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HICKORY, N. C., THURSDAY EVENING MARCH 23, 1916

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LARGE AREA OF AUGUSTA IS DESTROYED BY FIRE

Over 600 Residences and Six Business Blocks Burned in Worst Fire in City's History--

Both Newspaper Plants Destroyed--Other Big Fires.

(By the Associated Press)
Augusta, Ga., March 23.—Twenty blocks in the residence section of Augusta today presented the appearance of a desolate prairie and the bare walls of six business blocks gave testimony to the most disastrous conflagration in the history of this city.

The fire which raged for more than nine hours last night, causing a loss estimated at from \$5,000,000 to \$9,000,000, was brought to a halt early this morning.

An area of about 1 1/2 square miles was burned. The Augusta firemen were helpless and aid was sent from Columbia, Charleston, Savannah, Atlanta and other cities. The wind made fighting the blaze difficult.

Starting at a store on Broad street, the fire spread rapidly to "cotton row" in the rear, swept around the Empire Light building and then by leaps and bounds destroyed block after block except the sixth on Broad street. The flames cut a wide swath on Broad street to East Boundary, the end of the city. The flames swept across Broad street and cut their way through to Green street.

Estimates today placed the number of residences destroyed at between 600 and 700, including some of the finest homes in Augusta. No estimates could be placed on the loss. Today practically 3,000 persons were homeless. There were many narrow escapes, but nobody was seriously injured. Several firemen were taken to hospitals suffering from bruises.

Officials of the fire department today began an investigation, but have not determined the cause of the fire. The office building occupied by the Augusta Chronicle was destroyed. The Herald building also was burned.

Cotton amounting to \$2,000,000 was burned in warehouses along the river front. Several small buildings here were destroyed.

The Chronicle established an office in a commercial printing house and issued a paper this morning. The Herald will appear this afternoon.

(By Associated Press.)
5,000 HOMELESS
Nashville, March 23.—Citizens, civic and church organizations to-

BIG DROP IN CRIME OBSERVED IN BRITAIN

(By Associated Press.)
London, March 23.—A reduction in the prison estimates of the British Isles for the coming year of \$500,000 or about 12 per cent—and the shutting up, in whole or in part, of the visible evidences of the reduction of crime owing to the war, according to the report of the commissioners of prisons. Of the twenty prisons closed or in process of being closed eleven have been closed entirely, all been situated in towns of moderate size like Chelmsford, Hereford, Stafford, St. Albans, etc.

The biggest drop in crime was noticed in the year ending March, 1915 when the percentage was 281 per 100,000 population. The fiscal year now drawing to a close is expected to show a still further decrease in crime, the report says.

BIG FEE FOR LAWYERS
London, March 23.—Sir John Simon, who retired from the British cabinet because he could not agree with his associates on the question of military compulsion, has returned to the bar as a private practitioner. His first big case, a suit between two insurance companies, will come up shortly in the chancery division. His retaining fee in this case, \$35,000, is an illustration of the enormous rewards which are possible to a high-class lawyer in England.

ENGLAND NOW SAVING MATERIAL FOR GAS
(By the Associated Press)
Osaka, Japan, March 23.—According to the Maitichi, Japan is exporting to Great Britain large quantities of bromide which is used in the production of poison gas. Germany has inexhaustible rock-salt beds from which bromide is obtained; Japan has no rock-salt but has great areas of salt farms in the southern districts of the empire. The brine which is left after the table-salt is extracted has had a limited use in the past as a fertilizer and as an ingredient in bean custard.

The war which stopped the importation of dyestuffs and drugs from Germany caused manufacturers here to start chemical factories and one of these discovered that bromide could be had from brine. A sample was sent to England and Japanese bromide-making is now a regular and fruitful industry.

NEW REGISTRATION

An entirely new registration is required to vote either in the primary election Monday or the bond election Monday week. All who want to vote should have their names placed on the books.

