

Seventeen Known to Have Perished in Asylum Fire

All of the Victims of Blaze Were Inmates in Illinois State Hospital for Insane at Dunning, near Chicago.

SOME OF INMATES MADE GET-AWAYS Several of Those Still Free Are of Dangerous Types—Only One of Dead Bodies Has Been Identified.

Chicago, Dec. 27.—Seventeen persons were killed last night when a swiftly spreading fire of unexplained origin destroyed an old wooden pavilion known as the "Death House" at the State hospital for insane at Dunning, in the northwest edge of Chicago.

Only one patient has been identified. The bodies of the others were burned beyond recognition.

About thirty-five of the patients, including several of a violent type, broke away in the excitement of hearing more news of the fire.

It was the worst institutional fire in Illinois history. The building, witnesses said, seemed to go up in one great burst of flames. It was given the name Death House when it was the property of Cook county, because of its flimsy construction.

The institution houses approximately 3,500 patients. Attendant battled to drive frenzied patients back from the doors and windows of other buildings, and to quiet them.

Chicago, Dec. 27.—Fifteen patients of the Chicago state hospital for the insane at Dunning are known to have been burned to death or suffocated in a fire which destroyed a frame structure used as a dormitory for tubercular patients tonight.

At least three others are believed to have perished. One of the bodies removed from the ruins of the building was that of a woman. It was at first thought all of the patients had been removed.

About 50 of the patients left the hospital grounds during the confusion. Many of them returned and others were picked up by passing motorists and returned to the asylum which consisted of seven buildings housing 3,500 patients.

The woman who perished is believed to have been an attendant who went into the building to rescue patients as there were no women patients in the building.

Attendants said possibly a score had perished but believed the number would be less.

The fire is supposed to have been caused by an overheated boiler in Ward No. 3 of the frame annex where the flames first burst through into the rooms where the men patients were at the supper table.

VENIZELOS WILL DIRECT GOVERNMENT OF GREECE

Former Premier Consents to Take Helm Until Country Returns to Normalcy.

Paris, Dec. 25.—Former Premier Venizelos has decided to return to Athens, and is leaving Paris for Greece forthwith.

His decision was taken after a delegation which arrived from Athens last night had delivered to him this morning a document signed by 270 members of the legislative Assembly elected last week urging him to resume charge of the Government and save the country.

M. Venizelos was told that the elected representatives of 19 electoral districts who were away in the provinces at the time the document was drawn up also favored the request, which thus was supported by more than 300 Deputies out of the 396 constituting the Assembly.

Before the overwhelming sentiment of the country as thus expressed, M. Venizelos informed General Danglis, head of the mission, that he could not refuse to lend his help to the country, but declared that his political action would only have a temporary character.

He will reach Athens before the new Assembly convenes early in January.

Two More Victims of Bootleg Liquor. New York, Dec. 27.—Holiday bootleg liquor claimed two more victims today bringing the list of dead since Christmas Day to seven, when James Marahan and Edward Churchill, laborers, died in Bellevue Hospital.

SINCLAIR'S PROTESTS DO NO GOOD AT HEARING

Ordered to Give Details of All Transactions in Dealing in Wyoming Oil Fields.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Overriding the protests of Harry F. Sinclair, oil operator and holder of the leases to the naval oil reserves in Wyoming the Senate Public Lands Committee today voted to require him to give details of all transactions in the stock of the companies, formed in connection with that lease and organization of syndicates organized to market the stock.

Sinclair Still Silent. Washington, Dec. 27.—For a second time Harry F. Sinclair flatly refused today to tell a Senate committee the inside story of complicated financial transactions in floating the Mammoth Oil Company, organized to develop the Sinclair lease of the Teapot Dome.

Taking the same position he maintained last March when the Lafolette oil investigating committee sought unsuccessfully to compel him to answer certain questions about oil stock deals, Mr. Sinclair told the Senate public lands committee today he was in the right of business privacy when he declined to reply. The committee voted to compel him to answer, but there was no very clear indication of how the order was to be put into effect.

