

TWO MILLION DOLLAR DEAL AT RICHLANDS

BITTERS ARE SAID TO HAVE OBTAINED OPTIONS ON 31,000 ACRES OF LAND.

TRACT RICH IN COAL AND TIMBER

STATED THAT COMPANY WILL INSTALL SEVERAL BIG LUMBER PLANTS.

It comes from an unquestionable source that an attorney of Grundy, Va., whose name was not learned has secured options on 31,000 acres of coal and timber lands around Richlands, Va., and the general opinion is that these options were obtained for the Ritter Lumber Company which will at once purchase the property.

The Ritter people are not in the coal business, but they are among the largest lumber manufacturers in the United States and while nothing definite on this point can be stated, the supposition is that several big band mills will be installed to cut the timber.

The boundary on which the options have been taken contains a number of individual tracts, and among them is some of the finest timber to be found in the country. The coal lands are also said to contain some excellent deposits, but the probabilities are that the Ritters will turn the coal end of the deal to people who will develop the property.

No sum has been mentioned, but judging from the current values of coal and timber lands the deal involves considerably better than \$2,000,000.

REPORT TO BE DISTRIBUTED

Spokane, Wash., Dec. 2.—At a recent meeting of 500 men and women, representing various parts of the Western and Pacific states, who had gathered in Spokane to discuss country life problems, a request was made to have the report of the country life commission printed and distributed free. Satisfactory arrangements have been completed to have this request carried out by the Spokane Chamber of Commerce.

This commission was appointed by ex-President Roosevelt in 1908 for the purpose of making a tour of the farming states to investigate conditions and call the farmers' attention to the opportunities for modern business methods and better living on the farm.

On February 9 the commission's report was read in the United States senate and ordered to lie on the table owing to the opposition by Senator Tillman, who objected to its publication as a public document for the reason that the commission was appointed by President Roosevelt without authority from Congress; that it is not provided for by law and that it is not provided for by law and for Dooliver spoke at length in its favor.

LITTLE HOPES FOR NEW TRIAL

Roanoke, Va., Dec. 2.—Howard Little, the condemned murderer of six people in Buchanan county, received a letter from his counsel yesterday stating that he had hopes of getting a new trial for him.

THREATENED WITH BLINDNESS
London, Dec. 2.—General Booth, head of the Salvation Army is threatened with total blindness.



Madame Soledad Villafranca, pupil and companion of Francisco Ferrer, the famous anarchist, is slowly pining away as a result of the execution of the revolutionist by the Spanish authorities. This beautiful woman first came in contact with Ferrer, when she joined the school he established in Barcelona, where he expounded his anarchistic principles. She was an ardent admirer of the conspirator, who, attracted by

her beauty and unusual intelligence, made her his constant companion and a member of his household.

Many of the plots laid at Ferrer's door are believed to have been inspired by his beautiful companion, and her activity in the cause resulted in her expulsion from Spain.

The accompanying photograph shows M. Ferrer and Madame Villafranca strolling along a Paris boulevard. It was taken shortly before Ferrer's arrest.

ANTI SALOON LEAGUE MEETING

Chicago, Dec. 2.—Following the conference of the superintendents and field workers of the Anti-Saloon League of America being held in this city Nov. 30 to Dec. 4, the first biennial convention of this organization will open on Monday, Dec. 6, and continue until Thursday, Dec. 9; morning, afternoon and evening sessions being held.

In addition to the prominent speakers who will address the delegates, on every phase of the liquor question, reports will be read from every state in the union, showing the progress of the work done along the line of abolishing the saloon.

The convention will be opened by a reception to delegates and guests, followed by a banquet at the Auditorium Hotel on the evening of Dec. 6. Dr. Howard H. Russell, founder and organizer of the Anti-Saloon League of America will be the presiding officer. The speakers and special guests will be Congressman James M. Miller of Kansas, Richmond P. Hobson of Alabama, John W. Langley of Kentucky and Benjamin G. Humphreys of Mississippi.

