

SEVEN FIREMEN FALL TO DEATH

FUMES OF CHEMICAL HELP OVERCOME FIREMEN AFTER LADDER GIVES WAY.

HURLED INTO TANK OF OIL

Loss at Pittsburg Refinery is Not Known; Intense Cold Hampers Firemen.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Seven men were drowned in oil, two captains and five hosemen of the Pittsburgh fire department, while fighting a fire at the Butler Street plant of the Atlantic Refining Company. The bodies were recovered after the fire had been brought under control, with the monetary loss unestimated.

The intense cold hampered the work of the firemen.

The dead are Captain Edward Jones, Captain Rudolph Bliske, Hosemen Patrick Abbott, Robert Smith, John Markham, Samuel Bollinger and Harry J. Frazier.

A number of firemen also were injured.

The fire broke out in a tank containing 10,000 gallons of oil, shortly after 5 o'clock. Seven companies answered the alarm and five lines were thrown out for four or five city blocks on each side of the refinery, which adjoins a residence district and has been the scene of a number of costly blazes. Many families deserted their homes and additional fire apparatus was summoned as the morning wore on.

Shortly before 9 o'clock the captains and their men were on a ladder which extended above the top of a tank adjoining the burning oil. The oil in this tank was being drawn off when the ladder broke and the men fell into the tank. A chemical extinguisher, automatically released by the heat of the burning oil nearby, the authorities said, covered the oil, and fumes arising from it was believed to have overcome the struggling firemen. They sank almost at once and the bodies later were recovered through the manhole at the bottom of the tank.

The other firemen suffered severely because the mercury was two degrees below zero as they fought the flames. All of the injured were firemen who fell from the icy tops of the tanks to which they had climbed.

The cause of the fire has not been determined.

Cotton Mills in Big Slump.

Washington.—Cotton spinning activity had a marked decline in December, the Census Bureau's monthly report issued showing a decrease of 875,000,000 in the number of active spindle hours as compared with November. The total was the lowest since July.

Active spindle hours for December totaled 7,139,371,847, or an average of 190 hours per spindle in place, compared with 8,014,579,167, or an average of 213 in November.

Spinning spindles in place December 31 totaled 37,635,709, of which 84,044,870 were active at some time during the month, compared with 37,585,049 on November 30, of which 34,101,452 were active at some time during November.

The average number of spindles operated during December was 32,674,471, or at 86.8 per cent capacity on a single shift basis, compared with 36,316,828, or at 98.6 per cent capacity in November.

Judges Selected in Railway Contest.

Washington.—Six men, experienced in transportation and allied problems, were selected to determine the winner of the contest of the American Railway association, to obtain the best poster and slogan for the prevention of grade crossing accidents. Those selected were:

C. C. McChord, member of the interstate commerce committee; H. G. Taylor, Lincoln, Neb., president of the National Association of Railway and Utilities Commissioners; L. A. DeBlois, Chicago, president of the National Safety council; Col. Charles Clifton, Buffalo, N. Y., president of the National Automobile chamber of commerce, and H. A. Rowe, New York City, chairman of the committee on prevention of highway crossing accidents, of the American Railway association.

The contest, which opened January 7, and will continue until February 11, will result in cash award of \$500 for the best poster; \$200 in cash for the second best and \$100 for the third prize. A cash award of \$100 will be paid to the person submitting the most appropriate slogan.

THREE PERSONS FREEZE TO DEATH IN MOTOR CAR.

Little Rock, Ark.—Two young women and a youth were found dead in an automobile on the Vilonia Pike, eight miles east of Conway, when another member of the automobile party, Fred Wallock, of Little Rock, staggered to the main highway and hailed a passing car. Wallock appeared in a dazed condition from cold and exposure.

The three persons found dead, Miss Annie Mae Bailey, of North Little Rock, Miss Doney Woods, student at a business college here, and Ernest Mann, of Little Rock, are believed to have frozen to death.

The automobile in which the three bodies were found was frozen in mud ruts several yards off the main road.

Wallock said he and his companions left North Little Rock to drive to Conway.

PLAN 100,000 HORSEPOWER

THREE POWER COMPANIES WOULD PAY \$100,000,000 IN RENTALS.

