

DISASTROUS FIRE SWEEPS DURHAM

Water Supply Fails and Entire Business Portion Threatened.

LOSS IS ONE MILLION.

Two Blocks Destroyed—High Winds Add to Horror—Firemen Unable to Check Conflagration.

Durham, N. C., March 24.—Two blocks of the town have been destroyed, and the fire is still raging. It is expected that the entire business district will be burned. More than a million dollars now is estimated as the loss.

Many have been injured, although no fatalities have been reported.

The postoffice and First Baptist Church are burning.

Over fifty firms are thrown out of business, the water supply is practically out, and a stiff wind is blowing.

The American Tobacco Company Building is threatened.

The fire departments from Raleigh and Greensboro are en route here on special trains. There seems no chance to control the fire, and it may sweep the entire city.

Powder and dynamite explosions in hardware stores are aiding the flames.

Durham, N. C., March 24.—The entire business portion of this city is threatened with destruction by a fire which originated in the Duke Building, a five-story structure, at 11 o'clock last night. Buildings occupying one city block have either been entirely destroyed or badly damaged, and the flames have spread to another block.

The flames raged for more than a half hour while the firemen stood helpless as a result of a break in the city water mains.

There also was another break which reduced the water pressure and hindered the firemen. The water supply still is intermittent.

Durham, N. C., March 24.—The largest block in the city is completely wrapped in flames. The Duke Building, occupied by 5 and 10 cent stores and 200 offices, has been destroyed. The water main has burst, and the fire is spreading.

The Duke Building is a five-story office building. The flames are believed to have started in a plumbing shop on the second floor. Firemen are greatly handicapped in fighting the fire by a break in the water mains.

At midnight all of the buildings in the block occupied by the Duke Building were on fire. A heavy wind blew the flames, and parts of burning roofs fell throughout the city. The Academy of Music was in the path of the fire.

The water pressure improved two hours after the fire started at 11 o'clock, but it was intermittent. One of the breaks in the water main compelled the firemen to stop operations for a half hour, and this allowed the fire great headway.

Durham, according to the census of 1910, had a population of 18,240. It is widely known as a tobacco manufacturing centre.

Wilmington, N. C., March 24.—A telephone message just received from Durham says two blocks have been destroyed and the fire is raging wildly.

When the steamship Old Reliable sank in the Ohio below Colconda, Ill., Captain Arch Holleybach was drowned.

A run was started at Denver on the German-American Trust Company, no reason being known for the move of several hundred small depositors.

Governor Glynn, of New York, has signed three bills to extend the use of convict labor on State highways.

An unidentified negro was lynched yesterday at Inverness, Miss., for the murder of Sam Lusco, an Italian, at Greenville.

AT WASHINGTON THEATRES.

"The Lure" at the Belasco—Live Show at The Gayety.

"The Lure," the last word in the exploitation on the stage of the nastiness of the underworld, presented at the Belasco this week, presents the various elements in the compound of the social evil and all their repulsive nakedness. Compared with it such plays as "The Eastest Way," are pinks of propriety. It leaves absolutely nothing to the imagination which fact perhaps constitutes the only apology that can be advanced against as severe a condemnation of such productions as the English language is capable of supplying. It deals with brothels, prostitutes, pimps, procurers, debauchery and villainy. It teaches no moral; it preaches no sermon for the purity of the family such as is preached in "Damaged Goods." In brief, it is unutterably coarse, vicious and nauseating. If anything can furnish an argument in favor of the appointment of a censor of stage productions it is a play like this one. The social evil has existed as long as the human race; it is not at all probable that it will ever be completely eradicated; the most that can be hoped for is that it may be minimized to the last possible degree; certainly it ought to be kept within such bounds as human nature, properly regulated, will admit of. There is absolutely no excuse for prancing it on the stage before the eyes of pure women.

The story which George Scarborough envelops in this exhibition, and which is made to serve as an excuse for it is that of a young girl who has been discharged from her employment in a store. Her mother's life can only be saved by an expensive operation. While in the store the "madame" of a house of ill-fame, who cloaks her vile business under the guise of an employment agency, has given the girl her card. The girl goes to the agency in the hope of getting employment. She tells the "madam" that she needs \$100 to save her mother's life. The woman points out to her how she can easily earn that amount of money in her down town establishment. She has an encounter with the "cadet," and, with another white slave, is rescued just in the nick of time by a young detective.

