Weather: Warmer

GASTONIA DAILY GAZETTE

Local Cotton 17 1-2 Cents

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10-HOUR DAY FOR RAILROAD WORKERS IS VIRTUALLY RESTORED BY LABOR BOARD

Another Pay Slash, Affecting 10,000 Firemen and Oilers, Is Made by U. S. Railroad Labor Board — No Extra Pay Until After Tenth Hour —"Split Trick" Is Inaugurated.

(By The Associated Press.)

CHICAGO, Feb. 23.—Another pay slash, this time hitting 10,000 railroad firemen and oilers, was made by the United States Railroad Labor Board today, when it announced rules, effective March 1, eliminating extra pay until after the tenth hour and setting up a "split trick" of eight hours within a spread of twelve without any overtime pay.

Following several other decisions virtually restoring the ten-hour day for railroad workers, the board today authorized the roads to pay only pro-rata wages after the regular eight hours which the board retained in principle as constituting a day's work. Time and one-half will be paid after ten hours. In the case of the split trick straight time will be paid for the first ten hours, whether included in the 12-hour spread or not, and time and one-half will be given thereafter.

Formerly the firemen and oilers, all of whom work around railroad shops, were paid time and one-half after eight hours.

Sundays and holidays will be paid for at the pro-rata rate, a minimum of three hours pay being made for two hours' work or less. Monthly rated employes' wages are to be adjusted to eliminate the old time and one-half provisions.

Ten rules regarding discipline, grievances, discrimination against committee men and similar matters were remanded to the employes and the roads for further negotiation. The board's new rules supplant the national agreement made during Federal control, which has been in effect since January 16, 1920.

JOHN D. HAD NOT GIVEN HIS CONSENT

(By The Associated Press.)

DAYTON, FLA., Feb. 23. — John D. Rockefeller, Sr., grandfather of 16 year old Mathide McCormick, whose engagement to Max Oser, Swiss riding academy proprietor, has been announced by members of the McCormick family, has not given his consent to the match according to close friends here of Mr. Rockefeller. Mr. Rockefeller is now at the Casements, his winter home at Ormond Beach, near here.

Harold F. McCormick, recently divorced by Mr. Rockefeller's daughter, and Miss Mathilde McCormick, will visit Mr. Rockefeller at Ormond within the near future to discuss the proposed marriage, it was said today.

30 WITNESSES SUMMONED IN KNICKERBOCKER CASE

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23. — More than thirty witnesses had been summoned to appear before the grand jury today when it began the hearing of evidence in the case of the nine men held by the coroner's jury in connection with the Knickerbocker theater disaster here on the night of January 30 in which ninety eight persons lost their lives when the roof of the structure caved in on the audience. District Attorney Peyton Gordon said it probably would take a week to conclude the presentation of evidence.

BLAME FOR DISASTER NOT RESTING ON CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Blame for the disaster which overtook the giant army airship Roma does not rest with Congress, Major General Patrick, chief of the air service, declared in a formal statement today upon his return from Langley field, where he conducted a personal investigation of the accident.

"Despite public reports to the contrary," General Patrick said, "there is no disposition on the part of any one in the army air service to place the blame for the Roma accident at the doors of Congress.

"Statements that failure of Congress to appropriate funds for helium production and that the lack of helium caused the accident are not based on fact. Congress appropriated liberally for development of the processes of extracting helium during the war, and has since given all funds requested for further experimental work looking to perfecting the processes.

"The Roma disaster would have happened just the same had the ship been filled with helium instead of hydrogen. It is true, however, that in all probability the loss of life might not have been so great.

MILLS OPEN.

PAWTUCKET, R. I., Feb. 23. — Under military guard, the mills here affected by the strike of textile workers opened today without disturbing incidents. Comparatively few pickets were on duty. Those who did appear were obliged to keep moving.

At the Jenckes spinning company's cotton plant, was one of Monday's fatal rioting occurred, no attempt was made by strikers or their sympathizers, to organize the usual demonstration.

Cotton Market

CLOSING BIDS ON THE NEW YORK MARKET

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. — Cotton futures closed barely steady.

March 18.20; May 17.92; July 17.30; October 16.65; December 16.68.