Tuesday morning session will be devoted to the reading of "state reports," and the president's address. At the afternoon session William J. Anderson, National Legislation Superintendent will deliver his biennial report.

Reports of Assistant General Sup't Rev. G. W. Young of Kentucky and of the National Treasurer, will be the features of the third day's session.

Routine business and the finishing of the call of the states is the schedule for the last day of the convention together with the reports of committees on resolutions. Prof. K. W. B. Curry, President of the Normal Industrial Institute, Ohio, will deliver an address on "The Negro and the Saloon Problem." The closing address will be made by Father James M. Leary of Minneapolis.

BROTHER DEAD

J. A. Berry chief clerk for W. R. Dawson was called to his home this morning at Crewe, Va., on account of the death of his brother G. W. Berry, age 24 years who died suddenly last night. R. C. Berry connected with the Cassell and Elliott Company is also brother of the deceased.

WILL NOT HURT LOCAL TRAFFIC

The switchmen's strike in the west will not affect the condition of traffic on the N. & W., as the Brotherhood of Trainmen's a far superior organization holds the fort on this system. The switchmen's union is composed of the scum of the railroad and was organized by a few sore heads who were unable to gain admission in the trainmen's lodge, it is alleged.

Chicago is the rendezvous for the switchmen, it being claimed that over 4,000 members of that lodge work on the yards in that city.

"Snakes" is the name given to the members of the switchmen's organization by other railroad lodges, and it is not "fair weather" when the members of the Trainmen and Switchmen meet. It is claimed the Trainmen's lodge has more members than the Conductor's and engineers lodge combined.

FACULTY CUTS OUT FOOTBALL

Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 2.—The faculty of the Memphis University decided to abandon football in athletics until safer rules are framed.

DIED AT AGE OF 103 YEARS.

Dover, Del., Dec. 2.—Capt. John Downing, who passed his 103d birthday on July 4 last, died at his home at Little Creek, near this city, early this morning, after a short illness. Capt. Downing served in three wars, the last being the civil war, when he held the post of master-at-arms in the United States steamship Yankee.

Capt. Downing but recently had his pension increased from \$12 to \$30 per month, and he lived until Saturday next, he would have received his first quarter's increase.

TO ATTEND MEETING

A special meeting of the association of general chairmen representing all of the trainmen and conductors east of the Mississippi river and south of the Ohio and Potomac rivers will be held at Mason, Ga., on the 15th of December. It has been learned that the issue of great importance will be transacted at the meeting. Several will attend from Bluefield.

NORTHWEST IS FACING FAMINE

Thirteen Big Railroads Tied Up as Result of Switchmen's Strike, Flour Mills Close and Ten Thousand Workmen Out of Jobs.

St. Paul, Dec. 2.—The entire Northwest is threatened with famine as a result of the switchmen's strike. Thirteen big railroads between here and Seattle and other western points are involved in the tie up. The flour mills on the Pacific coast and throughout the Northwest have closed down for lack of grain and thousands are thrown out of employment. There is no settlement in sight, and the situation is becoming more grave every minute.

Trainmen May Strike.
Minneapolis, Dec. 2.—The Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen may strike in sympathy with the switchmen. The matter is now under advisement.

Ten thousand employees of flour mills are thrown out of jobs in the Northwest and unless a settlement is reached a flour famine is imminent. In the iron range country the small towns will soon be facing a famine unless trains of foodstuff can be brought in there. At Superior 300 men were laid off in the Great Northern railway machine shops. The mines will be affected by the stopping of freight traffic. On the ore docks at Duluth and Superior within 48 hours, 10,000 men will be out of employment, and the general loss on account of no employment for labor and inability to deliver merchandise will run into thousands of dollars.

MYSTERY IN MURDER CASE

Virginia Wardlow Held With out Bail for Killing of Mrs. Snead.

