

ONE MILLION FIRE DESTROYS BLOCK OF DURHAM PROPERTY

Five Story Structure Owned by B. W. Duke is Completely Destroyed.

BURSTING MAINS DELAY FIGHTERS

Flames Starting in Plumbing Shop Spread Under a High Wind.

DURHAM, N. C., March 24.—Fire which started in a plumbing shop on the second floor of the handsome five-story Brodie L. Duke building shortly before midnight had resulted in damages estimated at more than \$1,000,000 at 3 o'clock this morning.

The fire was discovered shortly after 11 o'clock and it had gained great headway when the blaze was first seen. The flames swept up the elevator shaft of the Duke building and by the time that members of the fire department arrived, lines of hose were laid to protect the adjoining buildings and to battle against the flames in the Duke block when the water main broke and for thirty minutes the firemen and the owners of the property could do nothing but see the flames eat through the block.

The business block which was converted into ashes in a few hours was one of the city's best. Being in the heart of the city, the business houses were considered admirably located while the buildings which they occupied were modern in every detail.

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DURHAM'S BIG FIRE MAY GIVE NEW IMPETUS TO THE MUNICIPAL PLANT ISSUE

Interest in Bond Issue Campaign Has Been at Fever Heat.

MUCH ARGUMENT

DURHAM, March 23.—Today's disastrous fire in this city came in the midst of a heated campaign for a bond issue for the purchase of the waterworks system of the city. For many years past, Durham has been supplied with water from the Eno river by the Durham Water company and a short time ago a movement was started looking to the purchase of the water supply by the city authorities.

It is said that the present contract of the water company to furnish water for this city will expire within the very near future, and in the event of a failure of the city's residents to vote for the issue, the company doubtless will ask to be allowed to supply the city again for thirty years.

AMERICANS FIRE ON MEXICAN FEDERALS ACROSS THE LINE

Several Federals Reported Killed By Troop E. of the Fourteenth U. S. Cavalry.—Action Is Endorsed By Officials at Washington.

EAGLE PASS, Texas, March 23.—Mexican federal soldiers who attempted to pursue with rifle bullets a defeated constitutionalist force escaping to the United States and safety met sharp resistance yesterday from border patrol at McKee's Crossing, above Del Rio, Texas. When three horses held by the American troopers had been shot down the Americans returned the fire across the Rio Grande and after the exchange of shots, the Mexicans withdrew bearing with them several dead and wounded.

No American was hurt. How many of the Mexican soldiers were killed or wounded is not known.

Official reports of the occurrence to Colonel Sibley, commanding at Fort Clarke here, caused orders for all available cavalry of the border patrol to proceed to Del Rio. One troop and a machine gun platoon left Eagle Pass today. Another engagement between Mexican federals and constitutionalists is expected tomorrow in the same territory.

The clash across the international line was precipitated, according to official reports by persistent firing of the federals at the fleeing constitutionalists who had gained American territory and surrendered to United States troops. Three horses held by American aviators were killed. For ten minutes, Captain Winterburn of troop E, Fourteenth cavalry, signalled to the federals to cease firing, but reported that his signals were disregarded and his own men were in danger. He then ordered the Americans, a detachment of fifteen troopers to fire, and a sharp fusillade followed, lasting for about five minutes.

Walked Into Trap. Constitutionalists defeated Sunday were a scouting party led into a trap by the federals, who earlier in the

JUDGE SPEER IS WILLING TO RETIRE IF GIVEN A COMPLETE VINDICATION

Says That Otherwise He Will Stay on the Federal Bench.

HIS STATEMENT

MACON, Ga., March 23.—Reports that Emory Speer, United States judge for the southern district of Georgia, whose official acts recently were investigated by a sub-committee of the house judiciary committee might result, have resulted in the judge making a public statement.

"If the judiciary committee, in accordance with their conceptions of duty, after considering all the matter which has been submitted to them, withdraw the charges against me in a manner as public as they have been made, I will not be unwilling to accept retirement upon the same terms that I might do when I reach the age of 70," Judge Speer says.

The judge today denied that the suggestion that he retire in any way emanated from him, and that he had never contemplated such action as a result of the house committee's investigation. His statement, which was in the form of a letter to lawyers who represented him in the investigation, was called forth, he says, by an inquiry from Representative Adamson of Georgia, concerning the retirement reports.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION WILL UNDERTAKE WORK OF DEVELOPING FARMING

National Civic Federation Launches Campaign of Universal Interest.

