

# SAVANNAH RAID NETS NEAR 100

### LARGE FORCE OF DRY AGENTS THROW OUT CITY-WIDE DRAGNET.

Savannah. — Federal prohibition authorities threw out a net in all sections of Savannah and drew into the toils of the United States court nearly 100 "small" liquor dealers who officers say have been operating here for many months.

The movement of the law came as a complete surprise to those taken into custody. Their arrests were made by a large force of deputies who had been issued bench warrants by Federal Judge Barrett of Augusta. The men operated under the direction of George B. McLeod, United States marshal.

Prisoners appeared to be of a more emotional type. They were largely of the small shopkeeper class or persons who were charged with selling forbidden beverages quietly in their homes. In many instances they were very demonstrative and loud in their protests against arrest and detention.

So great was the congestion of the prisoners in the federal offices that no effort was made in the afternoon to arrange bonds. The greater number were able to provide sureties and were given their liberty.

The government provided a midday meal for its involuntary guests who crowded the quarters of the district attorney and marshal.

Many of those arrested were first offenders, officers declared, and will in all probability escape with the imposition of fines, if convicted.

### 25 Killed in Accident.

Chicago.—Twenty-five persons were killed and many others were injured throughout the country in week-end accidents ranging from automobile collisions to flying mishaps. Seven automobilists were killed; five persons were drowned, five succumbed to violence, while five others were fatally hurt in train, storm, fire and launch accidents.

The automobile toll for the week in nine Middle Western States, was 87. Ohio led with 26, with fatalities in other States as follows: Illinois, 18; Indiana, 14; Missouri, eight; Texas, six; Iowa, Kansas and Oklahoma, four each, and Minnesota, three.

Sunday automobile accidents in Chicago accounted for three deaths; one death each occurred in Kansas City, Topeka, Kansas; Duquesne, Illinois, and Columbus, Ga.

### Decrease Noted in Grain Exports.

Washington.—Grain exports from the United States last week totaled 3,785,000 bushels compared with 3,840,000 the previous week.

Comparative figures for last week and the week before were made public by the commerce department as follows:

Barley 1,316,000 bushels against 1,285,000; corn 103,000 against 100,000; oats 97,000 against 701,000; rye 35,000 against 147,000; wheat 1,355,000 against 1,540,000.

United States and Canadian wheat flour in transit totaled 274,000 barrels against 174,000 barrels the week before.

### Mrs. Bryan For Dayton College.

Atlanta.—The widow and son of William Jennings Bryan heartily approve the proposal to build a fundamentalist school at Dayton, Tenn., a memorial to the commoner and will give their support to the erection and maintenance of the institution.

This announcement was given to The Associated Press here by F. E. Robinson and H. H. Frasa of Dayton, president and secretary of the Bryan Memorial association, who had just returned from a conference at Miami with Mrs. Bryan and William Jennings Bryan, Jr.

### Coca-Cola Declares \$1.75 Dividend.

Atlanta.—Retirement of \$3,000,000 in preferred stock and declaration of the regular quarterly dividend of \$1.75 per share on common stock marked the meeting of directors of the Coca Cola company here.

The action in voting to reduce the outstanding preferred stock follows the retirement of \$2,000,000 of similar securities a few months ago and brings the total preferred stock now out to \$5,000,000.

October 1 was set as the date for payment of the dividend on the 500,000 shares of common stock.

Financial reports submitted to the directors, covering the period April 1 June 30, showed gross receipts of \$5,530,463.04, with manufacturing and general expenses of \$5,593,700.06.

### Matricide Pleaded by Jury's Verdict.

San Francisco.—Dorothy Ellingson, convicted of manslaughter by a Superior Court jury calmly awaits her sentence.

The seventeen-year-old girl who shot and killed her mother here last January 13 because she was denied permission to attend a "party" has made known that she was satisfied with the verdict and that "a tremendous load" was off her mind.

The verdict carries a penalty of one to ten years in prison. She will be eligible for parole after one year.

## TRENCH MORTAR EXPLODES AND KILLS EIGHT NEGROES.

Rockford, Ill.—Eight negro soldiers, including one officer, were killed at Camp Grant by the explosion of a French mortar on the field range. Six others suffered serious injuries and perhaps a score received first-aid treatment.

