

GREAT DAMAGE IS DONE BY FIRE IN ASHEVILLE TODAY

Fire of Undetermined Origin Completely Enveloped the Emporium Building at the Corner of Pack Square.

CLERKS THOUGHT TO BE MISSING FOUND

Loss Estimated at \$250,000.—It Seemed at One Time That Several Other Buildings Would Be Burned.

(By the Associated Press.) Asheville, July 25.—The three-story building and contents of the Emporium Department Store on South Pack Square, were completely destroyed by fire which developed about 11:30 this morning.

Asheville, N. C., July 25.—Fire of undetermined origin had completely enveloped the Emporium building at noon today.

Two clerks, Mrs. Alice White and Miss Thelma Opperman, are missing, and it is feared they have perished in the flames.

The fire is the most disastrous in the city's history for 25 years. The entire stock of the Emporium, a department store, valued at \$150,000, is a total loss.

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TAX DELINQUENTS ARE WARNED BY DEPUTY

Deputy Commissioner E. J. Roseman, of Rowan County, Sends Out Warning to Those Liable Here.

Mr. E. J. Roseman, of Barber, Rowan county, deputy commissioner, has received word from Commissioner R. A. Doughton of the State department of revenue to the effect that while a large number of applicants for license to practice certain professions and carrying on of certain business, as levied under the revenue act of the state, and which should have been applied prior to June 1, last, had been issued, there appeared to be a large number liable for this license tax who had not made application and received the necessary license.

In the connection section 96 of the revenue act provides in part as follows: "If after 60 days from the first day of June any person, firm or corporation is found to be carrying on any business or practicing any profession for which a license is required by the act, without such license, it shall be the duty of the commissioner of revenue and his deputies to demand the immediate payment of the tax with an additional penalty of 20 per centum (the said penalty not to exceed \$10 in any one case) as penalty for failure to procure said license before engaging in such business or practicing such profession, as required by this act; and in default of such immediate payment the commissioner of revenue shall certify the same to the sheriff of the county in which said delinquent lives or has his place of business, and such sheriff shall have power, and it shall be his duty, to levy upon any personal or real estate owned by such person, firm or corporation, and sell the same for the payment of said tax, penalty, and costs, in the same manner as provided by law for levy and sale of property for the collection of other taxes; and if sufficient property is not found it shall be his duty to swear out a warrant before some justice of the peace of his county for the violation of this act."

HIRAM JOHNSON WILL SPEAK AT DINNER TONIGHT

To Enunciate His Views on Foreign Relations.—Is Boom For Him to Be Launched?

(By the Associated Press.) New York, July 25.—Senator Hiram Johnson, who returned Monday from a tour abroad, will enunciate his views on foreign relations tonight at a testimonial dinner which his friends have intimated will be the occasion for the launching of a boom for his nomination for the Presidency by the Republican party next year.

TO DISCUSS ELIMINATION OF THE TWELVE HOUR DAY

Presidents of Subsidiaries to Meet at New York Tomorrow.

TO RELIEVE THE DISABLED VETERANS

Advocate Placing Them on a Permanent Compensation Basis.

SPECIAL OFFICERS TO BE PRESENT AT MURDER TRIAL

Sensational Trial of Robert O. and L. C. Garrett at Petersburg, Va.

Lead Goes Higher.

New York, July 23.—The American Smelting and Refining Company today advanced the price of lead from 6.00 to 6.25 cents per pound.

WANT TO INCREASE ARMY TO 150,000 ENLISTED MEN

And 15,000 Officers, in Order to Permit All Year Instruction of "Civilian Components of the U. S. Army."

ACTION TAKEN BY RESERVE OFFICERS

At Their Meeting at Indianapolis July 14 and 15.—Resolutions Sent Secretary Weeks to War Department

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, July 25.—Increase of the peace-time regular army to 150,000 officers and 1,500,000 enlisted men in order to permit "all year round instruction of civilian components of the army of the United States" is urged in a resolution adopted unanimously by the National Council of Reserve Officers' Association which met in Indianapolis July 14 and 15.

The resolutions were received today by Secretary Weeks and sent to the War Department budget committee which is laboring with next year's estimates.

