

# The Polk County News.

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VOL. XV.

COLUMBUS, POLK COUNTY, N. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1909.

NO. 28.

## FOUR HUNDRED MINERS DIE

### Terrible Disaster in Illinois Coal Mine.

#### A SMALL FIRE IS THE CAUSE.

Explosion in the St. Paul Coal Company's Mine May Prove One of the Greatest Tragedies in the List of Mine Horrors.

Cherry, Ill., Special.—Many officials of the St. Paul Coal Company mine where an explosion occurred Saturday say that four hundred men are dead in the mine. Twelve bodies have been taken out. Six of these were heroes not employed in the mine, who gave their lives in a futile effort to save the imprisoned workers.

Mine Superintendent James Steele stated five hours after the explosion that it was almost impossible that any of the miners still imprisoned could escape death.

The mine had a day shift of 484 men. Of these fifty left the mine at noon. Twenty-five or more escaped after the fire broke out. The others are believed to be dead.

The entrance to the mine has been sealed up in the hope of checking the flames. The building above the pit entrance was blown up to permit this. Despite the frantic efforts of the officials and the scores of volunteer assistants in the little town of Cherry it seemed assured at 6 o'clock that only bodies of the dead would be taken from the mine. Until Sunday morning when the covering will be removed and rescuers endeavor to penetrate the smoke and gas choked shaft and veins the fate of the inmates cannot be learned.

The fire causing the explosion which may prove one of the greatest tragedies in the list of mine horrors, had an origin almost trivial. A pile of hay allowed to smoulder too long and before the workers realized their danger the mine was filled with smoke, gases and flames and all exit were impossible.

Heroism such as is rarely exhibited was shown by officials of the mine and residents of the town of Cherry. These men, who were outside the mine when the fire originated, contributed five to the list of twelve known dead.

## TERRIBLE OCEAN CALAMITY.

### Boats Aflame and 100 Go Down—61 Rescued With Great Pain.

Singapore, By Cable.—The mail steamer La Seyne of the Messageries maritime service, running between Java and Singapore, and on her way to this port, was in collision early Sunday morning, with the steamer Onda of the British-India line, and sank within two minutes. Seven European passengers, including Baron and Baroness Beniczky, the captain of La Seyne, five European officers and 85 others comprising native passengers and members of the crew, were drowned.

The rescue of 61 persons, practically from the jaws of sharks, formed a thrilling incident of the wreck.

The accident occurred at 4 o'clock in the morning in a thick haze. The vessels were steaming at good speed and the La Seyne was cut almost in half. The majority of those in board were caught in their berths and carried down with the vessel.

The force of the collision brought the Onda to almost a dead stop and her engines were at once slowed and boats lowered. The rescue work proved thrilling, for not only were the remaining parties impeded by the dark, but schools of sharks were already attacking those clinging to pieces of wreckage in the water. Sixty-one persons from the ill-fated steamer were finally dragged into the boats and brought by the Onda to this port. Many of them had been bitten by sharks and several are severely injured.

## Three Die in a Fire.

Ettsburg, Pa., Special.—Three unidentified men, all foreigners, are dead; five others are seriously injured, and twelve men and women are suffering from bruises and shock, the result of an early morning fire in a Polish lodging house on the river front Sunday. When the fire broke out at 4 o'clock, about thirty persons were asleep in the building. Firemen aroused the occupants of the place and carried the women and children to safety.

## WANTONLY SHOT BY NEGROES

### Young Man Fares Roughly at the Hands of Negro Boys.

Asheville, Special.—Dock Atkins, a young white man of the town 23 years of age, is at the Mission hospital seriously hurt as a result of an attack made on him Saturday night a little after 11 o'clock by two negro boys at the corner of Southside avenue and South Main street. It appears from statements of witnesses that the attack was unprovoked; that Atkins in passing simply spoke to the negro boys when one of them with an oath whipped out a revolver and saying something about "Don't come on me," began shooting. Atkins was shot in the breast and while at first his wound was not thought serious later there were symptoms that became alarming and Sunday the young man was removed to the hospital for treatment. After firing the shots the negroes fled and although the officers worked all night in an effort to locate them their efforts thus far are without result.

