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NEW BERN SUFFERS A \$2,000,000 BLAZE

Thousands Made Homeless; More Than 500 Residences Burned; Strong Wind

NEW BERN, Dec. 1.—When interviewed at 10:30 o'clock tonight, Mayor Clark stated that as far as he could judge five hundred residences and business houses had been totally destroyed, approximately 1,800 people were homeless and the total fire loss for the day, including the Roper Lumber Company mill, was in excess of \$2,000,000. The fire was under control at midnight tonight.

The war devastated towns of Belgium and France hardly presented a more pitiable spectacle of complete destruction than does that section of New Bern tonight which was swept by fire throughout the entire day.

Over an area of a mile or more in length and from two to five blocks in width nothing remains but row after row of ghostly chimneys, standing as vigils in the midst of charred timbers, which almost completely cover the ground.

Not a single piece of framework remains in an upright position. Everything in the path of the terrific blaze was swept before it.

New Bern was threatened this morning at 8:30 o'clock when the hoarse notes of the city's fire whistle told the residents of the burning of the Roper Lumber company's mill.

This concern was leased by the Rowland Lumber Company, suffered a quarter of a million dollar fire which threw more than 300 local men out of work. While the flames were still raging at the mill, an alarm was turned in from the western section of the city where the fire had started in the colored district and which soon caused everyone to forget the conflagration at the Rowland mill.

With their services required at the lumber yards firemen were unable to respond to the new alarm and it was not until half an hour later that they rushed to the spot. By that time five houses were in ruins. The roaring flames sped on their way by high winds of almost gale force, crashed through house after house gaining impetus in their advance which sent them leaping through the roofs of dozens of structures simultaneously. Frantic negroes assisted by hundreds of volunteers hastily removed their household furniture to places of safety. As the fire gained headway, however, people were forced to leave their homes without being able to remove anything.

After having been apparently subdued, the flames burst forth anew, directly west of George street, and for a time it was feared that St. Luke's hospital and the Tabernacle Baptist church would be destroyed. The brave work of the combined fire departments, however, brought the flames under control at that point shortly before dusk.

A dozen or more persons, both white and negroes, have been treated at the hospital for painful burns and other injuries. It is not believed that any of these injuries will prove fatal. Patients were taken from both the New Bern Central hospital and removed to Christ Church parish house. The fire fighters managed to swerve the direction of the fire and prevented either of the two hospitals from igniting. The Stewart Sanatorium was burned to the ground.

The disaster originated in the home of W. D. Bryan, negro on Kilharmonick street, starting in the kitchen of the home. Dynamite was discharged repeatedly during the course of the day in the efforts to hold back the fire, but it proved to be of little worth. No human agency could thwart the combined force of fire and wind.

For a time it looked as though the entire city, business section and all, would be included in the conflagration. Scores of families, living several blocks from the paths of the fire, moved their furniture elsewhere, fearing they would lose everything.

The fire destroyed approximately 20 blocks. The high winds which had fanned the flames died down at sundown and although several frame houses still were burning, firemen

WAR INSURANCE MAY BE REINSTATED

The U. S. Veteran's Bureau desires to bring to the attention of all ex-service men the liberal features of the amended War Risk Insurance Act, relative to the reinstatement of Government insurance. Insurance policies may be reinstated regardless of physical condition, provided:

(1) Applicant's disability is result of an injury or disease, or an aggravation thereof, suffered or contracted in the active military or naval service during the World War.

(2) That, at the time of reinstatement, the applicant's disability is not of a permanent and total nature. Ex-service men suffering from a disability at time of reinstatement, if over three months from date of lapse of policy, must pay all monthly premiums which would have become payable if the insurance had not lapsed, together with interest at the rate of 5 per cent, per annum on each premium from the date said premium was due. The ability of the disabled to reinstate their insurance policies should be of particular interest to ex-service men suffering from tuberculosis and other diseases creating a risk as to longevity of life. A pertinent feature of all Government policies is the maturity of the insurance upon permanent and total disability of the insured, regardless of the age at which this occurs.

Persons in good health may reinstate without the payment of back premiums other than that of the grace month.

Medical claims for the statement of physical condition and full information relative to reinstatement of insurance, the relative values and advantages of various forms of Government policies which ex-service men are at liberty to take out, will be furnished by the Veteran's Bureau upon request. Letters pertaining to these matters should be addressed to the Local Office of the U. S. Veteran's Bureau, Allen Building, Raleigh, N. C.

Colored Teachers to Meet

To the colored teachers of Johnston county: You are hereby notified and urged to meet at the County Training School Smithfield, on Saturday, December 9th, at 9:30 o'clock a. m., to begin the winter study group work, also to discuss other important matters pertaining to school work. Mrs. Annie W. Holland, State Supervisor of Elementary schools is expected and will speak on the Reading Circle work. Mrs. Florence C. Williams, State Director of Health work among negroes, will speak on health. All persons interested in the educational work are invited and urged to come to this meeting. All teachers who do not hold health certificates for this term are required to secure them at once. —(Mrs.) Laura J. A. King, Supervisor of Negro Schools, Johnston County.

