

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS.

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CHARLOTTE, N. C., WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 4, 1908.

PRICE 5 CENTS.

Many Children Thought To Have Perished In Great Conflagration

Between 50 And 75 Children Thought To Have Been Buried Alive in Fire That Destroyed School Building.

Scores of Others Were Seriously Injured—Big Force of Men Busy Searching for Bodies of Flame's Victims

Cleveland, O., March 4.—Fire broke out in the Lake View public school building at Collinwood, a suburb, this morning and a frightful panic followed among the 400 or 500 children in the structure.

It is reported that between 50 and 75 children were burned to death. Scores of others who escaped from the building were injured.

The structure was burned to the ground. A force of men has been put to work searching for the bodies.

Vivid Story of Fire. In the fire, which completely destroyed the common school building in Collinwood, a suburb, 75 children are thought to have lost their lives.

The fire started by an overheated furnace. The flames quickly spread, but panic was caused when the building quickly filled with smoke and 400 children attempted to escape.

There were but two exits to the building available. One of these exits was used freely by the children, but the other soon became choked with children who madly dashed for the open air.

Those who fell in the doorway were trampled upon by those behind and the doorway was impassable.

Frightened and panic-stricken children turned to escape by the windows and other means that could be found. Escape was cut off by the flames which, by this time, had spread throughout the rooms.

The building was of brick, yet this did not retard the fire.

In a few minutes the lower story fell, precipitating scores of children to the street, among burning embers. The scene about the building was heart-rending.

Quickly the news of the terrible catastrophe spread throughout the village and hundreds of parents were crowding about the building in search of their girls and boys.

In a few minutes 20 bodies were taken from the ruins. Plainly, writhing or still forms of dozens of others could be seen in the basement.

Nearly factories dismissed their men and instructed them to assist in the rescue. They braved the fire and made heroic efforts to save those not dead.

25 Bodies Recovered. At 11:30 25 bodies had been recovered. Many children rescued are believed to be fatally injured. Scores of children were taken to the city hospitals.

Pulled Child's Arms Off. A man named Dorn, who arrived upon the scene early, discovered his little girl among the mass of injured and crushed. He caught the girl by the hands and in his frantic efforts to save her, pulled her arms from her body.

The greatest loss of life was caused by one of his exits being closed. The escape was blocked by a door that opened inward. In this manner they were delayed in reaching the other exits.

It is said that as a result of this stampede alone scores of children lost their lives.

Reports as to the number of the dead vary. The first estimate places the number at 250. Reports are conflicting of this time, but it is safe to say at least 75 perished. All but two of the 75 bodies are accounted for.

71 Bodies Recovered. At 1:45 o'clock 71 bodies had been recovered, including that of one of the teachers. At that hour a list of the missing numbered 103.

List Grows Fast. Cleveland, Ohio, March 4.—At 2:25 P. M. 116 bodies had been taken out and it is believed there are still more in the ruins.

Fearful Scenes. Fearful scenes were enacted around the burning school house. Fathers and mothers raved, cursed or prayed. Many tried to break through the crowds and some got so far as to dash towards the flaming doorways.

The Ormond Beach Races. Ormond Beach, Fla., March 4.—But one event is scheduled for today in the automobile tournament on Ormond Beach, the 128-mile gentleman's invitation race. There are six entries. The weather conditions were windy early today, although indications were that the skies would clear before the hour announced for the starting event. Tomorrow the start of the tournament, the 228-mile race, will be run off.

Furniture Plant Sold At Public Auction

Special to The News. Spartanburg, S. C., March 4.—The Lion Furniture Company's plant was sold at public auction under a foreclosure sale.

The property was bid in by R. K. Carson, attorney, representing the Fidelity Loan and Trust Company and the Spartanburg Savings Bank.

The price paid for the plant was \$10,000, while the stock of lumber and unfinished goods brought \$1,976.

