

16 MEN INSTANTLY KILLED AND OTHERS HURT IN EXPLOSION

Furnace No. 2 of Woodward Iron Company at Birmingham Wrecked by the Explosion.

MOLTEN METAL SPREAD FAST

Top of Furnace Lifted, Allowing Metal to Spread Over Area of Several Hundred Feet.

Birmingham, Ala., March 20.—(AP)—Six men were instantly killed, and seventeen others injured this morning when No. 2 furnace of the Woodward Iron Company exploded.

The top of the furnace was lifted, and molten metal spread over an area of several hundred feet. The twenty men who caught the force of the flaming cloud had no chance to escape.

The furnace was an iron maker, pie from being produced after ore had been melted. Hundreds of tons of ore in the receptacle was a liquid mass. The cause of the accident has not been determined.

First Reports Conflicting. Birmingham, March 20.—(AP)—Alabama's mine field today recorded another major disaster when sixteen men were killed and seventeen others injured in an explosion which wrecked furnace No. 2 of the Woodward Iron Company.

Two workers had not been accounted for, and it was feared they were buried beneath the debris. The statement of the coroner as to the number of dead was confirmed at the offices of the company by A. P. Woodward, chairman of the board of directors.

Several of the bodies were buried under the wrecked plant and it was hours before they were sighted. It was believed as first that only one of the workers about the furnace escaped, but search revealed a dozen bodies hidden in the debris.

SCHAEFFER WILL BE LENOIR-RHYNE HEAD

Notifies Trustees He Will Accept the Presidency.—Dempsey Goolsby Killed in Factory.

Hickory, March 19.—Rev. H. B. Schaeffer, of Charleston, S. C., notified members of the board of trustees of Lenoir-Rhyne college this afternoon that he would accept the presidency of the institution. The matter has been pending for a long time and the final decision was announced this afternoon from the office of Dr. P. E. Monroe, acting president since the resignation last year of Dr. J. C. Pover.

Mr. Schaeffer has been pastor of St. Matthews Lutheran Church of Charleston. Dempsey Goolsby, a 15 year old boy was instantly killed this afternoon, when he was accidentally caught in a belt in the woodworking department of the Southern Desk company where he has been employed for several months. The boy is a son of I. C. Goolsby, of West Hickory.

Monroe Thinks Census Does Her an Injustice. Washington, March 19.—The city of Monroe thinks that the 1920 census figures do her an injustice, and is asking for a special enumeration.

From 1910 to 1920 Monroe, according to the census report, increased but two. In a letter to Representative Hamner, J. H. Boyte, clerk and treasurer of Monroe, said that the board of aldermen want the special count made.

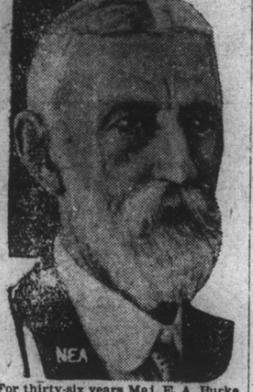
Davidson Collegians Evolve "Dream Girl." Davidson, March 19.—Her name must be Margaret; eyes brown; a natural complexion; her hair a rich brown; height five feet five inches; age 18; weight 120, and a brunette. Plus that she must be a college graduate to qualify as Davidson College's "dream girl" according to a ballot by the students.

ST. JAMES Lutheran Church

Rev. D. Burt Smith, D. D. will speak tomorrow in Sunday School Hear Him at 11 A. M.

Vespers 7:30, Subject: "HONESTY" Lenten Services Wednesday 8 and Friday 4 This Church Welcomes You

Exile Ends



For thirty-six years Maj. E. A. Burke lived in Honduras, in exile. Now he is returning to his home in New Orleans at the age of 65. He was state treasurer of Louisiana in the late '80's, was indicted on a charge of renegeing cancelled state bonds to the extent of \$200,000, and fled to Honduras in 1890. Now the charges against him have been dropped.

TAR HEELS STILL TEXTILE LEADERS

This State Continues to Hold Supremacy Over Other States in the Cotton Mill Business.

Raleigh, N. C., March 20.—(AP)—North Carolina continued to hold supremacy in the cotton mill business during February, it is shown by the monthly report of the U. S. Department of Commerce just received here.

Although Massachusetts has a big lead in the number of active spindles, North Carolina leads that State in the number of active spindle hours by nearly 150,000,000 hours.

With 8,661,080 active spindles, Massachusetts cotton mills had a total of 1,618,929,421 North Carolina with only 5,815,274 active spindles, ran up a total of 1,793,643,967 spindle hours during the month of February, thus holding her lead over the Bay State established for the first time a few months ago.