New York, Dec. 2.—Mystery continues in the case of Mrs. W. M. Snead whose body was found in a bath tub at East Orange, N. J. Miss Virginia Wardlow, her spinster aunt, who is charged with the murder is being held without bail.

Mrs. Snead was a daughter of Col. Robert Martin, who served under General Forrest during the Civil war.

UNCLE SAMUEL GETS A BID

Washington, Dec. 2.—Through Count Conrad de Buisseret Steenbecque Blarenghien, the Belgian minister to this country, Uncle Sam has received an invitation to attend the International Congress on radiology and electricity, to be held in Brussels in 1910.

An international commission will be appointed at the forthcoming convention for the purpose of examining all questions pertaining to radiology.

KOREANS SAID TO BE HIDING IN CHICAGO.

Chicago, Dec. 2.—Several prominent Koreans said to have been implicated in the murder of Prince Ito of Japan, are reported to be hiding in this city.

SOCIETY GIRL KILLS HERSELF

Greensboro, N. C., Dec. 2.—Without any previous intimation and with no known motive, other than a slight remonstrance from a member of her family about extravagant indulgences, Miss Ethel Norman, aged seventeen, and prominent in society in this city, committed suicide here today by shooting herself through the heart with a revolver. She came home about 6:30 o'clock and passing her mother in the hall went directly to her room, produced the revolver to her heart and fired, death resulting instantly.

LINER ON ROCKS.

Key West, Fla., Dec. 2.—Wireless reports received here this morning say that the Malory liner, *Maes*, is ashore off French Reef. Tugs have been dispatched.

BLUEFIELD IS GOOD LOCATION

Millionaire Ten Cent Man Says City Should Have Factories.

F. M. Kirby owner of a string of five and ten cent stores in all of the principal cities in the city today. Mr. Kirby owns forty five stores all over the United States, one of them being in Bluefield. This is his first trip to this city and he stated he was surprised at the size of the city and he wondered why there are not more manufacturing enterprises here. He says it was the best location for business enterprises he had ever seen any where.

Mr. Kirby says that he started to work for Moore and Smith dry goods merchants at Watertown in 1875 at the age of 14 at a salary of \$2.50 a week and worked eight years for the same people and when he resigned to go in business for himself he was getting \$11 a week. In the eight years he had worked for that company he had saved \$500 and with this he opened up a five and ten cent store at Wilkesbarre, Pa., in partnership with C. S. Woolworth, in 1884. In 1887 he bought Mr. Woolworth's stock in the company and put his name over the store. He shortly afterward opened a store at Williamsport, Pa., and another one at Columbus, Ohio. From this he started to branch out.

Since opening the store in this city several months ago, he has opened ten others, in different cities. Starting with a capital of \$500 twenty five years ago, he now is worth \$2,500,000.

Mr. Kirby makes his home at Wilkesbarre, Pa., where he owns a fine home. He left for Philadelphia this afternoon.

LORDS CENSURED BY THE COMMONS

Lower House Adopts the Asquith Resolution Relating to Budget.

London, Dec. 2.—The house of commons today adopted the Asquith resolution censuring the house of lords for its failure to pass the budget.

Parliament will be prorogued tomorrow and will not reassemble until January 17, when a general election is called.

The political situation has seldom been more tense in the history of England.



Clive van Barentzen, the twelve year old American girl, who has "paralyzed" the French musical world by her wonderful mastery of the harp. She recently captured the first prize in the world famed National Conservatory.

KENTUCKY LEADS TOBACCO STATES

Washington, Dec. 12.—An interesting report just issued by the Department of Agriculture on Tobacco Production in the United States, shows while some tobacco is produced in almost every state, less than one per cent of this country's crop is grown west of the Mississippi, Texas being the only trans-Mississippi State in which the industry has gained much importance.

Kentucky leads all the States in tobacco growing. It produces more than one-third of the United States crop, and about one-ninth of the entire crop of the world.

