

HICKORY DAILY RECORD

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WEATHER
Rain on coast and rain or snow in interior tonight and Tuesday. Somewhat colder.

ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 11, 1915.

HICKORY, N. C., MONDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 18, 1922.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

BIG SUNDAY FIRE CAUSES MUCH DAMAGE

By the Associated Press.
Charlotte, Dec. 18.—The six-story brick building on South Tryon street containing the Keith vaudeville theater and a large number of offices was seriously damaged by fire early Sunday with a total loss estimated at approximately \$100,000.

The roof was burned off an adjoining three-story building occupied by Brockman's retail and mail order book and stationery store, and a number of offices and practically all the contents of the structure were a total loss due to fire and water. The Piedmont building on the south side of the Trust building was water-soaked from roof to cellar. It was headquarters for the Piedmont Fire Insurance company and the Morris Plan bank, and contained numbers of other offices.

The fire was believed to have originated in the furnace room of the Trust building and had gained great headway before it was discovered. Six or one or two minor injuries to women, there were no casualties in the fire which attracted hundreds of persons. One of the heaviest downpours of rain Charlotte has had this year began to fall about the time the fire was under control.

Had it not been for the heavy rains of the last week which left nearby buildings soaked and the aid given by the torrents of rainwater that fell Sunday morning, Fire Chief Wallace said the blaze might have proved as disastrous as the recent one at New Bern.

Tons of water were thrown into the smoldering ruins throughout the day and South Tryon street was blocked to traffic until the late afternoon as parts of the front wall of the Trust building fell into the street. The scene of the fire was between Third and Fourth streets on the west side of Tryon, within a block of where the famous Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence is said to have been signed.

In addition to the losses to business men and others whose offices and equipment were destroyed, the lodge rooms of the Dramatic Order Knights of Khorassan, which were in the Piedmont building, were water soaked. The Trust building, which also was known as the Academy of Music, had nothing but gutting walls, the front part of which had partly fallen out. It was erected 18 years ago and was a brick structure. Within recent months it had been purchased by C. W. Johnson at a price said to be \$253,000.

Total loss in the building occupied by Brockman's store and offices was stated at more than \$100,000, while thousands of dollars of damage was done by water in the Piedmont building. Other nearby structures escaped with a few panes of broken glass and scorched awnings, from the flames, which were discovered about 10 p. m. The losses generally were said to be well covered by insurance although there were numerous individuals who had no such protection against fire.

Mayor Walker announced that he would turn the city auditorium over to those whose offices were destroyed and would erect temporary partitions in the main hall of the building.

A check-up of injuries showed that Captain Al Moody of the fire department suffered painful cuts from falling glass and that R. W. Stokes was knocked down, apparently by contact with an electric wire, but not seriously hurt. Electric light and power was turned off in downtown Charlotte for several hours during the fire.

MINER LEFT FOR DEAD, BACK TO TESTIFY

By the Associated Press.
Marion, Ill., Dec. 18.—Shot down and left to die on a lonely roadside, Dan O'Rourke returned today to tell his story at the trial of five men charged with murder in the Herrin massacre. That O'Rourke "returned from the very shadow of the grave" to testify and testify for the prosecution, was announced by the state prosecutor today.

Charity With a Practical Side



Workers feeding the Armenians, the Near East relief workers are teaching them the value of good roads by building them. Workers are paid in food. Photo shows Clifford Downer of Kingston, N. Y., directing a road gang at Alexandropol.

DENVER ROBBERS CONTRACT IS SIGNED MAKE LARGE HAUL

By the Associated Press.
Denver, Col., Dec. 18.—Three bandits today shot and probably fatally wounded Charles Linton, a federal reserve bank guard, and escaped with about \$200,000 in currency of \$5 denominations which was being loaded onto a truck from the mint to be transferred to the local reserve bank.

The robbers seized the money and sped away in a car. As they fled, officers from the bank building fired at them. All the police in town were called out and sheriffs in adjoining counties were notified.

While the robbery was going on, according to witnesses, a second automobile loaded with masked men and sawed-off shotguns 20 feet away ready to give aid in case it was needed.