Mr. A. C. Henderson has the registration books and it would be well to see him at the Mutual Building & Loan Association.

Remember that a new registration is required for everybody.

The books will close Saturday at sun down.

VOLUNTEERS FOR POSSIBLE SERVICE

Unmarried men between the ages of 18 and 35 who would like to go to Mexico in the event the national guard service are requested to write to Capt. Geo. L. Lyerly, Co. A, Hickory, at once.
Captain Lyerly said this afternoon that 80 per cent of his company, composed of 65 members—peace strength would serve the government in case of a call, but that the company would have to be recruited to its full war strength of 150 men. He will need between 75 and 90 men. Members of Co. A believe that they will be called out, but they are not sure when the order for their preparation will be received here. If Senator Sherman's resolution passes congress, the call will come immediately, it is believed. Once the guard is placed on the border, it most likely will do hard work in Mexico.

MINSTREL SHOW FOR RELIEF OF BELGIANS

Appearing under the auspices of the Belgian relief committee, the Belgium Relief Minstrel show will be heard at the Hub theatre tomorrow night, March 24, officially proclaimed as "Belgium Day". Dr. S. Westray Battle is chairman of the committee. The minstrel, which is presented by John Hayes, will appear at all the leading cities and towns of the state in aid of the movement to extend succor to the needy in the sorely stricken land of the Belgians.

That the need is great is shown by the testimony of F. C. Wolcott, who was sent by the Rockefeller foundation to investigate the work of the commission for relief in Belgium and who, in his report, says: "There would be wholesale starvation within four weeks if the importation of food into Belgium were stopped. The clothing situation in Belgium and northern France demands very serious consideration. Unless the work of providing clothing is kept up at a regular rate there is bound to be serious suffering."

Of the 7,000,000 inhabitants of Belgium, Mr. Wolcott says 3,000,000 are virtually destitute and daily one meal, consisting of three slices of bread and a pint of soup. I have seen thousands of them, he said, lined up in snow or rain, soaked and chilly, waiting for bread and soup.
Picture, he says, the mental condition of people without work for more than a year and a half and daily face to face with starvation. The "Belgium Relief Minstrel" have been specially organized for this tour and are reported to have a corps of excellent singers.

PETITION GRANTED TO HEAR POWER CASE

Raleigh, March 23.—The supreme court of North Carolina handed down yesterday afternoon in 16 appeals, only a few of which are of more than local importance. In the case of the Blue Ridge Interurban Company vs. Hendersonville Light & Power Company in which the defendant received a verdict for \$10,000 damages under condemnation proceedings, the supreme court granted the petition to rehear the case and finds no error in the ruling of the lower court. It finds nothing in the record to sustain the contention of the defendant that the plaintiff is a trust or part of one, nor that it is controlled by the Dukes or the Southern Power Company.
In Starling vs. Selma Cotton Mills, where the plaintiff sued for wrongful death of a child, the supreme court granted a new trial because the trial judge, W. M. Boyd, was not fair to the plaintiff but was clearly biased toward the defendant.

HEAVY WINDSTORM IN WILSON COUNTY

(By the Associated Press)
Wilson, N. C., March 23.—Houses were unroofed in this section, out-buildings demolished, windows blown in and chimneys destroyed in this section last night by a heavy windstorm, according to reports received here today. No reports of loss of lives or injuries were received.

A HUMANE THING

To the Editor of the Record:
Whatever may be our individual opinion of the action of our governor in commuting the sentence of Mrs. Ida Ball Warren, it is our duty to refrain from intemperate criticism of the governor. The position he occupied in this particular case was a most trying one. If he erred it was on the side of mercy. I believe that the governor did the humane thing. The end of justice has been met, the state has her record not stained with the blood of a woman. The state did not give life to this woman and it is a question, if the state has a right to take it away. She is practically dead to the state, but she is not dead to the opportunity to make her peace with a merciful Saviour. Let us reflect before we indulge in undue criticism of Governor Craig.
J. L. MURPHY.

