

THE WEATHER
Fair tonight, Tuesday increasing cloudiness. North and northeast winds.

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CHARLOTTE HAS A GREAT BLAZE

Damage of Nearly Eight Hundred Thousand Sunday Night When Fire Sweeps Into Business Section.

Charlotte, Dec. 17.—Damage estimated at from \$500,000 to \$800,000 was done here last night by a fire in the East Trade street mercantile section.

The building occupied by the South-Wadsworth Company, the H. C. Long Company, La Mode, Efford's annex, Belk Department Store, Warren's Barber Shop, and George A. Newman's Tire Service was destroyed.

Fire companies were brought from Gastonia, Monroe and Statesville to assist the Charlotte department in extinguishing the blaze and a company of National Guardsmen was called out to keep the crowd out of the danger zone.

One negro was injured by a falling wall. No one was reported killed.

At a late hour last night the fire was brought under control.

Investigation Begun

Charlotte, Dec. 17.—Investigation by the State Fire Commissioner's office of the fire which last night caused from \$500,000 to \$800,000 damage in the East Trade street mercantile district will be started today.

The cause of the fire is undetermined. Ten firms suffered from the flames, others were damaged by smoke and water. The Smith-Wadsworth Company was the heaviest loser, its loss of stock being estimated at \$250,000, while the Belk Brothers Department Store loss was more than \$200,000.

HETRICK'S BIRDS FAMED FAR AND WIDE

Howard E. Hetrick's Barred Plymouth Rocks bring long prices sold to customers in New Hampshire and Ohio. One customer reports from Ohio: "Pullet you sold me won first place in a very large and strong class." And this one says: "In shipping three Barred Rocks a distance of about 800 miles, arriving at their destination afternoon before the show started the following morning, not even giving the birds chance to rest and attain their natural beauty, they were judged and their winnings were: first on pullet, first on hen, first on cock bird. The cock bird also won shape special and color special, over old and young birds, competing in his class, which made him grand champion over all Barred Rock male birds shown at that show." Another says: "It takes Hetrick's Barred Rocks to out-do the best weevil. Their egg qualities are as good as their show qualities."

COUNTRY FIGHT HAS HALF DAY IN COURT

A jury trial in an assault case which resulted in a fine of \$20 and costs for Marvin Russell, son of Miles Russell, Providence township farmer, occupied more than three hours of Monday's session of the County recorder's court and a verdict was not brought in until nearly one o'clock.

Marvin's two brothers, Miles, Jr., and Dan, and his father, were co-defendants with him but the jury brought in a verdict of guilty only against Marvin.

The case grew out of an affray between Marvin Russell and E. M. Jennings on the premises of Lova Halstead in Salem township, during a recent auction sale at the Halstead home. There seems to have been blood on the part of the Russell toward Jennings since the latter was principal witness for the State in a case which resulted in a plea of guilty to a charge of violation of the Volstead Act by Dan Russell.

Marvin saw Jennings at the sale and upbraided him as being the one who had "got my brother into trouble." Words followed, the lie was passed on both sides, and a fight started. Onlookers separated the combatants, however, it appearing that Marvin's brothers used considerable force in what they claimed were only their efforts to prevent Jennings from doing their brother bodily harm. The father, also, it appeared, desired to see the combat continued, telling Marvin as Jennings started away after the fight had been stopped: "There he goes, get him!"

Prosecuting Attorney Sawyer made Jennings a State's witness in the hope of getting a verdict against all four defendants, but the jury turned him down.

The court would probably have imposed a heavier fine on young Russell but for the fact that costs, due to the jury trial and the score or more of witnesses, ran up to a considerable figure.

YEGGMEN BORE WAY INTO IRON SAFE

New York, Dec. 17.—Three vegmen early today bored through the safe door in the offices of the Rival Theater, one of Broadway's largest movies, bound and gagged the watchman, and escaped with the Sunday's receipts, believed to be more than \$4,000.

DYNASTIC CRISIS IS IMMINENT IN GRECE

Athens, Dec. 17.—Belief that a dynastic crisis is imminent in Greece was expressed today in some quarters and the departure of King George is regarded as among the possibilities of the situation. Republicans are arranging demonstrations in Athens and throughout Macedonia and Thrace in favor of removing the dynasty.

MISSING GIRL IS RETURNED TO HOME

Greensboro, Dec. 17.—Lois Mitchell, aged 18, who disappeared from her home here last Thursday was returned to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Mitchell, from near Graham yesterday. She had been wandering around through the country aimlessly and is thought to have suffered mental derangement.

LENOIR RECORDS WERE DESTROYED

Clerk of Court Did Deed to Hide His Crime, Says Historian of North Carolina Counties.