FIGHTING TO KEEP BIG LAKES OPEN

By the Associated Press.
Chicago, Dec. 18.—Battling foot by foot through towering seas and freezing spray the men who go down in ships are fighting a battle to keep navigation open on the great lakes longer than usual.

Already the fight has claimed its toll of lives and before the last ship has been accounted for or been given up for lost, that toll may be greater.

Nearly a dozen died a few days ago when a Canadian steamer was dashed to pieces within a stone's throw of safety at the mouth of the Portage Lake Ship canal.

MRS. BRUNER HELD ON MURDER CHARGE

By the Associated Press.
Mount Holly, N. J., Dec. 18.—Justice Kalisch today refused the motion of Mrs. Dorris Bruner's attorney to dismiss the charges against her in connection with the killing of "Honest" John E. Bruner, carnival owner. Justice Kalisch declared that "although the testimony in this case may be very meagre so far as Mrs. Bruner is concerned, the question must be decided by a jury."

MIXED COMMISSION TO CENTRAL STRAITS

By the Associated Press.
Lausanne, Dec. 18.—Foreign Minister Tchitcherine of Russia proposed today to the near east-conference commission studying the status of the Turkish straits a plan providing for an international board of control on which would be represented Germany, the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy and all the countries bordering on the straits.

ITALIAN RAILROADS ARE IN BAD WAY

By the Associated Press.
Rome, Dec. 1.—Benito Mussolini, Italy's new prime minister, who until nine years ago was known as a socialist, has begun his tenure of office by inexorably laying the axe to the root of all public service institutions owned or managed by the state, such as railways, telephones, telegraphs, letter and parcel posts, which show a deficit; and even some others which are more or less successfully run.

The railways in Italy are perhaps the most striking example of the difficulties and weaknesses of state management. During 17 years of such control, declares Professor Ugo Ancona, an expert on financial questions, they have ceased to be the largest producers of national profit, and are today virtually owned by the railroad men. Before the great war the railways brought in from 40,000,000 to 50,000,000 lire a year, which might be taken as interest on the five and a half billion lire which had been spent on constructing them. The deficit in 1921 was over a billion lire, although the price of tickets is now three times what it was, and it is said that the deficit for 1922 will be still greater.

In fact, says Professor Ancona, the net result of government management is disorder on all lines, deficiency of material, deplorable condition of running stock, service deteriorated, and discipline entirely wrecked. The number of employees and their ages have enormously increased; the average rate of pay having risen from 2,000 lire a year before the war to over 10,000 lire today. To this should be added the greatly increased number of strikes, and the fact that thefts on the railway, which used to amount to about 10 million lire a year, have now risen to over one hundred million. Five billion and a half lire were spent in 60 years in order to construct the railways; two and a half billion have been spent during the 17 years of state control to enlarge them.

Professor Ancona says further that "these troubles are due in large measure to the fact that the Italian railroad lines run through sections of the country each with widely differing economic, social and climatic conditions, thus creating a complicated and difficult system impossible for the state to manage successfully. Political interests have been permitted too much influence in deciding where new lines were to be built."

Another great drawback to the proposition of Italian railways Professor Ancona says, is that the workers have insisted on an eight hour day, for all employees, even for those whose duty consists of opening and shutting a gate at a level crossing once or twice a day. This eight hour question has added 10,000 or 50,000 to the number of the personnel, and something like 500 million lire to the expense of operation. The only remedy likely to bring in a reign of economy and efficiency, according to this financial expert, is the radical one of gradually ceding to different private companies the lines which, as one great whole, have been such a failure in the hands of the state.

TWENTY-THREE ARE RESCUED FROM TUG

By the Associated Press.
Sault Ste. Marie, Dec. 18.—Twenty-three of the 27 persons who have been missing since the tug Reliance struck on a rock off Lizard Island last Wednesday have been saved, according to reports from the tug Gray, which reached the wreck today.

