

The Roxboro Courier

J. W. NOELL, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

HOME FIRST, ABROAD NEXT

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VOL. No. IXL

ROXBORO, NORTH CAROLINA, Wednesday Evening, March 5th, 1924

No. 10

DESTRUCTION OF NITRATE PLANT

35 BUILDINGS DESTROYED

23 Die and Approximately 100 Injured. Cause Still a Mystery.

NIXON, N. J., March 1.—Between 20 and 30 persons were killed or are missing, it was variously estimated tonight, and more than 100 injured in a mighty explosion which demolished the Nixon nitration plant and 35 smaller buildings in the vicinity. The blast rocked the country for miles around and completely leveled buildings within a radius of a mile and a half.

Nixon, N. J., March 1.—At seven o'clock this evening after making a personal check of hospitals and homes of employees, Lewis Nixon, owner of the Nixon Nitration Company, said:

"The known dead at this hour is 23. Thirty or more are injured. County Detective David said his check up of the dead and missing had given him a total of twenty-five. It was distinctly felt as far away as City Hall, New York, a distance of 23 miles. It was first thought that an earthquake had occurred.

Early tonight the cause of the explosion had not been determined. New Jersey state police were conducting a rigid investigation but the most tangible fact they were able to establish was that the first explosion—there were two coming in sharp succession—occurred in the plant of the Ammonite Company, a short distance from the Nixon nitration plant.

More than a million gallons of ammonia nitrate in tanks and 1,850,000 gallons of the same fluid in 15 tank railroad cars in a ramshackle warehouse blew up.

A great sheet of yellowish flame emerged from the ruins of the buildings. Excited men and women, some of the women screaming and weeping, rushed into the open. Burning embers fell on nearby buildings and within a few minutes these structures were in flames.

It was a strange looking procession that stumbled from the burning buildings. The clothes of many of them had been blown from the bodies. Their faces were black and their eyes seemed to pop out of their heads. While some screamed and moaned others bore their part stoically.

SCHOOL NOTES.

Since so many things of importance need to be discussed with the teachers, I am asking that we hold another Teachers' Meeting at 10 o'clock next Saturday in the Graded School Building. I hope all the teachers will make an extra effort to attend. Please come if you possibly can.

"Besides yourself there are about a hundred millions of other folks in the United States, and each one of them has the idea that he is of some importance. He thinks he has rights, and he thinks he ought not to be interfered with in his business and his pleasure. But there are a lot of fellows who go around with the notion that the population of the country consists of one, and that they are it. You can't get past that way—long.

The only way a hundred millions of folks can live together even in a roomy country without knocking each other's heads off is to have a little consideration. If you have a right, so has the other fellow. Every right is modified by the obligation to make use of it so that you don't damage anybody else. When two trains try to use the track at the same time there's a wreck. No. The only way to live is by a willingness to stand on the side track once in a while to wait for the other fellow's train to go by."

Mrs. J. A. Beam.

MR. FARMER.

Are you in need of money? If so the Federal Land Bank of Columbia stands ready to lend you money on your farm lands at any time \$50,000.00 allotted to this county to be applied for by 20th of March. 5 1/2 per cent interest rate. Long and easy terms. The farmer's bank. I shall be glad to explain terms to you.

R. P. Burns, Secretary.
Person County National Farm Loan Association, 35 E. 2d

SOMETHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

A Chair Car and Dining Service Between Durham and Lynchburg.

Last week the officials of the Norfolk & Western went over to Durham to confer about the new train between Durham and Lynchburg. As Roxboro produces more revenue for the N. & W. than any station on the road save Durham and Lynchburg the Company showed its respect for the town by asking Mr. J. A. Long to accompany them and be in the meeting. The Norfolk & Western Railway Company is just a little more considerate of the wishes of its patrons than any big corporation with which we have ever had any dealings, consequently in this instance they acquiesced to the wishes of Durham and Roxboro and will on next Sunday put on this new train. It will leave Durham at 5:15 p. m., passing here at or about 6:05, carrying a chair car with dining service, so that one wanting to go from here to Washington, New York or other northern points can leave here at 6:05, get supper—or dinner just as you are inclined to call it, and reach New York at 9 a. m. the next morning. Returning the train will connect with the Southern from the North, probably reaching here about 12:30 p. m.

