

The Asheville Gazette News.

Weather Forecast
WARMER SLOWLY.

VOLUME XIX. NO. 23

ASHEVILLE, N. C., MONDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 9, 1914

PRICE FIVE CENTS

MANY PEOPLE DIE IN FIRE

TWO SCORE HURT IN MAKING ESCAPE

mates of the St. Louis Club House Trapped by Flames

—Exact Number of the Dead Unknown.

PROPERTY DAMAGE MAY BE MORE THAN MILLION

Prominent Business Men Dead

Or Missing—Heroic Work of Manager, Wife and Telephone Boy.

St. Louis, Mo., March 9.—Three men are known to be dead, dozens of others are believed to have been burned to death and two score were seriously injured in a fire which early today destroyed the seven story building housing the Missouri Athletic Club and the Boatman's bank at fourth street and Washington avenue.

At 8 o'clock this morning besides the three known to be dead in the Missouri Athletic club fire officers of the organization had the names of 25 unaccounted for. These were practically given up as lost.

135 in Building.
The exact number of dead in the ruins of the magnificent club house may not be known for several days. Officers of the club differ as to the number of persons in the building when the fire alarm was given. Estimates of the missing vary between 15 and 100.

One hundred and thirty-five persons were registered at the club last night. How many were in the building at the time of the fire is not known. Of those who were in the club 35 have been accounted for.

The victims whose dead bodies have been recovered are: John Martin Aickey of St. Paul, Minn.; James Riley, and an unidentified man.

Damage Estimated at \$1,000,000.
The property damage is estimated at more than \$1,000,000. In the vaults of the bank covered by the ruins are more than \$1,000,000 in currency and \$27,000 in coin. At daylight only part of the front and rear walls remained.

The roof had caved in carrying several floors with it and the side walls had collapsed from the roof to the ground floor which is occupied by the bank. When firemen arrived flames were shooting out of the roof and all the windows above the second floor. Men were jumping from windows or scrambling down ropes made of bed clothes.

Many Injured.
More than a dozen jumped several stories to roofs of adjoining buildings and suffered broken legs or less serious injuries. Those who escaped unharmed ran about the streets in night clothes apparently frenzied, until they were forcibly carried into neighboring hotels.

The fire fighters repeatedly dodged one falling wall only to find themselves under another tottering mass of granite and brick.

Theodore Levy, of Louisville, Ky., clinging to a window sill until both hands were scorched almost black. Just as he was about to let go a fireman grasped him about the waist and carried him down a ladder. Levy said two of the men who had been killed jumped from the window to which he had clung.

As walls and floors collapsed they sent down showers of huge embers onto roofs of neighboring buildings and for a time threatened to cause a general conflagration in the heart of the retail district. All fire fighting apparatus of the city was brought to the scene.

Three Heroes.
Robert C. Magill, manager of the club, and his wife were aroused by the smoke. They discovered the fire in the dining room on the third floor. Before seeking their own safety they rushed up and down the halls waking guests. Both were badly burned. The telephone operator, a boy, remained at his post on the ground floor even after the firemen began pouring water into the building. Many of the guests credited their escape to him.

At 6 o'clock this morning, four hours after the fire had been discovered, the blaze was believed to have been under control. Half an hour later, however, the boilers in the basement began to explode and for the first time the firemen under orders of their chief withdrew from the street immediately in front of the building. It was feared the last two remaining walls would collapse and bury them.

Judge C. Orrick Bishop, assistant circuit attorney, roomed on the sixth floor.

The sound of flames crackling like

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DYNAMITERS LOSE IN THEIR APPEAL TO SUPREME COURT

Washington, March 9.—The Supreme court today refused to grant a review of the conviction of the dynamiting cases of Frank M. Ryan and 23 other members of the Bridge Workers union. Only a pardon can now keep the convicted men out of the penitentiary.

Webb Leaves for Raleigh Tonight

Important Meeting of State Democratic Executive Committee Tomorrow Night.

