

VOL. XLIII. NO. 48.

GASTONIA, N. C., SATURDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 25, 1922.

SINGLE COPY 5 CENTS

GASTON COUNTY SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION IN SESSION HERE NEXT WEEK

Beginning Wednesday, March 1, will meet twice daily in First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church—Prof. M. A. Honline and D. W. Sims to be principal speakers on the program—Continues until Friday, March 3.

The Gaston County Sunday School Convention will meet in Gastonia next week at the First Associate Reformed Presbyterian church, March 1, 2 and 3. The county Sunday School Association is an affiliated branch of the N. C. Sunday School Association.

When the Association began aggressive work, November, 1920, nine counties were organized; now 49 are organized and all have held conventions in 1921.

In these 49 conventions, 172 Sunday Schools were represented by 12,725 people. Among those present were 457 preachers, 639 superintendents and 4,093 teachers. The State Association furnished two speakers for each of these conventions.

Eighty-one townships held conventions in the first half of this convention year, reaching about 12,000 people from 650 Sunday Schools.

The program follows:

FIRST SESSION. Wednesday Afternoon, March 1. 3:30 Devotional. Dr. J. C. Galloway, Pastor of First A. R. P. Church, Gastonia.

3:40 The Teacher Before the Class. Mr. D. W. Sims, General Superintendent North Carolina Sunday School Association, Raleigh, N. C.

4:10 The Needs of Religious Education. Prof. M. A. Honline, Associate Educational Superintendent of the International Sunday School Association, Dayton, Ohio.

4:50 Period of Business: Attendance Record, Announcements. 5:00 Adjourn.

SECOND SESSION. Wednesday Night, March 1.

7:30 Devotional. Dr. J. H. Hendrite, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Gastonia.

7:40 The Weak Link in the Sunday School. Mr. D. W. Sims.

8:10 Period of Business: Report of County Officers. Attendance record and announcements.

8:20 The Place of Religion in Education. Prof. M. A. Honline.

9:00 Adjourn.

THIRD SESSION. Thursday Afternoon, March 2.

8:30 Devotional. Rev. A. L. Stanford, pastor of Main Street Methodist Church, Gastonia.

3:30 The Place of Education in Religion. Prof. M. A. Honline.

4:25 Problem Solving Period, conducted by Mr. D. W. Sims and Prof. M. A. Honline.

4:50 Period of Business: Attendance record, announcements.

5:00 Adjourn.

FOURTH SESSION. Thursday Night, March 2.

7:30 Devotional. Rev. J. W. C. Johnson, pastor of St. Marks Episcopal church, Gastonia.

7:40 The Place of the Teacher in Religious Education. Prof. M. A. Honline.

8:15 Period of Business: Appointment of committees. Report of attendance.

8:50 Steps of Progress in Sunday School Work. Mr. D. W. Sims.

9:00 Offering for support of the North Carolina Sunday School Association.

FIFTH SESSION. Friday Afternoon, March 3.

3:30 Devotional. Rev. J. C. Dietz, pastor of Lutheran church, Gastonia.

3:40 The Subject Matter of Religious Education. Prof. M. A. Honline.

Chicago And Suburbs Shaken By Explosion Of Thirty Tons Of Dynamite In Stone Quarry

Damage Estimated at Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars—Many Thought There Was Concerted Bombing Squads, Earthquake or Falling Meteor—Only One Man Hurt.

WAR DEPARTMENT CLERK IS COFFESED AUTHOR OF BLACKMAIL LETTERS

George E. Long, Veteran Employee, Wrote Threatening Letters to Prominent Washingtonians—Wanted to Help Poor Children of the City, He Said.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—George E. Long, veteran clerk in the War Department, and, according to the police, confessed author of the blackmail letters recently received by Henry White, and several women prominent in Washington society, was tendering to the needs of a seriously ill wife and his three children at their home today which he was permitted to return several minutes after the alleged confession was drawn from him at police headquarters yesterday.

No complaint had been lodged against him today, for sending the letters, and the police said none would be filed unless those who received the letters showed a disposition to press the case against him.

The authorship of the letters was traced by a peculiarity in the handwriting and by a water mark used in the war department stationery. Long, whose reported confession followed the hours of questioning after he was taken into custody at his home yesterday, according to the police, said: "I don't know why I wrote the letters; but I was anxious to see the children of the city provided for and I thought these rich people might help."

He added that he never went to the places where he had directed the money to be sent, and "would not have touched it."

WANT GUARDIAN FOR LOS ANGELES MILLIONAIRE

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25.—A petition for the appointment of a guardian for William F. Wendt, Los Angeles millionaire, once known as the "Iron King" of Buffalo, N. Y., was on file in the probate court here today. The petitioner is his wife, Mrs. Mary Wendt.