An indefinite adjournment was taken when Mr. Sinclair's attorneys declared there was not sufficient authority in the committee to place any witness under compulsion. Information on some features of the transaction in question was given freely by the witness, however, and he declared in a statement that he drew the line only on such disclosures as would pry into the affairs of himself and his associates.

During today's session the committee received a statement prepared by Albert B. Fall, who was Secretary of the Interior when the Teapot Dome lease was signed, giving the details of his New Mexico cattle holdings, a subject brought into the hearing by testimony of witnesses.

PEACE TALK IS AGAIN HEARD IN MEXICO CITY

Rumors Come as Federal Troops Plan Big Offensive Movement.

Mexico City, Dec. 26.—via Laredo Junction.—(By the Associated Press).—Upon the eve of federal offenses against the rebellious forces commanded by Gen. Estrada and Diegoz in the State of Tlaxcala and General Maycotte and General Flores in the State of Oaxaca, reports are again in circulation of a peace movement.

The reports say the author of the new effort toward peace is General Angel Flores, governor of Sinaloa, a presidential candidate.

According to unconfirmed reports, which are given prominence in the newspaper Excelsior, Judge Manuel Telles, heading a commission from Sinaloa, has arrived in Mexico City with the Flores peace proposal.

After conferring with Gen. Estrada at Guadalajara, Judge Telles is reported to have been in wireless communication with General Maycotte and De La Huerta, leader of the revolt at Vera Cruz. Details of the reported peace proposal could not be learned.

THE COTTON MARKET

Showed Renewed Firmness Owing to Higher Liverpool Cables and Buying Movement.

New York, Dec. 27.—The cotton market showed renewed firmness early today owing to higher Liverpool cables and a continuation of yesterday's buying movement.

The opening was firm at an advance of 10 to 32 points, with January selling up to 35.93 or 23 points net higher, shortly after the opening, while other months showed net advances of 26 to 39 points, with March selling at 36.43 and May at 36.60. These prices attracted realizing and later fluctuations were somewhat irregular, but the undertone was steady to firm on reiterated reports of firm government reports of a firm spot situation in the South.

Cotton futures opened firm: January 35.85; March 36.30; May 36.50; July 35.70; October 29.46.

WILLIAM A. GRAHAM, JUNIOR, SUCCEEDS FATHER AS COMMISSIONER

Raleigh, Dec. 26.—Governor Morrison tonight announced the appointment of William Alexander Graham, member of the state senate from the Lincoln district, to succeed his father, Maj. W. A. Graham, as commissioner of agriculture.

Mr. Graham, who is burying his father today, will come to his duties as soon as he can reach here.

MICHAEL OWENS DIED SUDDENLY

Toledo, O., Dec. 27.—Michael J. Owens, one of the best known men in the glass industry in the United States, and inventor of the Owens bottle-making machinery, dropped dead in his office here today.