Chairman Charles A. Webb of the state democratic executive committee leaves tonight for Raleigh to attend a meeting of the committee, to be held there tomorrow night at 8:30 o'clock. This will be one of the most important meetings of the committee during the year. Mr. Webb will tender his resignation as chairman and his successor will be named. In addition to this, the committee will name the date for holding the various county conventions and for the state convention.

Mr. Webb was asked this morning by a Gazette-News reporter if he has any idea as to who will be named to succeed him as chairman. He replied that the only man who has announced himself as a candidate for the position is Thomas D. Warren of Newbern. He would not say, however that he thinks Mr. Warren will be selected.

A number of men have been mentioned for the place since it was announced that Mr. Webb would have to resign, owing to his appointment as United States marshal. Among these were: A. W. McLean of Rutherfordton, J. O. Carr of Wilmington, J. M. Pearsall of Newbern, Cameron Morrison of Charlotte, Editor Brittain of the Raleigh News and Observer and Mr. Warren. All of these except Mr. Warren have denied that they are candidates for the place.

The state convention this year, the date for which will be decided upon tomorrow night, will be for the purpose of nominating one candidate for the state corporation commissioner, several Superior court judges and a United States senator. The latter will either be appointed by this convention or his nomination confirmed from the primaries. The committee will decide tomorrow night whether or not the selection of a senatorial candidate shall be left to a primary vote.

This year will be the first time that a United States senator will be selected from North Carolina by popular vote. Senator Bacon of Georgia was the first in the country to be so selected, and Senator Lee of Maryland was the second. Considerable interest attaches to the question in this state, since the method decided on this year will doubtless serve as a precedent for succeeding years.

Wyatt in Race for Township Constable

W. H. Wyatt, Former Policeman, Announces His Candidacy Today.

W. H. Wyatt announces himself through the columns of The Gazette-News today as a candidate for the office of constable for Asheville township, subject to the action of the democratic primary. He will oppose Charles B. Joyner, the present constable, who announced himself several days ago.

Mr. Wyatt is well known in the city and township, having served for some time as a patrolman on the Asheville police force. He is now in business in West End.

Miss Anne Meade has returned to her home on Montford avenue from a ten days' visit to friends in New Orleans.

Mrs. Granyille Taylor and Miss McCreary have as their guest Miss Holly Brown of Sumter, S. C.

PLANS MAKING BILTMORE HOME

Mrs. Vanderbilt Says She Prefers Returning Here for Indefinite Stay on the Biltmore Estate.

NO CHANGES IN THE ESTATE'S MANAGEMENT

Funeral Services Were Held in Washington Today—Several Asheville Men Attending.

Gazette-News Bureau Wyatt Building, Washington, March 9.

Messrs. Van Winkle, Wheeler, Beadle, Ravenel and Reece, were here for the funeral of Mr. Vanderbilt today at noon. Dr. Battle, who has been in Florida for several days, was to arrive today. Dr. Swope, who conducted the service, arrived yesterday morning greatly fatigued from his journey, and the shock which he felt upon hearing of Mr. Vanderbilt's death. While wholly unprepared for the death of her husband, Mrs. Vanderbilt is feeling stronger now.

At the Vanderbilt residence on K street, Dr. Swope last night told the writer that Mrs. Vanderbilt would doubtless be glad to say through The Gazette-News that she regarded the Biltmore house as her home and would continue to do so. Just before The Gazette-News representative called, said Dr. Swope, Mrs. Vanderbilt said that she would be glad to get back to Biltmore, there to remain indefinitely. From time to time it has been reported, generally in New York papers, that Mrs. Vanderbilt did not care for the quiet life at the Biltmore mansion, but at the residence here last night, assurances were given that Mrs. Vanderbilt had no such feeling.

Dr. Swope stated that there was little reason to apprehend any material changes in the management of the Biltmore estate, that not only would Mrs. Vanderbilt continue to look upon the Biltmore house as her permanent home, but there was the further consideration that the estate was now being profitably conducted. Neither business nor social considerations would demand any radical change in the management of the estate, in the opinion of those perfectly familiar with the estate's affairs.