REPAIRING COLLEGE CHAPEL

The work of repairing Claremont College from the damage done by the fire is being pushed rapidly and within a short time the chapel will be ready for use.

FRENCH HOLDING TO SECTION OF HILL

(By Associated Press.)
The French are still clinging to a part of the hill of Haucourt southwest of Lamancourt on which the Germans gained a footing last evening. An attack on the front along the Avocourt wood and Lamancourt northwest of Verdun.

Paris announces today that the German infantry attack in this section was not resumed during the night and that the artillery action has diminished.
The bombardment east of the Meuse was continued with undiminished intensity. The persistence with which the French are bombarding this section indicates that they fear the Germans are preparing for another attack there.

Besides driving off the Germans along the Divins and the Divinsk region, where Petrograd reports notable successes have been scored, the Russians are exhibiting activity in Galicia. The Austrians report repulse of Russian troops in this sector.

Sinking of the Norwegian steamer, bound from Portland Ore., for British ports, was announced from London. Thirty members of the crew were rescued. Another ship torpedoed was the Pougainville, twenty-three of her crew being saved.

MARKETS

NEW YORK STOCKS

(By the Associated Press)
New York, March 23.—Mexican affairs again projected themselves into the stock market at the opening today, overnight developments over the border affecting Mexican Petroleum, while the balance were firm.

COTTON FUTURES

(By the Associated Press)
New York, March 23.—Reports of rain in the southwest caused considerable scattered selling in the cotton market here early today. The opening was barely steady at a decline of five to ten points, with the active months about seven to ten points under last night's close.

	Open	Close
May	11.94	11.88
July	12.05	12.03
October	12.13	12.14
December	12.30	12.28
January	12.35	12.32

HICKORY MARKETS

Cotton	11 1/2
Wheat	\$1.20

CHICAGO GRAIN

(By the Associated Press)
Chicago, March 23.—Rain reports from the southwest tended today to weaken the wheat market. After opening 3/4 lower to a shade advance with May at 1.08 1/2 and July at 1.07 1/2 to 3/8, prices rallied to a moderate extent and then underwent another sag.

THE WEATHER

For North Carolina: Fair tonight, with frost probably. Friday fair, slightly warmer, moderate northerly and northeasterly winds.

COMPARATIVE WEATHER

March 22	1916	1915
Maximum	79	43
Minimum	56	28
Mean	67 1/2	35 1/2

RELIEVING SUFFERERS

(By the Associated Press)
Paris, Texas, March 23.—Work of relieving the sufferers and the homeless in Paris after the fire Tuesday night was carried along today. Money raised in Paris and in cities nearby came in and provisions were distributed to the needy. The 8,000 homeless were cared for by the citizens and in public places. The death list remained at three.

TENNESSEE HOUSE AGITATES QUESTION

(By Associated Press.)
Nashville, Tenn., March 23.—In the Tennessee house of representatives a resolution was offered by Representative West, Republican, to support the Sherman measure for a call for 50,000 troops. Endorsement of President Wilson's policy towards Mexico were given by Democrats during the debate. The resolution failed to carry when the rules were not suspended.

ANNUAL BANQUET SATURDAY NIGHT

Mr. F. O. LaFavers of Statesville, chairman of the entertainment committee of the telegraphers of the Asheville division, was in the city today making final arrangements for the annual banquet Saturday night of the boys at Hotel Huffry. The doors will be thrown open at 7:30 o'clock.

Mr. H. F. Payne of Morganton will be toastmaster and toasts will be responded to by Mr. W. C. Feimster of Newton, Mr. W. A. Self and Rev. J. G. Gath of Hickory and Mr. L. C. Caldwell of Statesville.

Between 50 and 60 operators and their guests will be present, and the occasion promises to be a most pleasant one.

