

THE WEATHER

For Raleigh and Vicinity: Partly cloudy, with local showers tonight or Friday; light to moderate variable winds.

The Evening Times

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DEMOCRATIC HOSTS GATHER AT CHARLOTTE

An Enthusiastic Gathering of the Militant Democrats of the State

SCENE OF ENTHUSIASM

Nine Hundred Delegates Gather at the Assembling of the State Convention and Great Auditorium Filled With 4,000 People—Chairman Eller's Opening Speech—Roasts Morehead and McNinch in Passing—Overman Then Speaks and the Convention Gets Down to Business.

(Special to The Times) Charlotte, July 14—With an estimated attendance of 900 delegates, amid scenes of wild enthusiasm and of hope running high, the North Carolina state democratic convention was called to order shortly after noon today. The large auditorium, holding 4,000, was well filled, while decorations and hanging festoons and bands and many pretty women threw an indescribable charm over the whole.

The convention was called to order at 12:10. Rev. H. M. Hulten, pastor of the first Baptist church, offered the invocation, following which Chairman Eller announced as secretary, A. J. Fields, of Wake, and R. E. Carmichael and J. C. Ward assistants. Chairman Eller then addressed the convention. Surveying the great assembly he shouted, "Who says that democracy is in danger of falling to pieces?" "Morehead," yelled a voice in the gallery. "Yes," replied the chairman, "and that since he began the use of the franking privilege to warn cotton manufacturers that their business depended on republicans. And it's significant that so many of the mills are now closing down, with nothing to do."

After reviewing the recent vote of the state democracy Chairman Eller turned to the future: "There has been only one defection from the party, he called out, "and that is the Hon. Sunset McNinch, of Charlotte." (Laughter.) "The day has arrived in North Carolina when her manufacturing interests, her wealth, her agricultural interests and her virtue must form in her a new constructive statesmanship. The day of change is at hand. A new era has arisen in our state and only one party exists capable of directing this new movement. The democratic party laid the foundation for our progress and now she is en-

THE WAKE COUNTY DELEGATES ORGANIZE

(Special to The Times.) Charlotte, N. C., July 14—Wake county delegates met this morning and organized with W. B. Jones chairman. The county was entitled to a member of the committee on resolutions and platform, and Josephus Daniels placed the name of J. W. Bailey before the caucus. Walter Clark, Jr., was named by Albert Cox, and he was selected. Maj. H. A. London was chosen a member of the executive committee. He has already served thirty-eight consecutive years.

Census Figures. (By Leased Wire to The Times) Washington, July 14—The census bureau today made public the following population returns: Windsor City, Mo., 2,241; Harvard, Neb., 1,192, and the following four counties of Texas: Atacosa, 10,094; Newton, 10,850; Sabine, 8,582, and Matagorda, 13,534.

DISASTER AT SEA

Trapped On Burning Steamer, 100 Dead

Russian Passenger Steamer Lovki in Collision With Another Steamer. Burns, Explodes, and Sinks.

(By Cable to The Times) Odessa, July 14—Trapped on a burning, sinking steamer, 106 men, women and children perished near Kherson, on the Black Sea, according to dispatches received here today. After collision with the steamer Wampoa, the passenger steamer Lovki, crowded with passengers, foundered. Her boilers exploded and many of the victims were scalded to death. Many of the dead are reported to have been Jewish fugitives. Not a score of those who were aboard the ill-fated vessel escaped, say the advices. In the tangle of blazing debris men fought down women in the struggle for safety. Mothers threw their children overboard, hoping they would be picked up, only to see them drown. The stampede for the boats, in which all but the strongest were trampled down, was checked only by the explosion of the boilers, which lifted the steamer from the water and rent it asunder. Within 15 minutes of the collision there was no trace left of the Lovki save charred debris and the bodies of the victims. The two vessels came together, according to the first reports, in the arm of the Black Sea at the mouth of the river Dnieper, known as the Bay of Otchokov. From Kherson, a city of 70,000, the capital of the province of the same name, relief was sent within a short time, a fleet of craft of all sizes hurrying to the aid of the victims. Few were picked up, most of those on the doomed steamer were torn to bits or stunned by the explosion, according to the few who escaped. Those who were rendered unconscious were either drowned or scalded to death. There were numerous instances in which the victims, while conscious, were caught in their berths and scalded to death as the vessel went down. The survivors declare that the explosion of the boilers filled the vessel with steam in a few moments. Many of the passengers were quartered between decks and these had no means of escape from the steam. Their shrieks as the riven vessel foundered added a weird note to the tragedy. But a fraction of the small boats could be lowered in time, the explosion tearing some of them from the davits and splintering the bottoms of others. The rush of the passengers and the fright of the crew prevented the proper lowering of the boats, also, and one, say the dispatches, fell into the water when it had been filled to capacity with men. The swift tides in the bay swept away many who might otherwise have been rescued. The Wampoa stood by, but her condition as the result of the collision was such that she could do little, although her boats cruised about, picking up a few survivors. Aleski, on the opposite side of the Dnieper from Kherson, sent a flotilla of boats to the scene, as well as Kherson and vessels were also dispatched from here as soon as the news was received. Kherson is 90 miles from Odessa.