The action of the reserve officers was not disclosed at the time, although resolutions provide that all members of Congress receive copies. Declaration relative to peace time strength of the regular army was made in view of "indications that an effort will be made at the next session of Congress to reduce the present strength" of the regular establishment.

ARGUMENT OF COUNSEL

In Dr. McBrayer Case Heard Before Special Legislative Committee.

(By the Associated Press.) Raleigh, July 25.—Arguments of counsel were heard today by the special legislative investigating committee appointed during the last session of the General Assembly to make inquiry into charges of mismanagement against Dr. L. B. McBrayer, superintendent of the State sanatorium for treatment of tuberculosis.

DAWSON FOR GOVERNOR NINE YEARS FROM NOW

Elevation of Young Easterner is Causing Political Powers to Get Busy.

Revival at Tucker's Chapel.

The revival meeting at Tucker's Chapel is still in great progress. There were three professions Tuesday night and several asked to be prayer for. Rev. Mr. Stena preached a wonderful sermon. His text was Romans 6:23. Mr. Stena and his daughter sang a very touching hymn. There will be several quartets sung tonight. The Hartsell Mill choir will be with us if nothing happens. We are having a large attendance every night so come and make it larger. Don't be afraid of car thieves as we have a watchman on duty. You can leave your car and go in and hear all that is said, so all come tonight. All are welcome.

N. C. Negro Farmers' Congress.

(By the Associated Press.) Greensboro, N. C., July 25.—The annual sessions of the North Carolina Negro Farmers' Congress will be held in this city on Thursday and Friday, August 9 and 10.

The Star Theatre today and tomorrow will present "Male and Female." Cecil B. DeMille's great production. The cast includes Gloria Swanson, Thomas Meighan and Bebe Daniels. Also a pleasing comedy "Without a Wife." Admission, 10 and 25 cents.

INTERESTING ITEMS ABOUT NORTH CAROLINA.

(By the Associated Press.) North Carolina readers support 95 democratic, 31 independent democratic, 15 republican, 3 independent republican and 50 independent publications.

In addition to these there are 26 religious and 25 educational and literary publications as well as a number devoted to various causes.

During the past ten years there has been an actual reduction in the number of weekly, monthly, semi-monthly and annual publications issued in the state, many having been consolidated. On the other hand dailies, quarterlies, tri-weeklies, and quarterlies have increased in both circulation and numbers.

The greatest number of publications, twenty-eight, are issued from Wake County. Guilford County is the publication center of 17 more.

In the larger cities of the state there are located one morning and one evening paper published daily. Wilmington furnishes the only exception to this, there being two daily afternoon papers published there. In no city are there two daily morning papers.

QUADRUPLE ANNIVERSARY

To Be Observed at Lower Stone Church Next Sunday, July 29.

Next Sunday, July 29th, there will be observed a quadruple anniversary at Lower Stone Reformed Church, two miles from Rockwell, Rowan County. The anniversary address will be delivered by Rev. J. C. Leonard, D. D., of Lexington. Dr. Leonard has been pastor of the First Reformed Church of the latter city for 22 years and Stated Clerk of the Classis of North Carolina 31 years. The present triumvirate he is President of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the United States.

VILLA'S WIVES NOW FIGHTING FOR RANCH

Mexico City, July 23.—Francisco (Pancho) Villa's matrimonial difficulties threaten to plunge his Cantulillo ranch into bloodshed.

Many of Villa's followers who work the ranch are threatening to take the ranch by force, as they are unwilling to permit the ranch to remain in the hands of Berta Villa, the latest wife of Villa, who is living at Cantulillo.

Followers of Villa who have arrived at Parral for the funeral of their dead chief are forming groups which promise trouble. A number of other Villistas are en route to Cantulillo, where they are expected to take the side of the followers of Villa who remained at the ranch and who are now demanding part of the gains of the ranch for work performed.

ROTARY CLUBS TO HOLD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In Raleigh in 1924.—More Than 1,000 Rotarians Will Visit Raleigh.

