

The Concord Daily Tribune

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CUTTING DOWN FIRE LOSSES.

North Carolinians apparently are be-
coming more careful about fires. At year
the fire rate in the State is decreasing,
with Concord leading the way for
other cities.

Over a period of three weeks there was
not a fire call in this city, indicating that
the public here is more careful than for-
merly. It is rare for a city of 12,000 in-
habitants to be without a single fire call
in three weeks.

Official reports received by State In-
surance Commissioner Wade, showing
steadily decreasing fire loss toll in the
State, have caused much encouragement.
"It is most encouraging," Commissioner
Wade said, "when you consider
that for every one of the five months
of this year there has been such a sub-
stantial fire loss reduction until the ag-
gregate decrease for the first five months
of the year is exactly \$1,140,859, an av-
erage of over \$200,000 per month and a
36 per cent falling off in fire damage."

The official report for May, prepared by
Statistician Andrew Joyner and made
public yesterday, revealed that the fire
loss in May was below the total for May
of last year and included no large con-
flagrations. Total loss for last month was
placed at \$384,220, as compared with
\$476,950 for the same month last year.

The May record showed that there
were 189 fires in towns, causing a loss of
\$238,555, and 37 rural fires reported with
a loss of \$145,666. Of the urban fires, 101
were in dwellings with a loss of \$62,559.
In the country 23 dwelling fires caused a
loss of \$41,965. The dwelling loss was un-
usually high for May, and took a heavy
toll of better class rural dwellings.

There were 22 fires in the major loss
class, causing loss of \$293,284, with an
average of \$13,331 each. The other 204
fires were responsible for loss totalling
\$90,936, or an average of \$450 each, a rec-
ord in insurance department annals.

The heaviest single losses were: Lum-
ber plant in Cumberland County, \$45,000;
business block in Wayneville, \$40,000;
towel factory at Saluda, \$27,000; hospital
for babies at Wrightsville Beach \$25,000;
department store in Durham, \$22,500;
store and negro dwelling in Gibson,
\$20,000; store and pressing club in Kin-
stop, \$16,000; box and barrel factory at
Aurora, \$12,500.

In classes of property damaged or de-
stroyed dwellings headed the list with
124; unstored autos and trucks, 14; stores
12; garages, 9; factories, warehouses, 8
each. Principal causes of fires were:
Shingle roofs and defective flues, 65; un-
known 56; adjoining building, 31; care-
lessness, smoking, 10 each.

WATCH AVIATION DEVELOPERS.

The Kansas City Star warns its read-
ers not to buy stock in any aviation com-
panies promoted on an impossible basis.
"Stop, Look and Listen!" it says, before
being tempted to buy such stock.

The Salisbury Post wisely agrees with
The Star, pointing out that "in a few
months the air mail will be full of
stifles, some of which may in time be
worked to a success, but there is danger
of our enthusiasm whipped up over the
Lindbergh success, running too far."

This is timely advice for the aviation
business will be developed unusually fast

now and all sort of stock promoters will
be running about the country swindling
the people.

The Star says further:
"Whatever the future may hold for avia-
tion, every sensible person knows there
are present limits to its possibilities. Air
transportation has certain hazards that
cannot be overcome. A good ship in the
hands of an experienced and skilled pilot,
under decent weather conditions, is safe
—provided there are plenty of available
landing fields. But so long as the British
Imperial Airways kills one passenger out
of every 5,000 carried, while the American
railways kill one passenger out of
every 4 1-2 million carried, it is evident
that air travel will not be general. Ob-
viously, too, in view of the very great
danger involved in crossing the ocean,
there is no reasonable prospect of estab-
lishing Trans-Atlantic service.

"There is another consideration, not
generally understood. Promoters talk of
building multi-motored planes with a ca-
pacity of a hundred or five hundred pas-
sengers. But, beyond certain dimensions
a plane becomes unwise, and extremely
dangerous to handle. There is not the
slightest possibility of building planes on
the scale of ocean liners."

THE P. & N. HEARING.

Many notables were attracted to Char-
lotte by the P. & N. hearing. Both the
pros and cons were represented by able
talent, the hearing attracting more notables,
perhaps, than any other in the history
of the State.

This was to be expected after announce-
ment was made that the rail companies
now operating in the two States were
ready to offer protests. The interurban
had among its dignitaries the Governors
of two States, but they did not claim all
of the attention. William G. McAdoo
was there for one of the railroads and
since he has been mentioned often as a
presidential candidate he was the center
of much interest.

It will be months of course, before the
Interstate Commerce Commission is
ready with a decision. The commissioner
sent to Charlotte will file with the com-
mission a tentative report and exceptions
can be filed to this if the interested parties
so desire.

