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## FIRE LOSS DROPS TO \$11,000 DAILY

VERY SHARP DECREASE IN FIRE LOSSES FOR FEBRUARY, ACCORDING TO REPORT.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT DESTROYED

During Month 132 Fires Were Reported, Reduction of 85 from Record of January.

Raleigh. Compared with the previous month, the average daily fire losses in North Carolina for February fell from \$35,000 to \$11,000, with an aggregate loss of \$354,885, according to the monthly review of fire losses issued by the state department of insurance. The average losses for the entire country increased during the month by three million dollars.

During the month, 132 fires were reported to the department, a reduction of 85 from the record of January. Only ten fires did damage in excess of \$5,000, while 22 of the 217 fires in January entailed losses in excess of that amount. Residences head the list of destroyed buildings with an even half hundred. One fire department was destroyed by fire.

Sparks falling on roofs and defective flues remain the chief cause of fires reported to the department, and carelessness of smokers retains second place. Exploding oil stoves, overheated stoves, hot ashes, moving picture films, exploding lamps, electric irons and children playing with matches are still included in the list.

Wilson again acquired leading position in the amount of fire losses for the month with an aggregate of \$127,000 caused when a mechanical paint brush exploded and burned the Hackney Buggy factory. Principal losses are accredited to other cities as follows: Charlotte, \$37,700; Kinston, \$15,000; Monroe, \$32,000; Concord, \$5,000; White Oak, \$20,000; Apex, \$20,000.

Records of other towns and cities throughout the state follows, with the number of fires reported and the total losses:

Winston-Salem, 11 fires, loss \$875; Raleigh, 4, \$211; Charlotte, 15, \$39,620; Fayetteville, 4, \$1,150; Asheville, 9, \$2,184; Newbern, 9, \$1,181; Wilmington, 7, \$4,615; Durham, 3, \$2,098; Rockingham, 2, \$3,400; Wilson, 8, \$128,865; High Point, 3, \$6,530; Greensboro, 2, \$392; Goldsboro, 4, \$45; Hamlet, 3, \$100; Kinston, 4, \$16,735; Henderson, 4, \$3,550; Farmville, 3, \$190; Two each at Gastonia, \$1,250; Monroe, \$32,110; Elizabeth City, \$1,435. One each at Albemarle, \$600; Salisbury, \$35; Carthage, \$5; Lambert, \$2,700; Washington, \$2,356; Concord, \$5,000; Greenville, \$300; Reaford, \$1,600; Oxford, \$500.

### Means Millions in Taxes.

Interlocutory injunctions sought in the federal courts by railroads doing business in North Carolina against the collection of state taxes were denied by a unanimous opinion handed down by Judge Edmund Waddill, Jr., of the circuit court of appeals; Judge Henry G. Connor, of the Eastern North Carolina District and Judge James E. Boyd of the Western North Carolina district.

By denial of the injunctions, if the opinion is affirmed by the Supreme Court of the United States, to which an appeal will be taken direct, the taxing units of the state will collect annually practically one million dollars in ad valorem and franchise taxes that would not have been paid had the decision gone the other way. In addition, there is involved taxation upon the incomes of the railroads at the rate of three per cent upon the taxable net income, which involves a large amount of money, the exact amount of which is not known. All of these taxes have been fixed for a period of three years, making the aggregate amount involved well up into the millions.

### Orders Special Court.

Governor Morrison has ordered a special term of Vance county superior court to begin Monday, April 24.

### Governor Paroles Two.

Two paroles and one commutation for prisoners serving terms on the county roads for violation of the prohibition laws were granted by Governor Morrison. The paroles went to James Reach, of Forsyth, serving 18 months, who is suffering from a severe attack of rheumatism, and to Alex Berry, of Forsyth, a six-month prisoner who had developed lung trouble. Upon recommendation of Judge B. F. Long, the twelve-month sentence imposed on Henry Charles was commuted to \$1,000 and costs.

## FOUR-POWER PACIFIC TREATY IS RATIFIED

OPPONENTS MAKE SCORE OF UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS TO QUALIFY ACTION.

## FINAL VOTE WAS 67 TO 27

On Final Roll Call, Twelve Democrats Vote For Treaty and Four Republicans Against It.

