled to participate next week. Owing to his intended absence and the engagement at Meridian to-morrow, Governor and Mrs. Noel were compelled to forego attending the Confederate Monument unveiling which was the feature of life at Lexington to-day, and in which it was hoped that they would participate.

The voluntary petition in bankruptcy filed in the office of the United States Circuit Clerk by attorneys for the S. K. Barton Coal Company which has had its tragic sequel, set forth that the firm had liabilities in the aggregate sum of \$7,075.12, while the assets, including outstanding debts due and on the books, are given as \$2,198. Among the effects given in to the Court are two policies of insurance amounting to \$7,000, the loan value of which had already been negotiated to parties in Louisiana. Although the senior in the firm has passed away, the matter will go through the usual process of adjudication pertaining to bankruptcy cases, and it is hoped that a settlement can be effected for the benefit of those directly involved.

The men who have been following the recent rounds of boll weevil meetings in the State have heard the different speakers and demonstrators speak in terms of unqualified admiration of the plan and logical statements made by Agent W. F. Proctor of the United States Department of Agriculture. Mr. Proctor is located at Trier, Tex., and has studied the weevil and its effects at close range, and, at Port Gibson, Fayette and Woodville, was heard with deep interest, according to reports to the Governor and others here who have kept in touch with the work of education and information.

BLOXI.

Property Assessed at Full Value—Tax Levy Reduced.

Bloxi, Miss., Dec. 2.—For the first time in the history of the city all property in Bloxi, both real and personal, has been assessed at its full value. The new tax rolls have been passed upon and adopted, the City Council fixing the tax levy for 1908 at 9 1/2 mills. Last year the levy was 20 mills. The assessment totals \$1,012,139, against \$2,585,000 last year. The city this year is deprived of \$7,200 in revenue, owing to the fact that the license of nine saloons are cut off. It is evident that the next administration is to be one of economy. Salaries will be reduced and expenses cut. The 9 1/2 mills levy will produce \$44,822. Last year the city levied \$47,700. Hundreds of taxpayers will pay less taxes this year than for some years past because of the increase of the assessment of those pieces of property which were escaping taxation to a large degree.

A. D. Galloway, representing State Revenue Agent Wirt Adams, was before the City Council last night to secure an order enabling him to collect back taxes claimed against the Bank of Bloxi and the People's Bank and turn over to the city its prorata share, less the revenue agent's commission of 20 per cent. The assessment of the Bank of Bloxi for the years 1904, 1905, 1906 and 1907 is raised an average of about \$50,000 a year, and the assessment of the People's Bank is raised nearly \$30,000 for 1904. On these additional assessments the Bank of Bloxi will pay taxes amounting to about \$3,000. From the two banks the city will receive about \$1,000 or more.

A recent decision of the State Supreme Court may have the City Council of Bloxi in a tight spot, as it might require the levy to be reduced by the Grand Jury for alleged illegality in increasing the tax levy. Their attorney filed a demurrer, which was sustained. The State carried this phase of the case to the Supreme Court, which has reversed and remanded it. The case is known as the State vs. E. Gleman et al.

LEXINGTON.

Monument to Veterans of Holmes County Unveiled.

Lexington, Miss., Dec. 2.—A beautiful shaft to the memory of the Confederate soldiers of Holmes County was unveiled here this afternoon, with appropriate and impressive ceremonies. The monument stands on the Court-house lot on the public square, and is one of the most beautiful monuments of the kind in the State. It was erected at a cost of \$3,500 and the money was raised by the local Daughters of the Confederacy. It is thirty-seven feet high and is topped by the statue of a Confederate soldier supporting a gun. The ceremonies began with an impressive parade, headed by the old veterans and citizens of the city and county, and by the pupils of the public school. General Wiley Nash, of Starkville, delivered the oration of the day. The presentation speech was made by Miss Lulu Beall, who, on behalf of the Daughters of the Confederacy, turned the monument over to the local camp of Veterans. The speech of acceptance was delivered by T. W. Smith, on behalf of the local camp. The flag which covered the figure of the soldier and the greater portion of the shaft upon which it stood was loaned by Miss Rosie Lee Reid. The exercises were among the most interesting the county has ever had, and the occasion will long be remembered.

HATTIESBURG.

Council and City Treasurer Compromise on Salary Dispute.

Hattiesburg, Miss., Dec. 2.—The City Council has reached a compromise in the settlement of the salary of City Treasurer George, which has been in dispute since last March, when the Council passed an order reducing it from \$1,500 a year to \$1,000 a year. Under the terms of the settlement Mr. George receives \$200 back salary.

Porter J. Melvin, who rented a horse from a local livery stable and allowed it to be sold to a man residing in Laurel several months ago, has been taken in charge by the Sheriff, an indictment for grand larceny having been returned against him.