Pinchot and Others Considering Matter of Place to Hold Next Convention. (By Leased Wire to The Times) Chicago, July 14—Officials of the National Conservation Conference, who are in session in Chicago with Gifford Pinchot, are maintaining the most rigid secrecy in their meeting. The session was held at the Congress Hotel and many of those who attended did not even register. Pinchot's program for the conference, which was to have been held in St. Paul in September, is likely to lead to a merry row in the ranks of Minnesota republicans. It is said Pinchot favors Chicago for the congress if it is not held in St. Paul. The meeting today was to try, if possible, to patch up a truce between the warring factions so that the congress might proceed at St. Paul. Kansas City is after the meeting, but it is predicted that a conservation movement more favorable to Taft may be formed.

HOLDING SECRET MEETING. (By Leased Wire to The Times) Chicago, July 14—Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis convened a special federal grand jury today to hear the testimony in the new beef trust investigation. Immediately after he delivered his charge, men high up in packing circles were subpoenaed and hastened before the inquirers. The list of witnesses is a long one and their testimony will grant them immunity from prosecution. Among them first called were: Ralph Crews, counsel for the National Packing Company; Arthur Colby, assistant treasurer; Lemuel B. Patterson, vice president; William E. Webster, general auditor; O. G. Snow, secretary; Alonzo N. Benn, director, and J. J. Risch, assistant general manager. Subpoenas for "obolo" witnesses have not been made out because of the uncertainty as to the plan of the investigation. United States Attorney Sims plans to push the investigation with all haste. A great mass of testimony in former hearings will be submitted to the jury.

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Edward Croker, chief of the New York Fire Department against whom charges of incompetency have been made by a committee that investigated a fire in which two firemen lost their lives. The men who brought in the charges are all subordinates of Croker's and their findings have caused much indignation in the fire department circles. Croker was also on the committee and agreed with his colleagues on but four of the six points. Croker was given a week in which to file his minority report.

THE VENUS CAPTURED

Madriz Gunboat Falls Into Hands of Estrada

Reported That Madriz Gunboat Has Been Captured by Estrada—No Details of the Engagement—Conditions in Nicaragua.

(By Leased Wire to The Times.) New Orleans, La., July 14—The United States cruiser Prairie, Captain Witherspoon, commanding, reached here from Nicaragua early today bringing the news that Estrada had captured the Madriz gunboat Venus during an engagement along the Atlantic coast between Pearl Lagoon and Bluefields. The wireless operator of the Prairie picked up a dispatch saying the Venus was taken during an engagement between American planters and Estrada soldiers of Pearl Lagoon on one side and the Venus and the gunboat San Jacinto of the Madriz government on the other. This is the first news of the fate of the Venus that has been received here. The boat sailed from here under a Norwegian flag three months ago and turned up at Greytown, Nicaragua, as a full fledged gunboat well armed and equipped. She was under command of Generals Irias and Altachule, Madriz's personal representatives. The men of the Prairie tell of fearful conditions existing in Nicaragua. In a statement given by Captain Witherspoon of the Prairie the commander declares that the United States must step in and end hostilities in Nicaragua. Witherspoon declares that American intervention may result in temporary complications so far as the relations of the United States with the Latin-American republics is concerned, but he declares this is better than to permit a continuance of present conditions in the war-torn republic. Captain Witherspoon says: "Bluefields is almost an American city and the protection of American interests in that place is only right and proper, no matter who it affects. Unless intervention comes the struggle will go on indefinitely for Madriz cannot take the east coast and Estrada cannot take the west. "Every ship that now enters Bluefields carrying an exclusively American cargo has on board two American sailors. The reason for this is that General Rivas, in command of the Bluffs sent word to us that he would sink any ship that attempted to pass the custom house controlled by Madriz. In the event of his firing on any ship carrying any of our sailors you can depend upon it that Bluefields Bluffs will be levelled. "Regardless of stories to the contrary, President Madriz is the same stripe as Zelaya and the state department with him has been entirely correct. Should Madriz gain control of the country it would be the same thing as Zelaya. We are protecting our interests but American interests. Just as we were leaving we got a broken wireless message that would

