

CHICAGO HAS \$10,000,000 FIRE EARLY THIS MORNING, DESTROYING ENTIRE SQUARE

BONUS BILL READY FOR HOUSE WITH BUT SINGLE CHANGE FROM ORIGINAL

Will be Formally Presented to House Next Week as Soon as Speaker Gillett Returns from Florida — Two-Thirds Majority Is Necessary to Pass Bill.

(By The Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, March 15. — With only a single change from the form in which it was approved last week by the Ways and Means Committee majority, the compromise soldiers' bonus bill was ready today for formal presentation to the house.

The time at which the bill will be called up will not be determined, Chairman Fordney said, until the return here Monday of Speaker Gillett, who is a guest of President Harding in Florida. Republican leaders have discussed a plan to have the measure taken up next Monday under a suspension of the rules, but this plan would be contingent upon the Speaker's entertaining a motion for suspension and passage of the bill.

A two-thirds majority would be necessary to pass the bill under a suspension of the rules, but proponents still insist that despite continued opposition in and out of Congress the measure will get more than the two-thirds majority.

There was continued speculation today among House members as to whether Speaker Gillett would bring back for Washington any expression of the views of President Harding on the bill with its bank loan certificate plan. Chairman Fordney says he does not expect the President to send any message to him supplementing the executive's last letter in which he suggested that the bonus be paid by a sales tax or the legislation postponed.

The only change made in the bill by the entire committee before it was ordered out would permit banks authorized to lend money to veterans on the adjusted service certificate to rediscount them for other banks. The securities, however, would not be rediscountable by the twelve regional Federal reserve banks.

Speaker Gillett, before his departure for Florida, with President Harding, told Chairman Fordney not to dwell on the 27 upon a suspension of the rules as a means of getting the bonus bill before the House.

This was disclosed today by Mr. Fordney after his attention had been called to the dispatches from Palm Beach. Mr. Fordney explained that the bill could be taken up next Tuesday or later under a special rule and added that he was not opposed to full and free discussion on the floor.

"I am willing that the sunlight be turned on the bill," said the Michigan member, who will direct its course in the House. "I will recall that we put the first bonus bill through under a suspension of the rules and that there was not a ripple on the water about it."

Indications today were that the completed bill would not be presented to the House until tomorrow, as the committee report will not be completed and printed before that time.

THE WEATHER

North Carolina, fair and colder to night, probably light frost in north portion, Thursday fair and colder in south portion.

No More Cotton Mills Be Built In New England Says Report

South Has Ousted New England in Production of Cotton Goods—Removal of Machinery Is Being Considered, Important Factor Declares—Eastern Finishing Plants Said to Be a Counteracting Force.

That the South has definitely wrested the supremacy in textile manufacturing from New England is evident from a statement appearing in the New York Daily News Record of Tuesday. There will be no more cotton mills built in New England, according to the informant of the News Record. Consideration is being given to the taking of machinery from New England mills and moving it to the South, it is said. The article from the Record reads thus: "You have seen the last new cotton mill built in New England, an important factor in the cotton goods market said yesterday. The labor situation, as demonstrated in the current strike, has made it apparent that there is now but one center for mill construction—and that is the South. As we know, the South has been moving ahead with new mills—two spinners for every one in New England—but from now on, the ratio will favor the South even more. "It is a matter of fact that there are instances, today, where consideration is

Gaston Post, No. 23, American Legion, Plans Big Membership Drive And District Rally Meet

State Commander Byrd and Other Officials from Ten Counties in Ninth District to Hold Big American Legion Rally Here Thursday, March 23—Plan Big Membership Drive to End on That Date With Banquet.

Plans for an intensive membership drive beginning Thursday, March 16 and ending a week later, March 23 with a big State-wide American Legion rally and banquet for all the service men in the county, together with the mapping out of a Legion program for the year, featured the meeting of Gaston Post, No. 23, American Legion Tuesday evening. To form a climax to the county-wide membership drive there will be a district rally held in Gastonia Thursday, the 23rd, at which will be present State Commander Byrd, of Asheville, Adjutant Cal K. Burgess, of Raleigh, together with the executive committee of the State organization. In all there will be 30 or more State officers and executives here for conferences and the rally. County and post heads from the ten counties in the Ninth Congressional district will be in Gastonia. In addition to the visitors, every service man in the county is invited to be present for the rally in the afternoon and the feel that will follow in the evening.

For the membership drive the entire county has been allotted to chairmen and the message of The Legion will be carried into every part of the county. The territory is divided in the same manner as characterized the county-wide drive for the Armistice Day celebration last fall.

