

THE WEATHER
 Unsettled and warmer
 tonight and Thursday.
 Probably rain. Moderate
 N.E. and E. winds.

The Daily Advance

CIRCULATION
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Smoking Ruins Mark Site Of the Ideal Hosiery Mill

Fire Early Tuesday Morning Caused Nearly \$100,000 Damage. Store of Joseph Ellis Considerably Damaged, and Ellis Himself Had Very Narrow Escape

Smoking ruins mark the site of the Ideal Hosiery Company's mill on Poindexter street, just north of the Poindexter street bridge, and the roof and part of the south wall of the store of Joseph Ellis, next door to the mill, has fallen in, while the stock of the store is damaged by heat and water.

This is the result of a fire discovered Tuesday morning at half past 1 o'clock, at which time the mill's interior was in a light blaze and the windows were cracking from the heat. The origin of the fire is unknown.

The loss is estimated at between \$75,000 and \$100,000, the larger part of which, by far, was sustained by the Ideal Hosiery Company, which had a very large stock of hosiery on hand. The building occupied by Joseph Ellis is owned by W. E. Durston, who estimates the damage to the building at about \$1,000. Probably the damage to Joseph Ellis' stock would hardly exceed that sum. The remainder of the loss falls upon the hosiery company's buildings, equipment and stock. The loss is partially covered by insurance.

The fire was discovered by Miss Ruth Johnson, 313 Pearl street, who was awakened by the cracking glass looking from her window. Miss Johnson saw the fire and promptly telephoned the fire department. A moment later, J. W. Seltz, eighth street, saw the reflection of the blaze from Road street as he was returning home after the Ellis' rehearsal, and driving back down town turned in the alarm from box 51.

The flames had made such headway when the fire department reached the scene, hardly a moment after the alarm was turned in, that the checking of the flames before they had spread to the entire block, required heroic work. A hose was attached to the hydrant in front of the Standard Manufacturing Company, just across the bridge from the Ideal mill, and from this the first stream was directed upon the flames. The second stream was from the hydrant at Pearl and Poindexter, the third from that at Matthews and Poindexter, while three more streams were obtained from pumper number three which was stationed on Poindexter street bridge and drew its water directly from the creek. Another stream was obtained from pumper number one, which was stationed on Water street before, while the last came from the hydrant at the corner of Matthews and Martin street.

Eight streams in all played upon the flames, five of which were from the front of the building, when the fire department had all of its equipment at work.

In addition to fighting fire, the department had its attention to give to the matter of seeing that nobody was burned to death in the building, as Joseph Ellis and the whole Ellis family have rooms in the same building in which he keeps store. It was believed that the Ellis were asleep and trapped on the second story of the building, and after many failures, on account of the smoke, Chief Flora succeeded in getting a ladder to the second story window and getting into the building. Then it was discovered that the Ellis family's sleeping quarters were at the back of the store on the first floor, and Mike Metroy, a neighbor, had gone to the rear entrance and got the family on the outside, some of them scantily clad. Joseph Ellis himself, however, half dazed by smoke and half crazed with excitement, had gone back into the building and had to be almost forcibly brought out by Chief Flora.

As the walls of the hosiery mill fell in, the heat became so intense that pumper number three had to be moved back from its position on Poindexter street bridge, and when the heat having abated, she was moved back a connection was broken, cutting her for the time being out of commission. This connection can be repaired within a short time, however, and number three will doubtless be ready for business as usual before the day is done.

It was a cold night and with the lights off, a dark one. Early Wednesday morning ice covered both the Poindexter street and the Water street bridges, as probably more than one pedestrian discovered to his chagrin. Through the dark and cold the members of the fire department foiled valiantly all night, some of them after hardly an hour's sleep, and Wednesday when the fire was out many of them had to report for duty at their regular jobs. But members of the Elizabeth City fire department take all this as in the line of duty and one never hears anything like a murmur of complaint from one of them.

An electric light pole carrying the power wires of the Elizabeth City Electric Light Company was near to

URGES FARMERS DIVERSIFY CROPS

Federal Farm Loan Board Also Strong for Co-operative Marketing in Conference Today.

Washington, Dec. 19.—The Federal Farm Loan Board today urged the farmers of the country to turn to the diversification of crops and the development of co-operative marketing as the only sound basis of agricultural prosperity.

The board bases its observations upon data supplied by twelve Federal Land Bank presidents who have just concluded a conference.

Agricultural conditions as a whole continue to improve, the board's statement says, in Virginia and West Virginia.

General conditions are favorable, prices of products have advanced, and farmers are meeting their obligations promptly.

