

Associated Press Service

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The Weather—RAIN.

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LAST EDITION

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HOUSTON IS SWEEPED BY FIRE

District One Mile Long and Almost Half As Wide Burned Over

SEVERAL MILLIONS LOSS

Fire Started in Wooden Hotel Building and Was Fanned by a Wind Blowing 35 Miles An Hour—Was in Factory District—Thousands of People Homeless—Plenty of Food and Shelter for Homeless and Relief Work Has Already Been Started.

Houston, Tex., Feb. 21.—Fire broke out at twelve-thirty this morning in a wooden hotel building, and swept by a wind blowing thirty-five miles an hour, ate its way one mile across town, covering an area of seven blocks wide. The loss may reach ten million dollars. Among the mills, factories and plants, either totally destroyed or seriously damaged, are: McFadden Southern Compress and Warehouse Company; Dew Brothers Syrup Mill; Houston and Liggett Lumber Company; Rogers Paint Company; Magnolia Compress; Hudson's Pencil Factory; Houston Packing Company; Ed. H. Harrell Lumber Yard; Standard Compress; Cooperative Manufacturing Company; Acme Mill; St. Patrick's Catholic Church; Catholic school.

At least twenty-five squares in the residence district were burned. No casualties have been reported. Thousands are homeless. The weather is cool. Underwriters refuse to make positive statement regarding the loss. Most part burned homes were not of great value as the flames swept through a district comprising workmen's cottages.

At seven o'clock this morning the fire was brought under control. Conservative estimate at nine o'clock placed the loss at five million dollars. Most of the loss is involved in the destruction of factory buildings. The heaviest single classification of loss involves cotton. The estimated loss on cotton compresses and the staple stored therein reaches two million dollars. One estimate places the cotton loss at five millions. Relief work is underway. There is plenty of food and shelter for the homeless.

The fire, it is believed, started in a cottage near the Southern Pacific tracks. The origin is not definitely established. A roaring wind picked up the flames, hurling them to neighboring houses. A half hour after the fire started a great area was in flames. The greatest loss was sustained by cotton and lumber industries. At the cotton compresses, forty-five thousand bales were burned. The burned area is a mile and

BANDITS ATTACK TRAIN BUT FAIL

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Feb. 21.—Five men made an unsuccessful effort to hold up a westbound passenger train on the Chicago and Northwestern at three o'clock this morning, nine miles east of here. While the train was passing slowly over new constructed work bandits signaled the engineer to stop. When the engineer opened the throttle they began firing. A bullet struck the engineer in the arm, but he stuck to his post and brought the train into the city. Poses started in pursuit of the robbers.

NEWPORT DRIEST IN YEARS

Newport, R. I., Feb. 21.—Nothing except hotels, clubs and licensed taverns served drinks Sunday, making Newport the driest on any Sunday in 20 years or more. No one ordered the saloons to obey the Sunday laws, but proprietors were not taking chances of being spotted by men believed to be the same whose report six months ago led Governor Pothier to direct Sheriff Anthony to close all gambling and other resorts. Unless all signs are misleading, the governor intends to go further and clear Newport of every dive and stop the selling of all wares on Sundays.

a half long, and at points a quarter of a mile wide, was swept clean by the flames.

Nothing was saved. Fifty Thousand Bales Burned. Philadelphia, Feb. 21.—George H. McFadden and Brother, cotton merchants, received a message from their manager in Houston, estimating from fifty to sixty thousand bales of cotton were destroyed or damaged in Houston fire district. Two or three thousand bales were in McFadden's compress which was destroyed.

JAPAN AID CHINESE BANDITS.

Reported to Be Dispatching Troops to Point North of Mukden. London, Feb. 21.—The Peking cabinet is alarmed over reports of a serious rising which is threatened in the district around Mukden, Manchuria, according to a Peking dispatch to the Daily Telegraph. To add to the alarm of the cabinet, there are further reports that the Japanese authorities in Manchuria, contending that China is now without a government, are secretly dispatching Japanese troops in plain clothes to assist the bandits to occupy and fortify Tich Ling, north of Mukden.

Nanking, Feb. 21.—Dr. Sun Yat Sen and the members of the republican government, as well as the national assembly, are still waiting for the official reply of Yuan-Shi-Kai to their request that he come to Nanking. If the former premier should refuse to come south the situation will be seriously complicated.