TODAY'S COTTON MARKET

Strict to Good Middling 17½c
Cotton seed 51c

SIMMONS STARTS ROW OVER NO DEMOCRAT BEING PUT ON COMMISSION

As Result of Failure of President to Name a Democrat, the Democrats in Senate May Oppose Confirmation of Smoot and Burton.

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22 — Expressing criticism and keen disappointment that President Harding had appointed no Democrat to the foreign debt funding commission, Senator F. M. Simmons started a sharp debate in the senate today which developed a question of the eligibility of Senator Reed Smoot and Representative Theodore E. Burton to serve on the commission. The row may hold up the refunding negotiations.

After Senator Simmons had argued that both Democrats and Republicans raised the money that was loaned to the allied nations — more than ten billions of it — and that the Democratic party had a right to have a member on the commission that will fund that debt Senator Walsh, Democrat of Montana, brought forward the constitutional objection to the appointment of Smoot and Burton. Members of Congress, he said, were not eligible for such service.

That Democrats may oppose confirmation of Smoot and Burton was indicated by the speeches of Walsh and others.

Senators John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi; Heflin, of Alabama, and Caraway, of Arkansas, backed up the Simmons opposition to the all Republican personnel of the commission.

Senator Heflin brought smiles to the faces of even Republicans like Lodge, Brandegee and Kellogg when in light vein he said:

"Think of it — five Republicans to handle 11 billion dollars worth of debts, and not a Democrat to watch them. They don't even give us a look-in at this council table. Something wrong, I say. That's a lot of money for five Republicans to sit around."

"And none of 'em under bond," facetiously interjected Caraway.

Senator Simmons recited the appointment yesterday of Secretaries Mellon, Hughes and Hoover, Senator Smoot and Representative Burton as the five members of the foreign debt funding campaign. Mr. Simmons said he had no personal criticism of these men; that they were all able, upright and entirely competent in financial matters and he assumed they would be confirmed by the senate.

"However," continued the North Carolina senator, ranking Democrat of the finance committee, "I express my keen disappointment and I believe that it will be shared by the country irrespective of party that the President in appointing a commission to settle a great debt covered by our loans to foreign governments, a debt growing out of loans made from money contributed by all the people, irrespective of party, saw fit to select the entire commission from the party which he represents.

"It is well known in the discussion here with reference to the settlement of these debts there was sharp conflict of opinion. Especially was there such conflict as to the extension of the payment of the interest upon those debts, and when we came to vote upon that question this chamber divided, not altogether but very nearly altogether, upon party lines.

"Under those circumstances in view of this division, as well as in view of the general interest of all the people in these loans, because we all furnished the money which created the debt — and when the debt is paid the money will be theirs or if it is not paid the loss will be theirs —it does seem to me the President should have seen the fitness and propriety of allowing the opposition party in Congress at least one representative on this commission.

Senator Heflin referred to President Wilson's war-time letter asking for a Democratic congress for which he was criticised by the Republicans. "Now your President," said Mr. Heflin addressing the Republicans, "names a commission of five to handle a foreign debt of 11 billion dollars and we haven't even an observer. If Woodrow Wilson had done a thing like that Republicans would be jumping up all over this chamber like the bird in a cuckoo clock."

Senator John Sharp Williams said he had differed with most of his Democratic colleagues and had been inclined to invest the President and commission with full funding authority, not hampering them with restrictions of any kind.

"But if I had known that all the commission were to be of one party I might not have been so liberal in my views" said Senator Williams. "You are not even going to let us have an observer, a reporter at this council."

"You had a Democrat on the arms conference delegation," smilingly said Senator Borah, "what more do you want?"

"Yes, I might have buttermilk on Friday, but that would not keep me from wanting beefsteak on Monday," said Senator Williams.

Senator Lodge suggested that a "Democrat secretary of the treasury made these loans, why should not a Republican commission collect them?"

"This commission does not collect them; that is the point," retorted Senator Simmons. "This commission adjust these vast debts and has far-reaching powers. If the interest is further deferred or waived even, the entire country suffers, not just Republicans. Therefore, the Democrats should have representation."

