

BIG LOSS BY FIERCE BLAZE

STEAMER VIRGINIA DESTROYED BY FIRE AND RIVER FRONT SWEEPED FOR CONSIDERABLE DISTANCE—DAMAGE OVER \$100,000.

The most disastrous fire that has occurred here in some time occurred last Sunday morning shortly after midnight.

The fire originated on board the Virginia which was lying in her dock at the Norfolk Southern wharf. From the vessel it spread to the water front, sweeping away the Norfolk Southern sheds, with ten box cars, the offices of the Pasquotank and North River Steamboat Company and the building occupied by the wholesale grocery firm of W. J. Woodley & Co.

J. R. Williams, captain of the steamer, was on board when the fire was discovered, and barely escaped with his life. He was compelled to leap from the upper deck of the vessel into the water—no little distance.

A colored fireman, Herman Bowe, who was asleep in his quarters were burned with the vessel.

It is thought that had a continuous train of cars extended from the Woodley warehouse to the Norfolk Southern freight depot that the big warehouse would have been burned also. As it was, more than once it was feared that the flames would get beyond all control.

The fire company, however, did splendid work, and it is indeed fortunate that no greater damage was done.

The Camden bridge also, in all probability, was saved by a fortunate circumstance and by the presence of mind of Messrs. Roscoe Foreman and Oliver Gilbert. As the vessel was burnt from her moorings she drifted out into the channel down toward the bridge. Her progress was stayed by one of her anchors falling overboard as the forward part of the vessel burned away, but noticing that she was still drifting slowly toward the wooden structure, Mr. Gilbert and Mr. Foreman went out to the vessel in gas boats, made fast to her, towed her out of the channel and beached her. Getting the boat out of the channel doubtless saved local commerce a great deal of inconvenience even if there had not been the chance that the vessel would have reached the bridge.

The total loss of the fire, it is said, will total over one hundred thousand dollars.

EDUCATIONAL ADDRESS AT FOLK.

There was an educational rally at Folk Schoolhouse, near Corinth and about three miles from Elizabeth City, on last Monday night. The address was delivered by Congressman Small and there was quite a good crowd on hand to hear him. A number of patrons signed a petition for a special tax election, and it is the purpose of the progressive people of the community to press the matter until this election is assured.

Mr. Small discussed the necessity of better educational facilities for the children of North Carolina.

Misses Evelyn and Katherine Jones are spending some time at Folk Mar.

BOWDEN-MORSE

MISS EXIE MORSE THE BRIDE OF MR. J. B. BOWDEN OF ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN A VERY PRETTY HOME WEDDING. THE OUT-OF-TOWN GUESTS.

Miss Exie Morse, the charming and attractive daughter of Mrs. W. J. Morse, was married Wednesday, August 7th at high noon, to Mr. John Radford Bowden, Representative for Eastern South Carolina of the Coca Cola Company of Orangeburg, S. C. The marriage took place at the home of the bride, on the corner of Church and Road streets, the ceremony being performed after the ritual of the Episcopal church by the Rev. B. S. Lassiter of Hertford, N. C. The parlors were beautifully decorated with ivy, ferns, lillies and carnations.

The bridal party entered the parlor to the strains of Mendelssohn's wedding march, the bride very fair and petite, making a charming picture in her going away gown of navy blue, her arms filled with bride's roses. She was met by the groom under a floral arch from which hung a bell of lillies.

Mrs. Arthur Sawyer, matron of honor, was gowned in pink crepe meteor with black picture hat. She carried pink asters.

The best man was Mr. Lyle Smith of New Bern, N. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Bowden left immediately after the ceremony on the northbound train for Ocean View and Wrightsville Beach. A large number of merry friends bade them farewell at the train. Their future home will be in Orangeburg.

