

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Forecast for Norfolk-Baltimore-Fair Thursday; not much change in temperature.

ESTABLISHED 1868.

"DEDICATED TO THE UP-BUILDING OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA"

ASHEVILLE, N. C., THURSDAY MORNING, MARCH 16, 1922.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

CHICAGO FIRE

REAR DOOR SUSPECT IN INCENDIARIES

Result Is \$5,000,000 Damage, and 20,000 People Are Made Idle.

B. & O. RECORDS

ALL DESTROYED

All Declare New Methods to Protect Skyscrapers Must Result.

CHICAGO, March 15.

Investigation of the cause of the fire which destroyed a block of thickly populated office buildings, caused a damage of more than \$5,000,000, resulted in the death of one man and rendered 20,000 others idle, tonight by state city insurance officials.

The manner in which the flames flared out in several places at the same moment, the almost incredible rapidity with which they spread until the smoke completely filled the left of the block, the fact that the buildings were insured by South Canal, West Street and South Clinton fire companies, caused Shirley T. High, fire insurance lawyer, to announce a very interesting report.

The first alarm was turned in at 12:50 p. m. This was followed by two more alarms at three and four minute intervals until nearly every minute of Chicago fire fighting apparatus was at the scene. But as the fire was spreading more than a hundred feet from the left side of the building it was not until four hours after the first alarm that the fire was brought under control.

Just across the street from the burning landscape is the old Burlington building, which is expected to be working for the next three days, and will be "the proof" of the "Burlington method" of fire proofing. The building was not damaged by the fire. The walls still stand intact, and its 15 stories of steel and concrete framework is still visible. The fire spread like a lava flow, and the concrete had been destroyed by a fire so intense that glass from the windows had melted, and, according to the firemen, "was like water" to the fire. The fire burned for two days, and the headquarters of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad and all of the records of operating, engineering, legal and executive departments were destroyed.

Officials of the board of underwriters declared that the fire, the most disastrous since the great 1871, revealed many problems which would have to be met before they could hope to escape successfully with the present skyscrapers. The fire at the Burlington building was declared to show that skyscrapers are free from fire danger and that the modern fire department is practically helpless against a full scale fire in the upper floors of a building. Insurance men, underwriters and firemen declared that methods would have to be devised to enable the fire to get more water to the top of the buildings. In an effort to fix responsibility for today's skyscrapers, a former police department employee was questioned after W. J. Schiff, vice-president of Shaffer fire company, whose plan had been written, threatened letters that the flames were first observed in the vicinity of the Schaffer plant. After being questioned the man was released and Mr. Schiff was estimated to put the property loss at as high as \$15,000,000 but after inspecting the ruins, Thomas O'Connor, fire marshal and Edward Buckley, assistant fire marshal, declared the belief that the loss would not exceed \$5,000,000. Business men, however, pointed to the fact that the flames had taken over 250 firms and declared that the fire experts' estimate of the loss was too low. It is estimated that total loss would be \$10,000,000 and \$15,000,000.

A woman who was seated in the front of the Burlington building, was struck across the street, told the police tonight of having seen several men running from the building, a few minutes before the first alarm was turned in.

DISABLED VETERANS TO HEAR OTTEN DIRECTOR

CHARLOTTE, March 15.—(Special Correspondence, The Asheville Citizen.) Charles P. Otten, director of the Disabled Veterans of the World War, who are coming to complete the organization of a state branch office, will be here at 2 p. m. on Friday, March 24 and 25. J. M. McLean, director of the organization, will also be here for the occasion which is expected to draw more than 2,000 former soldiers here to the city.

OBENCHAIN CASE MAY GO TO THE JURY TODAY

LOS ANGELES, March 15.—Defendants in the trial of a sensational Obenchain, charged with the murder of his sweetheart, J. Bolton Kennedy, Jud R. Smith, who began his testimony on the opening of the afternoon session will close tomorrow.