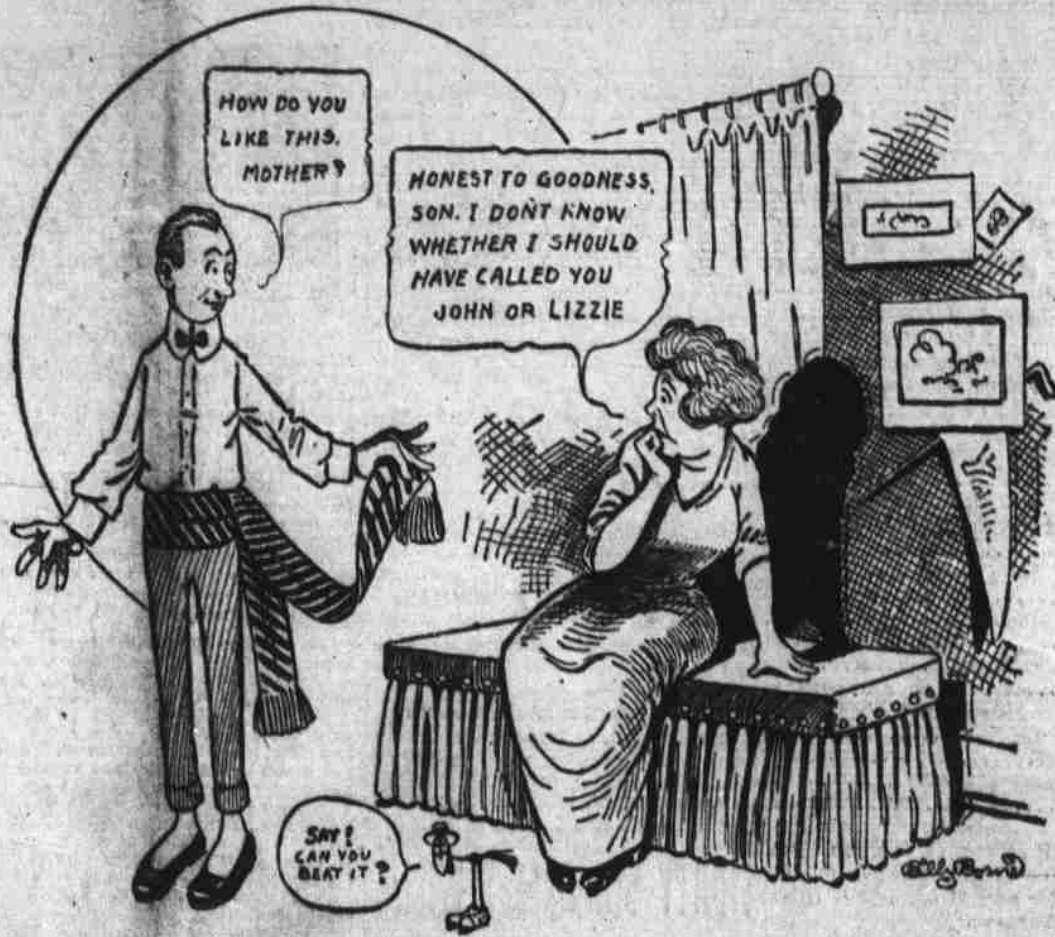
PLANS DISCUSSED

NEW YORK, March 23.—The development of American farming is to be undertaken by the National Civic Federation which organized today a department on agricultural conditions and rural betterment. The executive committee held a luncheon today at which noted speakers discussed the farming industry. They held that co-operation and systematic organization among farmers was necessary if the industry in the United States is to be brought up to the standard obtaining in other countries. The decision to aid the farmer was contained in a resolution adopted at the suggestion of Dr. Albert Shaw, who declared education and toastmaster at the luncheon, to ward solution of the problem. The committee authorized its chairman, Seth Low, president of the federation and toastmaster at the luncheon, to appoint a plan and scope committee. The speakers with Dr. Shaw and Mr. Low are Andrew Carnegie, Lieutenant Governor Sheffield Inalls, of Kansas, Dr. Grace Kirkland, Farmers' Educational and Co-operative union; Leonard G. Robinson, general manager of the Jewish Agricultural and Aid society; Dr. L. W. Johnson, of the Federal department of agriculture and others. Attending the luncheon were men interested in farming representing the city of New York, various states and the national government.

THE WEATHER.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Forecast for North Carolina, fair, Tuesday.

The Tango Sash — New Style for men



PRESIDENT WILSON ANSWERS THE ARGUMENT THAT TOLLS EXEMPTION IS DEMOCRATIC PARTY DOCTRINE

Declares That the Majority of the Members of the Democratic Party Favors the Exemption — Believes He Will be Supported by Many Republicans as Well as Democrats

WASHINGTON, March 23.—President Wilson declared today that, in seeking the repeal of the Panama tolls exemption, he not only was asking that the nation do that which it was bound in honor to do, but was going the way of the majority in the democratic party. He pointed out that when the Panama act was passed, a majority of the democrats then in the house of representatives voted against the tolls exemption and that only by a coalition of a minority of democrats with a number of republicans did the measure become law.

This announcement was taken in administration circles as the president's answer to the argument that the Baltimore platform made the tolls exemption democratic doctrine. The president is understood to believe that the majority opinion of the democrats in the house as last expressed was a result of more deliberate consideration of the question than was possible at the Baltimore convention.

Made No Secret. The president made no secret to officers of his anxiety for the repeal measure to come to a vote. Asked if he thought influences were at work to prolong debate unnecessarily, Mr. Wilson said he didn't know, but it certainly appeared to him as if there had been filibustering; that minorities always filibustered and disclosed themselves in filibusters.

