

### FORECAST:

WILMINGTON AND VICINITY—  
Considerable cloudiness and little change  
in temperature today; Friday, partly  
cloudy and slightly warmer.

VOL. 80.—NO. 104.

## Thirteen Fire Alarm Boxes Arrive Here

### City Manager Announces Weekly Shipment Expected

#### BEING INSTALLED

### Units Now Being Placed In Operation In Sunset Park

The arrival of 13 Horni fire alarm boxes in Wilmington, the first of several shipments scheduled to be delivered within the next few weeks, was announced late yesterday by City Manager J. R. Benson.

The installation of the units, the first of which will be located in Sunset Park, will begin at once, he said.

Benson disclosed that the present schedule calls for the delivery of 10 to 12 boxes each week and said that they will be installed as they arrive.

A great part of the wiring for the placing of the boxes has already been completed, with work on the remainder now underway. Benson had earlier revealed that the first Horni unit arrived and was put into operation last November and that the equipment had functioned perfectly after tests had been conducted by City Electrician David Scudlin, Jr.

The contract for the delivery of 11 alarm boxes was awarded to Wilmington Electric Supply last March, an action which was followed by various disagreements in official channels as well as a court action.

The decision to order the Horni equipment was resisted by the Ganevelli company, which had sought the contract, but a court order to halt the delivery by Horni on the grounds that the units manufactured by the latter firm did not meet specifications was quashed in Superior court by Judge R. Hunt Parker last June.

## ISSUE OF LIQUOR

### BACK IN ASSEMBLY

### Penny Of Guilford Sends Up Bill Calling For State Referendum

RALEIGH, Feb. 12.—(AP)—The state liquor issue was back in the lap of the Legislature tonight. Senator Penny of Guilford county sent up a bill today asking for a statewide referendum extending November 4 on the sale of liquor and all wines of more than three percent alcoholic content. He would exempt light, domestic wines.

The bill did not mention beer. It was sent to the finance committee, headed by Senator Gray of Forsyth, another dry county.

In recent legislatures, measures calling for a statewide referendum usually have been introduced in the House, only to die in committee.

Dry leaders always charge that the chief purpose of the House's two-thirds, or gag, rule is to defeat referendum measures. Under the rule, a two-thirds vote is necessary to remove a bill from the unfavorable calendar. There is no two-thirds rule in the Senate.

While he said he introduced the bill entirely on his own initiative, Penny will have the support of the Allied Church league for prohibition of beverage alcohol. Trustees of the league met here two weeks ago and drafted plans for introduction of such a measure. It was at that meeting that Rep. Mull of Cleveland, long-time temperance leader and former speaker, asserted that he believed such a measure would have little chance of passing in this assembly. He urged church folk to continue their fight against intoxicating beverages, however, and said that some day North Carolina again would be dry.

### Church Support

The Senate passed, 32 to 12, a measure authorizing the creation of a five-member board of examiners for federal directors. It

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### HAMBONE'S MEDITATIONS

By Alley

DAT ONDERTAKUM BE'S  
A ON-FRIENTLY SORTER  
MAN, BUT I SE ALLUZ  
GLAD T SEE 'IM  
HE 'BOUT DE ONLIES  
MAN ROUN' HEAH I  
DON' OWE

### Group To Meet Tonight At Chamber Of Commerce At 8 O'clock

The initial meeting of representatives from city and county organizations to lay plans for an Azalea Festival here in 1948 will be held tonight at 8 o'clock in the Chamber of Commerce rooms, Fourth and Princess streets.

Dr. W. Houston Moore said last night that the meeting was called in order to attempt to organize a group who will take an interest in staging the festival here and to make plans for the event.

It is hoped that the Azalea Festival can be staged here each year during the blooming season, Dr. Moore said. Present plans are to make the event community-wide, sponsored by a representative group of the city and the county, he added.

All organizations in Wilmington and New Hanover county are asked to participate.

### Helicopter Plucks Hermit From Heart Of Wilderness

SARANAC LAKE, N. Y., Feb. 12.—(AP)—Bearded Noah Rondeau rested in the luxury of a hotel room tonight after a helicopter had plucked him from the heart of a three-million acre Adirondack wilderness on the first leg of his journey to New York City.

"I now feel the air was only for birds," the 63-year-old hermit said as he landed here after his first flight. "But now I feel aviation is here to stay."

### WEATHERMAN SAYS DON'T FORGET TO CARRY UMBRELLA

The warmer weather of yesterday will be here again today, according to Paul Hess, Wilmington weather observer, as the mercury is due to climb to about 55 degrees during the day. Occasional light showers are also predicted for today.

The whole map shows warm weather, Hess says, and continuing warmth for the next several days.

### Along The Cape Fear

HISTORY OR FABLE?—"How oft we sigh  
"When histories charm to think that histories lie!" so wrote Thomas Moore in The Sceptic.

Thomas, you'll recall was by no means alone in his views concerning history.

Matthew Arnold in his Literary Influence of Academies said: "On the breast of that huge Mississippi of falsehood called history," Napoleon, being a military man with not as much flourish for fine writing, merely stated: "History is a fable agreed upon."

Then our own Henry Ford, taking time off from the important job of making automobiles for a moment, proclaimed "History is bunk."

A survey of the legends of the Lower Cape Fear region sometimes lead one to think that Moore, Napoleon, Arnold, and Ford had something when they burst forth with their opinion on tales of the past.

