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GUATEMALIAN CAPITAL DEMOLISHED BY QUAKE.

Many Persons Killed by Falling Walls Last Saturday. Cablegram to Navy Department Sunday Said 125,000 Persons were Wandering Homeless in the Streets of the Ruined City.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Guatemala City, capital of the little Central American republic of Guatemala, has been laid in ruins by a series of earthquakes beginning Christmas day and culminating last night in violent shocks which completed the work of destruction. A cablegram to the navy department today said 125,000 people were in the streets without shelter, and that a number were killed by falling walls.

Naval vessels in Central American waters have been ordered to the stricken city to render all possible assistance.

Following is the brief dispatch which brought the news of the catastrophe:

"Bad earthquake yesterday finished the work of others. Everything in ruins and beyond description as a result of last night's shock. One hundred and twenty-five thousand people are in the streets. Parts of the country are very cold and windy. Tents are needed badly. Quite a number killed yesterday by falling walls."

The shocks probably occurred between 5:57 and 7 o'clock last night. Violent quakes were recorded at that time by the seismographs of the Georgetown university observatory and the distance was estimated at 1,900 miles from Washington.

Over 80,000 Persons are Homeless. San Salvador, Dec. 30.—Guatemala City, capital of the republic of Guatemala, has been completely destroyed by an earthquake. Many persons were killed in the disaster, some in their homes and others in the streets.

The Colon theatre, which was filled with people, collapsed. There were many casualties among the audience. Various hospitals and asylums and the prisons were badly damaged and many patients and prisoners were killed.

The railroad depot, sugar mills postoffice, the American and British legations, United States consulate and all the churches in the city have been leveled.

Deep fissures open in the middle of the city.

The inhabitants in panic have fled from the capital. More than 80,000 persons are homeless. The stock of provisions in the city is scant and aid is required promptly.

The Salvadoran government has suspended the official New York celebration and entered into mourning in sympathy with Guatemala.

CHILEAN NITRATE FOR THE FARMERS.

War Board Purchases Will Be Delivered At Cost Beginning Next Month.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Deliveries of upwards of 100,000 tons of Chilean nitrate, purchased through the war industries board, under the food control act for sale to American farmers at cost, probably will begin in January. Secretary Houston said today that the board arranged some time ago for the purchase, but until recently it had not been able to obtain transportation facilities. Ships now have been secured for the delivery at American ports during January of 18,000 tons, and assurance has been given that tonnage to bring in the remainder soon will be available.

While the price has not been definitely set, the secretary said it probably will be approximately \$75 on board cars at the seaboard. All sales will be for cash, and farmers will have to pay rail freight charges, the State fertilizer tag fee, and any other local charges.

The Department of Agriculture now is arranging for the distribution of the nitrate, which will be sold only to farmers for their own use during the coming season and generally not in excess of the amounts used by them heretofore.

Death at County Home.

Mr. G. M. Hinton, the keeper of the County Home, informs us that Mr. Bridge Oneal, an inmate of the Home, died December 28th, and was buried in the County Home Cemetery on the 29th of December.

TELEGRAPH MAY BE NEXT.

Government Control of Roads Necessary to Eliminate Friction, Pou Says. Will Vote Against Suffrage Amendment. Fourth District Congressman Smiles Politely at Opposition Rumor.

(News and Observer, 28.)

Not only is it very probable that government ownership of railroads will be made permanent after the war, but it is equally likely that express companies, telegraph and telephone companies will be taken over by President Wilson in the near future, according to Congressman Edward W. Pou, of Smithfield, who was in the city yesterday on business.

"It was absolutely the only thing for the government to do in order to eliminate friction between the various lines," Mr. Pou said. "At present, I believe that it is a temporary move for war purposes but popular demand is most likely to bring about a permanization of the venture when the war is over."

Mr. Pou does not think the government will assume control and operation of other public utilities right away but is of the opinion that the express companies, telegraph and telephone companies will necessarily have to come under government control and direction in order to prevent any clogging of wheels in the machinery of war.

Suffrage is something the Fourth District Congressman is against and he doesn't hesitate to say that prohibition and equal rights have hindered war preparations in Congress no little. Mr. Pou does not think the suffrage amendment will be submitted to the states by Congress and foresees its defeat when it comes before Congress next month. Like prohibition, Mr. Pou thinks the suffrage question is one for the States to settle among themselves. He is agreed, however, that a vote for prohibition and a vote against suffrage are hard to reconcile.

Any number of petitions and memorials have been addressed to the Congress signed by thousands of women who want the vote, Mr. Pou says. Recently in the home town of Mr. Pou, Smithfield, a suffrage organization has been formed but he hasn't been moved to favor the issue.

Mr. Pou smiled politely when questioned about the rumored opposition of J. M. Broughton, Jr., and so did Mr. Broughton.