She asked that their daughter, Miss Margaret Wendt, be named.

Wendt disappeared for several hours Wednesday with currency, stocks and bonds valued at \$750,000 in his possession while officers were looking for him with a warrant charging insanity.

They located him Wednesday night and placed him in the psychiatric ward of the county hospital pending a hearing before the Los Angeles county lunacy commission.

On Monday there also is scheduled to come up in the superior court here the suit of Wendt against his daughter for recovery of \$150,000, which he charges she drew from a bank without his consent.

The petition for a guardian alleges Wendt is suffering from dementia and is no longer capable of handling his own affairs. A Buffalo court declared him incompetent last December.

NORTH CAROLINA MEETS NEWBERRY TEAM TODAY

ATLANTA, Ga., Feb. 25.—The meeting tonight between Vanderbilt and Georgia, old rivals in all forms of college sport, was looked forward to as one of the chief events of the second round of the Southern college basketball tournament here.

The contest scheduled between Kentucky, last year's champions, and Mercer, promised to be another feature of the Chattanooga quarter and Tulane will complete the evening schedule which follows three contests during the afternoon.

These bring together South Carolina and Wofford; Mississippi College and Tennessee; and North Carolina and Newberry. Alabama and Georgia Tech were passed into the third round by failure of opponents to arrive.

HULL CALLS IN LEADER OF DEMOCRATIC WOMEN

TULSA, Okla., Feb. 25.—Mrs. Emily Newell Blair, of Joplin, Mo., Democratic National Committee woman for her state and prominent in politics, received a message from Corbell Hull, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, at night, requesting her to come to Washington to confer concerning leadership of the National Democratic woman's organization.

Mrs. Blair returned to Joplin last week and will go to Washington Tuesday.

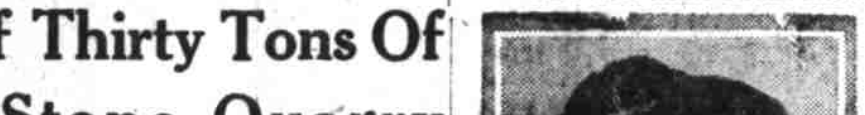
Mrs. Blair had been prominent in national suffrage work many years. Her husband is an attorney with offices in Joplin and Washington.

INTEREST SUBSIDES IN STORY OF H. M. FIELDS

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25.—Interest resulting from the "confession" of Harry M. Fields, in Detroit, as to certain alleged details of the murder of William Desmond Taylor, film director, was subsiding here today, without outspoken expressions by officials of their disbelief in Fields' statements. They declared they had been unable to substantiate any of the allegations Fields made to the Detroit authorities.

The investigation resolves itself locally largely into a resumption by the police of running to ground the "tips" mystery that were said to be reaching the various officials as during the days after February 1.

GIRL WHO WANTS TO BE GOVERNOR OF KANSAS SO SHE CAN KILL BLUE LAWS



Miss Helen Pettigrew, Auburn haired, blue eyed, slender, pretty and only 20 years old, is the latest political problem in Kansas. She is running for governor of that great State.

According to newspaper reports from Kansas City, Miss Pettigrew includes in her campaign platform opposition to all blue laws, and favors the cause of light wines and beer. She believes that women should have the right to dress as little or as much as they please; is in favor of jazz music, and says women have the constitutional right to smoke.

CHICAGO, Feb. 25.—Chicago and dozens of its suburbs today found out just what caused the explosion which literally shook them to their foundations and caused a frenzy of excitement last night. Thirty tons of dynamite let go in a stone quarry southwest of the city shortly before nine o'clock and hundreds of thousands of alarmed residents went to bed not knowing just what had happened to shake them up, damage property and give rise to rumors and reports of concerted bombing squads, an earthquake, a falling meteor, and disaster to some of the major manufacturing plants.

For an hour after the blast, Chicago and its suburbs were in furore. The smashing of glass in thousands of windows, the shaking of the buildings and the noise of the explosion gave rise to reports that bombings were occurring simultaneously in many parts of the city.

While the police and newspaper offices were flooded with hundreds of inquiries and thousands of frightened persons were trying to find the source of the blast, The Associated Press, through a crisis coincidence, was able to give the first authentic cause of the explosion.

A Mono railroad signal tower at Dyer, Ind., received a definite word of the blast, and this was relayed to the Mono dispatcher at Lafayette, Ind., whence it was transmitted to a Lafayette newspaper and the word of the explosion on the edge of Chicago came back to the city over The Associated Press wires.

In spite of the dynamite blast, which, by the blast, only one man was seriously injured, although scores were cut by glass and shaken and bruised, some of them living miles from the scene. Albert Kendle, the injured man, was operating a crane some distance from the explosion and sustained a broken arm. Reports that hundreds had been killed proved groundless.

