

ATLANTA SWEEP BY FIRE

SPLENDID RESIDENCE DISTRICTS OF GEORGIA CAPITAL QUICKLY DESTROYED

GREATEST FIRE IN HISTORY OF SOUTH DOES MILLIONS OF DOLLARS DAMAGE AT ATLANTA

Starting in Negro Section of City, on Decatur Street, Leaps to White Residence Districts and Leaves Path of Desolation in Its Wake, Making Homeless the Rich and Poor Alike

MANY HOMES DYNAMITED IN BATTLE WITH FLAMES

Atlanta Virtually Under Martial Law, and Fire-fighting Apparatus From Other Cities is Helping to Put Final Quietus on the Blaze.

ATLANTA, May 22.—At 2 o'clock this morning the flames were under control, after reaching practically to the ball park. Mayor Candler stated that the flames were not of incendiary origin, and said that the fact that three fires were raging at the same time gave rise to that report.

ATLANTA, Ga., May 21.—Fire that today swept through a large section of Atlanta from Decatur street north and northeast, cutting a clean swath of varying widths, finally was brought under control tonight just before it reached the Atlanta baseball park, in the opinion of Fire Chief Cody.

Tonight several blazes could be seen in the northeastern section of the city, but they were being quickly handled and acres of what formerly bore beautiful homes laid waste by dynamite acted as a safeguard against further general devastation.

Under Martial Law.

Tonight the city is virtually under martial law administered by hundreds of soldiers who have been training at Fort McPherson or national guardsmen in camp here, acting under the direction of Colonel Charles R. Noyes, U. S. A., who officially is under the guidance of the chief of police.

Thousands of homeless persons tonight were being fed and housed in the Auditorium armory, the negro Odd Fellows' hall and in hundreds of private homes. The most of them saved only what they could carry as household goods piled in the streets in advance of the flames were devoured in the rush of the conflagration.

Dynamite Finally Wins.

For six hours dynamite was resorted to and it finally won the fight. Fire fighting apparatus sent from other cities was of some aid and will be of more, as acre after acre of smouldering ruins tonight await water to make them safe.

Only one death had been reported tonight. Mrs. Hodges died of shock after her home had been burned. Sixty injured persons were taken to hospitals, but it was reported none was seriously hurt.

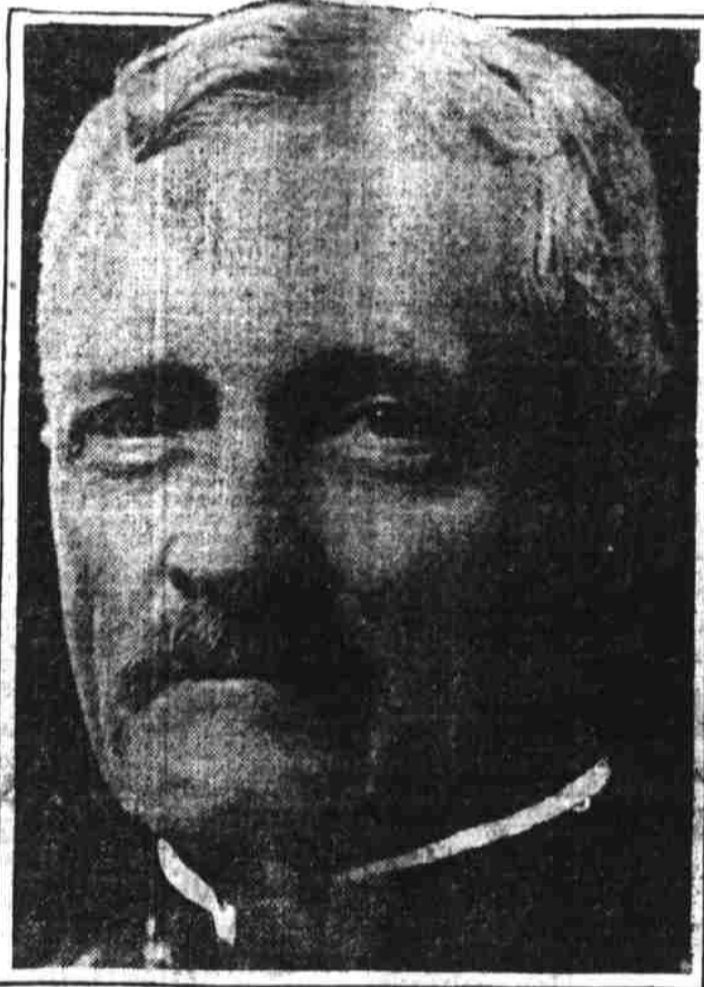
Approximately seventy-five blocks were devastated, but the area cannot be correctly estimated by blocks, as after the fight at Ponce De Leon avenue the flames skirted that thoroughfare on the south side of the street for some distance.

No Guess as to Loss.

Officials tonight would not hazard a guess at the monetary loss. The destroyed buildings range all the way from shacks occupied by negroes to homes up to \$6,000 or \$8,000. Some estimates were between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000, but they were neither from sources nor based on calculations to give them weight.