The red, white, blue, green and yellow flag of the new Chinese republic was raised over the legation in this city for the first time Sunday, the Chinese new year, according to the old calendar, but owing to the omission of some formality it remained aloft only two or three minutes.

It is not known when the old imperial dragon will be pulled down and stowed away and the new flag raised permanently.

WANTS SWAMP LANDS

Fifty Thousand Acres Owned By the State

Real Estate Man of Wilmington Submits an Offer for the Property to State Board of Education—Fine Farming Lands If Drained Properly.

Mr. R. C. Renick, a lumber and real estate man of Wilmington, appeared before the state board of education today at noon and submitted a proposition concerning the purchase of Angola Bay and Holly Shelter Swamp lands, situated in Pender and Duplin counties. These lands, partly under water, embrace some fifty thousand acres, which are said to be capable of being converted into excellent farming lands with proper drainage.

The property is owned by the state board of education, which will act upon Mr. Renick's proposition probably this week.

North Carolina Postmasters.

Washington, Feb. 21.—Wm. M. Smith today was appointed postmaster at Wakulla, vice S. Z. Bateman, resigned.

Victor Baxter was appointed carrier on rural route one, Marble, vice Ernest Palmer, temporary; Ross Newman substitute.

HILDEBRAND-CRATER CHANGES NAME

The Hildebrand-Crater Publishing Company, of Greensboro, publishers of the Greensboro News, has filed an amendment to its charter, changing the name to Greensboro News Company. Mr. W. A. Hildebrand is president of the corporation and Mr. E. B. Jeffers is secretary.

Holiday at Postoffice.

Tomorrow, George Washington's birthday, will be observed as a holiday by the postoffice here. The city carriers will make only the morning delivery and the general delivery and stamp window will be open from 8 to 10 o'clock. The rural carriers will make no trip.

Storm in Central States.

Chicago, Feb. 21.—The central states are visited by a snow storm. The mercury fell rapidly. There is a forty-mile gale and railroad traffic is affected in some sections.

A SCHOOL FOR OFFICERS NEXT

First of the Kind in State to Be in Raleigh For Week of May 12-18

Arrangements are being perfected by Adjutant General Leinster for the officers' camp of instruction to be conducted in Raleigh during the week of May 12th to 18th.

This is the first time that an instruction camp for officers has ever been held in North Carolina and it will be a very important gathering for this city. There will be a hundred or more officers of infantry and medical corps in attendance from the various military organizations in the state, also six regular army officers detailed by the war department to conduct the officers' school. Instruction will be given by divisions, about twenty members to the class, and will consist of both lectures and practical field maneuvers. There will be demonstrations of tactical walks which consist of a series of expeditions afoot over several square miles of territory for securing data that would enable officers to conduct an engagement most advantageously. Practical illustrations of map-making will also be given.

While the instruction camp is being conducted, the officers who will attend and participate will be quartered in tents on some location to be decided upon later.

HIS GEESSE PICK COTTON

Tennessee Man Says Each Will Average 75 Pounds a Day.

Humboldt, Tenn., Feb. 21.—Dr. R. O. Williams, of Humboldt, who is also a farmer, claims to have a flock of geese which he has trained to pick cotton. There are ten geese in the flock, and Dr. Williams claims each goose will pick on an average of 75 pounds of cotton a day, and that often his flock will gather sufficient seed cotton in one day to make two large bales.

The doctor says he first taught his geese to do the picking act by placing grains of corn in the open bolls of cotton in such a way that in order to get the grain the geese would have to pick out the cotton.

The Packers Trial.

Chicago, Feb. 21.—The packers trial has entered upon the twelfth week. District Attorney Wilkerson stated it would take the government three weeks more to conclude its case. The government concluded its examination of William E. Ehler, Morris and Company's margin clerk this morning.

Another Tennessee Lynching.

Nashville, Feb. 21.—Reports from Brentwood, ten miles from here, say a mob has surrounded in the woods, two negroes who killed a white farmer this morning. A double lynching seems inevitable.