## Our Orphanages at Thanksgiving.

The Orphanages of North Carolina are performing a valuable service. They deserve our interest and support. Many of our people generously contribute to the maintenance and extension of the work of institutions so worthy. Thanksgiving Day is special "Orphans' Day" in our State. At this season a people greatly blessed and grateful to God for His mercies express their thanks in a fitting, practical way by offerings to aid the work for needy, homeless little ones, a work for the kingdom of God. At the Thanksgiving season, which is approaching, may even a larger number of our people unite to do greater things for this cause than ever before. The demands upon our Orphanages have increased. The cost of living has advanced. These institutions are endeavoring constantly to do a more efficient work. Their needs are greater.

## To Extend Railway Lines.

Asheville, Special.—The pleasing news was given out Wednesday that the Asheville & East Tennessee Railroad Company, the company that built and is now operating the interurban electric line from Asheville to Weaverville, is making rapid preparation for an extension of the line on to what is known as the Forks of Ivy, a distance of a little more than seven miles beyond Weaverville and a total distance of about sixteen miles from Asheville. It is understood that the surveys are all complete; that rights-of-way have been given the company for quite a distance toward the Forks of Ivy and that probably the contract for the extension work will be let this fall or inter with actual construction of the line undertaken early in the spring.

## Oyster Crop Very Low Owing to Dry Weather and Low Water.

Newbern, Special.—The supply of oysters in this market is pretty good but the quality very inferior. Few fat oysters have been brought here so far. Most of them are very poor and watery and the price is around 36 cents a tub—at times 75 cents and as low as 35 cents. The past few days has seen the price drop considerably as they can now be bought on the streets for 15 cents a quart and the best for not over 25 cents a quart. It is said that so much dry weather and low water is responsible for the poor quality of the bivalves.

## Dread Pellagra Claims a Victim at Wilmington.

Wilmington, Special.—Mrs. Leah R. Duke, aged 32 years, died at the James Walker Memorial hospital Friday after a long illness of pellagra. She is survived by her husband and one child.

## Would Mob Motorman.

Greenville, Special.—A small mob of nearly a hundred people held a street car Sunday afternoon just outside of the city limits and some threats were made against the motorman, who had run over a girl about 16 months old. The girl was not seriously injured by the mob spirit seemed rising and county officers were sent for to quiet the crowd. There were no arrests made.

## Valuable Old Furniture Destroyed in Buncombe County by Fire.

Asheville, Special.—It is learned here that as a result of a fire in Limestone township Thursday night which destroyed the residence of Miss Delia Yeaton many valuable heirlooms and much old and rare mahogany furniture were burned. It seems that the origin of the fire is unknown; that Miss Yeaton spent the night with a nearby friend leaving a boy in charge that when the fire was discovered it had gained such headway that very little was saved from the structure. The loss of the furniture is irreparable.

## TAR HEEL CHRONICLES

### News Notes Gathered From All Parts of the Old North State.

#### Father Charged With Murdering Son

Greensboro, Special.—Simpson H. Coble, the Greene township farmer who was found lying in a gully near the roadside mortally wounded Wednesday, died Thursday morning at his home 18 miles south of this city. His father, Dan "Foot" Coble, and his brother-in-law, Hiram Elliot, are in Guilford county jail charged with the murder. A third prisoner is H. M. Holt, who was operating a blockade distillery in the neighborhood near the scene of the crime.

The father and the brother-in-law of the dead man were arrested Thursday morning by Deputy Sheriff John Weatherly and George Crutehfield, who went to Greene township Wednesday night immediately upon receipt of information of the crime. Holt, who came to Greensboro in company with a neighbor to notify the officers of the murderous assault on Simpson Coble, was arrested Thursday morning by Deputy Sheriff Shaw upon receipt of a telephone communication that his blockade distillery had been captured by Deputies Weatherly and Shaw. Holt was in the sheriff's office when the arrest was made and did not appear to be surprised when he found himself in custody.

## Mr. Jeff Fisher Killed by a Man Named Bufkin.

Whiteville, Special.—Mr. Jeff Fisher was killed near here by a man named Bufkin. The tragedy occurred at the home of Mr. R. V. T. Duncan. Bufkin fired through a window at Mr. Duncan and killed Mr. Fisher. Mr. Duncan ran from the house and Bufkin fired again, wounding him slightly. The murderer made his escape.

