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WILL MAKE DASH FOR NORTH POLE

BOARD OF OFFICERS ARE APPOINTED TO MAKE DETAILED PLAN.

BARTLETT MADE PROPOSAL

Explorer Accompanying Admiral Perry to Pole Again Wishes to Make Trip.

Washington.—A dash by air for the north pole will be launched by the navy department during the coming summer. Secretary Denby announced that President Coolidge had given his specific approval to the project as "of great practical value."

The route, date, and method of procedure for the trip, however, are still to be decided, a special board of naval officers headed by Rear Admiral William A. Moffitt, chief of naval aeronautics, having been appointed by Secretary Denby to prepare a detailed plan.

The project grew out of the desire of Robert A. Bartlett, the explorer, who sailed with Rear Admiral Robert E. Perry in the steamer Roosevelt on the expedition of 1908-1909 which saw the stars and stripes raised over the north pole, again to make that journey. Mr. Bartlett proposed to Secretary Denby some months ago that the Roosevelt, now in commercial service, be repurchased and equipped for polar work.

Discussion of the possibilities of a new polar expedition was immediately begun in the navy department. It was pointed out by naval air craft experts, however, that if a new "drifting" expedition were organized by the navy, other, perhaps, under another flag, might attempt and complete a journey to the pole by air before the Roosevelt party could make half the distance. The decision to employ naval aircraft followed.

Mr. Bartlett, who is a lieutenant-commander in the naval reserve force, for the purpose of the polar expedition has already been called to active service in that rank and appointed to the special planning board of which he also will consider, other members of the board are Commander William R. Furlong, Lieutenant-Commander Ezra G. Long, and Lieutenant-Commander Fitzhugh Green and Gilbert Grosvenor, president of the National Geographic society.

Find White House is Unsafe.

Washington.—The White House has been declared unsafe. Conditions there are such as to require that immediate remedial measures be taken to prevent a possible calamity.

These disclosures were made by Major General Lansing H. Beach, chief of engineers of the Army, in his annual report to the Secretary of War. Congress is asked for \$400,000 for the work of reconstructing the interior portion of the famous building, to make it secure.

"A preliminary study of the situation in the interior upper portion of the Executive Mansion has indicated a condition which renders the building unsafe, both from the standpoint of security in the structural features and the fire hazard present," said Major General Beach.

"The conditions are such as to require that immediate remedial measures be taken to prevent a possible calamity. These conditions have been called to the attention of the President, with his authority for the inclusion of the item submitted here, with (\$400,000) has been requested. While such approval has not yet been secured, the item is tentatively included herein.

New York Crime Wave Growing.

New York.—New York crime wave, which has ebbed and flowed for a month, assumed more menacing proportions soon after the police announcement that criminal activities had subsided to such an extent that there was no longer need of extraordinary precautions.

The activities included four safe robberies, an attempted lynching, a daylight holdup and a street shooting. Also three gangsters were arrested charged with the theft of \$16,000 worth of whiskey.

Reed Company's Plant is Destroyed.

High Point.—Fire here destroyed the plant of the North Carolina Reed company, manufacturers of loom reeds. The loss was estimated at \$50,000, partially covered by insurance.

The Reed company occupied the second floor of a two-story building in the down-town business district.

TWO KILLED WHEN TRUCK ROLLS DOWN EMBANKMENT.

Spencer.—John H. Barnhardt, aged 55, and Charles R. Otterburg, aged 32, both salesmen for the Orange Crush Company, of Spencer, are dead as a result of one of the worst motor accidents in this section, which occurred when a large truck owned by the company and driven by Mr. Barnhardt went down a six-foot embankment on the state highway at the northern limits of Spencer, while returning from a trip to several country villages near town. Eye witnesses state that the truck was making fast time and the driver apparently lost control as he rounded a curve. The truck rolled over twice and mangled both men almost beyond identification.

600 ARE DEAD AS RESULT OF FLOOD

THREE VILLAGES ARE DESTROYED IN ITALIAN LAKE DISASTER.

NOW A BOGGY GRAVEYARD

Irresistible Force of Water Sweeps Hills and Valleys For Fifteen Miles.

Bergamo, Italy.—Six hundred dead, three villages destroyed, and 50 square miles made desolate. This was the toll of the flood from Gleno lake, when the dike guarding it collapsed, releasing the irresistible force of the water, which bursting forth in mad fury, carried all before it. It swept over the hills and down into the valleys for a distance of 15 miles to Lake Isco, which checked the momentum of the vast stream, arresting its course.