Senator Williams closed the debate in a less serious vein when he, evidently referring to Secretary Hoover, grinningly said:

"Oh, well, I try to look on everything for the best. We have one man on the commission who once had some reputation as a Democrat; then he had a reputation as neither Democrat nor Republican; now he is a Republican. Maybe he will change his reputation again and turn Democrat and that would give us one man on the commission, which ought to be bi-partisan."

FORMER U. S. TREASURER JOHN BURKE LOST ALL IN COLLAPSE OF FIRM

Liabilities of Firm, Kardos & Burke, Estimated at From Seven Hundred Thousand to $1,500,000 — Burke Was Former Governor of North Dakota.

(By The Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. — Liabilities of the brokerage firm of Kardos and Burke, which last night went into the hands of a receiver, were variously estimated here today at from $700,000 to $1,500,000. John Burke, former treasurer of the United States, whose signature appeared in bank notes issued from early in 1913 until his resignation a little more than a year ago, declared today he had lost everything in the collapse of the business. Bankers who had been associated with him in business were quoted as asserting their belief that he was an innocent dupe in the development of the amazing situation revealed by the failure.

Legal evidence against a number of firms that are members of the New York stock exchange might, it was intimated, be the sequel of the fall of the house of Kardos and Burke. It was indicated that if these suits were successful, the firm might pay its creditors dollar for dollar.

John Burke was three times Governor of North Dakota before becoming Treasurer of the United States in March, 1913. His partner, Louis Montgomery Kardos, was a poor immigrant from Hungary nine years ago and found his first employment in the financial district as a $10 a week messenger. The firm had branches in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Pittsburgh, St. Louis and other cities.

LOCAL HOWITZER COMPANY UNDERGOES INSPECTION

Brig.-Gen. Metts, Major Williams and Major Guthrie Arrive Two Days Earlier Than Expected — Howitzers Met Inspection Under Emergency and Made Fine Showing — Highly Complimented by Visiting Officers.

Brigadier-General J. VanB. Metts, adjutant general of North Carolina; Major S. M. Williams, cavalry, U. S. A., and Major Guthrie, of the inspector general's department, dropped in unexpectedly yesterday on the Howitzer Company for inspection. According to army regulations the commanding officer of an organization is to be notified at least ten days prior to inspection of the intended holding of the same. Capt. Stephen B. Dolley, in command of this company, had been notified to be ready for inspection Friday night of this week. The date as given in the notification, however, was an error on the part of General Metts' stenographer. It should have read Tuesday instead of Friday.

However, an emergency call was sent out to the men and the required percentage reported at the Armory at 6:30 p. m. for inspection.

Brigadier-General Metts said, "There may be better drilled companies and companies with more snap in them than the Howitzer Company but I am frank to say that I have not seen them nor any company in the State which has done as well. It should be a source of pride to Captain Dolley and Lieutenant Atkinson that the men have so well reflected their work. I am glad to see the company which still bears the old name of the Gaston Guards, a name borne by Gaston companies for 60 years, maintaining such an excellent standing."

All of the inspectors commented most favorably upon the equipment and soldierly appearance of the personnel. Major Williams said that the 37 milimeter drill, under Lieut. Atkinson, was of the highest order.

General Metts had not been in Gastonia for many years. Although he had heard from time to time of the progress the city and county were making he was really astonished at what he found here during his brief stay.

Mayor Cherry showed the visitors over the city during the afternoon and all were most agreeably surprised at the size of Gastonia and at the largeness of the textile industry.

DISSATISFIED ELEMENT WOULD PUT INDEPENDENT TICKET IN THE FIELD

Massmeeting Called for Saturday, March 4th, It Is Understood — Party Affiliations to Play no Part in Selection of Independent Ticket.

It is currently reported on the streets of Gastonia and in political circles that a mass meeting of citizens will be called for Saturday, March 4 for the purpose of organizing an independent county ticket to put in the field at the approaching primary. Voters of both Democratic and Republican leanings are fostering the movement, it is understood. Party affiliations will play no part in the selection of the ticket. It is presumed that the movement is in protest against the existing order of affairs in county government. Dissatisfaction over the way "things are run at the courthouse" is given as one of the reasons for the calling of the meeting. Bond issues, high taxes and too many salaried officials in the county government are understood to be the chief complaints in the platform of the independents.