"That's funny," Mr. Broughton said, when asked about this rumor last night. It is generally known that the Congressman from this district is going to have some opposition and the name of Solicitor Herbert Norris is often heard in connection with the Congressional race this fall. Mr. Broughton, however, is very busy in Wake as recorder and as head of the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce. He has no political ideas right now.

Scarcity of Food Forces Reduction Civilian Rations.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Further reduction of civilian rations in European countries today is reported necessary.

Information received by the food administration said the wheat shortage in France was becoming alarming and that Maurice Long, Minister for General Reviectually, had indicated a decrease of 20 per cent in the bread ration soon would be imperative.

Denmark also is looking forward to a reduction of the bread ration because final figures for the cereal harvest show a total of only 62,000,000 bushels, or 20,000,000 bushels less than in 1916.

Food supplies in Switzerland are falling off to the danger point, the food administration's information said. The Swiss now may have only a pound and a half of sugar per person each month, half a pound of bread daily and one-fifth of a pound of butter monthly.

Death of a Soldier Boy.

The body of Mr. Charlie Johnston son Tuesday where he died Sunday after an attack of measles and pneumonia. Interment was made at the old family burying ground near the home of his mother in lower Johnston Wednesday the funeral services being conducted by Rev. Exure Lee. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Margaret Johnson and several brothers and sisters.—Benson Spokesman, December 27.

IN GRIP OF THE STORM-KING.

Eastern Part of Country Has Coldest Spell of Weather in Recent Years. Thermometer Drops to 26 Below Zero at Northfield, Vermont. Only a Little Above Zero in Fayetteville, Raleigh and Smithfield.

The country has been in the grip of the Storm-King for the past three days. The South has had a most severe cold spell, the coldest in many years. A snow storm swept through the East from New York on down the Atlantic coast and on to New Orleans. Florida had more snow than has ever been seen there by many of the older inhabitants. In New Orleans the thermometer registered 19 above zero Sunday.

At Bristol, Tennessee, the temperature fell to many degrees below zero, while at Northfield, Vermont, the official figures showed 26 below. Boston showed 14 below, while it was 13 below in New York, the coldest weather seen there since 1880.

The coldest weather Eastern North Carolina has had in 19 years prevailed through this section. Early Sunday morning the thermometer in Fayetteville registered 2½ degrees above zero. In Raleigh it was only one above and the same temperature was registered in Smithfield.

Sunday was the coldest day felt here in a great many years. Some of the older people say they never saw a colder day. The highest point the thermometer was able to reach all day Sunday was 17. Monday morning it was a little warmer, the thermometer standing at 4 above. Some of the citizens of the town state that their thermometers went way below zero.

There is a slight change today for warmer weather. The sun has come out and helps to make the atmosphere somewhat warmer. Snow still lies on the ground and is likely to be here for several days unless there is quite a change in temperature.

NEWS NOTES FROM KENLY.

Kenly, December 29.—The Sunday school of the Methodist church will give an entertainment in the church Monday evening at seven-thirty. No gifts will be handed out to the students of the school; rather, each member will be expected to carry a gift to be donated to relieve suffering children in war countries. The program is being arranged by the Messdames C. P. Jerome, A. J. Broughton, and H. F. Edgerton.

The other Sunday schools of the community have already given their holiday entertainments.

The Kenly State High School will re-open for the spring term on Wednesday morning, January 2. The community is to be congratulated upon the fact that Superintendent M. B. Andrews has just been successful in purchasing fifteen tons of coal for school use.

The Red Cross campaign, which closed Christmas Eve, was a decided success; one hundred and twenty members were enrolled. The work is still going forward. The executive committee is now planning to organize an auxiliary branch among the colored people of the community the first of the week. Also, the young folk of the Kenly school will be taken in as a body as soon as the school re-opens.

Though the holidays passed away very quietly, it is interesting to observe that three couples of our popular young people were married during the Christmas season; Mr. Fred Edgerton and a Miss Sullivan of near Pine Level; Mr. Arthur Boyette and Miss Pennie Edgerton; and Mr. Herman Pittman and Miss Rossie Outland.

Several business changes are being contemplated for the New Year. Mrs. Maggie Pope, who for several months has been conducting a hotel in the Edgerton building, has decided to discontinue business; she has accepted a position as housekeeper for a retired minister in Robeson County. Mr. S. H. Alford has already bought the stock of goods owned by the Messrs. J. Q. Boyette and Son, and he took charge of the business several days ago. Other changes are being rumored, but the details are not yet known.

Barfield-Porter.

Mr. E. H. Barfield and Miss Roxie Porter were married at the bride's home on Christmas Day by the Rev. T. W. Siler.

VETERAN EDUCATOR IS TAKEN BY DEATH.

