

The Courier.

State Library

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Vol. XV.

ROXBORO, NORTH CAROLINA WEDNESDAY EVENING, November 9, 1898.

No 45.

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THE STATE DEMOCRATIC.
White Men win By 30,000. Both Branches of The Legislature Democratic.
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the Capitol, expressed the opinion late this afternoon that the damage to the building could be repaired for \$20,000.

"It is by no means so serious as I first thought it was," said Mr. Wood. "I find that the foundations of the building were not damaged in the least, and that the only injury to the structure by the explosion was done to the arched floors. These were struck from beneath and afforded the least resistance, and gave way so readily that the foundation walls were not injured in any respect."

Mr Wood believes the explosion was caused by gas, but says he has not yet been able, on account of the debris, to make a sufficiently critical examination to place the exact spot at which the ignition occurred. Other architects who have inspected the scene of the catastrophe also attribute it to an explosion of gas but like Mr Wood decline to go into details in their theories. Some express the opinion that a broken main and a burning jet are responsible for the occurrence.

REMOVING THE RUBBISH.

The work of removing the rubbish caused by the explosion proceeded rapidly all day, 75 or 100 men being employed for this purpose. As soon as the refuse is sufficiently cleared out the work of repairing the damage will begin. Mr. Woods thinks that the Supreme Court room will be ready for occupancy within two weeks. He says the damage was less than was thought and the opinion is expressed that nothing more than the repairing of the walls, putting in new doors, new skylights and new upholstery will be necessary to render the chamber fit for service. The ceiling of this part of the building and some of the partitions are of wood, and there is no doubt that very serious damage would have resulted if the fire had once gotten a headway here. As it adjoins the dome there has been some speculation as to what effect it would have had upon that structure.

None of the very valuable books in the law library was injured.

The only damage that cannot be made good was done in the file room of the Supreme Court in the basement, where were stored all the official records and original copies of opinions from the foundation of the Government. All these opinions have been printed, but the original manuscripts were highly valued.

VALUABLE MANUSCRIPTS LOST.

This room was almost over the scene of the explosion, and it was one of the first compartments of the Capitol to be attacked. The documents here were stored away in an orderly manner in wooden cases, and none of them had any other protection, except the records of the court from 1792 to 1832, which were encased in tin boxes. The flames appear to have completely enveloped this room, but they were only sufficiently intense to badly char all the wood work and many of the documents. Comparatively few of the

papers were absolutely destroyed, but those which suffered this fate were among the most valuable in the room. They included the original opinions of the court in the early days of the Republic and among them were many manuscripts prepared in the handwriting of the jurists of the days of Washington, Jefferson and Adams. There were in the list many opinions in manuscript written by Marshal Story, Samuel Chase, Bushrod Washington and others of the justices of the period between 1790 and 1830 and there fore prized as relics of the early days of the court. These papers were stored under the arch of the room and seem to have been completely consumed. On the other hand the official records of the court's proceedings covering the same period appear to have been preserved and probably in good condition. These were encased in tin boxes and these in turn placed within wooden cases.

MAIN WALL UNINJURED.

Many of the more modern documents, including letters and opinions of recent date were also so badly burned that it will be impossible to restore them, but none of these appears to have suffered such complete demolition as befell the early opinions. No documents affecting the present docket of the court were injured. The fire at one time threatened to invade the Senate document room, reaching to within four or five feet of it.

A report was current during the morning that the west central wall of the Capitol was cracked as a result of the explosion. Architect Wood made a careful examination and located the crack which had aroused suspicions. It proved however, to be in the outer, or veneer wall, and not in the six foot foundation wall on the west side. This main wall has stood over 100 years, and is still in fairly good condition. When additions were made, a veneer wall, about ten inches thick, was added outside. The explosion last night blew out a heavy stone door frame in the outer wall, and this in turn loosened several stones in the veneer wall. Mr. Wood satisfied himself that the main wall had not been disturbed.

Narrow Escape.

