

A. F. Johnson, Editor and Manager.

THE COUNTY, THE STATE, THE UNION.

Subscription \$1.50 Per Year

VOLUME XLVI.

LOUISBURG, N. C., FRIDAY, APRIL 13TH, 1917.

NUMBER 9

## \$150,000 OF PROPERTY DESTROYED BY FIRE

### Entire Oil Mill Section Was Wiped Out Wednesday

#### BIGGEST FIRE LOUISBURG HAS EXPERIENCED.

**OIL MILL, Cotton Gin, Office Residence, Six Storage Houses, Completely Destroyed, 400 Bales of Cotton and Thousands of Bushels of Cotton Seed Badly Damaged—Only Partially Covered by Insurance.**

What proved to be possibly the largest fire, certainly in the amount of loss, in the history of Louisburg occurred here on Wednesday evening, when the entire Oil Mill section was destroyed by fire together with a big lot of Cotton, Cotton Seed, and Cotton Oil products. From the best information we can get it seems that the fire started in the top of a large seed storage house located between the cotton gin and the oil mill, and spread so rapidly that it was impossible to keep the flames from either of the adjoining buildings. The alarm was turned in at about 4:45 and while the fire department answered immediately and hundreds of citizens responded, the fire was raging so rapidly and spreading so fast when they arrived that they soon found that they could only protect adjoining property. This they did heroically, but at times it looked as if the fire was going to cross the street to another large prize house and again to cross the railroad to the Louisburg Coal & Ice Co.'s plant and other storage houses but by persistent and steady work on the part of the firemen they finally succeeded in confining the flames to Oil Mill district. It is generally admitted that the losses will reach at least \$150,000 and may even exceed that, with the amount only partially covered by insurance.

Among the losers are the following:

Louisburg Cotton Oil Co.—Cotton Oil Mill and equipment, Cotton gin and equipment, offices, two seed storage houses with big quantities of seed, 1 storage house with cotton, 1 storage house for hulls fairly well filled, a lot of horse stalls.

Allen Bros., two storage houses, a big lot of cotton, fertilizer, etc.

W. Hal Mann, a one room residence and personal belongings, also damage to residence.

H. M. Stovall, damage to household goods in moving from building about to catch.

During the progress of the fire the residence of Mr. J. R. Williams, located across the river and almost a half mile from the scene caught from falling sparks, but was soon extinguished with but slight damage.

Seven box cars of the Seaboard Air Line caught, but owing to the quick and effective work of the train crew and section hands the cars were soon removed and extinguished, with only a very slight damage.

The fire was one of the quickest the citizens of Louisburg have ever witnessed, unless it has a parallel in the one about fourteen years ago, when Cheatham's Stemmy and a number of buildings burned, as within an hour the flames had covered these buildings and had spent its force.

There was estimated about four hundred bales of cotton in this fire practically all of which is damaged to at least fifty per cent of its value, and many thousands bushels of cotton seed, besides a lot of cotton seed products, as the mill was in operation at the time the fire started.

While assisting in rolling out and away bales of cotton from the cotton gin Mr. J. L. Palmer was badly hurt by a bale of cotton falling against his back. He was resting fairly well yesterday morning and it is not thought the injury will prove serious.

On account of the policies being locked up in the safe that went through the fire it is impossible to say how much insurance there was on the property, however it is known that it was not fully insured and that the actual loss will be great.

The firemen and a large number of citizens deserve much credit for the splendid work done to save the fire from spreading to adjoining property.

#### BRAZIL BREAKS OFF GERMAN RELATIONS

**Government Is Thought to Have Received From Paris Full Details of Sinking of Brazilian Steamer.**  
London, April 10.—Diplomatic relations between Brazil and Germany have been broken off, according to The Evening News.

#### Report Has Been Received.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, April 10.—The official report regarding the sinking of the Brazilian steamship Parana, which the government has been awaiting before taking definite action toward Germany, is believed to have been received today from the legation in Paris. It is expected the government this afternoon will sever relations with Germany. Switzerland will take over Brazilian interests at Berlin.