Hon. John C. Scarborough Passed Away at Noon Yesterday at Murfreesboro. Did the Pioneer Work of the Present Educational System of the State.

(News and Observer, Dec 27.)

Hon. John C. Scarborough, for many years State superintendent of public instruction, died yesterday at noon at his home in Murfreesboro. He had been in poor health for several months and owing to his advanced age his death was not unexpected. He was about seventy-five years of age.

Born in Johnston County he was a pupil in the schools of that county and from that county entered the Confederate army, serving all through the war with great courage and gallantry. At the end of the war with his Confederate blanket as an overcoat he entered Wake Forest College, where he remained until he graduated. After graduation he served at Wake Forest for some time as tutor and later served as principal of a number of schools.

In 1876 he was nominated by the Democrats and elected State Superintendent of public instruction. This was the year when the State was redeemed from carpet-bag misrule, and Professor Scarborough went into office along with Vance and other noted figures of that day.

He found the State's educational system in ruins and it was he who did the pioneer work laying the foundations for the present complete and far-reaching system. Major Finger, later himself State superintendent of public instruction, was chairman of the educational committee in the Senate, and he and Superintendent Scarborough collaborated in the formulation of the school law providing for the present county superintendencies and the county organization in general.

Professor Scarborough served for two terms and was later re-elected, serving for one additional term, when, in 1896, he was defeated by C. H. Mebane, the fusion candidate. In the interim he had served, by appointment of Governor Fowle, for a part of a term as Commissioner of Labor and Printing, succeeding Mr. W. N. Jones, who resigned.

Dr. J. Y. Joyner, now State superintendent of public instruction, was a great admirer of his predecessor in office, and heard with profound sorrow of his death, though not with surprise as it was generally known that the veteran educator's end was near. "He was a man of solid worth," said Dr. Joyner, "unswervingly true to his convictions and intensely devoted to his State." Dr. Joyner said that Professor Scarborough's work in roughing an educational system out of the chaotic conditions of reconstruction was a work of immense value to the State and to the cause of education.

It has been known for some days that Professor Scarborough was seriously ill and a few days before Christmas members of the State Department of Education and some of the superintendents conceived the idea of sending the former superintendent a Christmas remembrance. It was decided to let the remembrance take the form of a purse and a sum of nearly seventy dollars was dispatched to Mrs. Scarborough on Christmas Eve as a token of appreciation of her distinguished husband.

After retiring from his second period of service as State superintendent of public instruction, Professor Scarborough served for about ten years as president of Chowan Baptist Female Institute at Murfreesboro, now Chowan College. Later, for several years, he was county superintendent of public instruction of Hertford county. For the past few years his health had been so poor that he could not do active work of any sort.

Professor Scarborough was for many years prominent in Baptist circles in the State. He served for three years as president of the Baptist State Convention, was a trustee of the Thomasville Orphanage from its organization to the time of his death, and he had been a member of the board of trustees of Wake Forest College for twenty-five years. In recent years owing to his declining years he had not been customarily active in the affairs of his denomination.

He married Miss Julia Moore, of Johnston County, who survives him, as do the following children: One son, Hartwell V. Scarborough, of Burling-

ton, and two daughters, Mrs. Frank Lawrence, of Kinston, and Mrs. Russell Nicholson, of Murfreesboro. He also leaves a brother, Rev. Charles W. Scarborough, of Murfreesboro.

THE NEWS IN SELMA.

Selma, N. C., Dec. 27th.—Mr. and Mrs. M. R. Wall spent Tuesday with friends and relatives in Wilders township.

Mr. G. A. Morgan returned today to Petersburg, Va., after spending the holidays with his family here.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Talton and children, of Clayton, were here Tuesday to spend the day with relatives.

Mr. Walter Hamilton, of Fremont, was here this week to spend the holidays with his brother, Mr. Daniel Hamilton.

Mr. W. L. Stancil spent Christmas Day with friends in Wilders township.

Mr. Ed. Creech is home fromingham High School to spend the holidays with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Godwin spent Tuesday with his mother, Mrs. P. A. Holland, in the Sanders Chapel section.

Mr. John Foster, Jr., of the U. S. Navy, left Monday for New York after spending the Christmas holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Foster.

Miss Ola May Sanders and her sister are spending the holidays with Misses Lovie and Ruby Griffin.

Mr. N. E. Edgerton, Chairman of the Red Cross Christmas Drive, reports that Selma was called on for two hundred additional members and that with the aid of loyal workers two hundred and twenty-seven new members were secured, 184 white members and 43 colored members. He says that special mention should be made of the interest and work of the colored people in proportion to their means. They have shown by this work loyalty and patriotism unsurpassed. Mr. Edgerton wishes to extend through these columns, personal thanks to all who worked and contributed to this fund.

Misses Pearl and Lucile Harris, of Clayton, spent the holidays here with the family of Mr. H. D. Hood.