COLOMBIA WANTS SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM

Bogota, Colombia, Feb. 21.—The action of Pedro Nel Ospina, Colombian minister to the United States, in notifying the state department at Washington, that Secretary Knox's proposed visit to Colombia, would be "inopportune" is unknown to the general public. Strong sentiment prevails for an honorable settlement of Colombia's claim in connection with Panama.

SEVEN SILK MILLS COMBINE

York and Carlisle Concerns Have Output Exceeding \$4,000,000.

New York, Feb. 21.—The first authentic announcement of the rehabilitation of the business of the New York Silk Mills, at York, Pa., was formally made today by the Pennsylvania Textile Company, which will, in the future, operate the York Silk Weaving Mill, the Windsor Silk Weaving Mill, the York Silk Finishing Mill, the Monarch Silk Throw and Spinning Mill, all at York, and the Carlisle Silk Throwing and Spinning Mill at Carlisle, Pa.

The output of the seven mills equals one-twentieth of the present volume of production in the United States, exceeding 4,000,000 a year in value.

DEFENDANT DISCHARGED

Tom Morris Not Bound Over to Court On Charge of Selling Liquor At His Stable

THREE OTHER CASES YET

Defendants Motion to Change Magistrate Granted by Justice of Peace Bledsoe, but He Named Magistrates Who Will Try Cases.—Morris Had Most Evidence On His Side—Characters Are Aired and Larceny of Tobacco From Southern Railway Brought Up.

The first battle between the law and the alleged blind tigers was won by the defendant. Tom Morris was not bound over to Wake superior court today by Justice of the Peace E. M. Bledsoe, who held that probable cause was wanting and who stated that he did not want to place a great deal of expense on the taxpayers. The magistrate said, however, that the case could be brought to the attention of the grand jury.

All the other cases were removed by the defendants from the jurisdiction of Justice Bledsoe. Dave Hinton, the only colored man in the bunch, will be tried before Justice of the Peace S. L. Rutter; Rufe Pudley before Justice of the Peace R. G. Reid and W. C. Poland before Justice of the Peace C. A. Separk. Will Hopson, who was out on (Continued on Page Seven.)

WILL MANUFACTURE RAILWAY EQUIPMENT

A charter was issued this morning to the Interstate Railway Frog and Switch Company, of Salisbury, with thirty thousand dollars of stock subscribed for by P. H. Thompson, F. M. Thompson, W. B. McCanness, D. L. Arey and E. C. Gregory, of Salisbury, and G. W. Montcastle, Dornot Shennell and Emory E. Roper, of Lexington. The company proposes to manufacture railway switches, frogs, signalling devices and other apparatus for railway use.

LAWYER KILLS HIMSELF.

New York, Feb. 21.—George F. Parsons, a lawyer, 35 years old, committed suicide by shooting today. Parsons enjoyed a large income from the estate of his father, the late George Parsons, who was a manufacturer of fire-works, and had a good practice at law. Parsons' relatives say he became despondent over a recent disagreement with his wife, which resulted in her and their seven-year-old daughter living apart from him.

Stops in Mississippi.

Meridian, Miss., Feb. 21.—Wind storms swept this district last night, destroying thousands of dollars worth of property, killing herds of cattle and demolishing homes. Wires are prostrated.

ROOSEVELT SPEAK TO OHIO CONVENTION

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 21.—In a snow storm, Theodore Roosevelt reached here and addressed the Ohio constitutional convention. As the Roosevelt train rushed through Ohio, people were gathered at every station, greeting the former president. Roosevelt is scheduled to return to New York this afternoon.

Boy Victim of His Appetite.

Louisville, Feb. 21.—Edmund Bacon, age eight, died a victim of his abnormal appetite. Since infancy the boy possessed a man's appetite, and his hunger was never assuaged. Brain congestion, superinduced by acute indigestion caused death.

Two Italian engineers living in New York have designed a parachute to lift an aviator from a falling aeroplane and lower him to earth un-

INVESTIGATION IS DEFERRED

Coroner's Jury Will Probably Resume Its Hearings Tomorrow

Pending the investigation by the officers of certain reports and the completing of the stenographic report of the first hearing, Coroner Separk today postponed until tomorrow the further taking of evidence in the matter of the death of the three young men of Benson, who must death in Frank Wilson's apartment.