RELIGIOUS ROW GETS FURIOUS IN HOLLAND

Expulsion of "Heretical" Minister Amsterdams Church Bitterly Divided.

The expulsion of the Rev. J. E. Geelkerken from the Reformed Churches, ordered yesterday by the general synod of that body for his refusal to conform to the synod's demand that he recant "heretical views," has produced a situation hardly paralleled in the church history of Holland.

The majority of the councils and congregations of Park Kerk and Schinkel Kerk, with churches in South Amsterdam, Mr. Geelkerken's district, have taken a stand solidly behind the expelled pastor and are jointly defying the synod's edict deposing the elders and deacons who have declared their adherence to the Geelkerken cause.

The Rev. Mr. Geelkerken's expulsion was the consequence of a sermon in which he cast doubt upon the story of Eve and the serpent in the Garden of Eden. He refused to sign a declaration to the effect that the Genesis story of Eden was to be interpreted literally.

Both the South Amsterdam churches are being guarded each night by shifts of volunteer church workers. The Rev. Mr. Geelkerken himself is being protected by a special bodyguard. Last Sunday when he preached at the Schinkel Kerk fully a score of foot and mounted police armed with revolvers surrounded the church to maintain order while police and detectives were scattered among the congregation.

The fact that the Rev. Mr. Geelkerken insisted on preaching on Sunday in spite of the synod having suspended him for three months brought matters to a climax and the synod solemnly expelled him from the ministry.

With Our Advertisers. Today is the last day of the special Sale of Ruud tank heaters by the Concord and Kannapolis Gas Co., at \$22.75 installed with 75 cents down and \$2.25 a month.

Polish your floors by electricity by using Johnson's wax electric floor polisher. Get it at the Ritchie Hardware Co., Phone 117.

"Hands Up" at the Star Theatre Monday and Tuesday. It's a rip-roaring comedy drama. Conn instruments are sold here by the Kidd-Frix Co. Newest Easter Models in footwear at the Markson Shoe Store. See the new ad. today of the Concord Plumbing Co., 174 Kerr Street. Phone 576. Better have that automobile insured now by Fetzer & York who insuring's good.

The birthday dinner of Jno. M. Seaford, of No. 3 township will be given at the home of E. P. Seaford on Saturday, April the 3rd. Everybody is invited to come and enjoy the day. Automobile drivers in the Mohave Desert come to a full stop outside the road limits to allow others to pass.

American Government Has No Objection To Nations' Conference

AGRICULTURAL CLUB WORK

Farm Boys and Girls Urged to Enroll Before April. Raleigh, March 20.—(AP)—Club enrollment in the agricultural club work being conducted by the agricultural extension service of State College will end on April 1st, according to L. R. Harrill, club specialist in charge of this work.

The only exceptions are in the case of some special projects, says Mr. Harrill. Farm boys and girls in the State, therefore, are being urged to enroll in the club work prior to April 1st. They may enroll with the county home and farm agents, Mr. Harrill points out.

Mr. Harrill has been constantly in the field since the first of February, working with the home and farm agents and helping with the organization of clubs in a number of different counties. This year five counties will be used in placing model organizations, to make demonstrations of how club work ought to be handled, says the club specialist.

"Work has been completed in these counties," he states, "and I am glad to state that we have some excellent organizations in the different communities all of which are headed up in one county-wide club. We are trying to teach in this work, the most economical and practical methods of conducting progressive farm work. In every community where there are ten or more club members, we hope to form a junior community organization. Through such an organization we shall try to teach the boys and girls how to hold and conduct public meetings, organized plays, games, songs and to develop community leadership."

Local civic clubs, commercial organizations, banks and individuals are co-operating in this work, says Mr. Harrill, by offering valuable prizes to members making the best records.

MARSHALL DENIES HE KILLED MISS DIETRICH

Claims He Was Tricked Into Signing Alleged Confession of the Crime. Philadelphia, March 19.—David L. Marshall, fighting for his life at trial on a charge of killing Anna May Dietrich, today flatly denied he had slain her. He asserted in direct examination that she died from a deathly poison used in mistake for a salt solution. On cross examination when District Attorney G. E. Fox asked him, "You say it was suicide, do you?" the defendant said: "Yes," The district attorney, did not, at the moment follow up the discrepancy.

