

SIX MONTHS FIRE LOSS IS ENORMOUS

BUT IT IS IMPROVEMENT OVER FIRST SIX MONTHS OF LAST YEAR.

110 STORES ARE BURNED

While the Loss in North Carolina is Reduced From That of 1921, That of U. S. and Canada Increased.

Raleigh. The fire loss for the first six months of 1922 in North Carolina, according to official records in the State Fire Marshal's office, is enormous, but Commissioner Wade shows that it is an improvement over the same period in 1921, and highly favorable when compared for the record for the country at large, for while the loss in North Carolina is reduced \$605,489 from that of 1921, that of the United States and Canada has increased \$27,931,300.

The losses by months are as follows:

	North Carolina	U. S. and Canada
January	\$1,089,350	\$38,662,000
February	354,885	29,304,300
March	476,452	39,910,750
April	825,585	31,009,750
May	351,371	29,868,950
June	105,980	24,102,350
	\$3,198,623	\$192,857,600

During the six months, January 1 to July 1, fire destroyed or injured the following classes of property to the number indicated:

Dwellings, 45; stores, 110; autos not in storage 44; warehouse and storage, 35; garages, 32; industrial plants, 28; barns, 22; pressing clubs, 17; schools, 1; cafes, 14; hotels, 8; outhouses, 7; Passenger and freight stations and platforms, 8; newspaper and printing plants, 6; gineries, 5; laundries, 4; saw mills, 4; hospitals, 3; barber shops 3; two each of banks, boats, service stations, churches, power and light plants, apartments; one each of telephone exchange, Y. M. C. A., lodge rooms, wood yard, pumping plant, state building, stand-pipe, and toilet.

Sparks on shingle roofs and defective flues caused 281 fires; unknown, 194; exposure, 91; oil stove explosion, 40; overhot stove, 35; cigarettes and smoking, 26; incendiary, 25; carelessness, 22; gasoline ignition, 21; short circuit, 15; defective wiring, 15; child and match, 10; suspicious, 9; lightning, 9; eight each of spontaneous combustion, lamp explosion, hot ashes, accidental, rubbish and trash; seven each of electric iron, machine friction, engine spark; matches, 5; rate and matches, 4; open fires, 4; one each of wet lime, hot box, hot cinders, live coal on floor, movie film.

Governor to Open Farm Convention.

Governor Cameron Morrison will open the Farmers' and Farm Women's convention with an address at noon Thursday, August 1, according to the completed program which is now in press. On the program for the first day in addition to Governor Morrison, are some of the most noted teachers in agriculture, including G. K. McClure, of the Farmers' Federation, which has been so successful in handling the marketing of farm products in Buncombe county, and John B. Hutcheson, director of the Virginia Agricultural Extension service.

The American Farm Bureau Federation is sending one of its best speakers in L. R. Pollock, who will give Tar Heel farmers information about the Farm Bureau Federation in solving marketing and legislative problems in other states.

At the close of the first day's program comes the big community sing after which there will be a social hour with music and free punch on the state college grounds.

Railroads have announced special reduced rates for the three-day convention.

Round Up Cars With Old Tags.

With more than two million dollars collected from the owners of 126,000 passenger cars and 14,000 motor trucks the license bureau of the department of state will send forth its deputies during the coming week to round up the remaining few thousand automobile owners in the state who have not paid their tribute toward the maintenance of roads in North Carolina.

Registrations are still under 18,000 under the total for the previous year, but J. E. Shipman, who directs the license bureau, thinks that half that number will take care of the cars actually in use in the state.

Governor Paroles One.

After having served 13 months of a two-year sentence for violation of the prohibition law, Mrs. Nellie Rhymer, of Henderson county was paroled by Governor Morrison on recommendation of Judge Harding, who tried the case, and J. E. Shipman, the solicitor.

In consideration of newly discovered evidence, Governor Morrison gave a respite of ninety days to T. H. Brown and W. A. L. Smith, convicted in Mecklenburg superior court for manufacturing whiskey.