Benton Wharton Wins Honor

Smithfield boys and girls who go to college as a rule take a high stand and Benton Wharton, a sophomore at Davidson College, is no exception to the rule. In the try-out debate at that institution recently, he was chosen as an alternate to represent his college in a debate with Washington and Lee University at Lexington, Va. The two who were selected to give the debate were seniors. Thus it was an honor for a lower classman to be chosen as an alternate. The question for debate has to do with the cancellation of the war debts.

FIRST STRAWBERRIES

BRING \$2.50 A QUART
NEW YORK, Nov. 28.—The first shipment of Florida strawberries to the New York market today brought the record price of \$2.50 per quart, the State Department of Farms and Markets announced. But four hundred quarts were received. The shipment was one week earlier than last year.

said they believed it would not spread further.

It was estimated that around 1,200 persons, most of them negroes, had been rendered homeless and relief steps were under way before the flames were controlled. Fire apparatus from Kinston, Goldsboro, Greenville and Washington, N. C., were brought here and used to aid the local department.—Associated Press.

KIWANIS BANQUET QUITE A SUCCESS

Prizes Given Away During Evening; Plan for Community Christmas Tree

Decidedly the most elaborate social function which Smithfield has known for some time was pulled off Thursday evening when the Kiwanis Club entertained the wives and sweethearts of the members at a banquet the occasion being the presentation of the club charter. One hundred twenty-five places were laid, and that many persons enjoyed the fun combined with business of the evening. The banquet hall was in the Davis building, and the Woman's Club had made it attractive for the occasion with decorations of long leaf pine. The club served the delicious menu which consisted of the proverbial turkey with all the necessary accessories.

Kiwanian W. N. Holt, president of the club, was toastmaster and under his skilful guidance the program of the evening went through without a hitch. The first thing on the program was the singing of America followed by thanks returned by Kiwanian W. C. Cumming, pastor of the Presbyterian church. A cordial welcome to visitors was extended by Kiwanian L. G. Stevens. A welcome song, "How do you do" was then sung, after which the charter was delivered, W. B. Merriman presenting it. A. M. Noble received the charter for the club. In all the talks made the note of service—the spirit which animates the club—was sounded. Two visiting Kiwanians, Mr. Howell, secretary of the Goldsboro Kiwanis Club, and Mr. Mark Tuttle of Wilmington, were called upon for short talks and they responded with words fitting to the occasion.

Besides the speech making, there were other features of the program which made the time pass all too quickly. The guests were kept on tip-toe to know what surprise was next in store. Several business firms of the town gave away attractive prizes to ladies drawing the lucky numbers. Jordan-Edmundson Co. gave away a mixing bowl, Mrs. J. H. Fitzgerald being the winner. Turnage & Talton presented a quarter sack of flour to Mrs. W. S. Ragsdale; Austin-Stephenson Co. presented a pair of silk hose to Miss Irene Myatt; Chas. Davis Stores, a pair of silk hose to Mrs. H. C. Woodall; W. L. Woodall's Sons, a pair of shoes to Mrs. Arthur Narron; The Smithfield Observer, a year's subscription to Mrs. W. D. Avera; Creech Drug Co., a box of Nunnally's candy to Mrs. T. C. Young.

In addition to the above prizes, a good deal of fun was occasioned when Creech Drug Co. gave a box of candy to the young lady who had the homeliest escort. Miss Sallie May Tuttle who was accompanied by Mr. Ryal Woodall was the recipient of this gift. Another box of candy was awarded by this same firm to the lady whose husband was most afraid of her. Mrs. T. R. Hood received this amid the cheers of those present. Mr. J. A. Wellons in characteristic style, presented these prizes.

The silent boosts of the evening were boxes of candy given away by Hood Bros., miniature week end packets, by Johnston & Stephenson, and leather bound memorandum books bearing the Kiwanis emblem, by W. L. Woodall's Sons.

The business session of the occasion sponsored two projects—a new hotel for Smithfield and a Community Christmas tree. The following committee to make investigations as to the hotel was appointed: R. C. Gillett, R. P. Holding, W. L. Fuller, W. A. Green and H. C. Woodall. A committee was also appointed to plan for the community Christmas tree, viz: T. C. Young, Chas. Davis, E. L. Woodall, H. V. Rose, and E. S. Edmundson.

Flue in Southern Part of County

Mr. John William Wood, of Meadow township, was in town Monday to begin again his duties as a member of the board of county commissioners. He reported from his section of the county a general spread of influenza. The school at Sandy Grove has been closed a week. Mr. S. P. M. Tart, Mr. Lovitt Eldridge and Mr. Black Grantham of Sampson, have died from the disease and other complications.

