

BUSINESS BLOCK IN RALEIGH FIRE SWEEP

BLAZE RAGED THERE FOR THREE HOURS TODAY.

DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT \$125,000

Big Brick Building Occupied by J. P. Wyatt & Sons Company and the Firm's Stock of Hardware Totally Destroyed.—Two Stables Also Consumed by the Flames and Six Horses and a Mule are Victims.—Call For Aid Sent to Durham and the Bull City Firemen Respond, But Their Services are Not Needed.—Insurance is Not Given.

Raleigh, May 2.—Fire, which raged for three hours here early today in the business block east of South Wilmington street, between Martin and Davis, caused damages estimated at \$125,000. The largest loss was sustained by J. T. Wyatt & Sons Company, the firm's four story brick building and hardware stock valued at approximately \$100,000, having been totally destroyed. Damage to the Stronach building adjoining, occupied by a feed store and the Taylor stable, was estimated at \$20,000, while the loss sustained by J. E. Chappell's stable and several small shops was placed at \$5,000. Six horses and mules were burned to death in the Chappell stable. The fire apparently originated in the frame structure occupied by the Chappell stable, according to department officials, and fanned by high wind, enveloped the Wyatt building, because the fire was just on the edge of the business district and the gale made it difficult to handle, a call for aid was sent to Durham. Equipment from the Durham fire department came to Raleigh but did not come until the flames were under control. The amount of insurance carried on buildings and stocks was not made public.

THE STOCK MARKET.

Advances and Declines Fairly Well Distributed in Market Today.

New York, May 2.—At the outset of today's trading nominal advances and declines were being fairly well distributed. There were large offerings of Mercantile Marine preferred at 1 to 2 points over yesterday's final quotation and the common also rose a point, but this advantage was soon lost. Reading was in demand at a slight advance, but that stock also fell back. There was moderate activity in other leading rails as well as the specialties. Some of the war contract stocks were subject to professional pressure. Secondary prices were lower all around.

WOMEN GARMENT WORKERS CALLED ON STRIKE

Includes 60,000 Persons in Lockout and Also 30,000 Others.—Some Will Return to Work in 24 Hours.

New York, May 2.—In retaliation of the lockout of 60,000 workers on women's garments, begun a few days ago by manufacturers' protective association, the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union today ordered a strike of all its members of this city, whether employed in shops belonging to the protective association or independent shops. It is estimated this order applies to 90,000 persons, including about 30,000 persons and other not already affected by the lockout. Strikers employed in so-called friendly shops, however, will return to work in 24 hours. Leaders of the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, who yesterday declared a strike of the engineers of tug boats and steam lighters in the harbor, say their demands have been granted by a majority of the companies affected and that the strike virtually will be over tonight.

Albright-Sharp.

Much interest is manifest in the following announcement made this week: Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Sharpe announce the engagement of their daughter Ethel Rebecca

to Mr. William Crocker Albright of Concord

The wedding to take place in the early fall.

The wise man transacts his business and gets out. The fool moves only when kicked.

SERMON ON "BREAKING OF SPIRITUAL DROUGHT."

At Methodist Protestant Church Last Night — Large Attendance, And Much Interest Shown.—Singing a Special Feature.

Rev. Bethen's text last night was taken from 1 Kings 18:44, "A Little Cloud the Size of a Man's Hand," "A spiritual drought," said the speaker, "may be caused by the following things: Cold formal preaching; prayerless church members; stinginess, and indifference to the best interests of the church."

"This brings about suffering as in a natural drought. It means a shortage in the products expected. It cuts down the possibilities of even keeping of the seed."

"A life like that is uncomfortable, but a spiritual drought means a continued loss to the church of the best things that are here for us to say nothing of the world to come."

Then the speaker asked: "How are we to break such a drought?" The answer he gave was as follows:

"Here is an example of faith and action getting a three and a half year drought out of the way. Te seign is started on the faith we possess. Faith and the cloud enlarge together, for faith and activity in the church is the only way to save any community or church from a spiritual drought."

