

TRAIN SERVICE IN CHINA NOW HALTED BY FIERCE BATTLE

Train Which Left Peking on Thursday Returning Friday, Unable to Pass Fighting Zone. PASSENGERS NOT HIT BY SHELLS

But They Had to Seek Safety Under the Coaches of Train to Escape Being Hit.

Peking, Dec. 12.—(AP)—The international train which left Peking for Tientsin early Thursday morning returned here at 6 o'clock tonight after having been caught in a battle between the forces of Feng Yu-Ksiang and Li Ching-Ling at Yangtsun, 20 miles north of Tientsin.

Twenty Americans, nine Britishers, several prominent Japanese, and four league of nations representatives sent to study the plague in Manchuria, who were on board, were forced to take refuge from bursting shells under the coaches of the stalled train.

The passengers included a number of women and children. All escaped unharmed and declared they were none the worse for their experience, except for discomfort of huddling under the train in chilly weather.

Their experience, however, was not without its thrills. A bomb from an airplane fell in the midst of a camel train nearby, and fragments penetrated the cars, which also were struck by several bullets.

When the international train was stopped at Yangtsun an armored train belonging to Feng Yu-Ksiang who had followed, landed 1,000 troops with artillery and began shelling the forces of Li Ching-Ling, the Governor of Chihli, across the river. As the guns opened fire the passengers on the international train who had alighted with the intention of walking or securing motor transportation to Tientsin, ran back to the train and took refuge under the cars.

News of their plight reached Peking and Willys R. Peck, of the American legation, hurried to the scene with a motor truck loaded with food and blankets. Subsequently the train was withdrawn safely from the fighting.

It is reported that the fighting was in progress at 25 miles to the northwest, and sent back to Peking. Feng and Li's armies were still engaged in furious fighting to the north of Tientsin near Pehsing at 7 o'clock this morning.

The foreign legations here have lodged strong protests with Feng against the moving on Yangtsun, pointing out that it is a breach of the Boxer protocols which reserve to the foreign powers the specific rights to keep Yangtsun as a vantage point in holding the railroad between Peking and the coast open.

With Our Advertisers. You can get a ten-piece dining room suite for \$140.00 at the Concord Furniture Co. You have to see these beautiful suites to appreciate them.

"Hawaiian Nights" will be at the Concord Theatre one night only, Friday, December 18th. It will be in Charlotte the night before. This is a three-act comedy, with music, dancing and singing, featuring the famous Mohiari and her real hula hula dancers.

For a list of Christmas gifts for "him" see ad of Kane's Pharmacy. The Concord & Kannapolis Gas Co. is giving free with every Oriole gas range bought by December 23, a fine aluminum cooking set. See ad. for full particulars.

W. J. Hethcox can do your Christmas electrical decorating for you. Man's gifts, woman's gifts and gifts for everybody at the Bell & Harris Furniture Co. Beginning Monday the store will be open till 9 o'clock every night until after Christmas.

C. H. Barriere & Co. want 200 turkeys at once. Sell early and avoid the glut in the market. The store of the J. C. Penney Co. will be open every night until Christmas.

Wants to Cover Field Fully. Paris, Dec. 12.—Senator Victory Henry Berenger, newly appointed ambassador to Washington, said in a speech today that he was "going to the United States to try to represent suitably all the interests of France" and not merely to hasten a settlement of war debts.

LOCARNO PACT SIGNING!



Here is a photograph of a scene that will go down in history. It portrays the culmination of one of the greatest moves for peace in the history of modern Europe. It shows the signing of the Locarno agreement in the gold room of the foreign office at London. This picture records the actual signing by Premier Baldwin on behalf of Great Britain. Grouped around him are plenipotentiaries of Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Poland and Czechoslovakia, about the sign the piece of paper that pledges their nations to mutual trust and peace.

NOTED MYSTERY RECALLED

Fiftieth Anniversary of Disappearance of Dorothy Arnold.