Bergamo valley is nothing but a barren waste of mud and water—a veritable lake in which it is dangerous to venture, for in some places it is over a man's head. In this soggy mass, the bodies of the victims lie tangled among fallen trees, telegraph poles, buildings and bridges. Here and there portions of broken walls project as mute evidence of the tremendous might with which the waters engulfed the region. The homeless are counted in the thousands, most of whom are mourning for lost relatives or searching for their bodies.

Relief parties from Milan and Brescia are on the scene, while all available troops have been mustered to aid the shelterless. The bishop of Bergamo received a telegraphic donation from the Pope for the purpose of undertaking immediately extensive relief.

There is great fear among the survivors of other dams breaking, especially as is the Feast of St. Bibbiana, on which, according to popular superstitions it is said to rain for forty days and forty nights.

The village almost completely destroyed were Dezzo, Corna and Bueggo. Of the 500 inhabitants of Dezzo only three survived.

The disaster threatens to be one of the greatest of its kind because of the vast amount of water let loose on the countryside. It destroyed hundreds of homes, where families perished without even realizing the tragedy which overwhelmed them.

Ranks High As Revenue Maker.

Washington.—An abstract of the annual report of David H. Blair, commissioner of internal revenue, was made public, and it shows that the total internal revenue receipts for North Carolina for the year ending June 30, 1923, were \$140,347.18. Other states exceeding her are New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Michigan and Ohio. She exceeds Massachusetts by about a million dollars.

Tobacco manufactures gives North Carolina her high position. She pays more than twice as much as any other state on that manufactured product, her total being \$118,370,326.84.

The income and profits tax totaled \$18,184,734.76 and miscellaneous taxes, \$122,163,631.42.

Automobile Death Toll For Country.

Washington.—Deaths from automobiles accidents numbered 11,666 last year in the census registration area of the United States which contains 85 per cent of the total population, an increase of 1,498 fatalities over the previous year.

The total number of killed, as shown in census bureau figures, represents a death rate of 12.5 per population, an increase of 1, for every 100,000 compared with 1921 when the rate was 11.5, and 1917 when the rate was 9.0 per cent 100,000.

California had the highest rate of the 37 states in the registration area, its total representing 26.0 per 100,000 population. New York had the second highest rate with 16.7, New Jersey third with 16.4, and Colorado with 16.3. Mississippi had the lowest rate with 3.4 per 100,000.

The largest increase was shown in Vermont, with 11.1 per 100,000 or 4.6 above 1921. Decreases occurred in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Montana, Virginia and Washington, with Washington showing the largest reduction from 14.5 to 12.3, or 2.2 per 100,000.

Los Angeles had the highest rate in the 67 cities reporting showing 29.5 per 100,000. Camden, N. J. was second with 27.9, Memphis third with 25.0 and Atlanta fourth with 24.7. Sixteen of the 67 cities had rates of 20 or more per 100,000. Memphis had the largest increase of the cities with 9.9 over 1921.

THIRTEEN DRY AGENTS KILLED IN LINE OF DUTY.

Washington.—In the 15 months ending with the month of September, 13 prohibition enforcement agents were killed and 58 injured in the line of duty, Prohibition Commissioner Haynes said in a summary of the bureau activities.

Property destroyed, in the way of illicit stills, liquors and compounds was worth \$4,121,000. There also was seized, but not destroyed, property valued at \$9,059,000, some of which is awaiting court action while the balance is represented by automobiles, motor boats, and various other materials.

WHOLESALE TRADE LARGER

THE FIRST INCREASE TO BE RECORDED IN SEVERAL MONTHS.

Federal Reserve Report Indicates a Three Per Cent Growth in Production.

Washington.—An increase of three per cent in production of basic commodities—the first increase to be recorded in four months—featured business conditions during October and the first half of November, according to a review issued by the federal reserve board. While principally due to resumption of anthracite mining, the increase was declared also to reflect augmented activity in textile, lumber, sugar and most of the other industries included in the board's index list.

Volume of freight shipments and wholesale trade continued above normal, the review showed, while wholesale prices and employment were substantially unchanged.

Contracts awarded for new buildings increased 25 per cent over September, and throughout the country were "considerably more than is usual at this season," the residential projects forming a larger proportion than in any previous month of the current year.