In addition to the membership campaign, the Post adopted a number of resolutions pledging the membership to certain objectives and aims during the year. Chief among these were the Americanization program among the public schools of the county, the care of the disabled veterans in the community, the establishment of a suitable memorial to the Gaston soldiers, the permanent celebration of Armistice Day in the county and the adoption of a regular program for Legion meetings.

The meeting was marked by an abundance of pep and was the most largely attended meeting of the year. Another meeting will be held Thursday evening at which time the final plans of the membership campaign will be worked out.

The following is the text of the various resolutions offered and passed at the meeting:

Be it resolved, that it is the duty of the Legion as a whole, and especially of this local post to assist as much as possible all ex-service men whether members of the Legion or not who are sick or in a position needing material assistance, be it further resolved,

That a standing committee be appointed from the Legion to consist of two members of the medical profession and one additional Legionnaire who shall inquire into and investigate all cases which shall come to their notice and it shall be their duty to cooperate to the fullest extent with (1) The War Risk Officer of the Post, (2) The local chapter of the American Red Cross, (3) The Associated Charities or any other organization which would be of assistance so as to be in position to render whatever assistance is possible and necessary. It is understood that no monies shall be appropriated from the legion treasury without permission of a majority of the Executive Committee. By convention, it will be the duty of this committee if all Legionnaires will report worthy cases coming under their notice.

Be it resolved, that a committee be appointed to take up and put into effect plans for a suitable memorial for the dead who died in service from Gaston county, following the lines of the suggestions put forward in the recent meeting at the court house.

Be it further resolved, that the celebration of Armistice day be made an annual event and that the Legion lend itself whole heartily to this effort. Be it further resolved that steps be taken well in advance so as to make the celebration of the day complete in every detail.

Resolved, that a standing committee be formed which shall submit to the post at the next regular meeting plans where by meetings can be made interesting so as to furnish an incentive in getting members out. This committee to take into consideration the advisability of putting on wrestling bouts, baseball games, getting speakers here of national interest and other ideas which may from time to time suggest themselves.

Resolved, that Gaston Post No. 23, American Legion go on record as favoring the teaching in all public schools of the county proper courtesy to our flag and the national anthem so as to foster in the hearts of our future citizens, a love for country and a reverence for the ideals for which we fought. Be it further resolved, that we assist in a material way by lending our assistance and cooperation to the Gaston County Teachers Association by the appointment of a committee with full power to act which shall consider and put into effect the following plan (1) The appointment of speakers from the Post, who shall from time to time take part in the chapel or other exercises of the different schools with the idea of explaining to the pupils proper courtesy to the flag and to the national anthem. (2) The active participation of the post in all patriotic exercises in schools, churches, etc., throughout the county whenever desired by the organization, planning the exercises and that the committee get in touch with such organizations. It is expected that the committee should use discretion in the matter of the selection of speakers so as to have these men participate in exercises in schools in their immediate vicinity.

Be it further resolved, that this committee be instructed to put before the post at the next regular meeting plans looking to the Legion taking the leadership in all celebrations of all patriotic nature during the coming year not coming under the heads above mentioned.

Be it further resolved, that a prize of cash or a suitable gold medal be offered to any bonafide pupil of any of the schools of the county offering the best essay on a subject which shall be selected by the committee and as coming under the head of the Americanization program outlined above, judges to be selected by the committee and a time for submission of the essays selected.

Be it resolved, that Gaston Post No. 23 act as a mark for 1922, 500 paid up members and that to attain this end, a committee be appointed with full power to act, to consist of three men one of whom shall be chairman, who shall outline and put into effect a membership drive, the plan of getting members to be organized somewhat on the order of the Legion whereby men were invited to the Armistice Day Celebration, November 11th, last.

Resolved, that the committee be instructed to put before the post at the next regular meeting plans looking to the Legion taking the leadership in all celebrations of all patriotic nature during the coming year not coming under the heads above mentioned.

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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CALENDAR. Wednesday. 7:30 p. m. Textile Superintendents Club. Thursday. 4:00 p. m. Board of Directors. 7:30 p. m. Pythian Band. Friday. 5:00 p. m. Gastonia Sunday School Superintendents. 7:30 p. m. Chamber of Commerce Glee Club.

JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES RECOMMENDS TROUPE

Noted Orator and Editor Praises Montague Company Appearing Here Tonight in Lyceum Attraction.

Hon. John Temple Graves, delightfully remembered in Gastonia for his great lecture, "The Modern Armageddon," several weeks ago, has highly recommended the Montague Light Opera Company, appearing here tonight as the fourth lyceum attraction. Mr. Graves writes: Washington, D. C., March 14, 1922.