New York, Dec. 12.—Today is the fiftieth anniversary of the disappearance of Dorothy Arnold. On December 12, 1910, Miss Arnold, the daughter of a family of wealth and social prominence, left her home on East Seventy-ninth Street at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. She said she was going for a walk. Three hours later she was seen in a book store in Fifth Avenue. So far as known that was the last heard of her, and hundreds of private detectives and police departments of almost the entire world were unable to find any trace of her. Miss Arnold vanished as mysteriously and as completely as if the earth had opened and swallowed her. Her family spent several hundred thousand dollars prosecuting the search all over Europe and Asia and America; members of the family made numerous trips to foreign countries to run down clues, but without success. Year after year they kept detectives at work investigating every conceivable bit of information that might lead to her recovery; nothing was too small or too insignificant for them to sift to the bottom. But always with the same result.

It was not known until three years ago that the family of Miss Arnold had given up hope. Her father died then, and in his will, which disposed of an estate valued at more than \$800,000, he said that he had made no testamentary provision for his daughter because he was satisfied that she was dead. Many times during the past fifteen years Miss Arnold had been reported as found, but in every instance the rumors proved to be without foundation.

Football in the Sky. London, Dec. 12.—A novel game has been suggested for army and navy aerial forces. It is known as "aerial ball," and except that it is played with aeroplanes instead of the feet, resembles football. The goal lines are marked by balloons held captive at the two ends of the field, perhaps twenty miles apart. The object of the game is to push the ball, which is buoyant, into the opposing goal. A basket-like pusher is fixed to the front of each machine, and the opposing aeroplanes endeavor to knock the ball out and carry it to their own goal line.

Miss Drayton to Be Buried in Charlotte. Charlotte, Dec. 11.—Miss Emma Drayton, age 75, daughter of the late General Thomas F. Drayton, of the Confederate army, and for years a resident of Charlotte, died today in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pope, the latter her sister, in Jacksonville, Florida. The remains will be brought to Charlotte for burial. General Drayton being buried here. Miss Drayton was a native of Charleston, South Carolina. General Drayton and daughters came to Charlotte after the war.

Another Decline in the Franc. Paris, Dec. 12.—(AP)—A frenzied rush to buy foreign stocks listed on the bourse caused a further sharp decline today in the franc, which during the morning devalued a record figure of 27.42 to the dollar.

Dry Enforcement Meeting. Providence, R. I., Dec. 12.—Prohibition workers throughout New England will gather here tomorrow, when it will be attempted to reproduce as near as possible the big gathering of prohibition and law enforcement bodies assembled a month ago at Chicago. Among the nationally known speakers to be heard during the three-day session will be Frank B. Willis, United States senator from Ohio; Mrs. Cornelia Brice Pinchot, wife of the governor of Pennsylvania; and Wayne B. Wheeler, general counsel of the Anti-Saloon League of America.

Modern New Bridge to Connect Stanley and Montgomery Counties. Albemarle, Dec. 12.—Blue prints for a new bridge across the Yadkin River, at a point some two or three hundred yards north of the location of the elegant concrete structure on state highway No. 74 between Stanley and Montgomery counties, are in hand.

The Carolina Power and Light Company is operating on a large scale and surveys show that the dam the company will erect below Newwood will back water to a point that would probably inundate the bridge now in service, and the company has secured rights, and plans for changing the location, creating a new section of highway, and to erect a bridge according to plans approved by the state highway commission.

The bridge will be 37 feet higher than the one now in use; that the middle pier will be 110 feet high, and it will have five spans. It will not only be shorter than the other, but will avoid the large curve leading to the river from the crest of the hill this side, and materially shorten the distance.

The bridge being replaced is one of the finest highway commission constructs, and the waste involved is one of the unforeseen contingencies which happen when big companies like the Carolina Light and Power Company begin great development schemes.

Mouse Stops Wireless. London, Dec. 12.—A baby mouse, weighing less than a quarter of an ounce, caused twelve minutes' silence that was "heard" all over England. Creeping on to one of the main condensers at Daventry wireless station it prevented the oscillation necessary for the transmission of signals.

Insists Rockne Has Signed Contract. New York, Dec. 12.—(AP)—James B. Knapp chairman of the football committee of Columbia University, said today that Columbia "stands pat behind its original statement" of last night, announcing that Knute Rockne, of Notre Dame, had signed a three years contract as head football coach at Columbia.