An inquiry has been started by Maj. Gen. Milton J. Foreman, commander of the 33rd division, of which the eighth Illinois infantry, the negro regiment, is a unit.

Capt. C. A. Brown, commanding the Howitzer company, was the officer killed. He served overseas with the eighth infantry and was decorated with the French Croix de Guerre for gallantry.

The explosion occurred as Captain Brown and his men were gathered closely around the field piece for firing instructions. Army officers believe the mortar was overloaded.

## PRESENTS MATTER FORMALLY

### PEKING BIDS WASHINGTON TO PARTICIPATE IN CUSTOMS CONFERENCE.

Washington.—China's invitation to the United States to participate in the special customs conference provided for by the nine power treaty was presented formally to the state department by Minister Sze. It sets October 26 as the date of the conference, which is to be held in China.

Presentation of the invitation in Washington, Tokyo and other interested capitals has brought to a head preliminary discussion among these governments as to their course if China raised, as it now has done, the question of restoration of Chinese tariff autonomy for discussion at the conference. The Chinese call for the conference stated flatly that China proposed to bring up the subject.

The Washington government has taken the position in exchanges with the Japanese government that the conference should be authorized to discuss the matter if presented. The Japanese government, however, was represented in unofficial advices from Tokyo as being unwilling to have the conference undertake discussion of the tariff autonomy question, which was not specified in the treaty to go on its agenda since the Japanese appear, however, to be willing to refer the matter to a subsequent conference there seems little doubt that a satisfactory agreement on the point can be reached.

The Chinese invitation was taken under consideration by department officials but no formal statement was forthcoming nor was there any indication when a reply would be sent if further is necessary in addition to the fact that the American delegates, Minister John Van A. MacMurray at Peking and Silas Strawn of Chicago have been appointed. Mr. Strawn will confer with Secretary Kellogg preparatory to his departure for China.

### Firemen Killed as Trains Crash.

Leadville, Colo.—Two firemen were killed and 14 passengers are known to have been injured in a head-on collision between the Panoramic Special on the Denver and Rio Grande Western railroad, in Granite canyon, ten miles west of Buena Vista, Colorado.

The dead: Firemen: J. W. Taughtenbaum, of train No. 7, and C. E. Phelan, of train No. 8, both of Salida, Colo.

Only the names of two of the injured, the engineers of the two trains, who saved themselves by jumping when the crash occurred, were available. They are G. Johnston, and Ed Claire. Claire is said to have a fractured leg.

Failure on the part of a telegraph operator at Tennessee Pass to transmit orders was reported to have been responsible for the collision. Both trains were heavily loaded with east and westbound passengers, the majority of them tourists.

The trains crashed at a curve in Granite canyon and the engine and two coaches of train No. 8 were derailed and tossed against the canyon wall near the banks of the Arkansas river.

A heavy grade at Granite prevented the trains from moving at high speed through the canyon. Both trains are operated on a schedule to permit a daylight view of the Rocky Mountains. Passengers were absorbed in viewing the scenery when the trains crashed.

### Crazed Negro Kills Doctor.

Farmville, N. C.—Dr. H. P. Mosley, prominent physician and citizen of Farmville, was shot to death by a half crazed negro by the name of Frank Prizzell, when he answered a summons to call professionally at the home of the old negro.

### Lower Prices in the Sheep Field.

Washington.—The sheep industry apparently is just approaching the end of a period of high prices, the Department of Agriculture declared in an outlook report on lambs and wool.

## BUSINESS OPINION CONTINUES GOOD

### MANUFACTURING OPERATIONS EXPANDED DURING PAST WEEK.

New York.—Business sentiment continued cheerful last week, with expanded manufacturing operations and a number of commodity price advances supporting indications of general gains in industry.

With car loadings crossing the million mark for the fourth consecutive week, the railroad situation appeared especially bright, with optimism intensified by a series of favorable July earnings statements. Virtually all carriers which have reported so far have shown substantially higher net income than in July of last year.

Gains in car loadings have been paralleled by the improvement in freight traffic computed on the basis of net ton miles which for the first six months of the year totaled 212,506,796,000. This was an increase of more than seven billion net tons, or 3.8 per cent over the corresponding period last year, but 5.8 per cent under the same period of 1923 when the volume of freight was the greatest on record for the first half of any year.

The increased capacity of new freight cars and the greater efficiency of loading have tended to swell the volume of net ton mile traffic.

