

First Photographs of Fire and Detailed Account of Great Disaster

TURNBULL IS READY TO REPLACE LUMBER MILL

Sanitation Now Offers the Chief Problem Locally

INCREASE THE SIZE OF PLANT

Meeting Held This A. M. At Which Time The Matter Was Taken Up.

AWAIT ACTION

Rowland Lumber Company Is Desirous of Purchasing the Roper Property Here.

The best news in connection with Friday's great fire was given out today when A. R. Turnbull, of the Rowland Lumber Company, lessees of the Roper Lumber Company, which suffered a \$250,000 fire loss, announced that he would rebuild and enlarge the mill providing that satisfactory arrangements could be made.

Mr. Turnbull met with a number of prominent citizens in the mayor's office today. He stated that if the mill property could be purchased from the Roper people he would not only rebuild the plant but also would erect a veneer plant.

A committee was appointed, consisting of Mayor Clark and Harry M. Jacobs, who were directed to get into communication with the Roper Lumber Company officials and ascertain what arrangements could be made.

Mr. Turnbull expressed himself this morning as being well pleased with the location of the mill here. He said it was his intention to continue in business here, providing that the necessary arrangements could be made.

Needless to say, the people of New Bern as a whole will rejoice to learn of Mr. Turnbull's attitude in the matter. In spite of his own huge personal loss, he has contributed a check for \$1000 to the local relief work.

SHEPARD BRYAN WRITES LETTER OF SYMPATHY

New Bern's sons in all sections of the country are greatly distressed over the disaster which has befallen the community. The following letter is from Shepard Bryan, superior court judge, of the Atlanta Circuit:

Hon. Edward Clark, Mayor of New Bern.
Dear Ed:—I am deeply distressed to hear of New Bern's misfortune. Enclosed you will find my check for \$100 for the relief fund. While I have been away from my native town more than 30 years, I believe that my appreciation for her becomes more tenacious as the years go by.
Sincerely your friend,
SHEPARD BRYAN.

Sun Journal

NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA,

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 5, 1922.

PRICE: FIVE CENTS



Here is an unusual photograph of New Bern's great fire. It was taken by Wooten & Moulton from the top of the Elks Temple. The smoke is distinctly shown in the picture and indicates the course the fire was taking when the picture was snapped. The photograph was taken at about 3:30 o'clock when the fire was at its height. This and other photographs in today's paper were furnished the Sun-Journal through the courtesy of the News and Observer, Raleigh.

NO ARRESTS BEEN MADE FOR INCENDIARISM: BOTH FIRES ACCIDENTAL, SO FAR AS IS KNOWN

No arrests for incendiarism in connection with Friday's two big fires have been made, according to W. A. Scott, deputy insurance commissioner, from Raleigh, which was given out for publication today.

Reports to the effect that both of Friday's fires might have been the result of a deliberate intent have gained circulation in some of the papers of the state. Acting upon the suggestion of the relief committee, to counteract the influence which such rumors might have, Mr. Scott this afternoon gave out the following statement:

"I arrived in New Bern Saturday morning after the fire and have been here ever since making an investigation. Referring first to the general conflagration, I investigated that Saturday with Mr. Bryan, chief of the fire department, and found that the fire started from a terra cotta flue which had been in use for 20 years or more. We found at least six witnesses who saw it while it was burning around the flue above the attic and under the roof and there is no evidence whatever of incendiarism.

"As to the Roper mill fire, I also have investigated that and wish to say that as to the arrest of Ernest Gibbs, colored, he was detained pending an investigation and not charged with setting fire to the mill but as an escaped man from the asylum at Goldsboro. It is true that he had worked with the Roper Lumber Co. at one time and had quite a lot of trouble there. He had been arrested and charged with cutting the belts and, on trial, he was adjudged insane and committed to the asylum at Goldsboro. He was indicted in 1915 along with Walter Smith, charged

with setting fire to a house, the property of Thomas Holton, but in this case a verdict was returned of not guilty as to each of the defendants, and it so appears on the clerk of the court's records. He was suspected in regard to the recent fire on account of his previous trouble and, from the fact that he was seen in the street near the mill about ten minutes after the alarm appeared. There is no evidence whatever that he started the fire. Ernest Gibbs is being held in the jail to be recommitted to the asylum at Goldsboro."