SOUTH AFRICAN ARMED RESISTANCE HAS CEASED

JOHANNESBURG, March 15.—(The Associated Press.)—The South African government has been officially announced, it is believed, that the armed resistance in possession of every important position and their committees have

SNIPERS KILL TWO

BELFAST, March 15.—After a day's fighting in Belfast, a child five years old was shot dead this afternoon by a sniper in the Falls district, and a man was shot and killed this evening at the corner of Ship Street.

GOAL MAKING TO SUSPEND STATE MINE OPERATORS

Both Sides to Negotiations Say Industry Will Be Tied up April 1.

WORKERS/SPEAKERS EXPLAIN DEMANDS

Adjournment Taken to Friday, When Response Will Be Made.

NEW YORK, March 15.—Demanders of the anthracite mine workers, including one for a 20 per cent increase in wages, were present today at the mine workers' day and when the workers' representatives finished explaining the 19 demands an adjournment was taken until Friday afternoon. At that time the operators expect to make their response.

The miners occupied all of today's meeting and no talking came from the operators as to what reply they will make. It is understood the operators plan to tell the miners today that an increase in wages at this time is not in accord with the trend of the times. It is expected they will maintain that the present cost of coal is too high and that the miners should share in any reduction of prices are to be granted to consumers of coal.

COMMERCE COMMISSIONERS MOVE FOR CONSOLIDATION

Plans Are Taken-Up Looking To Merger Of Many Railroads

WASHINGTON, March 15.—The Interstate Commerce commission moved today to take up the plan authorized in the transportation act for bringing about the consolidation of the principal American railroads into 19 major systems. A hearing was ordered for April 24, before Commission Hall, at which consideration will begin of the consolidation proposed for the southeastern region as the first phase of public inquiry into the plan which has been the subject of considerable preliminary study by the commission.

ODD FELLOWS MEET OPENS AT CHARLOTTE TODAY

Hundreds Expected to Attend Gathering From Three State Districts

(Special Correspondence, The Asheville Citizen.) CHARLOTTE, March 15.—(Hundred) Odd Fellows are expected in the city to attend joint meetings of lodges in the 10, 11 and 12 districts which open today. A hearing is expected for April 24, before Commission Hall, at which consideration will begin of the consolidation proposed for the southeastern region as the first phase of public inquiry into the plan which has been the subject of considerable preliminary study by the commission.

Raleigh Woman In Supreme Court Argue Own Case

Tells Court She Is Fighting Ejectment to Test Law of '68

RALEIGH, March 15.—The supreme court room was the scene of an out of the ordinary occurrence today when a woman appeared, the appellant, before the court in an ejectment proceeding to argue her own case. She was Mrs. Pattie D. B. Freeman, a familiar character in Raleigh and better known as Aunt Pattie. She told the court she was fighting the case merely to test the '68 law.

Aunt Pattie walked to and fro before the five justices with the dignity of a veteran lawyer, and she seemed as pleased with her first active personal participation in a supreme court proceeding as a recently licensed young barrister. It was the case of Hobby vs. Freeman, and Aunt Pattie was unaided, carried the case from the magistrate's court, where the ejectment proceeding first went against her, to the state's highest tribunal. She insists she has a title to the home in which she lives. After paying rent for eight months she laid claim to the property and refused to move or pay rent any more.

Gillett May Hamper Bonus Bill's Passage In Lower House Is Being Intimated

WASHINGTON, March 15.—There developed today a difference of opinion among republican leaders in the house as to the method of calling up the soldiers' bonus bill on the floor. One group still favored consideration next Monday under a suspension of the rules which would cut off all amendments, while another held the opinion that delay in action would be preferable.

On all sides it was stated that a decision would await the return here Saturday of Speaker Gillett, who is in Florida with President Harding. Meantime there was speculation among house members as to whether the speaker would entertain a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

Chairman Fordney of the ways and means committee disclosed that he had been informed by Mr. Gillett before the speaker left Washington that he had better not depend entirely on a suspension of rules as the procedure for getting the bill before the house. Since he has been in Florida, the speaker has indicated that he might not entertain a motion for this purpose because of what he regards as the importance of the bonus measure.