THOUGH NOT AT WAR, HOLLAND IS LOSING

(By the Associated Press)
The Hague, Netherlands, March 23.—The war so far cost Holland a clear \$140,000,000. Further, reckoning the demands of the intervening period at \$8,000,000 a month, the new minister of finance, Doctor Anton van Gyn, estimates that by August 1 next a sum of \$180,000,000 will have been spent on the mobilized land and sea forces and in meeting the various other extraordinary demands made on the treasury by the war crisis.

Of the amount mentioned \$110,000,000 was raised by a five per cent loan issued after the first three or four months of war, and the problem now facing this country is how to provide the balance of \$70,000,000. Three bills have just been presented to the Dutch parliament embodying a straightforward and fairly bold solution. The new minister of finance therein proposes to raise as much as \$32,000,000 by a special levy to obtain another \$18,000,000 by a tax on year profits, and to have recourse to a loan for the balance of \$20,000,000. The actual loan, however, is to amount to \$50,000,000 out of which, assuming the war is over, the extra \$30,000,000 will be utilized to consolidate the floating debt accruing from the ordinary budget of 1914, 1915 and 1916.

Seeing that the floating debt of the Netherlands East Indies will also have to be consolidated shortly, it is evident that heavy demands will be made on the money market here before long. As, however, it is largely a matter of replacing floating by a fixed debt, it is not expected that the market will be greatly influenced and the powerful position of the Netherlands bank—whose gold stocks now amount to \$196,000,000—and the general plentifulness of money here, renders the prospects of the coming loans bright.

ONE KILLED AND TWO INJURED AT MARSHALL

(By the Associated Press)
London, March 23.—The British steamer Sea Serpent has been sunk.

LENOIR SCRUBS LOSE BATTLE IN SANDSTORM

Gastonia, March 23.—The Linwood College club defeated the Lenoir College scrubs on Lory Park here yesterday afternoon 12 to 8. Owing to the fact that the wind was blowing a gale and that the ground was covered with an inch of dust and sand, neither team could do any fielding. The first baseman and right fielder could be seen only at intervals by the crowd in the grandstand on account of the clouds of dust. It resembled the Sahara desert in a sandstorm; consequently the large score.
Linwood played the "varsity" and included several ex-learners, Howard and Lindsey, so it was quite an achievement of the Lenoir scrubs to hold them to the score they did.

AUSTRIANS ABANDON BUCKOWINIAN CAPITAL

(By the Associated Press)
London, March 23.—Abandonment of Czernowitz, capital of Bukovina, by the Austrians is reported unofficial wireless dispatch received here today from Rome.

BAPTIST WOMEN IN CONVENTION

The Woman's Missionary Union, auxiliary to the Baptist State Convention, is in session in Winston-Salem this week. There are nearly 600 delegates present. The First Baptist church of this city is represented by Mrs. W. R. Bradshaw, Mrs. J. L. Latta, Mrs. J. D. Harte and Misses Eva Penny and Ellen White. Miss May Edwards and Mrs. Johnson are the delegates from Brookford.
The sessions will continue through Friday. The most important business, after the annual reports, will be the election of a new president to succeed the lamented Miss Fannie E. Heck of Raleigh, and a corresponding secretary to succeed Miss Blanche Barrus, resigned.

TO PRESERVE THEATRE

(By the Associated Press)
Washington, March 23.—For the upkeep of the house opposite the old Ford's Theatre here in which President Abraham Lincoln died after being shot by John Wilkes Booth, congress appropriates \$200 yearly.

VILLA HAS ESTABLISHED NEW RECRUITING BASE

Former Carranza General Herrera Reported Marching Northward to Join Bandit--American Officials Worried--Other Mexican War News.

(By Associated Press.)
El Paso, March 23.—Francisco Villa has established a base westward of Namiqpa to reorganize his command and recruit new men for his army, it was reported here today. At this new base it was reported Villa would cooperate with General Herrera, who is understood to have renounced the de facto government. The general is reported as having carried his army to the Villa side.