"Heavy movement of miscellaneous merchandise and livestock," the board said, "resulted in October in the largest railroad shipments of any month on record. Wholesale trade was 12 per cent larger than a year ago and sales in all leading lines except shoes showed increases. Department store sales were 13 per cent larger than last October and sales of mail-order houses were the largest of any month since 1919.

"Wholesale prices declined less than one per cent in October, according to the index of the bureau of labor statistics and stood approximately at the level of a year ago. The principal changes of the month were declines in the prices of fuel, clothing, metals and animal products, while wholesale prices of crop, particularly cotton, increased. During the first half of November the prices of wheat, hogs, pig-irons and hides receded, and prices of cotton and cotton goods, cement and copper advanced.

"Since the middle of October there has been a slight decline in demand for credit for commercial and agricultural purposes at member banks in leading cities. Considerable decreases in borrowings for these purposes in the New York and Chicago districts were partially offset by increases in other districts. Loans secured by stocks and bonds increased somewhat, while investments continued to decline and reached the low point for the year.

Sheriff Holds Three Brothers.

Bushnell, Fla.—Three men, believed by the sheriff to be the d'Autremont brothers, Roy, Ray and Hugh, wanted in connection with the holdup and robbery of Southern Pacific passenger train number 13, in the Siskiyou Mountains on the California-Oregon state line October 11, last, are being held in the county jail here, it became known.

Although the sheriff would not go into details of their capture he admitted that the three suspects were taken into custody near here late last week and that Western authorities had been requested to furnish photographs and more detailed descriptions of the persons wanted.

Hold Macon Youth on Extortion.

Philadelphia.—A youth, who gave his name as Arthur R. Hampton and his address as Macon, Ga., is under arrest here charged with attempted extortion under threat of death. Mrs. J. Howard Fell, of this city, received a letter threatening her life and that of her three-year-old daughter unless she paid over \$2,000 to a man who would call at her home with a note sent by the writer of the letter. Postal inspectors set a trap and arrested Hampton when he called at the house with the note.

BANNER YEAR IN NORTH CAROLINA

FEDERAL RESERVE REPORTS MORE CROP MONEY THAN EVER BEFORE.

BUILDING BREAKS RECORD

Asserts Second Largest Cotton Crop Producing State; Cotton Up \$25 a Bale During Month.

Richmond, Va.—Business in the Fifth Federal reserve district during October was fully up to seasonal average and in some lines much of the September dullness disappeared, according to the monthly review of the Federal Reserve bank of Richmond issued here. According to the review the outstanding development during the month was the increase in the price of cotton which advanced approximately \$25 a bale between the middle of October and the middle of November. This price was six cents above the price of the product as of November 15, 1922, according to the figures of the report. The increase in the size of the crop is set at 31 per cent, amounting to 420,000 bales.

As a result of this improvement in the condition of the cotton producers throughout the district the general conditions have improved and the increased prosperity is noted in the increased volume of bank deposits.

Business failures in the district during October while showing an increasing over September were fewer in proportion than in the nation as a whole. Labor, according to the report, continues fully employed at high wages and enough labor is available for all purposes except dairying and a few minor industries of the section.

Building permits, the report indicates, broke all previous records in the 25 leading cities.

North Carolina, according to the report, has had a banner year and conditions which developed during October, when crop reports were issued, developed that more money will pour into the producers' pockets by reason of the crops, than ever before. North Carolina, auction warehouses sold 68,617,235 pounds of tobacco for producers during October at an average price of 21.52 cents a pound. While the average price last season was approximately eight cents higher, the sales were less by more than six million pounds. The yield per acre of tobacco this season in North Carolina is approximately 110 pounds greater than last year though the quality is not as good. Wilson, N. C., led all the tobacco markets of the state with sales of 14,478,250 pounds but the highest average price was obtained at Farmville, that being \$25.07 per hundred pounds. In the three states where the Co-operative Tobacco Marketing association operates, Virginia, North and South Carolina, the total deliveries of tobacco up through November 10 was 72,352,178 pounds of which more than 40,000,000 was delivered in North Carolina.

North Carolina, says the report quoting the department of agriculture, has become the second largest cotton producing state of the union with an estimated yield of 1,010,000 bales this season against 852,000 last season, which was a record crop to that time.

Discusses Action On Expose of Bureau. Washington.—Possible action by the Department of Justice on charges of irregularity developed during the Senate Veterans' Bureau investigation was discussed with President Coolidge by Senator Reed of Pennsylvania, and Oddie, of Nevada, Republican members of the investigating committee and Frank T. Hines, director of the Bureau. Senator Reed is understood already to have taken the subject up with Attorney General Daugherty.