VETERANS OF MARNE GIVE WAY TO MODERN TAXIS

PARIS, Feb. 3 — The veterans of the Marne, those ramshackle broken-down taxicabs which every American visitor to Paris has had to dodge on the Paris boulevards, have been permanently retired and replaced by 3,200 modern comfortable taxicabs.

The forbidding appearance of the old "cruisers" seemed to have an ill effect on the drivers and hope is expressed by many Parisians that the new machines would also mark the passing of the disreputable chauffeurs who are considered as ill-mannered as their machines are old.

The taxicabs were placed in service in 1905. In 1914, they were mobilized by General Gallieni, then Military Governor of Paris who crowded his army into them and rushed them to the batte of the Marne where they aided in the success of the famous flanking movement that saved Paris and defeated the Germans.

These hardy pioneers of the streets have been dashing about Paris for 17 years.

TRYING TO FIND OUT WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH PRICES PAID FOR COTTON

Governor Morrison's Cotton Meeting at New Orleans in Session.

(By The Associated Press.)

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 23. — Delegates appointed by Governors of the principal cotton producing States at the request of Governor Cameron Morrison, of North Carolina, met here today for the announced purpose of establishing the "reason why the production of cotton is an unprofitable business and to find a remedy for the condition if possible."

In the absence of President E. S. Butler, of the New Orleans cotton exchange, where the conference sessions are being held, Acting President J. W. Barkdull is host to the delegates.

Informal discussion among the delegates prior to the opening session disclosed that the general opinion among them was that until statistical machinery, similar to that now operated by the United States Department of Agriculture in assembling production data is set in motion for the collection of facts regarding probable consumption, the cotton planter must ever be at a loss to know how much cotton to raise.

No set program has been arranged for the sessions of the conference, nor is it known definitely how long the sessions will last. These matters according to the delegates will be permitted to work themselves out as the meeting progresses.

MOB PURSUES MORMON MISSIONARIES IN ENGLAND

Following Campaign by Newspapers Against Mormonism Mob Attacks Missionaries Who Were Trying to Obtain Converts Among Women.

PLYMOUTH, England, Feb. 23 —A number of Mormon missionaries were pursued through the streets yesterday by a mob because of their utterances in Market Square. The police rescued the Mormons with difficulty.

HAD TRIED TO OBTAIN CONVERTS AMONG WOMEN

LONDON, Feb. 23.—Some of the newspapers recently have been conducting a campaign against Mormon activities throughout the country, alleging that the missionaries were trying to obtain women converts who would proceed to Utah and embrace polygamy. This statement is denied by the Mormon elders, but their meetings have been broken up in some of the thickly populated suburban district.

The authorities have been urged from various sources to take action with a view to expelling the members of the sect. Home Secretary Shortt yesterday interviewed two of the Mormon leaders, but the result of their conversation was not divulged.

HI-Y CLUB PLANS PROGRAM OF WORK AND STUDY

Will Hear Addresses From Business Men of Gastonia From Time to Time — To Take Up Course of Bible Study.

At a meeting of the officers and committees of the Gastonia Hi-Y Club last night, plans were discussed for the club's future work. The first regular meeting of the members will be held Friday night, March 24, when a luncheon will be given at the High school building. The club will ask some local business man to speak to them at this meeting on his chosen profession. In meetings that are to follow a gentleman of each profession will be invited to address the members on his business. The Hi-Y's will study a course of Bible study this spring, having already adopted as one of their text books—Jenk's "High School Problems." The president, Mr. Ralph H. Falls, has appointed two committees to plan the work. A Bible study committee composed of, Charles K. Marshall, Jr., chaiman, Ben U. Ratchford and R. B. Babington, Jr., will outline the study of the club and will strive to keep up the interest in the work to its highest pitch. A program committee composed of Will T. Spencer, chairman, Lucius Wilson and Leonard Eary will have charge of the meetings' programs and secure speakers for specials occasions.

MAN THOUGHT TO BE EDWARD F. SANDS HELD BY CONCORD AUTHORITIES

Description of Sands Not Forthcoming From California — Man Under Suspicion of Complicity in Movie Murder Said to Be a Richmonder.