#### Mrs. J. L. Bowden Dead.

Early Wednesday morning, Mrs. J. Lawrence Bowden died at her home at Justice, 10 miles east of this city, after a ten days' illness of pneumonia.

Mrs. Bowden was 69 years old, and for many years she has been one of the most active and progressive ladies in her community. She was a devout Christian woman, being a member of the Primitive Baptist church at Spring Hope, and gave her life in self-sacrificing service to others.

She was the mother of 14 children, eight of whom are now living, viz: Mrs. Sarah J. Stallings, Mrs. R. L. Hayes, Mrs. G. S. Earp, and J. C. Bowden, of Justice; Mrs. W. J. Cooper and Mrs. Dr. E. M. Perry, of Louisburg, and L. W. Bowden and Henry C. Bowden, of Raleigh. Her husband, Mr. J. Lawrence Bowden, who is one of the leading spirits in his community and county, also survives her.

The funeral services were held from her home on yesterday afternoon and the interment was made in the family burying ground near the home.

A large number of friends and relatives from far and near were present to pay a last sad tribute to the deceased.

#### Mr. Leonard in Accident.

Mr. Fed B. Leonard was in to see us Wednesday and was telling us of an accident he had with the Spring Hope to Rocky Mount train on Tuesday. It seems that he was returning from Rocky Mount in an automobile that evening, accompanied by Miss Bennette, of Virginia, and upon approaching the railroad crossing about one mile out from Spring Hope he collided head-on with the train, seriously damaging the car and came near experiencing serious injury to himself and the lady who was with him. At this point of the railroad it seems that there is two crossings within about a half a mile of each other and Mr. Leonard says he heard the train blow for the further one but had no idea it would reach the latter before himself.

Aside from a pretty badly scaring up and a sore shoulder no injuries to either occupant of the car were sustained.

#### The Train Was Wrecked.

The wreck of the Carolina special at Norcona station 25 miles west of Asheville, last week, is charged to "German agents." Practically all of the spikes were removed from one rail and the fish plates at each end of the rail loosened, so that the weight of the train turned it over, derailed the engine and overturning the passenger car and a combination passenger and baggage coach. Conductor S. H. Mills, of Knoxville, Rich Thompson, a negro porter, and several negro passengers were slightly injured.

Evidently the train was deliberately wrecked but trains were wrecked before we were at war with Germany.

**Taylor-Yancey.**  
At the home of the bride in Chase City, Va., Thursday morning, Prof.

W. Raymond Taylor and Miss Bertie Yancey were married. They left at once for this city, where a most delightful reception and dinner party were given them at the home of Prof. Taylor's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Clay Taylor, Thursday night.

The following guests were present to wish the happy couple a bon voyage: Prof. W. R. Mills and Supt. E. L. Best, former teachers of the groom, Prof. E. C. Harris, Rev. Walter M. Gilmore, Prof. J. Glenn McAdams, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Cooke, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Perry, Mrs. E. L. Best, Mrs. P. B. Griffin, Mrs. S. J. Edens, Misses Lillie Hale, Ruta and Pearl Taylor, of Oxford, Priscilla and Iantha Pittman, Beulah Edens, Messrs. W. B. Tucker, J. C. Hayes, J. E. Tysinger.

Prof. and Mrs. Taylor left Saturday for Auburn, Ala., where he occupies the chair of English in the Alabama Polytechnic Institute.

After graduating at Chapel Hill two years ago with very high honor, Prof. Taylor took his Master's degree at Harvard last June cum laude. Mrs. Taylor is one of Virginia's most charming and accomplished young ladies.