The Governor Speaks at N. C. State.

"Men are teaching in North Carolina today that damnable Russian doctrine that the law is a heartless and cruel thing," Governor Cameron Morrison told the teachers of vocational agriculture, gathered in annual conference at the N. C. State, as he turned aside a moment from his message on the home production of foodstuffs. He promised that "as long as he may be governor he will do everything in his power to crush the teachers of the doctrine that has drenched Europe in blood."

The Governor took a whack at those who opposed his stand on the strike situation in North Carolina and the United States. Speaking of his letter in reply to President Harding's appeal for troops to help reopen the coal mines, he declared, "If Harding and the folks at Washington will let me run North Carolina, I will be perfectly willing to let them run the United States—if they can."

Governor Morrison voiced his unalterable stand against "any group of citizens who erect a standard of insubordination in North Carolina and insist upon their right to mob a man for no other reason than he has a job and wants to work it."

"The future greatness of North Carolina depends a great deal more on raising chickens and hogs than on raising politicians and statesmen," the governor told the conference. Governor Morrison preceded his talk by a round-table discussion among the members of the conference and a talk by Robert D. Maltby, of the Federal Board for Vocational Education, Washington, D. C. Mr. Maltby contrasted the work of the county agents and the vocational teachers and said that there was a no-man's land between the fields covered by the two branches of agricultural instruction, on which the teachers and the agents would clash in the conflict to their scopes of influence unless steps were taken beforehand to draw up ground rules so that the two parties could co-operate, instead of antagonize each other.

The governor was in complete accord with the work being done by the vocational teachers. "I know nothing," he said, "that will do more for the strengthening and upbuilding of the state than the teaching of real, scientific agriculture. It ought to be tremendously augmented in North Carolina for it is a science that can be easily taught."

Governor Morrison said that he hoped to be able to present a definite plan for an enlargement of the scope of agricultural teaching before the next general assembly.

"I do hope North Carolina will never cease to be an agricultural state," Governor Morrison continued with earnestness, "for that state or nation which neglects the basic industry of the world, will be the base a weak people, I care not how proficient they may be in industry, mercantile enterprises or mechanics."

In proof of this assertion he cited instances of nations building up great empires on artificial foundations and then toppling when the real stress came, while other nations, not so great and not so rich, but resting on the firm, plain foundation of a hardy rural population and a liberal production of foodstuffs, weathered the storms of state which overthrew their greater neighbors.

But there are different brands of agriculture, Governor Morrison warned the farmers.

"The farmers of North Carolina have not been prosperous, they are not prosperous, and they will not be prosperous until they change their methods of farming," he said. "We are very weak in the fact that we raise crops to sell and not to eat. In the broad, accepted sense of the word, we are not a strong agricultural state, we are nothing but world unsurpassed growers of cotton and tobacco."

Governor Morrison declared that in order for North Carolina to seize the place that was hers in the agricultural world that she must devote more time to the raising of live-stock, poultry and vegetables in order that the money she receives from the sale of her cotton and tobacco may not go out of the state for "a side of white meat and a sack of musty Minnesota meal."

The raising of cotton and tobacco alone Governor Morrison characterized as "speculation more hazardous than gambling in the New York exchange."

"Sell your tobacco, and cotton," the Governor said, "eat your hogs and chickens and garden vegetables and eggs, feed them to your children, until we people in North Carolina are as strong and fat and sassy as our ancestors used to be."

After his talk to the vocational teachers Governor Morrison was hailed by a group of Alamance county farmers, as he was driving into town and stopped long enough to get out and shake hands with them and make them a short talk, emphasizing the value of raising more food crops.

Robeson Man Gets Parole.

Upon representations that Merritt Quick, serving twelve months on the roads of Robeson county for false pretense, is feeble-minded and on condition that Quick accompany his brother out of the state, Governor Morrison granted the prisoner a parole. The parole was recommended by B. S. McLean, the solicitor who prosecuted the case.