Raleigh, Dec. 17.—The records of the formation of Lenoir County are not available to the historian as those of most of the other counties of North Carolina, according to Colonel Fred A. Olds, of the State Historical Commission in his history of North Carolina Counties. This is ascribed by Col. Olds to the fact that a clerk of the court, to hide his own crime, destroyed the court house and the records contained therein, by the application of the torch.

In 1878, writes Colonel Olds, "a clerk of the court, to conceal a crime, set fire to the court house and a few night later applied the torch to what remained of the records, which had been salvaged and placed in a leased building. No county has ever suffered a greater loss. Not only were the Lenoir County records swept away, but also those of Dobbs County, out of part of which Lenoir County was created in 1791, Dobbs having been erected in 1758 and named in honor of Governor Arthur Dobbs. The county of Dobbs was first broken up in 1779 when part of it was taken to form Wayne, and 12 years later the remainder went to Lenoir and Glascock. In the formation of both Wayne and Lenoir parts of Craven County were also taken. Dobbs had been formed in 1758 out of part of the then great county of Johnston, which in turn had been formed in 1748 out of part of Craven, the latter having been created in 1712 out of Bath.

"Lenoir was named in honor of General William Lenoir of the Revolutionary Army. The Assembly in the act ordered that the courts of Lenoir be held at the court house in Kinston, where the same is permanently fixed and to which all proceedings in Dobbs stand adjourned, and the clerk of Dobbs shall deliver to the clerk of Lenoir all his records and papers, who shall be accountable for all of them, and all suits in Dobbs shall continue in Lenoir. Both Lenoir and Glascock shall be in the Superior Court district of New Bern.

For each of the two years 1791 and 1792 a tax of eight pence on each 100 acres of land and a poll tax of 2 shillings is levied. (It may be stated that Glascock County in 1799 was abolished and became Greene.) William Caswell was the clerk of Lenoir Court and D. Caswell register of deeds in 1791.

"The town of Kinston had been established by the Assembly in 1762, at a place in Dobbs called 'Atkins Banks' on the Neuse River, William Heritage having given 100 acres as the site for the town and 50 acres for the 'common' (public ground). Kinston means the 'King's Town' and in 1763 the court house was built there. The principal streets were named King and Queen by Governor Dobbs. In 1784 the General Assembly ordered that the 'g' should be dropped from the name and that it should be 'Kinston' (which made it utterly meaningless) but the old spelling continued many years. In 1792 a new jail and stocks were built. The court house was of wood. It was in 1845 replaced by a brick one which as stated was burned in 1878. The present court house was built in 1880.

"The early history of Lenoir is that of Dobbs. The first county seat of the latter was called Dobs Court House. Richard Caswell, Governor in 1778-80, then general and Governor again 1785-1787, was a resident of Dobbs and is buried near Kinston. He was the first Governor under the State constitution. He was born in Maryland, August 3, 1729, and first married in Dobbs, Mary McCown, then Sarah, the daughter of William Heritage. William Caswell was his son. Governor Caswell died while presiding in the State Senate at Fayetteville, November 5, 1789. A county is named for him and a street in Kinston. In 1785 the Assembly chartered Kinston Academy, with Richard Caswell and James Glascock among its trustees. Lenoir has furnished a number of members of the Council of State as well as other State officials."

Study Conditions



The "eyes and ears" of 1,500,000 American farmers' families visited Germany to study conditions. The committee is shown coming from Ambassador Houghton's office. Houghton is in center with white flower. The woman is Mrs. Fritz Kreisler, wife of the violinist, now in Berlin aiding sufferers. The man in front is Gray Silver, head of the committee.

YEAR SUCCESS ON THE FARMS

Frank Parker, Statistician, Makes This Statement Particularly About Cotton, Peanuts, and Tobacco.

Raleigh, Dec. 17.—A most successful agricultural year has been experienced by North Carolina as a whole, declared Frank Parker, State Agricultural Statistician, in a semi-monthly review of crop conditions issued here. Mr. Parker asserted that this applied particularly to the cotton, peanut and tobacco belts. Reports received at the Department of Agriculture indicated that the farmers were highly elated over the season and looked forward with optimism to next year, though there is apprehension in some quarters as to the damage which the cotton boll weevil may cause next season. Labor has been scarce and expensive. The farmers themselves, however, have been quite active and the plowing has passed the stage usual for this season of the year.

Taking up the crops individually, Mr. Parker's statement declared that the small grains were generally late in being planted this year. The wheat crop is looking well in the stands but several of the Piedmont counties have reported irregular stands and unsatisfactory growth. The acreage is about as usual. The report ventures that the farmers do not expect as "good crops next year as were made during the past season."