It is understood that the company will be reorganized at an early date and operations resumed.

The Lion Furniture Company was organized several years ago and for a while was remarkably successful. The plant is one of the best in the country, all of the machinery being of the most approved type.

Municipal Campaign To Soon Open in Union

Special to The News. Union, S. C., March 4.—The municipal campaign has opened. The first candidate is out, this being Mr. James G. Long, Jr., now alderman from Ward 1, and who has been acting mayor pro tem and who wishes to be promoted to the mayor's office.

By this afternoon Mr. Long is the only candidate who has so far officially announced himself, though it is understood that there are several aspirants for mayoralty and aldermanic honors.

It is just two months today until the city primary election will be held, when the democratic voters of Union will nominate the man for mayor, for aldermen and one commissioner of public works.

The registration books for this democratic primary will be open five days during the month of April, the exact dates to be announced later.

Death of Little Child. Shelby, N. C., March 4.—William, the four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Dover died Monday. The child has never been well, and lately was taken to Charlotte for an operation, but it was not found necessary to perform one. The boy was a particularly bright child. The funeral services were held at the house on Tuesday afternoon.

Safe Crackers Successful Haul. Cincinnati, O., March 4.—Safe crackers robbed the Mount Oran bank, of Mount Oran, Ohio, of \$3,000 and escaped.

White-Hand Society. A complete list of suspected Italian anarchists, now residents in the city, has been furnished by the White-Hand society and further arrests are expected.

Will Entertain Fleet. Lima, March 4.—The American torpedo boat flotilla will go through a series of maneuvers tomorrow, off the island of San Lorenzo. The evolutions will be witnessed by pupils of the navy school. The director of the school will give a dinner tomorrow night on board the Peruvian transport Iquitos in honor of the officers of the flotilla. Various dinners and entertainments have been arranged for the American visitors during their shore stay here.

39,645 Scripts Filled In 1907. During the 1907 the drug stores of Charlotte filled 39,645 whiskey prescriptions. These called for 35,011 quarts and 419 dozen bottles of beer.

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Mrs. J. A. Pickard left last night for Greensboro to spend two weeks with relatives.

Dividend of \$5 a Share. Boston, Mass., March 4.—The directors of the Calumet and Hecla Mining Company today declared a quarterly dividend of \$5 a share.

Seaboard Offices all Open. Norfolk, Va., March 4.—At the office of the general manager of the Seaboard Air Line here it was stated that no trouble had been occasioned by the new nine-hour law affecting the railroad telegraphers, and that none is expected. It may also be stated that no telegraph office on the Seaboard will be closed.

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"THEY COME HIGH, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE 'EM!"

"White Hand" Society Busy

Would-be Assassin of Chicago's Police Chief Was One of Camp Followers in Parade—Two Suspects Arrested.

Chicago, March 4.—Lazarus Averbuch, the young Russian anarchist who attempted to assassinate Chief of Police Shippy and was himself slain, was one of a body of men who called upon Corporation Counsel Brundage several weeks ago to secure permission for a parade of the "Unemployed." This permission was denied because it was believed it would bring about a clash between the "reds" and the police.

Averbuch was not a member of the regular committee that accompanied Dr. Ben L. Reitman to the city hall but was a sort of "camp follower."

Suspects Arrested. Charles Yanaitis and William Stadelweiser, alleged anarchists, were arrested in connection with the attempted assassination of Chief of Police Shippy.

White-Hand Society. A complete list of suspected Italian anarchists, now residents in the city, has been furnished by the White-Hand society and further arrests are expected.

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Mr. Gilreath's Retirement

Notable Change in Large Shoe Firm, Which Will be Incorporated Under the Name of The Gilmer-Moore Co.

A notable change in the business world of Charlotte was effected yesterday when Mr. Frank Gilreath, the senior partner of Gilreath & Co., retired from the firm which has conducted one of the leading shoe and trunk houses in this section of the piedmont region for 20 years past.