Mr. Waddell had to leave last night for Hendersonville on court business. Mr. Beadle agrees with Dr. Swope in the belief that no radical changes will be made in estate management.

Funeral Services.
Washington, March 9.—Funeral services for George W. Vanderbilt took place here today and his body was taken to New Dorp, Staten Island, N. Y., for burial at the old Vanderbilt home. The services were simple and brief and only close friends and relatives attended.

Senor Riano, ambassador from Spain, C. D. Beadle, Arthur Willet, Gifford Pinchot, Overton Price, Henry White, Herbert Putnam, Charles D. Walcott, secretary of the Smithsonian institution; and Major General Leonard Wood, chief of staff of the army, were honorary pallbearers.

Disturbances Follow Elections in Spain

Riot in Province of Malaga; Two Policemen and Many Citizens Hurt.

Madrid, Spain, March 9.—Disturbances in connection with the general parliamentary elections yesterday in Spain are reported from various places.

A riot at Bonagalbon in the province of Malaga resulted in the wounding of two policemen and a score of citizens. One policeman is missing and probably was killed.

In the city of Bilbao, also, disorders occurred. The chief of police and a number of rioters received severe injuries.

Rev. Dr. William Theophilus Capers, former rector of Trinity church, Asheville, will assume the duties of his new bishopric in western Texas in May.

Miss Mary Jordan of Greensboro is visiting her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Waddell, Jr., at their home on Grove street.

TO ENJOIN NEW SUGAR TARIFF

Supreme Court Grants Louisiana Permission to Apply For an Injunction Against McAdoo.

Washington, March 9.—The Supreme court today granted the state of Louisiana permission to file an application for an injunction against Secretary McAdoo enforcing the reduced sugar rates of the Underwood tariff act.

Mrs. Bertha Ruffy Commits Suicide

Young Spencer Woman Took Her Life Here Yesterday Morning.

Mrs. Bertha Ruffy, 28 years of age, wife of Arthur Ruffy, yardmaster for the Southern Railway company at Spencer, committed suicide here yesterday morning about 11:30 o'clock at the home of her cousin, John F. Keener, 164 Bartlett street. Mrs. Ruffy shot herself twice in the left side with a .38 calibre revolver, presumably after making an attempt to take her life by cutting her throat with a razor. Both the revolver and the razor were found on the bathroom floor, where the deed was committed. An inquest over the body was held at the undertaking establishment of Noland, Brown & Co., last night, the jury returning a verdict of suicide. The body was shipped to the home in Spencer this morning for interment.

The deceased left no message telling why she committed the rash act, although she made the statement to Miss Mullah Hoffman, who resides next door to the Keener home, that she was in trouble. Her health is said to have been the cause of the suicide, friends being the authority for the statement that Mrs. Ruffy had been suffering physical and mental ill for about a year. She was the mother of four children, the youngest of whom is only eight months old. She had been suffering from an hallucination for some time, it is said, that the baby was to be taken from her.

The seriousness of her condition had been known to relatives and friends for some time and a close watch was maintained over her in the fear that she might attempt to take her life. Yesterday morning, however, all members of the family left the house to attend church, leaving Mrs. Ruffy and her baby alone. Miss Hoffman was asked to keep watch over her. The latter went over and talked with her for a while, it is stated, when Mrs. Ruffy told her that she might return home as no assistance was needed. Just then, Miss Hoffman left the house and in a short time heard groans from the Keener home. She rushed over and found Mrs. Ruffy in the bathroom, partly undressed, and the revolver and razor lying on the floor. The baby was in a room downstairs. Dr. E. B. Glenn was called, and Mrs. Ruffy was rushed to the Merivether hospital, where an operation was performed by Drs. Glenn, Huntcut and Lynch in an attempt to save her life. She died two hours later.

Mrs. J. H. Weaver Dies at Home in Monroe

Wife of Rev. Dr. Weaver, Former Pastor of Central Church Is Dead.