My dear Mr. Query: With the happiest and most grateful recollections for The Gazette I am cordially commending to your kind consideration the Montague Light Opera Company which is in Gastonia on the evening of the 15th.

You will rarely have heard a more delightful company of singers. Mrs. Eichelberger, who is the "Miss Montague" who has given her name to the company, is one of the most charming and accomplished women and artists in the country, with a glorious contralto and a charming manner. She is a former graduate of the University of Chicago and is a lady of rare gifts and graces. I trust some of your delightful people will meet Miss Montague and leave upon their mind a part of the delightful impression that I am enjoying along in my heart.

Miss Montague's husband, Mr. Eichelberger, who is a handsome man from a Jew, has a beautiful tenor and a beautiful spirit. The other two members of the company I do not know so well as they are new, but I have heard them highly spoken of.

With cordial and grateful regard for The Gazette. Sincerely Yours, JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES.

ANTI KU KLUX KLAN ORGANIZATION FORMED

(By The Associated Press.) HEALDTON, Okla., March 15. — An anti Ku Klux Klan organization known as the Knights of the Visible Empire, has been formed here.

John Q. Hyde, one of the organizers, announced in a statement today that the purpose of the society is "to protest against mob rule, as exemplified in the teachings of the Ku Klux Klan." Hyde is a local attorney.

"There is not one line in the constitution that cannot be approved by every liberty loving, law abiding citizen," Mr. Hyde said.

"We pledge allegiance to the law of the land and ask only that the laws be enforced by those empowered to enforce them. We will work bareheaded in the sunshine, not masked at midnight."

CHAUFFEUR HAPPY BACK BEHIND AUTO WHEEL

(By The Associated Press.) DELMONT, CALIF., March 15. — Floyd Glotzbach, chauffeur, whom Margerete Matzmeier, grand opera singer, married because he was "100 per cent man" and whose separation from the diva because she didn't want him to get up for breakfast, drive his own automobile or enjoy jazz music, became known yesterday, was back behind the wheel of another man's automobile last night and presumably enjoying himself.

Glotzbach's duties took him so far afield that his first knowledge that his wife denied his version of the separation probably will come from today's papers.

Carlos Stanley, hotel manager, who hired Glotzbach a few days ago to drive a sight-seeing car and otherwise make himself useful around the hotel's fleet of automobiles, said, however, that Glotzbach had quit the story of his adventure in matrimony as published in Associated Press newspapers.

STORM WARNING. WASHINGTON, March 15. — Warning of a storm which it was predicted would effect the territory from "south of Norfolk to and including Hatteras, was issued today by the weather bureau. The disturbance was central over the extreme southeastern portion of Virginia at noon, the announcement said, and will cause strong north and northwest winds this afternoon and tonight."

Cotton Market

CLOSING BIDS ON THE NEW YORK MARKET. NEW YORK, March 15. — Cotton futures closed strong. March 17.85; May 17.69; July 17.09; October 16.89; December 16.54. TODAY'S COTTON MARKET. Cotton seed. .... 51c. Strict to Good Middling. .... 17 1/2c.

ON SLOW'S SHIBBOLETH IS "LESS OFFICERS, MORE WORK AND LOWER TAXES"

Would Eliminate Wastefulness of Money in the State and the County — Fewer Officers, More Work and Lower Taxes, Is the Cry—Cry For the Old Days.

(By W. T. Best, in Greensboro News.) RALEIGH, March 14. — "Fewer officers, more work and lower taxes" are the shibboleth in Onslow county, far eastward, and the candidate who cannot frame his tongue to say it will miss the votes, according to a communication reaching Raleigh.

The action of Onslow is but one of the several county "voal uprisings" which have been recorded during latter days. One of these "voal" revolutions took place in Mecklenburg, the cradle of protest. The home of Governor Morrison was among the first to out-speak. From time to time the mass meetings have been going on with President R. W. H. Stone, director of the North Carolina railroad, by gubernatorial grace, aiding mightily in the manifestation of wrath. Governor Morrison has confessed his disappointment at the way organized farmers have treated his treatment of them, according to some of the writing boys, who meet as the governor every day—when he is in town. Onslow's "voal uprising" was not of farmers' anatomy; it was not raised in part by Senator Frank Thompson, Democratic brother of Doctor C. V. who once gave the Democrats very much trouble.