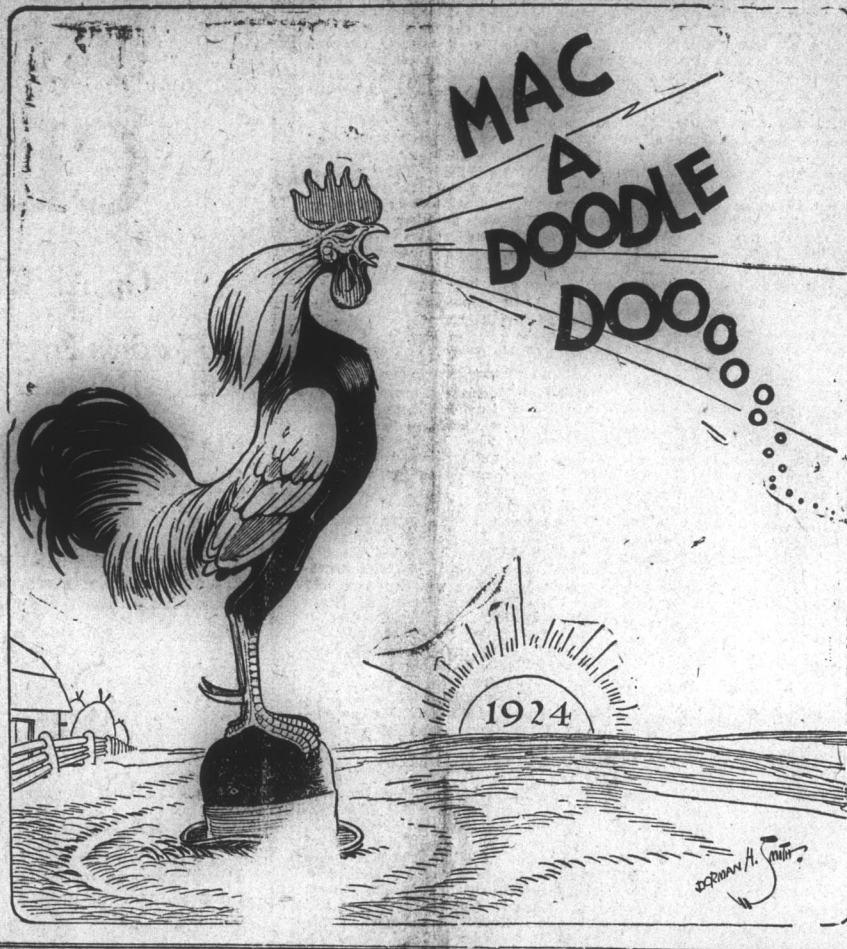
It takes less effort to make good impressions than to re-make bad impressions.

WHAT BATS' BEAR SAYS

Highly individualized, these bees produce varying grades of honey from that with a fine flavor to some that is acid and actually poisonous, which they store in cells resembling ordinary grapes in shape and size. Some of them neither bite nor sting but eject a fluid which burns the human skin.

Nests containing as many as 75,000 of these bees, which are smaller than the common house fly and have prominent gauzy wings, were found in Panama by Dr. Lutz. He found another species of bee, miserly and so distrustful of its brethren that it refuses to colonize, hoarding its honey in secret places.

THE LATEST BIG NOISE IN THE POLITICAL BARNYARD



LANGSTON IS HELD BY SYRACUSE POLICE

Is Charged With Violation of Mann Act. Formerly Lived in Hamlet.

Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 27.—Eugene Dent Langston, a jeweler of Hamlet, N. C., was arrested here yesterday by an agent of the Department of Justice, charged with violation of the Mann Act in eloping with Mrs. Gertrude Harrill, wife of Rev. Benjamin Harrill, and bringing her to this city.

After his arrest Langston made a statement to police giving details of their elopement, and making it unnecessary to take Mrs. Harrill as a witness. According to the statement, Langston and Mrs. Harrill met at Petersburg, from where they went to New York City and later to Montreal. They came to Syracuse on November 14th and registered at a hotel, the next day moving to the rooming house where they remained according to the proprietor, occupying separate rooms under their own names until their arrest. Langston was working in a jewelry store here and Mrs. Harrill was an automobile agency.

NEPHEW OF KING TO MARRY AMERICAN GIRL

King Christian's Nephew to Wed Miss Eleanor Margaret Green, of New York.

Copenhagen, Dec. 27.—(By the Associated Press).—King Christian today consented to public announcement of the engagement of his young kinsman Prince Viggo and Miss Eleanor Margaret Green, daughter of Dr. J. O. Green, of New York City. The Prince, a nephew of the king, has renounced the rights of succession to the throne.

BAPTISTS TO PROBE MISSIONARY'S ACTS

New York, Dec. 26.—The Baptists fundamentalist league today announced it would insist upon a thorough investigation of the reports that: Baptist foreign missionaries are preaching doctrines contrary to the faith of that denomination.

Dr. John Roach Straton, pastor of Calvary Baptist church, here is president of the league. The league rejected the recent report of the board of managers of the Baptist foreign mission society that evidence that contrary doctrines were being preached was insufficient to justify drastic action. The announcement said the league would soon issue a statement giving the evidence on which it would base its demand.