The company which presented this play at the Belasco last night is made up of excellent material.

New Behman Show.

Few burlesque shows come to the Gayety during a season that have a shade on the new Behman Show, which opened its week's engagement at the popular Ninth street theatre yesterday. Lew Kelly, who has never been seen to laugh on the stage, and who keeps his audience in a constant uproar of laughter is the main attraction. When it comes to being funny he is about as funny as they come.

Sandwiched in between the fun there is plenty of catchy music and clever dancing to keep every one in good humor. The show is different from most burlesque offerings in that the chorus is given very little to do, and the principals hold the footlights the greater part of the time. It is a show of specialties and every one of them worthy of mention. The second act, which is concluded with a screaming war time burlesque entitled "Shendooah," is a vaudeville performance in itself. Gertrude Lynch as Eva Tansy; Laura Hayden as Maude Adams; Vic Casmore and George Douglas as Montgomery and Stone, were all excellent. The real hit of the show was Martelle, a woman impersonator.

The entire production is elaborately staged and costumed. The chorus is large and sprightly and did the little it was called upon to do in a pleasing way. Manager Peck is to be congratulated upon inaugurating "ladies week" with such an offering. There is nothing about the bill that the most scrupulous person could find objectionable. It affords two hours of clean, wholesome amusement.

The Massachusetts House of Representatives has voted money for a monument in Porto Rico to Bay State soldiers killed there in the Spanish war.

For the murder of Peter Swanson, seven years ago, T. D. Bowtran, Dale Mitchell and George Hushes, prominent cattlemen, have been arrested at Grand Junction, Col.

Receiver E. B. Pryor, of the Wabash Railroad, has been elected president of the St. Louis State National Bank.

RICHARD H. MANN SUCCEEDS GRONER

Petersburg Man Choice of McReynolds for District Attorney.

BURCH IS MARSHAL.

Offices of District Attorney and Marshal Will be Moved to Richmond From Norfolk.

Richmond, Va., March 24.—Richard H. Mann, of Petersburg, will be named as United States District Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia within the next three or four days, Attorney-General McReynolds definitely decided on the appointment yesterday, and it is expected that the nomination will be sent to the Senate within a few days. Confirmation of the appointment will have the effect of ending the term of D. Lawrence Groner, of Norfolk, who has served about two years since he was appointed to succeed Judge L. L. Lewis, of Richmond. There has been considerable conjecture for over a year as to whether the Department of Justice would allow Mr. Groner to serve out his four-year term. At first Mr. McReynolds intimated that the policy of the administration not to discharge the Republicans just to make places for Democrats would result in Mr. Groner serving his four years, regardless of the fact that he is really serving out two years of the unexpired four-year term of Judge Lewis. But recently Mr. McReynolds has weakened, and gave ear to the urging of Congressman Watson and the senators that he appoint Mr. Mann.

The Department of Justice has also decided to appoint Thomas Burch, of Martinsville, as United States marshal for the Western District, to succeed Marshal Robert A. Fulwiler, of Staunton, who forwarded his resignation to the Department December 1. Burch and Mann are expected to be nominated at the same time, either on tomorrow or Thursday.

The nominees for the other five big offices, whose names were sent to the Senate on Saturday, probably will not be confirmed until after Mann and Burch are nominated, and all seven may be confirmed at the same time, except Mr. Hart, of whose confirmation there is great doubt. Who will be nominated by President Wilson in the event that Mr. Hart's nomination is refused, has not yet been considered by the White House, although a strong plea is being made by the Ninth District Democrats and others deeply interested that the appointment of former Attorney-General Rufus A. Ayers is almost imperative, if Democrats are to take the Ninth District away from the Republicans through the election of R. Tate Irvin as Congressman.

There will be several shifts made in the locations of the offices of the collectors, district attorneys and marshals in Virginia, after the seven new officers are appointed. These will almost certainly result in Richmond securing the location of the district attorney's and marshal's offices at present located in Norfolk, and Roanoke gaining the removal there of the collector's office now maintained at Abingdon, and the district attorney's office now located in the Ninth District.

In the East, it is more than probable that District Attorney Mann will move the office from Norfolk, where it is now held by Mr. Groner, and establish it at Richmond, which is within easy reach of his home at Petersburg. Mann probably will be prevented from taking the office to his home town because of the recent ruling by the Department of Justice that hereafter offices cannot be moved from a city where there is a Federal court to a city not having a court.