#### Easter at St. Paul's Church.

Bishop Jos. Blount Cheshire, of the Diocese of North Carolina, gave the congregation of St. Paul's an early morning service on Easter Day, making the hour 9:30 so that he could also give the congregation of St. James Kittrell, a morning service. The church was beautifully decorated with Easter lilies and potted plants and flowers, and congregational attendance was full, and all enjoyed a particularly attractive devotional service. Very appropriate and well rendered Easter selections of music added greatly to the solemn beauty of the day's services. The assistant rector, Rev. Basil Manly Walton, presented a class of six for confirmation, and the Bishop administered the rite of confirmation, admitting the class into full communion with the church. At the close of the services the Bishop, assisted by the rector, administered holy communion to a large number.

Bishop Cheshire has a large circle of friends and acquaintances in and near Louisburg, both in his own church and others, and enjoyed a day of visiting them on Saturday. He was the guest of Mr. W. H. Ruffin during his visitation.

#### Mother's Four Sons Serving Country.

Mrs. Georgia T. Boddie says that she has already given all her sons to the service of their country. Her oldest son, W. W. Boddie, is a member of the Federal Reserve; Capt. S. P. Boddie, of Louisburg, is an officer in the military company; Mr. S. G. Boddie is Lieutenant in Company C, Vance Guards, and Mr. T. G. Boddie, the youngest son, is wireless operator on the United States battleship Aylwin now on the coast of Cuba.

The mother said that other mothers would consider it a great sacrifice to give up one son, but when the call comes she expects to give four, and all she has. "I am not willing," she says, "for any one of my sons to resign now. They enjoyed the pleasures and the benefits of being members of the guards in peace, and now when the country is in danger, I want them to help."

#### College Commencement Speakers.

Dr. E. L. Bain, pastor of the West Market Street Methodist church, of Greensboro, has been secured to preach the baccalaureate sermon at the commencement of Louisburg College, Sunday, May 20. He will also preach the sermon to the Y. W. C. A. the same Sunday night. Judge R. W. Winston, of Raleigh, will deliver the literary address Tuesday morning, May 22. The annual alumnae banquet will be held that night, Mrs. Thomas Walter Bickett, of Raleigh, acting as toastmistress. Governor Bickett will also be an honored guest of the occasion and will speak.

#### Bryan-Lanier.

Wood, April 11.—Miss Mamie Lanier and Mr. Claud Bryan, both of Wood, were married Saturday evening, April 7th at 8:30 in the Baptist church. There were a large number of relatives and friends to witness the happy occasion. Rev. J. C. Strowd, pastor of the Methodist church of that place, officiated.

#### L. L. JOYNER RENOMINATED

As was the Old Board of Commissioners in the Primary Tuesday.

Although town politics have been very quiet up to Monday evening before the primary it was evident before the polls opened on Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock that much interest would result before the close of the day, as two complete tickets for Commissioners had found their way to the polls. The lack of interest before-hand was due to the fact that there was no opposition to the old Board of Commissioners except the candidacy of Dr. A. H. Fleming, but when the full ticket was presented some active work was brought about which resulted as follows:

For Mayor: Joyner 235, Palmer 14; For Commissioners: G. W. Ford 155, W. J. Cooper 151, B. N. Williamson 170, J. M. Allen 179, F. W. Hicks 169, F. W. Wheelless 169, P. A. Reavis 75, Ivey Allen 72, H. C. Taylor 68, A. H. Fleming 97, Malcolm McKinnis 113, E. M. Perry 68. On account of Dr. H. A. Newell being a member of the Medical Department of the National Guard and expects to be called out again soon he retired from the Board and Mr. F. W. Hicks, son of Mr. L. P. Hicks, was put in his stead.

Everything passed off smoothly and the best of feelings was evident at all times throughout the day.

#### COUNTY COMMENCEMENT.

To be Held Saturday, April 14th—All Exercises Except the Parade Will Be Had.

At a meeting of the Township representatives held in Supt. E. L. Best's office on last Saturday it was decided to hold the County Commencement on Saturday, April 14th, (next Saturday), at which time all the programme will be executed except the parade. On account of the fact that a number of the five months schools having already closed and the expense of the arrangements it was decided to eliminate the parade feature. The pageant, declamation and athletic contests will begin promptly at 1:30 o'clock.

Everybody is invited to attend these exercises.