Nine Killed in Gun Fight Over Cracker. Hazard, Ky., 26.—Of nine men who participated in Perry county shooting affrays over Christmas tonight five of them dead, one wounded and said to be in a critical condition and three men unscathed.

Jerry Dunn, storekeeper, was the last of the five to die, succumbing today to wounds he received at the same time J. D. Matthews, a barber, and Lester Hays, a miner, were killed. These men all inside Dunn's store, were shot by deputy sheriffs who passed the building when a firecracker was said to have exploded at their feet and they took it as an indication they were being fired upon from the store.

COOLIDGE HEADQUARTERS IN CHICAGO

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 27.—William M. Butler, Massachusetts member of the Republican national committee, is to open headquarters tomorrow in this city, where, with the assistance of former Congressman James W. Wood of Iowa, he will renew the campaign which he began here two weeks ago to bring about the nomination of President Coolidge by the national convention next June.

LAD ACCIDENTALLY KILLS SISTER

Winston-Salem, N. C., Dec. 27.—Aaron Stewart, aged 11, while playing with a shotgun at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stewart, in Clemmons, this morning in some way discharged the weapon, the entire load taking effect in the head of his seven-year-old sister, killing her instantly.

Miss Jessie Green, of Greensboro, is spending several days with Miss Ethel Blackwelder, of Kerr street.

LOSS OF THE DIRIGIBLE DIXMUDE NOW ADMITTED

There Is Still Hope, However, That the Members of Her Crew Escaped.

Paris, Dec. 27.—(By the Associated Press).—The loss of the dirigible Dixmude is now reluctantly admitted, although hope for the safety of her crew of fifty officers and men has not yet been relinquished. It is considered certain that the Dixmude fell in a desert in southern Algeria. It is inferred here that her fall must have been violent, wrecking the wireless apparatus. Even assuming such a crash, it does not follow that the crew perished, for the Dixmude was well provided with parachutes, and some of her men, it is pointed out, must have escaped.

STATE REVENUE FOR 1923

\$1923 WAS \$47,687,332

An Average Per Capita of \$18.01—Assessed Valuation \$2,521,115,274.

Washington, Dec. 27.—Revenue of the state of North Carolina for the year 1923 amounted to \$47,687,332, an average of \$18.01 for each person in the state, according to an announcement made here tonight by the Department of Commerce. The total was divided as follows: general property taxes, \$24,246,861; special property taxes \$4,214,576; poll taxes \$903,151; licenses and permits, \$5,701,341; and special assessments for improvements, \$1,516,483.

This showed, according to the Department an increase of 369 percent for towns of over 2,500 population over the year 1912.

In 1922 the entire debt of North Carolina and its political subdivisions less the sinking fund assets set aside to meet such debt was \$152,711,045, compared with \$152,711,045 in 1912 it was \$43,343, or an average per capita in 1922 of \$69.03 and in 1912, \$14.88. The increase in the ten years was 432 percent.

The assessed valuation of all property subject to general property tax, according to the report was \$2,521,115,274 in 1922 as compared with \$1,500,632 in 1912, an increase of 237 per cent. The per capita assessed valuation increase from \$323.90 in 1912 to \$52.46 in 1922. The per capita tax levy increased from \$4.33 in 1912 to \$13.88 in 1922.

DEATH IN FIERY FLUE

FATE OF MISSING MAN

Draft Swept Powerhouse Worker Into Smokestack Pit.

New York, Dec. 25.—Burned almost beyond recognition, the body of Fernando Mendes, a coal passer, who disappeared Monday, was found today in a pit at the foot of a flue in the powerhouse of the Pennsylvania Railroad, Long Island City.

When Mendes failed to return to his home, his brother, Gustavo, sought him at the plant. His time card showed he had not checked out.

Gustavo returned today and the search was continued. Martin Walzer, a water tender, found a small door leading into a flue on the third floor was open. The flues lead to the smokestacks. Mendes apparently had blown the door and the strong draft had entered him from a ledge.