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AFRAID OF THE RESULTS

Conservation Congress May Not Meet In St. Paul

Pinchot Has Placed Too Many Insurgents on the Program—Regulars Object—Say It Will Split the Party. Kansas City Suggested.

(By Leased Wire to The Times) Washington, July 14—Unless there is a decided change in sentiment St. Paul will withdraw its invitation to the conservation congress, which is scheduled to meet in that city September 6. The threatened break is said to be due to the program arranged by Gifford Pinchot, which gives undue prominence to the insurgents who have been most free in their criticism of the Taft administration. The information received here is to the effect that the Minnesota republicans, including Governor Eberhart, are uneasy over the prospects of a "split" in the party and are apprehensive that Pinchot's scheme of giving all the prominence to the insurgents may result in strengthening the ranks of the insurgents in Minnesota at a cost to the regulars. President Taft is said to be displeased at the undue prominence given the insurgents by Pinchot, especially the announcement that Attorney Brandeis, who represented Glavis at the Ballinger-Pinchot investigation, is to be one of the principal speakers. Colonel Roosevelt, who is to be a leading spirit at the congress, has not yet been heard from, and it is not known that he has any objection to the program as arranged. An effort is being made to shift the congress to Kansas City. Senator Nelson, of Minnesota, and the Hill railroad influences are the chief factors in the opposition to the program which has been prepared. They are taking the position that it is intended to strike at the administration. This is strongly denied by the men responsible for the program. They say they have no purpose to say or do anything against the administration and that all they are doing is to further the cause of conservation the best they know how. The conference is being held in Chicago today which will probably settle whether the meeting is to be held in St. Paul or elsewhere. "Mr. Pinchot has gone to Chicago to attend. Others, who are there include B. N. Baker, president of the congress; J. B. White, a prominent officer of the congress; T. R. Shipp, secretary of the National Conservation Association; Governor Eberhart and a number of Minnesota republicans.

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A MURDER MYSTERY

An International Mystery More Baffling Than Charlton Case

Human Bones Found in the Basement of the Home of an American Dentist in London—Dentist Has Disappeared—May Have Been His Wife.

(By Cable to The Times.) London, July 14—Scotland Yard today is face to face with the most baffling international mystery of a decade—an enigma deeper than the Charlton case as the result of the discovery of human bones in the basement in the home of Dr. Hawley Crippin, an American dentist, at 39 Hildrop Crescent, North London, one of the prettiest of the city's suburbs. Although the first belief was that the remains were those of Belle Elmore, the beautiful American musical artist who married the dentist some time ago, fresh testimony by neighbors today led to the belief that another woman was the victim of what is, say the police, undoubtedly a daring murder. The police of every important city of the world today took up the chase for the dentist who disappeared after the first visit of the police to his home on June 9—three months or more after the notice of his wife's death abroad had been published. The mystery has been added to by the introduction of a third figure—Ethel Leneve, a pretty typist. She is believed to be with him. The belief is now held that Crippin's relations with women will reveal a startling career as a bluebeard, according to authorities. Sir Melville MacNaughten, the chief of Scotland Yard's criminal investigation department, who is directing the big force of detectives handling the case, today made another daylight examination of the premises, especially the cellar, where the bones were found, which was photographed by flashlight last night after the mystery had been discovered. The bones which today were given to experts for minute examination, are apparently, according to the police's first statements, those of a woman of 27. Belle Elmore was 35. Barring a mistake, here is one of the most baffling phases of the case. If Belle Elmore was not the victim, who was? Where is Crippin? And where is his pretty wife? Every route leading from London today is under close guard, and all ships that have sailed for America in the last few days have been communicated with, if possible, by wireless, the police taking the same precautions as they did in the hunt for Porter Charlton, the young American now under arrest in New Jersey, confessed murderer of his wife in Italy. Belle Elmore's maiden name was Kunigunde Makomaski. She was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., and took the name of Belle Elmore after going on the stage, where she gained a reputation as a soprano singer. Several years ago she married Dr.