CONCORD, Feb. 22.—No reply had been received at 7 o'clock tonight by Chief Talbirt in answer to the message sent to District Attorney Woolwine in Los Angeles last night requesting a full description of Edward F. Sands, wanted in connection with the killing of William Desmond Taylor, moving picture director, and as a result the man detained here last night, suspected of being Sands, is still being held.

The man detained here insists that he is Harvey H. Adams, of Richmond, Va., and that he knows nothing of the killing of Taylor. He is willing to remain here until the officers have completed their investigation, however, and told Chief Talbirt this last night. He has been in the best of spirits at all times and showed no hesitancy in being examined before a good sized crowd in the jail this morning. The publicity he will receive is the only phase of his experience here that Adams objects to, he having declared that he regrets that his name will be sent broadcast over the United States in connection with a case he knows nothing about.

Marked With Scars.

From a meager newspaper description Chief Talbirt learned that Sands was reported to be marked with several scars, one on his left check, and another on his left shoulder. Adams was examined in jail last night and scars were found on his check and chin and what at first appeared to be a scar was found on his left shoulder. However, Dr. S. E. Buchanan, county health officer, made another examination of the man this morning and declared that the marks on the check and chin were scars, but that the mark on his left shoulder was caused by excessive flesh and not by a wound. Similar marks were found on the man's right shoulder and in other fleshy parts of the body, the physician declared.

Adams took his examination good naturedly until one of the spectators stated that he knew the mark on the left shoulder was a scar, regardless of what the physician said. Adams then stated that he was perfectly willing to leave it to a physician but that he did not want to be convicted by "some guy that knows nothing about it." From the first Adams denied that he had any scar on his left shoulder, and even though he has maintained from the first an optimistic air, he showed much relief when Dr. Buchanan stated that the marks, in his opinion, were not scars.

Man Not Identified.

Captain Alexander Wright, head of the detective bureau in Richmond, was given to Chief Talbirt by Adams as a reference. Chief Talbirt has talked to the Richmond officer twice, once last night and again this morning. The officer told Chief Talbirt, the chief said, that 10 or 15 years ago he knew a man named Henry H. Adams, but that he had heard nothing of him since then. He was unable to secure any information as to where Adams had been recently or when he left Richmond, he told Chief Talbirt, but later in a press dispatch expressed the belief that the man held here is the Adams he formerly knew in Richmond.

Adams will be held here pending a receipt of a message from District Attorney Woolwine.

BONUS QUESTION IS ALLOWED TO SIMMER

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23. — The soldiers' bonus question was allowed to simmer today, the special committee dealing with the question of Ways and Means of raising funds deferring further sessions until tomorrow. There was no indication when a decision would be reached, but some committeemen says the bill probably would not be reported out of the committee this week or next.

SEARCHING FOR PISTOL THAT KILLED TAYLOR

(By The Associated Press.)

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 23. — A second search was planned here today of the location where Harry M. Fields, under arrest in Detroit, was reported to have said the pistol used to kill William Desmond Taylor, film director, had been disposed of.

Deputy sheriffs searched last night, upon receipt of a telegram from Detroit authorities containing Fields' alleged declaration on the subject, but without results.

They also announced they would look today for a bank teller who, according to other information given in Detroit by Fields, changed a $1,000 bill, in order that persons named by him as having committed the murder might have $900 with which to pay him for driving the automobile in which they rode to the Taylor apartments.

COLD WAVE DUE TO HIT THIS SECTION FRIDAY

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23. — The strom and cold wave which have made the northwest ice and snow bound will reach the great lakes region, the Ohio valley, Tennessee, and the east Gulf States tonight or early tomorrow and will overspread the Atlantic coastal region by tomorrow night, according to the forecast issued today by the Weather Bureau.

The western storm had its center early today over the upper lake region and with its progress tending east-northeastward cold wave warnings were issued from lower Michigan, the Ohio valley, Tennessee and the east gulf States. Generally, the bureau's forecast indicated, the cold wave portion of the disturbance will be preceded as in the northwest by snow or rain.