The blaze started in the Skinner Storage and Warehouse plant near Decatur street, just east of Fort street, from a cause not determined tonight. It quickly spread to the small houses nearby, which were dry from lack of

Will Lead First U. S. Troops in France



GEN. JOHN J. PERSHING

General John J. Pershing has been selected by President Wilson to lead the first American expeditionary force to be sent to France. This force will be comprised of about 25,000 men of the regular army and will be sent as soon as practicable.

General Pershing was a brigadier general when he led the forces into Mexico in pursuit of Villa. His work at that time won him the promotion to major general.

RELIEF MEASURES ON A LARGE SCALE UNDERTAKEN BY RED CROSS AND THE ASSOCIATED CHARITIES AS FIRE RAGES

Other Societies and Private Individuals Join in the Work, and Food is Quickly Provided for the Thousands of Homeless—Homes and Public Buildings Thrown Open to Refugees From the Flames—Casualties Are Few.

NO RELIEF NEEDED.

"Atlanta greatly appreciates offers of aid that already have come, but we can handle the relief situation without it," Mayor Candler said tonight in a statement to the Associated Press.

ATLANTA, May 21.—

The great fire had swept no more than a few blocks before relief measures on a large scale were undertaken by the local Red Cross and the Associated Charities, who joined forces with headquarters at the auditorium armory. Other societies and hundreds of private individuals joined in and it was thought that every person could be housed during the night.

Food for 5,000.

Food at the auditorium armory was provided for 5,000 people, both whites and negroes being cared for. Army trucks, express wagons and trucks and private automobiles were pressed into service to handle the foodstuffs. Coffee and rolls for each person was decided upon for supper and breakfast tomorrow.

Few people called at headquarters for food early in the night, but large quantities of it were sent to soldiers, police and firemen who worked incessantly in the wide district that surrounded the pathway of the fire.

At the auditorium armory small cots were in the arena and preparations were made to house people in other parts of the immense building. Among the destitute cared for at the auditorium armory were a hundred or more small children from the Home for the Friendless. The building is on the edge of the fire-swept zone and late today the children were hastily removed. They got more than coffee and rolls, however, because the head nurse prepared their supper, even to milk for the babies, and the children, their supper, clothes, the nurses and what could be taken from

NEGRO HOMES BURN.

Scores of negro houses were swept by the flames and many of the former occupants were left destitute, many having no money to buy anything. Relief for the negroes was carried out on the same scale as that for whites.

The idea of individuals caring for others less fortunate than themselves spread over the entire city late in the day when an afternoon paper issued an appeal for homes for those whose houses had burned. Hundreds telephoned the newspaper office which became a clearing house for the homeless and the homes open to them. Headquarters at the auditorium armory also placed hundreds more and telephones there were kept busy. The number of homeless during the night was made even greater than in proportion to the houses burned for soldiers had formed a wide zone about the burned area and for blocks in front of the threatened area and drove householders into the street

FEW CASUALTIES.

ATLANTA, Ga., May 21.—The small number of casualties reported tonight were regarded by Red Cross and charity workers as one of the most unusual features of the immense fire. Sixty persons had been counted for tonight as having been taken to hospitals as a result of the fire. Only one death was reported, that of Miss Bessie Hodges, who died of shock. Many of those taken to hospitals were suffering from shock from heat prostration or minor injuries, often received in moving out household effects.

The wide area in the sweep of the flames was a scene of almost indescribable confusion. The flames moved in some instances as steadily as a man would walk, but ever the householders kept ahead of its march and in this way no one as far as is known was trapped in a burning house.

Work of the guardsmen and the men who are candidates for officers' places in the new army that is to fight Germany, was held to be responsible for saving hundreds from injury as darkness added to the confusion.

THE WEATHER.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—Forecast for North Carolina: Partly cloudy Tuesday, followed by rain at night; west portion; Wednesday rain and cooler.

THE ASHEVILLE CITIZEN	
Circulation Yesterday	
City	4,604
Suburban	4,546
Country	1,711
Net paid 10,861	
Service	211
Unpaid	71
Total 11,143	

PROPOSED TAX ON COTTON DEFEATED BY SOUTHERNERS

Tax on Automobiles Limited to Companies Making Certain Amount.

SUGAR MEN ELATED AT COTTON VICTORY

Believe Tax on Cotton Would Have Led to Tax on Sugar.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—Two sharp contests during consideration of the war revenue bill in the house today resulted in southern members killing a proposed tax of \$2.50 a bale on raw cotton, and representatives of automobile manufacturing districts limiting the five per cent. levy on automobiles, motorcycles and their tires to plants paying annual profits above \$5,000 and eight per cent. on capital invested.

VOTE TONIGHT.

House leaders said tonight they were determined to bring the bill to a final vote sometime tomorrow night. Victory of the cotton forces, who triumphed over Representative Moore, of Pennsylvania, when his proposed amendment was stricken out of a point of order, was greeted joyfully by those interested in the domestic sugar industry, particularly Representative Fordney, of Michigan, and Representative Martin of Louisiana. Had the cotton proposal been held germane the bill would have been opened to amendment carrying a tax on sugar.