The department will raise no objection to John G. Saunders moving the marshal's office to Richmond, his home, from Norfolk, where it is now maintained by Marshal Smithers.

R. C. L. Moncure, the new collector, will retain the offices now occupied by Collector Lowry at Richmond, which will give Richmond all three of the Richmond offices. In the Western district, Richard

SITUATION IN ULSTER.

Officers Believed to Have Been Told They Would Not Have to Fight Ulster.

London, March 24.—The defection of the army officers who refused to serve in Ulster is now a closed incident, but its consequences are likely to be far-reaching.

Premier Asquith and Colonel Seely, Secretary of State for War, made explanations before an excited and turbulent house yesterday that the whole affair was the result of a misunderstanding. The misunderstanding, it was inferred, although they do not directly say so, was due to misconstruction of the Government plans by the commanding general, Sir Arthur Paget, whereby he informed the officers in Ireland that they were to move on Ulster for a repressive campaign.

General Paget and three senior officers from the Curragh Camp—General Gough, Colonel McEwan and Col. Parker—were summoned to London for a conference. According to official statements, the misunderstanding has been cleared away and these officers returned to Ireland last night. Prior to their departure they said they were entirely satisfied with the results of their visit.

The terms on which the officers remain at their posts were not disclosed, but the general belief is that they were assured that they would not be compelled to fight against the Ulstermen. This is considered a distinct surrender by the government.

Lord Morley, of Blackburn, explained in the House of Lords significantly that he did not think in the interests of the efficiency of the army that all that transpired in the army council should be made public and that the King approved the orders to the officers to return.

The future of the Home-Rule bill is wrapped in clouds. No declaration of "full steam ahead" or "meeting force with force" were heard from the liberals in the debate in the House of Commons today. None of the fire and firmness which permeated the speeches of the Ministers only last week was in evidence. The army has checkmated the government, according to the Unionist view, and the Covenanters of Ulster have won their fight.

No one will be surprised if the government soon relinquishes armed force, as its action has the immediate result of striking a shower of sparks of class jealousies.

CARDINALS START WORK.

Players to Report Tomorrow for Spring Practice.

Realizing that the time is drawing near for the big game with the Nationals, Captain McBride, and Coach Burgendine, will take the boys out for the first time Wednesday afternoon at 5 p. m., if the park is in good condition. If the present weather conditions prevail the grounds should be in great shape, and by Sunday a scrub game will be played.

The following men will report at the park Wednesday: McBride, Nugent, Owens, Shalin, Burgendine, Eason, Snowden, Itner, Brown, Devers, Lynn, Cain, Trenary, Astryke, Carl, Bayne, Jones, Cornell, and Sutherland. This is the best array of talent the Cardinals have had to pick from for some time and a very prosperous season is expected.

Mayor Thomas A. Fisher will soon issue tickets to the game to be played in Washington between the Washingtons and Cardinals April 7, which will be given to the pupils of the schools by their teachers.

FOR RENT—Two houses, six room bay window brick, \$18 north Columbus street, and six room house, No. 529 north Alfred street. Apply at 603 Queen street. 24-3t.

Evelyn Byrd said some day ago, that, if appointed, he would establish the district attorney's office in Roanoke, taking it out of the Ninth district, where it is now held by District Attorney Gillespie.

The office of collector of internal revenue in the West will also be moved to Roanoke from Abingdon, where Collector Bailey now holds forth, regardless of whether Hart or Ayers is appointed. This will greatly benefit the service by putting the collector in the same city with the revenue agent, as Agent Sims was recently moved to Roanoke.

The Western marshal's office will be retained at Staunton, however, by Marshal Burch, where it is at present held by Marshal Fulwiler.

GOMEZ PALACIO IN REBEL HANDS

Frightful Carnage Reported at Gates of Federal Stronghold.

TORREON TOTTERS.

Constitutionalists Engage in Fierce Hand-to-Hand Fighting Through Blazing Suburbs.

Constitutionalist Headquarters, Verjel, Durango, Mexico, March 24.—Gomez, Palacio, the suburb of Torreon, fell into the hands of General Francisco Villa's constitutionalist troops during the night.

With the suburb nad Lerdo controlled by the rebels the fall of Torreon itself now seems only a matter of hours.