"Then the promoters must go to the mountain top looking for the cloud, for mountain experiences are necessary for the most effective work in the kingdom of God, for then we are refreshed for the valley trials that come and the pressure of work below. Jesus had his Mount of Transfiguration that prepared him for his work."

"Then every sign given in answer to prayer must be a means to enlarge our faith."

At the close of the sermon quite a number came forward pledging themselves to pray and labor to break the spiritual drought in their own lives, church and community. The meeting gives promise of being one of great power. A personal workers' conference is being held at the parsonage every evening at 7:30. Quite a number of requests for prayer have been made, and the congregation is hopeful of a gracious revival. A tent will be erected opposite the church when interest demands it, and it looks very much now like this will have to be done. Services every day at 3 and 7:45 p. m.

The singing is a special feature of the services. Prof. Pender is directing the music, and the song services consisting of solos by the leader, choruses by the choir and the singing of the old time hymns by the congregation. All these help to make the services helpful.

Mr. R. P. Benson is doing good service at the organ, which adds very much to the music. The public is cordially invited to all services.

GOLDSBORO YOUTH DIES FROM AUTO INJURIES

Was Run Down Yesterday by Car Said to Have Been Owned by Dr. C. B. Hall.

Goldsboro, May 2.—George Davis, nine-year-old grandson of Mrs. E. E. Horton, of this city, who was struck last night by an automobile said to have been driven by Dr. C. B. Hall, died this morning after an operation undertaken in an effort to save his life.

Bishop Kilgo's Assignments.

Nashville, Tenn., May 1.—The Southern Methodist college of bishops today completed the conference assignments of the bishops for the ensuing year. Bishop Kilgo's assignments are: West Virginia conference, Charleston, September 13; western North Carolina, Gastonia, November 8; Virginia, Richmond, November 15; North Carolina, Durham, November 29.

Horse Breeders May Patch Up Row.

New York, May 2.—The threatened withdrawal of the Kentucky Trotting Horse Breeders' Association from membership in the National Trotting Association is expected to be averted by an adjustment of differences at the meeting of the National Association here today.

Off For Georgia Training Camp.

Washington, May 2.—Special trains will leave Washington today carrying large parties of civilians from Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Washington to the military training camp at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga.

ORGANIC UNION OF METHODIST CHURCHES.

Recommended in Address Before the Board of Bishops of Northern Church.

(By The Associated Press) Saratoga Springs, N. Y., May 2.—The recommendation of the board of bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church for an organic union with the Methodist Episcopal Church South, aroused great enthusiasm today among delegates to the general conference here. This recommendation was contained in the Episcopal address, the formal utterance of the board of bishops to the conference, which was read by Bishop Hamilton, of Boston.

The attitude of the Bishop follows: "We are convinced of the essential unity of the two great Methodisms in doctrine and belief and this essential union must in due season express itself in outward and organic form. Without presuming to pronounce upon the terms of union we declare ourselves earnestly in favor of the organic union of the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and such other bodies as may share our common faith and experience. Moreover, we declare ourselves in favor of such a union upon the terms that shall provide an ample and brotherly protection for any minority."

"The test the nation's preparedness for communication in time of war, telephone, telegraph and wireless demonstrations have been arranged by which naval stations on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and the Battleship, New Hampshire, at Sea, Will Be In Touch With the Department.—Test to Be Operated on War Basis.

(By The Associated Press) Washington, May 2.—To test the nation's preparedness for communication in time of war a telegraph, telegraph and wireless demonstration has been arranged by which naval stations on the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and the battleship New Hampshire, at sea, simultaneously will be in touch with the navy department. The demonstration will begin at 4 o'clock Saturday and will continue until Monday, and during the entire time the department will be operated on an actual war basis.

The test was arranged at the request of Secretary Daniels by the officials of the American Telephone and Telegraph Company, who have agreed to place their service at the disposal of the department without cost. During the test the chief of the bureau having to do with the defense problems and their execution in time of war, will carry on all their business with the naval stations by telephone. At the same time Secretary Daniels, the general board of the navy, the office of naval intelligence and the chief of operations will receive telephone reports from the New Hampshire telling of the movements at sea.