Governor Morrison declined to pardon Marshall Wheeler, Vance county, serving 18 months in the state prison for store-breaking.

16 MEN INDICTED BY FLORIDA JURY

ALLEGED MEMBERS OF WELL ORGANIZED RING OF LIQUOR SMUGGLERS.

OPERATING MORE THAN YEAR

Charged With Plying Liquor and Chinese Trade Between Cuba and the United States.

Pensacola, Fla.—The indictment of 16 persons alleged to be members of a well organized ring of Chinese and liquor smugglers that has been operating extensively between Cuba and the United States for more than a year, became known here after Assistant United States District Attorney George Earl Hoffman had been notified of the arrest of Louis Ying, alias Quon Yick, a Chinaman, in Philadelphia.

Two indictments charging conspiracy were returned at a special three-day session of the United States court in Gainesville a week ago.

C. P. Moore, of Crestview, Fla., formerly a private detective, and owner of the auxiliary schooner Success, the boat on which both Chinamen and liquor are alleged to have been smuggled, is the first person named in each of the indictments. He is the brains of the alleged unlawful operations, officials say.

Others who officials say were in the "inner circle" of the alleged operations are B. H. Sutton, ex-sheriff of Okaloosa county; Louis Ying, alias Quon Yick, of Philadelphia; Benjamin Edmondson, of Pensacola; B. Churchwell, ex-deputy under Sutton; Dorsey M. Rice, alias D. M. Richardson, Havana, Cuba; Charley Sney and Charlie Hong, Apalachicola, Fla.

The investigation was conducted under the direction of District Attorney Fred Cubberly and his assistant, George Earl Hoffman, by G. Léelle Darden, special agent of the department of justice, and L. R. Cobb, federal prohibition agent for this district.

The Benjamin R-E, belonging to Captain Edmondson, one of the alleged conspirators, and the Jane, two of the fastest speedboats of this section of the coast, were immediately seized by the government. They are the boats, labels charge, that met the Success outside the three-mile limit and transported the contraband cargo into Choctawhatchee bay. The Success is in Cuba at present, it is said, where she was caught attempting to smuggle liquor out improperly several days ago. She will also be seized, officials state, when she returns to the United States.

Cars Run Wild, Wrecking Plant.

Thomasville.—The finishing and upholstery department of Plant No. 3 of the Standard Chair company, was completely wrecked when ten freight cars running wild ran in on the Standard Chair company's switch and drove a freight car loaded with lumber into the building, a three-story frame one. Three men were painfully hurt, and the damage to the plant and stock therein is estimated at \$25,000.

Fortunately only about seven of the 25 men at work were in the wing of the building wrecked, the others being in another part of the building preparing to go home. The injured are: Gross Hill, aged 21, who is perhaps the least hurt; Jim Hilton, 25, and a man with a family, who is suffering with internal injuries; Mack Pace, 35, also a man with a family, is the more seriously injured, sustaining a broken ankle and internal injuries.

Promoters Defraud Many Colonists.

Washington.—Warning against unofficial promoters of colonization schemes in South America was issued by the commerce department, which added that such promoters have been particularly active in the western states. Many Americans going to South America as colonists have found that they have invested their savings in land in the remote wilderness, the department says.

"The reports have recently reached Washington," the statement continued "concerning the unhappy plight of a number of American citizens who have been inveigled by unreliable promoters into going to South America as colonists. Having invested their savings in land and in passage money they have arrived at their destination with little or no funds, and have found that these purchases were in remote localities without markets or means of communication. Disillusioned they have made their way back through the wilderness to the coast, singly or in groups."

Bandits Sack Town.

Mexico City.—Actalan de Jaurez, a village in Jalisco, was sacked by foot-lowers of Juan Carrasco, who killed two policemen and committed other depredations.

