

FIRE THREATENS CITY BLOCK

THE GOLDSBORO NEWS

WEATHER
Generally fair and colder today;
Fair tomorrow; slightly warmer

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GOLDSBORO, N. C. SATURDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 21, 1925

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CHIEF YELVERTON OVERCOME BY SMOKE LAST NIGHT

FIFTY-ONE DEAD IN MINE EXPLOSION

DR. MILLER BUILDING BURNED; LOSS \$50,000

Flames Originating in Goldsboro Battery Company Destroy That Place, The Adjoining Building, And Threaten Others

Fire early this morning almost totally destroyed the old Dr. Miller buildings on Center street, entailing a loss estimated to approximate \$50,000, and for a time threatened the extinction of the entire block, from the building occupied by the Goldsboro Garage and Motor Transport Company, to Miller's Goldsboro drug store on the corner.

The buildings were owned by John R. Crawford and Walter Creech, and occupied by the Goldsboro Battery Company and the Scott Motor Company, local Essex and Hudson dealers. Mr. Crawford this morning placed the loss to the buildings at about \$30,000. The loss to the Goldsboro Battery Company, which today is a mass of charred timbers, is unknown, but it is thought to be in the neighborhood of about \$10,000. The loss to the Goldsboro Battery Company, which today is a mass of charred timbers, is unknown, but it is thought to be in the neighborhood of about \$10,000. The Scott Motor Company's loss was confined to office equipment and accessories, the Essex and Hudson cars in the display rooms having been saved. The adjoining building owned by George Bizzell and occupied by the Smith-Sherrard Company, wholesale grocers, was also damaged by smoke and water. The loss to the Smith-Sherrard people, from water damage alone, is estimated to be about \$7,500. The Goldsboro Garage and Motor Transport Company Building, the old Dewey structure, was damaged to some extent by water.

Only heroic efforts of the Goldsboro fire department kept the entire block. The fire had gained much headway when they reached the scene, and since the buildings are probably forty years old, with fire walls between them sadly lacking, they had a real conflagration to fight. Even at 12 playing steadily on the flames for nearly an hour, observers felt that the fight was hopeless, but by bringing all of their equipment into play, and showing an utter disregard of the dangerous risks of mounting the three story walls around the seething flames, they gradually brought the fire under control.

The fire was discovered by members of the police department. Officer Jimmie Burke was near the Goldsboro Battery Company plant, where the flames originated, in company with Rev. J. W. Sadler, watchman employed by the owners of downtown business property, when his attention was suddenly directed to a light in the place. "Isn't that a fire," he said to his companion, as he ran to peer through the glass. But before he gained the front entrance, a terrific explosion was heard. The front of the building was suddenly wrecked when gas or chemicals became fired, ugly, red flames shooting high up into the air. Taking the situation in a glance, Mr. Burke hurried across the street to a fire call box, where he turned in the alarm.

Chief Yelverton and his men were on the scene within a few minutes. It was quickly seen that the whole business block was in danger and all available equipment was ordered to the scene.

(Continued From Page One)

MAY ERECT APARTMENTS

Chamber of Commerce Turns Attention To Relieving Housing Problem

Possibility of another modern, steam-heated apartment house for Goldsboro is seen in the referendum now being conducted on the question by the chamber of commerce.

Cards with blanks for expressions from the members are being mailed out with the following letter from W. C. D. Mark, the executive secretary:

"One of our most active members of the chamber of commerce has recommended to this organization that we investigate the possibility of promoting and erecting a modern, fireproof apartment house in our city. This recommendation is important and is worthy of the consideration of our entire membership.

"It is a recognized fact by all of us that our city is rapidly growing, and that we must provide for the needs of our population. We must provide adequate living quarters. Therefore, may we ask that you carefully consider the questions on the enclosed card, after which may we ask that you fill out and sign same and return to our office. Our action in this matter will be based on the returned cards from our membership. Please do not delay. It is your duty to give consideration to this important matter."

YOUTHFUL JERSEY BRIDE AND GROOM REMAIN IN HIDING

MONTCLAIR, N. J., Feb. 19.—Ralph Colucci, 17-year-old son of wealthy parents and his 14-year-old bride, Genevieve Vanderhoff Colucci, daughter of Harry Vanderhoff, of Pompton Lakes, remained in hiding here today from the girl's father, following the elopement on Sunday to Alexandria, Va., where they were married.

The girl bride, a Pompton Lakes high school student had been denied permission to marry Colucci six months ago because of their youth. The denial was followed by an edict by Mr. Vanderhoff that the youth should not be allowed to come to the Vanderhoff home nor to see Genevieve.