Would Lease For Period of 50 Years and Contribute Million to Chemical Research.

Washington.—Secretary Weeks received a joint offer made by three southern power companies proposing a 50 year lease to them of the government's power project at Muscle Shoals, Ala., for which \$100,000,000 in rentals will be paid during that period.

The companies propose under the lease to construct transmission lines for power, making it available to manufacturing centers of the south and other sections of the country to provide 100,000 horsepower at cost for use in the manufacture of fertilizer at Muscle Shoals, and to contribute a fund of \$1,000,000 to be used under government control in electric-chemical research. Other provisions include an offer to purchase the Sheffield steam plant at the shoals for \$4,500,000 or lease it if the government prefers to retain ownership of that unit.

The proposal was signed by C. M. Clark, of the Tennessee Electric Power company; E. W. Hill, of the Memphis Power and Light company, and Thomas W. Martin, of the Alabama Power company. It will be carefully studied by war department officials, it was said, before being studied by Congress for final decision along with the other offers being considered by house and senate committees.

Shenandoah Crew Praised.

Lakehurst, N. J.—It was the cool-headed work done in a few seconds that saved the Shenandoah from destruction when the giant airship was torn from her mooring mast by a 72-mile gale that swept the Atlantic coast and carried her on a careening chase to New York city, it was asserted by those who made the arctic flight.

When the gust of wind tore the navy's pride from her 165-foot mooring mast with a crash that could be heard above the storm, those on board instinctively did the right thing. They leaped for the levers that released the ballast, and, instead of crashing to the earth, the ship stood still for a moment, shuddered and started to float away in the storm. The officers on board declared the ship started to drop and they believed they were within six feet of the ground when she started to rise.

And it was the same cool-headed work throughout the seven hours' fight against the elements that permitted the Shenandoah to outfight the storm and return to her hangar. Sailing a whole ship in a storm like that would be no easy task, and the work of those on board was made doubly difficult by the fact that her nose had been torn away and a part of her sides ripped to shreds.

Rebels Bombard Mexican Ports.

Tampico.—Rebel gunboats bombarded the city and port of Tampico. The news of the bombardment being received in a telephone message from the observer stationed at La Barra. The message said:

"Jesus M. Palma, chief of the coast guard, at 9 o'clock sighted the rebel gunboats Tampico and Saragoza which had prevented six ships from entering the port. The vessels were five tankers and the Dutch steamship Maasdam.

"At noon the ships cruised 600 metres off the mouth of the Panuco river, trying to find a landing place."

The foreign residents of Tampico are in an expectant mood. There is considerable nervous tension among the native population.

ARMED MEXICANS PASS OVER TEXAS

FIFTEEN HUNDRED OF OBREGON'S TROOPS CROSS AMERICAN SOIL.

GO OVER BOUNDARY AT NAGO

Permission is Granted By Governors of Arizona and Texas, and By State Department.

Naco, Ariz.—More than 1,500 Mexican federal troops crossed the boundary from Mexico into the United States here and entrained for El Paso, Texas, where they will re-enter Mexico at Jurez. Permission for the Mexican soldiers to cross United States territory, that they might strike at the revolutionists from some new angle, was requested by President Obregon. The state department at Washington promptly acquiesced, but passed the matter along to the governors of Arizona and Texas for ratification.

Governor Hunt, of Arizona, gave his approval, and Acting Governor T. W. Davidson, of Texas, after at first refusing on the ground that there might be trouble between Mexican factions on the American border, later agreed to the proposal, with the understanding that the United States government would assume all responsibility.

There was no demonstration. Fifteen hundred Mayo Indians made up the command. Hundreds of citizens gathered to watch the troops cross the international border here. General Jesus Maria Aguirre, in charge, hoped to effect a crossing of the border at El Paso under cover of darkness.

In their trip to Juarez, the Mexican soldiers will cross portions of the states of Arizona and New Mexico. The troops eventually will be sent to Jalisco, Coahuila, where the forces of President Obregon are battling to quell the revolution.

Tax Per Capita is Up to \$67.37.

Washington.—An average of 68.37 for every man, woman and child in the United States was collected in taxes in 1922 by the national, state, county and city governments and all other civil divisions having power to levy and collect taxes. Taxes collected in that year amounted to \$7,433,081,000, the census bureau announced.

