

TWO AND HALF MILLION DOLLAR FIRE SWEEPS NEW BERN

FIVE HUNDRED BUILDINGS ARE IN ASHES

Flames Driven From Morning Till Night With Fierce Wind

SISTER TOWNS SEND FIRE DEPARTMENTS TO STRICKEN CITY

Countless Homes In Ashes; Shivering People Sit In the Open Clad in Blankets

NOT POSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE THE LOSS Starting at Roper Plant First Fire Still Raged When Second One Began Near Western Boundary Line Cutting a Straight Line to George, Making Path Five Blocks Wide and Eight Deep, Then Swept River Front, Destroying Three Blocks of Warehouses.

NEW BERN, Dec. 1.—(By The Associated Press)—An army of grim chimneys standing as sentinels over acres of smoldering ruins which extended for half a mile from the western boundary of the city to Nouse, river tonight marked the course of New Bern's \$2,500,000 fire, the worst in the city's history.

The terrific fire which began its devastation right through the heart of the city this morning was practically under control at 7 o'clock this evening, after having destroyed 500 buildings, and homes of white and negro citizens, a dozen or more stores, an overall factory, two large tobacco warehouses, four negro churches, and various other structures. Although still burning the New Bern fire department, assisted by reinforcements from Kinston and Washington, were convinced that the area of destruction would not be extended.

New Bern was thunderstruck this morning at 8:30 o'clock when the hoarse notes of the city's fire whistle told of the burning of the Roper plant operated by the Rowland Lumber company. This confirmed the destruction of the Rowland Lumber company and a quarter of a million dollar fire, throwing more than 300 men out of work.

Second Fire Breaks Out While the flames were still blazing at the mill, an alarm was turned in from the western section of the city where the fire had started in the negro district, and which soon caused everyone to forget the conflagration at the Rowland mill.

When their services were required at the lumber yard firemen were unable to respond to the alarm, and it was not until half an hour later they responded to the spot. By that time five houses were in ruin.

The roaring flames, sped on their way by high winds with almost gale force, crashed through houses after houses, gaining impetus in their advance which sent them leaping simultaneously through roofs of dozens of houses. Frantic negroes assisted by hundreds of volunteers hastily removed their household furniture to places of safety. As the fire gained headway, however, people were forced to leave their homes without being able to remove anything.

Crackling fiercely in their intensity and roaring their message of destruction so as to be heard in every section of the city, the flames rose in the air, sending high a cloud of smoke which hung over the town throughout the entire day.

Goes to White Residence Section With almost incredible speed the fire forced its way into the white residential section. By noon the streets were filled with automobiles heaped with household goods, or carrying them to places of safety. Here and there on the sidewalks with a few rescued possessions, sat desolate families, homeless and penniless, and looking to the more fortunate for aid.

Stopped in its dash to the business section by the block occupied by Cedar Grove cemetery, the fire neared to the north and swept down on the union station. All the buildings on Pasture street, fronting the depot, were utterly destroyed. A house two blocks beyond burst into flames when covered with sparks and burning leaves.

The fire spread along the river front, consuming the Krest fertilizer warehouses, and the Norfolk Southern paint sheds, and one or two other structures in its path.

Makes Last Sweep At the end of Pasture street and along Crescent the fire made its last stand, unable to leap across the gap of empty blocks which separated it from the next row of houses. After

MIDNIGHT VIEW OF THE DISTRESSED CITY

(Special to The News) NEW BERN, Dec. 1.—An estimate of the damage caused by the disastrous New Bern fire that Goldsboro certainly needed a new fire truck badly before something happened to this city that has already happened to New Bern. He pointed out that Goldsboro had the most dilapidated fire equipment of any city of comparative size in Eastern North Carolina, and wound up by saying that he was going to ask the board of aldermen to do something Monday night.

He was accompanied to New Bern by Lloyd Evans and Tom Griffin of the local fire department. Kinston, Greenville, and Washington had fire equipment at New Bern, he said.

At midnight tonight the firemen had the situation well in hand. Although the fire to a degree is still burning, a further spread is not anticipated. Volunteer citizens are doing police duty, guarding the household and the personal property of those who were able to get their goods to safety, and others who moved into the streets in fear of being caught in the path of the flames.

Relief work for the homeless is already under way. Citizens are seeing to it that no one goes hungry, and owners of warehouses and other large buildings are housing the homeless temporarily.

One thousand cots and sufficient supply of army tents are being arranged by citizens and officials of the chamber of commerce.