The Onslow "uprisers" seem to know exactly what they desire, and it is a great deal. They are off down there by the sea. There is no way for them to kick except toward Raleigh. Therefore they hit Raleigh good and hard. They demand that the state superintendent of public instruction turn to the taxing department and that the courts leave the legislature be. They would return to pre-war salaries and would eliminate the extravagant and wasteful expenditure of money in state and county. Then after they resolve to go to the primaries the candidates who get these people will have to sing "Fewer officers, more work and lower taxes."

The malignant will see public justice. The governor has returned the government to the counties and put a local self-government in charge. The tax business and the schools were to be sent back to the counties. His excellency wrote letters against any high riding set in Raleigh, and in the high riders who had been the tax commission were divorced from the taxing department. Horizontal slashing began before the 1920 taxes were actually paid.

Assault on Taxing Powers. And there is far more assault on the state taxing powers than ever has been; the state superintendent of schools is being made the Democratic goal because the legislature hasn't the nerve to make a law that will take away the taxes as higher and conditions infinitely worse under the local self-government movement than they were before. Every piece of tinkering with revaluation has hurt and only the counties which refused to go back on their values under revaluation have avoided trouble altogether. It is hard lines for Governor Morrison and Revenue Commissioner A. D. Watts. And the state is in the federal courts on tax issues.

The Onslow people held their meeting in the court house last week. Here is their set of resolutions:

"Whereas our taxes have become exceedingly grievous and heavily burdensome and in some cases almost confiscatory; we, citizens of Onslow county, in mass meeting assembled, do hereby set forth the following demands:

"1. We demand a fair, equitable and just assessment of our lands, which in many instances are on the tax books for more than twice their market value.

"2. We demand that the levying of taxes be taken away from the state superintendent of public instruction and the courts and restored to the general assembly, where the right of levying taxes justly belongs.

"3. We demand a reduction in the number of office holders, and a putting of the salaries of all necessary officers on a pro-rata basis.

"4. We demand that the extravagant and wasteful expenditure of money in the state and county be stopped.

"5. And we pledge our support only to those candidates in the primaries of our party for office who will adopt for their platform the following: "Fewer officers, more work and less taxes."

BUFFALO CLUB REACHES HERE SUNDAY MORNING

Local fans will be interested in the announcement that George L. White, former big league star, and his husky bunch of athletes, the Buffalo club of the International League will arrive in Gastonia on No. 137 Sunday morning at 10:09. This club, as has been previously announced, comes to Gastonia for its spring training.

Among the exhibition games to be seen here during the training period will be those on March 24th and 25th with Connie Mack's Three-I League Winners who are to train at Morganton.

General Car Better. (By The Associated Press.) DURHAM, March 15. — Continued improvement was noted today in the condition of General Julian S. Carr who is ill at his home here with pleurisy.

General Carr spent a very comfortable night and his general condition was said to be decidedly better this morning.

ORIGINAL BLAZE THOUGHT TO BE OF INCENDIARY ORIGIN; FIREMAN KILLED, OTHERS HURT

Full Square of Business Buildings Just Outside of Chicago's Loop or Downtown District Burned Early This Morning—Blaze Spread With Marked Rapidity—Flames Visible 20 Miles — Spectators Are Burned.

CHICAGO, March 15.—A spectacular early morning fire today destroyed a full square of business buildings just outside Chicago's "Loop" or downtown district, with a loss estimated at from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000. The fire started in the center of the block bounded by VanBuren, Canal and Clinton streets, and West Jackson boulevard of unknown origin, burned every structure in that area, leaped north across Jackson and wrecked the 21-story Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad's general office building, which also houses the Mercantile Trust and Savings Bank, and, under burden of a strong wind dipped over VanBuren street southward and burned nearly through to Harrison street.

The fire was not brought under control until nearly 5 o'clock and even then firemen were fighting a dozen different fires and others broke out intermittently as the wind wafted sparks about. One fireman was killed, another seriously injured, ten or more lightly hurt, and an unknown number of the hundred thousand spectators who thronged the burning district slightly hurt by falling bricks, burning timbers or sparks.

The fire for a time threatened to assume vitally unlimited proportions and every piece of fire-fighting apparatus within five miles was called out in a series of ten alarms.

"The rapidity with which the fire spread was astounding," Marshall Hunkley, assistant fire chief, said. "The fire actually seemed to run from us."

That the original blaze from which the conflagration grew possibly was of incendiary origin was the statement of Sheriff P. High, city fire attorney, who early today announced the arrest of an unnamed man on information supplied by H. T. Schiff, president of the Confectionery Specialty Company, at 521 West Jackson boulevard, where the fire started.