Before the killing Messrs. Duncan and Fisher were driving in a buggy and were halted in the road by Bufkin, who renewed an old quarrel with Duncan, cursing both men in the vehicle while he held the mule by the bridle. They whipped up and left Bufkin, but he made a swipe with a knife as they passed, and cut Mr. Duncan on the hand. Bufkin, who lived in the same neighborhood, went home, secured a gun and proceeded to the home of Duncan and committed the fearful crime.

## Lightning Fires Barn and Stock is Burned.

Taylorsville, Special.—Tuesday night about 8 o'clock during a thunder storm which passed over this section, lightning struck and set fire to the barn of Mr. A. Wilson in the eastern part of town near Conselys Teague's veneer mill. The barn loft was filled with dry feed and in almost an instant the whole structure was in a blaze and soon reduced to ashes. Two horses and a cow were within. The latter was saved by quick work. One horse was instantly killed and the other burned to death. About one hundred and fifty bushels of corn, a wagon, drill and other farming implements were destroyed.

Several parties who were in the central office of the Bell Telephone Company received slight shocks. A plug was blown across the room with terrible force and all lights extinguished. It was several minutes before the parties could move or speak.

## Killed in an Explosion.

Salisbury, Special.—A white man named McLean, from the Richfield section of Stanly county, who was employed by Contractor Rose on the Southbound Railroad in this county, was instantly killed Thursday in an explosion of dynamite. The particulars of the accident could not be learned.

## Tobacco Brought \$50 Per Hundred.

Raleigh, Special.—Sheriff Seares came in Wednesday afternoon from the thriving little city of Apex. During the day, he said, there had been a big tobacco sale there, the best brands of the weed bringing \$40, \$45 and \$50 per hundred pounds. Sheriff Seares agrees with Hon. Percy J. Olive, who always greets one with the happy words "Apex is still growing."

## Mt. Pleasant Boy Torn to Pieces.

Concord, Special.—A twelve-year-old son of R. L. Overcash, of this county, met a horrible death at the ginney of the Kindley Mill, at Mount Pleasant, nine miles from here, at nine o'clock Tuesday morning. While his father's cotton was being unloaded the boy was playing about the gin and was caught in the shafting and literally torn to pieces. The body was severed completely at the waist line and one limb torn from the body. The boy's body was gathered by pieces from the floor.

## KILLS BANK CASHIER, WOUNDS PRESIDENT

### Youth Who Holds Up Indiana Institution Saved From Lynching.

## TRIES TO ESCAPE IN SKIFF

### Enters Building by Rear Door With Two Pistols, Orders All Employees Into the Vault and Begins Shooting.

New Albany, Ind.—In an attempt at bank robbery a seventeen-year-old boy, Thomas Jefferson Hall, of Louisville, Ky., entered the Merchants' National Bank here shortly before noon and killed J. Hangary Fawcett, cashier of the bank; seriously wounded John K. Woodward, president of the bank, and wounded James E. Tucker, a negro chauffeur, fatally.

According to William J. Hall, the boy's father, who has a furniture store at No. 802 South Preston street, Louisville, young Hall has been "a household tyrant." He denies that the lad is insane.

"He is simply mean," said the father. The family is formerly of Knoxville, Tenn.

Among young Hall's effects was found a strongly made cabinet, lined and outfitted like a room. It is believed that the boy expected to escape with his loot, crawling into the box, which was consigned to "R. J. Smith, Knoxville, Tenn.," and escape as freight.

Hall came to New Albany in an automobile, the property of Mrs. Walter Escott, a resident of one of the most fashionable districts of Louisville. The chauffeur, James R. Tucker, a negro, told the police that the youth took possession of the automobile in front of Mrs. Escott's home and forced him, at the muzzle of a revolver, to drive him to New Albany.

Hall entered the bank by a rear door, a revolver in each hand. He gave the command, "Hands up, everybody; get into the vault!"

President Woodward advanced toward him, and attempted to speak to the boy. Hall's response to Mr. Woodward's question as to what was wanted was two shots, which struck the official in the arm and the stomach, inflicting dangerous wounds.