Pre-War Prosperity Depends On World Wide Adjustment

War Finance Corporation Director McLean Tells Charlotte Business Men The Road To Stabilization

(Special Correspondence, The Asheville Citizen.) CHARLOTTE, March 15.—Despite the fact that business conditions have shown a marked improvement throughout the United States during the past six weeks, there can be no return to conditions such as obtained during the boom period until there is a world-wide economic adjustment. This was declared today at the War Finance Corporation, in an address at the Chamber of Commerce tonight by W. McLean, director of the corporation, as his absence from his office leaves the corporation without a quorum.

Speaking of the corporation's power, Mr. McLean said many millions of dollars already have been loaned to the corporation for the agricultural interests of the nation and to finance exports of agricultural products. Some \$100,000,000 received by state banks.

North Carolina bankers have received a total of approximately \$10,000,000 in loans. The corporation was for loans to finance farmers and \$4,000,000 were for loans to finance agricultural exports, principally cotton and tobacco. The need of the corporation's assistance has been materially greater in South Carolina than in North Carolina, conditions in North Carolina have been comparatively better than in any of the other states where agriculture predominates.

In regard to foreign trade Mr. McLean said: "The only alternative which can be considered at all sound in practice and at the same time in keeping with correct economic principles is to increase and maintain our surplus production in agriculture and in the various industries will be absorbed at fair prices in the world's markets."

Mr. McLean said it was the duty of business men to aid in solving the problem confronting the country. The many phases of political and economic problems now uppermost in the minds of the world's governments were discussed by Mr. McLean in the light of the fact that business men are being called upon to furnish information which has been gathered for the various agencies of the American government.

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ASHEVILLE ISLAND'S ROAD CONTRACTS TO GO TO LABOR LAWS

Lower House Passes Bill for 48 Hour Week for Women and Children. Bitter Struggle To Shelve Bill. Cotton Manufacturers and Metal Manufacturers Oppose Measure.

PROVIDENCE R. I., March 15.—After a bitter struggle in which repeated efforts were made by opponents of the measure to have it shelved, the house of representatives today passed the Lavender bill providing for a 48 hour work week for women and children under 16 years of age. The vote was 64 to 25.

The bill which now goes to the state senate, was amended to permit of exceptions in case of "seasonal occupations." Women and children engaged in such occupations would be permitted to work a maximum of 52 hours a week according to this provision.

While the house was debating the bill, the senate judiciary committee held a public hearing on the bill this morning. One of those who testified before the committee was Senator Barry of Central Falls, who would order a general 48 hour week for men, women and children. "Proponents of a 48 hour work week for women and children at the hearing expressed belief that the Barry bill would be unconstitutional."

Eighty districts—six miles in length, Columbia to South Carolina line. The bill was passed by the house, 64 to 25. The bill provides for a 48 hour week for women and children under 16 years of age.

Two Hurt As Airplane Plunges Hundred Feet. Minkola N. Y., March 15.—Sergeant Eugene Reviere and Sergeant Roland Blake were seriously injured at Mitchell Field today when their airplane crashed into the ground. The airplane, a biplane, was carrying 100 feet and buried them in the wreckage.

Reviere suffered a broken leg and nose and serious cuts and bruises. Blake's legs were broken, his face badly cut and he suffered internal injuries which surgeons feared might be fatal.

The aviators were making a practice flight over the field. Observers noticed that the machine seemed to falter. Then the motor stopped and the plane suddenly dropped to the ground.

NO TIME FOR REFLECTION. COLLEGE EDITOR SAYS. COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo., March 15.—The Tiger, Colorado college paper, in an editorial today takes issue with "Bull" Hootch, editor of the Vassar college, who defends the "old" form of the "Bull" Hootch.

MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL IS DENIED FRANK DUPRE. MACON, Ga., March 15.—Judge H. A. Mathews, of superior court, today after denying a motion for a new trial for Frank R. Dupre, Atlanta bandit, who was convicted of murder and sentenced to die, refused to grant a new trial.

BLACK POWDER BOMB WRECKS CHICAGO HOUSE. CHICAGO, March 15.—A black powder bomb tonight tore away the front of the home of Peter Fortier, but did no other damage, according to the police. Fortier had been working in a plant which here has been a strike and believe the bomb was set off to frighten him.