The yield of corn is reported unusually good over the entire State with the harvesting further advanced than usual.

"The State has made a very good hay crop," according to Mr. Parker, "the final yield being better than was expected during the main growing season. This means two years of good hay crops. In addition to the usual hays, North Carolina has something like 100,000 acres of peanuts from which the vines are saved for hay. The corn fodder pulled amount to almost 200,000 tons, while the tops make a total crop of about 500,000 tons. The same hay amounts to almost 1,000,000 tons this year.

"The tobacco crop is mostly sold. The average price to date is approximately 22 cents. The quality is poor but the weight has been heavy per acre.

"Both apples and peaches made very short crops this year. The apples are about all harvested and are meeting competition from good crop grown in the West which is being sold locally. The apple crop is estimated at about 25 per cent. "Due to the good weather conditions and a year of good forage crops, together with more than the usual hay, the livestock is in good condition. The usual fall live-stock sales in the mountain counties are about over. Prices are reported as being low. Hog cholera is reported in some localities of the mountain and coastal areas.

"The mountain regions report good fall truck crops with markets good. Cabbage plants are generally good this year. Farm labor continues to be scarce and high priced. Many are paying \$2.00 per hundred weight for picking cotton. The weather has been generally favorable for farm work, although varying from warm to quite cold. Many localities report rainy and wet conditions. "Increased interest in co-operative marketing and other farm organizations is evident. The members appear to be in good spirits, particularly those in the Cotton Association. "More stalk land has been plowed to date than for many years," says the report in conclusion. "Picking and ginning of cotton is further advanced than perhaps ever before. Farm conditions are good for entering the winter. The farmers are resigned to the idea of doing their own

Divers Held On Burglary Charge

In Default Of \$500 Bond Is Remanded To Jail To Await March Grand Jury

Henry Divers, young white man generally known as "Dinkey," was held for probable cause on a charge of burglary by Trial Justice Spencer in recorder's court Monday morning, and in default of \$500 bond the defendant was remanded to jail to await action by the grand jury at the March term of Superior Court. Divers was arrested on information given the police by LeRoy White, negro, confessed burglar and alleged gunman, who told Police Officers Winslow and Roughton that Divers had been his accomplice when the residence of John Albertson and the Southern Hotel were entered and some clothing and a suit case stolen some time in November. White was the principal witness for the State in the preliminary; but there was also testimony from the police that they stood outside the jail and heard a conversation between Divers and the negro in which Divers upbraided Sap for squealing on him. Divers has no visible means of support and yet wears D. Walter Harris clothes. He has a court record, having been convicted in the recorder's court several years ago for petty larceny and twice more recently for operating a gambling device.

ARTIFICIAL INLET WAS TRIED 71 YEARS AGO

"I see there is talk of opening up an artificial inlet at some point on the Carolina banks," said Representative F. F. Cohoon to a reporter for this newspaper the other day, "and everybody seems to think that the idea is a new one.

"As a matter of fact the same thing was undertaken 71 years ago, with Captain Gus Harney in charge of operations. "Starting on the sound side, a dredge started cutting its way across the bar at Nags Head. I was only a year old at the time and do not remember it, of course, but I have heard my elders tell of it often. When the dredge had cut its way to the sandhills between the beach and the sound, a big windstorm came up and filled up the channel behind the dredge, which had then to cut its way out, and the project was abandoned.

"The fact that this project was found unfeasible 71 years ago, however, I would not be understood as contending to be any sign that it could not be accomplished today. Dredging machinery has so greatly improved in the last 50 years that I should think that the task of dredging a channel across the sandhills would now be a comparatively simple matter."

BIBERY CHARGES AGAINST OFFICIALS

Mobile, Ala., Dec. 17.—Warrants charging an attempt of bribery against United States District Attorney Boyes and Harry G. French, Federal officer, were served this morning. The warrants followed the adjournment Saturday of the Federal grand jury which returned 117 true bills.

FOR DEVELOPMENT OF FOREIGN TRADE

Omaha, Dec. 17.—Representatives of agricultural and manufacturing are here attending the third farmers and manufacturers conference. Co-ordination of railroads and steamship lines for the development of foreign trade of the Middle West are the keynote of the conference, it is said.