In his direct examination Marshall said he was tricked into signing a statement in which he is alleged to have said that he choked the 35-year-old milliner because he claimed she threatened to tell his wife of their relations. He said he was lured over to when he signed the statement, believing it was the one he made to District Attorney William Taylor, of Delaware county, in which jurisdiction the dismembered body of Miss Dietrich was found and where Marshall was arrested. In his statement he told Mr. Taylor that Miss Dietrich had committed suicide by taking poison and that he cut up the body because she had died in his office and he did not want any notoriety.

Marshall also said he had been threatened by Philadelphia detectives, one of them showing him a black jack. The defendant was extremely nervous when his cross examination began. Mr. Fox made him give in great detail description of what he did to revive Miss Dietrich when he said he found her unconscious in the bath room of his office.

"You did not send for a doctor?" Marshall was asked. "No, it was a sad mistake I made," Several times during his cross examination, Marshall was near collapse. He was still on the stand when court adjourned.

Pigeon's Feathers Take Fire; Child Is Burned.

Greenwood, S. C., March 19.—Fire from the feathers of a pigeon which she was picking caused the death of Geneva Cannon, eight-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Cannon, at Ware Shoals, early today. The little girl's twelve-year-old brother had killed the pigeon and asked her to dress it for him. She began removing the feathers while seated in front of a fire and a spark from the fireplace fell on the bird. The feathers flared and caught her clothing, causing burns that soon resulted in her death. Besides her parents she is survived by two brothers and three sisters. Funeral services will be held at the home tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock.

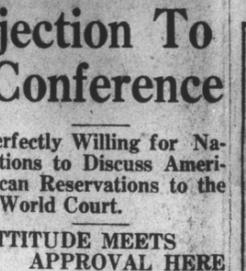
Eugene Beddingfield Dies in Wake County.

Raleigh, March 19.—Eugene C. Beddingfield, twice corporation commissioner of North Carolina and state senator from the Wake district in 1910, died this afternoon at his home in the country after an illness in which influenza played the deadliest part.

The Dryest and Wettest Cities

Cleveland, O., March 20.—The "driest" town in the country, according to the nation-wide referendum in Hillsboro, Tex., where only 7 votes out of 320 have been cast for modification and repeal. The ratio of the dry strength is approximately 45 to 1. The "wettest" city seems to be Buffalo where the anti-prohibition ratio is about 45 to 1, less than 500 votes out of more than 20,000 being dry.

Wins Cue Crown



Presenting the new world's billiard champion, Erich Hagenlacher of Germany. He came into the honors recently by defeating Jake Schaefer in a 1600-point match. Schaefer, champion several times, was unable to overcome the sensational early lead the German star compiled. Hagenlacher's victory came as a surprise in cue circles.

Perfectly Willing for Nations to Discuss American Reservations to the World Court.

Washington, March 20.—(AP)—The American government has no objections to a conference of nations to discuss the American reservations to the world court, and does not understand that such a conference as has been proposed at Geneva would in any way constitute action on the reservations by the league of nations. If the United States would take any part in such a conference, it would be on the further understanding that it was not the purpose to consider any modification or interpretation of the reservations as adopted by the Senate. Authorities outline of official opinion made available today at the State Department included these observations.

It is not understood that the league claims any power or jurisdiction to pass upon reservations relative to the world court, or has attempted to do so. The situation simply is that the league council has suggested that the nations adhering to the Court send representatives to Geneva on September 1 to discuss these reservations, and this is not understood to be accepted by the league, but by the nations who must accept the reservations before the U. S. adherence becomes effective.

If these nations desire to take this course there could be no possible objection. It is immaterial to the United States whether each nation acts separately or acts after counsel with the others.

COOLIDGE HOMESTEAD GIVEN TO PRESIDENT

Although a Man of Substance, Col. John C. Coolidge Died Ostensibly Penniless. Plymouth, Vt., March 19.—Three weeks before his death, Plymouth learned today, Colonel Coolidge transferred to his son, Calvin, the farm on which members of the Coolidge family have lived for generations. The farm consists of 225 acres, with the white farm house which was the President's boyhood home.

Throughout the colonel's lifetime the family property stood in the name of his father, Calvin G. Coolidge. The town records show that the transfer was made from the estate of C. G. Coolidge to the President.

The colonel died ostensibly penniless, although a man of substance. Neighbors say that all property other than the land was made over to the President during his lifetime. Plymouth never knew the value of the Calvin G. Coolidge estate, and the same secrecy has been maintained in the case of the colonel's property. There was no will.

In addition to the homestead the President owns the fine kiln lot which is the Coolidge sugar orchard. This tract he inherited from his grandfather.

Blaise Blocks Work of Senate.