Leaf River Camp, Woodman of the World, has elected: A. E. Harbison, Consul; Commander; J. M. Deeb, Advisory Lieutenant; W. J. Whitson, Barker; W. E. Bates, Record; W. J. Fowler, Clerk; C. M. Miller, Treasurer; A. R. Farley, Sontry; H. J. McGrath, Manager. The delegates to the Grand High campment which meets in Columbus in April are as follows: W. E. Bates, Dr. J. E. Hullett, J. A. Shannon and J. F. Williams; Alternates, A. E. Harbison, W. L. Boucher, R. A. Fowler and A. D. Luckworth.

Edward, 3-year-old daughter of Judge J. E. Davis, is seriously ill as the result of drinking kerosene oil.

NATCHEZ.

City Will Ask Congress for Aid in Harbor Protection.

Natchez, Miss., Dec. 2.—On motion of Alderman C. H. Morris, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to-night adopted a resolution to memorialize Senators McLaurin and Money and the eight Congressmen from Mississippi, to endeavor to secure specific appropriation for the protection of the Natchez and Vidalia harbors, in accordance with a recommendation made by the Government engineers in 1905 when \$225,000 was recommended by the Mississippi River Commission.

The claim for damages against the city filed by James H. McClure and James H. Hamlett, which has been referred to a board of arbitration, was finally closed, the city agreeing to pay McClure and Hamlett, the same being in lieu of all damages being the result of changes of grade in front of the premises in Frankling, North Union and Jefferson Streets. The board and the claimants will confer on the subject of a grade for the sidewalk in North Union Street, so as to make the grade uniform in the block.

COLUMBIA.

Superintendent Powers Lectures.

Columbia, Miss., Dec. 2.—Hon. J. N. Powers, State Superintendent of Education, delivered an address to a large and appreciative audience at the School Auditorium last night. The main line of his talk was the advocacy of the agricultural schools recommended by the State Board, and the authority for this was the last Legislature passed an act. He made it plain that a line of industrial education was equally as necessary as the State, and told how other counties in the State were falling into line in this work. He made an address to the pupils and patrons of Bedford High School yesterday evening, pursuing the same line of thought.

The home of Postmaster N. O. Hathorn was entered last night by burglars, who stole Mr. Hathorn's gold watch and gold-framed spectacles, and escaped. Bloodhounds were secured, but refused to take the trail.

BRANDON.

Death of Chancellor McCaskill Is Momentarily Expected.

Brandon, Miss., Dec. 2.—Advice from the bedside of Judge J. L. McCaskill are to the effect that he is gradually growing weaker and his death is momentarily expected. He suffered

a fall some week ago, sustaining a broken hip, but had about recovered from this when heart trouble set in. Chancellor McCaskill is well known throughout Mississippi, having been appointed to preside over the Second Chancery District by Governor Yardaman five years ago, and reappointed by Governor Noel last summer. During Cleveland's first administration he served as Consul to Ireland, being stationed at Dublin. He is about 70 years of age.

MERIDIAN.

New Interests in Charge of Planting and Creosote Company.

Meridian, Miss., Dec. 2.—The controlling interest in the Meridian Planting and Creosoting Company has been sold to E. A. Splunks. The retiring stockholders are C. F. Woods, A. Postorant and C. Z. Smith. Upon the new management taking charge, the following officers of the company were elected: E. A. Splunks, President; J. D. Poythress, Vice President; E. R. Chisholm, Secretary; C. H. Barr, Treasurer; C. W. Poythress, Superintendent. Dr. G. D. Brock, a veterinary surgeon, was seriously injured yesterday when the horse drawing his buggy took fright and dashed the rider against a pole, throwing Dr. Brock to the pavement.

Lodge No. 308, F. and A. M., has elected George A. Exler, W. M.; J. W. Hugeneyer, S. W.; V. N. Gilbert, J. W.; C. M. Rubush, Treasurer; A. J. Peck, Secretary; D. A. Ray, Tiler. Receiving Master Walker P. Brown will be presented with a past master's Jewel.

The Board of Trustees of the East Mississippi Insane Hospital yesterday considered the complaint of Mrs. Marion Hooper, an inmate, that she was being detained when of sound mind. As the woman had been lawfully committed by a jury and committed to the asylum, the Board refused to take action in the matter.

The Junior Order of United American Mechanics, with twenty-eight members, was chartered yesterday by State Secretary W. D. Hawkins and enrolled as Executive Council No. 88. The following officers were elected: Councilor, W. J. Lightsey; Vice Councilor, A. M. Whigham; Secretary, J. A. Lowry; Treasurer, J. F. Martin; Chaplain, George W. Brown; Warden, T. D. Walters; Conductor, J. S. Jones; Junior Past Councilor, R. L. Gambrell; Inside Sentinel, G. L. Yarber; Outside Sentinel, L. McKell; Trustees, S. L. Reynolds, I. E. Brown and W. J. Treat.

GREENVILLE.

Planter Succumbs to Wound—Dual Slayer at Liberty.