Then the reports and exceptions will
be studied by the whole commission and
another hearing may be held in Washing-
ton. All of this will take time, of course,
and in the meantime nothing can be done.

Both sides won points at the hearing,
it seems to us, but no one can tell of
course, what the decision of the commis-
sion will be. There is much yet to be
done by both sides in the controversy and
the Charlotte hearing no doubt was but
a fore-runner of more important develop-
ments in the future.

BUSINESS IMPROVING.

Reports of building operations in all
the Southern States indicate that busi-
ness in the South is improving.

The Manufacturers Record sees now "a
big forward movement in building and in-
dustry in the South."

The Record finds that throughout the
section building and industrial expansion
are under way on a big scale, and this
view is supported by reports covering
building operations, engineering and gen-
eral construction work and the voting
and sale of municipal securities.

"Throughout the year," says Thurs-
day's bulletin issued by The Record,
"construction and building has progress-
ed steadily, but during recent weeks there
has been a noticeable increase in activity
in practically every line of work; the
localities represented are widely scatter-
ed throughout the territory from Mary-
land to Texas, indicating a generally
healthy condition of business and indus-
try."

"A strong market now prevails for
Southern securities, and there have been
many recent sales of municipal, county,
district and state bond issues at remark-
ably attractive prices.
"With the funds available from the is-
sues recently marketed and the funds to
be obtained from sales scheduled for the
immediate future, there will be in the ag-
gregate a vast sum of money available for
public improvements of all kinds in the
Southern states."

NEGRO BUS LINE.

Winston-Salem Sentinel.
An experiment that will no doubt prove to be
the beginning of an established service was
inaugurated yesterday when the operation of a bus
line between Raleigh and Winston-Salem passing
through Greensboro was begun for colored people
only. For some time the colored people of the
State have been asking for service of this kind.
That their request was well founded seems to be
well attested by the provision of the bus line by
operators who were of course satisfied beyond reason-
able doubt that it would pay, since this feature
of any enterprise must be considered primarily lest
the whole project come to failure. A convenient
schedule has been arranged and colored people in
the State should find this new facility one of great
value to them in a social as well as business way.

Jazz is a protest against musicians' magic.—
W. H. H. Soule.

EAST IS EAST AND WEST IS WEST.

Winston-Salem Journal.
Bret Harte once remarked that "the heathen
Chinese is peculiar." The average American feels
the same way about it but the Chinaman views
the American as equally if not more mysterious.
An ingenious Chinese student in the United States
has undertaken to compare the two views with
the following remarkable results:

American beliefs about the Chinese:
That the favorite delicacies of the Chinese are
rats and snakes.
That the Chinese say yes for no and vice versa;
and that they beckon away from them when they
want some one to go toward them and vice
versa.
That they eat soup with chopsticks.
That chop suey and chow mein are their national
dishes, and that besides these dishes they eat
nothing but rice.
That Chinese men wear skirts and women
pants.
That a Chinaman never gets drunk.
That the Chinese are a nation of laundymen,
and yet have a highly developed civilization.
That if one ever does a good turn to a Chinese,
one will be forever pursued by the grateful Cele-
stial in his efforts to repay the obligation ten-,
hundred-, and a thousand-fold.
That in China doctors are paid as long as their
patients are well, and that the payment ceases
the moment a patient falls ill.
That all Chinese are honest and absolutely
trustworthy.
That girl babies are drowned.
That the Chinese read from the bottom up, and
that they open their books at the back.
That in China the United States is known as
the Flowery Flag Republic.
That the United States is the friend and pro-
tector of China.

That the Chinese never lose their tempers.
That all the Chinese look alike.
That all the Chinese are industrious and have
wonderful memories.
That they all belong to tons and fight feuds.
That the Chinese all speak pidgin-English.
Chinese beliefs about Americans:
That all Americans are rich and generous.
That Americans are all public-spirited and never
litter the parks or spit on the streets.
That in America ladies always come first, and
men invariably give their seats to women in street-
cars and other public conveyances.
That American public officials are all honest,
and that bribery and other forms of corruption
are unknown.

That there are no thieves or robbers in America.
That all Americans are devout Christians, and
all go to church on Sundays instead of going to
theatres and movie houses.
That if a Y. M. C. A. secretary had gone into
business for his selfish interests he would have
become a millionaire instead of a "Y" secretary.
That America is the one country where the Gov-
ernment is run by the people.

That all American citizens exercise the franchise.
That in America marriages always turn out
happy, and that husbands all love their wives,
and the wives love their husbands.
That divorce is very prevalent in America.
That there is freedom of speech in the United
States and censorship is unknown.
That the United States is the friend and pro-
tector of China.