COMMISSIONERS MEET. Various Matters of a Routine Nature Are Passed Upon.

The Board of County Commissioners held a busy session yesterday. Quite a number of road orders and other matters of a routine nature were decided upon.

Joe A. Walters was appointed list taker in ward No. 4 to succeed the late W. M. Weddington.

A. W. Moore and D. F. Widenhouse were appointed a committee to adjust the differences of the county and the Buffalo district.

W. H. Cook was paid \$250 for damage to his land by changing the Salisbury road.

MINISTER FAINTS. Becomes Suddenly Ill While Attending Services Today.

Soon after services started this morning at Central Methodist Church, Rev. P. L. Terrell, pastor of the Concord circuit, who was a member of the congregation, became suddenly ill and fainted. Mr. Abernethy, who was conducting the services, immediately dismissed the congregation and Mr. Terrell was removed to the home of Mr. Moores. There he received medical treatment and in a short time was revived sufficiently to be motored to his home on North Church street.

ACCEPTS CALL. Rev. James Grier Leaves Rowan Charge for One at Tirza, S. C.

Rev. James Grier is visiting his parents, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Grier, Mr. Grier, after a pastorate of four years of Thyatira and Back Creek Presbyterian Churches in Rowan county, has given up that work and accepted a call to the pastorate of the Presbyterian church at Tirza, York county, South Carolina, and will leave in a short time for his new charge. Mr. Grier is a graduate of Davidson College and the Union Theological Seminary and is considered a well equipped young minister.

WASHINGTON SELLS STATE LAND. Seattle, Wash., May 2.—The State offers for sale today in twenty-eight counties state lands valued at nearly \$300,000. Most of the tracts are timberlands, while there are some choice upland tracts and tide lands.

KANNAPOLIS CIRCUIT. Preaching at the Methodist Church Sunday, Bethpage at 11 a. m. Oak Grove at 3 p. m. by the pastor, S. L. Owen.

NAVAL OFFICERS TRY A TELEPHONE TEST

TO USE THE LINES OF THE AMERICAN TELEPHONE CO.

WILL BE OPERATED ON A WAR BASIS

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MR. ABERNETHY LAST NIGHT.

Strong Sermon on Believing.—Subject Tonight, "The Seven Wonders of Religion."

Tonight Mr. Abernethy will preach on "The Seven Wonders of Religion," according to an announcement at the evening service at Central Church last evening. Mr. Abernethy also made a brief reference to the characteristics of the people of this section of the State. They are big hearted, generous, broad-gauged men, who will give freely and liberally to the causes of the church but you cannot get those men to go out and work to bring men into the church. He declared that he was perfectly satisfied that on Sunday morning 50 men could have been brought to the Lord if a dozen men had gone forth and made an effort to get them. He concluded by adding that our people are wonderfully kind, wonderfully generous but when it comes to the vital things we find only a few willing to do their part.

As a Scripture lesson Mr. Abernethy read a few verses of what he termed the "great prayer of the Bible," the 51st Psalm. His text he prefaced with verses of the ninth chapter of St. Mark, which told of the casting of the dumb spirit out of the boy whose father was one of the great multitude which had come to see Christ, and selected the 24th verse: "And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief."

Mr. Abernethy began his discourse by presenting a lesson from the attitude of this man toward the Saviour. He came in time of trouble, the speaker declared, and this is typical of the attitude of many. They wait until trouble overtakes them before coming to Christ. I doubt, he continued, if the prodigal son would have returned were it not for his rags. Today the churches of Europe are crowded as never before in their history, despite the fact that there are at least 20,000,000 men in arms. Mr. John R. Mott, who recently visited the battlefields of Europe declares that all along the great lines the voices could be heard crying out in prayer—prayer not only for themselves but for men in the enemy trenches that they, too, might receive forgiveness from their sin before being destroyed in battle.