COTTON

By the Associated Press.
New York, Dec. 18.—The cotton market was active and rather excited at the opening today. Relatively firm Liverpool cables and private reports of rapidly improving general trade conditions in England evidently stimulated the buying movement which started after the publication of the government crop estimate last week and the opening was firm at an advance of 23 to 40 points.

	Open	Close
December	25.75	25.72
January	25.70	25.84
March	26.00	26.15
May	26.08	26.26
July	25.95	26.05

Hickory cotton 25 1-2 cents.



Boston's Coal Problem



Hundreds of Boston citizens stormed City Hall to secure some of the 25,000 tons of coal which the city obtained to meet the fuel problem. Here is a part of the crowd thronging the fuel committee's headquarters.

IREDELL MAN, HIS THROAT CUT, FOUND

By the Associated Press.
Statesville, N. C., Dec. 18.—J. Robert Malone, 36 years, disappeared from his home in Shiloh township, December 9, and nothing had been heard from him until his body was found in a branch near his home late yesterday with a gash in his throat. Malone was said to have been insane and application had been made to have him admitted to the state hospital at Morganton. He is survived by a wife and three children.

BUTLER IS GIVEN FAVORABLE REPORT

By the Associated Press.
Washington, Dec. 18.—The nomination of Pierce Butler of Minnesota to be an associate justice of the supreme court was ordered to the senate today by a unanimous vote of the senate judiciary committee. The committee acted after receiving a report from a subcommittee which inquired into the nomination and recommended favorable action.

Chairman Nelson announced he would make the report on the first legislative day and bring it up for confirmation as early as possible.

TRINITY TO CLOSE ON ACCOUNT OF FLU

By the Associated Press.
Durham, N. C., Dec. 18.—It was announced here today that Trinity College would be closed this afternoon for the Christmas holidays, two days earlier than usual, because of a number of influenza cases in the college. A total of 36 cases had been reported on the campus today.

CHRISTMAS BOXES FOR OTEEN BOYS

Don't forget to have something in the box which is to be packed at the home of Mrs. K. C. Menzies Thursday evening by the Red Cross canteen for the boys of Ward I-8, Oteen.

There are ten sweaters, two pairs of bed slippers, three robes, two electric pads, one pair shoes, three wool shirts, two pair of pajamas, five fountain pens. Name and sizes will be given to any one who will send a Christmas package to one of these boys and the card of anyone contributing money to buy any of these articles will be put in the package, as they all love to get individual presents.

We have to count on the men, as usual, for help in the larger things; but when it comes to cakes and good eats, we depend upon the ladies. Please phone as soon as possible to one of the canteen committee or send package to Mrs. K. C. Menzies' home.

ROYAL YACHT TO COMPETE IN NEXT YEAR'S RACES
By the Associated Press.
London, Nov. 30.—King George has definitely announced his intention of fitting out the famous yacht 'Britannia' for racing next year.

WALLY REID NOW REPORTED TO BE DYING

By the Associated Press.
Los Angeles, Dec. 18.—Wallace Reid, motion picture star, is on the verge of death and for several days has not been expected to live, according to his wife in an interview given the Los Angeles Examiner. One of the physicians attending Mr. Reid corroborated his wife's statement, according to the Examiner, saying:

"Mr. Reid has been near death for the past five or six days. His temperature has repeatedly reached 103 and his pulse 130. His heart action is weak. He has fainted on average of three times daily and has lost 70 pounds in weight. Laboratory findings at the present time indicate he is suffering either from complete exhaustion or from influenza."

The physicians describing the illness, according to the Examiner, said: "His condition has no connection with liquor or dope, although his indulgence in the past undoubtedly has affected him."

Mrs. Reid in describing his condition just before the present breakdown said he wept and said: "How did I happen to let myself go? Why couldn't I have stopped long ago? I thought I was strong enough!"

In dignant denials of published reports of "orgies" in the Reid home were made by Mrs. Alice Davenport, mother-in-law of the actor, to whom these reports had been credited.

"I know there are dope parties in Hollywood—every one knows that," she said. "Wally has attended some of them. I do know that he has returned from parties at some of the homes in Hollywood with a sad expression on his face and say:

"Mother, I don't like it. That isn't the way to have pleasure. It's all so false, so artificial!"