We congratulate the N. & W. upon this step and sincerely trust they will find the train a paying proposition.

JURORS FOR EXTRA TERM OF COURT.

The following jurors were drawn last Monday for the extra term of court which will be held April 14th: J. R. Foushee, N. L. Winstead, J. B. Satterfield, W. T. James, A. E. Newton, R. M. Spencer, J. E. Horner, E. L. Oliver, Nat. Warren, S. G. Edlin, C. L. Perkins, A. D. Newton, Claude O. Moore, W. J. Edwards, R. L. Day, R. E. O'Briant, J. T. Wood, H. W. Rogers, F. E. Wells, N. H. Montgomery, W. C. Watkins, I. Alvis Clayton, W. C. Barnett and C. H. Dunkley.

For the regular term, April 21st, the following were drawn:

C. E. Hester, J. R. Whitt, K. L. Long, W. W. Harris, R. M. Allen, Jr., W. C. Murray, N. T. Clayton, E. R. Thompson, Preston Satterfield, J. E. Brooks, J. B. Jones, G. W. Peed, A. J. Harris, W. H. Winstead, C. H. Hunter, N. M. Jordan, E. E. Moore, B. L. Evans, W. D. Yarbrough, J. H. Horton, James Fontaine, E. A. Snipes, C. T. Hall, John N. Jackson, T. H. Clay, N. H. Fox, F. H. Carver, E. T. O'Briant, John W. Clayton, Sr., R. P. Brooks, E. Y. Jones, Osby Wrenn, L. L. Long, R. H. Dean and R. T. Daniel.

NEW DEPOT FOR ROXBORO.

For a number of years the citizens here have clamored for a new depot, and every one will admit we need it. During the war the N. & W. asked the citizens to wait until affairs got back to normal and they would give the town a station in keeping with its deserts. We learn they are now ready to make this promise good, in fact have had plans drawn and propose to build at or near the present site a station the town will be proud of. Unless some one throws a wrench in the plans this station will be built during the spring and summer, and with the splendid service, which is mentioned elsewhere, and this new station people passing this good town will have a better impression of us than ever before.

TEN MONTHS PIG WEIGHS 404 POUNDS.

Quite a number have made claims as to hog raising, but honestly we believe Mrs. J. D. Long of Hurdle Mills, route 2, is entitled to the blue ribbon. Mrs. Long killed a pig 10 months and 21 days old which weighed 404 pounds. However, Mrs. Long says this pig drank more milk and ate more cake than any pig she ever raised before—in fact she says she believes it ate more cake and drank more milk than any one member of her family.

BORN, A DAUGHTER.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. W. Alex. Wrenn on Monday morning, Feb. 23th, a daughter, Elizabeth Jeannette. Mother and baby doing nicely.

CARRIED TO HOSPITAL.

Dr. W. A. Bradsher carried Mr. J. H. Whitt to the hospital Monday night. Mr. Whitt has been ill for the past several days but his friends hope he will soon recover.

STOCKHOLDERS MEETING.

There will be a meeting of the stockholders of the Person Union Tobacco Co. on Friday, March 14th, in the court house at 10 o'clock.

V. G. CHEMICAL IN HANDS OF RECEIVER

HAD SUFFERED BIG LOSS

Inability to Obtain Credit For Seasonal Operations Immediate Cause.

New York, March 3.—The Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company, one of the largest manufacturers of fertilizer in the country, today went into hands of receivers following last minute attempts to obtain credit for seasonal operations.

Appointment of C. G. Wilson and Arthur T. Vanderbilt, a Newark, N. J. attorney as receivers was made with the consent of the directors after a creditors' suit had been filed in the United States district court of New Jersey.