Taxes collected by the federal government in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1922, amounted to \$3,204,000 which was almost five times the amount collected in 1912. The per capita amount of government's taxes was \$29.47. The sources from which the federal government's taxes came were: Customs duties, \$562,189,000; income and profits taxes, \$1,691,000; other miscellaneous internal revenue taxes, \$935,699,000; tax on circulation of national banks, \$4,304,000, and federal reserve franchise taxes, \$10,851,000.

Ditch Train; Seize Ammunition.

Laredo, Texas.—As a result of a carefully laid plot by rebel troops, a speeding ammunition train, bearing munitions sold by the United States Government to President Obregon, of Mexico, was wrecked within 30 miles of Mexico City, the revolutionists seizing and escaping with 50,000 rounds of ammunition, according to delayed reports reaching here.

The details of the wreck as relayed by Laredo, states the speeding army train crashed into the rear end of a passenger train, completely wrecking both trains and killing the firemen of the munitions train. It was reported the rebels had wrecked the passenger train knowing the ammunition special was following. It was said the revolutionists attempted to stop the ammunition train but the engineer ignored the signals and plowed into the debris of the train ahead.

McCrary to Command Polar Flight.

Lakehurst, N. J.—"I expect to be in command of the Shenandoah on her flight to the North Pole," Captain Frank H. McCrary, commander of the giant dirigible, said in response to reports that Navy men refused to volunteer for the cruise while he is in charge of the ship.

"Captain Anton Heinen, Germany Zeppelin expert and adviser to the United States Navy, will in all probability be the pilot and Commander J. H. Klein, executive officer."

"No enlisted men will be forced to make the flight," McCrary said. "They will not even be asked to volunteer. Every man who wants to go must come before me personally and ask to be included in the crew."

BALCONY FALLS, CRUSHING BOYS AT TRACK MEET.

New York.—With a snap like a pistol shot the iron railing of a balcony in the Thirteenth Coast Artillery Regiment Armory in Brooklyn gave way during a school boys track meet, catapulting 150 boys forward and downward in a twelve-foot fall which sent 32 boys to hospitals, the condition of seven being reported as very serious.

Many of these had one or two broken wrists—in some cases the bones projecting through the flesh—or serious head wounds.

Not a boy escaped injury in some degree but many, though stunned, struggled to their feet, brushed the dust from their clothes and nursed their hurts in silence as they made their way homeward.

Emergency calls brought 40 doctors and 14 ambulances to the scene, while firemen aided the adult spectators in rescuing the small victims from the tangled, shrieking heap beneath the balcony.

RECEPTION AT WHITE HOUSE

ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE IS CELEBRATING ANNIVERSARY DRY AMENDMENT.

Methodist Board's Fine New Home at Capital City is Formally Dedicated.

Washington.—The fourth anniversary of the Eighteenth Amendment, was celebrated by the thirty-year Jubilee convention of the Anti-Saloon League of America, with addresses by prominent dry leaders, a reception at the White House to deliver a pledge of loyalty to prohibition and the Constitution to President Coolidge, and dedication of a headquarters building for the Methodist Board of Temperance, Prohibition and Public Morals, within the shadow of the Capitol.

Prohibition Commissioner Roy A. Haynes declared "the way of the violator grows more difficult," and "the day of the get-rich-quick bootlegger is almost a thing of the past."

Mrs. Mabel W. Willebrandt, assistant attorney-general, urging elimination of politics in connection with dry enforcement said the "system of bootlegging has so entrenched itself in many communities, particularly the big cities, that it has fastened to it all kinds of robbery, murder and arson."

Senator W. N. Ferris, of Michigan, asserted that "any survey of industrial condition in the United States; any survey of crime, especially growing out of the use of alcoholic liquors, ought in itself to convince the most skeptical that prohibition prohibits," and Senator Morris Sheppard, of Texas, contended that "prohibition in the United States is both a permanency and a success."

The annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Anti-Saloon League also was held here, with Governor Pinchot and William J. Bryan among the speakers.

Federals Defeat in Hard Battle.

Washington.—Mexican federal forces have defeated the revolutionists in a hard battle at Tepeaca which has resulted in reducing a "strong element of the rebel army to impotence," the Mexican embassy said in a statement based on official advices from Mexico City.