Frederico Arteso, operating in Durango, is reported officially to have been killed in a clash with the defense police near Temascalas, Governor Maria Uriel and ten of his men have been killed, it is said. The situation is little changed though a regrouping of the rebels is seriously threatened.

LARGE GAS TANK BLOWS UP WITH HEAVY LOSS.

Chicago.—A tank sixty feet wide and one hundred feet high, containing thousands of cubic feet of gas, blew up at Twenty-fifth and Throop streets, a section inhabited mostly by laborers, injured more than a score of persons, set fire to a dozen houses and caused many persons within an area of several blocks to be overcome by the poisonous fumes. The flames were brought under control by the fire department.

The cause of the explosion was undetermined. The top of the tank blew off and witnesses said that simultaneously a tremendous sheet of flames shot upward. Within a few seconds houses were burning and scores of persons were fleeing.

GIRL DIRECTED SMUGGLING

MRS. EDITH STEPHENS, 19 YEARS OLD, CHARGED WITH LIQUOR PLOTTING.

Captain Oman Testifies That Woman Directed the Loading of the Edith in Bermuda.

New York.—A story of liquor smugglers loading their cargo in Bermuda under the direction of a girl and making runs to the shores of Long Island Sound, gun fights and seizures by federal agents, has been revealed in the arraignment of Mrs. Edith Stephens, 19 years old, in Brooklyn on an indictment charging conspiracy to smuggle liquor into New York from Bermuda.

She was indicted as an accomplice of Antonio Cassese, wealthy tobacco merchant, who fled when a second indictment charging a plot to smuggle huge quantities of liquor into the country followed the seizure of two of his vessels.

Cassese was charged with being the owner of the yacht Edith, captured by government agents here with 1000 cases of liquor aboard last March.

At the trial Captain Charles Oman of the Edith testified that the woman directed the loading of the Edith in Bermuda and accompanied the cargo to New York. He said Cassese also was aboard. Neither was on the yacht when it was seized. Oman was sent to Atlanta for a year. The trawler Ripple was the second vessel to be captured by the government agents after a voyage to Bermuda, when it tried to land a cargo of liquor in New York harbor. The vessel was taken after a revolver battle with the crew. When Cassese learned of the second seizure he fled, although out on \$5000 bond in the first case.

Mrs. Stephens denied that she knew anything about the Ripple, although she admitted being on board the Edith and making a trip on the yacht from Bermuda.

Meeting on Allied War Debt.

Washington.—The first formal negotiations for the funding of the allied war debt by the United States were to take place at a meeting of Jean V. Parmentier, refunding representative of France, with the American debt commission.

M. Parmentier has had a number of conferences with Secretary Mellon, chairman of the commission and treasury officials, when statements showing the financial and economic condition of France, were submitted for the information of the debt commission.

These statements have been analyzed by the treasury's experts and M. Parmentier is expected to answer the questions concerning the French budget operations, the exports and imports of the country and the general resources of France with respect to her ability to liquidate the \$3,500,000,000 war debt owed the United States.

Maniac Finally Gives Up Fight.

Hinton, W. Va.—John Fredeking, the insane man who barricaded himself in his house and for thirteen days resisted the efforts of deputy sheriffs and state police to arrest him after he had killed one man and wounded four others, appeared at the front door, threw up his hands and asked for a drink of water.

Two troopers, who, with other officers, have resorted to every known means short of firing the house to dislodge Fredeking, stepped up to the door, got him the water he craved and then led him to the county jail. He refused to answer their questions and appeared to be dazed. Physicians were summoned from the Hinton hospital where they had been treating the men wounded in the firing of the past days, and dressed a bullet wound in Fredeking's right arm and another injury to his right shoulder.

Canada's Shopmen Vote Against Cut.

Montreal.—A strike against wages cuts inaugurated among Canadian railway shopmen was favored by 97 per cent of the voters in a ballot just completed by the local unions.

R. J. Fallon, president of division No. 4, railway employees department of the American Federation of Labor, followed the announcement with a telegram to Premier King, making known the reductions.