The two eloped to Virginia, when they learned from a Newark lawyer that a girl over twelve years of age can be married there without the consent of parents.

Mr. Vanderhoff declared that the marriage in Virginia was invalid in this state, and that if he caught the youthful bridegroom he "would run him into the ground."

RUSSIAN COUNT HELD AS SPY FOR GERMANY

WARSAW, Feb. 21.—The Warsaw police today arrested Count Eugene Toll, known as vice president of the Russian Monarchists organization in Poland and suspected by the authorities of being the chief of a German espionage bureau.

The police say they found compromising documents in his home which was raided after their suspicions had been excited by the visitors he received, and by his heavy expenditures.

GAS TAKES HEAVY TOLL IN INDIANA

Hundreds Of Women And Children Rend Air With Their Shrieks Of Anguish As Rescue Work Goes On

SULLIVAN, Ind., Feb. 20.—Fifty-one men are believed to have been killed almost instantly today in an explosion of gas in the City Coal company's mine, on the outskirts of the city, that wrought the greatest mine disaster in the history of the Indiana coal fields.

There were 121 miners in the mine at the time of the explosion which occurred in the third and fourth entries, north of where most of the men were killed at work.

Rescue crews went to work at once, and the rescue team of the U. S. Army of Mines, at Vincennes, Ind., reached the scene by water track at 11:45 o'clock this morning, one hour after the explosion.

E. G. Thomas, chief weigh man at the mine, the officials of the mine and rescue workers, were all of the opinion that there is no possible chance of the men being alive.

Miners who were injured were brought to the surface at once. The work of bringing out the dead proceeded slowly, the bodies being brought up singly. Rescue workers were handicapped by the gas fumes which flooded the mine immediately after the explosion.

Tremendous crowds thronged the scene after word of the disaster spread throughout the town and surrounding communities, and automobiles were parked along roads leading to the shaft for a distance of several miles.

Wives and children of miners employed in the shaft crowded back, seeking information, and groups of wailing, sobbing women clustered about as the news was broken that fifty-one of the men were known to be dead.

A signal to the hoisting engineer was received within three minutes after the explosion, but one of the cages was caught on the bottom by wreckage, and miners were forced to climb to the bottom of the shaft and cut away the wreckage before the hoisting engine could be used. But one cage was being used, as a result, in the work of bringing the bodies to the surface. A row of wailing ambulances removed the dead to the city.

Rare courage and heroism marks the work of rescuers who braved the deadly fumes of gas, and descended time and time again into the mine to bring out the dead. Many were overcome, and several carried out of the mine.

A good citizen seems to be one who causes Congress, because his radiator freezes.

HUMPHREY HITS WADE

Wayne Senator Says Insurance Oligarchy Is Dominating Insurance Legislation

RALEIGH, Feb. 20.—"It is useless to try and put any insurance legislation over in this general assembly, regardless of its merits if any of the insurance companies or the state insurance commissioner opposes it," declares Senator Humphrey, of Wayne, himself an insurance man, at the meeting yesterday afternoon of the Senate committee on insurance in the Senate chamber.

"Under those circumstances I don't see any good in taking up more time with bills even if they are for the benefit of the people," he declared. "You can't do anything that the oligarchy doesn't approve."

The Wayne senator expressed his dissatisfaction when two bills introduced by himself, one providing an incontestable clause in life insurance policies, and another requiring such policies to carry an incontestable clause, came up for consideration. He asked that the two bills be reported unfavorably. Commissioner Wade answered him on the bill providing an incontestable clause after one year.

"Senator Humphrey wants to force his company which writes a two year clause to write a one year clause for competitive reasons," Wade declared.

"You just keep quiet on what I want and making charges," Humphrey answered quickly. "We've got an insurance commissioner here with the powers of Napoleon, who like a woman, reserves the right to change his mind."

Commissioner Wade stated that he was in favor of a clause in policies making them incontestable by the company after two years. The bill was reported unfavorably at Humphrey's request. At his request also the committee reported unfavorably his bill providing a redemption period of thirty days in all policies after the expiration of the present 30 days of grace.

Over the opposition of Senator Humphrey, the committee favorably reported a bill allowing the issuance of life insurance up to \$2,000, without medical examination. W. T. O'Donohue, secretary of the Jefferson Standard Life Insurance company, Commissioner Wade, and Hubert P. Williams, general agent of the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company here, spoke in favor of the bill.

MacKethan Bill

Senator MacKethan's bill prohibiting the insuring of the lives of children under six years was recorded unfavorably by a vote of 8 to 2. John Puller, of Durham, attorney for the Durham Life Insurance Company, and other companies and James H. Poir, of Raleigh, attorney for the Prudential Life Insurance company and Col. James R. Young, former state insurance commissioner, opposed the bill. A more drastic bill on the same proposition by Senator MacKethan was unfavorably reported at a meeting some time ago.