FRATERNITIES TALK THE MATTER OVER

Wake Forest, December 17.—Meeting at an informal reception in the Masonic Hall here Thursday evening, members of the Fraternities of Wake Forest College pledged themselves individually and collectively to further the best interest of Wake Forest, to promote character, and to strive for a higher average in the scholarship. That the appointment of a commission by the State Baptist Convention to investigate the facts as to fraternities will in the end be productive of much good was the general opinion of the 100 men at the affair. Speech making, the singing of college songs, a Dempsey - Firpo encounter a la burlesque, and the serving of refreshments occupied the evening. "Although my fraternity plays an important part in my college life, Wake Forest comes first. I would not think of doing anything for my fraternity that would hurt the college." This was the declaration of L. E. Andrews, president of the Student Government Association, and a member of the Chi Tau fraternity. This sentiment was expressed in turn by the spokesmen representing every greek-letter or-

WEALTHY MURDERER DECLARED INSANE

Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 17.—E. Ray Tompkins, wealthy real estate man, charged with first degree murder of his wife, is insane, according to the lunacy commission findings.

WILL ATTEND MEETING OF TRAFFIC ASSOCIATION

Secretary R. C. Job of the Chamber of Commerce leaves Monday night for Raleigh where he will attend a meeting Tuesday of the North Carolina Traffic Association. The meeting is held to gather data and otherwise prepare for the fight to maintain the advantageous freight rates won by North Carolina after many years of disastrous competition with Virginia cities enjoying better rates. Virginia cities are now seeking to lower their own or increase the rates of North Carolina cities.

TIGER RESTING AFTER ACCIDENT

Clemenceau Painfully Cut About the Face When Automobile Crashes Into a Tree in Paris.

Paris, Dec. 17.—Clemenceau is resting comfortably today at his home after yesterday's automobile accident in which he was painfully cut about the face.

The Tiger joked about the doctor's orders. "I cannot eat," he said. "That's a misfortune, but neither can I talk. That's a terrible blow."

He takes liquid food through a straw. He was asleep when the automobile crashed into a tree. He said he thought himself back on the front line of battle again and that a shell had exploded.

SOVIET IS ASKING FOR RECOGNITION

Washington, Dec. 17.—A note from the Russian foreign office today making a bid for recognition of the soviet government by the United States was received at the White House and referred to the State Department to be studied carefully.

OLD TIMERS SAY IT'S BIGGEST SHOW YET

The advance sale of seats Monday morning for the Elks' Minstrelria far exceeded the expectations of the committee in charge and while there are still many desirable seats left for both performances it looks as if the Alkrama will be packed both Wednesday and Thursday nights. Rehearsals are now being held nightly in the Shrine hall and everything is in tip-top shape for the opening performance Wednesday night.

Those old-timers, Bill C. Sawyer and Guy Brackett, are both unanimous in their praise of the cast this year and they are as one in saying that the show this year far exceeds any Elks' Minstrel ever before produced her. And it is a known fact that these two men have been in Elks' shows since the first Elk ran across the plains of Montana and when they say a show is good it is doubtless good.

The proceeds of this year's show are donated to charity as usual and the Elks hope that the public will accord it their usual liberal response.

TWO AUTOMOBILES DAMAGED IN SUNDAY'S PARADE

Two automobiles were badly damaged in Sunday's auto parade up and down the Weicksville road, but no one was hurt.

The accident was said to be due to reckless driving and many other incidents of such driving were reported by the more careful persons in the parade.

A Ford driven by Howard Scott with Percy Jennings coming to Elizabeth City when trying to cut in ahead of the car in front struck an Overland going to Weicksville driven by Clarence Garrett, with Vernon Garrett, George Askew and Willis Sawyer. The left front wheel, the bumper, fender and wind shield of the Overland were broken while the Ford was a total wreck and was turned around facing the opposite direction from which they had been driving. Both cars had to be left by the roadside.

Another collision occurred Saturday when two Fords said to be driven by negroes ran into each other near the home of Elisha Coppersmith. The Fords were badly damaged out no one very much hurt.

MEXICAN SITUATION REMAINS UNCHANGED

Washington, Dec. 17.—Advices received from Mexico City last night relative to the revolutionary movement were declared by the Mexican embassy here to indicate that the situation throughout the republic remains unchanged.

Vera Cruz, Dec. 17.—With the reported capture of Pueblo and Cuatla, revolutionary headquarters claim to hold the low points in the triangle with Mexico City as its apex.

General Ambrosia Fugera in the state of Guerrero and General Jose Lagones in the states of Yucatan and Tabasco have broken with Obregon and joined the insurgents.

AMERICAN CONSUL DIES AT EDINBURGH

Edinburgh, Dec. 17.—Hunter Sharp, American consul, died here today. He was born in Hertford County, North Carolina, in 1861, and entered the consular service in 1886.

COTTON MARKET

New York, December 17.—Spot cotton closed steady this afternoon, advancing 115 points. Futures closed at the following levels: December 35.00; June 34.25; March 34.70; May 34.90; July 34.10; October 28.35. December 17—Cotton futures opened this morning at the following levels: December 33.90; January 33.25; March 33.90; May 34.15; July 28.35; October 27.75.