Definite action by the union will be withheld until the premier answers the message, Fallon told him.

IMPROVEMENT IN COTTON PROSPECTS

JOURNAL OF COMMERCE FINDS PERCENTAGE CONDITION OF 74.1.

LOWLAND COTTON SUFFERS

From These Sections Drawbacks Are Black Rot, Boll Rot and Inability to Cultivate Soggy Soil.

New York.—From a careful survey into cotton conditions, undertaken by the Journal of Commerce for July, it will be seen that generally favorable weather has brought about further substantial improvement. According to reports received by this paper, under an average date of July 24, there has been an increase in percentage condition of 1.7 per cent to 74.1 per cent.

This represents the opinions of more than 1,600 competent correspondents, and compares with an estimated condition of 72.4 per cent of a month ago, 71.8 per cent at the end of May, and a ten-year average of 75.3 per cent. More over, it is an advance of 6.3 per cent over July, last year, when cotton conditions had fallen as low as 67.8 per cent. In 1920 the per cent condition averaged 74.8 per cent, in 1919 70.1 per cent and 77.4 per cent the year before that.

With an exception, in 1920, when per cent condition advanced 3.3 per cent, it was the largest increase for July in recent years, and contrasts very favorably with the years 1919 and 1918, which sustained declines of 1.3 per cent and 5.7 per cent, respectively. In view of prevailing uncertainties regarding the cotton situation, very few correspondents are as yet venturing upon predictions as to the size of the crop.

Since the date of the replies the weather has been especially favorable, which would indicate still better conditions than those reported. This showing seems to bear out the statement made earlier in the season that the cotton plant can stand a good deal of moisture without permanent injury.

Inquiries directed particularly to root conditions revealed very few complaints of lateral roots. A substantial majority reported at least a fair tap root. All this applies more especially to cotton in the uplands and hill sections. Lowland cotton and on the bottoms has not been as fortunate. From these sections complaints have been very general and poor tap root, rank growth, plants running to stalk and poorly fruited. Drawbacks such as excessive shedding, black rust, boll rot and inability to cultivate because of the soggy soil, have all combined to render the outlook very unfavorable. Furthermore, weevils, at the points in question, are already proving troublesome, although elsewhere damage is thus far comparatively slight. On the other hand, the drought in certain parts of Texas threatens to somewhat reduce the favorable showing made by that state.

Two Army Aviators Burned to Death.

Middleton, N. Y.—Lieutenant Tracey Lyons, O. R. C., aviation section, U. S. A., and Augustus Altemier Jr., of Port Jarvis, were burned to death when an airplane in which they were riding crashed to earth. Breaking of the propeller caused the plane to take a fatal nose dive. Explosion of the gasoline tank, coincident with the crash, scathed both men and the plane in flames. The plane fell from a height of approximately fifty feet and about an eighth of a mile from where it started.

Five Killed in Automobile Wreck.

Detroit.—Five persons were killed and one injured when a driver of an automobile occupied by the five, attempted to avoid a collision with another machine and was crowded in front of a Detroit and Pontiac interurban car, just north of here.

The dead are John W. Murphy, 45 years old, his sons, John W. Jr., 6, and James F. 4; Mrs. Josephine Gay, 50, all of Detroit, and Miss Marie Flanagan, 17, of Owosso.

Nelson Ogden, of Pontiac, the motorman, was badly cut by flying glass, the vestibule of the interurban being crushed in by the force of the collision. The automobile caught fire and Murphy's body was virtually incinerated. Witnesses laid the blame for the accident on the unidentified driver of the other machine, who disappeared after the accident.

Marines to Chase Oil Squatters.

Washington.—Persistent squatters on the government's big oil reservation at Teapot Dome (Wyoming) are going to be "invited" to get off government property by the United States marines.

Refusal of the squatters to vacate a location 40 miles west of Caspar resulted in the navy department, which has charge of the reserve, ordering a marine officer and several enlisted men sent from Washington to enforce the government's order to vacate.