GOOD EXAMPLE—The duel of Capt. Alex Simpson in 1765 is a perfect example of why many wonder where history leaves off and fable begins.

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## Wife Slain



### Incriminating Evidence Found In Trunk Of Stolen Automobile

PITTSFIELD, Mass., Feb. 12.—(U.P.)—A Boston ex-convict, who was Los Angeles when Elizabeth Short was slain, has been seized here and will be questioned in connection with the "Black Dahlia" murder, state police announced.

The man, identified as George F. Polet, 21, of Boston, was driving a car allegedly stolen in Albuquerque, N. Mex. in the car were found an axe and an Army entrenching tool.

State police said the axe bore stains and other matter which appeared to be dry hair. A single gray hair also was found on the entrenching tool—a type of shovel. These pieces of equipment, found locked in the car's trunk, were taken to the state police laboratory at Boston for examination.

Polet expressed surprise at the discovery of the tools in the car's trunk.

In Los Angeles

State police quoted him as saying he was in Los Angeles from Jan. 4 to Jan. 21, working for the National Restaurant system. Miss Short's body was found in that city Jan. 15.

Polet said that after being paid off he started East. In Albuquerque, he said, he stole the automobile which was registered to J. B. Stephenson of that city.

Keys were in the ignition, Polet said, but there were no keys for the trunk.

He told police he did not look into the locked trunk at any time during his trip across the country.

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## Britain Goes On War To Save C

### Attlee Order Decrees Fines Or Prison Terms For Waste Of Current TRAINS CANCELLED

### New Committee Calls For Mobilization Of Civilians For Work

LONDON, Feb. 12.—(AP)—Prime Minister Attlee placed Britain on a virtual war basis tonight issuing an order under war-time defense regulations that decreed fines or prison sentences for any of the nation's 49,000,000 people who disregarded a new island-wide limitation on household electricity.

Acting after nearly 72 hours of scheming against threatened disaster to his war-weakened nation in the coal crisis, Attlee also established an emergency committee, of nine-peace-time equivalent of the war cabinet—to deal with what he called a "dangerously critical" fuel shortage.

The order also applied legal penalties to industrialists who do not comply with a blackout order shutting all but essential plants in 38 of the 64 counties in England and Wales.

Earlier, the government ordered the five-hour cut off of electricity to householders extended to the entire island—all of Britain except Northern Ireland—and directed nation-wide street lighting reductions amounting almost to a war-time blackout.

Trains Cancelled

The emergency committee ordered cancellation of all railway passenger services in every instance where it would clear tracks or free locomotives for coal trains.

These steps were taken as the Board of Trade announced that 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 men were out of work because of industrial shutdowns, and that the crisis threatened to be felt in every phase of the economy.

The sharp announcement from

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# U.S.-CANADA WILL CONTINUE WARTIME DEFENSE MEASURES; LABOR WARS AIRED ON HILL

## Pennsylvania Bombings Are Part Of Tale

### Witness Before House Labor Committee Relates Startling Facts

### TERRORISM RIFE

### CIO Leaders Charge Monopolists With Pushing Anti-Union Laws

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—(AP)—Tales of bombings and truck burnings in Pennsylvania union warfare reached Capitol hill today along with a CIO assertion that monopolists are pushing anti-union laws as a smokescreen for their own misdeeds.

Also, an industry spokesman argued that 7,000 coal mines had been converted "into a single, synthetic bulldog" and thrown muzzled into a government-dug pit to fight for its life against John L. Lewis and his United Mine workers.

Taking one thing at a time, the day's developments included:

1. Testimony before the House Labor committee by Meade J. Mulvihill, general counsel for the Pennsylvania State Brewers' association, that "terrorism and anarchy" had spread through the Pittsburgh area because of a "bee war" between AFL and CIO unions.

2. The CIO "Economic Outlook" published an accusation that greedy "monopoly interests" had brought about a crisis by forcing decontrol of wartime curbs on industry. It added "these monopoly interests are diverting attention from the necessary solutions by directing public attention to anti-labor proposals."

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## Doctors Advise Retirement

### Police Chief Requests Retirement From Duties

### Charles H. Casteen, a member of the Wilmington police department since October 21, 1923 and chief of the force for the past six years, yesterday submitted a request for retirement to City Manager J. R. Benson.

### In his letter requesting his pension, Casteen explained that the decision to quit the force came only after consultation with three Wilmington doctors, each of whom urged him to retire at once due to bad health conditions. He said last night that he was leaving for a sanatorium shortly for treatment.

### Benson, expressing regret at Casteen's decision, said that the matter would now be referred to the city police board of pensions with final action on the application to be made by the city council.

### Casteen did not fix any exact date for the action to become effective and urged that his retirement be acted upon only at the pleasure of the city. Benson explained, however, that it would more than likely become applicable upon the appointment of a successor.

### When asked whether a decision had been made as to who would succeed Casteen, Benson replied that so far no thought had been given to the matter.

### Doctor's Report

In his application, Casteen said that the decision came after three doctors, Dr. E. P. Walker, Dr. G. R. C. Thompson and Dr. J. F. Robertson, had examined him and recommended his immediate retirement from the force.

"I have enjoyed my work for the city of Wilmington," the letter said, "and have contributed the best part of my life to law enforcement and it was necessary with reference to my condition I

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