News has just been received in the city of the death at Monroe, N. C., of Mrs. J. H. Weaver, wife of Rev. Dr. J. H. Weaver, who was formerly pastor of the Central Methodist church in this city. Details of the death have not been learned, but it is stated that she died several days ago.

For several years Dr. and Mrs. Weaver were residents of this city and they have hosts of friends here who will learn with sorrow of her passing. She was a woman of many fine qualities and was a consistent church worker.

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Miss Mary Jordan of Greensboro is visiting her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Waddell, Jr., at their home on Grove street.

ITALIAN TROOPS CHARGE RIOTERS

Cavalry Attacks Immense Mass of Turbulent Strikers Wounding Several of Demonstrators.

ACTION FOLLOWED MEETING AND RIOT

One Hundred Thousand Laborers Meet and Demand Changes in Conduct of The Hospitals.

Rome, March 9.—Squadrons of cavalry charged and dispersed crowds of turbulent strikers in the streets of Rome today, wounding several of the demonstrators. The action of the troops followed rioting between the strikers and police after an immense demonstration in the Piazza del Popolo. In these disturbances several policemen and manifestants had been badly injured.

Rome, March 9.—A meeting of 100,000 Italian workmen, who started a great strike today took place on the Piazza del Popolo this morning. Fiery speeches were delivered but there was no disorder. The meeting merely passed a resolution demanding that the public hospitals be reorganized for the benefit of the working classes. The ostensible reason for the strike was to protest against changes recently introduced in the hospitals. The authorities, however, believed the movement to be the outgrowth of a desire of the leaders of the workmen to test the strength of their organizations.

The entire garrison and police force were kept in readiness. Besides these 15,000 men, several regiments were brought in from the provinces. Every street-point in the city was occupied with soldiers and cavalry patrolled the main thoroughfares.

London, March 9.—Lord Derby is being picked by many political observers as likely to prove "dark horse" in the contest for the premiership when the unionists return to power.

Those who most ardently supported Bonar Law are now believing that his leadership has proved a failure. He is over 70 years of age and he is a liberal-unionist, a party association which has never helped a man to the leadership of the Unionists.

Lord Derby on the other hand, who has been unionist leader in the Lancashire for many years, has never associated himself with the tariff reform which has helped to defeat the unionists at three successive general elections. He is a "free feeder," like most Lancastrians, and has further strengthened his position by taking a strong stand against those who threatened civil war if the home rule bill is passed. While a staunch anti-home ruler Lord Derby spoke strongly against the Ulster men, should they rise against law and order. Against the denounced attempts to revive the royal veto, when a section of his party suggested that the King should be petitioned to withhold his signature from the home rule bill. He therefore gained the reputation of being a strong constitutionalist.

The Lancashire leader has the advantage of having served in the house of commons and has had considerable experience in the cabinet. He started his career as a member of the staff of the governor-general of Canada; was chief press censor and private secretary to Lord Roberts during the South African war, and was twice mentioned in dispatches for conspicuous services. Upon return to England he became one of the lords of the treasury, and later financial secretary to the war office, where he remained until he entered the cabinet as postmaster-general.

He had to retire from the house of commons, where he represented the West Houghton division of Lancashire for 14 years, on the death of his father in 1905, but he has continued his interest in politics. If not actually premier when the unionists return to power he is sure to fill one of the cabinet offices. His great wealth will of course help him, but of even greater assistance is his intimacy with King George.

Miss Frances Oates has returned from a visit of two months to relatives in Birmingham and Charlotte. Miss Oates was the recipient of marked social attention while away.

WHO RETURNED VERGARA'S BODY

KELLEY AND 1700 MEN ARE DEPORTED

Unemployed Army Sent Out Of Sacramento on Special Train—Guarded.

Sacramento, Cal., March 9.—Three militia companies stood guard today to see that "General" Kelley and 1700 unemployed men obeyed the orders when a special train was made up to carry them out of the city. It was planned to ship them back to San Francisco.

The marchers, who left San Francisco last week for the purpose, it was announced, of going to Washington, D. C., have been camped on Southern Pacific property. The situation at the "army" camp Sunday was both ludicrous and threatening. Baseball games, boxing matches, and impassioned oratory were features. Thousands of persons viewed the camp.