The dissolution is by mutual consent. The business will be conducted at the same stand by Messrs. Thornwell T. Gilmer and Charles C. Moore under the firm name of the Gilmer-Moore company, for which papers of incorporation will be taken out at an early date.

The present stand of the firm, No. 16 South Tryon street, has been a shoe stand for 69 years. Both Mr. Gilreath, who retires, and Mr. Gilmer, who goes into the new firm, were clerks in the store which preceded this one—Pegram Co. The first man to run a shoe store at this stand was Mr. Meacham, followed successively by Wade & Pegram, Gilreath & Co., and now the Gilmer-Moore Co.

Mr. Gilreath by his energy and business talent has done much toward building up one of the greatest interests of his kind in the two Carolinas, and has won the right to go into the history of Charlotte as one of its ablest mercantile leaders. He is entitled to his well-earned rest.

Mr. Gilmer is a master of the shoe trade. His long experience and natural ability have made him the peer of any man in this line of business, and Mr. Moore, who has for many years been one of the most trusted men in the firm, is a good second to him. Their success in the past is an earnest of what they may be expected to do in the future.

Store at Collettsville Destroyed by Fire. Lenoir, N. C., March 4.—Information was received here today that the store house of Mr. John Harshaw, who lives at Collettsville, 10 miles above Lenoir, on the C. & N. W. railroad, was completely destroyed by fire Monday night about 12 o'clock.

Mr. Harshaw had a stock of goods worth \$1,500 and in the building was saved consisted of a small safe which contained some registered mail matter and other valuable papers.

Mr. Harshaw was not at home and it is supposed the fire originated from a defective flue.

Mr. Jesse Nix Dead. Lenoir, N. C., March 4.—Mr. Jesse Nix, one of Union county's oldest and most substantial citizens, died at his home a few miles east of Union, Sunday morning at 6:20 o'clock.

The funeral was held Tuesday afternoon at Bethel Baptist church several miles east of Union, and the interment will be in the adjoining cemetery.

Negro Arrested For Murder. Union, S. C., March 4.—As the result of a letter from Chief of Police George H. Boteker, of Birmingham, Ala., a young negro man known as "Kid" Ford was arrested here yesterday afternoon by Chief of Police J. C. Long and committed to jail charged with being implicated in the killing of a negro woman in Birmingham.

Demand Made On Small Town. Goshen, Ind., March 4.—Wawaka, a town of 300 inhabitants, has received a letter postmarked New York city, in which \$750 is demanded from the town within two weeks.

The letter says if the money is not delivered to a certain place in New York the town will be blown to atoms.

It is signed, "Anarchists."

It has been forwarded to the postal department at Washington and steps are being taken to guard the town.

A vigilance committee is being organized and officers will meet every train pulling into Wawaka for the next two weeks.

Letter Signed "Anarchists" Demands That Indiana Town Send \$750 to Certain Place in New York—A Threat.

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Ohio Republicans Think Disfranchisement Of Negro is Un-American

Platform Adopted at Republican Convention Declares for "Political and Civil Rights of Negro."

With a Resounding Yell The Name of Taft, as Candidate for President, Was Received—Endorsement Unanimous.

Columbus, O., March 4.—The republican convention convened this morning. In the platform adopted, it declares, among other things, for a greater merchant marine and adequate navy; liberal appropriation for improvement of waterways and harbors; revision of tariff by a special session of the next congress, along the line of the principle of protection; such modifications of currency as will provide for the demands of commerce and satisfy the needs of all portions of the country.

Provision for Negro. One question of the colored race platform declares for: "Civil and political rights of the American negro in every state, believing as we do that his marvelous progress in intelligence, industry and good citizenship has earned the respect and encouragement of the nation and that those legislative enactments that have for their real aim, his disfranchisement, are reasons of color alone are unfair, and repugnant to the supreme law of the land."