SIMMONS MAY BE NEW LEADER IN THE SENATE

Contest Seems Certain Between North Carolina Senator and Robinson, of Arkansas

(By Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—A contest appeared certain today between Senators Simmons, of North Carolina and Robinson, Arkansas, for the democratic senate leadership in the next congress to succeed Senator Underwood of Alabama, who is to retire as leader voluntarily because of ill-health. Friends of both began an active campaign although neither senator had formally announced his candidacy.

Senator Simmons is the ranking democrat in point of service and was chairman of the finance committee during the Wilson administration. Senator Robinson, also a veteran but a younger man, has been prominent in democratic councils for a number of years and was chairman of the last national convention at San Francisco.

Asheville Agrees To Leave Date of Game Up To Rankin

Asheville High School football team has consented to a postponement of the date for the championship game between Asheville and New Bern High School. Mayor Clark wired Mayor Roberts of Asheville yesterday afternoon as follows:

"On account of our recent disastrous conflagration and members of the New Bern High School football team doing patrol duty, will you please use your influence with your High School authorities to postpone championship game one week. In advance accept our thanks and appreciation."

New Bern Gets Possession Houses At Morehead City

New Bern will immediately proceed to move the buildings of the former air naval station at Morehead City as the result of a telegram from Secretary of the Navy Denby to Governor Morrison, which was relayed here this afternoon. The telegram read as follows:

"At the urgent request of Hon. Charles L. Abernethy, member of congress, in view of the emergency existing at New Bern, N. C., owing to fire that left a great number of citizens homeless and without shelter, the Navy Department in order to provide necessary relief agrees to sell to the City of New Bern for the nominal consideration of \$1.00 its interests in the buildings pertaining to the former Air Naval Station at Morehead City, N. C., except those now being used for Naval or Coast Guard purposes. Appropriate instructions will be issued immediately to Naval authorities in charge.

Blankets Coming Winston-Salem, Dec. 5, 1922. Edward Clark Mayor, New Bern, N. C. Have sent you by express one hundred blankets. Chatham Mfg. Co.

Canterbury Club Meets Tonight The Canterbury Department of the Woman's Club will be entertained tonight at 8 o'clock by Mrs. Stephen H. Fowler at her home on Craven street.

WILL SETTLE UP INSURANCE OF FIRE VICTIMS

Committee Appointed To Aid Victims of Fire In Adjusting Insurance Claims

The question of insurance in connection with Friday's fire loss is being taken up today and a committee working under the general relief committee, will meet and endeavor to be of every assistance. Allan Ives is chairman of this committee and he has given out the following notice:

"All persons sustaining fire losses and who have not already reported same to their local fire insurance agent will report to the insurance department over Mitchell's store as soon as possible where their claims will be promptly taken care of and payment rushed through."

ROAD MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED WINSTON-SALEM, Dec. 4.—At meetings of committees on arrangements held simultaneously this afternoon in High Point and Winston-Salem it was decided after conferences over the telephone to call off the celebration of the opening of the new highway between the two cities that was to have taken place tomorrow. This decision was due to unsettled weather conditions. No further date was discussed.

TAYLOR GIVES OUT STATEMENT OF THE WORK DONE SO FAR

Red Cross Executive Is Well Pleased With the Result of Relief Work In New Bern Since Friday's Fire.

LAST NIGHT A QUIET ONE IN FIRE-ZONE

No Disorders of Any Nature Have Been Reported. Negroes Are Quiet And Are Doing Their Best To Keep Order.

With the housing, clothing and feeding problems solved for the time being, New Bern's relief workers are today giving their attention to the important questions of sanitation and employment.

Last night passed quietly with no disorder of any kind. Members of the local battery unit and soldiers from Camp Bragg patrolled the city and turned in their report this morning that they had met with no evidences of any trouble.

Close to 3000 of the homeless are still being cared for and are being fed and provided with shelter.

Insurance matters are receiving attention and committees are at work on the employment situation.