Washington.—The four-power Pacific treaty, the center of controversy over accomplishments of the Washington arms conference, was ratified by the senate with no reservation except the "no alliance" declaration proposed by the foreign relations committee and accepted by President Harding.

The final vote of 67 to 27, representing a margin of four over the necessary two-thirds, was recorded after the opponents of ratification had made more than 20 unsuccessful attempts to qualify senate action by reservations or amendments distasteful to the administration. On the deciding roll call 12 democrats voted for the treaty and only four republicans opposed it.

Dying hard, the irreconcilable element, which had opposed the treaty on the ground that it establishes an alliance between the United States, Great Britain, Japan and France, forced 33 roll calls during a four and a half hours session set aside for final action on the resolution of ratification. They made their best showing on a proposed reservation to invite outside powers into Pacific "conferences" affecting their interests, mustering 36 votes for the proposal to 55 in opposition.

The committee reservation was accepted in the end by a vote of 90 to 2, two attempts to modify it failing by overwhelming majorities. It declares that "the United States understands that under the statement in the preamble under the terms of this treaty there is no commitment to armed force, no alliance, no obligation to join in any defense."

### Probably 18 Miners Killed.

Trinidad, Colo.—Eight miners are known to have been killed and ten are missing as the result of an explosion in Sopris mine number two of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company near here. Officers of the mine said they did not expect the death list to exceed 18. Two of the bodies have been identified. The other two were badly burned.

The explosion occurred just as the men were changing shifts. It is believed that only about 40 were in the mine at the time. All of these, with the exception of the 16 still missing have been accounted for.

There was no fire in the mine and rescue workers have been able to go under ground to a considerable depth. No theory as to the cause of the explosion has been advanced.

### Four Killed by Cloudburst.

Burlington, Kas.—Four persons were killed and property damage estimated at \$50,000 done at Burlington by a cloudburst which flooded Rock Creek and sent it swooping down upon the city without warning. The dead are Mr. and Mrs. T. S. McGee, Mrs. Henry Ramsdell and Miss Oletha Failing.

Only the body of Miss Failing had been recovered. Nine persons reported missing were found to be unharmed. For several blocks store fronts caved in and about 25 homes were swept away. Much damage was done also to stock and crops in this district. Streets here were piled high with debris.

### Levee System Will Withstand Flood.

Memphis, Tenn.—With the Mississippi river rising rapidly at all points south of St. Louis and with all indications pointing to the highest water since the flood of 1916, government and state engineers here express confidence that the levee system will withstand the flood without difficulty and that the damage from high water will be small and confined entirely to unprotected lands.

### Ford Adopts 40-Hour Week.

Detroit.—Adoption of the 40-hour week as a permanent policy in all the plants of the Ford Motor company was announced by Edsel B. Ford, president of the company. Under the new plan the factories will be closed on Saturday and Sunday and about 3,000 men will be added to the force. The change will affect approximately 50,000 employees, who will continue to receive the minimum of \$6 a day. New employees, however, will receive a minimum of \$5 daily.

## DEMANDS COSTS OF ARMY OCCUPATION

UNITED STATES CLAIMS RIGHT TO COMPENSATION FOR ARMY IN RHINELAND.

## NOTES SENT TO THE ALLIES

Troops Were Sent Into Germany Upon Basis of Right to Be Paid the "Actual Cost."

Washington.—The American army of occupation was sent into Germany and was continued there upon the basis of the right of the United States to "be paid its actual cost upon an equal footing with the allies," and this government "is unable to conclude that the justice of its claim is not fully recognized," according to identical communications delivered by diplomatic representatives to the governments of Belgium, Great Britain, France and Japan.

The notes were delivered under instructions from Secretary of State Hughes and were occasioned by recent information from American observers in Europe that the allied governments apparently contemplated arrangements which would ignore American army costs, although estimates both for army and navy costs and reparations were being made on the basis of the entire capacity of the German government to pay.

The amount of the claims of the United States for its army cost, the notes declared, was understood to be free from any substantial dispute, but it was deemed to be appropriate, "in view of recent developments," to acquaint the allied governments with the repeatedly reiterated statements that the government of the United States was expecting full payment of the costs of its army in the Rhineland.