In North Carolina conditions are better than in three years. Production of cotton, corn and soy beans is good and the market favorable.

EXPRESS CHARGES HELD UNREASONABLE

Washington, Dec. 19.—The Express Company proposals to increase 15 per cent the charges paid by Florida fruit and vegetable growers for refrigerating produce en route North, were today held unreasonable by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

NAMED COMMANDANT OF COAST GUARD

Washington, Dec. 19.—Frederick C. Bhard of Maryland, serving in the rank of commander at sea, was today nominated by Coolidge to be commandant of the Coast Guard with the rank of rear admiral. He succeeds Admiral William E. Reynolds who retires on account of age next month.

ECCLESIASTICAL WAR CONTINUES

New York, December 19.—Modernists and Fundamentalists were continuing their ecclesiastical war.

In all five denominations, Protestant Episcopal, Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, and Unitarian, have been drawn into the doctrinal battle which centers chiefly about the virgin birth of Christ and his physical resurrection.

GREEK NATION IS TODAY WITHOUT KING

London, December 19.—King George and Queen Elizabeth of Greece left Piraeus last night aboard a steamer, says an agency dispatch.

London, Dec. 19.—The Greek nation today will be without a king and under the regency of Admiral Constantinos who filled a similar position in 1920 as a result of the victory of the liberals and republicans at recent elections.

The flames and burned so nearby through that the wires were a nuisance to the firemen and power had to be shut off, putting the whole city in darkness, and putting every industrial plant in the city depending on electricity for motive power in such plight that not until 11 o'clock, when the gas had been replaced, and power was turned on again, could one of them start a wheel.

The Advance was most hard hit of all, for after the power came on it was an hour before the metal in the electric crucibles was melted down and the typesetting machines could begin work. This haste of the Advance shows the effect of the fire, but every worker did his level best, and the power did some of its make up for the lost time and the issue of even such an issue as this within the short time at the disposal of The Advance is really a considerable achievement.

Officers of the Ideal Hosiery Company are: M. G. Morrisette, president; W. C. Gaither, vice-president and George Wright, secretary-treasurer and manager.

Acts



(Photo Copyright, Harris & Ewing) Mrs. Elizabeth Gordon Hanna, member of the Dramatic Club of Washington, D. C., an organization of young society people. Photo taken for in costume of one of the parts she portrayed.

Popular



Introducing His Highness Raj Indeshwar Shri Sawai Maharaj Jey Singhji, Veerendra Shrivastavi Oct. Photographed at conference in London recently where he represented 1,000,000 people of the Guezhaha Nakhra clan of India. India is a country he is to charge as ambassador. He is a friend of the United States. He is a count to call him by his full name.

Will Investigate Routing Express

Superintendent Eggleston Has Attention Called To Matter By Secretary Job

Superintendent Eggleston of the family division of the American Railway Express has written Secretary Job of the Chamber of Commerce a letter promising full investigation of the routing of express packages from New York to Elizabeth City by way of Raleigh, which route Mr. Job contends is more rapid than the present one.

Mr. Eggleston promised to advise Mr. Job as to the result of his investigation shortly, and Mr. Job is hopeful that a better routing for these shipments may be obtained.

NOTORIOUS BANDIT IS REPORTED DEAD

London, December 19.—Another report of the death of Mulai Ahmed Raisuli, notorious bandit chief of Morocco, reached London today from the London Mail's Tangiers correspondent. The report said there was a suspicion that Raisuli was poisoned.

GENERAL TREND OF PRICES DOWN

Retail Food Prices Advanced One Per Cent in November, However, and General Increase During Year.

Washington, Dec. 19.—Although the general trend of wholesale prices was downward in November, retail food prices advanced one per cent over October levels, Department of Labor statistics announced today.

All of the 51 cities reporting showed an increase in retail food prices for the 12 months.

Farm products, cloth, and clothing, showed the greatest increase, while house furnishings, fuel, and lighting showed the greatest decline.

Campaign For McAdoo Instructed Delegates

Chicago, Dec. 19.—A campaign for instructed delegates to back McAdoo's candidacy at the Democratic convention will be carried in all the states where his friends feel that it is advisable, David Ladd Rockwell, chairman of the McAdoo campaign committee, announced today. He said he would seek an instructed delegation from Illinois.

POLICY UNCHANGED REGARDING MEXICO

Washington, Dec. 19.—The revolutionary government in Mexico has not operated to change the policy of the American Government toward Mexico, according to an announcement made yesterday at the White House.

SOVIET PROPOSAL PROMPTLY REJECTED

Washington, December 19.—Russian Soviet efforts to open negotiations with the United States with a view to recognition were rejected by the Washington Government yesterday.

