

# FIRE TODAY DESTROYS SCHOOL AND RESIDENCE

## Governor Morrison Here to Inspect Local Conditions

### NEW FIRE STARTED THIS P. M.

Prompt Work of Firemen And Absence of Wind Prevented A Greater Destruction. CONGESTED AREA

Dozens of Negro Families Frantically Moved Their Possessions From Homes.

Intense excitement prevailed throughout the city today when fire broke out in the colored section, about seven blocks from the area devastated Friday, and destroyed a school building, a residence and damaged two other nearby houses.

The school building was the New Bern Collegiate and Industrial Institute, a large two-story frame structure. The cause of the blaze is unknown. The building burned like tinder and within a few minutes flames were leaping from every window. The quick response of the fire department and the absence of much wind, were the only things that prevented another general conflagration, for the district surrounding the school is a closely congested one.

Warned by last Friday's disaster, dozens of negro families frantically began moving out their furniture. Volunteers leaped to the roofs of adjoining buildings and drenched them with buckets of water. The residence destroyed was a good-sized one and was worth about 6,000. The school building and equipment probably were worth around \$18,000.

The fire started in the school. The cause of the blaze has not been learned. It broke out shortly after 1 o'clock and was under control 45 minutes later.

### A. C. L. WRECK AT ENFIELD, N. C.

Six Cars of the Savannah Special Derailed This Morning. No One Injured.

(By Associated Press) PETERSBURG, Va., Dec. 6.—The north-bound Atlantic Coast Line passenger train, known as the "Savannah Special," was derailed at Enfield, N. C., early today, six of the 14 cars leaving the track. The engine was not derailed. No one was injured beyond a shaking up, due to the fact that the train was slowing down for the Enfield station at the time. Tracks were blocked for almost three hours.

Mr. A. V. Bobbitt, of Goldsboro, an official of the tobacco co-operative association, spent yesterday in New Bern.



NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 6, 1922. PRICE: FIVE CENTS

### MEDICAL ASSN. HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING HERE

Interesting Sessions Are Being Held By More Than One Hundred Delegates

Over one hundred members of the Seaward Medical Association are holding their annual convention in New Bern. The early arrival came in last night and their number was supplemented by a large number of more delegates this morning.

Headquarters of the convention are at the Hotel Gaston. The business meetings are being held on the second floor of the federal building. Last night's session was featured by an interesting program. The meeting was in the nature of a smoker and was presided over by Dr. N. M. Gibbs, president of the Craven County Medical Association. Prayer was delivered by Dr. J. N. H. Summerell, pastor of the Presbyterian church. Mayor Clark welcomed the visitors in a host fitting address. He called attention to New Bern's great fire loss, but stated that in spite of the disaster the people of the city had time to welcome such a fine body of men as were represented in the Association. He said that New Bern was glad indeed to have the doctors here.

Dr. Joseph L. Sprull, president of the Association, delivered his annual address last night, in which he called attention to the progress which had been made during the past year. Dr. Cyrus Thompson's speech on "Common Sense in Public Health," was replete with practical suggestions and advice.

A business session was held this morning at which a number of interesting papers were read. Dr. George Eaton, of New Bern, Dr. W. L. Harris, of Norfolk, Dr. David T. Taylor, Jr., of Washington, Dr. George Williams, of Newport News, Dr. Ben H. Hackney, of Lucama, and Dr. James Hunter, of Norfolk, were among those who read papers at this session.

Among the prominent visitors at the convention were Dr. Dr. Elwood W. Baker, of Baltimore, and Dr. Stuart, McGuire, of Richmond, Va. The visitors enjoyed a splendidly served barbecue in the Chamber of Commerce auditorium this noon. The banquet will be held tonight with Dr. Cyrus Thompson as toastmaster and chief entertainer. Further business will be taken up tomorrow and the convention will come to a close with an oyster roast at the country club.

### MAKE SURVEY OF NEGR DISTRICT

Sanitation Work Is Being Carried On. Relief Work Progressing Satisfactorily.

A thorough survey of the congested negro district in the vicinity of the devastated area has been ordered by Major Erwin, who is now in charge of health and sanitation work in connection with Friday's big fire. Captain Albert Willis is in charge of obtaining a census of the district, with the number of persons occupying each house. It is expected that this census will be completed within the next three days.

The feeding of the colored refugees at the school house continues. Quite a number also continue to sleep there.

St. Cyprilian's Church has been converted into an emergency hospital.

M. L. Shipman, State Labor Commissioner, is here to assist C. C. Kirkpatrick, in charge of the employment problem, to provide work for the idle and to establish a branch of the state employment office here, which will be in charge of a local man.

Clothing and food are continuing to arrive in large quantities from outside communities. At the court house clothing is being inspected and sent to Christ Church Parish House for the white people and to West Street Graded School for the colored.