The McCook quarry of the Consumers Company, about 11 miles from Skidaway, downtown district, contained two powder magazines where dynamite was stored in sawdust and dry. In each magazine 600 cases of dynamite were stored, each containing fifty pounds of the explosive.

The cause of the explosion probably never will be known. It is possible that a case of the dynamite fell on another case or that a rat fell on a case.

The damage caused by the explosion is estimated at hundreds of thousands of dollars. There is little to show the effect of the blast at the spot where it occurred. A great hole in the ground some fifty feet wide and 200 feet long marks the place where yesterday the powder magazines stood.

Workers at the quarry today were working at the edge of the crater.

'GOOD SAMARITANS' ROBBED NEW YORKERS O' \$153,000.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.—Police today were seeking "Good Samaritans" who relieved two New York business men robbed of gems and currency amounting to more than \$153,000, when they fell unconscious in fainting spells.

Leo Elderman, Manhattan diamond importer, fainted in the Times Square subway. When he awoke in Bellevue hospital sometime later, he announced he had been robbed of diamonds which he said were worth \$75,000.

The name of the second victim has not been made known. The police say he suffered an attack of vertigo after leaving a brokerage office from which he had withdrawn \$78,000. Passersby carried him away with the money and a diamond cravat pin when the man was unconscious.

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BONUS PROPOSITION IS AGAIN IN HANDS OF WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

Sub Committee Fails to Provide Any Way to Finance Soldier Bonus After Rejecting Sales Tax Proposal—Look to Harding to Offer Solution.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Failure of the special subcommittee of republican members of the House Ways and Means committee to approve any provision for financing the soldiers' bonus, after rejecting the sales tax proposed by a vote of 7 to 2, had placed the question again today in the hands of the entire majority membership of the committee for further study of the situation.

In addition to the vote against the sales tax, the subcommittee was understood to have gone on record yesterday, 5 to 4, in favor of rejecting out a bonus bill without any proposition for raising the revenue.

The majority members of the committee will meet again until next Tuesday, having adjourned yesterday after receiving the report of the subcommittee to permit time for study of the whole question before reaching a decision on its recommendations.

The sentiment of the majority members was said by some to favor ratification of the action of the subcommittee, having unforeseen developments before Tuesday.

Some supporters of the sales tax plan, however, were pointing their hopes today to the possibility that President Harding might again take a hand in the situation, believing that it was the present intention of the committee to report out legislation based on proceeds from the reformed foreign bonds, a plan of which, they said, the President had expressed disapproval.

Those who favor a bonus bill without any revenue provision, said this could be followed by another means for providing for the use of the bond proceeds, which should be available to be levied in part, at least, before the cash payments to former service men would begin to flow.

COTTON COMMISSION MAKES RECOMMENDATIONS. BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 25.—Committee chairman are today putting into form for presentation to the governors of the cotton growing states the recommendations adopted by the cotton states commission, which concluded a two-day session here late yesterday.

Among the more important objects of the commission is the formation of a permanent cotton commission, whose membership will be composed of three members from each state in the cotton belt, one of whom shall be an officer of his state's department of agriculture.

The objects of such permanent organization would be "the control of insect pests, the betterment of living conditions for farm dwellers, the establishment of adequate and uniform ware-housing systems, reduction of the costs of marketing, the financing of the farmer during periods of depression and marketing and other problems of like character."

Pending the organization of the permanent commission through the action of the governors the organization which is formed here with the election of R. O. Everett, of Durham, N. C., as chairman, will continue to function and will make every effort to secure the adoption of the plans formulated here by the several states.

BOLD BURGLAR ENTERS H. SCHNEIDER'S HOME

Screams of Young Lady Aroused Household But Unidentified Man Gets Away.

A burglar entered the home of Mr. H. Schneider, 216 East Long Avenue, at an early hour this morning and frightened members of the household but, so far as known, did not secure anything of value.

Aroused by the screams of Miss Dora Schneider, who awoke to find the man standing over her bed with his hand on her arm, Mr. Schneider rushed to his daughter's room and as he did so the burglar escaped.

Efforts to trace the electric lights revealed the fact that the burglar had taken the precaution to unsway every light bulb in the house.

Miss Charlie Huss, at the Huss home next door, awakened by Miss Schneider's screams, looked out of her window and saw the man running. It is not known whether he was white or colored.

The police department was notified at once and members of the force were soon on the ground but so far no clue has been developed as to the identity of the perpetrator of this crime.

Mr. Schneider is of the opinion that the man secreted himself in the house early in the evening while all members of the family were absent. He was the first to arrive at home, reaching there about 9 o'clock.

While reaching a new room he thought he heard someone in the house and made what he thought was a thorough search which convinced him that he was mistaken.