Fawcett then rushed forward, but before he could reach the fallen president was shot in the neck and breast, dying a short time afterward.

Hall, still without speaking a word, walked out the front door, dropping one of his revolvers just outside the building. Turning the corner to where the automobile stood, he jumped into the rear seat, with the command to the negro, "Get out of this as fast as you can." But the automobile stood still, the negro, thoroughly frightened, being unable to move. Hall jumped to the ground, drew a revolver and sent a bullet into the negro's back.

An instant later the assassin was running at top speed down the bank to the Ohio, where he jumped into a skiff.

He had pulled out some distance into the stream before the astonished citizens of the town and the river bank knew what had happened. One old sailor on a dredge, seeing the youth rowing for the Kentucky shore, gave the alarm through a megaphone.

Owners of river craft then engaged in a race for the desperado. The police, however, in a motor boat, distanced all followers, and in a short time had Hall at bay on an island just south of the big bridge connecting New Albany with West Louisville. They covered him with revolvers and the arrest was made without a fight.

The prisoner was taken to New Albany. There the police were surprised to find 200 men who wanted to take the prisoner. Only by a piece of strategy was the latter's life saved, as a chorus of "Hang him! Lynch him! He killed Fawcett!" greeted the police.

Woodward, the wounded president, is fifty years old, and is a son of J. K. Woodward, a wealthy merchant, who died a few years ago. He has been president of the bank for fifteen years.

Fawcett, the dead cashier, was forty-one years old, and leaves a widow, formerly Miss Elsie McDonald, a society girl of Louisville, Ky., to whom he was married two years ago. He also leaves a son, Charles Fawcett, by a former marriage. He was a son of Charles H. Fawcett, a retired business man and director in the Merchants' National Bank.

## PROMINENT PEOPLE.

The Duke of Aosta dislocated his kneecap while riding near Naples. Sir Morgan Crofton and his wife, whom he found in New York, returned to London.

Prince Ito was buried in a mausoleum on his estate, near Tokio, after imposing ceremonies.

The Tarrytown annual flower show closed, William Rockefeller being prominent as a prize winner.

Henryk Sienkiewicz, author of "Quo Vadis," says he can write to his satisfaction only when he uses scarlet ink.

Ambassador and Mrs. Henry White were passengers on the steamer George Washington, sailing for New York from France.

Statues in honor of General Jose de San Martin, the South American liberator, were unveiled at Boulogne and Santiago de Chile.

President Taft at New Orleans paid a tribute to the memory of Lieutenant Aiken, of that city, who was killed by an explosion on the battleship North Carolina.

Senora Arcadia Yarnell Calderon, wife of Senor Ignacio Calderon, the Minister of Bolivia in Washington, D. C., died at the Bolivian Legation, aged sixty years.

F. A. Soubart, French Minister to Colombia, has been appointed Minister to Cuba in place of the late M. Bonnardet, formerly counselor of the embassy at Berne.

Dr. Charles W. Eliot, as chairman of the National Conservation Association, issued a statement on the danger of monopolistic control of the country's power sources.

James A. Patten, "King of the Wheat Pit," made \$4,000,000 in one day by a sudden rise in cotton based on crop shortage, which made his estimated market winnings for the year \$12,000,000.

## Death From Football.

Washington, Special.—Football has claimed another victim in Archer Christian, the 18-year-old left-half-back of the University of Virginia team whose injury in the game with Georgetown University Saturday afternoon was followed by his death at Georgetown University hospital Sunday morning. The body was taken to Richmond Sunday afternoon for burial.

## Mme. Steinhil Not Guilty.

Paris, By Cable.—Mme. Margherita Steinhil was acquitted by a jury at an early hour Sunday morning of the murder of her husband, Adolphe Steinhil, a noted painter, and her stepmother, Mme. Japy. The verdict was rendered at 12:55 a. m. after 2 1/2 hours' deliberation, during which the jury thrice summoned the president of the court for explanations, thus proving that the original majority was for conviction.

## Will Meet in Wilmington.

Newbern, Special.—The North Carolina Drainage Association held its second day's meeting on the revenue cutter Pamlico while taking a trip down the Neuse Friday. The business session resulted in the election of J. A. Bron of Chadbourn, president; Joseph Hyde Pratt, secretary and treasurer, and a vice president was elected from each county, which was represented.

