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HICKORY, N. C., FRIDAY EVENING DECEMBER 8, 1922.

WEATHER
Rain tonight and Saturday. Warmer in north east and colder in extreme west portion.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

WEN MILL'S FIRE HITS OREGON CITY

With Twenty-Seven Business Blocks Destroyed, Faces Loss that Might Go as High as Fifteen Millions—All Stores, Banks and Homes Burned.

Associated Press.
Astoria, Dec. 8.—The business district of Astoria was laid in ruins today and despite efforts of fire department and assistance from Portland, swept 27 blocks and a loss estimated at \$15,000,000. The fire, which broke out early in the morning, destroyed the big houses were situated by forces of the Portland department dynamite in an effort to check the fire.

Earlier account.
Astoria, Dec. 8.—Ten blocks of the business district were wiped out, and lost and property damaged estimated at 10,000,000. The fire which broke out early in the morning, destroyed the big houses were situated by forces of the Portland department dynamite in an effort to check the fire.

RED GUNMAN WENT TO KILL HUSBAND

Associated Press.
Dec. 8.—Mrs. May P. Ford, who served the services of a gunman for her wealthy husband, Ney, offered the gunman \$20,000 to kill her husband and give him a photograph of her husband to make sure her husband was slain, according to a statement of four detectives who investigated the case.

Associated Press.
Dec. 8.—Mrs. Ford was arrested last night on the charge of attempting to commit murder. She was the victim of a frame-up. The result of her domestic difficulties include an appeal for \$25,000 damages from her husband for alleged assault.

ERNEST DUNN TAKES OWN LIFE

Associated Press.
Dec. 8.—The body of Ernest Dunn, well known in this city, was found in a rooming house this morning, death being due to asphyxiation. The coroner's jury found that the body was found that of his dog.

COTTON

Associated Press.
New York, Dec. 8.—The cotton market was steady at an advance of 17 points on higher Liverpool and a more optimistic feeling, promoted by the steady rise of the stock market and firmness in foreign exchange.

Open	Close
24.81	24.75
24.80	24.78
24.90	24.95
24.87	24.87
24.48	24.55

Cotton 24 1-2 cents.

President In Annual Message Urges Important Changes In Prohibition and Other Laws

By the Associated Press.
Washington, Dec. 8.—President Harding in his annual message to congress delivered today deals with a score of questions—the most important of which are prohibition, farm credits, the transportation problem, child labor and immigration.

The executive announces his purpose to invite the governors of the states and territories to an early conference with the federal executive authorities with a view to adopting a uniform course against illicit liquor dealing.

He says the day is unlikely to come when the prohibition amendment will be repealed and that the nation should adopt its course accordingly.

President Harding tells congress that if the statutory provisions for enforcement of prohibition are contrary to public opinion, which does not believe in rigorous and literal enforcement we should concentrate public attention on any requisite modification.

Such a course, he adds, "conforms with the law, and saves the humiliation of our government and the humiliation of our people before the world and challenges the element which would destroy our government."

With regard to the transportation problem, Mr. Harding proposes that the railroad labor board be abolished with the substitution of a labor division in the interstate commerce commission with ample powers to require its rulings to be accepted by both parties to a disputed question.

The executive also advises that the executives of the carriers and the officials of their organizations be encouraged to take up and settle their own problems, limiting officials of the government body to dispute of such a character as likely to endanger the public interest.

Coordination of all transportation facilities is urged, including inland waterways and motor truck transportation. He inveighs against a system of paralleling the railroads with truck roads instead of making the motor truck a feeder for them.

As to the carriers themselves, Mr. Harding suggests ways of increasing economy and efficiency, there be a merger of lines into systems, interchange of freight cars, the consolidation of facilities and the economic use of terminals.

More extended credit for the farmers is strongly urged by the executive, who declares that the very proof of the helplessness already given is the strongest argument of the permanent establishment of wider credits.

ATTEND FUNERAL OF POPULAR ACTOR

By the Associated Press.
San Jose, Cal., Dec. 8.—Friends and relatives of Frank Bacon, widely known American actor and creator of the role "Lightnin' Bill Jones," gathered today at the little town of Mountain View for the funeral in charge of the Mountain View lodge of Masons of which he was a member.