Washington, Mar. 20.—(AP)—Objection by Senator Blaise, democrat of South Carolina, blocked consideration today of a joint resolution authorizing the Muscle Shoals joint Congressional committee to spend an amount not exceeding \$10,000 for expenses.

Senator Blaise refused to yield to the request of Senator Hefflin, democrat of Alabama, who explained that the fund was needed to employ clerks and engineers and cover office expenses. "Neither the Senator from Alabama nor the Muscle Shoals commission represents the interests of the people of South Carolina," Senator Blaise retorted. "I am glad to be able to block the committee, and I wish I could wipe out the resolution that created the committee."

Saw Sea Serpent in Waters of the Pacific.

Prince Rupert, B. C., March 19.—Captain J. C. House, commander of the government fishery protection boat Cloyah, related here today that when his vessel entered Wright Sound, fifty miles south of here Tuesday, he sighted a sea serpent raising its head thirty feet out of the water. He said the creature's body emerged spirally, like a snake, and then straightened out. The head, which was wider than the rest of the body was about 18 inches wide and two and a half feet long. House said the sun shining gave the monster a greenish glow appearance.

Star Theatre "Hands Up"

MONDAY, TUESDAY, MARCH 22 and 23 Raymond Griffith and Marion Nixon In His Greatest Picture A Rip-roaring Comedy Drama. It's a Paramount Picture Which Leads At All Times ADMISSION 10c-25c

Bryan Praised Magazine Poll on Prohibition Taken in 1922

Cleveland, O., March 20.—The great prohibition leader in the history of the United States undoubtedly was the late William Jennings Bryan. In 1922, The Literary Digest made a nation-wide poll on prohibition with more than 900,000 votes tabulated. Bryan's attitude toward that poll was in marked contrast with that of a few dry leaders today who have urged prohibitionists not to vote in the NEA Service referendum, calling it "wet propaganda."

Here is what Bryan said, as printed in The Literary Digest of Sept. 9, 1922: "The poll which The Literary Digest is making is not only entirely legitimate and fairly conducted, but it is a rare illustration of journalistic enterprise. It will naturally have influence on public sentiment just as naturally those for a state library against prohibition will differ in the degree of accuracy which shall be accredited the poll."

Bryan's statement was made after the final results showed those favoring repeal or modification polled 61 per cent. of the vote.

SNOW STORM HIT PLYMOUTH TODAY

Soggy Blanket Added to Heavy Fall Already on Ground.—The President Uses Sleigh.

Plymouth, Vt., March 20.—(AP)—A snow storm swept over the Green Mountains of Vermont today as President Coolidge traveled over a treacherous road, part of the way in an open sleigh from Woodstock to Plymouth to attend the funeral of his father.

The snow, wet and almost blinding, fell incessantly after it had rained throughout the night. It added a soggy blanket to the heavy fall already on the ground, and made the roads next to impassable. The President arrived here after having been on the road nearly two hours. Just before their arrival a sled load of flowers reached the farmhouse from Washington. The floral pieces included a bank of lilies which the President had ordered sent, and a spray of pink roses arranged for by Mrs. Coolidge. Other pieces were tributes from government officials and friends in the capital and from the crew of the Mayflower, the Presidential yacht. There were also many tributes from neighbors.

Entering the house, the President and Mrs. Coolidge went into the parlor to gaze down again on the dead. The casket was ten feet from the spot in the sitting room where before dawn on an August morning in 1923 the Colonel administered the oath of President to his only son.

YARN BUYERS AND MAKERS TO BATTLE

Official of Yarn Association Thinks Battle Already Started Will "Continue Indefinitely." Charlotte, March 20.—(AP)—The battle between buyers and yarn manufacturers will "continue indefinitely," according to a bulletin issued today by Singleton Green, secretary-treasurer of the Southern Yarn Spinners Association.

At no time in the Association's history has production fluctuated so evenly with the market, Mr. Green said. He adds that a lively market is reflected quickly in increased finished products.

THE COTTON MARKET

Opened Today at Decline of 2 to 6 Points But Tone Was Steady and Prices Rallied. New York, March 20.—(AP)—The cotton market opened today at a decline of 2 to 6 points but the tone was steady and prices quickly turned firmer owing to failure of the big spinning figures to promote any fresh selling of consequence.

The opening decline was in response to lower Liverpool cables, May selling off to 18.66 and October to 17.52. There may have been some local selling on the census report showing 16,108,586 running bales ginned in the crop of 1925, or 16,085,905 equivalent 500-b bales.