Basis for the American claim, the notes pointed out, was found in the armistice agreement to which the United States was signatory and which provided for military occupation of Germany by the allied and American forces jointly. That agreement, the notes recited, expressly provided that the upkeep of the troops of occupation in the Rhine districts should be charged to the German government and it was expressed as the view of the American government that the armistice agreement "had the clear import" that the powers associated in the joint enterprise "should stand upon equal footing as to the payment of all actual costs of their armies of occupation."

### Active Spindle Hours Decrease.

Washington.—The New England textile strike was reflected in the monthly report made public recently by the census bureau on the activity of the cotton spinning industry, which showed a decrease of more than 600,000 active spindles for the month of February as compared with January. Active spindle hours for February 7,119,576,600 as compared with 7,229,358,136, also a decrease of more than eight hundred million. The figures made public were based on an activity of 23-24 days, while the figures for January were based on an activity of 25-26 days.

The average number of spindles operated during February was 34,577,837 as compared with an average of 35,751,715 for January. Approximately 34,879,935 cotton spindles were in place on February 28, the report said, of which 33,797,329 were operated at some time during the month, as compared with 34,457,509 for January, 34,465,341 for December and 32,496,856 for February, 1921.

### Not to Delay Trip to Shoals.

Washington.—Members of the senate agricultural committee, after considering the request of senate leaders and senators not absent themselves from sessions during consideration of the arms conference treaties, decided to follow the previously reached plan to leave Washington Saturday night for a visit, in company with house members, to the Muscle Shoals projects in Alabama.

### Sugar Rates Stand.

Washington.—Sugar rates in the Fordney tariff bill, on the basis of \$1.60 per 100 pounds for Cuba raw, were approved by the republican members of the senate finance committee after a prolonged fight. The Fordney rates were accepted as a compromise. Senator Smoot, ranking majority member, contended for a rate of \$2 per 100 on Cuban raw, the duty asked for by American beet sugar interests. This was slightly less, however, than the tariff urged by the Louisiana cane industry.

## BONUS MEASURE PASSED BY HOUSE

BILL IS GIVEN AN OVERWHELMING MAJORITY IN THE HOUSE.

## PROVISIONS OF THE BILL

Members of Both Parties Divided in General Debate and on Final Roll Call.

Washington.—The four billion-dollar soldiers' bonus bill was passed by the house by an overwhelming majority. It now goes to the senate where its fate is regarded as uncertain.

The vote was 333 to 70, or 64 more than the two-thirds majority necessary for passage of the measure under the parliamentary procedure selected by republicans for the expressed purpose of preventing the democrats from offering a motion to recommit.

Party lines disappeared both in the general debate and on the final roll call, 242 republicans and 90 democrats and one socialist supporting the bill and 48 republicans and 28 democrats voting against it.

As passed by the house, the bonus bill would provide for immediate cash payments to veterans whose adjusted service pay would not exceed \$50, and would give the other veterans the option of these four plans:

Adjusted service certificates, with provisions authorizing loans by banks in the first three years after next October 1, and by the government thereafter; the certificates to run for 20 years and to have a face value at maturity of the amount of the adjusted service credit at the rate of \$1 a day for domestic service and \$1.25 a day for foreign service, increased by 25 per cent plus interest at the rate of 4-1-2 per cent compounded annually.

Vocational training after January 1, 1923, at the rate of \$1.75 a day, the total payments not to exceed, however, 140 per cent of the adjusted service credit.

Farm and home aid under which veterans who purchase or improve farms or homes would be paid after July 1, 1923, a sum equal to their adjusted service credit increased by 25 per cent.

Land settlements, under which lands would be reclaimed under the supervision of a special board and farm units established for sale to the veterans at a price fixed by the board, less the amount of the adjusted service credit due the purchasers.

### Exports of Corn Increased.

Washington.—American exports of corn during February increased, as compared with the same month last year while exports of wheat and cottonseed oil last month fell off sharply from February, 1921.

February exports of corn amounted to 22,052,216 bushels of a value of \$14,020,090, compared with 3,144,346 bushels valued at \$6,918,863 in February, 1921.