An official statement from Carter Taylor, chief of field work of the Southern Division of Red Cross, is as follows:

"The Citizens' Relief Committee have the refugee situation well in hand. Everyone of those rendered homeless in the fire are under cover and being fed. Some of the fire victims are suffering at the present time. The relief work in all of its branches is on a well organized basis and we now are beginning to inaugurate a definite policy of rehabilitation.

"The thing which is receiving the greatest attention at the present time is the question of sanitation. Every effort is being made to prevent a possible epidemic of typhoid, influenza or other disease. A house-to-house canvass is being made in the negro section to prevent unhealthy overcrowding. Last night some of the committees at work on this task found as many as 15 families having housed in one small rooming house. Some of them had small children with them. Such conditions are being changed. They represent our greatest menace just now and we must enforce regulations against them with all possible vigor.

"All of the refugees are being inoculated with typhoid vaccine today as a further precautionary measure. The negro section of the city has been divided into four blocks and these districts will be canvassed by Red Cross nurses to see that all sanitary instructions are carried out.

"Good progress is being made in finding employment for those who have been thrown out of work on account of burned houses and stores. We hope that within the next 30 days every refugee will be at some kind of productive or reconstructive labor.

"Three thousand packages are being carried for the post this far has been \$1000 a day. This represents actual expenditures and does not include the donations of supplies which are being received in large quantities of clothing, bedding, and food coming in on every train. The Red Cross sent yesterday \$10,000 worth of socks, sweaters and other articles of clothing. The War and Navy departments have come forward in splendid fashion to assist the work of the relief committee. Special thanks is due General Bowley, of Camp Bragg for the generous manner with which he responded to every request for help. In addition to supplying an emergency personnel, the General equipped and rushed to New Bern a relief train of eight freight cars, packed with tents, cots, mattresses, and other equipment, which have been of invaluable service.

"The slogan now is 'Not a Man Idle.' All refugees will be put to some kind of work. An emergency hospital and first aid station has been established at the colored graded school to take care of the sick. The local citizens are responding in a whole-hearted fashion in the matter of offering their time and services. Every co-operation is being given the relief committee, although there is still room for more workers.

"Last night passed quietly and there were no disorders. Everything pertaining to the relief work is progressing satisfactorily."

Mrs. R. B. Saunders and children, of Kinross, passed through New Bern last night en route home from Pamlico where she visited relatives.

Lieutenant Donahue, of the Coast Guard Service at Norfolk, passed through New Bern today en route to Morehead City to see what can be done with reference to securing the knock-down houses at Camp Glenn.

The Chamber of Commerce has appointed a committee consisting of C. C. Kirkpatrick, O. W. Lane, T. A. Uzell, Ed. Meadows, T. G. Hymen, Senator Simmons and Dr. J. F. Patterson to go to Raleigh and confer with Mr. Page relative to new road construction work in Craven county. The county commissioners, the board of aldermen and Carteret, Jones and Pamlico counties also are expected to appoint committees.

It is reported that a number of automobiles drove over fire hose stretched across the streets during the progress of the fire. Warning is given now that if this happens again the persons found guilty of the offense will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Credit is due Mrs. Disoway and her employees at the Home Bakery for the splendid service they rendered in keeping their place of business open late in the night Friday and Saturday, supplying food for the fire-victims.

(Continued on page three.)

Fire Notes

A negro went into a local store yesterday and informed the proprietor that he would have to defer payment of the balance due on his suit. He said he was one of the fire sufferers. "That's all right," said the proprietor, "you don't owe me anything at all. I'll cancel the debt. Those shoes of yours look rather shabby, let me give you another pair."

He found out later that the negro was from Morehead City, and hadn't even seen the fire.

The news of the fire certainly spread rapidly. Dr. J. F. Patterson received a telegram Sunday from his brother in Panama, asking for further information regarding the blaze.

Governor Morrison is due to arrive tonight. The Governor will get a chance to see what the local situation really looks like. And he'll agree that there has been no exaggeration about New Bern's plight.

According to W. F. Aberly, there is one colored family in town that was seven weeks behind in the rent when the fire broke out. The house was several blocks outside the zone of the fire. Yesterday the agent called and tried to collect the rent.

"No, sir, boss," replied the head of the family, "I feels that I ought to give something to the fire victims. I got no money to be thrown away on rent now."

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