#### Baraca-Philathea Union Program.

The program for the Baraca-Philathea Union, which will meet with the Flat Rock Baptist church on May 5th, and 6th, is as follows:

Saturday, May 5th, 3:30 P. M.

Sermon by Rev. J. H. Buffalo, Franklinton.

Meeting of the Entertaining Committee.

8:00 P. M.

Devotional Exercise—Mrs. W. H. Frazier.

Paper—"What a Sunday School Teacher Ought to be."—Miss Lena Gill.

Paper—"How to Make the Sunday School Lesson Interesting."—Mrs. W. A. Sherron.

A written report—"The Best Things Our Class Has Done During the Past Six Months."—By a Delegate from each class.

Sunday, May 6th 10:00 A. M.

Devotional Exercises—Mrs. J. O. Pernell.

Business Session.

Presentation of banner to class making the best report in the last six months—Prof. E. B. Cox.

Address by Mr. B. W. Ballard, Franklinton.

Dinner, 12:00—1:30.

Address—"The Relationship Between the Church and Organized Classes."—by Rev. Davis.

"Spelling Bee."

An old fashioned "spelling-bee", under the direction of Mr. John J. Allen, of near this place, the champion speller of the world, was a most interesting feature of the preliminary exercises of the county commencement Wednesday night. Representatives from nine different schools in the county entered the contest. To Miss Lillie Edwards, an eighth grade pupil of the Ingleside school, was awarded the \$5 prize offered for the best speller in the public schools of the county.

#### American Liner Struck a Mine.

Washington, April 10.—The American liner New York struck a mine at 7:40 last night five miles off Liverpool bar. No casualties were reported and the vessel later proceeded to Liverpool.

New York, April 10.—The American line steamship New York left this port on March 29 for Liverpool with 58 passengers included seven American citizens. She carried a navy crew of gunners and was armed. The ship's crew of 234 men included 144 Americans.

New York, April 10.—The New York docked safely at Liverpool at 1 a. m. (English time), and passengers are safe, according to a cablegram received here today by the American line. The damage to the vessel was small, the message states.

#### Henderson Company Notified.

Henderson, April 10.—Capt. J. W. Jenkins, commander of the Vance Guards of Henderson, received the following telegram from Col. S. W. Minor, of Durham:

"You are notified that a state of war with Germany exists. Govern yourself accordingly, and notify every one of your command, and rush recruiting."

Similar orders to the above have been received by Capt. S. P. Boddie of the Louisburg Company.

#### Marshall Law for all Guatemala Is Put Into Effect.

Guatemala City, Guatemala, Monday, April 9.—Martial law has been declared in Guatemala. The action was taken on information of disturbances on the Mexican and Salvadoran frontiers, supposed to have been created with German assistance.

#### Louisburg Baptist Church.

"The Call of the World", will be the theme of the morning sermon, being a companion sermon of the one last Sunday morning on "The Call of the Homeland."

At 8 o'clock P. M. the pastor will discuss the theme, "Wanted—Volunteers, Not Conscripts." You are cordially invited.

#### Club Meeting.

The Louisburg Club of Child Conservation League will meet with Mrs. W. E. White Tuesday, April 17th, at 4 o'clock.

MRS. T. W. WATSON, Pres.  
MRS. W. E. WHITE, Sec'y.

#### Particular.

Boarding House Mistress—"What part of the chicken do you wish?"  
Freshman—"Some of the meat, please."—Pelican.

a pathetic scene. Thousands of friends and relatives of the victims were surging through streets in an effort to locate their loved ones, either dead or alive. Crowds of the morbidly curious in front of the hospitals and the morgue were held back by national guardsmen. No one was allowed in the morgue and only those who could establish their right to be there were permitted to enter the hospitals. Companies B and C of the Sixth Pennsylvania Regiment were called into service early in the night to assist the machine gun company of the First Regiment and cadets from the Pennsylvania Military Academy who patrolled the streets throughout the afternoon.

