

# HUNDREDS OF HOMES LOST IN TERRIFIC FIRE

Over A Thousand People Believed To Be Homeless: Roper Lumber Co. Plant Razed Earlier in Day

ESTIMATE  
A LOSS OF  
\$250,000

Blaze Started at 8:30 This Morning And Flames Spread Rapidly Over Mill. SEVERAL HURST Persons Were Injured In Fighting the Fire; None of Them Seriously.

Fire this morning completely destroyed the sawmill engine room, dry kiln, dry sheds and vast quantities of lumber at the Roper Lumber Company's plant, which is operated by the Rowland Lumber Company. The loss is estimated as being in excess of a quarter of a million dollars. The blaze spread rapidly and quick enveloped the various buildings. Insurance covered the greater part of the loss.

Starting at 8:00 o'clock, the fire sent up a cloud of dense smoke which could be seen for miles around. From the standpoint of damage done, it proved to be the most disastrous fire that New Bern ever has had.

Firemen were unable to keep the flames from making their way from the engine room to the docks and confined their energies to saving the long sheds, machine shops and planing mill at the southerly end of the yards. None of these buildings were damaged.

(Continued on page 3)

## BAD RIOTING IN MEXICO CITY

Seventeen Are Known To Be Dead, Number of Others Seriously Injured

(By Associated Press) MEXICO CITY, Dec. 1.—Federal troops guarded a badly battered municipal building today while the city took count of the casualties of a pitched battle between the police and a mob which attempted to storm the building last night. The death list as a result of the fighting stood at 17 today while 14 persons are known to have been seriously injured and 3 slightly hurt. It was thought that a check might reveal further casualties.

The trouble, which lasted for more than 6 hours, started when a crowd started marching toward the city hall to protest to the aldermen, who are held responsible for the water famine.

### JUNIORS MEET TONIGHT.

All Juniors are urged to attend a meeting tonight of New Bern Council No. 520. Election of officers and other important business will come up. Refreshments will be served and a good time is anticipated.

## Sun Journal

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# URGENT NEED FOR RELIEF OF VICTIMS OF DISASTER

## Citizens Aid Those Who Lost Homes

At four o'clock this afternoon it was impossible to estimate the damage done by today's fearful blaze.

The number of homes destroyed will be in excess of two hundred, with more than a score of business houses and warehouses added to the list.

The streets of New Bern were the scene of large numbers of fire victims, sorrowfully carrying what they could of their household goods to a zone of safety.

Automobiles by the score, manned by volunteers, helped those in the path of the fire to remove their furniture.

The fury of the fire was centered about the union station. Norfolk-Southern employees were frantically at work, moving engines, freight and passenger cars and other equipment.

## DON'T DRINK WATER

Warning is given to residents of New Bern not to drink the city water. On account of the fire today, it was necessary to put into the river and it is river water which citizens will get through their faucets this afternoon and tonight.

Don't drink the water unless you boil it first.

## DRIVE FOR FUNDS ON FOR ST. MARY'S

Alumnae and Friends of the School Are Being Asked to Give Assistance

(Special to New Bernian) RALEIGH, Nov. 30.—St. Mary's School Fund Campaign for \$100,000 starts today. Alumnae and friends of this old and honored institution are being called on to meet an imperative need. Of the amount asked for \$40,000 is to be used to increase the endowment fund to the point that will give the school protection in case of emergency or financial crises. The present amount of Endowment is \$60,000 which increased by \$40,000 will make a total of \$100,000. This amount is necessary to entitle the school to membership in the American Association of Junior Colleges.

The remaining \$60,000 asked for is for new buildings—a Junior-Senior Hall to house students doing college work, a science building, and an addition to the infirmary for isolating contagious diseases.

St. Mary's is the largest Episcopal Church school in the United States. This year closes its eightieth year of service. More than 3000 young women have gone out from its walls versed in the manners and ideals of the South and educated according to the best scholastic standards.

Among her Alumnae are college presidents, professors, lawyers, nurses, business women and wives and mothers, all of whom are making a distinct contribution to society wherever they are found.

St. Mary's has reached a point where it must have increased facilities in order to keep up with the demands of modern education. Alumnae, Episcopalians and friends of education are being appealed to to meet this need.

When they say a man has an apartment in the Hundreds, they are right, no matter much where the apartment may be located.

## Parish House Converted Into First Aid Station

The Parish House has been converted into a relief room for the aid of those who have been rendered homeless by today's terrible fire in New Bern.

It is announced that food and coffee will be served tonight.

St. Mary's alumnae were to hold a meeting at the parish house this noon but the meeting was cancelled and all of the food is being saved for the firemen, the homeless and others who haven't time to go to their homes.

## Grave Danger In New Outbreak Of The Fire

St. Peter's Church, the large, brick colored church on Queen street, was caught in the path of the fire at 4 o'clock. Within a short time the huge structure, the pride of the colored people of New Bern, was spouting flames hundreds of feet in the air. Sparks showered upon houses within a radius of a hundred yards or more. Many fires were started on roofs but most of them were put out before much damage could be done. In some instances, however, the fire seemed to gain renewed impetus and started off on a new tangent.

The greatest point of danger to the city is that branch of the fire which at 4 o'clock was sweeping past George street along New street. A slight shift of the wind had taken place and it was felt by many persons that there was danger of the fire crossing New street, burning the Tabernacle Baptist Church and sweeping through some of the main residential blocks of the city. All efforts were being employed to check the blaze at that point.

## Will House Colored People At Meadows Fertilizer Whse.

Colored people, rendered homeless by today's great disaster, can find shelter for the night in Meadows' warehouse on South Front street, according to announcement made to the Sun-Journal this afternoon.