The automobile tax amendment, offered by Representative Doremus, of Michigan, was written into the bill after a futile attempt had been made to strike out the entire paragraph relating to a five per cent. tax on automobiles, motorcycles and tires. Mr. Doremus insisted that many automobile manufacturers were barely making expenses. Democratic Leader Kitchin quoted statistics to show that the industry was enjoying unprecedented prosperity.

MOTORCYCLES NOT EXEMPT.

A proposal by Representative Gillett of Massachusetts, to exempt motorcycles from the tax was defeated, eighty-nine to forty-eight. Unsuccessful efforts were made by various members to attach the Doremus amendment to other paragraphs of the section designed to provide a five per cent. manufacturers tax on musical instruments selling for more than \$10 each, jewelry, yachts, pleasure boats, sporting goods, perfumes and other toilet articles, certain drugs and proprietary medicines and chewing gum. A committee amendment also adopted.

(Continued on Page Two)

IRISH DESTINIES WILL BE HANDLED BY IRISH ALONE

Lloyd-George Says Government Will Call Convention of Irishmen Soon.

CONSTITUTION FOR IRELAND PLANNED

If Irish Can Agree on Any Scheme, They Will Rule Ireland.

LONDON, May 21.—For the first time in modern history, the destinies of Ireland are to be placed in the hands of the Irishmen alone. The British premier, David Lloyd-George, announced to the house of commons today that the government will call a convention of Irishmen to frame a constitution for Ireland, and if Irishmen are able to agree upon any scheme for the administration of their country, will attempt to enact it into legislation without delay. All sections, parties, creeds and factions, with clergymen and laymen, as well as politicians and even revolutionaries of the Sinn Fein society will be invited to get together.

POLITICAL MIRACLE.

If this final attempt succeeds, a political miracle will have been accomplished. There is no great optimism apparent respecting the success of the plan, for Ulster stands where she has always stood. Sir John Lonsdale, whip of the Irish unionists, predicted the same old deadlock, declaring that Ulster would not be driven into a home rule parliament and predicting that the nationalists will not consent to the exclusion of six Ulster counties.

Both houses of parliament discussed Ireland today, with hardly a ripple of the old animosities and feuds disturbing their harmony.

"The patient must administer to himself," said Mr. Lloyd-George and a noteworthy feature of the discussion was an agreement that politicians must play a secondary part to the men from other walks of life. The premier specified the nationalists of which John Redmond and Wm. O'Brien are the leaders, the Ulster unionists, the southern unionists and the Sinn Feiners as the political bodies which should be represented in the convention, but said that the government considered it most important that representatives of local governing bodies, the churches, trade unions and commercial and educational interests should participate.

Redmond agreed in this policy, and the veteran home ruler even offered to venerate himself in the interests of harmony. But the house refused loudly to accept his offer. Even Lord Lansdowne, who has

(Continued on Page Two)

PECULIAR ACCIDENT IN FIRING BIG GUN RESULTS IN DEATH OF TWO WOMEN

Brass Attachment Strikes Water and Boomerangs Back. IS UNPRECEDENTED.

WASHINGTON, May 21.—A brass attachment of the powder charge striking the water and boomeranging back nearly 200 feet, after the firing of a naval gun in target practice, killed Mrs. Edith Ayres and Miss Helen Burnett Wood, Red Cross nurses of Chicago, who lost their lives yesterday aboard the American steamship Mongolia.

Secretary Daniels explained in a statement tonight that such an accident had never occurred before and that ordnance experts are puzzled. The guns were of the six-inch calibre type, for which the shell and powder are loaded separately into the gun. The powder is contained in a brass case and there held in place by a pasteboard wad, distance pieces and brass mount-cup that fits closely. When the gun is fired, this brass cup is propelled some distance, sometimes whole and sometimes in pieces, but also in front of the gun. On the third shot the brass mount-cup struck the water peculiarly, boomeranged directly back to the ship, struck the stanchion near where the nurses were sitting, and broke. Its pieces instantly killed Mrs. Ayres and Miss Wood.

MERCHANT SUBMARINE WILL SOLVE SUBMARINE MENACE, NOW DECLARED

Huge Submersibles Will Be Used to Carry Food to the Allies. LAKE IS INVENTOR.

PHILADELPHIA, May 21.—The Philadelphia Press will publish a story tomorrow to the effect that "America has found the perfect answer to the German submarine terror." It is said to be a merchant submarine standardized at about 7,500 or 8,000 tons deadweight, of such speed that it can even, when submerged, easily elude any surface pursuer and is non-sinkable. The craft, the invention of Simon Lake, according to the Press is capable of submerging within half a minute and has been so standardized and simplified that the first one may be turned out in four months and others after that at the rate of three or four a week. It will burn heavy oil and the construction is said to be such that parts of it can be made simultaneously in many widely scattered steel plants and assembled in a central plant within a few days. The vessels are to be built and operated, the story says, by the Merchant Submarine company, under government supervision. The company is capitalized at \$10,000,000 and was chartered under the laws of Maine on May 10.