INHERITANCE REPEAL IS OPENLY DEMANDED

Representatives of Tax Clubs Make Demand—Want Hierarchy Re-Established at Weldon.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Demand for the repeal in its entirety of the federal inheritance tax was made here today by a delegation of representatives of the various state tax clubs. Representing 15 states, they placed their views before the various members of the house of representatives, who, however, seemed inclined to take umbrage at the methods which these tax clubs apparently have been pursuing in their efforts to have their requests accepted.

The members of the North Carolina section of the delegation were Speaker Edgar Pharr, of the house of representatives, from Charlotte; P. H. Williams, of Elizabeth City, chairman of the senate finance committee; N. A. Townsend, of Dunn, chairman of the house finance committee, and Representative W. B. Matthews, of Charlotte.

BUILDING COLLAPSES BURYING EIGHT MEN

Workmen Buried Beneath Fallen Timbers and Brick—At Least One Dead.

New York, Dec. 11.—Eight workmen were buried beneath fallen timbers and brick today in the collapse of the roof beams of an old residence being remodeled in 47th street, near 5th avenue. One man was taken out dead and five men injured were rescued and taken to hospitals. The others had not been found after hours of rescue work and their lives virtually were despaired of.

A priest, the Rev. Father Caldwell, was the first to reach the scene after the collapse. He summoned police, then crawled in among the debris to administer the last rites to two of the men trapped there. He was joined in a few moments by the Rev. Father Joseph McKenna, of St. Malachi's the actor's chapel, two blocks away.

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CRANFORD CASE WILL BE TRIED IN COURT

Stanly County Court Does Not Convene Until That Month.

Albemarle, Dec. 12.—(AP)—The trial of N. C. Cranford, former Stanly county convict superintendent, at which the defendant will face charges of murder and assault, growing out of charges of alleged mistreatment of criminals, will be called during the next term of criminal superior court in this county, which is set for March 29th, it has been learned here.

Cranford, charged with the slaying of two negro convicts and the mistreatment of another to the point of death, is now at liberty under a bond of \$2,000.

He resigned his position as county convict superintendent at the time of his preliminary hearing here in November, when witnesses told the court that he had whipped prisoners "unmercifully." Witnesses introduced by the defense, however, denied these charges.

Since the preliminary hearing and Cranford's resignation, the county commissioners have abolished the prison camp. The charges were lodged against the convict camp superintendent as a result of reports of an investigation of the situation made by Mrs. Kate Burr Johnson, state superintendent of public welfare, who made her report, in which the charges were incorporated, to the governor, and filed copies with the presiding judge and the solicitor.

Judge P. S. McElroy, who presided at the November term of court, at which the grand jury returned a true bill against Cranford, is recorded as having told the grand jury at the time that "if these things are true, the law does not provide a penalty severe enough to meet this case."

The superior court calendar for 1926 shows that Stanly's superior court term in March will be held by Judge Michael Schenck, of Hendersonville.

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WILL TRY AGAIN TO SETTLE QUESTION OF MUSCLE SHOALS

The President Is Told That Congress Will Create a Committee Such as He Suggested in Message.

CONGRESS WILL HAVE LAST WORD

It Will Be Provided That Committee Cannot Take Final Action Without Approval of Congress.

Washington, Dec. 12.—(AP)—President Coolidge was assured today by Chairman Snell of the House Rules committee that immediate steps be taken to create a Congressional committee in line with the recommendation of his annual message to negotiate for the disposal of Muscle Shoals.

Mr. Snell said he favored a committee of 7, four House members and 3 Senators, to determine a Muscle Shoals policy, with the limitation that it must report its findings back to Congress for approval. A resolution providing for a committee is pending before Mr. Snell's committee, and he promised early favorable action on it.

Washington, Dec. 12.—(AP)—The resolution introduced in the House by Chairman Madden of the appropriations committee proposing to carry out President Coolidge's recommendation for disposition of Muscle Shoals, was endorsed today by Representative Almon, democrat, of Alabama, in whose district the property is situated.

TO CHANGE SYSTEM OF COTTON GINNING REPORTS

Special Committee Appointed Today to Draft Bill.