That one can depend on getting an education in
American schools and colleges.
That an American is always on time for an
engagement.
That Americans don't drink alcoholic liquor be-
cause they have Prohibition.

Both views, of course, are highly erroneous. In
fact, they are just about as antipodal as the two
countries are to each other geographically—which
shows that thinking is largely determined by
geography and that the expression "East is East
and West is West" really means a great deal
after all.

THE FORSYTH CASE.

Statesville Daily.
You remember the case of the Forsyth County
negro, 19 years old. He was sent to the chinking
on Tuesday and was put to work Wednesday.
Wednesday afternoon he was reported sick. His
illness seems to have been unquestioned. He was
returned to camp and a doctor was sent for to
treat him. The patient was ordered to take a
bath. He refused, according to the testimony of
the witnesses. Thereupon he was beaten. The
impropriety, not to say the inhumanity, of beating
a sick man, doesn't seem to have impressed anybody
at the time. Next morning the negro was dead.

There was no evidence that his death resulted from
the beating, or that it was hastened by it. They
claim that whipping was with a switch and very
moderate. But evidently the method of disciplining
sick prisoners by the use of the brush would not
indicate that the treatment for sick convicts in
that camp was what you would call ideal. The
case attracted much attention, naturally, and was
investigated. The Forsyth County Grand Jury, at
its last sitting, reports that it was unable to find
sufficient evidence against anybody for anything,
to return an indictment. The Grand Jury thinks
the county physician may have been negligent in
allowing the sick man to be whipped. It also finds
that two men, presumably guards, "used abusive
language toward the prisoner." The Grand Jury
thinks convict supervisors, guards, etc., should be
posted on the rules of the camp, with the distinct
charge that any violation means the loss of their
job and prosecution. Well it does seem reasonable
to go at least that far, in view of what has happen-
ed; and it might be impressed that whipping is not
a part of the treatment of sick convicts. If whip-
ping is a part of the corrective discipline of the
camp, it will be agreed that the treatment should
be administered only to those who are whole. The
sick need a physician, rather than the brush, even
when they take advantage of their ailing, as may
not be impossible, to be disagreeable.

THE STATE PRINTING.

Albemarle Press.
Governor McLean seems to think that bids on
printing contracts for the State are too high,
and after two attempts to get the contracts for the
coming year the matter is now at a standstill.
If the Governor really wants to save the State
money on its printing bill, he can do so if he
will group the several items into such classes that
the smaller offices of the State may be able to
bid on the class of work they can easily handle.

Under the present system, as we understand it,
the print shop handling a slice of the contract
must be able to handle all classes of the work.
Many of them are not in shape to do book binding,
ruled work, and perhaps a few special items; but
they are abundantly prepared to do the balance,
and in just as fine a way as the larger offices.
When the Governor and the printing commission
decide to upset precedents and place the printing
of the State on a really competitive basis, they
will find offices in several parts of the State that
are quite modern and fully capable of handling
a large volume of work in a most satisfactory way,
and they are prepared to turn out the work at a
saving of cost to the purchaser. Give the small
shops a chance, in the advice we pass over to the
printing commission.

Too many of the Hollywood films have happy
endings, says a director. But then the actors per-
sonally furnish a "little variety."—Huntington
Advertiser.

"Shoot to kill" is a new order given Chicago
police. What were their former instructions. "Aim
to please?"—Brooklyn Eagle.

Burglar and Stick-Up Man

By WICKES WAMBOLDT
The state of North Carolina has one
exceptionally good law on its statute
books. That law provides the death
penalty for burglary in the first de-
gree. It provides capital punishment
for the man who, in the night, breaks
into an occupied dwelling. That law
recognizes the fact that a man who
commits an act of that character is
prepared to kill; he is a potential
murderer.

If there is one sort of criminal who
should be dealt with with extreme
formidability it is the man who delib-
erately sets out to take forcibly
another man's possessions, and to kill
the victim if he resists. Among the
most vicious of law violators are the
housebreaker and the highwayman. It
is a dastardly, devilish thing to do, to
halt a fellow-man on a public high-
way, poke a gun into the pit of his
stomach and rob him. A still more
diabolical trick is to break into a
home where the occupants are peace-
fully sleeping, and to proceed to prowl
and plunder the premises with the
determination to kill if interrupted. Yet
the house-breaker is more commonly
given a few years in the penitentiary
than anything else, and the hold-up
man more often gets a moderate term
on the road.