TUTTLE REFUSES TO ACCEPT DISMISSAL

Lenoir, Dec. 8.—The new county officers were inducted into office this week, the oath of office being administered by W. C. Moore, clerk. Mr. Moore, who also begins a new term, took the oath before the chairman of the county commissioners, F. H. Coffey. Mr. Coffey was elected chairman of the board at the beginning of the board's session Monday morning. All of the new officers filed bond, and these were approved and accepted.

The order of the former board made at a special meeting in November, creating three new townships of Gamewell, Buffalo Cove, and Richlands, was revoked. This action on the part of the new board was because of the fact that the three townships had not been created in a legal way.

One other important matter that came up was the dismissal of J. M. Tuttle as county welfare officer. The county welfare officer is appointed by the joint boards of county commissioners and the board of education. The board of education passed an order asking the chairman of the board of county commissioners to request Mr. Tuttle to resign. Mr. Tuttle refused to resign and the board then adopted the resolution of dismissing him. The proposition of appointing some one else to fill Mr. Tuttle's place has not been taken up. It is understood that Mr. Tuttle is not going to accept the dismissal, and it may be that the case will be carried into the courts before it is decided.

WOUNDED SOLDIER SHOT IN HOSPITAL

By the Associated Press.
London, Dec. 8.—The Dublin correspondent of the Evening Standard reports that a party of men entered the Vercy hospital and shot a Free State soldier lying in one of the beds in reprisal for the murder of Rory O'Connor and Liam Mellows.

NEW BERN MAYOR TO DEFEND FIREMEN

New Bern, Dec. 8.—N. E. Canady, deputy fire insurance commissioner and Mayor Edward Clark, came to the defense of the city fire department following the statement issued by the state fire insurance department at Raleigh which charged negligence in handling last week's disastrous fire here.

Mr. Canady termed the state department's utterance "unjust criticism." In a statement to the Associated Press tonight, he declared the local fire department had done everything within its power. He said it was true the department went outside the city limits to combat the Roper mill fire. Any other department in the state would do the same thing when the necessity arose, he stated.

The fire forces were concentrated at the mill when the big fire started, which destroyed more than a thousand structures.

Deputy Commissioner W. A. Scott, praised the quick work of the department in reaching the scene on the west side. He said there was but little delay. The New Bern fire department was not to blame.

Mayor Clark declared the Raleigh statement was unjust to the city, its fire department and citizens.

Insurance adjusters are working on claims, but so far no adjustments have been made. Mr. Scott said his investigation showed there will be approximately \$500,000 in insurance claims. Police are investigating the charge that explosives were found in negro homes.

Work of clearing away debris is being rapidly pushed. Smeblance of order is beginning to appear out of the chaos.

If the country gets much wetter under prohibition, historians are likely to credit Mr. Volstead with the remark, "After me the deluge."—Life.

PLANS FOR CAROLS ARE UNDER WAY

Plans for the Christmas caroling are developing rapidly. The four ward chairmen were appointed and have already started work on their groups. Each ward is planning to have at least four groups of carolers.

The chairmen for the wards are as follows:
Ward No. 1—Mrs. George Bailey.
Ward No. 2—Mrs. R. J. Revely.
Ward No. 3—Mrs. Harold Shuford.
Ward No. 4—Miss Emma Bonner.

These chairmen will meet with Mrs. Robt. Brown and Mrs. S. H. Farabee to perfect the districting of the groups and the final plan of organization. The caroling will be one of the most interesting features of the Community service Christmas celebration in Hickory.

BOYS' CONFERENCE BEGINS IN RALEIGH

Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 8.—Representatives from twenty-six counties in the state are to gather here this evening for the opening of the fourth North Carolina Older Boys' conference, which will be in session here three days.

The theme of the meeting will be "The Message of the Torch" and the program includes addresses by college workers of the state, Dr. H. B. Atuck, Davidson College; Dr. Carl C. Taylor, State College; Dr. C. P. Pindexter, member of the North Carolina University football team Harry Comer Y. M. C. A., secretary at University of North Carolina; Roy L. Vail, state boys' work secretary; Odie B. Hinnant, city boys' work secretary, Wilmington; Winston Humer, halfback on the Raleigh high school football team; and Cloyce Tew, of the Raleigh H. Y. Club, will be among the speakers.

