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THE WEATHER
Partly cloudy tonight
and Tuesday, not much
change in temperature,
moderate variable winds.

VOL. XI.

ELIZABETH CITY, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 24, 1921

NO. 20.

Sunday's Fire Loss Figures \$80,000

Damage to Building Estimated At Fifty Thousand In Addition To Loss of Siff Company's Stock

Property in the amount of approximately eighty thousand dollars went up in smoke early Sunday morning when the second and third stories of the Savings Bank & Trust Company's new building on the corner of Main and Poindexter streets were gutted by flames and the stock of the S. R. Siff Company almost utterly consumed.

Discovered between four and five o'clock, the flames gained headway until they burst through the roof, deluging all the area from the building to N. G. Grandy's waterfront with a shower of sparks that fell thick as snowflakes in a snowstorm and threatening the whole area with an outbreak of flame.

This, however, was the beginning of the end. With eight streams of water playing directly on the flames instead of through the windows the fire soon began to subside and had been totally subdued before eleven o'clock.

About five o'clock when the flames burst through the third story windows on Poindexter street it looked as if the Bee Hive building might be threatened, but the wind was blowing in the opposite direction and the threat never became imminent.

This building was regarded as one of the best in the city, and it stood on the principal business corner of the downtown section. It was built in 1911 for a department store and was recently purchased by the Savings Bank & Trust Company for \$45,000 and remodelled for a bank building, the S. R. Siff Company moving up to the second story with an arcade entrance on Poindexter street. Except for this entrance the entire first floor was to be the home of the Savings Bank & Trust Company.

The bank had originally expected to occupy its new quarters by January 1, 1921, but the work was delayed and the date had been moved up to about March 1st. The work of remodeling was practically complete and the installing of the bank's fixtures and equipment had begun. The Savings Bank & Trust Company had purchased modern equipment of the highest order and had purposed to make the bank's home one of the show places in Elizabeth City and as well equipped a bank as could be found in Eastern North Carolina. In addition to the purchase price they had spent upwards of \$45,000 in remodeling and equipping the building which when completed would have cost upwards of \$100,000.

The bank figures its loss at fifty thousand dollars, covered by insurance. The S. R. Siff Company claim to have had a stock worth upwards of thirty thousand dollars which was almost completely destroyed. Their loss is partially covered

by insurance.

Disappointed at the delay in getting into their new quarters, officials of the Savings Bank & Trust Company are promptly adjusting themselves to the situation and arranging to let new contracts for putting the building in order according to the original plans. These will be pressed to completion as rapidly as possible.

The fire was discovered shortly after four o'clock by Officer Seymore, who promptly turned in the alarm. The fire company's record shows that the alarm was turned in at 4:20, and they responded with their usual promptness. The first hose was turned in at the front door a few minutes later. At this juncture a hose burst and the hydrant in front of the Standard Pharmacy was found to be out of order, causing a few moments delay. The delay was not material, however, as the flames, originating somewhere around the elevator shaft, had cut off approach to the second and third stories and with hose directed through the windows from the ground it was impossible to put out the fire until the roof fell in.

Elizabeth City's fire equipment was never used to better advantage. The Virginia pumped water directly from the river at the foot of Main street, the Betsy from Grandy's wharf and the Inez from the foot of Fearing street. Members of the fire company say that if they had had an aerial truck so that they could have fought the flames from an elevation somewhere about the third story windows they could have put out the fire before it burned through the roof. "Such a truck would cost in the neighborhood of ten thousand dollars," they say, "but it would have paid for itself in this one fire." City Manager Commander rejoins that the loss from a fire does not fall on Elizabeth City tax-payers.

Beyond the fact that the flames seem to have originated around the elevator shaft, nothing is known as to the origin of the fire.

Notice to the Members of
Elizabeth City Choral Society

On Tuesday evening, Jan. 25th, will have the orchestra rehearse with the chorus. I am making this a personal appeal to all of the members to be present at this rehearsal. Knowing you will appreciate the necessity of attending the next two rehearsals and feeling assured of your co-operation.
FRANK R. HUFTY, Director.