As a result of her encounter with the burglar Miss Dora Schneider suffered a severe nervous shock but is recovering from the effects very nicely.

ACTIVITIES FOR THE NEAR EAST RELIEF

WEST SCHOOL FLIES THE NEAR EAST SCHOOL BANNER. West school, under the efficient and effective leadership of Superintendent Abernethy, has sent in a check to Near East headquarters for \$139.29, nineteen dollars more than enough to care for two orphans for a year.

As a result of her encounter with the burglar Miss Dora Schneider suffered a severe nervous shock but is recovering from the effects very nicely.

COTTON MILL OPERATIVES STILL CONTRIBUTING

Checks for the relief of distressing conditions in the Near East are arriving daily at the Citizens National Bank, Flint Mill, \$14.19; Arlington Mill, \$55.70; Myrtle Mill, \$41.90.

An additional check for \$7.91 was received from the McAllen Mill this morning, increasing the gifts of McAllenville to \$278.91.

GREATER LORAY.

A committee of Lora ladies are making an active canvass of the Greater Lora community today. The canvass began yesterday and early in the afternoon 1,000 envelopes had been distributed and a call sent in to headquarters for more.

ENCOURAGING REPORTS

Reports of Near East Relief collections from Dallas, Bessemer City, Lowell and other county points are most encouraging and all of them will do more than quota apportioned them.

A number of places in the county are yet to be heard from and all are requested to remit collections at the earliest possible convenience to the Citizens National Bank, Gastonia.

TOMORROW IS THE LAST DAY OF ACTIVE CAMPAIGNING, but contributions will be gladly received at any time. The need is always with us.

LANDRU, FRENCH BLUEBEARD, PAID LIFE PENALTY ON THE GUILLOTINE EARLY TODAY

Maintained Until the Last Air of Indifference and Cynicism—Stoutly Refuses to Confess—Faced the Executioner's Axe Without a Tremor—Crowds Gather to Witness the Execution.

PARIS, Feb. 25.—Henri Desobry, "Blue Beard of Gammas," convicted of the murder of ten women and one youth, gave his life this morning in exchange for the eleven he had taken. The triangular knife of the guillotine fell at 6:05 o'clock, twenty five minutes after the time originally set for the execution, the delay causing many to express the erroneous opinion that Landru was making a confession.

Mysterious until death, Landru resented Father Lomel's query as to whether he had any confession to make.

"It is an insult to a man like me," was his reply. "Had I any confession to make, I would have made it long ago," but never did he utter the word "innocent" as he had failed to utter during his 34 months of imprisonment and the twenty-one days of his trial.

He refused the sacrament, but conversed a few moments with the priest. "I shall be brave, never fear," he told the clergyman.

Although plans for the execution had been kept in almost secrecy, crowds began to gather about the rue Versailles still a little after midnight. The cluster of cavalry horses along Georges Clemenceau street, in which the execution took place, was plainly visible in Landru's cell, and when he awoke he heard the sounds of hammers as workmen erected "timbers of justice" by the flickering light of two square, old fashioned candle lanterns.

The guillotine was erected only a few feet from the main entrance of the jail. At 6 o'clock the doors of the prison opened slowly, according to the court-yard the prosecutor general, the chamberlain of the prison and Landru's two lawyers, M. Moro Gaffery and M. D. Dutrouil.

Then Landru appeared clad in dark trousers and white shirt. His beard, which was one of his most striking characteristics, and which had become familiar to thousands through publication of his portrait during the trial, had been trimmed, his head was shaved, and his neck and face were deathly pale. He walked exactly five steps before the executioner's guillotine, and then around the waist and levelled his neck, which was immediately upended; the heavily weighted knife slid down, and the whole affair was over in less than twenty seconds.

Landru never faltered from the time he appeared in the door; he gave the guillotine one look, squared his shoulders and walked erect, uttering not a word.

The crowd, which had been kept at such a distance that it saw nothing of the details, uttered no cry, and the silence was only broken by the bugles sounding reveille in the nearby barracks and the angelus bells. The platoon of cavalry with sabers bared, saluted as the "mystery man" went to his death.

Then the hundred or so newspaper correspondents and the few officials who had witnessed the execution left the scene, while outside the lines of cavalry the citizens of Versailles and many from Paris were asking: "Is it all over?"

There seemed to be more pity than hatred, and never a word of invective against the man who had just paid the penalty for a series of the foulest murders in the criminal history of France.

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Mabel Normand Improves. (By The Associated Press.)

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25.—Continued improvement of Mabel Normand, film actress, who is suffering from influenza and nervous breakdown, was predicted early today by her physician.

North Carolina, cloudy tonight and Sunday, possibly rain in south portion, no change in temperature.

THE WEATHER