Receivership for the company, which suffered severe losses in the postwar depression affected the stock which was traded down by the sharp break in the stock and bond prices last week. Heavy liquidation of the issues which established a low record, was followed by further selling after the announcement today, sending the common stock down to three, more than 7 points below the year's high, while the 7 1/2 per cent bonds with warrants lost 61 points and the 7 1/2 per cent mortgages 16 points.

Action to throw the company into receivership, Mr. Wilson said, was taken to protect its assets and to conserve the best interests of security holders, creditors and stockholders. Receivers, under the direction of the court, he stated, would carry out all sales contracts without interruption to business.

Bankers at the request of the company immediately began drafting a plan to submit to the stockholders soon. A drastic readjustment of the company's capital took place in 1922 after the first effects of the depression in the industry had been felt. Both Mr. Wilson and Vanderbilt were appointed ancillary receivers in New York and it was said steps also would be taken to have them serve in a similar capacity in the other 10 states in which the company operates. Their jurisdiction as receivers also was extended to the Southern Cotton Oil Company, the company's present subsidiary. Other companies owned are the Charleston Mining and Manufacturing Company, Consumers Chemical Company, Sulphur Mining and Railroad Company, Georgia Chemical Works, American Fertilizer Company, Bryant Fertilizer Company, Prinz Adalbert Potash Mines and Chemical Works and Shoenbeck, Ltd.

Capitalized with \$3,000,000 preferred stock and 1,000,000 shares of no par value common stock, the Virginia-Carolina company carried a funded debt of \$37,000,000 in high interest bonds. Despite the lack of banking credit and the obvious impossibility of issuing new securities, it went into receivership with a ratio of current assets to current liabilities of more than three to one.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL SERVICES.

The "Flying Squadron" of Granville Presbytery will be at Roxboro and hold services in the Presbyterian church next Thursday, March 6th, at 3 o'clock, p. m., and 7 p. m. Notice the evening service is a half hour earlier on account of the Lyceum lecture in the auditorium at 8 o'clock. There will be two well prepared speakers with us and all Presbyterians are urged to be present at the services. Also the public is cordially invited to attend.

AN EGG RECORD.

From thirty-eight hens during January and February we got 712 eggs. Since November first we have sold 72 doz. at an average of 40c per doz. This is what Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Blalock of route one, have done with their chickens, and it is easily seen how the chickens are helping on this farm. Nothing pays a bigger dividend than the hen, when properly fed and cared for.

CO-OP. WAREHOUSE WILL CLOSE MARCH 28.

Mr. H. W. Winstead, manager of the Tobacco Growers Co-operative Warehouse, says the market here will close on March 28th, and urges all members of the Association to bring in their tobacco on or before that date. Mr. Winstead says the season has been very satisfactory, with the advances highly pleasing to the members.

SPECIAL TERM OF COURT.

The Board of Commissioners at their meeting Monday ordered a special term of court to hear civil causes, beginning on Monday, April 14th. This term will last all of the week, followed by the regular term on the 21st. The civil docket is badly congested and it is hoped by this special term to clear the docket.

CAN A DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION IN THE OPEN ENDORSE ALL THAT MORRISON HAS DONE?

By C. W. Hunt

In the last installment of these series of articles The Courier has been handing from this pen, it was stated that an effort was being made to stave off the state convention until it was known which would win, McLean or Bailey as the chances were that an attempt to endorse Morrisson administration would meet with opposition, and that this number would enumerate some of the things the democrat party of free men, and many are entirely free to do as they see fit, in politics, could not afford to endorse. As said before it is an unusual fear, on the part of ringsters, but, if they did not know there is dangerous opposition, now, if any men outside the ring are to have seats in the body, these men would not dare to hint at such a thing. Since the above was mentioned there something still more of the nature of trouble for ring methods, has come out in Greensboro News, Raleigh correspondent the 23rd of Feb. Old time ringsters from the east bring the news that discussion of taxes (that thing, according to Raleigh, that North Carolinians pay next to none of) by Mr. Bailey, is gathering such a following, as opposed to present perfection (?) in that line, that there is danger of Isaac Meekins benefitting thereby. So in earnest, according to Tom Bost, that the state chairman is being or will be impertuned to call a halt, rather a limit to what Bailey can say. Ever hear such stuff before? when it had been next to announced that McLean was sweeping all the trash in front? Getting interesting, mighty early in the game. Ever hear of "bollweevil politicians" and "tomtits"?