THIRD FIRE MONDAY

There's a sort of superstition among firemen and others that one big fire invariably means three fires in succession, so Monday morning at about ten o'clock, the fire company was called out to the home of Dr. Cardwell, colored physician, on Shepard street.

This fire followed so closely on the heels of the big Siff fire that "most everybody said "there goes the second fire. Watch out for the third."

And sure enough another alarm was turned in from Pool street before noon.

Both fires were soon extinguished Monday morning, however, and the damage was slight.

Another fireman's superstition is that "When the Chief's away, there's to pay."

Chief Flora up and got married the other day and, of course, while he was on his honeymoon something just had to happen. D. G. Brockett has been on the job in Flora's absence, however, and the company has been doing its work with its accustomed efficiency and vim.

GEO. W. TWIDDY DIED LAST NIGHT

Native of Pasquotank, Splendid Citizen, and Good Business Man—Funeral From Home Tuesday Afternoon

George Washington Twiddy died at 6:15 Sunday evening at his home on the corner of White and Green streets from heart disease.

He was sixty-five years of age and had been in failing health for the last few years. About a month ago he was seized with a severe heart attack early one morning, but recently had improved considerably. Friends and relatives realized, however, that death might come almost any day.

Mr. Twiddy was born in Pasquotank County and had lived in Elizabeth City for 38 years. He married Miss Pauline Jackson, of this County and today would have been the forty-third anniversary of their marriage.

He had been engaged in the grocery business ever since coming here. He was at one time with W. H. Weatherly, but for many years had been sole proprietor of his own retail grocery store, added by two of his sons, and his store has been known for its spotlessness and its high quality of service.

Not only did Mr. Twiddy hold high place in the business world, but he was always interested in community work, was well informed and always ready to serve, seeking no honors for himself.

He was a faithful member of the First Baptist church and a member of its board of deacons, and in his church work the same loyalty and conscientiousness were constantly exemplified.

Mr. Twiddy was a man who made friends and kept friends. He had his own opinions and followed his own conscience but gave others the same privilege. His efficient labors and his kindly spirit will be missed not only by his nearest relatives and his closest personal friends, but by all who knew him at his store, in his church or elsewhere.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Pauline Twiddy; by two daughters, Mrs. W. T. Deans and Miss Bernice Twiddy, both of this city; by five sons, Pat D. Twiddy, George A. Twiddy, William C. Twiddy, Raymond Twiddy and Calvin H. Twiddy, all of this city; by seven grandchildren, all of this city; and by one sister, Miss Nancy Twiddy, also of this city.

The funeral will be conducted from the home Tuesday afternoon at 3:30 by his pastor, Rev. H. K. Williams, with Odd Fellows rites. Interment will be made in Hollywood.

CALIFORNIAN RESIGNS FROM SHIPPING BOARD

Washington, Jan. 24.—Chester Rowell, of California, resigned today as a member of the new shipping board, effective immediately. He leaves the shipping board to become a member of the California railroad commission.

FRIEND OF DE VALERA HAS BEEN ARRESTED

Belfast, Jan. 24.—Rev. J. A. Irwin, Presbyterian minister, who spoke in the United States with Eamon De Valera during the latter's tour, has been arrested.

LABOR WILL KILL BOTH MEASURES

Announces President State Federation—Neither Young Nor Delaney Bill Meet Organized Labor's Approval

NO HOPE AGREEMENT ON GOOD ROADS LAW
Raleigh, Jan. 24. (Special)—With all hope of harmonizing the divergent views of Governor Morrison and the supporters of the Clark good roads bill dissipated, leaders in both branches of the General Assembly today announced their intention of laying the measure before the legislators without further delay, believing that all differences might be settled in debate.

Governor Morrison won out in the preliminaries in insisting that no ad valorem tax be levied by the State to finance the road program, according to Heriot Clark who said that all factions had agreed to eliminate the request for a general property tax.

Raleigh, Jan. 24.—Expecting discussion during the present week in one or both branches of the General Assembly over the two proposed workmen's compensation acts, organized labor today announces its decision to have both of the measures defeated.