Among the out-of-town guests attending the marriage were: Margaret S. Bowden, Miss Huldah Bowden, and Mr. Carlisle Bowden of New Bern; Mrs. W. J. Stokes and Miss Lillie Snell of Norfolk; and Mrs. W. C. Morse, Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Meads, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Raper of Weeksville; Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Harris of Otila, N. C., and Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer and Master W. M. Sawyer of Norfolk.

SUDDEN DEATH AT BELCROSS

Special to Advance.) Belcross, N. C. Aug. 5.—Our community was greatly shocked when the news of the sudden death of Mrs. Robert Berry nee Susie Lee Traffon was received. Miss Traffon was married to Mr. Robert Harrison Berry in Edenton, N. C. July 16th, 1912. They left next day for Baltimore, their future home. In a few days she was taken with a severe case of pneumonia which caused her death July 30th at 12:20 at Maryland University Hospital, Baltimore. Wednesday morning July 31st she was brought to her old home here where the funeral services took place at three o'clock, conducted by her pastor Rev. W. W. Sick. Miss Beulah Fulmer and Mrs. Sadie Rutuss of Elizabeth City played and sang sweetly "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere." She was then taken to White Oak Cemetery for interment. Following are those who acted as pallbearers: Robert Stevens, John Pritchard, Harry Ferebee, Will Morrisett, John Ferebee, Howard Etheridge. She left a husband, Robert Berry, a father, Mr. J. W. Traffon, both of Belcross, two brothers Mr. Will and Frank Traffon of Norfolk, Mrs. J. C. Wood of Princess Ann, Va., and Miss Maimie and Annie Traffon of Belcross, N. C.

Hon. John H. Small was in town Monday the guest of Dr. A. L. Pendleton.

FARMERS DISCUSS PRACTICAL TOPICS

AS USUAL IN PASQUOTANK COUNTY, THE CROWD WAS RATHER SMALL; BUT COMPARED FAVORABLY WITH LAST YEAR—TALK OF HOLDING INSTITUTE AT CORINTH NEXT YEAR.

A Farmers' Institute for Pasquotank and Camden counties was held at the Court House here on Monday of this week. The attendance was small only about 50 farmers being present from the entire two counties, an attendance, proximately of less than ten per cent.

Mr. T. D. McLean addressed the Institute in the morning on "Improved Methods of Farming." He discussed, especially, the advantage of using modern farm implements, of the importance of deep plowing in preparing for a crop and the advantage of shallow cultivation. The folly of turning over land and so bringing about the germination of grass seed that would have otherwise been too far from the surface was emphatically noted.

Following Mr. McLean's address, Congressman Small made a short address on good roads, taking as his text, "If you want good roads you can have them; and if you haven't got them it's your own fault." He observed that the bonding of a county to build good roads is an investment and not to be regarded in the light of an expenditure.

Superintendent Hinton then made a plea for hearty support of the public school by their patrons throughout this section. His remarks were received with applause.

Mr. F. F. Cohoon then spoke for a few minutes urging farmers to go to Raleigh on the 28th of August to attend the Farmers' Convention which is to be held at the A. & M. College. The round trip ticket will cost \$4.65 or less; and board will be furnished those attending at cost.

At the afternoon session, Prof. C. H. Goodrich made a very helpful and practical talk on the subject of soil fertility. He showed that the fertility of the soil is dependent upon five factors: Moisture, Plant Food, Ventilation, Warmth, and Germ life. He then discussed the effect of crop rotation upon these factors and cited some interesting cases in which vast improvement had been wrought by a careful system of rotation. Discussing the reasons for the small number of farmers attending these institutes, the suggestion was made that a good crowd would turn out if the meetings were held in the country with dinner served on the grounds. Congressman Small intimated that if this county had an institute next year it will be held at Corinth with the plan suggested carried out.

NOTICE

A meeting of the Stock Holders of the Albemarle Agricultural and Fish Association will be held at the Court House, Elizabeth City, N. C., on Tuesday, August 20th at 11 o'clock and 50 per cent of stock will be called for. Come or send proxy to E. F. Lamb, if not given to some friend who will be certain to attend.