RALPH MURRILL IS REPORTED KILLED

Berlin.—Officials of the company operating the airplane service from Berlin to Hamburg are unable to explain the sudden plunge of the combination postal-passenger airplane near Boisenburg while on the trip to Hapsburg. The plane carried to instant death its three passengers, R. S. Murrill, of Charlotte, N. C., Albert Baurigin and Senior Consevgera, and Pilot von Betram.

The supposition is that the pilot endeavored to make an emergency landing, but miscalculated his direction and landed in dense woods. The investigating commission has not yet returned to Berlin, but it is believed probable it will fail to establish the cause of the accident, as there is a complete wreck.

It is explained by the officials that the wrecked plane was virtually a new one, its motor having run for only 44 hours. Von Betram, a well known war aviator, made repeated trips from Berlin to Hamburg with a machine of a similar type.

The identity of the American was established through an employe of the American military mission in Berlin.

BON-CLARKEN OPEN TO PUBLIC

ASSEMBLY GROUND NEAR HENDERSONVILLE TO BE A BUSY PLACE.

Number of Prominent Men Will Speak There During the Next Few Weeks.

Hendersonville, N. C.—With two church conferences slated for August, 65 guests already within its gates, and plans being made for the erection of cottages on the property next summer, Bon-Clarken, the Associate-Reformed Presbyterian Assembly grounds, Inc., is in the full swing of its first session.

Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Brownlee, of Anderson, S. C., are the managers of the property this summer. The beautiful old estate, formerly known as "Heidelberg Gardens," has received great improvement since it was purchased by the leaders of the Associate-Reformed Presbyterians, who obtained it during the past year as a permanent place for the church conferences during the summer. Among these are a 25,000-gallon water tank, the installation of electric lights and modern plumbing, and new furnishings throughout.

The property embraces a park, farm and orchard, a commodious hotel, and several cottages. It is situated one mile from Flat Rock station, three miles from Hendersonville, four miles from Kanuga Lake, and 23 miles from Asheville. Though primarily for the purposes of the church, Bon-Clarken hotel has been opened to the public, offering a splendid place to people seeking a resort place with Christian influences.

The Sunday school and young people's conference of the A. R. P. church will be held at Bon-Clarken from August 4 to 12. Each day from 9 to 12 o'clock Bible classes will be held, a Vesper service in the evening at 7 and an address at 8 o'clock by some outstanding man in the Christian world.

The Bible conference is scheduled for August 13 to 21, and will bring delegates here from practically every southern state. Dr. McNaughton of the Alleghany Theological seminary, Alleghany, Pa., and Dr. Whaling, of Richmond, Va., will be the speakers at the conference.

E. C. Stewart, of Bartow, Fla., who is chairman of the board of directors of the institution, will arrive soon with his family to spend the remainder of the summer at Bon-Clarken.

The Kiwanis Club of Hendersonville will hold its weekly luncheon at Bon-Clarken, thus initiating the hotel under its new ownership and management with a meeting of a Hendersonville civic organization.

Whiskey Distillers War on Officers.

Louisville, Ky.—Whiskey distillers from the entire country were assembled here to "declare war" upon the national prohibition enforcement officers, according to statements of their attorneys. Support in the stand of the distillers in opposing the regulation of whiskey withdrawals from warehouses, when the liquor is to be used for medicinal purposes, will come from the American Medical Association, it was claimed. Both organizations, according to the announcement, have complained of the "arbitrary rulings placed on physicians and druggists by the national prohibition administration."

Large Attendance For Peach Exhibit.

Hamlet, N. C.—The second annual peach exhibit opened here with every indication pointing to its success. More than 3,000 visitors from New York to Florida are in attendance while the exhibits are numerous.

J. G. Grant of McBee and J. V. Smith of Greer, were awarded first prizes in the Elberta peach class exhibits. Addresses on various phases of the peach growing industry by C. S. Usker, of Baltimore, Md., and C. C. Newman, of Clemson College, were the features of the morning session.