Gradually improvement in the iron and steel industry was noted by the weekly trade reviews, which reported that operations had been speeded up to seventy per cent of capacity and that the month probably would show an average of 72 per cent. Gains in week-to-week purchases, rather than any increase in forward buying, accounted for the expansion of mill activity.

The firing of 1,500 additional coke ovens in the Pittsburgh district provided supporting evidence of betterment in the trade. The price situation showed little change.

An enlarged demand for many commodities last week followed by a series of price advances, which embraced sugar, industrial alcohol, virtually all the non-ferrous metals and scrap iron. Quotations of crude oil and gasoline, however, were lower, but in view of the sharp reduction in the output of petroleum this action failed to affect the oil shares seriously.

Although price reductions of automobiles had been expected to stimulate business, the development of an open price cutting war has aroused some apprehension in the motor industry.

### Fliers Prepare For Worst.

Paris.—The French veterans, Lieutenants Francois Coli and Paul Tarascon, both maimed in the war, are going to jump off for their 30-hour air flight to New York confident of success, but ready for a wreck at sea and 15 days adrift waiting for help.

They have arranged to lighten their 420-horsepower plane so that it will float indefinitely, and will carry compressed provisions and an apparatus for distilling sea water. Their machine, including 3,000 liters of gasoline, will weigh four tons at the start.

The first ballast to be dropped will be the running gear when they reach the sea. If they are forced to descend on the ocean their plan is to cut away the cloth of the lower plane so that the ship may ride steadily, and cast out a canvas anchor to aid this. They can thus float for several hours, but if help does not come they can pump out the fuel from the three big reservoirs and, if necessary, cast off the motor, when the airplane should float like a big life preserver.

The aviators will carry twelve rockets and a complete medical kit, and can find subsistence on dried food and distilled sea water for a couple of weeks.

No date has been fixed for the flight, but the men expect to start with a favorable east wind behind them and travel at the rate of about 125 miles an hour.

### Man and Wife Executed.

Budapest, Hungary.—With five minutes to say good bye before their death, allowed by the court, Mitzi Lederer and her husband, Gustav, former lieutenant, choking with anguish and blinded by tears, were unable to say a single word. They had been convicted of the murder and dismemberment of the officer of a sausage factory, Franz Kukulka, who was visiting the couple in a suburb of Budapest.

"You have five minutes," he said, "four, three, and one, and now no more time to bid each other good bye." The man and wife were parted immediately and executed.

## TWO AVIATORS PERISH IN FIRE.

White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.—Captain Fraser Hale and his mechanic, Private Earl C. Norris, of Bolling field, Washington, were burned to death at White Sulphur Springs when the airplane in which they were returning to Washington fell, taking fire as it crashed to the ground.

The accident occurred near the golf course at the fashionable White Sulphur Springs resort and in full view of many guests who were on the links. The bodies of the two aviators were charred almost beyond recognition.

## AGREEMENT ON BELGIAN DEBT

### AMERICAN AND BELGIAN COMMISSION ARE GETTING TOGETHER.

Washington.—An agreement for funding the Belgian war debt to the United States with remissions of all interest on loans preceding the armistice and part of the interest on the balance was reached between the American and Belgian debt commissions.

The program, approved by President Coolidge at Plymouth, Vt., was described as recognizing "a weighty moral obligation" growing out of assurances given by President Wilson during the Versailles peace conference and also the right of Belgium to participate and special treatment by the United States.

Subject to ratification by congress and the Belgian government, the agreement provides that \$171,780,000 loaned to Belgium during the actual fighting with Germany shall be paid free of all accrued or future interest. The Belgians had insisted that the loans represented in this amount should be considered a debt by Germany to the United States because such a proposal "was accepted by President Wilson at the peace conference." Such transfer of responsibility from Belgium to Germany was refused by the American commission but it declared that "while no legal obligation rests upon the United States in the matter there does continue a weighty moral obligation as a result of assurances given which entirely differentiates this sum from all other debts due the United States from foreign countries."

In consequence the agreement laid down a schedule of repayment for the pre-armistice loans, which provides that Belgium shall pay \$1,000,000 in 1926 and the same amount in 1927, with increases in each of the next four years until in 1933 the annual payment becomes \$2,900,000. It will continue at this figure until 1937, when a final payment of \$2,250,000 will be due.