HIS LOCATION

"Ah, Mr. Gloom!" we began. "Where you out in all that rain yesterday?"
"Certainly not!" replied the human hyena. "I was merely in that portion of the downpour that descended in my immediate vicinity."—Kansas City Star.

LEGION TO ELECT OFFICERS TONIGHT

New officers of Hickory post No. 48, American legion, will be elected tonight and it is expected that a large membership will be present. Jos. L. Murphy is the present commander.

There are several matters to come up, one of them being of tremendous importance to the legion.

COMMERCE BODIES FAVOR SHIPPING PLAN

Rocky Mount, N. C., Dec. 8.—Twenty-two chambers of commerce in North Carolina have endorsed Governor Cameron Morrison's shipping line corporation commission, according to an announcement today by Norman Y. Chambliss, president of the North Carolina Commercial Secretaries Association.

Western North Carolina "it strong for the proposal," said Mr. Chambliss, naming Asheville and Hendersonville as two of the cities voting in favor of the plan. Votes received from the eastern section indicated that the entire territory is supporting the governor's proposal, he asserted.

The balloting is expected to be completed within the next several days, it was stated.

THIS OLD FELLOW IS GRANTED FURLOUGH

Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 8.—Frank Watson, octogenarian, serving a two years sentence on Bertie county roads, has been granted a furlough of sixty days by Governor Cameron Morrison in order that he may undergo a serious operation.

Watson was sentenced last May after being found guilty of gambling. The appeal for the parole was signed by twelve citizens of Bertie, who gave a detailed account of the aged prisoner's condition.

YOUNG PEOPLE DO WELL

The condition of the three young people—Clair Hefner, Miss Gladys Hefner and Miss Pearl Campbell—who were injured in an automobile collision several days ago, was reported satisfactory today. Mr. Hefner was able to be up today and expects to return to his work in about ten days. Miss Gladys Hefner sustained bruises and Miss Campbell suffered a dislocated collar bone. Both are able to be up.

REPUBLICANS PLAN OHIO CONFERENCE

Representative Knight Calls Rally in Ohio to Encourage Party to Get Back to "First Principles" and Stop Service to "Special Interests"—Borah to Make Address.

WATER QUESTION OF INTEREST TO CITY

By the Associated Press.
Washington, Dec. 8.—Plans for a Republican meeting at Akron in February for the purpose of "aiding and encouraging the Republican party in Ohio to get back to first principles," were announced here today by Representative Knight, Republican of Ohio. Fifteen or 20 progressives, Mr. Knight said, will be there to hear an address by Senator Borah, Republican of Idaho, on "the necessity of re-dedicating the Republican party to the service of the people."

"The meeting," said Mr. Knight, "will not be for the purpose of launching, aiding or encouraging any third party in Ohio or to encourage the candidacy of any man for the presidency."

"It would seek," he added, to "re-dedicate the party" and get away "from being office boy for the special interests." Mr. Knight declared in a statement that it was perfectly apparent that Ohio was going to fall into the Democratic lap in 1924 unless the Republicans do something, "adding that the Akron meeting would seek to arouse and bring together those forward-looking Republicans who are anxious that the party go back to the service of all the people."

Along with members of city council Hickory business men are interested in the investigation to be ordered by the board into the best way of handling the water situation here and the report of an engineer to be employed next Tuesday night will be awaited with interest. The engineer will be expected to show Hickory where it stands now—which is generally known—and what it will cost to increase the supply by using the present system and enlarging it or by going to the mountains for a supply.

The cost of furnishing water to a growing city will be taken into consideration. Something that sounds good may not look good after it is gone into. The city wants to know.

The cost to the city of this investigation will not be more than \$1,000 and this charge will be absorbed by the engineering firm which is given the contract to handle the situation. The preliminary investigation would be required in any event and the city will not spend any more than \$1,000 until it knows what it is going to do.