LOWLAND RESIDENTS WARNED TO FLEE FLOOD. MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 15.—With tributaries of the Mississippi river rising rapidly, flood stage before Sunday night, was predicted today by J. H. Scott, United States weather bureau forecaster here. Residents of low and unprotected lands between Memphis and Helena, Ark., were warned by the bureau to move to higher ground immediately.

AGUSTA WITHOUT CARS. AFGUSTA, Ga., March 15.—Following intense jitney competition which has cut deeply into already depleted revenue, the Augusta-Aiken Railway and Electric corporation announced tonight that it would cease the operation of all jitney cars in Augusta, beginning Monday.

PROLONGED FIGHT ON TREATY RATIFICATION ABANDONED IN SENATE

First Period to Pay Income Taxes Brought to Close. New Income Tax System Eliminates Ad Valorem Tax Altogether.

SENATE AGREES TO BALLOT UPON PACT MARCH 24. Hailed by Administration Leaders as Assuring Its Ratification. CROSS FIRE OVER TREATY DEVELOPS One New Amendment and Two New Reservations Introduced.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—Opponents of the four power Pacific treaty in the senate today abandoned all plans for a prolonged fight against ratification and accepted a unanimous consent agreement to limit debate and to take final vote on Friday, March 24.

The agreement which was hailed by administration leaders as a certain indication that ratification is assured, was proposed on the senate floor after a series of conferences among the various senate committees and was accepted virtually without debate.

It provides that no further reservations or amendments shall be voted on until next Tuesday, that speeches on the treaty shall be limited to one hour and that reservations to 30 minutes each, beginning on Wednesday, and that debate shall be taken through the day and night of Friday.

OLD FORT SAID TO BE ASSURED OF COTTON MILL. Site Is Declared Already Purchased for \$180,000 Plant There.

and loans for making gingham is practically assured for Old Fort, it was learned here yesterday. Cost of the proposed mill will be approximately \$180,000.

Property for the mill site is said to have been purchased at an economical figure and electric power will be available at a nominal rate. Subscriptions for stock amounting to \$130,000 have already been received. It was stated by one of those interested in the new enterprise for Old Fort yesterday, around \$50,000 worth of stock is now on the market.

Those comprising a committee on temporary organization and for purchasing machinery are, D. W. Adams, chairman; Messrs. Bryson, Estern, J. S. Bradley, Dr. J. B. Lockett, James and Dr. Johnson.

EXTENSION OF RELIEF TO AUSTRIA IS VOTED. SENATE VOTES TO ALLOW LOAN'S RENEWAL FOR PERIOD OF 50 YEARS. WASHINGTON, March 15.—The resolution of Senator Lodge, providing for the renewal of the loan for 50 years for Austria for famine relief, was adopted unanimously today by the senate and sent to the house.

Many Protesting Prevailing Rates on Freight, Said Simmons Is Told Special Attention Being Given Whole Situation. WASHINGTON, (The Asheville Citizen.) Senators Simmons and Overman are receiving many communications protesting against prevailing freight rates. They take their special attention to the fact of the situation. In a letter to Mr. Simmons, in answer to the Chairman McChord said the freight situation was being given special attention.

LANCASTER, S. C., BANK PRESIDENT IS INDICTED. LANCASTER, S. C., March 15.—Five indictments, charging breach of trust and misappropriation of funds aggregating something like \$100,000, were returned by a Lancaster grand jury today against Charles D. Jones, president of the First National Bank of Lancaster and former president of the Lancaster Mercantile company, one of the largest retail mercantile concerns in South Carolina.

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif., March 15.—Attorneys for the state announced late today that they accepted the jury as it then stood for the third trial of Roscoe Arbuckle in connection with a manslaughter charge in connection with the death of Miss Virginia Rappe, film actress. The jury contains three women.

AGENTS SELECT TITLE. CHATTANOOGA, Tenn., March 15.—(Insurers) a copyrighted National Association of insurance agents, was adopted by that body in mid-year session at Signal Mountain today.