COOLIDGE AND FORD FORMALLY ACCEPTED

Lansing, Mich., Dec. 19.—Nominating petitions entering Coolidge and Ford as candidates in the Presidential primary next April were today accepted by the Department of State.

CAPE FEAR RIVER GETS ALLOTMENT

Washington, Dec. 19.—The allotment of \$120,000 for Cape Fear river, North Carolina, out of the current river and harbor appropriations was announced today by Major General Regeh, chief of Army engineers.

Cleveland gas is so low it needs a political convention now more than it will next spring.

French Debt Continues Be Uppermost In Many Minds

And It's Not Strange That a Congress Whose Main Idea Is Tax Revision Thinks Longingly of How Interest on French Debt Would Help to That End

By DAVID LAWRENCE
 (Copyright, 1923, By The Advance)

Washington, Dec. 18.—Although the French foreign office told American newspaper men several days ago that a proposal to pay the United States the war debt of approximately three and a half billion dollars by payments extending over 110 years at two per cent interest was being considered, no such offer has been made to the United States Government.

ARMISTICE IS BEING SOUGHT

Reports Come From Mexico That Huerta and Martinez Are Seeking to End Hostilities.

Vera Cruz, December 19.—A newspaper correspondent at Rinconada near San Marcos reports that an armistice is being arranged between rebel and federal forces and that Huerta has communicated with General Martinez, federal, relative to cessation of hostilities.

Revolutionary headquarters communiques say that real casualties are placed at 20.

Reels Suffer Heavily
 Mexico City, December 19.—Dispatches from Villa Hermosa, capital of Toluca, say that rebels under General Carlos Green, Fernando Segovia, and Marcelino Lucero, which have been attacking Villa Hermosa for two days, suffered heavily today in the bloodiest fighting of the present revolution.

General Vicente Gonzalez commands the federalists there.

Taken Over By Rebels
 New Orleans, December 19.—Merida, capital of Yucatan, 100,000 population, was taken over by the rebels today when the garrison declared for Huerta, the Mexican consul general here announced.

Norfolk Road Bids Be Let Next Week

Road Is To Be Of Concrete Construction And Eighteen Feet Wide

Bids will be let for the road from Norfolk via Great Bridge to the Virginia line at Northwest on Friday, December 28.

The road is to be of concrete construction and 18 feet wide, according to reports here.

George E. McNitt, formerly with the State Highway Commission but now with a private contracting firm, passed through the city Wednesday enroute to Norfolk to bid on the project for its firm.

Mr. McNitt was the engineer under whose direction the floating concrete road was laid from the State River bridge across the marsh of Machell's Island and the swamp of the Pasquotank on the Camden side, beginning in the late summer of 1921 and ending in the early summer of 1922.

FORD REFUSES RUN AGAINST COOLIDGE

Detroit, Dec. 19.—Henry Ford today declared that "like the great majority of the American people" he feels like the "country is safe with Coolidge" and that he will never consider running against Coolidge on any ticket.

Decide Defer Action on the Soldier Bonus

Washington, Dec. 19.—The House war and marine committee decided today to defer action on the soldier bonus until after it has considered the administrative features of the Mellon tax program.

Flooring Association Is Ordered Dissolved

Grand Rapids, Mich., Dec. 19.—The dissolution of the Maple Flooring Manufacturers' Association was ordered today by Judge C. W. Sessions in the United States District Court. The order was entered on motion of the Government, which charged the association with being an unlawful combination in restraint of trade.

SENATE UNABLE TO CHOOSE CHAIRMAN

Washington, December 19.—After taking nine ballots, the Senate yesterday remained unable to break its deadlock over the election of a chairman of the inter-state commerce committee.

WITNESSES TESTIFY FOX LED FAST LIFE

Atlanta, Dec. 19.—The state yesterday entered upon its rebuttal of testimony offered by the defense to show that Philip E. Fox, editor of the Night Hawk, Ku Klux Klan publication, was known at the time he killed William S. Colburn, attorney for one faction of the Klan.

Several witnesses put on by the state testified that Fox had led a fast life and that in their opinion it was not insane.

COTTON MARKET

New York, December 19.—Cotton opened this morning at the following prices: December 34.90; January 34.17; March 34.69; May 34.90; July 34.10; October 28.40.

New York, December 19.—Spot cotton closed steady this afternoon, advancing 20 points. Middling 35.70. Futures closed as follows: December 35.27; January 34.35; March 34.80; May 34.90; July 34.20; October 28.47.

Officials think a Los Angeles woman with seven husbands all her own, is crazy. So do we.