Exports of wheat in February were 5,476,489 bushels valued at \$6,328,655, compared with 18,408,711 bushels valued at \$36,836,026 in February a year ago.

Cottonseed oil exports last month were 9,097,374 pounds of a value of \$794,306, compared with 39,689,396 pounds valued at \$4,276,772 in February, 1921.

### German Marks Fall Off.

New York.—All previous low records for German exchange at this center were shattered when the mark fell to 304-one-hundredths, or less than three for one cent. Dealers attributed the further weakness to the changes in the German reparation payments announced in Paris recently and the firm attitude of the United States government for the payment of the expenses of the army of occupation on the Rhine.

### Submarine and All Hands Lost.

London.—The British submarine H-42 has been lost with all hands in the Mediterranean, says an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Gibraltar.

### Census For Pigs to be Taken.

Washington.—The department of agriculture, through the help of rural mail carriers, will set up machinery early in May to obtain the probable pig population of the 14 states leading in the production of swine. More than 24,000 carriers connected with the 9,500 postoffices will take the pig census.

As they start out with their pack of mail the carriers will distribute card questionnaires on which will be obtained reports from the farms on each route.

## PICTURES TO FIGHT WEEVIL

County Agent W. B. Pace, of Pith, Plans to Visit Every School House With Picture Machine.

Greenville.—The new moving picture machine used in farm demonstration work is creating considerable interest throughout the county. Although it arrived about two weeks ago, continued bad weather has prevented County Agent W. B. Pace from putting on his show in more than six communities. His present plan calls for a visit with his machine to every schoolhouse of the county.

At present there are four films shown to each audience. One deals with the potato storage house, showing construction, operation and general value. This reel is intended to increase the interest in such storage houses and show the farmers the need for them.

A second reel is a drama of farm life, dealing with the drudgery of the farmers' wives, without conveniences now so common on the more up-to-date farms. The wife is shown haggard and toll worn, a wreck in the prime of life. While she is away at a sanitarium, the farmer installs modern improvements from the front door to the kitchen. The contrast is most striking.

The feature of the "show" is contained in two reels entitled "Good-bye, Boll Weevil." They show the use of powders, calcium arsenate in the destruction of the pest. Different types of machines, from the hand pump to the gasoline machine, in full operation, are thrown upon the screen. The government passes on the powder before it is put upon the market and approves firms selling it.

The cotton planter's attention is focused when he sees how he can increase his seed cotton 200 to 1,000 pounds at \$6 the acre by destroying the pink pest by this simple method. The powder is dusted upon the plant in the afternoon and sticks to the leaves. When the weevil drinks the dew next morning, he imbibes the poison as well, so it is indeed good-bye, boll weevil.

### Burlington Will Re-enact Battle.

Burlington.—Scenery for the reproduction of the Battle of Alamance in photoplay form has been prepared by a special agent of a moving picture corporation. A meeting of men and women of the county who are authors of historical works relative to the Battle of Alamance will be called at an early date to assist in a revision of this scenario. The local chamber of commerce will soon begin sending out propaganda into all parts of the United States for the purpose of getting recognition of the spot where was fought the first battle of the American Revolution.

### Fear For Safety of Peach Crop.

Hickory.—Orchard men in this section were much concerned over the safety of the peach crop, the mercury recording the lowest temperature in several weeks and a hefty frost occurring in most places. Peach trees are in part bloom and pear trees are in full blossom. There was much ice, but stiff winds the past two days dried the trees thoroughly and it is hoped that a minimum of damage has resulted from the cold.

### Hickory Sells Bonds.

Hickory.—The city of Hickory sold \$45,000 of funding 6 per cent bonds to Seasongood, Mayer & Co., of Cincinnati, for a premium of \$1,820, or \$104.44 per \$100. There were 11 bidders, and the sale was described by bidders and city officials as highly satisfactory.

### Plans Huge Tunnel.

Lenoir.—Kistler's investigations of the Wilson creek power possibilities will be completed within the next few days. The plan for development is to provide for a tunnel nearly 17,000 feet long leading from a dam at a point near Hutor and emptying at the power house at the foot of the gorge. At the point of emptying the tunnel will be 300 feet above the present bed of the creek. Mr. Miller says that there will be a loss through friction equivalent to 20 feet, which will leave a net fall of 280 feet for power purposes. The present flow of the stream with this fall will develop 2,700 horsepower 20 hours out of 24.