Solicitor Norris and Senator Barber, of Benson, today held several conferences, but nothing was divulged. It was hoped to have the state's side lined up by tomorrow so that the investigation could go ahead and determine whether or not foul play caused the death of Hugh Porter, Fred Jordan and Alton Johnson.

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

To Be Observed in Schools of the City.

Washington's birthday will be fittingly observed in the schools of the city tomorrow by special exercises in the morning, followed by a half holiday, the feature most enjoyed by the children, who gain thereby a very tender affection for the Father of his Country.

At ten o'clock tomorrow morning Dr. Charles Lee Smith will talk to the High School students on Washington; Col. Fred Olds will have something to say to the children at Wiley School; at the Murphy stereopticon views will be shown of Washington city, the city founded by Washington. Appropriate exercises will also be held at the Centennial and Thompson schools.

CHILD COMES BACK TO LIFE.

Moisture Shows on Coffin Glass at Side of Her Grave.

Duluth, Minn., Feb. 21.—After being prepared for burial and apparently dead two days, the three-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Maholechek, who lives near Black Duck, was discovered to be alive as the burial service was being held. Three days ago the child fell in a bucket of water and was nearly drowned.

It was noticed at the grave that moisture had gathered on the glass of the coffin, and the body was removed. By the use of stimulants the child was resuscitated.

KISSING AS HEALING ART

Even Supreme Court Judges Smile Over Misuse of Word in Brief.

Washington, Feb. 21.—The supreme court took a gay fling today in a decision handed down in the case of Ira Collins vs. the State of Texas, which involved the right of

ANOTHER TARIFF BILL FOR THE SENATE

Washington, Feb. 21.—With the passage of chemical revision bill by the house today, another democratic tariff measure is added to the senate calendar. The steel bill is pending in the senate, where only a coalition of progressive republicans and democrats can pass it. The steel bill hearings probably will be concluded by the end of this month.

La Follette's illness has interfered seriously with the formulation of a policy by the progressive republican senators, who hold the balance of power. So far there have been no real overtures between them and the democratic leaders.

The house passed the Underwood chemical tariff bill by a vote of 178 to 127. The insurgents voted with the regular republicans, against the measure.

Discharged Sailor Creates Commotion

Washington, Feb. 21.—Edmund F. Gilligan, a discharged sailor from the receiving ship Franklin, at Norfolk, created a commotion at the navy department by threatening to shoot Lieutenant Commander W. R. Sexton, in charge of the recruiting division because he refused to enlist him.

If you can't do anything else to benefit your town, move away.

an osteopath to practice healing under the laws of the state.

On the record accompanying the brief the statement was made that a female practitioner had testified that "in the practice of the use of osteopathy we make use of osculation and palpitation." This sentence made the solemn justice's smile. In the decision the Court said:

"Apparently the record which makes a female practitioner testify that an osteopath makes use of osculation and palpitation has misinterpreted the scientific terms of the method employed."

T. R. UNSAFE, SAYS BISHOP

Dr. Doane, Declaring Wilson as Bad, Comes Out For Taft.

Philadelphia, Feb. 21.—William Crosswell Doane, the venerable bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Albany, today stigmatized Theodore Roosevelt as "erratic, unsafe, and unfair," and declared that he could not be elected to the presidency if nominated. The bishop is visiting his granddaughter, Mrs. C. C. Frazier, here.

After declaring that Governor Wilson of New Jersey, "is something like a pocket edition of Mr. Roosevelt," Bishop Doane said:

"President Taft should without a doubt be re-elected by the people. He is the hope of the republican party, and the only man who can save the party from losing its entire power."

CRUEL TO EAT LIVE OYSTERS

Friend of Bivalves Will Appeal to Humane Society to Protect Them.

Mobile, Ala., Feb. 21.—Because an oyster cannot let out a wail, cannot even wiggle when impaled on a fork and garnished with lemon juice, salt and pepper, John Craft, president of the state oyster commission, has announced that he will appeal to the humane society to prevent the eating of live bivalves.

Mr. Craft himself is fond of oysters, but says he never eats them alive.

THE TRIP HAMMER CASE

No Decision In Case At Noon Today

Jury Went Out Late Yesterday—Came Back For Additional Instructions This Morning—Question of Amount of Damages.