But the things that a democrat convention cannot afford to endorse. Briefly stated a few leaders are these:

1. The appointment of A. D. Watts tax commissioner for political reasons.

(Continued on page two)

COMING

Screenland's Greatest Picture "Let not Man Put Asunder" with Lou Telleger and Pauline Frederick. Shall man-made laws defy Divine command? What is divorce? The tearing of bone from bone and flesh! A powerful theme! A mighty picture. "The picture sensation of the year." Matinee each day at 3 p. m. Evenings at 7:15-9 p. m. Admissions 20 and 40 cents.

For the benefit of the Philathia Class of the Roxboro Baptist church. Watch for the date.

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Society

Mrs. M. R. Long delightfully entertained the Bridge club Wednesday afternoon. The room was attractive with spring flowers and suggestions of Washington's birthday were carried out in the favors and tally cards. A most delicious salad course, with coffee, enjoyed by Mesdames E. M. Davis, W. R. Woody, A. S. deVlaming, E. G. Egan, J. W. Noell, Misses Mary Harris and Elizabeth Noell.

The Review club met on Tuesday afternoon with Mrs. B. C. Thompson at her home on Main street. As the time was the birthday of George Washington, the leader, Mrs. Lillian Foreman, used a program appropriate to this, and only used a portion of the subject on the program, which was "Angels in Ark." Mrs. G. C. Cabiness read the magazine article. The afternoon closed with delightful refreshments served by Misses Hazel Thompson and Virginia Crews, both dressed in colonial costume.

The Study club met in usual meeting with Mrs. J. M. Pass on Thursday afternoon. Mrs. E. H. Gates led the lesson, on Scotland, with Miss Mary Cheek giving the reading "Characteristics of the Scotch Settlers in North Carolina." At the close of the program, the hostess, assisted by Mesdames R. M. Spencer, and Clarence Bowen served a delightful course of refreshments.

Mrs. L. M. Carlton was hostess at three tables of bridge, when she entertained on Thursday evening for Miss Mary Franklin Graves, of Mount Airy, who was her house guest. After a spirited number of games the hostess served chicken salad, beaten biscuit, stuffed tomatoes, coffee and almonds. Miss Graves was the recipient of a number of social courtesies while here, and a charming visitor always.

On Friday afternoon Mrs. L. M. Carlton was again hostess when she entertained her Book club. Beautiful spring flowers were attractively placed throughout the rooms, and several progressions of Boston rook were played, at the close of which marshmallow fluff, cake, coffee, whipped cream and nuts were served to the following club members: Mesdames J. W. Noell, W. T. Pass, R. J. Teague, W. C. Watkins, H. W. and J. J. Winstead, T. E. Austin, A. S. deVlaming, E. P. Dunlap, T. W. Henderson, J. A., M. R. and W. F. Long.

The Pleasure Club was delightfully entertained by Mrs. E. M. Davis. The living room was very attractive with flowers arranged in bowls and baskets. After playing Boston Rook for several hours the hostess served fruit salad, scollop oysters, saltines, coffee with whipped cream. Lovely baskets filled with candy were given the following: Mesdames W. R. Woody, W. C. Bullock, T. B. Woody, L. O. Wilkerson, L. M. Carlton, T. E. Austin, E. G. Long, Frank Wilson, L. C. Bradsher, B. A. Thaxton, J. D. K. Richmond and H. W. Newell.