PROHIBITION BOOMS TRADE IN POCKET FLASKS

By the Associated Press.
New York, Dec. 18.—If the Christmas rum fleet reported to be bound for New York from the Bahamas succeeds in running the blockade of the dry navy, it should find New Yorkers amply supplied with receptacles for toting the forbidden liquor.

Several manufacturers declared today that the demand for flasks had trebled since the advent of prohibition. Shop windows with their Christmas decorations feature clandestine drinking vessels which in "wet" days brought a shudder from society. Stores are selling thousands of flasks—large ones for roomy coat pockets and small ones gracefully and gracefully curved for the hip; expensive containers of silver and gold and cheaper ones covered with imitation leather.

Flasks are not the only drinking apparatus on display. Shown in abundance are hollow canes, decanters, glasses never blown for milk, and elaborate cocktail shakers.

COW SWALLOWED WIRE

A small piece of wire two and a half inches long caused the death of a fine Jersey cow belonging to W. E. Kuhn, he reported today. The wire was thoroughly imbedded in the animal's heart, a post-mortem by Dr. McCoy disclosing it. When the veterinarian was called in by Mr. Kuhn, he suggested the cow had swallowed a nail or some other indigestible element, and the operation proved his theory.

TRUCKS COLLIDE

A Reo truck driven by Burton Starr and an Abernethy Oil Company truck driven by Ralph Shell collided in front of Whitener and Martin's at 8 o'clock this morning, and the Reo went down with a left front wheel off and other injuries. Neither occupant was injured.

GERMAN MARKS INCREASE IN VALUE

By the Associated Press.
Berlin, Dec. 18.—In the midst of Christmas shopping German consumers of all classes were jubilant today in the unprecedented drop in the dollar represented by mark exchange, falling from 8,300 to 5,600 the dollar in the course of five days. This rise in the mark has already produced a drop from 10 to 25 per cent in wholesale market prices. The retailers are reluctant to make reductions because they are stocked up with goods bought when the market was much lower.

GREAT INCREASE IN AMERICAN EXPORTS

By the Associated Press.
Washington, Dec. 18.—American exports in November reached the highest point of the year, according to overseas statistics made public by the department of commerce today, giving a total of \$383,000,000.

The November total is \$12,000,000 greater than the value of October exports and \$90,000,000 greater than the value of commodities shipped abroad in November last year.

In comparison with November 1913 the increase was more than \$138,000,000.

A brief statement by the department declared the November returns showed that American agriculture and industry generally benefitted from the increasing port business. Detailed analysis of the trade, however, has not been made.

ENOUGH MOTOR CARS TO CARRY EVERYBODY

By the Associated Press.
Washington, Dec. 18.—There are enough motor vehicles in the United States to take the entire population for a ride at the same time, says the bureau of public roads of the department of agriculture. At the beginning of 1922 there were 4.2 motor vehicles for each mile of road in the United States.

One hundred and twenty vehicles per minute was the rate at which motor vehicles passed a bureau observing station on a trunk line highway in Massachusetts, recently. This rate was continued from noon to ten p. m.

A tourist recently driving through four states was required to buy four different sets of lenses to make his headlights comply with state regulations. In this the bureau sees great need for more uniformity in highway regulations.

Federal-aid highways placed under construction in September amounted to 1,180 miles.

SUB-COMMITTEE TO STUDY KELLER

By the Associated Press.
Washington, Dec. 18.—The house judiciary committee appointed a subcommittee today to investigate what action if any, should be taken in connection with the refusal of representative Keller, Republican of Minnesota, to appear before the committee and testify as to the source of his information in the impeachment proceedings against Attorney General Daugherty.

RAEFORD MAN DIES IN AUTO ACCIDENT

By the Associated Press.
Raeford, N. C., Dec. 18.—L. A. Potter, aged 35, local insurance man, was killed last night when the automobile in which he was riding overturned at Roccridge bridge one mile from Raeford. No one was with him at the time of the accident. He is survived by his widow and two children. His neck was broken.