NEW CO. OFFICERS TAKE OATH OFFICE

J. R. Barbour May Not Qualify; E. F. Ward Mentioned for Clerk's Place

In spite of inclement weather the first Monday brought a large crowd of people to Smithfield.

The first Monday in December succeeding an election is always an important day in county affairs, it being the day upon which the old officials vacate the county offices and the new ones come in.

Few changes were caused in the county offices by the recent election. The most important change was that of the board of county commissioners. The old board which consisted of D. B. Oliver, H. M. Barbour, W. H. Upchurch, J. Willis Creech and P. B. Chamblee gave place at noon to the newly elected board, which is composed of an entirely new membership with the exception of Mr. Oliver. The new members are J. W. Woodard, John William Wood, E. R. Gulley and P. E. Johnson.

The new board upon assuming the duties found much to do in adjusting minor tax claims from various parts of the county. It also fell to the lot of the new board to appoint the superintendent of the county home for the next two years. Three applicants were before the board. The appointment went to the present superintendent, Mr. J. O. Stephenson.

Owing to the poor health of Mr. J. R. Barbour, the recently elected clerk of the Superior Court, this office was not filled. It is reported that Mr. Barbour will not qualify and a petition is in circulation asking for the appointment of Mr. Ed F. Ward to this position until a successor to Mr. Barbour can be duly elected. Mr. Barbour is now serving as clerk by appointment which ensued upon the death of the late W. S. Stevens.

Owing to the inability of two members of the Board of Election to reach Smithfield, this board did not meet. Several delegations from the various parts of the county were before the superintendent in the interest of school matters and the day passed as a busy one for the educational department.

JUDGE HENRY GRADY HEAD OF KU KLUX IN N. C.—HAYWOOD

Rev. Dr. Oscar Haywood who recently created quite a stir in church circles in New York by pushing forward the Ku Klux Klan, on Thursday, according to a story carried in the New York World, declared that Judge Henry A. Grady, of the Superior court, of this state, is the head klan official in North Carolina.

In referring to Judge Grady, the World has the following to say: "Mr. Haywood made to a reporter for the World the startling claim that regularly enrolled members of the klan include members of Congress, governors, judges and others among the 'biggest legal authorities in the country,' as well as city officials and members of many police forces. He did not give the names of any of these officials except that of Judge Henry A. Grady, of the Superior court, North Carolina. Judge Grady, he said is the head klan official in North Carolina.

Dr. Haywood is general evangelist of Calvary Baptist church and is said to own an "open air" farm near Mount Gilead, this state, where he spends much of his time.

Henry Grady is from Clinton, Sampson county, and was nominated by the Democrats in the second primary held in June this year. He was recently elected to the Superior court bench from the sixth judicial district. He will take his seat in the immediate future.—Greensboro News.

Woman's Club Next Wednesday

The Woman's Club will meet next Wednesday at the club room at 3:30 o'clock. At two o'clock in the club room, Miss Garrison, County Home Demonstration Agent, will hold a demonstration in basket making. Everybody invited.

What Had "Pop" Been Doing?

"Johnny, I'm afraid I'll not see you in Heaven," said the father to the errant son. "Why, what have you been doing now, pop?"

NEED OF MORE COUNTRY SCHOOLS SHOWN

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—(Capital News Service).—Speaking to the Sons of the Revolution, Dr. J. W. Crabtree, Secretary of the National Education Association, brought out facts regarding illiteracy in the United States, which emphasize the need for more and better public schools, and which endorse the results of the election in Oregon, in which new school laws were passed, compelling attendance in State public schools.

"The United States has the highest percentage of illiteracy of the leading enlightened nations of the world," said Dr. J. W. Crabtree. "If you multiply Germany's percentage of illiteracy by 30, you will have the figure showing the percentage of illiteracy in the United States. Improvement and increase in the number of country schools is the first step necessary to remedy this defect. Under the present system the country child is four times more likely to be illiterate than the city child." Dr. Crabtree also pointed out that "to Americanize the foreign-born is as necessary as to do away with illiteracy."

Ku Klux and Proclamations.

If the proposition of Senator Walsh that the President follow a precedent set by President Grant and proclaim the Ku Klux outlawed, the Legislatures of various States will be saved the trouble of drafting and passing bills aimed at suppression of the order. Mighty few people of the present time can remember the proclamation by President Grant calling upon the Ku Klux Klan to disband. It was broken up in this part of the country through activities of the Federal Courts, backed by Federal bayonets, and only after many fine fellows had been landed in Northern prisons, others hung up by the thumbs and otherwise tortured, and yet others had gone into voluntary exile. The Ku Klux of Reconstruction days was quite a different thing from the Ku Klux of the present time and its membership represented the courage and manhood of the South.—Charlotte Observer.

