

# FIRE THREATENS SERIOUS DAMAGE COTTON COMPRESS

Stubborn Fire Burning In Coal Bin at the Champion Compress.

## DISCOVERED BY THE NIGHT WATCHMAN

Thought to be Under Control at Six But Was Found to Be Burning Briskly Just Before Noon Today.

The fire, originating, it was said, from spontaneous combustion, discovered at 1 o'clock this morning by the night watchman in the giant coal bin at the Champion Compress, located at the foot of Walnut street and owned by the cotton exporting firm of Alex. Sprunt & Son, was burning briskly at 11 o'clock today and was causing firemen serious concern, although it was stated from the offices of the firm owning the compress that no fear was felt concerning possible damage to the plant or the thousands of bales of cotton stored in close proximity to the fire.

The fire was discovered when the watchman noticed smoke issuing from the crevices of the bin and because fire of this nature are not unusual he felt no concern, but imagined that the force he was able to command could cope with the situation successfully. However, an alarm was pulled at 3 o'clock—two hours later—and members of the fire department hurried there and began their work. Handicapped to a big extent because of their inability to get at the fire, which was burning in the heart of a 100-ton pile of coal, their progress was remarkable and at 6 o'clock—three hours after their arrival—it was believed that the fire was under control. During a part of the time the department had six streams of water playing on the coal bin. Several members of the department were left to guard the blaze and they continued their efforts to get at the seat of the trouble which had not been reached late this morning.

It was necessary to cut through the floor and fight from the under-side, and while the firemen refrained from opening the floor as much as possible, it was necessary at 10:30 o'clock to remove dozens of hand trucks stacked against the west wall of the bin and open a considerable space of flooring. It was at this time that firemen really began to regard the fire in a serious light. The only way to get water on the coal was to insert the hose through the holes cut in the floor and come up from the under-side. This was possible because of the fact that the bin is built on piling, some distance above the water.

It was impossible to estimate the loss this morning, according to firemen, and this coincides with that given out from the offices of Messrs. Sprunt & Son. In speaking of the matter, Mr. W. H. Sprunt stated that he felt no fear for the safety of his plant and the cotton stored there, as no damage would result from the great volume of smoke that issued from the bin and wafted through the compress and out into the open. The greatest loss, Mr. Sprunt said, will result from the necessity of removing the immense quantity of coal. This will entail much work, and labor comes high just now. The work of removing the coal had not been started at 11 o'clock, the firemen still being in charge, for every additional hole cut in the bin furnishes additional draught for feeding the flames. This was one of the disadvantages the firemen were facing. It is absolutely necessary to follow the draught in order to keep away from the stifling smoke that is issuing from the bin, and this fact means that the fire is being given that much more air.

There is nothing unusual in a fire of this nature, it was stated from the offices of Messrs. Sprunt. Heretofore, however, members of the force employed there have had three or four days' notice, because it was possible to smother the burning coal. This was not true in this case, the first intimation of the fire being the issuance of a fire alarm.

# WYATT A. TAYLOR IS THE SPEAKER OF THE EVENING

Program For Christian Endeavor Rally is Unusually Interesting.

## JUNIORS AFTERNOON SENIORS AT NIGHT

Refreshments Will be Served; All Endeavorers to Assemble at First Presbyterian Church.

Endeavorers from the Dock Street Christian, and Immanuel, First and St. Andrew's Presbyterian churches, together with scores of their friends will assemble at the First Presbyterian church tomorrow evening at 8 o'clock for the Wilmington Senior Christian Endeavor Union rally at which time an address will be made by Mr. Wyatt A. Taylor, of Columbia, S. C., field secretary for the All South Christian Endeavor Extension Committee. The Junior Rally will be held in the afternoon at the same place, beginning at 4 o'clock and the address of Mr. Taylor will also feature at that time.

Endeavorers of the city are looking forward with much pleasure to tomorrow night's rally and expect to derive much profit as well as pleasure from hearing Mr. Taylor. He is one of four Christian Endeavor field workers in the Southern States at the present and is doing a great work in organizing and strengthening societies and unions. He is endorsed and recommended to the churches and societies of the South by the All South Extension Committee.