RICH EVADE JUSTICE THROUGH SCHEMES OF HIGHLY PAID LAWYERS

Declares Judge Goodwin, of Chicago, Before Bar Association — Poor and Ignorant Are Represented by Untrained and Incompetent Counsel, He Says—Rich Have Smartest Lawyers.

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Equality before the law is impossible so long as the rich and powerful are represented in court by highly educated lawyers, while a large part of the poor and ignorant are represented by untrained and incompetent men, Judge Clarence N. Goodwin, of Chicago, declared in his opening address today as chairman of the conference of bar associations here. Until such a condition is corrected, he said, there will be little justice in the courts.

The shrewd and powerful men and interests of large means are able to know who are competent and who are not, Judge Goodwin asserted, adding that it was difficult for the poor man, the ignorant man, to make any just estimate of who was capable of properly advising and representing him.

"During my years as a trial judge," the speaker said, "I was frequently distressed by the fact that one side or the other in the case before me was so incompetently represented by counsel, or represented by such ignorant counsel that, owing to the learning and skill of the attorneys on the other side, it seemed impossible to get the case properly before the court, or keep error out of the record."

Judge Goodwin said that during his years as justice of the Illinois appellate court, "we found ourselves constantly confronted with records which showed such palpable and unmistakable errors as to make it necessary to reverse the case, although it obviously had merit, and although it was almost a moral certainty that had the errors been eliminated the verdict and judgment would have been the same.

"These miscarriages of justice, due to ignorance and incompetence of counsel, are largely beyond the power of the judges to control, or of rules of practice to remedy. It is to be remembered, however, that the men representing these unfortunate litigants were licensed by the state to practice law. It seems little less than a crime for the state to certify to the competency to the learning and to the ability of a man who represents his fellow citizens in court who is not learned nor able nor competent to represent or advise anybody in any legal matter."

OUGHT TO HAVE TWO YEARS IN COLLEGE.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Five hundred members of various bar associations of the country took up at the opening meeting today of a conference of bar associations the question of the advisability of admitting to the bar those who fail to have in addition to their regular law school training a college course of at least two years, a course suggested recently by the American Bar Association. A clash of opinion on the subject was forecast when the meeting was called to order by Judge Clarence N. Goodwin, of Chicago.

There has been a growing sentiment throughout the country in favor of stroger rules governing the admission to the bar of those who, although holding a degree from a recognized law school, nevertheless possesses no college training, according to members of the American Bar Association, which at a recent meeting, adopted a resolution suggesting a college course as obligatory upon the part of all future applicants for admission to the bar. The conference delegates today were prepared to discuss the question and pass judment upon the movement which many delegates said was necessary if the legal ranks were to be purged of what they described as undesirable elements.

Elihu Root, was on the program for the opening address, and in the afternoon Chief Justice Taft, of the United States Supreme Court, was scheduled to preside and address the delegates on higher education as it should be applied to the legal profession. Prof. Samuel Williston, of the Harvard Law School, Silas H. Strawn, of Chicago, and President James B. Angell of Yale University, were also on the program for addresses on economic conditions and educational opportunities in the United States which enable "the ambitious boy of small means to obtain college training."

MACNIDER MAKES PLEA FOR RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

(By The Associated Press.)

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., Feb. 23. — A plea for religious tolerance has been made by Hanford MacNider, national commander of the American Legion, in a letter to the editor of "The Protestant," published in Washington, D. C., it was announced today.

"This country," the letter says, "was formed by men who sought religious tolerance and it is that spirit which has made it free, fine and worth living in. I happen to be a Protestant and attend a Protestant church, but as a member of many Masonic bodies, of which I have taken a more or less active part, I have great admiration for the institution, the Roman Catholic Church. Its stand and teachings for the preservation of the integrity of our lawful government were well exemplified in the heroic deaths of men who served in my own command. And might I add that the chaplains of that faith gave a human touch to their spiendid service that made them beloved ov all, Jew, Protestant and Catholic alike."

THE WEATHER

Probably rain tonight and Friday; colder Friday and in west portion tonight.

CONTROLS REGULATING THE ALTITUDE OF ROMA FAILED TO FUNCTION

Testimony Before Investigating Committee Establishes That Fact—Inquiry is Being Conducted Behind Closed Doors — Eight Injured Are Making Progress.