Here to See School Building

Mr. A. W. Anders, member of the Hendersonville Board of Education, and Mr. Stillwell, president of the N. C. Association of Architects, of Henderson, were in this city Saturday to inspect our new school building. Hendersonville is planning for a new building and these gentlemen were desirous of seeing the best in school architecture before deciding upon a plan. They were especially pleased with our buildings and stated that they had noted ideas which would be of great help to them. In fact they were so well pleased they decided not to visit the Wilson county schools which were included in their first plans of visitation.

Rev. M. E. Cotton at M. E. Church

Rev. M. E. Cotton delivered quite a forceful sermon at the Methodist church Sunday evening and urged the people to help to raise the standard of law enforcement in the Old North State from the fifth worst state in the union as to the violation of the eighteenth amendment, to the second place as she has in regard to the purest Anglo Saxon American citizenship. Mr. Cotton spoke of the Prohibition Conference held in Toronto, Canada, last week in which sixty-four nations were represented, as being the most significant and far-reaching conference in the interest of world peace and prohibition that has ever been held.

IRVIN COBB REWARDED FOR WORLD WAR SERVICES

NEW YORK, Nov. 28.—President Harding has granted a commission as Major in the Military Intelligence Division of the Officers' Reserve Corps to Irvin S. Cobb, writer and author, as a reward for his services during the world war, it was announced today.

Langston-Boyettt

Friends here will be interested to learn of the marriage of Mrs. Omega Boyett to Mr. George Langston which took place Thursday in Wayne county. They arrived in the city Sunday and will make their home here.

CITIZENS WALLACE MAKE WREATHS

New Industry Under Direction Expert Promises to Be Big Enterprise

Eastern North Carolina's newest industry is that of making holly wreaths, and Wallace is headquarters for the enterprise, which has been launched under the direction of Harvey Boney, and holds the promise of becoming one of the leading lines of endeavor in this section of the state.

Through the efforts of Mr. Boney, the services of the Zipfel Wreath Manufacturing company, of Rochester, N. Y., has been secured and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Zipfel have come to Wallace to supervise the making of the wreaths.

Some 300 or 400 women will be taught the art, the average return from this not unpleasant labor ranging from \$4 to \$5 per day.

The holly is gathered from the woods near Wallace and brought to town in large quantities. The twigs are then stripped from the branches and under the direction of the Zipfels, women are taught the knack of binding them to rings with wire.

Wreaths are made in several sizes and shipped to northern markets, where they find a ready sale. It is said by experts in this line that holly made into the form of wreaths before being shipped, will retain the berries for a much longer period than those shipped loose in crates.

Mr. Boney purposes to establish a holly wreath business at Atkinson, and believes the people of that vicinity will co-operate with him in making it a success. He hopes to make half a million wreaths before Christmas.—Wilmington Star.

TWO CHILDREN BURNED TO DEATH IN SCHOOL-FIRE

COVINGTON, Ga., Nov. 28.—Two children were burned to death and more than a score of others had narrow escapes from a fire that destroyed the High Point school, about seven miles south of here today.

The children who lost their lives were, with about 40 others, trapped on the second floor of the building when their exit was cut off by the fire which started on the first floor, and many of those who escaped with their lives were seriously burned before jumping to safety. Many others suffered severe injuries.

Mrs. Oscar Grant, who had charge of the pupils on the upper floor, was so severely burned in directing the escape of the children, that fears are expressed for her life.

When it was discovered that the fire had cut off their only means of safe exit, Mrs. Grant gathered the children about the windows and directed them in jumping to safety until all but two were out of the building. She then jumped through the flames and was so seriously burned that she was rushed to an Atlanta hospital on the first train. If she should live, doctors believe she will be disfigured for life.

An eight-year-old child of Charlie Bachelor and the child of John James Field were burned to death.

Successful Box Party.

Mr. Wilbur Lee, of the Rock Hill section, was in the city Tuesday and told us of a box party held Saturday night at Rock Hill school house. The sum of \$187.38 was raised which will be used in some way for the school. Part of it may be used to paint the house, or desks may be bought, or part may be used in some other way. The main point is that the money will be used to the best advantage. Eighteen boxes were sold which brought over \$180. A voting contest in which the prettiest girl and the ugliest man were voted on, resulted in placing over \$100 in the treasury. A fishing contest furnished considerable fun and also helped to pile up the amount raised.

Rock Hill school has three teachers, Mr. C. F. Hall, being principal. The other teachers are Mrs. Myrtle Barefoot who has the intermediate grades, and Miss Lolly Williams who has charge of the primary department. These teachers are teaching their second term at Rock Hill and are giving the district a good school. About 125 pupils have been enrolled and the average attendance now is over 100.