Action on the Blue Sky Law introduced by Senator Dunlap and backed by the Insurance Commissioner, was postponed. The committee adopted a motion to discharge consideration of the matter to a subcommittee to be named by Senator Dunlap, chairman.

WRITES WITH LIP STICK

VIENNA, Feb. 19.—Karl Dresser, a Vienna butler, in terror carried a red lettered note to the police—a note "written in blood," he declared. "I will see you in your shop at 10 o'clock tonight," the note read. The missive later was proved to have been written with a lip stick by a woman customer who came to the shop to pay a bill.

The first thing to turn green in the spring is a woman's envy of another woman's new hat.

FIRE CHIEFTAIN FOUND LAYING UNCONSCIOUS

Wet And Cold From Hours Of Battling With The Flames, Mr. Yelverton Succumbs To Acid Fumes

Overcome by the fumes of acid in the ruins of the Goldsboro Battery Company, Fire Chief Leslie Yelverton was found this morning about five o'clock, lying in close proximity to smoldering embers, in an unconscious condition. He was rushed hurriedly to the air by several of his firemen, where first aid was rendered by Sergeant Rufe Satterfield.

Physicians were hurriedly summoned, and the stricken chief was rushed to a hospital, where he received prompt medical attention. At a late hour this morning, his condition was reported to be very good, and although some fears are entertained that he might contract pneumonia on account of the exposure to the chilling water, it is expected that he will be able to return to his home some time during the day.

With Rufe Satterfield and another fireman holding the nozzle, Chief Yelverton was directing the stream of water on the dying embers in the Goldsboro battery plant when the crew started gasping from the effect of the acid fumes on their throats. Mr. Satterfield, speaking of the incident later, said he was seized with a severe "Chief," he said, "I saw him lying on the ground where once stood the entrance to the battery shop."

Chief Yelverton had battled with the flames almost like a superhuman being for hours. His clothes were drenched to the skin, and although he was seen with his teeth chattering with the cold, he refused to stop long enough to procure dry clothes, but persisting in staying with the fire until the last danger of the flames spreading any further was eliminated.

The firemen were greatly distressed at the plight of their chief, and as many as could cling to the side of the roadster in which he was placed, persisted in accompanying him to the hospital.

SEEKS AID IN DRY OFFICERS LOCATING SON, MAKE BIG RAID

Quaker City Youth Is Believed To Be In This Section, and Anxious Father Communicates With Local Manager of Carolina Motor Club In Effort To Find Him

H. E. Parker, local manager of the Carolina Motor Club, yesterday received a request from the parents of H. Elwood Jones, members of a motor club in the Quaker City section, who is believed to be in this section. The young fellow, accompanied by two other boys, William Miller and Sidney Gordon, left home on Monday, February 9, and has not been heard from since. He is described as 14 years of age but looks like he might be 19. He is five feet eight inches tall, broad shouldered, weighs 135 pounds, has brown eyes, brown hair combed straight back over his head. When last seen he was wearing a dark, plain suit, or a dark peacoat and salt suit, and may be wearing knickerbockers. He wore, at the time of his disappearance, low brown shoes, size 10 1/2.

The first seizure of the day was reported by Deputy J. L. Smith, of the Mount Olive section, who found the young man jumping up to his neck in water, and reported that he had captured a very large quantity of beer and about fifteen gallons of whiskey were reported yesterday by deputies of Sheriff W. D. Grant, who aided by two revenue men, have renewed their offensive on the liquor traffic in Wayne county, particularly in the Seven Springs section.

Sheriff Grant and Revenue Officers Take One Moonshiner, Four Stills And 15 Gallons of Corn Juice In Liquor Offensive

Deputies Howell and Thomas, together with two revenue men, returned last night from the Seven Springs section with two copper stills of large capacity, a negro accused of moonshining, and ten gallons of whiskey. They also reported having destroyed twenty barrels of beer.

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(Continued on page two)

NEWS OFFICE CRIPPLED

The Goldsboro News plant was out of commission for nearly five hours last night on account of the North Carolina Public Service Corporation being forced to cut off the power on the transmission lines down Center street as a protection to the fire-fighters and spectators at the big early morning blaze in the old Dr. Miller building and adjoining buildings.

When the power was finally turned on, after 3 o'clock, it was found that a blown-out fuse or short circuit, had developed somewhere between the scene of the fire and The News office. Trouble men, however, traced down the damage after an hour or so, and the long-needed power was turned on. This is by way of explanation of the delay in getting the papers to subscribers and the omission of much important news matter.