### Officers Elected For Johnston Fair.

Smithfield.—The directors of the Johnston County Agricultural Society met here and set the date for the 1922 fair, October 31, November 1, 2 and 3 are the days set apart for this coming event. The directors were all present except four, Mr. J. W. Stephenson, who has served as president of this organization for several years, tendered his resignation, but, upon motion by Mr. W. D. Avers, seconded by Dr. R. C. Noble, he was unanimously re-elected.

### Many Incomes Not Yet Filed.

Commissioner of Revenue A. R. Watts has signified his desire to grant extension of time to procrastinating income taxpayers as well as to relieve citizens of penalties who made their return after March 15, but legal reason in both instances must be furnished the department.

Scores of taxpayers have not yet filed their income tax returns for the calendar year ending December 31, 1921, while many others have sent in their returns after March 15, which was the final date for filing. It is to check up on these classes that Commissioner Watts is addressing letters advising that under the law a penalty of five per cent, with interest at the rate of one per cent per month must be levied in all instances where the tax was paid after March 15.

"The State Department of Revenue," Commissioner Watts said, "will do as well by its citizens as the Federal government in the matter of payment on income taxes, but we would be glad to know just why the returns are late or why they have not been filed with the department." The commissioner points out that the law assesses the penalties, making it mandatory upon the revenue department and that this course will be followed except in cases where sickness, absence from home or other causes which could not have been anticipated have prevented the filing of the returns.

The following letter has been sent to all citizens who have not complied with the letter of the law in making their tax returns:

"Your income tax return was received after March 15. Under the law a penalty of five per cent, which in no case shall be less than one dollar, and interest at one per cent per month has accrued.

"If you were sick, absent from home, or were unavoidably prevented from making your return within the time prescribed by law, please write me at once, setting forth the reason for your failure to make the return on or before March 15, and ask for an extension of time. This will be granted and the penalty canceled if your reason for failure to file in time is a legal one.

"If you were not sick, absent or unavoidably prevented from taking the return in time, please send check for the amount of the penalty."

Governor Morrison has denied the appeal for executive clemency in 20 cases which have been laid before him during the last several weeks.

### Essay Contest on Relief Work.

Cash prizes of \$2,000, donated by Henry Morganthau, former American ambassador to Turkey, will be competed for by junior and senior high school students of North Carolina from now until June 15th, according to announcement by Col. George H. Bellamy, state chairman of the Near East Relief.

These prizes will be given for the best essay or oration on the economic and international conditions which have to do with the present deplorable conditions of the peoples in the Near East who have for centuries been persecuted by the Turks in the name of Mohammedanism. Colonel Bellamy is state chairman for the Near East Relief in North Carolina and Josephus Daniels is honorary state chairman.

The prizes will be given for essays from various states in the union and three will be given for the best essays submitted in the nation. A first prize of \$500 in cash will be awarded the winner of the national contest followed by \$200 for the second best and \$100 for the third. In each state a prize of \$15 will be given for the best essay or oration, \$10 for the second and \$5 for the third.

According to the announcement by Colonel Bellamy the oration must have as its theme some phase of the present political, social educational or industrial condition in the countries of the Near East, including Turkey, Syria, Palestine, Georgia and Armenia and must contain not less than 1,500 nor more than 2,000 words.

All students who desire to enter this contest and to familiarize themselves with their subject may write Colonel Bellamy, 901 Citizens National Bank building, Raleigh, and the necessary literature will be forwarded. High school principals and teachers and county superintendents of schools are requested by Dr. E. C. Brooks, state chairman of the educational division, Near East Relief, to render every assistance possible to students.

### Could Buy Farms With Food Money.

If the money which North Carolina is sending to other states each year for food and feed products were kept at home, the accumulation would equal the value of all the farm land and farm buildings in the state in less than ten years. This striking statement appears in a leaflet embracing an analysis and summary of the agricultural situation in North Carolina, together with the suggested "live-at-home" movement. The remedies being advocated in