Offerings were comparatively light, however, and by the end of the first hour active months were 9 to 14 points net higher. May selling around 18.86 and October 17.65. More running bales were turned out from the crop of 1925 than for any previous season on record, but reduction to equivalent 500-b bales the yield fell slightly short of the crop of 1914.

Cotton futures opened steady: May 18.68; July 18.23; October 17.53; December 17.17; January 17.13. New York, March 20.—(AP)—Cotton futures closed steady at net declines of 5 to 13 points. May 18.60, July 18.11; October 17.40; December 17.17; January 17.15.

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1925 COTTON CROP OFFICIALLY SET AT 16,085,905 BALES

Total Does Not Include Linters.—Crop 2,000,000 Bales Larger Than the One of 1924.

Washington, March 20.—(AP)—The 1925 cotton crop was officially placed at 16,085,905 equivalent 500-pound bales exclusive of linters by the census bureau today in its final ginning report of the season. The crop, the size of which had been subject of much controversy, was estimated by the department of agriculture last December at 15,400,000 equivalent 500-pound bales. The department's forecast during the growing season brought numerous complaints from southern members of Congress and others.

The 1924 crop totalled 13,267,836 equivalent 500-pound bales. The 1925 production includes 80,882 bales which ginners estimated would be turned out after the March canvass, as compared with 18,838 bales a year ago. The number of running bales in the 1925 crop was placed at 16,108,586, including 351,119 round bales counted as half bales, compared with 13,430,389 running bales including 314,325 round bales in the 1924 crop.

The average gross weight of bales for the crop, counting round as half bales, and excluding linters was 499.5 pounds, compared with 490.4 pounds for 1924, and 495.5 pounds for 1923. The number of ginners operated for the 1925 crop was 15,482, compared with 15,478 for 1924. American-Egyptian cotton included in the total for the 1925 crop was 20,053 bales, compared with 4,319 for 1924, and 22,426 for 1923. The crop by states, in running bales includes: North Carolina 1,146,560; South Carolina 928,580.

CONGRESS MEMBERS ON VISIT TO FORT BRAGG

Senators Simmons and Overman in Party Sent to Inspect Army Post. Fayetteville, March 20.—(AP)—A party of thirteen comprising members of the House and Senate military affairs committee, a governor and army officers, arrived in Fayetteville today for an inspection of Fort Bragg headquarters. The party came at the request of Fayetteville citizens who wanted them to obtain first-hand knowledge of the condition of temporary wartime buildings constructed at the army post.

After breakfast they were taken to the fort by Brigadier General A. J. Bowley, commander. This afternoon a barbecue will be tendered the visitors here, and the committee returned to the capital tonight. Included in the party are: Senators Simmons, Overman and Tyson; Representatives Lyburn, Clague, Harrison, Sandlin, Lyon, Bulwinkle, Byrns and McReynolds; Governor Howard, of Nebraska; General Fox Connor, assistant chief of staff, and Major E. P. King.

WIFE SOLD FOR TEN BOTTLES OF VODKA; Husband Creeps.

Moscow, March 20.—(AP)—The market price of husbands, computed in bottles of vodka, is considerably less than for wives as fixed by two transactions recorded before proper authorities of the village of Pevovna Evaschina. One Ukrainian peasant woman sold and delivered her husband to another peasant woman who desired a capable helper on her farm and the price paid was one bottle of vodka. Another peasant in the same village sold his wife to a neighbor and the price was ten bottles of vodka. The latter was obliged to call and escort his new helpmate to his home.

Duke University Professor Heads Chamber of Commerce.

Durham, March 19.—Prof. R. L. Flowers, business head of Duke University, was elected president of the Durham Chamber of Commerce for the ensuing year at the annual meeting held here tonight attended by about 400 members and their wives.

Editor Saunders Out.

Elizabeth City, March 19.—W. O. Saunders, editor of the Independent, and widely known by reason of his magazine writings, took his first walk downtown Thursday since he was stricken with pneumonia several weeks ago, and received many congratulations on his recovery.

Young Couple Die Few Minutes Apart.

Mocksville, March 19.—Death came into the home of Ed Anderson Tuesday night and claimed both Mr. and Mrs. Anderson. Mr. Anderson passed away at 11 o'clock and his wife a few minutes later. Both had "flu" and pneumonia later developed. They had been sick only a few days. Mr. Anderson was 34 years of age and Mrs. Anderson was 30 years.

Would Investigate Railroad.

Washington, March 20.—(AP)—A Senate investigation of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, now in receivership, was proposed in a resolution introduced today by Senator Gooding, Republican, of Idaho.

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