This announcement is made here today by W. F. Moody, president of the State Federation of Labor, who says he has studied both the DeLaney bill and the Young bill and has found them wanting in many particulars. Organized labor in North Carolina, says President Moody, will have nothing to do with either measure except to secure their defeat if possible, and the union's head thinks this can be done.

The announcement sent to the State papers last week aligning the unionists back of the DeLaney bill and in opposition to the measure drafted by the commission appointed during the Bickett administration and introduced by Representative Young was before it became known that the State Federation of Labor had deserted the Mecklenburg senator. The laborers did intend to urge support for the DeLaney bill, saying that it was their understanding that it would be vastly different from the commission's draft. Now they take the position that the measures are well nigh one and the same.

Senator DeLaney said today that while there was no radical difference in the proposed bills he believed the bill he had drafted and introduced would be more satisfactory to organized labor than the Young law.

"In drafting my bill," said Senator DeLaney, "I did not attempt to unduly discriminate against the employer nor to show partiality to the employee, but I did try to strike a happy medium between the two so that the bill would have some chance of passing. However, it's up to the laboring men; if they don't want to give and take I fear that North Carolina will not have any kind of workmen's compensation law during the next two years."

Members of the House and Senate express the opinion that unless the State Federation of Labor lends its support to one of the proposed bills both will be defeated since, it is pointed out, the legislation is intended to provide relief for the man who works with his hands and is injured while so doing. The sage prediction is that neither bill will pass muster.

Busy Week Expected
Governor Morrison's intention of going before the Legislature either Wednesday or Thursday to deliver his taxation message which will have an indirect bearing upon road legislation is taken as the cue that the present week's session will be one of the busiest so far.

At loggerheads with the program the North Carolina Good Roads lobbyists are advocating the governor's message is looked for with much interest at the capital. The good roads' lobbyists are insisting that an ad valorem tax be levied to finance the road building program while Governor Morrison holds out that no general property tax be levied. The Governor would raise the money from a bond issue, paying the interest with the automobile licenses and gasoline tax.

Then the question of maintenance seems to be pestering the life of everybody. There are those who think the State should build and maintain the highways; the Govern-

Aerial Mail Service For New Zealand

New York, Jan. 24.—New Zealand will soon inaugurate an airplane mail service modeled after that in use by the United States Postoffice Department, according to J. B. Murphy, of Timarou, New Zealand, who came here to see demonstrations of various aircraft. The company with which he is connected has signed a contract to carrying the aerial mails in New Zealand, added Mr. Murphy.

Sightseeing over Mount Cook in airplane also is contemplated, Mr. Murphy said. Mount Cook is a major objective point for tourists in that country.

BUYS GERMAN GOODS

Berlin, Jan. 6.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press)—Russia has given large orders for manufactured goods to Germany says the Izvestia. Included are 300,000 ploughs, 750,000 electric lamps and 15,000 kilograms of iodine.

DOUBLE LYNCHING AT WARRENTON

As Result of Race Riot At Nolina Sunday In Which Several Were Wounded and a Number Imprisoned

Warrenton, Jan. 24.—Warrenton was the scene last night of the lynching of two negroes.

The town was quiet today. A company of home guards was ordered out by Governor Morrison last night when it was realized that trouble was brewing but this was too late to prevent the double lynching. The home guards are still on duty and further trouble is not anticipated.

The lynching was the culmination of several days ill feeling between whites and negroes of Nolina, four miles from here, which reached the climax Sunday in a pitched battle there in which five whites and three negroes were wounded.

Thirteen negroes were arrested and brought to jail here. The mob last night quickly overpowered the jailer, took Alfred and Plummer Bullock, two of the prisoners, a mile outside of the town and riddled them with bullets.

The spirit of unrest among the negroes here today resulted in the arrest of five. The police said they found many firearms in their possession.

CHORY-BECKNALL

At the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Becknall, on Beech street, Sunday morning at 9:30 the marriage of Miss Bannab Mae Becknall and Mr. F. Evers' Chory was solemnized in the presence of a few relatives and friends, Rev. J. M. Ormond officiating. Immediately after the ceremony the bride and groom left on the morning train on a northern trip. After the first of February they will make their home in Elizabeth City.