The evening will be divided in halves the business session or rally to be followed by the serving of delightful refreshments. The following program, prepared by a committee composed of Messrs. S. A. Matthews, chairman and W. A. Gamble, and B. B. Reynolds and Misses Carrie Newkirk and Jeannette Buck, will be rendered.

## TRY DEFENDANTS SATURDAY.

Much Interest Attaches to King-Russell Liqueur Cases. Columbus King and Walter Russell, the colored men who were arrested Tuesday night on a charge of violating the Reed amendment to the prohibition law, will be given a preliminary hearing before United States Commissioner A. S. Williams Saturday afternoon.

L. Clayton Grant, Esq., has been retained by the accused. It is understood that the defense will set up the plea that no State line has been crossed and that it was never intended to deliver the "wet goods" at this point. It is said that the boat had been boarded by department officials at Norfolk and the contraband had not been molested. Whether or not the Norfolk officials tipped off the local officers is not known. Pending hearing the defendants are lodged in the jail.

## FUNERAL OF MRS. TODD.

Services Were Conducted by Rev. E. C. Sell.

Funeral services for Mrs. W. M. Todd were held yesterday afternoon from the late residence, No. 713 Castle street, conducted by the Rev. E. C. Sell, of Bladen Street Methodist church. The pallbearers were Messrs. Roy Croon, Joseph Applewhite, C. E. Thompson, Wash W. King, John D. James, Jr., and James Calvin. Many friends and relatives were present and there were a large number of beautiful floral tributes.

# FEW WITNESSED THE LAUNCHING OF THE VESSEL

Was Christened "Hoppage" By Miss Cynthia Polk Rountree Yesterday.

## LEFT THE WAYS WITHOUT TUG AID

Drifted Amost Across the River and Was Then Docked by the Navassa—Was Inspiring Spectacle.

"I christen thee 'Hoppage,'" were the only words that fell from the lips of Miss Cynthia Polk Rountree as she allowed the bottle of champagne she held in her hand to swing forward and crash against the bow of the first vessel built in Wilmington during the last three score years as it slid gracefully from the ways and bathed its rudder in the historic waters of the Cape Fear at 4:40 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Launching was without tug assistance, the big four-master gliding forward of her own momentum when the blocks were removed. She listed slightly as she struck the water, but this did not detract from her gracefulness as she moved slowly and carefully across the river and was halted almost amid stream as the shore line tightened.

Few people witnessed the event. It was stated from the Naul shipyard at 2 o'clock in the afternoon that an effort would be made to launch her at 4:30 and that if the second attempt failed the third one would be made this morning at 7 o'clock. Few people knew this, however, and one of the biggest local events became history almost without witnesses.

The launching was without mishap. A tow line had been fastened to the stern of the Hoppage and extended to the tug Navassa, the latter being stationed some distance down stream, but it never grew taut. The schooner moved of her own volition when the blocks were removed, and the vessel traveled almost across the river before her progress was stayed. Many on the east bank of the river caught their breath as the shore line leaped toward the water, for apparently it had snapped and many expected to see the vessel plough into the opposite bank of the stream, but the fears of the crowd were without foundation.

The Hoppage was halted sufficiently far from the east bank to permit the Navassa to come in between, and after nosing her way along side the newly launched vessel began the process of swinging her back across stream where she was docked.

The Hoppage, an Indian name, which in English means "Sweet-water," was strung with the national colors and flags of the allied countries from prow to stern, and there were many persons aboard her as her rudder cut the water for the first time. She was drawing but six and a half feet of water and the fact that she was riding so light showed her off to better advantage than would otherwise have been the case. The best idea of her size was had by comparison with the steamer Wilmington which glided by while the schooner remained stationary amidstream. Another idea of her size was had because of the pigmy sized appearance of the men aboard.

The most inspiring sight was when the gray clad vessel came to life and crept cautiously forward like a spirited horse carefully feeling its way over dangerous ground. As the stern of the vessel sank into the river she listed ever so slightly, but few noticed this. The bosom of the river was hardly ruffled as the Hoppage was received. The launching was made on the very crest of the tide—the most opportune time for such an undertaking.