STATES CAN NOT AGREE ON COMPLETE SETTLEMENT

Supreme Court May Have to Adjust Differences Regarding Debt.

WASHINGTON, March 23.—Continued failure of Virginia and West Virginia to agree on a complete settlement of the state debt case became apparent today when counsel for West Virginia asked permission of the Supreme court to file a supplemental answer. Counsel for Virginia objected.

THINK HE WAS MURDERED. NAPLES, March 23.—The police believe that Professor Giuseppe Marcelli, director of the Vesuvian observatory, who was burned to death on March 16, was murdered. A sum of \$1,400, which he had in his possession, is missing. It is believed thieves broke into his residence, took the money, strangled the professor, saturated the body with petroleum and set fire to it.

BRITISH OFFICERS GIVEN FEW HOURS TO DECIDE ACTION

Can Stay With Government or Resign Commissions at Once.

BIG PERCENTAGE MAY LEAVE ARMY

Conditions at Belfast Last Night Reported as Being Orderly.

BELFAST, March 23.—Reports received by the officials of the provisional government would seem to indicate that at least seventy per cent. of the officers of the infantry battalions of regulars now quartered in Ulster would refuse to serve in a campaign against the province. Major General Sir C. F. N. MacReady, of the adjutant general's staff of the war office, arrived today at Belfast. He came for the purpose of making a tour of the barracks and to explain the situation in such a way as to prevent the resignation of the officers. He was informed that nearly all the officers of the Norfolk regiment, quartered at Holywood barracks, four miles from Belfast, had expressed their readiness to resign rather than accept orders to take part in an anti-Ulster campaign. The officers of the Norfolk regiment were paraded Sunday and informed they would be allowed a few hours to consider whether they would remain loyal. They were then cross-examined separately.

It is said that among these remaining loyal are officers whose sympathies are with Ulster, but who cannot afford to sacrifice their pay. The same applies to many other officers of the various regiments now in Ulster. Will Answer Today. The Dorsets tomorrow will give General MacReady their decision at Holywood. It is understood that the percentage of refusals to serve among the Dorsets is even higher than among the Norfolks. Most of the battalions in the province had announced yesterday that they would not give any sympathy among the officers for Ulster.

The provisional government officials are enthusiastic over what they consider a crushing defeat for the imperial government but continue their active preparations for war at the behest of Sir Edward Carson, who declares that he will continue to take such action until assured that the danger has passed.

The appearance of armies on armistice. The Norfolks and the volunteers in camp at Kinnegar near Holywood, frequently exchange jocular messages by signal. Carson Determined. Sir Edward Carson is still at Craigavon, which is surrounded by sentries. He received today a number of battalion commanders of his army, and sent long dispatches to his lieutenants in London. He says he will not leave Belfast until the crisis is over.

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HARRY THURSTON PECK COMMITS SUICIDE; WAS A PROMINENT EDUCATOR

Former Columbia Professor Shoots Himself at a Rooming House.

WRITER OF NOTE

STAMFORD, Conn., March 23.—Harry Thurston Peck, a former professor at Columbia university committed suicide at a rooming house here today by shooting himself.

HIS CAREER. NEW YORK, March 23.—Harry Thurston Peck was a writer of note and for 28 years was professor of ancient languages at Columbia university. He left the institution more than three years ago because of a notoriety incident to a breach of promise suit for \$50,000 brought against him by Esther Quinn, a stenographer. Shortly after the filing of the suit Dr. Peck filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy. He gave his assets as \$250. In March, 1913, Miss Quinn's suit was dismissed as insufficient. Later she filed another action, now pending. Dr. Peck dropped out of sight after his retirement from Columbia, and did not come before the public eye until April of last year, when he became critically ill at Ithaca, N. Y., suffering with nervous breakdowns. Dr. Peck was born in Stamford, in 1856, and was educated in this country and abroad. He was an authority on Latin and classical, and the author of numerous books.

TEDDY ROOSEVELT MAY BE LOST IN THE WILDS

Museum of Natural History Cables The Consul to Look For Hunter.

NEW YORK, March 23.—After waiting all day in vain for further advice regarding a report of an accident to the Roosevelt expedition party in Brazil, the American museum of natural history tonight cabled to the American consul at Para asking for the information. The message said: "Can you obtain any information concerning the Roosevelt party?" wire Santarem. Advise by telegraph at earliest possible moment. Expenses guaranteed."

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., March 23.—Marine officials here tonight were without information concerning an unknown steamer, reported ashore off Fowey Rocks yesterday.

MME CAILLAUX THOUGHT EDITOR HAD MORE LETTERS

Important Testimony Heard at Preliminary Hearing in Murder Case.

PARIS, March 23.—Important testimony tending to confirm Mmes. Caillaux's assertion that she had reason to believe that M. Calmette, the late editor of the Figaro, had in his possession other personal letters of an even more intimate nature than the one published was given today at the examination before the investigating magistrate, Henri Boudard.

When the "Thy Jos" letter appeared in the Figaro the witness continued, Mme. Caillaux had reasonable grounds for supposing that M. Calmette had the other two