The report of the engineer employed should be ready in about 29 days from the time he goes to work.

MR. ROBERT BRACKEN ELECTED INDIANA STATE AUDITOR

A great deal of pride is felt in Hickory over the election results in Indiana in which Mr. Robert Bracken was elected State Auditor. Two years ago this past June Mr. Bracken was married to Miss Margaret McComb, one of Hickory's dearest and most popular young women. Mrs. Bracken is a woman of much culture and refinement and comes from pure pioneer stock. For several years she was a valued member of the Hickory school faculty after completing her college education.

Mr. and Mrs. Bracken and attractive young son visited in Hickory this summer before going to and returning from the rock where they spent the greater part of the season.

In commenting on Mr. Bracken's election the Charlotte Observer of Sunday said:

"If we keen a lookout we generally find that no election can be held in any State in the Union which does not develop something of more or less interest for North Carolinians. As an instance out of the elections in Indiana, Mr. Robert Bracken, Democrat, was elected to the office of State Auditor. Mr. Bracken is not exactly a North Carolina man, but he is next thing to it. He married a splendid example of Hickory womanhood in Miss Margaret McComb, and they are taking with them to the State House in Indianapolis a coming Tar Heel in the person of Robert Bracken, Jr., now 18 months old, and who has been stoutened up and given a good start in physical vigor through the atmosphere that prevails at Blowing Rock in the Summer time. Mr. Bracken and family spent last season at the Rock, and the strings of acquaintanceship are strung out throughout the State. Mr. Bracken is an Indiana Democrat of the old stock. He cut his North Carolina visit short last summer that he might return and take active part in the Indiana campaign. He is a Democrat from boyhood and has been party chairman in several past campaigns. He is a banker, having been organizer of the American National at Frankfort. When he left the Rock he gave no word that he was a candidate, but his friends throughout this State, knowing the integrity of his character, will be inclined to the belief that the congratulations are due the State of Indiana."

FORM EMPLOYMENT BUREAU

By the Associated Press.
Raleigh, Dec. 8.—An emergency employment bureau has been established at New Bern M. L. Shipman, state commissioner of labor and printing, announced today on his return from that city.

The bureau began operation today. W. H. Vause of the Charlotte office is directing the organization.

An effort is being made, said Mr. Shipman, to keep as much labor as possible in the vicinity of labor to prevent a serious shortage of labor when the work of rebuilding begins.

ANOTHER BIG CROWD ENJOYS PROGRAM

An enthusiastic crowd gathered at Legion hall last evening for the regular weekly fun fest in spite of the great amount of sickness in town.

Miss Frances Newton introduced her fishing contest and as usual the men showed their ability in this line and won the contest. When it came to the bounce ball relay the girls came out with glowing colors showing their skill as ball players.

Musical games seemed to be very popular with those present and after playing a musical mixer to the tune of "Dixie" there was a request for the ever popular Jump, Jim Crow; then followed the orchestra game and finally after introducing circles the evening wound up with Looby Loos.

Miss Wilson announced that directly after the holidays a gym class for girls will be organized for two evenings each week. All those interested in this class are asked to communicate with the Community Service office phone 213-J.

Senate Republicans have decided to refrain from attempting to push the Dyer bill through at this time. They have grown weary of a situation which permitted Democrats to do all the talking.—Richmond Times Dispatch.

IRISH INSURGENTS ARE PUT TO DEATH

By the Associated Press.
Dublin, Dec. 8.—Rory O'Connor and Liam Mellows, together with two other Irish rebels, were executed in Mount Joy prison this morning, it was officially announced.

Roderick Rory (O'Connor) and Liam Mellows were leaders of the band of Irish insurgents that held the Fore Courts building in Dublin in its stand against the Free State troops last June. Each was taken prisoner after the building was captured.

HALL WITNESS



Miss Barbara Tough, seamstress for Mrs. Hall, wife of the slain rector, is testifying before the grand jury.

Associated Press.
Dec. 8.—The cotton ginners are working on claims, but so far no adjustments have been made. Mr. Scott said his investigation showed there will be approximately \$500,000 in insurance claims. Police are investigating the charge that explosives were found in negro homes.