The "post armistice debt" was fixed at \$246,000,000, including accrued interest. While interest on this was fixed at the rate of 3 1/2 per cent, the Americans agreed to forego a part of the interest for the first ten years and arbitrary amounts were established, bringing a reduction of nearly \$50,000,000.

### Mosquitoes in England Fatal.

Eastbourne, England.—The southern counties of England are suffering from two scares at present. One is the possibility of a plague of insects; the other is the reputed presence of an ant from the East, which is supposed to eat babies.

For the latter scare there seems no foundation. But the mosquito danger is very real. Already towns throughout southern England are taking drastic steps to combat the pest. The mosquito entered England during the exceptionally wet summer of last year. Numbers of visitors at seashore resorts were badly bitten and many deaths occurred.

Because the insect was practically unknown in the country nothing was done, as in the case of the East, to combat the pest which was regarded more as a nuisance than a danger.

But now it is realized that, with many Englishmen having the germs of war malaria in their veins, the mosquito may become an active agent of malaria throughout the country, provided conditions are favorable. Hence medical officers of health throughout England are being given instruction to fight the pest by every means in their power, and in particular they are told to have all ponds and other likely breeding places sprayed with soluble cresol, which is fatal to the mosquito.

### Wealthy Man Held For Poisoning.

Miami, Fla.—John Gobel, wealthy Daytona real estate operator, is being held in Dade County jail as a suspect in connection with the poisoning of Mrs. H. R. Hunt, who died in the city hospital.

### Thief Snatches U. S. Mail Pouch.

Waukegan, Ill.—An unusual mail robbery at Highwood near here was disclosed when it was learned that a pouch of registered mail thrown from a Chicago and Northwestern train rushing through the village, was snatched up by a man who leaped out of an automobile and escaped.

The postmaster at Highwood said the registered mail received at his office often contains as much as \$4,000. The sheriff at Waukegan was notified and a search is being made for the thief.

## SHARPE IS NAMED DISTRICT DIRECTOR

### HEADS THREE-STATE PROHIBITION ENFORCEMENT DISTRICT.

Washington.—The new prohibition army will be capained in large measure by the same men who now command Uncle Sam's enforcement squadrons.

Out of 24 new district administrators named by Assistant Secretary Andrews of the Treasury, all but six already are in the service.

Although he had announced a campaign to induce practical business executives to lend new blood to the organization, General Andrews said that after investigation he had decided there were many now in the enforcement machine who should be given a chance to make good under the new plan that is to become operative September 1.

The commissioning of Ben C. Sharpe as prohibition director of the eighth district, comprising the states of North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, brings the organization of the forces under the decentralization plan one step nearer consummation. Mr. Sharpe has just returned from a trip to Washington and is now said to be at his summer home in the mountains of western North Carolina.

No intimation has been given as to the time Mr. Sharpe will announce his selections for his assistants. General belief is, however, that the list will be made public at the earliest possible date that the flow of applications may be checked and that men who now hold jobs may know if they will be retained. Many of those now in the service are much disturbed as to possible retention.

Mr. Sharpe will have a large corps of workers under his immediate direction. He will name a judicial district enforcement director in each of the six judicial districts in the three states, and under each will be a large staff of enforcement agents.

In addition to these six chiefs directors, there will be an assistant director for the entire district and an appointee who will have charge of issuing permits for legalized handling of wine for sacramental purposes and alcohol for medicinal and manufacturing purposes.

Another large staff will be required to handle the chemical department which will be set up in the Mint building where Mr. Sharpe and his assistants will have their headquarters. The chief chemist will be one of the pride appointments in the group, and the chief chemist will have a highly trained staff of assistants.

The influence of Internal Revenue Commissioner Blair, added to the good record of Mr. Sharpe, secured him the appointment. His salary will be approximately \$4,000.

### Lint Spinning Shows Slump.

Washington.—Cotton spinning activity declined in July as compared with June, but was greater than in July last year.

Census Bureau statistics made public showed that active spindle hours for July totaled 7,297,645,494, or average of 192 per spindle in place, compared with 7,690,315,823, or 203 per spindle in place, for June this year and 5,157,779,728, or 136 per spindle in place, for July last year.