The temperature in the flue was about 1000 degrees, but the soot in which the body was buried prevented it from being cremated.

The powerhouse officials lessened the heat and two firemen got the body.

CAR CUTS RAILROADER IN TWO AT GASTONIA

Gastonia, Dec. 26.—Robert Spargo, car operator, for the P. and N. railroad lost his life in the local yards at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Spargo had been draining an oil tank, had completed the work, and his helper had given the signal for the train to move. Those who witnessed the accident stated that Spargo had stepped clear of the train and had ample room to allow the car to pass him, but his foot caught between the two rails in some gutter and he fell across the rail just as the car reached him. The wheel ran across his body, causing instant death.

Spargo had been in the employ of the P. and N. for a long term of years. He is survived by four brothers, John, Will, now in Detroit; Ernest and Atwood Spargo.

SUDAN TEMPLE OPENS CEREMONIAL

New Bern, Dec. 27.—With an estimated attendance of 2,000 Masons from eastern North Carolina, the mid-winter ceremonial of Sudan Temple was to open here today. Potentate R. C. Dunn was to inaugurate the work of the national headquarters here.

ATTEMPTS TO KILL PRINCE REGENT OF JAPAN ON STREETS

Youth 20 Years of Age Arrested After He Had Fired at Prince Hirschito, Japanese Ruler.

PRINCE RIDING IN AUTOMOBILE

Windows of Machine Were Smashed and Bullet Narrowly Missed the Head of the Prince.

Tokio, Dec. 27.—(By the Associated Press).—A youth dressed as a laborer was arrested by the police today shortly after he had fired at Prince Regent Hirohito in an attempted assassination. The youth is 20 years old. The police believe he is insane. The shooting has aroused intense excitement and feeling is high throughout the city.

Another youth who was with the assailant was arrested later. The attack occurred while the prince regent was in an automobile on the way to a session of the Diet. The assailant used a "came-gun." The windows of the machine were smashed. The bullet narrowly missed the head of the prince regent. He continued on his way to the meeting of the Diet, but took refuge in the upper house composed of peers. Later he convened the Diet with the customary ceremonies, after which he returned to the imperial palace under a heavy guard.

The authorities are conducting a rigid investigation. They are of the opinion that others may be implicated. Viscount Tameori Iriye, member of the House of Peers, and chief chamberlain to the prince regent, was slightly injured by flying glass.

The prince regent read a speech to the members of the House in a calm voice and then retired without indication that anything unusual had occurred. None of those present at the session which he addressed was aware of the shooting.

Home Minister Goto resigned later, assuming responsibility as home minister for the attempted assassination. Baron Goto's home and all socialist centers are being closely guarded owing to fear of anti-socialist outbreaks.

DIG UP, BURN BODY OF SUICIDE-SLAYER

Man Who Killed Wife and Four Others Cremated in Ruin of Blazing Home.

Jefferson, Me. Dec. 25.—The body of John Snow was exhumed early today from the solitary grave where it was buried yesterday and placed in the cottage where he killed his wife and two other women Saturday. The house then was set on fire. The charred body was found in the ruins.

County Attorney Weston M. Hilton has begun an investigation. The whole countryside was stirred when it was learned that Snow, after killing the wife and son of Deputy Sheriff Frank C. Jewett at their home in Whitefield had come to the cottage in this town, a mile from Cooper's Mills, where his wife, her aunt and her grand-mother lived, and had shot all three before he ended his own life. Although the medical examiner characterized the murders as "the work of a madman," threats that Snow's body would be burned, were heard the next day.

The authorities refused permission for the burial of Snow's body in the cemetery and it was interred without ceremony in a rude grave on the farm where his wife had lived.

Snow, a native of Poland, came to this country a few years ago and married a Jefferson girl. Her grandmother, Mrs. Ruel Brann, helped him financially, but he never was successful in any kind of work. When his cruelty compelled Mrs. Snow to complain to the authorities last summer she left him and since then had lived in her grandmother's cottage. Her aunt, Mrs. Eva Eaton also lived there.