Washington, Dec. 12.—(AP)—A special committee to draft a bill providing for changes in the present system of cotton production and ginning reports was appointed today by the conference of senators and representatives of the cotton producing states.

Senator Smith, of South Carolina, was named chairman of the conference and probably will be chairman of the committee which will be composed of one senator and the representative from each state in which cotton is produced. The committee expects to report a bill next month and it will be pressed in both houses.

After the committee has completed the bill it will be presented to the full conference for its consideration before it is introduced.

Many suggestions for changes in the present system were made at the conference today. Senator Heflin, of Alabama, insisted that the present system of sending ginning reports by telegraph to the department of agriculture should be eliminated, on the ground that errors in transmission are likely, with the result that incorrect reports are made public.

Another suggestion by the Alabama senator was that there be created a crop estimating board composed of seven or nine members to be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The present board consists of three members appointed by the secretary of agriculture.

Each of the three women report they were walking along the road when the figure appeared, apparently from the side of the road. When the mystery man jumped from his hiding place the women ran and he gave chase, it was reported, disappearing when those he pursued came to the lighted district.

None of those who have come in contact with the man know whether he is a negro or a white man. Several other reports came from pedestrians of that section and are credited as being reliable.

ENDORSES THE TAX REDUCTION BILL

Revenue Bill Will Face Clear Track Next Week.

Washington, Dec. 12.—(AP)—Endorsement of a non-partisan tax reduction bill was given in the House in closing debate today by Representative Garrett, of Tennessee, the Democratic leader.

He announced, however, he would fight the provision of the measure proposing appointment for life of the 16 members of the board of appeals.

During the support of members of both parties, the revenue measure apparently faces a clear track when it comes up for amendment next week. Passage of it by next Saturday is predicted.

Offer Prizes to Farmers. Rutherfordton, Dec. 12.—(AP)—Cash prizes amounting to \$50 have been offered by the Kiwanis Club of Rutherfordton to farmers of Rutherford county producing the three largest yields of wheat per acre.

An additional prize of \$25, says Farm Agent E. F. Patton, has been offered by the Yelton Milling Company, for the highest average yield per acre for the entire crop raised on a farm, and a further prize of \$25 has been offered by the Commercial Bank at Rutherfordton to the farmer producing the most wheat on his farm.

Any farmer in the county is eligible to contest for these prizes, states Mr. Patton, and many are already planning what they will do with the prize money next spring.

DENY THE CHARGES AGAINST BANKERS

Not Organized to Fight the Inheritance Tax Measures.

Washington, Dec. 12.—(AP)—The flat charge that the American Bankers' League has been organized to destroy all inheritance tax laws, both state and federal, was made in the House during debate on the tax bill today, by Representative Connolly, Democrat, of Texas, during an attack on the activities of the Texas tax clubs which have opposed the tax.

Asserting that the Bankers' League is the parent of the Texas and Iowa tax club, the Texas said these clubs are attempting to "intimidate the heads of the ways and means committee," Chairman Green and Representative Gardner, Democrat, of Texas.

Expert Says National Park Would Attract Visitors to North Carolina

Asheville, Dec. 12.—(AP)—An influx of automobile tourists to western North Carolina, which will be one of the results of the establishment of a national park in the Great Smoky Mountains and which will revolutionize the agricultural life of that section, and change materially the farm life along highways leading to the resort section, was predicted here by Major William A. Welch, federal park commissioner.

Major Welch, an acknowledged national park expert who is chief engineer and manager of the Interstate Palisade Park of New York and New Jersey, visited Asheville recently in connection with the campaign in North Carolina and Tennessee to raise one million dollars for purchase of the lands in the Smokies for a national park.

Comparing the western part of this state to New England, which in the past few years has annually attracted millions upon millions of tourists, Major Welch says that once this national park is established in the Great Smokies, this section, too, will draw its millions, and that many of those who in the past have spent their summer in the White and Green mountains of Vermont and New Hampshire, and in the lake districts

of Maine, will turn southward instead.