Greensboro, Feb. 21.—At noon today the jury in the trip hammer case seems hopelessly tied up as to the question of damages, though Judge Cook this morning made additional instructions and asked that they make every effort to arrive at a verdict. It is understood now that the twelve men are unable to agree as to whether the amount of damages be \$1,500 or \$2,000.

The case went to the jury late yesterday afternoon and upon failure to agree by 10 o'clock last night the 12 men were locked up for the night. It was understood at that time that 10 stood for awarding \$2,500 damages, one for \$1,500 and the other held out for the full amount asked, \$3,000. There were two issues for the jury to decide: first, as to whether the operation of the trip hammer was a nuisance and second what damages, if any, was the plaintiff entitled to recover. The jury found that the operation of (Continued on Page Seven.)

ANARCHY SOUTH OF THE RIO GRAND

Washington, Feb. 21.—State department Mexican advisers indicate widespread anarchy south of the Rio Grande. Official circles are uneasy. Several cities are reported in the rebels' hands. Americans protest against the robberies multiplying.

Pensacola Cut Off.

New Orleans, Feb. 21.—Attempts to communicate with Pensacola, where a severe storm raged last night, were unsuccessful, as all wires are down. At points along the Florida coast the wind velocity reached sixty miles an hour. There were heavy rains.

John L. Watson Dead.

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 21.—John L. Watson, prominent Portsmouth business man and wealthy citizen, died at his home in Portsmouth, following a stroke of apoplexy.

FORESTRY MEN IN SESSION

Discuss Ways and Means For Preventing Rapid Destruction of North Carolina Timber

PUBLIC INVITED TONIGHT

Governor Kitchin Makes Address of Welcome—Interesting Addresses Were Made By Government Experts and State Officials—The Matter of Forest Protection to Be Brought to Public Attention in Vigorous Way—Three Important Sessions Today.

The second annual convention of the North Carolina Forestry Association was called to order this morning at 10:30 by President D. H. Hill, of the A. and M. College, in the hall of the house of representatives.

Although the inclement weather kept away a great many local visitors, there was a large gathering of representative citizens, from various parts of the state, men and women, most of them coming as delegates by mayors and boards of trade, women's clubs, and county commissioners from different cities. Several prominent experts from without the state were in attendance, coming here for the purpose of explaining the importance of forest preservation and to arouse some public interest that will suppress the wanton waste that is now going on throughout our timberlands.

After the opening prayer by Rev. A. D. Wilcox, pastor of Central Methodist church, Governor Kitchin delivered an interesting address of welcome, expressing his pleasure in seeing the work of conservation being taken up so vigorously.

Dr. D. H. Hill, president of the Forestry Association, brought out the importance of publicity in educating the people to appreciate the value and necessity of forest protection. He explained the object of the association:

"To promote the protection of the forests of North Carolina from fire and from destructive insects, and to promote their perpetuation by wise use and by the reforestation of cut-over and abandoned lands."

The report of Secretary Holmes dealt with several important problems which he advocated being taken up by the association, these being: co-operation with the United States government in fire protection, the organization of local associations for fighting the southern pine beetle and the need of preventing the destruction by chestnut bark disease.

Mr. E. B. Mason, of the United States bureau of entomology, outlined the methods of control advocated by the bureau for destroying (Continued on Page Seven.)

THREATENED COAL STRIKE IN BRITAIN

London, Feb. 21.—Conditions in Great Britain, particularly the northern manufacturing districts, are becoming rapidly worse, because of the threatened coal strike, which, if brought about at the end of the present month will throw eight hundred thousand miners, besides workers in other trades, out of employment. In London and other cities the price of coal has jumped to eight dollars per ton. Coal owners conferred today, regarding Premier Asquith's invitation to meet and arrange a basis of settlement.

Woman Witness Against Spitter.

(Special to The Times.) Asheville, Feb. 21.—The first action on the part of the recently organized Civic Betterment League toward the enforcement of the sanitary laws of the city, came into notice this morning in police court, when Mrs. Charles A. Webb, a member of the league, appeared as a witness against Louis Schas, who was accused of expectorating on the sidewalk. She said that Mr. Schas was about four feet from her and spat between himself and her. The case was not finally adjudicated, and Mr. Schas said he wished to offer testimony in rebuttal of the state's evidence. He testified that he did not expectorate on the sidewalk.