The tobacco grown in the United States is of two general types or classes, (1) cigar tobacco, and (2) chewing, smoking, snuff, and export tobaccos. In 1908 something more than 150 million pounds of cigar tobacco was grown in the United States, and nearly four times that amount of the other types.

The cigar tobaccos are grown mostly in New England, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin, though there is a considerable and rapidly increasing production of this type in Georgia, Florida, and Texas. The tobacco used for chewing, smoking, snuff and export are produced most heavily in Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina.

Tobacco production is largely confined to certain clearly defined districts, each of which produces a special type and fills a demand for that type. The kind of tobacco grown in particular districts depends mainly on the soil and climate conditions.

Philadelphia, Pa., Dec. 2.—All subjects relating to chemical engineering will be discussed at the second annual meeting of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, which will be held in this city Dec. 8 to 10.

During the last year there have been many new developments in the field, which have increased the resources of the country enormously. During the two days convention the delegates will make frequent excursions in the vicinity of greater Philadelphia to inspect plants of large industrial companies.

Mayor John M. Harburn, of Philadelphia will open the convention with an address of welcome.

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GREAT ENGINEER DEAD.

Liverpool, Dec. 2.—George Thompson, chief engineer of the Cunard line died today. He was one of the greatest men in his particular line in the world.

J. W. Donnan moved today from 14th street to East River avenue and Shenadoah.

INSURGENTS TO FOLLOW UP VICTORY

THE REFUSAL OF THE UNITED STATES TO RECOGNIZE ZELAYA GIVES INSURGENTS HEART.

WILL FOLLOW UP ADVANTAGE OF RAMA

REPORTED THAT KNOX WILL BE ASKED TO NAME NEW PRESIDENT.

Colon, Dec. 2.—Wireless advices from Nicaragua state that reinforcements are being rushed to the insurgent army and that Estrada is determined to push the struggle following up the advantages gained at Rama.

The action of the United States in refusing further recognition to Zelaya has been received with great joy by the insurgents, and is regarded as favorable to their cause.

Claims Victory.
New Orleans, Dec. 2.—A report from Nicaragua today states that Zelaya is preparing to resign the presidency and that General Irias will succeed him.

The government claims the victory at Rama, and one report says that 400 revolutionists were killed.

Counsel General Altchul, Zelaya's representative says that Secretary Knox will be asked to name Zelaya's successor.

Marines Sail.
Washington, Dec. 2.—Official orders were issued today by the navy department for the transport *Prairie* to sail from Philadelphia with a large force of marines.

The cruiser *Albatross* and the gunboat *Yorktown* have been ordered from Magdalena bay to Corinto. These when they arrive will make six United States war vessels on the Nicaraguan coast.

Senor Rodriguez, Nicaraguan charge d'affaires is waiting to hear from Zelaya as to whether he will leave Washington or not. He was greatly excited when he received his passports. Chile has also signed the protocol.

Deaths.
D. B. Davis, age 80 years, died suddenly this morning at his home at Elliston, Va. He was seemingly in the best of health last night and ate a hearty supper. At 11 o'clock he took suddenly ill and suffered for three hours, the end coming at 1 o'clock this morning.

Mr. Davis served in the Confederate army during the Civil War, as a lieutenant of the 14th Virginia regiment. He is survived by his wife and seven children, all living. Mrs. Mary E. Walters of Graham, Mrs. Mary E. Stantley of Elliston, Frank Davis of Huntington, James Davis of Lafayette, Ind., and E. L. Davis of Jefferson, Tenn., are the surviving children. Gus Davis, chief state dispatcher at his division office in a grandson.

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SELLS BIG BODY OF COAL LANDS

It was learned today that H. G. Charles of Knox Creek, eight miles from Devon disposed of his coal lands on Knox Creek to a Chicago firm last week. The price to be paid is \$200,000 in fee simple for title \$150,000 of which is to be paid the first of the year.

It is stated that the buyers will start developments at once. The property is located on the Water road that runs from Devon.