In a statement given out last night by Mr. Arthur P. S. Naul, he said that the vessel failed to move on the preceding day because of a sag in the piling on the port side end, and that no effort should have been made to drag the schooner into the river. That she was supposed to move of her own momentum and that when she refused further efforts to get her into the river should not have been made.

Fire-Police Examination. Applications for the positions of firemen and policemen will be examined by the Civil Service Board of the city at its meeting next Monday evening. A number of vacancies are to be filled and there, several on the waiting list.

**No Need to Rub**

Try Sloan's Liniment and see how quickly the swelling is reduced and the pain disappears. No need to rub; it penetrates quickly and brings relief. Have a bottle handy for rheumatic pains, neuralgia, back ache and all muscle soreness.

Generous sized bottles, at your druggist, 25c., 50c., \$1.00.



**Sloan's**  
The World's  
**Liniment**

# HIGHLY RESPECTED CITIZEN IS DEAD

Mr. W. A. Williams Died in Asheville—Interment Here Probably Tomorrow.

The sad intelligence, which reached the city early this morning, of the death of Mr. W. A. Williams, clerk to the Board of County Commissioners for many years, has cast a gloom over a large circle of relatives and friends. Mr. Williams had just left here a few days ago and had arrived in Asheville, for a short visit to his daughter, Mrs. William Johnston, Jr. Mr. H. J. MacMillan, a son-in-law, stated this morning that heart disease was probably the cause of the sudden death. Mr. Williams left this city early Sunday morning for Greenville, S. C., where he visited his son, Lieutenant Frank L. Williams, stationed at Camp Sevier. He probably arrived in Asheville, Tuesday, and then followed the heart attack last night which caused the unexpected end.

Mr. Williams was a kindly, genial man, beloved by all in the community. He was always bright and cheerful and his likeable manner drew many to him. He will be sadly missed from the Court House where he performed his work with a high sense of duty and loyalty, with accuracy and efficiency. A host of friends in this city and elsewhere throughout the State will mourn his loss.

Mr. Williams was about 67 years of age and had lived here all his life. For years he was associated with the Kidder Lumber Company, of this city, and at one time was in the lumber business for himself. For the past several years he has been clerk to the Board of County Commissioners.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Jennie French Meares Williams, who was with her husband at the time of his passing. In addition there are five daughters, Mrs. Henry J. MacMillan, of this city; Mrs. William Johnston, of Asheville; Mrs. Allan Jones, Jr., of Columbia, S. C.; Miss Isabelle Williams, of this city, and Miss Catherine Williams, also of this city; also two sons, Lieutenant Frank L. Williams, Camp Sevier, Greenville, S. C., and Lieutenant Robert M. Williams, now stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

The remains will be brought to Wilmington for interment tomorrow. Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

Associated Charities. Report of receipts and disbursements of the Associated Charities for September is, as follows: Receipts, New Hanover county, \$200; Mrs. H. W. Konig, \$50; Mrs. W. J. Jones, Jr., \$25; Disbursements, Secretary's salary, \$33.33; Catherine Kennedy, Home, \$12.50; groceries, \$163; rent for needy, \$14; cash help, \$2; janitor, \$1.20; telephone, \$2.33.

# TWO GAMES TONIGHT

Clubs of First and Second Division Engage Each Other.

The second games of the 1917-18 Thursday Night Volley Ball League will be staged in the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium tonight when the league leading team of Captain Avery will try conclusions with the Cates aggregation, runners up; and the Koelling sextet, the team without a win, will lock horns with the McManus crew, winner of one third of its games thus far. The initial contest of the evening will be between the teams of Avery and Cates, the latter having an opportunity of going into first place while opportunity is presented the league leaders of tightening their grip at the top.

The Avery team is leading the league by virtue of a forfeiture on the part of Captain Koelling who was out of the city on last Thursday night and who failed to have sufficient players present for play. Those of his men who were in attendance, with the assistance of two borrowed players, grabbed three straight from Captain Avery, yet the latter's team went into first place by the forfeiture route.

Tonight's games should prove very interesting. Play will begin promptly at 8 o'clock between the teams of Captains Avery and Cates, and immediately after settlement of their argument the Koelling-McManus clubs will engage each other.