Raleigh, N. C., July 25.—The annual conference of the 37th Rotary Clubs will be held in Raleigh on April 3 and 4, 1924. Henry M. London, Secretary of the local club, has been advised by District Governor G. Franklin Lenz, of Newport News, Va., who is attending the meeting of the International Board of Governors at Chicago.

Mr. London said the conference would bring to Raleigh more than 1,000 Rotarians and other visitors. The 37th district is made up of Rotary clubs in Virginia and Eastern North Carolina.

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OFFICERS HAVE CLOSE CALL

Negro Opened Fire on Them When They Were Searching For a Still.—Negro Burned Over to Court.

Officers McClure, Caldwell, White and Roach had a close call on last Friday night while on a moonshine job. He came known at the trial here of Hope Cook, negro, who with State Library in the raid at the Morehead place in this county near the Mecklenburg line.

The officers went to the suspected place about midnight on Friday, and came upon Cook running an illicit still. Officers Caldwell and White were approaching through some bushes, when the negro, hearing the noise, opened fire into the bushes with a shot gun, the load of shot passing just over the heads of the stooping officers. A companion of the negro fired six times at Officer Roach, who was approaching from another direction, but none of the shots took effect. Both the negroes then ran, but Cook was arrested on Saturday morning and brought to Concord. He was given a hearing on Tuesday before Commissioner Kesler and bound over to Federal Court which will convene in October, in Charlotte, his bond being placed at \$2,000. He will be tried on two charges: operating an illicit still, and for shooting at the officers.

The other negro who was present with Cook has not yet been arrested. He, however, brought his brother before Commissioner Kesler for a hearing, and he was bound over to court under \$100 bond for aiding and abetting his brother in the illicit distilling.

THE WEEKLY WEATHER AND CROP REVIEW

North Carolina Crops Made Good Progress.—Cotton in Good Condition.

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, July 25.—The weekly weather and crop review issued today by the Department of Agriculture contains the following on the Southern crops: The temperature was below normal during most of the week in the cotton belt, and considerably cloudy rainy weather prevailed in the central portions. In general the progress and condition were good to very good in the northern portion, except in Oklahoma and parts of Arkansas, and also in the more eastern districts except in Florida.

The weekly weather by cotton states included:

North Carolina crops made good progress in most of the state except in some sections where it was too dry and heavy damage by hail, wind and rain to a 15-mile strip of Pitt county; also some local damage west in Wake county. Cotton maintaining generally very good condition; weevil fairly under control as yet, but some report more trouble from lice than ever known.

WANDERING IN WOODS

Had Been Sleeping Outdoors and Lying on Berries.

Goldboro, July 24.—Edwin J. Kieffer, 25-year-old white man, whose mind is evidently unbalanced was found wandering in the woods near the Wayne county fair grounds by local police, who brought him to the city jail, where he is being held for observation.

The young man, neatly dressed and of excellent appearance, but without funds, claims San Antonio, Texas, as his home. He has been seen loafing around the city for the past two weeks, obviously without visible means of support. Local authorities, becoming suspicious, followed him yesterday, and found that he had been sleeping in the woods for some time. His bed, couch or pallet, whichever it may be termed, was composed of woods rubbish over which he had spread newspapers, using his suitcase as a pillow. He stated to the officers that he had been living on such eatable berries as he could gather in the woods.

Chief of Police Tew has wired A. G. Kieffer, of San Antonio, whom the young man claims is his brother in the effort to have him carried to some sanatorium, where he can be properly cared for.

On a Soda Fountain Stree.

Kinston, July 24.—The record for eating established here many years ago stands unchallenged after a generation. Bill Hingman's putting away or 37 cooked eggs at a sitting never having been duplicated. Yesterday a new soda fountain record was hung up by an individual who refused to give his name, a real stranger. He sat under up and asked for a "snooper of ice cream." He followed this with two ice cream cones. He ran a finger down a "one of syrup plugs and stopped at one marked "grape juice." "Gosh, I'm thirsty," he said. Then he called for a concoction of another sort. The soda jerker said he believed the stranger "was" thirsty. "Say, make me two milk shakes," the patron ordered. "That'll be enough this time." The whole thing transpired in six minutes, the fountain clerk said.