The total area burned over is practically one square mile. The water supply was exhausted and river water was resorted to in subduing the flames. As a result a warning has been issued to all citizens to boil city water before using.

Many wild rumors were prevalent during the day as to deaths and injuries, but tonight there is no confirmation of such reports of loss of life. Some few minor injuries were reported, none serious, however.

Several hundred citizens among them the mayor of New Bern were in Raleigh for the day to see the New Bern and Sanford high schools play football, and heard of the fire. The mayor immediately left for New Bern by motor, arriving at 8:30 tonight to take charge of the general relief work. He has no time to confer with the chamber of commerce officials and his counsel.

having been apparently subdued the flames burst forth anew directly west of George street, and for a time it was feared that the St. Luke hospital and the Tabernacle Baptist church would be destroyed. The combined effort of the fire departments brought the flames under control shortly before dusk.

Have in the Hospitals Half a dozen persons, both white and negroes have been treated at the hospital for burns and other injuries. None of these injuries are believed to be fatal. Patients were taken from both the Fairview and the New Bern General Hospital and removed to Christ church parish house. Fire fighters managed to avert the direction of the fire and to prevent either of the two hospitals from igniting. The Stewart sanatorium was burned to the ground.

The disaster originated in the home of Henry Bryan, negro of Kilmorock street, starting in the kitchen of the home. Dynamite was discharged repeatedly during the course of the day, but it proved to be of little worth. No human agency could thwart the combined force of fire and wind.

For a time it looked as though the entire business section and all would be included in the conflagration. Several families in the path of the fire moved their furniture elsewhere.

New Bern is tonight turning attention to relieving the homeless. Empty warehouses, church rooms, the Y. M. C. A. and scores of private homes have been thrown open to the victims of the great fire.

In spite of this there were many who spent the night in the open, covering themselves with mattresses and blankets, and camping beside their furniture that they had managed to save.

Traffic Suspended Railroad traffic through the city has been suspended, the rails having been warped by a considerable distance by the intense heat. Telegraph wires also have been severed, and the telephone afforded the only form of communication with the outside world.

Full scope of the disaster has not yet made itself manifest, and it will not be until tomorrow that New Bern will be in position to realize the terrible catastrophe which befell it today.

The fire started on Kilmorock street, near the western boundary line of the city, and about two blocks from Broad street. From there it swept in a straight line to George street, covering a distance of eight blocks, and sweeping a path of one to five blocks wide. The cemetery on George street prevented the fire from following a

From the next row of houses. After

Says Goldsboro Must Have More Equipment

Mayor Edgar H. Bain declared upon returning to the city at midnight from the disastrous New Bern fire that Goldsboro certainly needed a new fire truck badly before something happened to this city that has already happened to New Bern. He pointed out that Goldsboro had the most dilapidated fire equipment of any city of comparative size in Eastern North Carolina, and wound up by saying that he was going to ask the board of aldermen to do something Monday night.

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ONE MAN GETS FIVE YEARS AND ONE TWO

These Cases Occupied Pretty Much All the Time of the Court Yesterday

Two cases of criminal assault were tried in Superior court yesterday. Walter Booth, colored, drawing a sentence of two years and Oscar Faison, colored, a sentence of five years. Five witnesses were examined in the case of Faison.

Peculiar and dubious circumstances surrounded the case of Booth. A colored preacher from parts unknown testified, and it was alleged that he had just been going about the country fringing up with the Cradle woman for the money they could get out of putting such fellows as Walter Booth in the penitentiary or sending them so they were forced to part with a "great sum" to keep from going to the penitentiary. However, this very story did not impress Judge Allen very much; so despite all his attorneys could do, the judge passed sentence.

George Wells, charged with violating the automobile law also put up a very fine speed and occupied a large part of the court proceedings of the day, but was finally found guilty of damage to property.

The grand jury rested with the case against C. Henry Edwards against whom they returned an indictment charging embezzlement. Ed Edmundson also appeared before the grand jury, having been charged with murder by a coroner's jury. However, no report has been made on this case.

The written report of the grand jury is to be made tomorrow, it is said, but nothing much sensational is expected because of the new county home nearing completion. For the past 10 years the county home has formed the principal subject of all the grand juries that have been assembled in the county. Publicity and repeated reports condemning the old county home have accomplished their work though to the satisfaction of court officials and the public at large, some of the officials have stated; and this point of contention will soon be no more.