Mr. High refused to divulge the name of the man arrested, but said that he was being questioned regarding threatening letters Mr. Schiff said the man, a former employee, had sent to him. Mr. Schiff told Mr. High the man was discharged when he became increasingly refused to permit him to purchase stock in the company and within the past two months had made a series of threats. Mr. Schiff placed his personal loss at \$50,000.

Mr. High summoned several of his address list the fire was at its height, and said an investigation would be begun immediately. He placed the total loss at from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000.

Traversing the main burned area, the Metropolitan West Side elevated line today was seriously handicapped in delivering its thousands of patrons to the downtown district as the Aurora & Edgebrook elevated intersection line which also crossed the four tracks structure which was caught in the midst of the fire.

The large Burlington office building, called a fire-proof structure, held the fire from spreading westward, extending the full block on West Jackson boulevard between Canal and Clinton streets, while progress of the flames toward the south was ended by the access the firemen had to the smaller buildings—two big stories—which bring south of VanBuren street. The Chicago river was a block east of the burned district but would have afforded but little protection had the wind veered the sweep of the flames toward the main business section.

Heat from the burning building a cross the street cracked out the windows of the Mercantile Trust & Savings Bank before the Burlington building it assailed.

Despite the falling out of extra portions, automobiles of spectators quickly jammed the streets about the burning district. The flames, leaping high and puffing by the gusts of wind were visible for more than 20 miles.

The VanBuren street tunnel of the Chicago surface lines, under the river, debouches just at the burned area, and for hours a stream of water poured into it until the tunnel was filled to street level.

The Union depot mail terminal was not reached by the flames but postal employees hurriedly removed all mail when it appeared that the fire district could not be restricted.

The Mercantile Trust and Savings Bank later announced that the cash and securities in its vaults was amply protected by heavy steel, cement and asbestos walls and that it was quite safe. Arrangements were made to have another bank take care of its business until new quarters could be obtained.

The new Burlington building without a doubt so terrific that the fire escape on the side facing the flames across the street became red hot and bent on its own weight.

It was estimated that more than 25,000 persons were made jobless through the fire.

(Continued on page 5.)

COURT CASE TO GO TO JURY THIS AFTERNOON

(By The Associated Press.) TALLBOTTON, Ga., March 15.—With the completion of four arguments to be made by attorneys for the state, which were begun this morning when court resumed, the case of Major Lee H. Coart, charged with murder in connection with the fatal shooting of A. B. McNeese, is expected to go to the jury late this afternoon.

LADY ALICE WHITE KILLED BY BURGLAR

(By The Associated Press.) LONDON, March 15. — Lady Alice White, who was found unconscious in her room in a London hotel yesterday morning, died this morning at three o'clock. A burglar is believed to have inflicted the fatal injury, a fracture of the skull.

KEPT YOUNG GIRL PRISONER AT PISTOL POINT TWO DAYS

Tom Davis, Alleged Assailant of Girl He Had Promised to Marry, to Face Trial For Life—Local Police Officers Land Him After Long Chase.

Charged with one of the most heinous crimes ever committed in this section and positively identified by his victim, Miss Prella May Kelley, an attractive sixteen-year-old girl of West Gastonia, Tom Davis was landed in the Gaston county jail at 3 o'clock this morning after a chase which carried local officers over a considerable portion of upper South Carolina since last Friday. Davis, who was going under the name of Grover McFord when caught last night in Chester, S. C., admits that he is the man wanted but maintains that there are mitigating circumstances and that the crime is not the serious one with which he is charged.

Two warrants stand against Davis, one charging assault with a deadly weapon and the other criminal assault, his victim in both instances being Miss Kelley. It is a story of the trustfulness of an unsophisticated girl and the villainy of a brute who betrayed the confidence placed in him in that, according to the story told by the young girl, and which is believed by the officers, he criminally

assaulted the girl at the point of a pistol and held her captive for two nights and a day.

Davis left Gastonia last Tuesday evening in company with the girl. They left on the 7 o'clock P. & N. train for Charlotte where, according to his promises, he was to marry her. Arriving in Charlotte, Davis, it is alleged, took her to a cheap rooming house, the exact location of which is not as yet known to the local officers. Taking her to a room he went out, she says, for the purpose of securing a marriage license and a minister to perform the ceremony. Returning in a short time he told her the minister would be on hand in a few minutes. Shortly thereafter, she alleges, he criminally assaulted her at the point of a pistol and compelled her to remain with him throughout the night.

According to her story they went to Statesville Wednesday morning, spending the day there. Davis, she says, stayed right with her and gave her no opportunity to get out of his presence at any time.