The bride is a very attractive young woman with many friends in the community. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Chory, on Glade street, and is now linotype operator for The Independent.

IMPROVING AT HOSPITAL

Willie J. Saunders, 18-year-old son of W. J. Saunders, of Weeksville, is improving at Sarah Leigh Hospital in Norfolk after an operation for appendicitis. He was taken to the hospital last Tuesday.

nor's plan is for State and Federal construction with county maintenance under rigid State inspection.

The Morrisonian plan is for 3,000 miles of hard surfaced roads, to be constructed from county seat to county seat with money furnished by the State's bonds as is big amount as is necessary. The good roads association differs with the Governor again on dirt roads. Governor Morrison is eternally opposed to spending a dollar of the State's money on a sand-clay or "mud" roads. He wants them all hard-surfaced. The good roads association's bill provides for State maintenance of several thousand miles of dirt roads.

As told in this correspondence for the first time the Governor is being opposed in his road building program by the good roads organization. Unless all factions unite on some plan it is feared that the State will not get the kind of road construction everybody wants. As one member of the Legislature expresses it, "There are too many pet ideas in the heads of the good roads folks. They all want the same thing, but are not willing to surrender their personal views."

SCORE KILLED IN MEMPHIS FIRE

Spark From Workman's Chisel Sets Fire to Oil Tank Car—Explosion Wrecks Houses and Many People Injured

Memphis, Tenn., Jan. 24.—Possibly a score of persons were killed and fifty or more were injured as the result of the explosion of a tank car of gasoline here today, which set fire to a row of small dwellings occupied mostly by negroes, a number of whom are missing and believed to have been burned to death.

Early police estimates place the number of dead as high as 25, while hospital reports indicate that at least fifty were given treatment for broken limbs and other injuries.

The cause of the explosion has not been determined but fire department officials believe it was due to a flying spark from the chisel of a workman caulking a car.

The scene of the explosion was at Main street and Mill avenue, in the center of a densely populated part of the city and a short distance from the gas plant which was endangered by the fire which spread rapidly.

Twenty frame houses were literally splintered by the explosion and set on fire, while windows within a radius of 15 blocks were broken. Two or three negro workmen caulking a car were killed while a third escaped without injury.

Every ambulance in the city was rushed to the scene and volunteer rescue parties formed to aid the police in removing the dead and injured.

The fire was brought under control before it had spread beyond the dwellings in the immediate vicinity of the blast.

Ten bodies mutilated beyond recognition were removed a few minutes after the explosion. While the latest police estimates place the dead at twenty-five, it is believed that the number will be larger when check is made. The first bodies found were four negro women and one negro baby. Other bodies were scattered over the block. Many of the fifty injured were seriously hurt. One of the injured was a negro boy unidentified who, after being blown into the air fell into a nearby creek with both legs broken.

Early estimates of property damage indicated it would not exceed one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

CONFERENCE IS MOST IMPORTANT

Representatives of Nations Now Divided In Opinions—Meet At Paris Today To Settle Vital Questions

Paris, Jan. 24.—Representatives of Great Britain, France, Italy, Belgium and Japan met here today for a conference which seemed second in importance only to that preceding the signing of the Versailles Treaty.

The conference is expected to settle the reparations, the disarmament of Germany, enforcement or alteration of the treaty with Turkey, relief of Austria, and the policies to be pursued in dealing with Russia.

All are questions on which the different participating nations are more or less divided and the settlement of which is viewed with much concern.

MANUFACTURER SAYS PROHIBITION TO STAY

Liverpool, Jan. 7.—Lord Liverhulme, one of Great Britain's largest manufacturers, told the Daily Post representative on his return from a recent visit to the United States that "prohibition has come to stay—of that you may be certain."

"The people are settling down under it," he continued "and I believe that if put to the popular vote, 75 per cent of the electorate would support its continuance. There is not the slightest chance that the law against alcoholic drinks will ever be repealed."

W. J. Saunders, of Weeksville, was in the city Monday on business.