Spinning spindles in place July 31 numbered 37,936,784 of which 31,740,596 were active at some time during the month, compared with 37,858,211 and 32,309,896 for June this year and 37,786,464 and 28,710,359 for July last year.

The average number of spindles operated for July was 31,967,971 or at 84.3 per cent capacity on a single shift basis, compared with 33,483,964, or at 89.0 per cent capacity, for June this year and 22,637,499 or at 60.0 per cent capacity for July last year.

### Three Killed By Lightning.

Camilla, Ga.—Three persons were killed near Sales City when a house in which they were seeking refuge from a storm was struck by lightning. The dead are: Julian Gregory, 11; Mrs. Albert Pitts, 20; and Tony Webb, 10. They are all the children of Charles W. Webb, prominent citizen of Sales City.

In Colquitt county a negro church and several farm buildings were blown down and trees uprooted by a severe wind and rain storm. No injuries were reported.

## DOINGS IN THE TAR HEEL STATE

### NEWS OF NORTH CAROLINA TOLD IN SHORT PARAGRAPHS FOR BUSY PEOPLE

Wilmington.—The Rev. J. P. King, 73, has resigned his pastorate with the Fourth Street Advent Christian church after 55 years of continuous service.

Rutherfordton.—At a meeting of the directors of the Citizens' Bank and Trust Company, J. H. Thomas, well-known financier of Forest City, was elected as president of this old and honorable institution.

Burlington.—Excavation for the construction of a new Methodist Episcopal church has begun at Webb avenue and Anthony street a few feet west of the present church, a wooden structure, which the new brick one will replace.

Fayetteville.—Fayetteville's new city hall will be remodeled so as to provide a court room 60x30 feet, which will also be used for the meetings of the board of aldermen.

Clinton.—Shepro Holland, a white man from upper Sampson, is in jail charged with shooting Joe Giddens, a neighbor. The shooting occurred last week and Giddens has been in a hospital with three hundred number eight shot lodged in his side.

Burlington.—Rev. A. F. Isley, 79, a pioneer citizen and Christian minister in Alamance county, and one of the county's most highly respected and beloved sons, passed away at his home in the northern part of the county, near Burch's bridge.

Edenton.—Warner Evans suffered the loss of five barns of tobacco when lightning struck one of them. The loss is estimated to be about eight thousand dollars with only five hundred dollars insurance.

Fayetteville.—Fire of undetermined origin caused \$40,000 loss here when the J and N Motor company and the Fayetteville Vulcanizing Works on Gillespie street were burned out. The McNeill Motor company's building adjoining the latter place caught fire but was saved by quick work of the fire department.

Liberty.—The new high school building is nearly completed. Just a few minor finishing touches remaining to be put on it. Contractor J. R. Owen has done a splendid job on the building and the people are very proud to think of being able to use it for the fall term which is expected to begin about the middle of September.

Laurinburg.—What looked like the king of all pumpkins was a giant specimen which Mr. J. B. Griffin, section master for the S. A. L., was exhibiting on the streets. The big pumpkin was grown on a strip of ground near the town house, which Mr. Griffin has utilized for garden purposes. The big pumpkin weighed 55 pounds and measured five feet around.

Kinston.—Dallas Grimes, a youth, is in a hospital here with a dangerous gun shot wound alleged to have been inflicted by Norman Walters, another young man. The shooting occurred near LaGrange. An official report said Walters, in an affray with three others, was struck with some heavy weapon and fired at his antagonists. He is under \$1,000 bail.

Charlotte.—Miss Susan Dunn, for six years a member of Queens College faculty, was killed in an auto accident in Lancaster, Ky., her old home. She was to return to Queens in September. She was 50 years of age. During the summer she received her master's degree. She was a valued member of Queens' faculty.

Durham.—The addition of several square miles of new territory by the city of Durham last April, when it took in certain sections which were not before that time within the corporate limits, is believed to have run the city's total population well above the 40,000 mark and with this in view the publication of a new city directory, which his now in progress, is being awaited here with interest.

Wilson.—At last, after much effort on the part of the local warehousemen and tobaccoists, Wilson has secured another set of buyers for the Wilson market which opens Tuesday, September 1. During the opening week only quadruple sales, as heretofore, will be maintained, but beginning Monday, September 7, five sales will begin and be in vogue until the end of the 1925 season.