Vanderbilt to Play Chicago. (By Associated Press.) Nashville, Tenn., Oct. 11.—The Vanderbilt football squad, 22 strong, will leave Nashville tonight for Chicago to meet the University of Chicago eleven Saturday. The team has been put through a week of grilling practice in preparation for the contest.

Cough Nearly Gone in 24 Hours. That's the usual experience with this home-made remedy. Costs little—47¢.

Anyone who tries this pleasant tasting home-made cough syrup, will quickly understand why it is used in more homes in the United States and Canada than any other cough remedy. The way it takes hold of an obstinate cough, giving immediate relief, will make you regret that you never tried it before. It is a truly dependable cough remedy that should be kept handy in every home, to use at the first sign of a cough during the night or day time.

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## LEND YOUR DOLLARS for LIBERTY

### Every American Should Buy The 4% Bonds of the SECOND LIBERTY LOAN OF 1917

This war is to defend your loved ones. It is a war against an enemy who has fought the helpless children, women, the aged and wounded—an enemy who has deliberately torn family ties in order to break down a nation's will.

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The need is for you, yes you, to buy these bonds. The Nation needs the money to equip its men; for food; for ships. You must not fail to protect your country from disaster at arms through faulty or slow equipment of its men who go to fight your battles.

You must protect yourself, your family, your friends, your neighbors, your community from the disasters of this war.

No man is exempt. No man is too poor to do his bit by subscribing for a bond of the SECOND LIBERTY LOAN.

We, the bankers of Wilmington urge you to do your duty to your country by subscribing quickly to the largest possible amount. We will arrange all details without charge or without profit.

## Payment Can Be Made In Cash Or By Installments

The American Bank and Trust Co., Home Savings Bank.

The Murchison National Bank, The Peoples' Savings Bank, The Wilmington Savings and Trust Co.

Justice Bornemann Officiated. Miss Doshia Jenkins, of Wilmington, and Mr. Rufus T. Home, of Sneed's Ferry, were married yesterday at the office of Justice G. W. Bornemann.

Elks Regular Old Time Lunch. A regular old time lunch will be served by Manager H. A. Webber at the Elks Home tonight after the regular meeting. The war relief fund committee will report.

# Week-End SPECIALS

Remarkable values displayed for Friday and Saturday notwithstanding the extreme high prices on all leather goods. We are in position to offer School Shoes and heavy Winter Shoes at almost the former low prices.

- Ladies Gun Metal Lace, medium heel shoe, \$2.50 value . . . . . \$1.98
- Ladies' Vici Kid Button, medium heel shoe, \$2.25 value . . . . . \$1.75
- Ladies' Black Kid, 8-in. Lace Boot, \$4.50 value \$3.98
- Ladies' Vici Kid, 8-in. Lace Boot, \$5.00 value . . . \$4.48
- Ladies' Black Kid 8-in. Lace Boot, \$5.00 value . . . \$4.48
- Black English Walking Shoes, \$5.00 value . . . \$3.98
- Special prices on all Boys and Girl's School shoes.
- Boys' School Shoes, 10 to 13 1-2, black at . . . \$1.48
- Boys' Kangaroo Scout Shoes, 2 1-2 to 5 1-2, special . . . . . \$2.48
- Boys' Black English Walking Shoes, sizes 2 1-2 to 5 1-2 at . . . . . \$2.98
- Girls' School Shoes at . . . . . \$1.98, \$2.48, \$2.98

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THE POPULAR DEPARTMENT STORE  
The Firm That Pays Car Fare.  
Black, White and Colored Kid Gloves, the best make at . . . . . \$1.98

# SMITH-FORM-A-TRUCK

—MAKE TRIPS THAT IT NOW TAKES YOU THREE Hours to cover with horse, in one hour with Smith-Form-a-Truck.

—GET RID OF EXCESS EQUIPMENT YOU MUST OWN if you are using horses, and keep your hauling and deliveries at maximum efficiency with minimum overhead charges.

—GET AWAY FROM THE LOADING STATION AND maintain an average speed of 12 to 15 miles an hour. This is Smith-Form-a-Truck measured ability.

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