This influx of motorists will, he says, lead the farmers of North Carolina to enter to this tourist trade, to raise more eggs and chickens, to plant more vegetables, and to cultivate fruits for the feeding of these visitors. This produce will not be carried or sent to the cities and towns for sale, but will be vended along the roadsides to passing motorists, just as in New England, where every highway is lined with stands and booths, piled with fruit, eggs, fresh vegetables and flowers.

Vermont, in 1924, Major Welch learned from the governor of that state, netted \$170,000,000 from the entertainment of summer visitors. This was derived in great measure from the entertainment of visitors, and Major Welch predicts that every farm house in western North Carolina will, in the next few years, be called upon to entertain those who come here for their health and recreation, and that many of these farmers will set aside a spare room or two for this purpose.

Private tourists' camps, such as are springing up all over the country, will multiply until the business of housing motor-campers will approach the magnitude of a major industry, he believes.

NAMING PERSONNEL OF STATE'S BOARD

Governor McLean Expects to Name Board of Department of Conservation and Development.

Raleigh, Dec. 12.—(AP)—The personnel of the controlling board of the department of conservation and development was expected to be completed today by Governor McLean.

MYSTERY MAN ABROAD IN ASHEVILLE SECTION

Said to Jump From Hiding Place and Chase Negro Women.

Asheville, Dec. 11.—Reports of a mystery figure that is terrorizing residents of the sections that border Victoria Road are being circulated throughout the city.

Descriptions of the figure are vague and the police say they have had no official report of the occurrences. Three reports that were telephoned in, tallied as to the activities of the mystery man. These descriptions were given by Ora Robinson, Katy Collett and Fannie Leach, negro domestics of the Victoria Road district, and were made to their employers.

Each of the three women report they were walking along the road when the figure appeared, apparently from the side of the road. When the mystery man jumped from his hiding place the women ran and he gave chase, it was reported, disappearing when those he pursued came to the lighted district.

None of those who have come in contact with the man know whether he is a negro or a white man. Several other reports came from pedestrians of that section and are credited as being reliable.

THE COTTON MARKET

Opened Steady Today at Decline of 3 to 14 Points, But Later Rallied 5 to 10 Points.

New York, Dec. 12.—(AP)—The cotton market opened steady today at a decline of 3 to 14 points and sold to 16 points net lower within the first few minutes under overnight selling orders attracted by easier ruling of yesterday's market and which included some Southern hedging. A good demand developed around 18.90 for March and 18.35 for July, while foreign interests were buyers of October at the decline to the 18 cent level and prices steadied up before the end of the first half hour.

Week-end covering was considered one of the chief factors on the rally of 7 or 10 points from the lowest, but some trade and commission house buying was reported on the opening decline.

Cotton futures opened steady; January 18.82; March 18.95; May 18.70; July 18.38; October 18.32.

NO PERMIT GIVEN IN VIRGINIA

To Sell Florida Real Estate in That State.

Richmond, Va., Dec. 12.—(AP)—The Virginia Corporation Commission "has granted no permit to any person or corporation to sell Florida real estate in Virginia," it was declared in a statement issued at the commission's offices here this afternoon.

The commission's statement which mentions specifically that the Coral Gables Company was not licensed to sell real estate in Virginia, did not mention whether any action was contemplated by the state regulatory board against concerns selling Florida real estate here and members of the commission when asked to amplify it, said they "had nothing else to say."

The statement follows: "The Coral Gables Company has not filed with the State Corporation Commission all the papers required of it by the commission and no permit has been granted to the company or any of its agents to sell Florida real estate in Virginia."

There was little improvement in Western Europe's agriculture from the fall of the Roman empire to the beginning of the nineteenth century.

MITCHELL CASE IS ABOUT TO GO THROUGH IN MOST OF ITS WORK

This Last Full Week That Hearing Will Be Conducted As Only Little Is Left to Be Done.

MITCHELL CHARGE IS BEING DENIED

By Witnesses Who Have Been Offered by Prosecution—Tells of Tests Made Near New York.

Washington, Dec. 12.—(AP)—The Mitchell court martial concluded today what it confidently expected to be its last full week on the air officers' trial.

All the remaining evidence is to be offered in the early part of next week under present plans, and other requirements disposed of, so that the court can close its public sessions before the week-end.