Mr. Meadows announced that he would be able to accommodate approximately 200 persons at the warehouse.

## FIRE ALMOST UNDER CONTROL AT 5:15 P. M.

At 5:15 this afternoon the fire had burned itself almost out on National Avenue and there was no danger of its spreading any further.

A Norfolk-Southern switch-engine, by means of a heavy cable, yanked down six houses in a row, checking the spread of the fire there.

At 5 o'clock the principal danger spot was on New street, just west of George street. However, Washington and New Bern were hard at work there and it is believed will check any further spread.

## WHITES AND NEGROES ARE INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF FIRE SUFFERERS

Fire Which Started in Home of Negro On Kilmonarc Street Near Five Points, Cut Wide Swath Through City

### FIREMEN UNABLE CHECK THE FLAMES

Dynamite and Dork of Fire Departments Proved Ineffective. Other Towns Gave Their Aid Generously

At three o'clock this afternoon the flames had been checked across the street from the Terminal Hotel. On the adjoining block, however, the fire still burned furiously. All of the buildings along Pasteur street have been destroyed. The Dill warehouse was afire and the flames were lapping hungrily at the union station and Norfolk Southern machine shops.

Sparks, carried a distance of more than two blocks, set fire to a house in back of the Fairview Hospital and near the Coast Line depot, destroying it completely. Frame houses on Griffith street were on fire several times but were put out before the fire could become general.

Apparently checked at two o'clock, the fire on Geo street broke out anew at three o'clock and threatens to do new damage in a southerly direction. It was dangerously near to St. Luke's Hospital and the Tabernacle Church, although it is not believed that these structures will be caught.

With dense cloud of heavy, black smoke sweeping low over the city and the crack of dynamite heard at frequent intervals, New Bern today is experiencing a fire which already has swept more than a half-dozen blocks and threatens disaster to an equally large area.

At noon today more than two score houses in the colored section of the town near Five Points had been razed. Firemen were blowing up houses a block or two in advance of the roaring flames in the endeavor to halt their devastation. Frayed by a high wind of almost gale force, the fire demon raged unattested force, belittling all efforts to thwart its menacing tongues of flame.

Frantic negroes, sobbing and screaming, rushed from house to house, aiding one another in removing household goods and carrying them to a safe place. The shouting of orders and suggestions on the part of firemen and volunteers added to the confusion. Citizens by the thousand left their stores and offices and rushed to the scene of the destructive blaze, eager to be of assistance. But all they could do was to move slowly back as the flames soared aloft and sought new victims of their fury.

The town had barely caught its breath from the terrible damage caused at the Roper Lumber Company mill when the warning voice of the alarm, coming from the extreme opposite end of the city, gave warning of a new danger.

The entire fire-fighting apparatus of the city was forced to remain at the Roper mill as the flames there were still dangerous. In the meantime, the later conflagration rapidly increased its scope. Futile attempts with buckets of water to stop the fire were absolutely useless. The fire had its start in the home of a colored man, Bryan, on Kilmarden street, about two blocks north of Broad street. Within five minutes the entire structure was in flames. Another house, separated from it by only three or four feet caught fire almost simultaneously.

From then on the fire spread with increasing force and vigor. A spurt of flame, shooting across the street, set fire to a fence. In a moment or two the structure surrounded by it was being destroyed. Then the two houses adjoining it were enveloped in flames. Another house further along the block was flecked by the hot tongues and it followed in the course of the others.

Fire Apparatus About half an hour after the start of the fire, some of the apparatus from the Roper mill arrived at the scene of the new fire. The high wind made their efforts go for nothing. The fire continued its way with unabated force. House after house was destroyed. Hundreds of persons assisted in the removal of furniture and other household goods.

"Dynamite them! Dynamite them!" was the cry which was being heard from increasing numbers as they began to fear for the safety of the entire town.

Shortly before noon the first crack of dynamite was heard. A two-story house fell apart. Fifteen minutes later another structure went to the same doom. Three or four other followed. But while this was going on, the fire continued its sweep, spreading to a larger area as the wind shifted slightly at intervals.

Sent Call for Help The Fire Department, realizing the danger which confronted the entire city, hurriedly telephoned neighboring cities for assistance. Word received from Kinston at 1 o'clock was that an automobile truck was rushing from that town and would make good time to New Bern. As the truck reached the fire had spread over an area of more than ten blocks. Dynamite continued to roar at intervals from after house went down to destruction.

It is impossible to estimate the loss, but it will run well in excess of half a million dollars, and probably reach even greater proportions than that.

### SAYS THAT HARDING WILL RUN ONCE MORE

PALO ALTO, Cal., Dec. 1.—The republican presidential candidate in 1924 "obviously will be Warren G. Harding," Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover said in an interview at his home here today. "Moreover, by that time (1924) Mr. Hoover said, "the public will be highly appreciative of the quality and progressive character of the policies that will have brought this country through the reconstruction period."

### SHOPS ON WHEELS

MANCHESTER, England, Nov. 30.—Trade in many stores is being seriously hurt by traveling shops, which go from town to town in this district on motor trucks.

Still Explosion Kills Many. PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 30.—Two more men died today as the result of a terrific still explosion last night in which a man believed to be S. Chinsky, of this city, was blown to pieces. Benjamin Wagman, 30, and John Kozals, 19, died this morning at a local hospital. Two other men are horribly burned and mangled, while four of the many rescuers who attempted to save them are also in the hospital from severe burns.

The telephone number most frequently heard since the double murder in New Jersey is "Oh, Oh, Oh, Oh."