GRAND JURY INDICTS LAWYER EDWARDS

Charged With Embezzlement in Handling Johnson Woman's Money

C. Henry Edwards, local attorney, yesterday was indicted by the grand jury on a charge of embezzlement and his bond fixed at \$1,000. The bond was signed by G. E. Grantham.

The charge of embezzlement against Edwards grew out of a note signed by John Hood for \$250, made payable to Mrs. Kathleen Johnson, and bought by Edwards from Jim Bowden, reputed representative of Mrs. Johnson. Bowden himself has been in jail on a charge of false pretense for eight weeks. Originally he was arrested on a warrant sworn out by Edwards.

Bowden claims that Edwards paid him \$220 for the note with a check, and then after he had cashed the check Edwards came to him and demanded that he give him part of the money back, and that he gave Edwards all of the money back but \$45. Edwards called him a liar right in court room, and there was considerable commotion with the two or three hundred spectators looking on. Judge Allen silenced them.

Edwards claims that he never had any of the money except the \$70 difference between what he paid for the note and what John Hood paid him, and that he had made arrangements

VAN DYKE POKES FUN AT GEORGE HARVEY IN RALEIGH SPEECH

Says Foreign Policy of United States is One of Idiocy and Hypocrisy

KAISER COULD HAVE STOPPED THE WAR

RALEIGH, Dec. 1.—The United States today is pursuing a foreign policy of idiocy and hypocrisy," Dr. Henry Van Dyke of Princeton, N. J., declared here today in a brief luncheon address.

"Common sense of the kind to captain a ship," a real conviction that the world is founded in righteousness and justice, and courage were outlined by him as the three essentials which should govern America's policy, after he had declared "we can not persuade Europe to do what she does not want to do unless we show her a good reason."

"The Kaiser could have stopped the world war by a mere lifting of his hand," he said. "I ask you is it just that a nation responsible for the war and all that has followed should be prosperous at the expense of those almost destroyed? There must be reparations, but those fixed at Versailles were too large, unreasonable and impossible."

When Germany has paid its reparations, Dr. Van Dyke asserted then he hoped it would be received by the other countries "on an equal basis."

In referring to the Washington conference, he said "only one of the treaties had been signed and that one is about the Island of Yap."

After having paid a high tribute to the late Ambassador Page, who was in London during the war period, Dr. Van Dyke made brief reference to Ambassador Harvey.

"He does not know whether women have souls," he quipped. "Women were Harvey's last breath."

Former Secretary of the Navy, Joseph Daniels introduced Dr. Van Dyke.

ALMOST SAID THE OLD TIGER HAD LIED

And M. Clemenceau Did Not Like That—Albert Gets Lost Again

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 1.—(By The Associated Press.)—Guarded by a detail of police with riot guns at Joseph Pulitzer's country home, Georges Clemenceau rested today while St. Louis prepared a great reception for him to take place tomorrow when he will deliver the fourth of his series of American addresses in an effort to win sentiment for France.

The Tiger arrived in his special car from Springfield, Illinois, at 9:50 o'clock, alighting on the western edge of the city to avoid crowds. He was driven immediately to the Pulitzer home.

Chief of Police O'Brien insisted the precaution to guard M. Clemenceau were not the result of several letters received recently by Mayor Henry Kiel, threatening the former premier of France.

"We are guarding him as we would any important person," he said. "That is all. There is nothing extraordinary about it."

Instead of lying down when he reached the Pulitzer home as he was requested to do, M. Clemenceau insisted on giving an interview to newspapermen. Afterwards he and Mr. Pulitzer, publisher of the St. Louis Post Dispatch, Mrs. Pulitzer and their little son, Joseph, went for a tramp about the estate.

"Asked by his interviewers what he thought he had accomplished by his addresses so far, M. Clemenceau replied: "A man doesn't think of it while he is doing it. You come to me in France after I have returned and possibly I can tell you. I am doing my best, that is all."

The Tiger launched into a defense of France against charges of militarism and took another side firing at Senator Hitchcock on the question of whether Black troops are stationed on the Rhine.

He said "that a young man in the Senate had 'almost said I lied.' "I think Mr. Hitchcock must be young," he added, "because he is most unreasonable."

Before he got off the train, M. Clemenceau chatted with correspondents accompanied him, inquiring with interest that was the latest news from Europe.

When he was told the King of Greece had been imprisoned he said "they seem to be bad days for governments. I am lucky I am not they might have me in jail."