Thankful words written by Mrs. Ada E. Hart, of Groton, S. D. "Was taken with a bad cold which settled on my lungs; cough set in and finally terminated in consumption. Doctors gave me up, saying that I could not live but a short time. I gave myself up to my Savior, determined that if I could not stay with my friends on earth, I would meet my absent ones above. My husband was advised to get Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds. I gave it a trial, took in all eight bottles. It has cured me, and thank God I am saved and now a well and healthy woman." Trial bottles free at J. De Morris Drug Store. Regular size 50c and \$1.00. Guaranteed or price refunded.

Don't fail to call and examine or write me if you need a sewing machine—at \$19.00 fully guaranteed for 15 years.
J. D. MORRIS.

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R. H. DOWDY, Proprietor.
The best Hotel on the border of N. C. or Va. Table supplied with the best. Your every want supplied in the power of "The Old Man."

The Democratic victory in North Carolina is most sweeping.

The State Judicial ticket is Democratic by 30,000.

The Democrats have certainly elected every Congressman, except perhaps Linney in the Eighth and White in the second. It is almost certain that White is defeated, if Linney is elected at all, it is by the skin of his teeth.

All the Democratic candidates for Solicitor are elected.

There are certainly more than 40 Democratic Senators elected, and about 100 members of the House.

Nearly all the counties will be in Democratic hands on January 1st.

After February every city and town government will be controlled by white men.

PERSON DEMOCRATIC.

Everything Elected Except Long For Sheriff and Willson For Register.

The following is the vote for this County.

FOR THE SENATE.
A. A. Hicks 1629
J. A. Norwood 1478
J. Scott Norwood 26

FOR THE LEGISLATURE.
C. A. Whitefield 1642
N. N. Tuck 1489

FOR CLERK SUPERIOR COURT.
D. W. Bradsher 1616
J. A. Carver 1486

FOR SHERIFF.
Daniel Long 1544
J. R. Sims 1581

FOR REGISTER DEEDS.
C. T. Willson 1533
H. J. Whitt 1585

FOR TREASURER.
John O'Briant 1582
G. D. Neal 1547

FOR CORONER.
Dr. J. A. Wise 1633
W. M. Clayton 1509

FOR SURVEYOR.
J. H. Howard 1630
G. W. Buchanan 1431

FOR COMMISSIONERS.
W. A. Warren 1621
W. I. Newton 1601
W. T. Noell 1572
Buckley Walker 1534

W. A. Blalock 1486
L. H. Daniel 1483

FOR CONGRESS.

W. W. Kitchin 1640
S. B. Adams 1480

FOR SOLICITOR.

A. L. Brooks 1525
W. D. Merritt 1578

STATE TICKET.

Democratic Judges 1600
Republican Judges 1512

TERRIFIC GAS EXPLOSION.
WRECKS THE CAPITOL BUILDING IN WASHINGTON.

Late Yesterday Afternoon—Greatest Damage was Done to The Supreme Court Room and Records in Marshal's Office.

A despatch sent out from Washington last night says:

At 5:23 o'clock a heavy explosion which was heard several blocks from the Capitol, took place, and immediately afterwards flames burst from the windows of the Congressional Law Library in the basement and a few moments later from the supreme court room.

The supreme court room and the rooms immediately adjoining on the main floor of the Capitol were totally wrecked by fire. The money damage is extensive, but far more than that will be the loss to the Congressional Law Library. The Library was located directly beneath the supreme court room. It contained 20,000 volumes, and its value was estimated at over \$1,000,000. A great many of the volumes were destroyed by fire or the floods of water poured into the Capitol.

The fire is believed to have resulted from a gas explosion, caused by a leakage of the meter, right by the elevator shaft in corridor leading to the law library from the rotunda. Assistant Engineer Prescott, of the Senate, was seen. There was a gas meter, he said, four feet in diameter, located below the supreme court chamber. He said he had definitely ascertained that it was the meter which had exploded.

LATER NEWS.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7.—Assistant Architect of the Capitol Wood, after an inspection of the wrecked part of