Election of Board of Directors. E. F. LAMB, Sec. Chamber of Commerce. aug 9 2t

Mrs. J. M. Pool who has been quite sick at her home in Church street is out again.

BOARD HELD MEETING

The board of aldermen met in regular session on Monday night, only Mr. Love being absent.

The meeting was a tedious and uninteresting one, being taken up mainly with a fruitless discussion of the water problem. Mr. Robinson and other members of the board expressed the opinion that only by the purchase of water facilities of its own can the city ever settle the vexed problem of pure water. The analysis at present shows that water fit for drinking; but the closets near the intake have not been removed in spite of the fact that he board ordered last month that this nuisance be abated. The board did not press the matter of their removal; apparently having decided to let matters stand as they are until the Water Company's franchise expires.

Dr. Williams stated before the board that he considered this inaction as amounting to trifling in the matter of the city's health.

Fifty dollars was donated by the town for the purpose of sending exhibits to the Ohio State Fair. This is the correct report of the appropriation, and not five hundred dollars as stated in the Virginian-Pilot of Wednesday.

The tax levy for 1912 is \$1.52 instead of \$1.32 as reported in the daily press.

A committee was appointed to purchase a needed supply of fire hose; the street and sidewalk fronting the new theatre were ordered paved; and Pool and Elliott streets were ordered curbed.

The health officer reported the markets and dairies in excellent condition.

BELVIDERE NOTES

Special Correspondence.) Belvidere, N. C. Aug. 7th.—The many friends of Mr. Rufus White will be glad to hear of his improvement.

Misses Tess and Alice Riddick and Mr. Archie Riddick left Tuesday to attend the Benton-Riddick nuptials in Edenton Thursday.

Mr. Joe Winslow of Troyville, spent Saturday and Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Winslow.

The Sunday School picnic at Chapel Hill last Wednesday was largely attended and proved quite a success. The exercises in the morning were good, especially the music rendered by the choir and fine addresses were made in the afternoon by Messrs. William Beryman of Edenton and Scott Boyce of New York.

Misses Alpine and Inez Onley left Friday to spend a few weeks visiting relatives in Norfolk.

Mrs. J. E. Jones of Winton, N. C. is visiting her sister, Mrs. Julia Weston and other relatives.

The whole community is awed at the evidence of the murder of Oliver Layden, and sympathizes deeply with his heart-broken mother and family, who daily long for his return.

Quite a number of young people were charmingly entertained Monday evening by Miss Mary Smith complimentary to her cousin, Miss Rosa Harrell of Franklin, Va. The refreshments consisted of cream and cake. Those present were: Misses Rosa Harrell of Franklin, Va., Talia Lane, Lummie Wright, Gertrude Wooten, Viola and Leora Ward, Belle and Sadie White, Tess Riddick, Myrtle Lamb, Messrs. Curtis and Herbert Lane, Joe Elliott, Carlyle Ward, Hugh White, Ervin, Carson and Carrol Ward, Fred Smith, Freeland Copeland, Archie Riddick and Troy Lamb.

Miss Dixie Murray, who for a few days had been the guest of Mrs. Dennis Simmons returned to her home in Raleigh Monday.

OLIVER LAYDEN'S BODY FOUND IN THE DESERT

Van Reported To Have Confessed

Circumstances Point More and More Strongly to Guilt of B. F. Van Who was Brought Here From Hertford Wednesday Night And Was Sent to Raleigh Yesterday Afternoon

This community was shocked Wednesday by the report that Oliver Layden, who mysteriously disappeared from the Belvidere section about a month ago, had been discovered in the "desert" to the south of the city.

Sheriff Reid hurried to the scene and as the news of the discovery spread, quite a number of Elizabeth City people hastened to the neighborhood of the tragedy.