MEXICO CITY SPENDS NIGHT IN TERROR OF FURIOUS MOB

Seventeen Persons Killed When Crowd Attack City Hall To Protest Water Famine

MAY POSTPONE SUNDAY ELECTION

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 1.—(By The Associated Press.)—Federal troops guarded a badly battered municipal building today while the city counted the casualties of a pitched battle between the police and a mob which attempted to storm the building last night. The death list as a result of the fighting stood at seventeen early today, while eighteen persons are known to have been seriously injured and three slightly hurt. It is thought that a check might reveal further casualties.

The city, after a night of wild excitement, found its main plaza before the municipal building a shambles of broken glass, timbers and stones—evidence of the anger of the mob which forced its way into the building half an hour after the police rifles had taken their toll.

The trouble, which lasted for more than six hours, started when a crowd marched to the city hall to protest against the aldermen who are held responsible for the water famine. The demonstration was intended by the labor unions that organized it as a peaceful protest, and several hundred paraded the downtown streets before proceeding to the hall to voice their sentiments. When the municipal building was reached the crowd numbered more than 2,000 persons.

Started hurling stones Yelling invectives against the aldermen, the mob gave emphasis to its words by burning stones and other missiles. When one leader suggested that the hall be stormed, the demonstrators made a concerted rush. The police guards fired their rifles over the crowd, which, however, did not check its course. When it became apparent that the mob would enter the building, the police aimed point blank and fired with deadly effect.

Staggered by bullets, the demonstrators retired, carrying their dead and injured. But in half an hour they returned entered the hall and began to set fire to its contents.

Valuable documents, some of which date back several centuries, were tossed into the streets and the city records were given to the winds.

Troops Arrive By this time the federal troops had arrived, but the intruders were not ejected before the building had been fired in many places and the furniture wrecked. A line of hose, which the fire department was able to bring into play despite the water shortage, was successful in holding back the crowd outside.

Several sporadic attempts to continue the demonstration were made in the succeeding hours, but when the demonstrators returned to the attack they found a cordon of several hundred soldiers about the building and contented themselves with jeering and hooting officials in general, including some of the members of the federal government.

Marched Through Streets Thus baffled in their attempt to re-enter the hall, several small groups of citizens marched through the streets committing minor depredations. They called on all the newspaper offices and hooted and yelled before the residences of the city officials.

The chamber of deputies adjourned when it received news of the sanguinary encounter and a heavy guard was thrown around the building. The residences of all aldermen were also under the protection of the federal troops throughout the night.

It was said today that the city election, scheduled for next Sunday, would be postponed, in view of last night's occurrence and the suggestion was made in many quarters that the federal government take over the city administration temporarily. President Oregon declined to comment on the affair until he had received the official report.

Cupid Great Hunter During November

Cupid's victims for the month of November reached 82 whites aged 50 colored, one of them being an old man 65 who secured his license yesterday to marry a woman 46.

However, Cupid's greatest month is December, and if the little fellow's marksmanship and arrows hold out he should double his November record. Every day during the month of November Register of Deeds G. E. Grantham has signed the license for someone, and most of the days as the records indicate it has been three and four couples.

Progressive Bloc Declares No New Party Contemplated

REP. JIM MANN DIES AT WASHINGTON HOME

Man Known As Giant of the House Succumbs to Pneumonia

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—Death last night ended the legislative career of Representative James R. Mann of the second Illinois district, long rated as a giant of the house.

Returning here two weeks ago for the opening of the special session of congress, Mr. Mann who had served his people upwards of a quarter of a century, took part in the preliminary work of the house. A week ago, however, he was forced to stay at home because of a cold, which he failed to shake off. His condition at first was not regarded as serious and it was not until yesterday afternoon, when pneumonia had developed, that it became alarming. Early in the evening he rallied, but there was a change for the worse as the night wore on. Shortly before midnight, with his wife and his physicians at his bedside, the veteran of many a congressional battle died peacefully.

News of Death Shock News of Mr. Mann's death was a shock to the house, for few of his most intimate friends knew of his illness, beyond the statement that he had been confined to his home by a cold. On the eve of the house vote Wednesday on the shipping bill Mr. Mann wanted to get out of bed and go there to be counted on its side. He was told to stay at home, and that while his wise counsel would be helpful, there were votes enough in sight and his thoughts were constantly on the work of the house, where his record of service through thirteen consecutive terms had earned for him the reputation of the best informed man on the details of government that ever sat in either branch of Congress.

He was sent back for a fourth term by the people of his district in the election last month.