### Weather Forecast

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Weather forecasts for Eastern North Carolina are cloudy tonight and Thursday. Probably rain. No change in the temperature.

Mrs. L. D. Willis returned home to Morehead City last night after spending the day here shopping.

### Harding Nominates Shupp As Postmaster

(By Associated Press) WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—President Harding today nominated Joseph K. Mason to be postmaster at Durham, N. C., and Roy Shupp at New Bern, N. C.

Mr. Shupp has been acting postmaster of New Bern for the past two months, awaiting final action in the matter.

### Page Outlines Plans For Road Work Here

At a meeting of a number of citizens at the court house this afternoon at 4 o'clock, State Highway Commissioner Page presented a plan by which Craven county might be enabled to get a greater amount of highway construction done here, thereby affording employment to the hundreds of idle men in the city.

The meeting was presided over by Harry M. Jacobs. Senator Simmons was the first speaker, and presented New Bern's plea to Governor Morrison and Mr. Page. He called attention to the unemployment existing here and stated that New Bern was doing everything possible to find work for its citizens and prevent any of them from leaving.

"We want to appeal to you, Governor, at Mr. Page," the Senator said, "to help us work out some plan whereby these men can be put to work on those two sections of state-aid projects in our county which have not been completed. I feel that our emergency justifies us in making this request and we are asking you to do what you can for us."

Mr. Page stated that in view of what he had seen since arriving in New Bern, he would be less than human if he did not say that he would do everything possible to help alleviate the distress of New Bern's homeless citizens. He called attention to the financial situation involved in road work and said that the State Highway Commission allotted a certain amount to each district in the state. Craven county's share, he added, already had been allotted.

Mr. Page, "that the Central Highway is the backbone of our state road system. It must be taken care of in any event. There are now two projects in the course of construction near New Bern. We have \$300,000 of your county's money to be used for the construction of that part of the Central highway which runs through your county. This, eventually, will be paid back to your county. There is no reason why we should use this money just now, because the state bonds are selling well, even better than county bonds. There is no money available under the allocation system for completion of your two separate road projects.

"I would ask you to bear in mind that I am not speaking for the State Highway Commission, but merely as one member of that body. I understand that the commission is going before the next session of the legislature and ask for an appropriation of \$15,000,000 for road work. When that is apportioned, it will give Craven county sufficient funds with which to complete her two projects.

"The thing that I have in mind is this: that if Craven county were returned the \$300,000 which has been given to the state for building of the road east of New Bern, that this money then be given to the State Highway Commission and be used for the completion of the two projects mentioned. If the legislature appropriates \$15,000,000 the money would again be returned to the county. If you adopt this plan, you would be able to start work immediately.

"The Highway Commission meets on December 15. I would suggest that you send a committee to appear before it and present your plan. I would call your attention to the fact, however, that you can't begin road construction at once. Contracts have to be advertised for and it will take 60 days or more for the contractors to assemble their material. However, the prospect of work will, I am sure, act as an incentive for your people remaining here."

Mr. Page had not finished speaking and the meeting was still in progress at the time of going to press. Governor Morrison also will give his views in the matter.

Much interest was manifested by those present in what Mr. Page had to say on the subject, for it is felt that if the plan he suggested is carried out, it may be possible to provide some of the fire victims with temporary employment until conditions enable the contractors to start construction work.

The principal problem in connection with the relief work here at the present time is finding employment for the idle. Food, clothing and financial aid are coming in and will help to tide over the fire victims for a period. Everything possible is being done to improve sanitary conditions. Committees are at work on the housing problem. It is in finding employment for the victims that the chief difficulty lies at present.

Both Governor Morrison and Mr. Page have promised to do everything they can to help out in the situation. While no definite action had been taken in the matter at the time of going to press, it was generally felt that Mr. Page's suggestion would offer the only solution to the problem.

### PAMLICO CREW AND OFFICERS DID FINE WORK

Captain Fisher, Lieutenant Ker And Others Have Labored Strenuously

New Bern can't bestow too much credit upon Captain Fisher, Lieutenant Ker and other officers and men of the revenue cutter, Pamlico. Ever since the fire last Friday first broke out, the men from the Pamlico have been active, both in fighting the fire and in doing relief work. The assistance given by the relief committees by Captain Fisher and Lieutenant Ker has been invaluable.

This afternoon, when the new fire broke out, members of the Pamlico's crew were among the first on the scene. They worked hard and faithfully.

### Fire Notes

Out at the fire this afternoon a small colored boy approached too closely to the burning buildings. "Go 'way from there, chile," shouted the father of the boy. "Go 'way from there! Go on back to the mountains."

Two hundred pounds of Caraja coffee from the Dwinell Wright Company has been subscribed through Lucas & Lewis and will be turned over to the relief committee.