Greenville, Miss., Dec. 2.—G. A. Sharpline, a planter, who was shot by Ligo Gilmore here last night when the latter shot and killed his wife, Sadie Gilmore, died this morning at 8 o'clock. Sharpline was a well-to-do farmer and leaves a wife and three children. Mrs. Gilmore leaves a boy 13 years of age, a girl of 8 years and a 6-month-old baby. Sharpline protested before his death that his presence at the home of Mrs. Gilmore was purely one of friendship, and that there was nothing wrong done or intended. Gilmore made his escape, and no clue to his whereabouts has yet been obtained. He is 40 years of age. Sharpline was also about 40, while Mrs. Gilmore was 35.

VICKSBURG.

Judge Warned to Quit Finding Men for Whipping Their Wives.

Vicksburg, Miss., Dec. 2.—City Judge William Wagner received a threatening letter to-day, probably from some negro, warning him to quit finding men for whipping their wives.

The last act of the Mississippi River Mound Association was a resolution to enter into communication with all parties living in the Mississippi Delta to secure funds to push the booster's organization and to have parties get petitions to have Congress appropriate \$50,000 for experimental mounds and to pay claims of parties damaged by the building of levees.

TUPELO.

Four Towns Boosting Proposed Suburban Electric Line.

Tupelo, Miss., Dec. 3.—A large and enthusiastic meeting was held to-day at the Court-house for the purpose of promoting the Tupelo, Pontotoc, Teocopolia and Fulton Electric Railway. This proposed road has been discussed for the past two months, and on subscription lists circulated by V. C. Klinecannon liberal amounts have been placed by the leading business men. Enthusiastic speeches were made and committees representing all the towns interested were appointed to solicit subscriptions. Those committees will report at a meeting to be held the second Monday in January.

SEMINARY.

Aldermen Serve for Nothing—Mayor Gets \$5 Per Month.

Seminary, Miss., Dec. 2.—The Board of Mayor and Aldermen yesterday reduced the Mayor's salary to \$5 per month, the Marshal's to \$25, without perquisites, and Clerk to \$5. The Aldermen will serve for nothing. The Treasurer's fees were cut in half. As a result many of the newly-elected officers will not qualify for term beginning Jan. 1, when the reduced salaries take effect.

MOSS POINT.

Two Candidates for Marshal.

Moss Point, Miss., Dec. 2.—The city election will be held Dec. 8. There is only one contest, that for Marshal, Henry Ford opposing S. C. Holly, the incumbent. The other candidates are: Alderman at large, R. L. Bradshaw; Mayor, George W. O'Neill; Treasurer, A. N. Melngis; Aldermen, First Ward, P. M. Johnson; Second Ward, Jno. Thompson; Third Ward, H. C. Herring; Fourth Ward, C. M. Fairley.

SCRANTON.

Assisted in Breaking Strike.

Scranton, Miss., Dec. 2.—A party of six employees of the Pascagoula Street Railway Company who left here four weeks ago for Rome, Ga., where they went to assist in breaking a strike on the electric car line of the Rome Light and Power Company, have returned and report their mission successful.

WESSON.

The Williams Came.

Wesson, Miss., Dec. 2.—Prof. C. F. Williams has resumed his duties at the High School and, in an address to the teachers and pupils last evening, strongly protested innocence and expressed confidence that he would be vindicated at the trial Friday at Hazlehurst.

McLaurin Sets Rumor at Rest.

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 2.—A special from Jackson, Miss., says: United States Senator A. J. McLaurin has emphatically put at rest a persistent rumor that he had resigned his seat in the Senate or Noel to express his sentiment in some exchange for a place on the Supreme bench next year. When asked in regard to the report Senator McLaurin made the following authorized statement:

"As a supreme judgment has not been rendered to me, and as there is no reason to suppose it will be, I will say, it is hardly necessary for me to speak of its acceptance. However, I will say that I would not resign the senatorship to accept any other office than the senatorship. Having been entrusted with this office by the people, I expect to continue my endeavors to faithfully discharge its duties in the interest of the State or Mississippi."

Two Cities Want Weevil Laboratory.

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 2.—A special from Jackson, Miss., says:

According to reports from Washington, there is a strong probability that the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, Department of Agriculture, will remove its laboratory from Dallas, Tex., to some point in Mississippi during the early part of the coming year. Effort will be made to get the laboratory located in Jackson and Greenville is also making an effort to have it located at that place. The entomologists in charge have for some years past been studying the boll weevil.

FLORIDA.

PENSACOLA.

Interest Now Centered on Securing Money for Graving Dock.

Pensacola, Fla., Dec. 2.—United States Senator Jas. P. Tallaferra, in an address before the Chamber of Commerce here to-day, strongly urged upon that body united action upon the part of citizens to secure a graving dock for the Pensacola Navy-yard, declaring that project of such at the coming session of Congress is very bright, due to the fact that the Senate at its last session promised the late Senator Mallory that if he would give his consent to the withdrawal of an amendment providing for this dock, which was not agreed to by the House, the Senate would provide for the docks by appropriating \$2,000,000 at this session of Congress. This was done. Senator Tallaferra agreed that a number of other projects fostered by the Chamber of Commerce are good ones, but urged that they be laid aside practically for the more important work of securing a graving dock, and there is no doubt but that this suggestion will be accepted.