(By The Associated Press.)

NORFOLK, VA., Feb. 23. — Members of the army investigating board continued today their efforts to determine if possible the definite and primary cause of the disaster which overtook the giant army dirigible Roma over the army base here Tuesday, in which 34 of her passengers and crew met death and the world's largest semi-rigid aircraft was demolished.

That the fatal crash to earth of the great airship followed a breakdown of the controls regulating the altitude of the craft appeared today to have been definitely established in the testimony thus far given. Belief that this was the general cause of the disaster was expressed by Major General Patrick, head of the army air service, in a statement issued yesterday on the basis of the initial testimony, and there had been no further official word today on the result of the investigation thus far. The inquiry is proceeding behind closed doors and no details were known of the testimony given by the survivors as well as eye witnesses of the disaster, experts and others.

Of the eight injured in the accident all were said to be making good progress toward recovery today with the exception of Charles Devorack, superintendent of construction at McCook field, Dayton, O., who was still reported to be in a critical condition at the Public Health Hospital. The condition of five of the injured had permitted them to be removed from the hospital to Langley field.

Meanwhile, at Newport News, where the dead were taken, relatives and friends continued to arrive today to identify the bodies and make arrangements to have them removed to their homes for burial.

Officers at Langley field had informed city officials there that arrangements probably would be completed today to hold funeral services tomorrow for all of the 34 dead at the undertaking establishment in Newport News to which they have been brought. Officals of that cty, Norfolk and Hampton and the several American Legion posts have arranged to pay tribute to the dead at the services and during the quarter hour at noon there will be a complete suspension of all business on the Virginia peninsula.

FUNERAL TOMORROW.

NEWPORT NEWS, VA., Feb. 23. — Many relatives of the victims of the Roma disaster were here today to claim the bodies of their loved ones, and to attend the public funeral services to be conducted by the army authorities tomorrow. The simple army service will be read over the bodies of the 34 men after which some will be sent to their former homes for burial and others will be taken to Arlington national cemetery, near Washington, for interment.

Shocked by the Roma tragedy, the public last night received another jolt when it became known that there was a rudder accident at the field some time ago as the mlimp was making a landing.

A hole was torn in one of the rear compartments of the bag as the craft emae down. The landing was made safely, but one man was overcome by gas fumes when sent up to patch the leak. Officials at the flying station declined to make a statement of the accident at the time, it being a trivial affair, in that the blimp was not damaged and no one hurt.

DON'T BELIEVE SMYTHE WAS QUOTED CORRECTLY

NEWPORT NEWS, VA., Feb. 23. — "Knowing Lieut. Clifford E. Smythe as I did I cannot believe that he has been correctly quoted in Chicago relative to his letter to his father, in which he is said to have declared the Roma unsafe," declared Lieut. Col. A. S. Fisher, chief of the lighter than air service at Langley field oday.

"Relative to the Washington trip of the Roma I desire to say that she behaved very nicely under most trying weather conditions. There was nothing wrong except our speed, which was a little slow at times on account of the Italian engines not working well in this climate. These motors were replaced and there was nothing wrong with the craft when she left here Tuesday o what proved to be her last flight.

"Lieutenant Smythe returned from Washington by steamer after making the flight from Langley field to the capital on the Roma, because he was ordered to do so. Several higher officers wanted to make the return flight for experimental purposes and Lieut. Smythe and others were sent back to Langley field by steamer to make room for them.

"There must be some mistake somewhere, for I am certain there was no criminal negligence and don't believe Lieutenant Smythe would have made such a charge, even to his father.

"The Roma disaster has cast a pall of gloom not only over Langley field and vicinity, but also the whole nation, and charge reflecting on the men who went to their death Tuesday should not be lightly made.

"The air service is making a thorough and searching investigation of the Roma disaster and thus far there has been nothing found to indicate criminal negligence recently or at any other time —the machine was in first class shape."

THOUSANDS EXPECTED TO ATTEND FUNERALS.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Feb. 23.— Flags are at half mast in this city and vicinity today as the grim work of preparation for the funeral of the Roma victims progressed slowly.

Florists are swamped with orders and the shops have sent emergency calls to other cities.