Reaching the spot to which they had been directed, these found dismembered and almost bare, the bones of the lad who doubtless without a thought of danger went to his untimely death a few weeks ago.

Already earlier searchers on the scene had found the boy's clothing scattered about and in the coat, just about where it covered the heart, two holes showed the path of the bullets that must have struck down the young life before its prime.

The body was found near Pasquotank station and in the edge of that region in this county known as the "desert."

Not far from the thicket in which the body had been hidden was found the wheel of B. F. Vann, the man with whom Oliver Layden was last seen, the man who left Oliver Layden's wheel in Cartwright's shop here, the man for three weeks lodged in the Perquimans county Jail. Wednesday night he was brought here and yesterday afternoon he was hurried to Raleigh by way of Norfolk.

An unconfirmed report reached here this morning that Vann had confessed.

The boy's clothing has been identified by his father and brothers and even the bare bones furnish mute evidence that the gruesome sight which met the searchers' gaze yesterday morning is all that is left of Oliver Layden in this world. The boy had had tooth-ache for some time and always kept cotton in his tooth. And a wad of cotton was picked from the teeth of the skull that was found in the desert thicket.

In addition to the bullet holes in the coat, one of the bullets which in all probability struck down Oliver-Layden was found near where the body was left lying. It is supposed that this bullet was imbedded in the flesh of the victim.

Also in the neighborhood of the tragedy have been found a Sunday school quarterly with Oliver Layden's name on it, and torn bits of a photograph of young Layden himself. One of these bits was large enough to prove that the photograph was undoubtedly a picture of Oliver Layden, showing as it did, the boy's whole face.

Sheriff Reid and Dr. I. Fearling arrived on the scene Wednesday afternoon. An inquest was held and a verdict returned declaring that Oliver Layden had come to his death by foul means and recommending that Vann be

held pending further investigation.

The gruesome remains of the dead boy were brought to Elizabeth City the same afternoon as was also the bicycle found in the woods. This wheel was badly damaged, the rim of the rear wheel being splintered.

Ever since the mysterious disappearance of Oliver Layden from his home on Thursday, July, 11th, searching parties have from time to time scoured the woods between Winfall and Elizabeth City.

So many of these parties had searched for the missing boy without avail, however, that hope of finding him had been almost abandoned.

During the past week, however, men at work on the railroad near Pasquotank station had noticed a suspicious odor; and hearing of this a party from Perquimans county a few days ago came down to that neighborhood and made a thorough search on the North side of the track.

Noting that their search was without avail and that the stench persisted Columbus Harris, W. H. Whitehead, George Cartwright and some others made up a party to search along the South side of the track.

It was this search that resulted in the discovery of Oliver Layden. What was left of the body was found yesterday morning, a mile or two from Pasquotank station, in the edge of the "desert" back of the old "Terry farm." The boy had been left perhaps 25 feet from the railroad right of way, and the broken wheel was found still another twenty five feet from where the body had lain.

Immediately upon finding the body, Cartwright and Harris, who had come upon it almost simultaneously, hastened to the nearest phone and communicated with Sheriff Reid. The Sheriff reached the scene early in the afternoon; shortly after his arrival the dead lad's father and brother arrived, and it was through them that the remains and clothing were identified. The bullet, the broken bicycle and the picture were all found after Sheriff Reid's arrival. Evidence seemed to show that the boy was killed nearer the right of way than the remains were found and that the body was dragged into and hidden in the thicket. Apparently the lining was torn from the boy's coat in a near-by fence.

The people of Hertford and Belvidere have hardly been able to persuade themselves that actual violence was done to Oliver Layden by one who apparently could have had no motive for murder and who had done all in his power to win the youth's confidence; but when the news of this unmistakable evidence of foul play reached those sections, excitement ran to a high pitch, reports reaching here Wednesday afternoon from Hertford were to

(Continued on page five.)