Once Minority Leader Minority leader in the house during the eight years of Democratic control, Representative Mann saw the leadership go to Gillett, of Massachusetts, when his party again came in power there, but if the failure of his party in caucus to select him as speaker left any tinge of bitterness his friends never saw indication. Declining then the proffered leadership of the majority, Representative Mann thereafter continued to exercise a power equal to if not greater than that of the speaker himself as chairman of the committee which control the make-up of the house committee.

Counting on his strength for a possible house upheaval when the Republican majority was cut to less than a score in the last election, his friends again set to work quietly in his behalf. The Illinois member, who months before had declared he never could accept the speakership of the leadership, quickly ended the move when he heard of it by reiterating what he said then. That it would have required a powerful effort to get him if he had gone out of either of those places was the opinion freely held in the house.

"Agriculture, railroads, labor, ship ping, natural resources, health, education and a special committee to study amendments to the constitution looking to abolishment of the electoral college and the earlier meeting of newly elected congressmen."

"In order to reform and perpetuate the control of the people over their government, we propose the institution of a nation-wide campaign in the various states for direct, open primaries, for all elective offices, including the presidency and for all actual federal and state corrupt practice acts."

WILLIAM ROCKEFELLER IS DEAD IN NEW YORK NEW YORK, Nov. 30.—William Goodsell Rockefeller, son of the late William Rockefeller and nephew of John D. Rockefeller, died of pneumonia at his New York home today. He was a former treasurer of the Standard Oil company of New York.

That Mr. Rockefeller had been seriously ill was not generally known. He was stricken last Monday afternoon, after he had gone from his office, complaining that he felt slightly ill.

He was born in New York in 1870, was graduated from Yale and in 1892 was married to Etie Stillman, daughter of the late capitalist.

In 1906 Mr. Rockefeller became treasurer of the Standard Oil company of New York, which office he resigned in 1911 to engage in banking and other financial enterprises.

N. B. HIGHS WIN JUST AS THEY HEAR OF GREAT FIRE RALEIGH, Dec. 1.—The New Bern high school defeated the Sanford high here this afternoon 6 to 9 with a forward pass from the 35 yard line. The pass came just after the New Bern team had been informed that the destruction of their town by flames was threatened.

New Bern will play the winner of the Asheville-Spartan game at Chapel Hill December 6, for the state championship.

Work began today on postings for all cotton delivered in November in preparation for making a second advance on this cotton.

The second advance on cotton delivered in December will be made after the advances are completed for the October and November cotton.

WILL SEEK RETURN POWER TO PEOPLE

Agriculture and Labor Interests Will be Chief Interest of Bi-Partisan Group

RESOLUTIONS SETS FORTH PURPOSE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—The movement to organize a "progressive bloc" in congress took definite form today at a conference behind closed doors, attended by more than a score of Senators and Representatives of the present and the next congress. Their meeting was preliminary to a general conference tomorrow of a national progressive leader.

The executive meeting today opening the two-day conference was called by Senator LaFollette, Republican, Wisconsin, and Representative Harrison, Democrat, Alabama. It was regarded in some quarters as the germ of a possible third party movement, but Senator LaFollette declined any intention to break up present party lines.

Agriculture and labor were the principal elements represented at today's opening conference. Those attending have been identified with the farm and labor groups in legislation and in the recent congressional campaign.

Senator Norris, Republican, Nebraska was elected chairman of today's meeting, at which there were proposals by Senators LaFollette, Norris and Borah, Republican, Idaho, and Representative LaFollette, Republican, Wisconsin, for any intention of forming a party, declaring the whole purpose was for the formation of a legislative progressive group to work in cooperation for progressive legislation.

The resolutions proposed by Representative LaFollette included: "The Senate and House should cooperate in the formation of a national progressive group to work in cooperation for progressive legislation."

"That the progressive movement should be organized on a national basis and should cooperate with the labor and agricultural groups in order to accomplish the fundamental reforms upon which we are all agreed, namely, to drive capital out of control of government and restore it to the people."

"To this end we will oppose unconditionally special interest legislation and in order to prepare ourselves to meet the critical situation that confronts the Nation we propose to create special committees composed of members of the Senate and House, co-operating with men of affairs and experts, to prepare and submit to this group for consideration from time to time during the session and the next congress, practically and constructive plans for dealing with the following great subjects:

"Agriculture, railroads, labor, ship ping, natural resources, health, education and a special committee to study amendments to the constitution looking to abolishment of the electoral college and the earlier meeting of newly elected congressmen."

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