The proper attitude toward sin, Mr. Abernethy illustrated, as the attitude we have toward disease. On a placard marked "Swamp" it is not necessary for me to read the words, "Keep out." If New Orleans I once saw a placard, "Bubonic plague." It was not necessary for me to read the words below, "Keep out." My attitude toward such a disease was such that I needed no further warning. The trouble is, he continued, we already have disease but we will not go to the physician for help. Another striking illustration was that of a traveler to the man who, in feeling about his camp for some matches, touched the cold rattlers of a rattlesnake. He needed no warning to jerk his hand away, Mr. Abernethy declared. And this should be our attitude toward sin and if a man has religion it will be his attitude.

This man had faith, but it was a weak faith, Mr. Abernethy explained in drawing another lesson. "Lord, if you can," he quoted to indicate the hesitancy and doubt of the boy's father in Christ's ability to cast out the dumb spirit. He was not certain Christ could cast it out. He was not certain Christ had the power. This man did not know Christ as we know him. Another lesson was that the man, though having a weak faith, knew where to go. He knew to go where faith is electrified. He knew to go where faith is quickened. He knew to go where faith grows and becomes more powerful.

Mr. Abernethy illustrated this point by picturing a fast train, with its great engine and equipment. This train, he pointed out, does not have steam to go 100 miles or 50 miles on a journey toward Washington yet it is so constructed as to be able to supply and apply power as it goes. And so, here is a man who has little faith in God, little faith in the church, little faith in anything divine and eternal. Yet as he moves out toward God that faith becomes strengthened, that faith becomes multiplied and goes on in the upward movement.

The man's doubt as shown in the statement, "help thou mine unbelief" was another element in the incident we do in doubt! Here was a man richly Mr. Abernethy emphasized. What do blessed in common sense, he knew where to take his doubts. He did not take them to the card table. He did not take them to the dance hall, where doubts are multiplied. He did not take them out to places where God's name is blasphemed and the church is attacked. He said no he would not take his doubts where they were multiplied, where his faith was shaken, but he would take them to God.

Mr. Abernethy presented on of the fundamental rules of science, set on a theory as if it were true and then

MATERIALS ARE CLAIMED BY FRENCH

MISS SHARP IS BADLY HURT IN AUTO WRECK

Sunday Afternoon Accident Near Winston-Salem Came Near Having Fatal Results.

Winston-Salem, May 1.—Three occupants of a high-power motor car narrowly escaped death Sunday afternoon near Hope church, on the Clemmons road west of this city. Today Miss Ethel Sharp, a young social favorite of this city, lies in the City hospital seriously injured while her small sister, Miss Katherine, also has injuries not so grave. W. P. Southern, of Stokesdale, uncle of the Misses Sharp, is also in the hospital, though his recovery is expected. Miss Katherine Sharp, who was more fortunate than her elder sister, was able to leave the hospital today.

A heavy fog of dust blinded Mr. Southern, who was driving the car, as he attempted to pass another car on the way home from Clemmons, causing him to lose control of his car which left the road at a curve and brushed a tree, knocking the bark off. The car then made another turn, the left wheels leaving the ground and the machine tilting against a tree in the yard. Miss Ethel Sharp, whose engagement was announced recently, was pinioned between the bed of the car and the wheel, the bone in the right leg being so badly crushed that amputation was necessary.

The victims of the accident were brought to the city a short time later in an ambulance and at once taken to the City hospital for treatment.

(Miss Ethel Sharpe, who was so seriously injured in the accident, was the fiancée of Mr. William Crocker Albright, of Concord, and the announcement of the engagement was made in the Charlotte Observer of Sunday. Mr. Albright left for Winston-Salem Sunday afternoon, immediately after hearing of the accident.)

OUR TROOPS WILL NOT BE WITHDRAWN From the Border Region of Mexico Until Brigandage Has Come to an End.

Washington, May 1.—President Wilson has not altered his purpose to keep American troops in the border region of Mexico until brigandage has come to an end.

After a brief conference at the White House today, Secretary Baker prepared further instructions for Major Generals Scott and Fuston, sought by the officers as a result of their conference with General Obregon. The message went forward tonight. Its contents was not revealed but both Secretary Lansing and Secretary Baker said there had been no change in the Administration's policy.