The testimony of additional prosecution witnesses today touched on many points raised by Col. Mitchell in the attack on aviation policies which led to his court martial.

Capt. John T. Lewis, a searchlight battery commander at Fort Totten, New York, told how the test conducted last summer increased the ability of searchlight "gunners" to "hit" airplanes at night, and how new sound locating devices could "track" a plane at a range of 10,000 yards with motors running, and at 8,000 yards with engines throttled down.

Major Gen. Clarence C. Williams, chief of army ordnance, the next witness, declared the air service had not been given 1,100 or 2,000 pound bombs for bombing training, because "only a few were on hand," and they were "quite expensive." A 1100-pound bomb costs in excess of \$600, it was added, and a 2,000-pound bomb costs \$1,100.

Gen. Williams also testified that approximately 30 per cent of all enemy aircraft brought down during the war were winged and dropped by anti-aircraft ground guns.

Major Lester J. McNair, author of the so-called McNair board report now on duty at Purdue University, Indiana, said the Hawaiian department "had her war planes for the air defense" of Oahu on hand in December, 1923.

At the direction of the prosecution counsel, Major McNair produced the plans for the court's inspection. He was told not to read them aloud because "of their extremely confidential and secret nature."

THE PEE DEE BRIDGE TO OPEN NEXT WEEK

Big Celebration Scheduled by Richmond and Anson Counties.

Rockingham, Dec. 11.—The "Morrison" bridge across Pee Dee River, on route 20, six miles from Rockingham, will be the scene of a big gathering of people not only from the now connected counties of Anson and Richmond, but from the state at large. And not the least of the drawing cards will be the big free barbecue dinner that will be served to all who come—the date is Wednesday, December 16th.

The exercises will begin at 11 o'clock, the speaking and barbecue to be on the Richmond side of the bridge. The principal speaker will be Gov. Cameron Morrison, after whom the bridge is named.

The celebration is staged jointly by Anson and Richmond counties. This \$300,000 concrete structure that is now about to open unimpeded traffic between the two counties, is six miles west of Rockingham, and nearly a mile south of the present electric ferry. The county commissioners of Anson and Richmond have named committees to officially represent the two counties, and the barbecue is furnished by the counties. It is to be a gala occasion, with brass band, etc., and no doubt thousands will attend.

Several Hundred French Troops Killed Jerusalem, Dec. 12.—(AP)—Loss of several hundred French troops in a battle with Druse tribesmen near Damascus on Monday, is reported in advices reaching here.

According to these reports the battle was waged all day Monday, the Druses surrounding the French troops numbering several hundred, and almost the entire French force was killed.

First Strawberries Bring \$2.50 Per Quart. Philadelphia, Dec. 11.—The federal bureau of agriculture reported that the first strawberries received this season from Florida, arrived here today and sold at \$2.50 a quart, wholesale.

SAT'S BEAR SAYS: Fair tonight and Sunday, not much change in temperature. Moderate west and southwest winds.

Shop Now---Today

What's the use of shopping at a time when there are so many people who are actually in their own way as well as yours? One who shops early greases the wheels of his own good luck as well as his time.

Better a couple of hours of early shopping than two days of shopping in crowds. If one is disappointed in not getting what he wants he blames the crowds. No one blames his own procrastination. Merchants do their best to keep full stocks but heavy buying reduces them.

Wary clerks strive bravely to be courteous, attentive and polite, but they are strained to the limit when everybody is demanding something at once. Delivery men run around town day and night, fagged to a frazzle and, like the clerks, haven't enough left in them to get any happiness out of Christmas.

Consider all these things as well as your own comfort and satisfaction—SHOP EARLY—it will be a big help to everybody. Everything has its happy, sunny side, even shopping—when it's done early. One's temper always puts a price on the gift—so keep the value of your gift high in your mind—it's a Christmas spirit—it can be done by shopping contentedly—THAT MEANS EARLY.

Advertisement for shopping, featuring '10 MORE SHOPPING DAYS' and 'before CHRISTMAS'.

Advertisement for 'Engraved Christmas Greeting Cards' from the TIMES-TRIBUNE OFFICE.