The Scottish Rite bodies, the two banks and the citizens of Enfield today raised \$555.75 for the relief of the citizens of New Bern rendered homeless by Friday's fire. Check for this amount has been received here.

Some of the half-burned structures, in which there is danger of the wall collapsing, were dynamited yesterday and today.

Fifty dollars received from the Elks Lodge in Greensboro. The Elks everywhere certainly are a liberal crowd of folks. Six or seven lodges already have made donations.

Three boxes of clothing were shipped today from Charlotte and more will follow tomorrow and next day. Cash will be sent through the Red Cross and other agencies.

From Jacksonville, Fla., comes the following note from Mrs. S. K. Payne: "Am sending under separate cover today a package of clothing. I owe New Bern a debt of gratitude for services rendered a year ago and an extremely sorry that I can't do something better for her now in the hour of her need. But my husband and I are poor people. Possibly these few clothes will help.

Through H. C. Waldrop, the Kingan Company, Richmond, Va., announces that it is sending 300 pounds of plate meat.

Robert M. Haynes, of Winston-Salem, captain of Battery A., during the World War, which was composed largely of New Bern boys, today sent his check for \$100.

Roberts Sash & Door Company through Alex Justice, sends \$100 which, combined with their family donation, makes a total donation of \$125, the other contributions being Clara T. Justice, Sally T. Justice, Farniefold G. Justice and Alex Justice.

The mayor of Fayetteville today is forwarding to Mayor Clark of New Bern a check of \$1000 which had been subscribed by the people of Fayetteville. It is added that more money is being raised.

E. G. Schwartz, president of the Pine Lumber Company, and who lives in Allenton, Pa., has sent his check for \$100.

Chief of Police Bryan wishes to call attention to the fact that the city parking ordinance on Middle street is going to be strictly enforced hereafter. Right front wheel must be touching the curb and right rear wheel must not be more than six inches from the curb.

A check for \$500 has been received from Alexander Sprunt and Sons, Inc., Norfolk, cotton brokers.

C. C. Kirkpatrick, assisted by Captain Henderson, Salvation Army worker of Kinston, is engaged in making an employment survey with a view of finding out how many persons

### GOVERNOR ARRIVED IN CITY AT NOON AND VISITS RUINS

Says That New Bern Needs Large Impouring of Financial Donations For Relief From Other Communities.

### COMMENDS WORK OF RELIEF WORKERS

Governor States That the Burden of Relieving the Sufferers Is Too Great For New Bern To Bear Alone.

#### STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNOR

"I have been over the devastated area with Mr. Page and a local committee and I also have had an opportunity to observe something of the work which is being done for the relief of the sufferers. The organization which has been perfected for caring for the fire victims is remarkable in its efficiency and completeness."

The above statement was made this afternoon by Governor Cameron Morrison who, with State Highway Commissioner Page, arrived in New Bern at noon today.

"The sanitary situation is in capable hands. The extent of the disaster unquestionably will require the expenditure of large sums of money for immediate work. In my judgment the people of the city of New Bern are in need of a large impouring of donations from other communities. The number of those needing assistance is diminishing slightly each day, but the burden is too great for New Bern to bear.

"The mettle of the people is fine and I am sure that New Bern will come through her great misfortune in good shape."

The Governor and Mr. Page arrived here at noon today, having left Raleigh in Mr. Morrison's car at 7 o'clock this morning.

They were met at the Chamber of Commerce by a local committee, consisting of Harry M. Jacobs, T. G. Hyman and others, and were taken immediately over the devastated area.

"This is certainly awful," remarked Mr. Morrison, as the car made its way through the ruins and the extent of the disaster unfolded itself before his eyes. "Awful," he repeated at intervals. "I had some idea of how bad it was, but it requires actual observation to realize the scope of the destruction wrought."

Mr. Morrison and Mr. Page were taken over all of the ruins and they noted over to the West Street Graded School house, where they were shown the provisions that had been made for caring for the colored people. They also were made acquainted with sanitary conditions and what had been done thus far in this department of work.

Returning down town, they were taken to the court house, where clothing and supplies are being received for distribution. They also visited the Parish House.

Shortly after 1 o'clock, when the fire alarm and a dense cloud of black smoke announced another fire of large proportions, the Governor and Mr. Page were taken to the scene of the conflagration and watched the fight being waged against it. "You certainly have an efficient fire department," said Mr. Morrison.

"Yes," replied a local citizen, "but then you must remember we've had quite a lot of practice lately."

After eating a light lunch, Mr. Morrison and Mr. Page went again to the court house where they attended a meeting which had been called to discuss the important matters in connection with the relief work here.

### ROWLAND BUYS ROPER MILL

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 6.

W. W. Griffin, Cashier

The National Bank of New

New Berne:

Have Purchased the Roper

Property and will rebuild at

once.

A. R. TURNBULL.

This not only means that the

omill will be rebuilt, but a Ve-

ner and Box Plant as well.