Sanitation was becoming bad, city health authorities said and it was asserted that if the army was permitted to remain it would become a menace to health. James Rolph, Jr., mayor, said today regarding the plan to return 1,700 unemployed men from Sacramento that he would pursue a policy of "watchful aling."

The mayor called attention to the California statutes of 1911 under which it is a misdemeanor for any person, firm or corporation to bring into a city or county any person who might become an indigent.

ALBANIANS DRIVEN OUT BY INHABITANTS OF KORITSA

Revolt Against Government Officials—Autonomous Government Proclaimed.

Athens, Greece, March 9.—Dispatches today from Koritsa, where the Albanians had stationed government officials, say the inhabitants of the town have revolted and driven out the Albanians. The people afterward proclaimed an autonomous government.

Later rumors had it that former employees of the Vergara ranch, chafing at idleness in securing the body for proper interment, had taken matters into their own hands.

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Mystery Surrounds Expedition Into Mex. Which Returned Remains of American Killed Recently.

THERE WERE ONLY 9 MEN IN THE PARTY

Body Was Turned Over to Rangers at Border—Capt. Refuses to Tell Who Delivered It.

Laredo, Tex., March 9.—Recuerdos—"Remembrance"—written on a card attached to a shovel that protruded from an open grave was the single trace found today of the party of men who mysteriously entered Hidalgo and returned it to Texas. Vergara's body was carried across the Rio Grande 45 miles above Laredo early Sunday morning and here it was found by a federal official, a state officer and a county deputy sheriff. Who was responsible for its removal from Mexico was a question still unanswered. The body was here today awaiting an examination which state authorities hope may disclose something to aid them in placing blame for the ranchman's violent death after he was taken prisoner by Mexican federals.

A superficial examination of the body disclosed two gunshot wounds in the head, one in the neck, a blow from a rifle butt which crushed the skull and the mutilated left hand, twisted and charred by fire, suggested that torture had been inflicted before Vergara was executed.

Texas rangers of the troop of Captain J. J. Sanders were first declared responsible for the return of Vergara's body, but later this was denied. Captain Sanders was one of the men who "were informed" that the body could be found at a designated place. The other two were American Consul Garrett of Nuevo Laredo, Mex., and Deputy Sheriff Petty. They went to the scene ostensibly to secure further information on the Vergara case but admitted later that they had been told that the body had been returned. Who were their informants was one of numerous questions each of the officials in turn refused to answer. They did say, however, that neither United States nor state officials had any part in the actual trip into Mexico.

Later rumors had it that former employees of the Vergara ranch, chafing at idleness in securing the body for proper interment, had taken matters into their own hands.

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A big book on a big subject for only a half a dollar.

COUPON Save it for a Copy of THE PANAMA CANAL by Frederic J. Haskin Author of "The American Canal" Gazette-News Monday Mar. 9 Colonel Goethals says: "Accurate and Dependable"

HOW TO GET THIS BOOK On account of the educational value and patriotic appeal of this book, The Gazette-News has arranged with Mr. Haskin to distribute a limited edition among its readers for the mere cost of production and handling. It is bound in a heavy cloth. It contains 400 pages, 100 illustrations and diagrams, an index, and two maps (one of them beautiful bird's-eye view of the Canal Zone in four colors). IT IS ACTUALLY A \$2.00 VALUE. Cut the above coupon from six consecutive issues of the paper, present them with 50 cents at our office, and a copy of the book is yours. Fifteen cents extra if sent by mail. OUR GUARANTEE: This is not a money-making scheme. The Gazette-News will not make a penny of profit from this campaign. It has undertaken the distribution of this book solely because of its educational merit and whatever benefit there is to be derived from the good will of those who profit from our offer. The Gazette-News will cheerfully refund the price of the book to any purchaser who is not satisfied with it. Present Six Coupons of Consecutive Dates FIFTEEN CENTS EXTRA IF SENT BY MAIL