#### Run By Allied Commission.

The Eddystone Ammunition Corporation, which was organized originally by interests identified with the Baldwin Locomotive Works and operated by those interests was taken over last September by a commission representing the British and Russian governments. Since that time this commission has been carrying on the manufacture of munitions for the entente allies.

The financial loss as a result of the explosion is estimated at less than \$25,000, not including the ammunition destroyed. Work will be resumed tomorrow in all departments except the box, packing and base charging departments. All departments will be in full operation by April 24, according to an official of the company. More than 10,000 persons are employed at the plant.

William O'Donnell, of Zazelton, Pa., who was in the pellet room when the explosion occurred, charged the Eddystone officials with laxity in the matter of hiring munition workers. He declared that many Mexicans recently arrived from the border were hired and that Germans and Austrians also were given employment.

## OVER A HUNDRED WAS KILLED IN EXPLOSION

### DETECTIVES RUSHED TO SCENE THINK EXPLOSION WAS ACCIDENTAL.

**Quantity of Shrapnel Placed Near Radiator and Heat Might Have Easily Exploded It—Explosion Felt in Philadelphia, Fifteen Miles Away—Residences Thrown Open For Injured.**

Chester, Pa., April 10.—One hundred and twelve persons, most of them women and girls, are known to have lost their lives, and 121 were injured by a series of terrific explosions today in the shrapnel building of the Eddystone Ammunition Corporation at Eddystone, one mile from this city. Many of the injured were mortally hurt, and it is feared the final death list will reach 150, while others probably will be maimed for life.

There was scarcely a fragment of the structure left intact. Fire added to the horror, and most of the bodies were so badly charred that identification was impossible.

In the absence of any official statement, many theories as to the cause of the disaster were advanced. Rumors of plots and arrests of persons, both inside and outside of the plant, were numerous, but all lacked confirmation.

#### Believed Accidental.

Twenty Philadelphia detectives were sent to Eddystone soon after the explosion on a rumor that it was the result of a plot. After spending several hours investigating they reported that they had located from officials of the corporation who had made an investigation that a quantity of shrapnel had been placed near a radiator and the heat might easily have exploded it. Their opinion is that the explosion was purely accidental. A canvass of the police stations in the vicinity and inquiries among officials of the company failed to reveal that any arrests had been made.

The explosion, which was felt in Philadelphia 15 miles away, occurred about 10 o'clock in what is known as the "10 F" building a two-story structure, 75 by 300 feet. In this building time fuses were prepared, more than eighty per cent of the workers being women and girls. Probably fifty men and boys were employed in the building at the time of the blast and the majority of them escaped.

#### Town Darkened by Smoke.

Great excitement following the explosions. A heavy pall of smoke darkened the entire town. This was soon lightened by the flames from the burning building. Rescue squads composed of other employees at the plant were quickly formed and a call for assistance was sent to Philadelphia, Chester, Wilmington and other nearby points. The entire Chester fire department responded and ambulances from Philadelphia and Chester were soon at the scene. A strong military guard was thrown around the plant and everyone except those assisting in the rescue work were forbidden to approach.

Fifteen minutes after the explosion the bodies of the dead and injured were being carried out. Several bodies were fished out of the marshes two hundred yards from the ill-fated building, and it is feared that others may have been blown into the river, still farther away. All were badly mutilated and many were burned beyond recognition.

Some of the injured were temporarily cared for in buildings of the ammunition plant, while scores of homes at Eddystone and nearby towns were thrown open to others. At one residence in Ridley Park 35 persons were given attention. None of them had been hurt, but were in a state of collapse from shock and hysteria.

#### Many Instances of Heroism.

There were numerous instances of heroism. In one of these Capt. Walter Wilhelm, vice-president of the Eddystone Corporation and formerly a national guardsman, dashed through smoke and flame into the wreckage no less than ten times, each time carrying some one to safety. So serious was the danger from exploding shrapnel considered that the trolley lines were tied up for more than an hour.

Throughout the afternoon and until a late hour tonight Chester presented