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GIRL MAY DIE OF SNAKEBITE.

Miss Alva Weeden Bitten at Blowing Rock by Copperhead and Physicians Despair of Saving Her Life.

(By Leased Wire to The Times) Boone, July 13—Dr. J. W. Jones was hastily summoned to the bedside of Miss Alva Weeden at Blowing Rock this morning, she having been bitten by a copperhead snake some time yesterday. The physicians in attendance having almost despaired of saving her life called Dr. Jones to aid in her case. Report has it that she has turned dark spotted all over her body and is frightfully swollen.

SPECIAL GRAND JURY IN BEEF TRUST CASES

(By Leased Wire to The Times.) Chicago, July 14—Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis convened a special federal grand jury today to hear the testimony in the new beef trust investigation. Immediately after he delivered his charge, men high up in packing circles were subpoenaed and hastened before the inquirers. The list of witnesses is a long one and their testimony will grant them immunity from prosecution. Among them first called were: Ralph Crews, counsel for the National Packing Company; Arthur Colby, assistant treasurer; Lemuel B. Patterson, vice president; William E. Webster, general auditor; O. G. Snow, secretary; Alonzo N. Benn, director, and J. J. Risch, assistant general manager. Subpoenas for "obolo" witnesses have not been made out because of the uncertainty as to the plan of the investigation. United States Attorney Sims plans to push the investigation with all haste. A great mass of testimony in former hearings will be submitted to the jury.

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Congressman Joseph C. Sibley, of Franklin, Pa., whose nomination as republican candidate in the 28th Pennsylvania district is to be subject to a legal inquiry. Sibley in a sworn affidavit required by law admitted to the expenditure of \$41,000 in his fight. Twenty-seven voters of Venango, Mercer and Warren counties, in Pennsylvania, recently petitioned Judge George S. Griswell to appoint an auditor to take testimony relative to Sibley's account. It is alleged that Sibley spent very much more than specified in his affidavit.

SIX MEN ARE KILLED

In Big Fire In Portland Early Today

Many Were Injured, 150 Horses Were Roasted to Death and \$750,000 Worth of Property Destroyed. Portland Exposition Building Destroyed.