## NEWSY GLEANINGS.

Senator Aldrich made two addresses in St. Louis on monetary reform. Colonel G. R. Colton was inaugurated at San Juan, Porto Rico, as Governor of the island.

President Taft on his way back to Washington, D. C., spoke at the Georgia-Carolina Fair, in Augusta, Ga.

It was agreed between the United States and Chile to submit the Alsop claim to The Hague court for arbitration.

The new British Dreadnoughts of the Lion type will have tonnage of 26,350 and speed of twenty-eight knots.

Vice-President Harris, of the New York Central, placed the shortage of Treasurer Warriner, of Cincinnati, at \$645,000.

The newspapers at Berlin attacked the Government for the defalcations at the Kiel navy yards, which reach several millions.

Count von Bernstorff, German Ambassador, declared in a speech at Philadelphia that Germany seeks no territorial expansion.

It was announced at Boston that the trustees of Andover Theological Seminary had purchased a site in Cambridge, Mass.

Senator Cummins, of Iowa, attacked Speaker Cannon and defended the "insurgents" in Congress in a speech at Chicago.

Experts decided that the Criminal Courts Building, New York City, could be repaired at a cost of \$12,000 for occupancy within two weeks.

Again risking arrest for contempt of court, President Gompers at the Toronto convention of the American Federation of Labor denounced Judge Wright, of Washington, D. C., who sentenced the labor leaders to jail.

## OR THE CONSEQUENCES WERE.

Quirk—They say that love is a disease. Do you believe it?  
Quickwood—I do. In my case it turned out to be a sort of rash.—Boston Transcript.

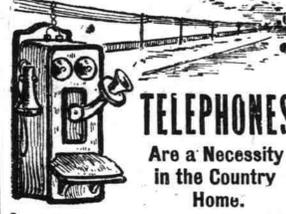
## New Yorkers Drink Tea as Well as Other Things, and It is Estimated that One Pound of the Herb is Consumed by Each Inhabitant Yearly.

The farther you are removed from town to railroad station, the more the telephone will save in time and horse flesh. No man has a right to compel one of the family to lie in agony for hours while he drives to town for the doctor. Telephone and save half the suffering.

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Two Hundred Thousand pairs now in actual use. Over Seventy-five Thousand pairs sold last year.

DESCRIPTION: Made in all sizes. It is lively and easy riding, very durable and lined with a special quality of rubber, which never becomes porous and which closes up small punctures without allowing the air to escape. We have hundreds of letters from satisfied customers stating that their tires have only been pumped up once or twice in a whole season. They weigh no more than an ordinary tire, the puncture resisting qualities being given by several layers of this, specially prepared fabric on the tread. That "Holding Back" sensation commonly felt when riding on asphalt or soft roads is overcome by the patent "Basket Weave" tread which prevents all air from being squeezed out between the tire and the road thus overcoming all suction. The regular price of these tires is \$8.50 per pair, but for advertising purposes we are making a special factory price to the rider of only \$4.80 per pair. All orders shipped same day letter is received. We ship C.O.D. on approval. You do not pay a cent until you have examined and found them strictly as represented.

We will allow a cash discount of 5 per cent (thereby making the price \$4.55 per pair) if you send FULL CASH WITH ORDER and enclose this advertisement. We will also send one nickel plated brass hand pump and two Sampson metal puncture closers on full paid orders (these metal puncture closers to be used in case of intentional knife cuts or heavy gashes). Tires to be returned at OUR expense if for any reason they are not satisfactory on examination.

We are perfectly reliable and money sent to us is as safe as in a bank. Ask your Postmaster, Banker, Express or Freight Agent or the Editor of this paper about us. If you order a pair of these tires, you will find that they will ride easier, run faster, wear better, last longer and look finer than any tire you have ever used at any price. We know that you will be so well pleased that when you want a bicycle you will give us your order. We want you to send us a small trial order at once, hence this remarkable tire offer.

Anti-rub wheels, saddles, pedals, p. and repairs, and everything in the bicycle line are sold by us at half the usual prices charged by dealers and repair men. Write for our big SUNDAY catalogue.

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