A suggestion made to the committee that Chambers of Commerce over the country be requested by the President to keep in touch with rehabilitated veterans and see that they have continuous employment also was laid before the Executive.

Wants Bureau To Enforce Dry Law.

Washington.—A proposal that a separate bureau be created in the treasury department to take care of prohibition enforcement was taken up with President Coolidge by Representative Cramton, Republican, Michigan, who plans to introduce a bill for that purpose at the coming session of congress.

Mr. Cramton told the president that the internal revenue bureau, which now has general jurisdiction over the prohibition enforcement unit, was too much occupied with other duties to properly administer the dry laws.

WILL BUILD BIG BLEACHERY

Delaware Concern Buys Big Tract of Land at Old Fort For New Plant.

Asheville.—Purchase of nearly 600 acres of land by representatives of the John Bancroft and Sons Company, of Wilmington, Del., from property owners at Old Fort has been completed according to G. W. Sandlin, who said upwards of \$78,000 was paid for the land.

Mr. Sandlin said he had seen plans of the Bancroft Company and they call for construction of a huge bleachery plant covering 42 acres and involving the outlay of several million dollars. Sidewalks will be laid immediately into the property and gangs will be placed at work clearing the land, after which actual construction upon the factory buildings and 500 residences will be started, he said. The contemplated plant is to employ 2,000 persons, with a pay roll of \$45,000 weekly, he said.

The bleachery will be of sufficient size to take care of the output of about 50 Southern cotton mills. Dispatches from Wilmington verified the fact that the Bancroft Company is buying the land and contemplates the improvement, but did not indicate the extent of the project contemplated.

Want Permit to Bridge Cape Fear.

Wilmington.—Within the next two weeks a hearing will be held before the Corps of Engineers at this point, seeking permission for the erection of a suspension bridge to span the Cape Fear River at Dock street, this city, linking Wilmington with the Charlotte-Asheville highway. The proposed bridge will be 125 feet above water level. It will be one of the highest in the country, being exceeded in height only by the Brooklyn Bridge, which is 135 feet above water level. It is proposed to finance the bridge through bond issues. Sentiment among all of the commercial organizations and service clubs in Wilmington is unanimously in favor of same so as to connect Wilmington with the outside world.

Tobacco Receipts Heavy at Kinston.

Kinston.—Five to ten million pounds of tobacco remain to be marketed here during the next few weeks. December sales will break all records for that month on this market. Most conservative estimates place the unmarketed part of the 1923 crop in this territory at 5,000,000 pounds, while many other guesses are for several million pounds above that figure. Breaks exceeding 600,000 pounds at Thanksgiving time are unusual on this market, but the total for the first two days of this week exceeded 1,250,000 pounds.

Writes History of Association.

Henderson.—Baptists here and in other parts of the district are very much interested in and are proud of the history of the Tar River Baptist Association, which has just been published in book form by Rev. T. J. Taylor, pastor of the Baptist church at Warrenton, and one of the oldest Baptist preachers in the whole state. Tribute is paid to Rev. E. R. Nelson, of this city, together with a number of other leading ministers and laymen of the association, who in past years have served as president, and pictures of them are included. Professor J. T. Alderman, of this city, is also a past president of the association.

Select Wilson For Repair Shops.

Wilson.—The selection of Wilson by the Standard Oil Company as the place for the location of its motor repair shops in this district has been followed by the purchase of a suitable building which is being well equipped with a modern machine shop and repair works. This plant will be in continuous operation working with two shifts. In addition to helpers, fourteen expert mechanics will be employed. The Wilson shop will take care of the upkeep and repair of all Standard Oil Company motor vehicles.

Western District Court Postponed.

Greensboro.—Federal district court here, an annual fall criminal term, has been postponed from Monday, December 3, to January 28. Over 100 defendants were scheduled to be tried, Judge James E. Boyd to preside. The reason for the postponement is that Judge Boyd has been taking medical treatment and the strain of such a big docket might have had an ill effect upon him.

A big number of liquor cases are on file for the court when it starts on January 28.

One in Hospital, One in Jail.

New Bern.—Clifton Brite, 17-year-old Vanceboro youth, is in Craven jail on three counts and H. B. Willis is in a local hospital suffering from cut about the face and scalp as the result of an automobile smash on Middle Street in front of the Methodist church.