"Rebels under Generals Maycotts and Villareal have been decisively defeated after a hard battle at Tepeaca," the statement said. "After being driven from Tehuacan by federal troops under General Eskenao Martinez, the enemy took up a position at Tepeaca, on the railroad between Tehuacan and Puebla.

"General Urbajejo attacked here and completely broke up the command, which was made up of several of the strongest units at the disposal of the Vera Cruz rebels."

Japan Fears Money Panic.

Tokio.—Reports received here from the country districts to the southwest of Tokio and Yokohama, near Fujiyama Mountain, have brought the known death toll in earthquake to approximately thirty.

Great anxiety is manifest in financial circles over the probable effect the new quake destruction may have upon the exchange and loan situation.

Hundreds of houses, chiefly those already damaged by the disastrous temblors of last September, or structures of a temporary nature hastily erected as shelters after the catastrophe, were shaken down or damaged.

GOVERNOR BARS MEXICAN TROOPS

TO TRANSPORT FEDERAL TROOPS ACROSS TEXAS REFUSED BY ACTING GOVERNOR.

SEC. HUGHES FAVORS MOVE

Chief Executive Fears Outbreak Between Troops and State's Citizens.

Austin, Texas.—Permission to transport Mexican Federal troops across Texas was refused by Acting Governor T. W. Davidson in a telegram to Secretary of State Hughes. Possibility of trouble with Mexican residents on the Texas border prompted the refusal, the Acting Governor said.

The Oregon government had sought permission to transport troops from Naco, Ariz., to Laredo, and Eagle Pass, Texas, where they would re-enter Mexico.

The State Department at Washington indicated that the United States government looked "favorably upon the request."

Lieutenant-Governor Davidson, acting as State Executive in the absence of Governor Pat Neff, requested the State Department at Washington, through which the Mexican government's request was transmitted, to notify him if the matter was considered urgent.

Formal protest was addressed to the Governor of Texas by Reinaldo Esparza Martinez, representative at San Antonio of the de la Huerta revolutionists, and opposition to the proposed troop movement was expressed by Mayor R. M. Dudley, of El Paso.

Martinez requested denial of passage "in the name of the Mexican people now in rightful revolt against imposition and Russification of our Mexico by Plutarco Elias Calles and Moscow agents."

Approximately 5,000 troops from the states of Sinaloa and Sonora, including a large number of Yaqui Indians, will be available for service in the eastern zones within one week, if permission were granted to move them through the United States, according to an El Paso dispatch.

If the Federal Government shows that the demand for the passage of the troops is urgent, and guarantees ample protection to Texas citizens, the request will be reconsidered and every effort will be made by officials of Texas to co-operate with the National authorities, according to Mr. Davidson.

Acting Governor Davidson expressed himself as in hearty sympathy with any move which would bring tranquility to Mexico, but he pointed out the danger of bringing Mexican troops on Texas soil because of strong differences of opinion concerning the revolution among the Mexican citizens residing on this side.

Cotton Crop Reports Provided.

Washington.—Proposed legislation providing for semi-monthly cotton crop reports by the department of agriculture and cotton ginni g reports by the census bureau, the former to be approved by a departmental board of prescribed membership, was agreed upon at a meeting of the six members of the senate and house who recently organized a so-called cotton bloc in Congress. The proposed bill also would provide for discontinuance of the cotton acreage estimates of the department of agriculture based on farmers' intentions to plant, which were said to have brought protests from all sections, on the ground that they were not accurate.

Cotton crop reports under the plan would be issued semi-monthly, instead of monthly, between August 1 and December 1, and ginning reports would be issued "on the same day and at the same hour" as the crop reports.

The bill would require approval of crop report by a board of at least five members, no less than three of whom shall be from cotton-growing sections.

Women Burn to Death.

Greenville, N. C.—Mrs. Sallie Hudson, 80 years old, and blind, was burned to death and Miss Annie Mills, 80 years old and deaf, probably fatally burned when the home of Miss Mills, in the Cox Mills section of this county, was destroyed by fire. Few details of the fire, which was of undetermined origin have reached here.