(By Leased Wire to The Times) Portland, Ore., July 14—Six men were killed, a score injured, 150 horses were roasted alive, and property worth \$750,000 was destroyed in the handsomest portion of Portland, the "Rose City", early today by the worst fire that has visited the extreme northwest in years. According to the police, an explosion in a garage caused the fire. The garage district was the heart of the conflagration and the explosion of fuel spread the flames rapidly. The dead: John Morgan, hostler; F. R. Price, foreman United Carriage Company; Fred Boot, hostler; three unidentified men. The latter three were admitted to the barns of the Lewis & Clark exposition buildings by Morgan and Price for a night's lodging. The horses destroyed were stabled in the exposition grounds. The principal building destroyed was the Portland exposition building. Fifteen apartment buildings in the vicinity went up and the fashionable Multnomah Athletic Club was also destroyed. The occupants of the apartments were compelled to flee for their lives, many, attempting to secure more than the night clothes they wore, narrowly escaped. Within a few minutes after the fire was first seen, shortly before one o'clock this morning, a general alarm had been turned in and every available piece of fire fighting apparatus in the city was clattering toward the exposition building on the 18th street. The clang of bells and toot of sirens aroused the city, and, attracted by the high shooting flames within a short time a crowd that taxed the police to the utmost was gathered about the exposition building. A strong wind carried sparks far and high and shot the flames across great gaps, spreading the fire rapidly. It was after 3 o'clock before the fire chiefs gave out word that the blaze was under control. Even then, however, to the last man, the fire seemed to be burning at its maximum. The deluge of a hundred streams was continued for many hours after. More than a dozen buildings had been swept away when the turning point was announced by the authorities. All night long men, women, and children stood crowded about the police lines, gazing at the destruction of building after building. With the police struggling to keep clear the right of way, the ambulances from every hospital in the city were lined in the vicinity. The surgeons were kept busy restoring overcome firemen and dressing the burns of refugees and others. Dry as tinder the old exposition building was a mass of flames almost before the first engine arrived. After it had blazed fiercely for an hour—a torch that could be seen over the country for miles about—it collapsed with a roar and a geyser of cinders and red hot ashes shot up. When the collapse came a band of a dozen firemen were all but trapped under the walls. Chief Campbell had given up hope of saving the old building from the first, directing all forces toward concentrating the fire. On Washington, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, Twentieth, Chapman, Ella, Alder, and Morrison streets, the firemen played steady streams for hours, after the police had forced the occupants, to seek safer quarters. This precaution was not taken in time, however, to prevent many narrow escapes. The spread of the fire was so rapid that the police were taken unawares. The Multnomah Athletic Club, one of the best equipped buildings in the country, with field beachers and grandstand valued at \$75,000, was totally destroyed. The members were whipped into an impromptu force, however, and saved the furniture and trophies, worth thousands of dollars. Forty jackies from the gunboat Yorktown also did yeoman service, under Ensign George Joerms and Ensign J. M. Meredith. The tars used the scaling ladders like veteran firemen when the old Bishop Scott Academy caught fire. Industry without judgment can beat a runaway automobile for smash-ups.

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CONFERENCE ON BETWEEN ROAD AND MEN

Pennsylvania Railroad Officials and Trainmen Leaders Confer on Situation

ALL WANT PEACE

(By Leased Wire to The Times) Philadelphia, Pa., July 14—After a conference with General Manager W. H. Myers, of the Pennsylvania Railroad, the leaders of the men who threaten to strike for a wage increase declared themselves optimistic. A committee of twelve was appointed from the larger delegation to meet Mr. Myers again this afternoon at 3 o'clock. Both President A. B. Garretson, of the Order of Railway Conductors, and President W. G. Lee, of the Trainmen, said the first meeting had been satisfactory and an amicable adjustment seemed possible. The sub-committee began working out details of a plan. It was said the committeemen were considering a compromise offered by the road. The railroad officers declared that they had nothing to say after the final conference. Demands Will Stand. Philadelphia, July 14—"We will do all in our power to reach a peaceable settlement, but the men have made up their minds." This statement, made this morning by representatives of the 15,000 conductors and trainmen of the Pennsylvania Railroad, gave the status of the strike situation when the conference between the committeemen and the road officials, at which the final say from each side was expected, began. General Manager W. Hayward Myers, of the road, refused to discuss the situation this morning. "I can say no more till I have met the committeemen," he said. The leaders of the 129 delegates representing the employees declared that the entire situation rested on the attitude of the company. "The men have made the demands and stand ready to enforce them," said one. "There is no possibility of their backing down." There was, however, much talk of a possible compromise this morning. (Continued On Page Six.)

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COMMISSION WILL INVESTIGATE ALL RATES

(By Leased Wire to The Times) Washington, July 14—The interstate commerce commission today officially announced its intention to suspend all traffic, naming general and important rate advances, pending investigation as to the reasonableness of the proposed advances. The statement issued by the commission continues: "No more definite statement in this regard can now be made, but the specific orders will be announced from time to time as they are entered and served. It is expected that the suspension in each case will be for 120 days from the effective date named in the tariff, but the commission intends by subsequent orders to provide for making effective on the same day such advances as may be allowed."

Convicted of Graft. (By Leased Wire to The Times) Pittsburgh, Pa., July 14—Common Councilman A. V. Simon was today sentenced to four months imprisonment and fined \$200 as the result of his conviction on graft charges.