HARTSELL RE-ELECTED. Annual Town Election at Mt. Pleasant Yesterday.

At the annual town election at Mount Pleasant yesterday Mayor W. S. Hartsell and the board of town commissioners, J. H. C. Fisher, W. L. Hahn, C. C. Heilig, A. N. James and J. Y. McEachern, were re-elected.

The main contest was for Mayor and the vote was: Hartsell, 61; Lee J. Foll, 31.

Leather Ritchee and John Beaver were unopposed for school committeemen.

Programme at the Strand All This Week.

The programme at the Strand (formerly the Marsh) for the remainder of this week will be as follows: Today, "The Strange Case of Mary Page." Wednesday, "The County Chairman," in five acts. Thursday, "What's His Name." Friday, "His Last Dollar." Saturday, "Where the Trail Divides."

And Villa grins!

FIRST LINE TRENCHES RETAKEN ABOUT VERDUN.

ITALIANS MAINTAIN THE OFFENSIVE

Also Make a Big Gain in a Strong Attack Last night South of Fort Douaumont.—Although a German Offensive Movement Seems to Be Impending Along the Northern End of the Russian Front, the Current Statements Record No Decisive Engagements in That Sector.—Greek Liberal Party Wants Policies of Venizelos Adopted.

(By The Associated Press) Important gains in the French counter offensive at Verdun were announced by the war office today.

By persistently hammering at the German line on the north slope of Dead Man's Hill on April 29th and 30th, the French troops obtained possession of German trenches along a front of about three-fifths of a mile and a depth of from 300 to 600 yards, the statement asserts.

In a strong attack last night southeast of Fort Douaumont a first line German trench, more than 500 yards in length, was captured by the French.

Although a German offensive movement seems to be impending along the northern end of the Russian front, the current statements record no decisive engagement in this sector.

Clashes between opposing forces continue to be of daily occurrence along the Austro-Italian front. Vienna, however, reports the situation generally unchanged.

The Italians are maintaining their offensive in the Amadello district, but are declared to be sustaining heavy losses in fruitless attacks.

Despite the collapse of the rebel movement in Dublin and surrounding territory a few irreconcilables are still holding out and snipers and small rebel bands have been making trouble, particularly in the suburbs of the city. A thorough search of the town and its environs is being conducted by the military to round up the last of the rebellious forces.

An immense crowd gathered at a mass meeting of the Greek Liberal party in Saloniki, at which orators demanded that Greece revert to the policies of Former Premier Venizelos and intervene in the war in behalf of the Allies, says a news agency dispatch.

A. AND M. BASEBALL TEAM NOT INJURED.

In the Wreck of Norfolk & Western Train Near Natural Bridge Last Night.

(By The Associated Press) Raleigh, May 2.—Telegrams received at the North Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical College today from Roanoke, Va., declared that none of the members of the college baseball team were hurt in the wreck of the Norfolk & Western railroad train near Natural Bridge last night. Prof. Thomas Nelson, who was the worst injured was suffering only from bruises.

THE WHEAT MARKET.

Better Weather in Northwest Had a Bearish Effect on Market.

(By The Associated Press) Chicago, May 2.—Better weather prospect in northwest had a bearish effect today on the wheat market, but was offset later by reports that an insect pest had appeared in Southern Kansas. Opening prices, which ranged from 3-8 decline to 1 1-4 advance, with May at 117 3-4 to 118 and July at 117 1-2 to 118 were followed by a material setback and then substantial rallies.

ISELY DIED TODAY.

Young Man Hit By Train Dies in Salisbury Hospital.

News this morning was received here stating that Warren Isely, the young man who was injured at the local yards of the Southern Railway Sunday a week ago, when "Dock" Blackwelder was killed, died at a Salisbury hospital this morning.

Mr. Isely lived at Cannonville and is survived by his wife and several children.

The funeral arrangements have not been made.

In after years Chicagoans may show where the embattled farmers stood and "fired the milk pail" that was heard around the world.