Charges Against George Maxwell Dismissed.

(By the Associated Press.) New York, July 25.—The indictments charging George Maxwell, President of the American Association of Authors, Composers and Publishers, with forging and sending to Allen A. Ryan and others poison pen letters attacking the characters of Mrs. Ryan and half a dozen other women, were dismissed by Sessions Judge McIntyre today.

Cuts in Gasoline Prices Announced.

New York, July 24.—Cuts of one cent a gallon in the price of gasoline were announced here by the Gulf Refining Company, of New Jersey. The reduction by the latter company was effective in New Jersey and Maryland.

THREE CLOUDBURSTS DO GREAT DAMAGE AT CASPER, WYOMING

The Region West and Northwest of That City is Struggling to Get Its Head Above Waters of Flood.

THE DAMAGE WILL EXCEED \$1,500,000

No Loss of Life Reported so Far.—Railroads Hard Hit.—Several Railroad Bridges Swept Away.

Casper, Wyoming, July 25 (By the Associated Press.)—With unofficial estimates of the damage placed at nearly \$1,500,000, the region west and northwest of here extending as far as Thermopolis is struggling to get its head above the floor waters which deluged that section yesterday. The damage to the Burlington Railroad between Arming-ton and Thermopolis, a stretch of 80 miles, is estimated at close to \$750,000. Because wires are down most of the way between Thermopolis and Arming-ton 35 miles northwest of here, it is difficult to ascertain the exact amount of damage. No loss of life is reported thus far. The Burlington Railroad reported three steel bridges out west of here, and a few smaller bridges, besides a large amount of railroad bed washed out.

Alkali Creek, Badwater and Wind Rivers all are running bank full. Badwater has opened several new channels and has caused the most havoc. Several bridges of the Northwestern Railroad between here and Lander are reported swept away. The Northwestern trains are marooned near Moneta. Burlington officials do not expect to have regular train service resumed between here and Thermopolis for nearly six weeks.

Three cloudbursts swept Casper, one about 4 a. m. on the afternoon and one last night. Platte River is running bank full, but it is not considered dangerous at present.

Water is rising at Thermopolis and many buildings are flooded. Water from the Big Horn river, late reports said, was nearly up to the top of the rails at the Burlington depot, one of the highest points in the city.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS ARE SOLVING LABOR QUESTION

Are Being Employed With Satisfactory Results on Municipal Work at Greenwood.

Greenwood, July 23.—High school boys have solved the labor situation on municipal projects here this summer and white boys of high school age are being employed exclusively on the development work of a municipal park of 100 acres at the Greenwood water and light plant. Following a shortage of labor due to the migration of negroes to the north, city officials hit upon the idea of employing high school lads during the summer months.

According to J. W. Wells, engineer in charge, the high school boys have worked better than negro laborers and have accomplished a satisfactory amount of work in laying out roadways and drives and in clearing away undergrowth and trees from the drives in the new park. Only a few of the lads have had to fall out on account of the heat or the hard work and most of them have stuck to their tasks like hardened workmen.

Lady Nancy's Bill Passes the House.

London, July 24.—The house of lords today passed a without amendment the third reading of Lady Astor's bill prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors to any person under 18 years of age. The measure which has already passed the commons, now becomes law, provided the assent of the crown is given.

German Police Arrest French Courier.

Berlin, July 25 (By the Associated Press.)—The Berlin newspapers today report that the German police have arrested a French courier belonging to the French embassy in Berlin in an express train near Hagen on the edge of the Ruhr. Important documents intended for the commander of the French Ruhr army were seized, it was said.

STAR TODAY AND TOMORROW

CECIL B. DeMILLE'S Production "Male and Female"

Cast Includes Gloria Swanson, Thomas Meighan and Bebe Daniels

Also a Pleasing Comedy "WITHOUT A WIFE" ADMISSION 10c and 25c

PIEDMONT TODAY and TOMORROW WILLIAM FOX Presents "Who Are My Parents?"

A smashing picture with a vital subject striking at the very heart of every home in the land, and unfolding a problem that is as old as life itself. Should women try to evade their destiny—Motherhood? ADMISSION 10c and 25c