Asheville.—Thomas Dixon, famous novelist and playwright, has purchased 700 acres of land near Little Switzerland, 13 miles north of Marion, for the purpose of erecting a studio, according to information received here. Work on construction of the studio will begin at once, it is stated.

Winston-Salem.—It is generally estimated that on account of the dry weather this summer the tobacco crop throughout the piedmont section, will be cut short from one-fourth to one-third.

Durham.—B. T. Harris, 55 years of age, and former mayor of Creedwood, is dead as the result of injuries he received when the car in which he was riding ran off an embankment near Grove Hill church on the Franklinton road.

Greenville.—Death from heart failure, believed to have been brought on by exertion in moving a copper still, was the verdict of the coroner's jury on the death of N. L. Gray, 67, of the Stokes section of Pitt county.

Rocky Mount.—Ezsett Colbert, 11-months-old infant, fatally shot when his 5 1/2 year old brother began playing with a loaded shotgun, at the Colbert home near this city, was buried in the Powell burying ground near the child's home.

Statesville.—Alex Sloan, 39, well known North Irredell farmer, was killed when a tree fell on him and broke his neck. Mr. Sloan, who lived near Bryant's store, together with two other men, were cutting timber.

Mount Airy.—The remains of Robert Taylor, better known as "Doc," aged 24 years, a victim of an automobile accident, were laid to rest in Salem Methodist cemetery north of this city following services at the church.

Mount Olive.—The car house of the S. S. Minton Lumber Company, three miles east of here, was completely destroyed by fire together with about a half dozen large motor trucks, entailing a loss of about \$7,000.

High Point.—No blame for the death of John Lee Harbison, nine year old boy who died in a local hospital following an automobile accident, will be placed upon Miss Isabel Tate, daughter of A. E. Tate, wealthy High Point furniture manufacturer, and a talented and attractive society girl.

Durham.—All dogs caught on the streets of the city in the future and not claimed by their owners within the allotted time, will be sold to the medical school at the University of North Carolina, it was decided by the members of the city council in regular semi-monthly session.

Asheville.—Walter M. Davis, 35, business man of Knoxville, Tenn., died in a farm house, three miles south of Marshall, N. C., as the result of injuries received the night before when the car which he was driving fell from an embankment on the highway.

Elizabeth City.—Elizabeth City's second attempt within the last six months to secure authority to issue bonds for the purchase of water front property and the construction of municipal docks met overwhelming defeat here when out of a special registration of 1,090 votes only 158 votes were cast for the bond issue.

Winston-Salem.—Winston-Salem's \$800,000 school program, voted in 1924 and inaugurated on August 1, of the same year, will be completed when the schools of the city open their doors for the 1925-1926 school term. With the completion of the program Winston-Salem will have four new and splendid graded schools, an addition to another school and a magnificent and modern gymnasium.

Charlotte.—John M. Jamison, aged 26, prominent business man of Charlotte, formerly connected with the bond department of the American Trust Company, later with the local office of the Travelers Insurance Company, and still later engaged in the cotton waste business in Philadelphia, is dead at Orange, Va., apparently by committing suicide, according to messages received here.

Kinston.—A cat is mothering four baby squirrels at the home of Ralph Baker, who resides near Tuckahoe bridge, in Jones county. Baker found the squirrels, three or four days old, in a nest in a tree. He carried them to his home and coaxed the family to adopt them. To Baker's surprise the baby immediately took over the strange babies.

Gastonia.—Police were searching for unknown parties who blew open a safe in a filling station here and escaped with sixty dollars in cash. The authorities here offered \$100 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the intruders.

Lumberton.—Cotton fields in Robeson county are damaged by weevils from 17 per cent to 25 per cent where calcium arsenate dusting has been done properly, and 25 per cent to 70 per cent where dusting has been left off, according to Franklin Sherman, Jr., extension service worker of the State Department of Agriculture, who is located at Red Springs and working in connection with County Farm Agent O. O. Dukes.

Chimney Rock.—An invitation for the North Carolina Commercial secretaries to hold their next meeting at Chimney Rock will be presented for consideration at the forthcoming meeting to be held in Goldsboro.

Kinston.—Lenoir county tobacco growers have sustained fire losses approximating \$25,000 since the start of the curing season a few weeks ago. It was estimated. Curing barns in practically every neighborhood have been destroyed. The toll is the heaviest in years, possibly in the history of the county.