Recently a highwayman who robbed
and killed his prey was sent to prison
for only ten years. What effect does
the easy sentence have on burglars
and hold-up men? The risk of facing
a few years in the penitentiary is not
awful to them. There is the big
likelihood that they will never be
caught; if they are caught, there is
the long chance that they will never
be convicted; if they are convicted,
there is the probability that the sen-
tence will be light; if they are sen-
tenced there is the possibility that
they will get away or through their
attorneys delay justice until everybody
interested dies off; the odds are all
in their favor.

But suppose the law should say, "If
you break into the sacred precincts of
a man's home after his goods, or
if you forcefully detain him on the
highway and take his possessions from
him, you are not only a thief but you
are a murderer at heart and we shall
treat you accordingly, not only as a
punishment to you, but as a warning
to those who might be inclined to do
as you have done." If each state had
a law like that and rigorously en-
forced it, the industries of house-
breaking and highway robbery would
undergo an immediate and decided
slump.

Can't Do Without Electricity.

When a subway fire destroyed ca-
bles and rendered power plants useless
one of the busiest sections of New
York was deprived of elevator and
telephone service, electric lights and
burglar alarm protection. Isolated on
the upper floors of office buildings 25
and 30 stories above the street, office
workers lowered cans and baskets and
drew their lunches to them. Many
offices were closed; others were moved
to other parts of the city where tele-
phone service could be obtained.

That Proves It.

Grady (after Riley has fallen five
stories)—"Are yez dead, Pat?"
Riley—"O' am."

Grady—"Shure, yer such a liar,
O' don't know whether to believe
yez or not."

Riley—"Sure, that proves O' am
dead. Ye wudn't dare to call me a
liar if O' wur alive!"

Girls' Noses

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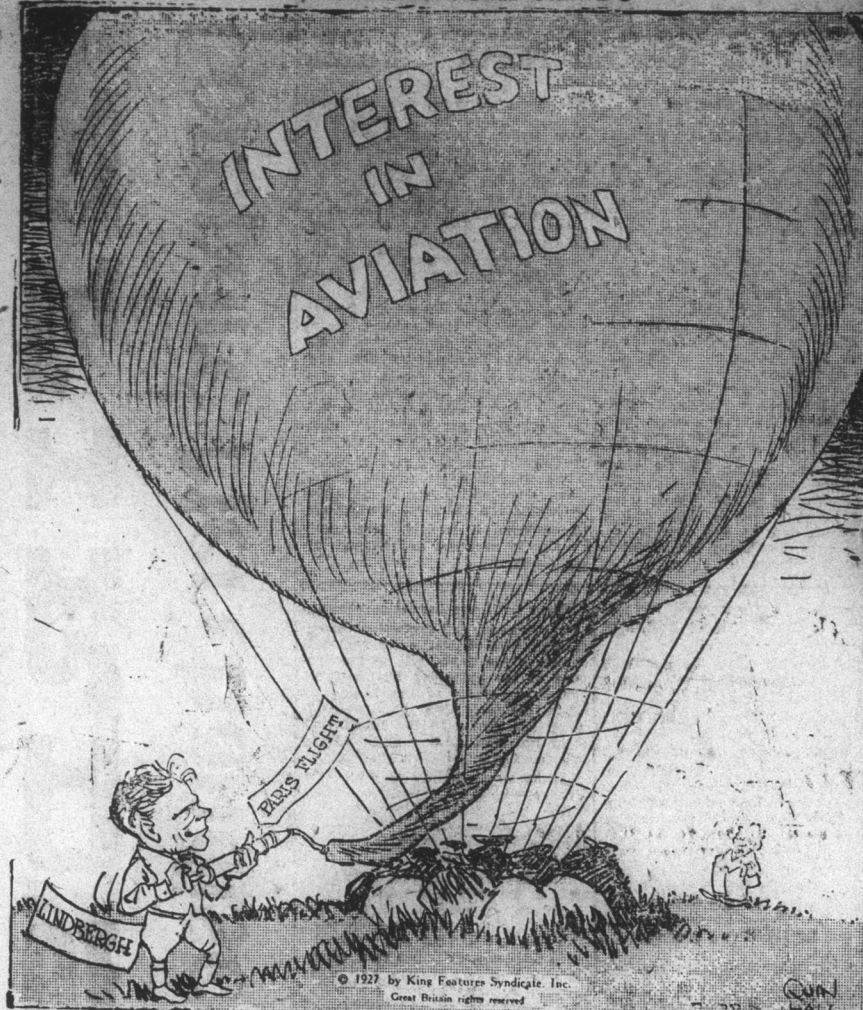
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WHAT ONE PUMP CAN DO



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The Question
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A flower garden is the
most beautiful thing that can
be placed on the exterior of
a man's home. Upto-date
plumbing is the most effi-
cient, charming thing that can
be placed in its interior.
What's the news from the in-
terior, anyway? Are your
folks healthy and happy?
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