North Carolina Has 1,474 Alms Houses. Washington, Dec. 27.—North Carolina had the second largest number of persons in its almshouses on December 31, 1922, according to a report made here today by the department of commerce. The report covered a comparison of seven states as follows: Georgia, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina and West Virginia. New Jersey was caring for the greatest number in its almshouses with 1,764 while North Carolina had 1,474 in its institutions.

WANT MORE SHIPS

Washington, Dec. 27.—Authority to construct eight 10,000-ton cruisers and three submarines will be sought of Congress by the Navy Department in the near future, according to information received by members of the House naval committee.

Big Snow in Northwest. St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 27.—The north-west experienced its first real snow of the season today when cities in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota reported snow ranging from one-half to four inches in depth with more snow and cold wave forecast for today.

Ready to Open Coolidge Headquarters. Chicago, Dec. 27.—Wm. M. Butler, republican national committee man from Massachusetts, and national director of the Coolidge campaign, arrived today to inaugurate the work of the national headquarters here.

CLARKE DENOUNCES THOSE CONTROLLING KLAN AT THIS TIME

Former High Official in Organization Sends Letter to Coolidge Giving Views on Present Leaders.

Washington, Dec. 27.—E. Y. Clarke, formerly high in the councils of the Ku Klux Klan, wrote President Coolidge today, offering to co-operate with the Executive in ending the activities of "an element" which is converting the Klan into an organization vastly different from that planned by its founders. Clarke also announced his intention of issuing a proclamation to Klansmen "calling the better element" either to take hold and "remedy the existing evils" or to disband the organization.

The President was told by Clarke that there had been a "steady withdrawal" from the Klan itself, or from participation in active control, and that he had "voluntarily severed his active official connection" with the organization more than a year ago.

Various charges were made in the letter against the activities of the organization, in regard to which "high ideals, principles, and purposes," for which it was formed, and these activities Clarke characterized as "keen disappointments to me."

"I am perfectly willing," the letter said "to assume moral responsibility which is rightly mine, as having been chiefly instrumental in building the Klan. In justice to myself and hundreds of thousands of high grade men who have been drawn into the Klan because of its declaration of ideals and principles, I cannot and will not rest passive and silent and sit idly by in the face of such conditions."

W. B. Smith, of Marshville, will on Saturday, December 29th, at 11 o'clock sell at public auction at Midland, a car load of horses and mules. See ad. in this paper.

Read the "Word of Thanks and Appreciation" from H. B. Wilkinson. The Concord and Kannapolis Gas Co. has an interesting new ad. today.

Large bottle of D. Gibson's Syrup of White Pine for 25 cents at Gibson Drug Store.

New Year cards at Cline's. See the new ad. today of the Carolina cafe.

Complete stock of men's underwear at Hoover's.

Hats to brighten up dark coats and dresses at Specialty Hat Shop.

New wool plaid for skirts and dresses at Scarborough's.

Watch the space of the Southern Motor Service Co.

The King Tut Service Station sells Miller and Michelin tires.

See the new ad. today of the Ivey Shoe Company.

Handsome line of overcoats for \$35.00 at the Browns-Cannon Co.

Everything you need in blank books, ledgers, etc., at the Muscatel.

Everything in hardware at Ritchie-Caldwell Co's.

All wool overcoats, \$18.50 and up at W. A. Overcash's.

Milkmaid Bread—quality first and quality last.

C. H. Barrier & Co. have that good home-made sauer kraut.

Read about the Yale door closers sold by the Ritchie Hardware Co.

Elgin watches, the favorite, sold by Starnes-Miller-Parker Co., the new jewelry store.

Your clothes will be properly handled and cleaned if you send them to Bob's Dry Cleaning Co.

The Parks-Belk Co. has begun a general clean-up sale of all winter goods on the second floor. Sweeping reductions are being made on all winter wear and articles.

POST AND FLAGG

There will be preaching services at Prosperity Lutheran Church next Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock by Rev. C. P. Fisher.