We favor the reduction of representation in congress and electoral college in all states of this union where white and colored citizens are disfranchised, to the end that the amendment to the constitution of the United States may be enforced according to its letter and spirit.

The administration of President Roosevelt is censured and Secretary Taft endorsed as the candidate for the presidency.

Congressman Burton read the report of the committee on resolutions, which concluded with the endorsement of Taft, and as soon as the delegates caught the drift of the endorsement, they broke in on the reading with a yell that caused him to pause several minutes.

The report was unanimously adopted amid wild applause.

Hartje Case Ended. Pittsburg, March 4.—The Hartje conspiracy case was brought to an abrupt end today when Judge Macfarlane instructed the jury to acquit Hartje, Welshons and Hoop, the three defendants and place the charges upon the county.

Manager of Winston Hotel. Winston-Salem, N. C., March 4.—John A. Tucker, formerly of Greensboro, is to be manager of the Hotel Forsyth, the new hotel to be opened at the corner of Third and Chestnut streets, in this city.

Threatens King's Death. Barcelona, March 4.—Placards have been posted throughout Barcelona announcing that an attempt would be made upon the life of King Alfonso on his approaching visit to this city March 12th, but were torn down today by the police.

Telegraph Offices Close. New Orleans, La., March 4.—The nine-hour law affecting railroad telegraphers caused about 25 per cent of the Southern Pacific Railroad telegraph offices in Louisiana to be closed today.

Mines May Close Down. Des Moines, Ia., March 4.—A complete shut-down of the coal mines in Iowa, which employ 15,000 miners, is threatened.

Mob Surrounds Negro Murderer. Charlotte, N. C., March 4.—Frank Johnson, a negro murderer, who took refuge in a barn on the Yates farm, shot and wounded three persons at daylight.

It is not believed that any were fatally injured.

The barn in which the negro is being arrested is surrounded by over 500 persons. Sheriff Flanigan has appealed to the West Virginia National guard for aid in capturing the negro.

Soldiers are on their way to the scene of the trouble.

Belgium Should Be Chairman. Mr. Shannonhouse Says The Party Ought To Again Put Him at the Head of The County Executive Committee.

The rumor has been floating out that Mr. E. R. Preston and Col. T. L. Kirkpatrick were willing to serve their county as chairman and secretary of the executive committee of the Democratic party, in case there is any desire for them to shoulder these tasks.

It was further said that they were both young men ambitious of future political preferment, in an indefinite way, and that they were anxious to get all the service to their party on the records as possible. The rumor further had it that Mr. Kirkpatrick had a weather eye on the solicitorship of this, the twelfth judicial district, when Mr. Clarkson's term expires two years from next December.

Asked in regard to the rumor that he was a candidate for the chairmanship of the county executive committee, Mr. Preston today declared that he is in no sense a candidate for the office. A number of his friends had spoken to him about the matter but he had given it no serious consideration, he said.

Col. Kirkpatrick was not found by the scribe but he will be looked up later.

A News man asked ex-Recorder F. M. Shannonhouse if he were a candidate for the secretaryship of the committee again and he said that that depended on the wishes of the executive committee. He was not in any sense actively seeking it.

Mr. Shannonhouse was then asked if he was a candidate for the chairmanship of the executive committee, as his name had been mentioned by political prognosticators in connection with that office. Mr. Shannonhouse was vehement in declaring that he had never had any idea of running for the chairmanship and under no circumstances would he be a candidate for the place. If Mr. James A. Bell can be induced to accept the place again, Mr. Shannonhouse said he would feel it a duty and a pleasure to support him. Mr. Bell, he went on, had taken the position against his inclination and at great personal sacrifice. He has put the work of the committee on such a high plane that all political hickering inside party ranks had disappeared and it would be of immense value to the party if he could be persuaded to remain in the position.

The resignation of Mr. D. Kirby Pope