It is not the purpose of your correspondent to be a kicker or a knocker against local administrations, but the conditions in our local police department that have been called to our attention within the last few days are deplorable; and if the conditions exist as they are reported, our town administration should get busy and see that these conditions are remedied speedily, and that the policing of our town be put in the hands of capable men.

It is rumored that quite a few changes will take place in our town the first of 1918, among the several business houses. Roberts, Corbett and Woodard, who have for the last ten years have been doing a big time business, will cut out the credit part of their business January first, and do a strictly cash business. Lee-Henry Company, will move their stock of goods to Wilson, N. C., where they will continue in the same line of business. Mr. Wade Brown who has been connected with the Johnston County Farmers Union will open a hardware business on Raiford street and possibly other changes not yet announced.

120 Deaths from Pneumonia.

Macon, Ga., Dec. 29.—Camp Wheeler headquarters announced tonight the death from pneumonia of three soldiers during the last twenty-four hours. According to base hospital records, there have been more than 120 deaths from pneumonia at the camp during the last seven weeks.

Board of Stewards to Meet.

Rev. T. W. Siler, pastor, requests us to announce that the Board of Stewards of Newton Grove circuit will meet at Newton Grove church at 11 A. M. on Friday, January 4th, 1918.

J. T. Futch Dead.

Mr. J. T. Futch, living near Smithfield, died Wednesday of last week and was buried Friday afternoon at Yelvington's Grove Free-Will Baptist church. He was a farmer, but spent part of his time working at the carpenter's trade. Mr. J. H. Woodall informs us that Mr. Futch worked for him much of the time for the past several years.

NATION-WIDE SURVEY OF STOCKS OF FOOD STUFFS.

All Holding in Excess of \$250 to be Reported on Pain of Criminal Prosecution.

Washington, Dec. 30.—All dealers, manufacturers, warehousemen, hotels and other institutions having on hand more than \$250 worth of foodstuffs must report to the bureau of markets of the department of agriculture, giving a detailed statement of their holdings tomorrow, Dec. 31, with a comparison of holdings on the same day last year.

A statement tonight by Charles J. Brand says every effort has been made to send schedules to the firms and individuals who handle the food supply of the country, but that failure to receive a schedule does not exempt anyone from complying with the regulations. If schedules are not received by January 2, application should be made to the bureau of markets or one of its branch offices. Failure to report holdings makes the offender liable to prosecution.

The bureau is making a nationwide survey of food supplies for the government's use in planning conservation, utilization and production.

Petrograd Jubilant.

London, December 30.—Dispatches from Petrograd say that the city was given over today to a celebration of the peace negotiations. The watchwords were: "Down with international imperialism! and long live the Third Internationale!"

A telegram received in Petrograd from Novo Tcherkack, capital of the territory of the Don Cossacks, announces that General Kalejines, who recently resigned as headman of the Cossacks on the ground that there was opposition to him at the front has been re-elected by 562 out of a total of 638 votes.

Moscow reports that railway communication with the south has been stopped, sections of the tracks having been destroyed, and that no food supplies are arriving.

The Petrograd Den states that the Cossack leader Karauloff, former member of the duma, and his brother have been murdered while journeying from Vladikavkaz, in Ciscaucasia, to Yekaterinodar to attend a Cossack military gathering.

All teachers, male and female, in the municipal schools of Petrograd, have gone on strike as a protest against the proceedings of the Bolsheviks, and intend to remain away from the schools pending the opening of the constituent assembly.

It is reported that an autonomous government has been formed in Turkistan, with M. Tynysvaiff, a member of the second duma, as premier. The Siberian district congress at Tomsk has elected a provisional government, headed by President Potanin, with a coalition cabinet which includes constitutional democracy.

Mortality Figures Among U. S. Soldiers Show Low Death Rate.

Washington, Dec. 29.—Figures compiled at the office of Surgeon General Gorgas and made public today show that with more than 900,000 soldiers in training in this country from September 21 to December 14, there were only 1,391 deaths from all causes, an average rate of less than two per 1,000.

The record shows that the average strength of the army in the United States during the period was 916,722 men. Among the 202,009 regulars there were 144 deaths; there were 494 deaths in the 387,233 national army and 753 deaths in the 327,480 National Guardsmen.

Parker-Hawes.

The following announcement has been received here:

Mrs. Katherine Hawes will give in marriage her daughter Mary Taylor to Mr. Ralph W. Parker, Thursday afternoon, the third of January, Nineteen and eighteen, at her home, Asheville, North Carolina.

Mr. Parker is a brother of Mrs. F. H. Brooks.

A Good Reason.

Pat—"Say, Mike, over in Africa there is a beautiful bird with large wings, and it can't fly."

Mike—"Why can't it fly?"

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