Mrs. E. P. Dunlap delightfully entertained the Research Club on Wednesday afternoon. The lesson of the afternoon was very interesting. After discussion for more than an hour the hostess served a delicious salad course with coffee and whipped cream.

NOTICE OF REPUBLICAN COUNTY CONVENTION.

By virtue of the authority of the Republican executive committee a Convention is hereby called to meet in the Court House in Roxboro on Saturday March 16th, at 3 o'clock p. m.

The purpose of this Convention is the election of delegates to the State, Congressional, and Judicial Conventions; the election of a Chairman and executive committee for the next two years.

Townships will hold their conventions on Saturday March 8th, and elect township committee's chairmen, and delegates to the County Convention. All good citizens are invited to participate.

R. A. Burch, Chron. Ex. Com.

NOTICE.

I am now connected with the Farmers Hardware Company of Roxboro and cordially invite all of my friends and all others who are in need of hardware to give us a call. We will make it to your advantage.

J. M. O'Briant.

Finish pruning before the buds swell. Pile and burn the limbs when removed.

Watch Your Label.

LEASBURG ITEMS.

Mr. Harry Arnold, who has been here with his aunt, Miss Wilhelmina Lea, left a few days ago with his friend, Mr. Honk, for their home in Oregon.

They had made the trip east last fall, by automobile, coming across the northern portion of the country. They have taken a southern route back and expect to be on the road three weeks or more.

While Mr. Arnold was here Mr. Honk was with his daughter in Washington.

Mrs. W. E. Connally is visiting relatives in Raleigh and Greensboro.

Miss Annie Newman has been visiting friends in the eastern part of the State for the past week.

Miss Mattie Pulliam is now attending an executive meeting of the Woman's Missionary Society in Goldsboro.

Mr. and Mrs. Felix Stephens and daughter of Danville and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Featherston of Roxboro spent Sunday with Mrs. Nannie Stephens.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Crowder of Virginia have recently visited Mr. Crowder's sister, Mrs. R. P. Newman.

William Stanfield, colored, long a respected citizen of this place, was buried here last Saturday. He had been a good carpenter and was well known through this section.

MARY HAMBRICK MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The Mary Hambrick Missionary Society met in the church rooms at 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon.

The meeting opened with song. Roll call was answered with a verse from the Bible on prayer. The lesson 1st Chron. 29th chapter 10-16 was read and discussed by Mrs. Nannie Morton, prayer was then led by Mrs. J. D. K. Richmond. Minutes of the last meeting was given by Mrs. J. H. Loy. The President then asked for report of several committees. Mr. Burrows was given a rising vote of thanks by the society for repair work done on the parsonage.

Mrs. Joe Blanks told about the Superannuated Campaign which will be on March 16th.

The meeting was dismissed with prayer by the President, Mrs. Mamie Merritt.

AN OLD LANDMARK GONE.

The old storage factory on Reams Ave. and Lamar Streets is being torn down. This was one of the first factories built here after the tobacco market was opened and for several years has been vacant. Some time since the building was condemned, hence is being torn down.

COMING! COMING!

Julian B. Arnold, author, entertainer, traveller, will present India—Past and Present, illustrated travelogue, at the graded school auditorium tomorrow evening. This is the last of the plays which the Woman's Club have sponsored this season, and they especially desire a full house. Don't miss it.

SALE ATTRACTS LARGE NUMBER OF VISITORS.

The sale of the bankrupt stock of goods belonging to Mr. Victor Kaplan was sold here on last Wednesday. Quite a large number were here attending the sale, the sale price being \$17,500, and was bid in by Mr. A. Lipshitz.

MR. GENTRY DIES SUDDENLY.

Yesterday morning Mr. Clem Gentry, of the Allenville section dropped dead. He and his wife had started to his fish trap and his wife saw him fall down. When she reached his side he was dead. The funeral services will be held this evening at Mill Creek cemetery.

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J. M. O'Briant.

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"PLANT SOME COTTON THE PEOPLES BANK THE BANK OF THE PEOPLE"