JUSTICE CLARK IS HURT IN WRECK

FEARED FOR SOME TIME THAT SKULL HAD BEEN FRACTURED.

X-RAY EXAMINATION IS MADE

Scalp Wound Misses Justice's Brain by Little More Than a Hair's Breadth.

Raleigh, N. C.—While not seriously hurt, as examinations revealed, Chief Justice Walter Clark's escape from possible fatal injuries in the automobile accident near Carthage was almost miraculous, according to an account of the mishap by his son, John Clark.

A scalp wound missed the chief justice's brain by scarcely a hair's breadth, and physicians making an examination at Rex hospital considered that its penetration for a fraction of an inch deeper would have caused instant death.

An x-ray examination was made to make certain the extent of his injuries. Judge Clark was able to go home after the examination.

According to the account given by friends of John Clark, the steering wheel locked, swerving the wheels and throwing the car down an embankment. Justice Clark was thrown from the rear seat through the windshield. He sustained a number of slight bruises and cuts about the head in addition to the deeper wound. Mrs. John Clark sustained a deep cut in the tongue, making it necessary for her to take nourishment through a tube, otherwise she was not seriously hurt. Her husband's injuries consisted of bruises and cuts.

The accident is the second narrow escape for the chief justice. Friends recall that some nine years ago only a rare presence of mind saved him from asphyxiation by gas.

An open jet in a closed room furnished a flow of gas in a room in the Clark house in which Justice Clark was caught unawares. Judge Clark was almost suffocated when he finally succeeded in cutting the connection and reaching a window.

Judge Clark's advanced age made his escape from more serious injury the more remarkable, in the opinion of friends. He is 70.

He and his son and daughter-in-law were returning to Raleigh after a tour of the western part of the state.

Newspaper Men Visit Chimney Rock.

Shelby, N. C.—After enjoying for a few hours the delights of Chimney Rock, one of the most wonderful spots in the southern Appalachian mountains, made all the more wonderful by the artistic development work for which Dr. L. B. Moore has been responsible, the members of the North Carolina Press association turned their faces homeward, marking the final breaking up of the body which held its annual convention at Cleveland Springs hotel near here.

The trip to Chimney Rock brought from numbers of newspaper men exuberant expressions of surprise. Those who had not seen the place before admitted they had never had any true conception of the wonderful mountain scenery to be enjoyed there, nor had they any comprehensive idea of the great development that has taken place here in the way of construction of dining room, dancing pavilion, apartments for "cliff dwellers," etc., right on the precipitous rocky face of the gigantic, Gibraltar-like mountain of stone, from which the "Chimney" itself stands out not entirely unlike a protruding smoke-stack.

On the way to Chimney Rock, a distance of some 50 miles from Shelby along the Wilmington-Charlotte-Asheville highway, the editorial party stopped at Rutherfordton, "The Gateway of the Land of the Sky," and were given the most cordial and really exuberant welcome by the citizens of the Rutherford county capital.

Slaying Held "Not Accidental."

Crewe, Va.—Following a verdict of the coroner's jury, made public recently, the fatal shooting here of E. R. Widkins, a Norfolk and Western yard clerk, and the wounding of George Marsh, a painter, on the night of July 1, by Detective Guard W. H. Bell, "was not accidental as indicated by Bell." Commonwealth's Attorney Lee, of Nottoway county, announced he will immediately ask a grand jury to bring in an indictment charging Bell with murder.

Irish Nationals Killed.

Belfast.—The ambush of a party of Free State troops was reported from Glenties, County Donegal. They encountered a man dressed as a priest, who assured them there was no danger in the locality. Suddenly seven men emerged from behind a hedge and opened fire upon the national soldiers, killing two of them. Four of the attacking party were captured during subsequent fighting.

According to a report reaching here the residence of Lord Leitrim at Mulroy, Donegal, was burned.