General Herrera is said to be moving northward to effect a juncture with Villa, and the movement has occasioned much concern to officers at El Paso.

So grave was the situation regarded here that the military authorities planned today to take steps to relieve all Mexicans in El Paso of all arms that they might have concealed in their homes, and to prevent an outbreak on this side of the border.

It is understood that government officials here have sent to Washington a recommendation couched in the strongest terms urging that steps be taken to disarm all Mexicans along the border, taking the right of forcible entry and search.

The Washington authorities heretofore have opposed this step on the grounds that it would be misinterpreted by the Mexicans as a discrimination against them in violation of their rights. It is the opinion of local authorities that this is no time to regard sensitive matters.

Whatever may happen in Juarez there is no supposition here that any attack would be made on El Paso from the other side of the river but there is the greatest apprehension that an outbreak on one side would be followed on the other. There are about 31,000 Mexicans in El Paso out of a population of 75,000.

BRITISH VESSEL WAS SUNK TODAY

(By the Associated Press)
London, March 23.—The British steamer Sea Serpent has been sunk.

CROWDED MUCH ACTION IN VERY SHORT SPACE

(By the Associated Press)
London, March 23.—The Norwegian steamer Annik was sunk Wednesday night, according to a dispatch to Lloyds from Havre. The crew was saved.
Mr. E. L. Shuford who returned today from a ten day's business trip, crowded almost as much action in a short space of time as one man might reasonably do. He escaped from the second story of the Imperial Hotel at Knoxville Tuesday morning with his baggage; visited Morristown and saw Mr. Olin Marshall, formerly of Hickory, prospering in the lumber business; paid a visit to Johnston City and learned of the prosperity of Mr. Carl Marshall, also an old Hickory boy; visited Andy Johnston's tailoring shop at Greenville, Tenn. and learned that business was literally humming in that section, and to cap it all won a lawsuit in Marietta, Ga., that had been hanging fire for over thirty years.

WOMEN MAIL DRIVERS

(By the Associated Press)
Berlin, March 23.—Three hundred women are now driving horse-drawn mail wagons in Berlin, according to an announcement by the postoffice authorities.

Chamber of Commerce Meeting at 8 Tonight to Act on Constitution

A meeting of all the members of the Hickory Chamber of Commerce has been called for tonight at 8 o'clock to act upon the revised constitution of that organization. Practically all the amendments incorporated in the revised constitution were agreed upon at the annual membership meeting, but the governing board thought it best to have the constitution thoroughly revised so as to have it conform perfectly to the new plan of bureau representation. To this end, Ford's Theatre here in which President Abraham Lincoln died after being shot by John Wilkes Booth, congress appropriates \$200 yearly.

NEWS NOT CONFIRMED

(By the Associated Press)
Washington, March 23.—Confirmation of the report that the Carranza garrison under the command of Louis Herrera at Chihuahua had revolted and joined Villa was still lacking today at the war department, although a dispatch to that effect was past last night by the censors at Columbus. The dispatch stated merely that the revolt was reported and that there was no confirmation.

No new advices had reached the department, officials said, and there was no indication since the American expedition entered Mexico that the troops had fired a shot or had been fired upon.

Secretary Baker when asked today if the 25th cavalry and 24th infantry were ordered to join General Pershing, said, "I think I will not answer that question."

Wants More Flyers

General Funston today asked for eight more aeroplanes. He wants four to go to Columbus to fly with Brigadier General Pershing's column and four others to remain at his headquarters.

The disposition to agitate the Mexican situation in congress was evident to Chairman Stone of the foreign relations committee when Senator Johnston of South Dakota sent a telegram from his state offering a company from his state to the army.

Senator Stone said the introduction of resolutions was not timely. He said:

"The situation in Mexico, as we all know, is acute and whatever tends to agitate it is to be avoided."