The two aged women lived alone in the house. The body of Mrs. Hudson was burned to beyond recognition. Physicians express little hope for recovery of Miss Mills.

BANK RESOURCES INCREASE

Excellent Showing Made in Stockholders' Meeting of Land Bank at Durham.

Durham.—Resources of the North Carolina Joint Stock Land Bank here have increased more than six-fold, according to the reports at the large stockholders' meeting held here. The total jumped from \$700,000 to \$4,250,000.

All directors of the bank were re-elected to office at the meeting, and one new one, R. R. Cotten, of Bruce, was added. The officers, consisting of Gen. Julian S. Carr, chairman of the board; Southgate Jones, president; J. A. Long, Roxboro; W. P. Clements and E. H. Meadows, Jr., of New Bern, vice-presidents, and John R. Holloway, secretary and treasurer, were re-elected.

Among the out of town stockholders who attended the meeting were: J. A. Long, president of the People's Bank of Roxboro; C. A. Johnson, president Farmers Bank and Trust Co., Tarboro; D. F. Wooten, president of the First National Bank, Kinston; Jesse M. Ross, vice-president Bank of Washington, Washington, N. C.; H. A. Parker, president of Citizens Bank and Trust Co., of Benson, A. L. Healy, of Page Trust Company, Pinehurst; G. A. Barfoot, Wilson; E. H. Meadows, Jr., New Bern, and J. G. Goddard, president of Martin County Savings and Trust Co., Williamston, N. C.

Fourteen Dentists Licensed.

Asheville.—Fourteen of the 17 applicants for licenses to practice dentistry in North Carolina before the North Carolina State Board of Dental Examiners in Greensboro January 7-9, passed the examination. Dr. F. L. Hunt, Asheville, secretary of the board announced.

The mid-winter examinations are given dentists who have practiced in other states and desire to enter practice in this state, the main examinations coming in June. Those who passed the board are as follows:

Dr. B. W. Barnes, Greensboro; Dr. M. L. Watts, Raleigh; Dr. H. W. Chandler, Greensboro; Dr. V. R. Davis, Salisbury; Dr. J. B. Wright, Goldsboro; Dr. J. E. Fennell, Kerr; Dr. J. B. Shea, Asheville; Dr. H. P. Edney, Washington, D. C.; Dr. W. A. Pressly, Jr., Rock Hill, S. C.; Dr. W. T. Burke, Norfolk, Va.; Dr. W. L. Nance, Fort Valley, Ga.; Dr. C. N. McMillan, Washington, D. C.; Dr. L. C. Rogers, Raleigh, and Dr. C. E. Cox, Fries, Va.

Strawberry to Carry Certificates.

Whiteville.—Columbus county strawberries grown on the lands of farmers who wish it, and who follow some small requirements of the health department, may carry a clean bill of health on each crate when it is placed on the market this year. Dr. Floyd Johnson is posting the following letter at all postoffices in the county and he will be glad to have berry growers consult him about the matter in question:

"The state deputy health officer has promised to help us to advertise the quality of our fruit by allowing me to furnish certificates for each package when the farm and premises of producer have been inspected and the sanitary conditions found to meet the approval of the health department. "Any one wishing to take advantage of this will please communicate with me at once and I will furnish information as to what preparation will be necessary to procure the certificates."

Tobacco Sales Exceed Expectations.

Kinston.—Tobaccoists here say their estimate of season's sale of 30,000,000 pounds on the Kinston market will be slightly exceeded. The auction warehouses will close Friday February 8, after one of the longest selling seasons in the market's history. The opening took place in August. The sales total will break all records.

Current "breaks" are small. The January sessions of the market are held for "mopping up" purposes. Packhouses on farms are being swept clean of their last, few thousand pounds. Prices are ruling well.

Chain of Warehouses For Rowan.

Salisbury.—A chain of bonded warehouses is to be built in this city for the purpose of serving the farmers of Rowan and adjoining counties, the Piedmont Bonded Warehouse Corporation being the name of the new enterprise, which is financed and officered entirely by Salisbury men, who have already demonstrated their faith in this city and county by making large outlays in the construction of industrial plants and numerous residences. The officers of the new warehouse corporation are: E. A. Goodman, president; L. C. Goodman, vice-president, and A. L. Klutz, secretary and treasurer.