After having been driven out of Gomez Palacio at 9 o'clock last night, and suffering tremendous losses, the federals returned to the attack at midnight. Early today they were still engaged in a desperate conflict, but steadily retreating. The town is afire in a dozen places, and is threatened with destruction.

The downfall of Gomez Palacio was accompanied by the heaviest fighting since the Torreon campaign began. Early Monday the combined forces of Generals Urbina, Hernandez, and Rodriguez, personally commanded by General Villa occupied Lerdo after scarcely more than a perfunctory resistance. Immediately Villa threw a large portion of his force, mostly cavalrymen, into the battle at Gomez Palacio, relieving the strain that had been placed upon the column headed by General Torriob Ortega.

Ortega had shelled Gomez Palacio all morning, but did not open a serious attack until Villa's men arrived in the afternoon. Villa's cavalry reinforcements were sent to the firing line at once, while his foot soldiers were held in reserve behind Ortega's column.

Miles of forests were moved down, houses and chalets in the mountains were swept away, telegraph and telephone wires and poles were destroyed, electric tramcars stopped running in several places, and a number of avalanches fell.

WORK OF LONE ROBBER.

Shoots Cashier and Patron of Bank and Escapes With \$2,500.

Altoona, Pa., March 24.—The lone robber who yesterday held up and robbed the Union Bank of about \$2,500, shot the cashier and a patron, terrorized passersby with a shower of bullets, and escaped in a stolen taxicab had not been captured at a late hour last night.

The robber, a man about 25 years old, medium height, and wearing a gray overcoat, drove up to the bank building on one of the city's busiest corners at the noon hour. Entering the bank, he deposited a satchel on the floor, drove the teller to shelter, and shot the cashier, A. P. Rupert, in the stomach with a revolver. He then climbed over the partition, and filling the satchel with bills from the counter started to leave the building.

At the entrance he met William Blackburn, a depositor, and shot him in the leg. Clearing the street with a volley of shots, he drove off in his machine, which it was subsequently learned had been stolen from the railroad station during the absence of the chauffeur.

The automobile was later found abandoned in an alley, but no trace of the daring robber could be discovered.

A description of the man was flashed to all surrounding towns, and a score of suspects were placed under arrest, only to be discharged when the wounded men failed to identify them.

Rupert was hurried to the Altoona Hospital, and Blackburn was taken to his home.

The robber is described as a young man aged about 25, medium height, and smooth face. He wore no mask. The wounds of the two injured men are not necessarily of a fatal nature.

Hard and soft shell crabs daily at the Rammel Cafe—Royal street.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

Mary S. Beavers, the one-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Beavers, died at the home of her parents, 716 south Fairfax street, yesterday afternoon.

In the Corporation Court a final decree of divorce was granted Harry Fillingame from his wife, Madeline Fillingame, on the ground of desertion.

The Golden Rule and the Royal Purple Degrees were conferred last night by Marley Encampment No. 6, I. O. O. F. At the conclusion of the degree work the officers of the encampment were served supper by the ladies committee of the American Indian Guards' Fair.

The Rev. Patrick Murphy, of Washington, will preach in St. Paul's Church tonight at eight o'clock.

The funeral of John Scanlon, was held this morning at 9:30 o'clock from St. Mary's Catholic Church. Services were conducted by the Rev. H. J. Kelly.

The Rev. Thomas J. Garland, D. D., Bishop Suffragan of Pennsylvania, will preach and confirm at Christ Church tonight at 8 o'clock. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Jackson Creek Salt Water Oysters just arrived, Grape Shot, Captain Johnson, King street Wharf. 24 3t

The Samaritan Rebekah Lodge, I. O. O. F., will hold their regular meeting tonight and all members are requested to be present to make plans for the entertainment in April.

STORM IN SWITZERLAND.

Miles of Trees Prostrated by 150-Mile Gale.

Geneva, March 24.—Details of a terrible hurricane which passed over central, eastern and northern Switzerland, recently show that the damage caused was far greater than at first reported. Such a violent wind—in some places it blew at from 140 to 150 miles an hour—has not been experienced in this country since 1863, and it is surprising that the loss of life has not been greater.

Miles of forests were moved down, houses and chalets in the mountains were swept away, telegraph and telephone wires and poles were destroyed, electric tramcars stopped running in several places, and a number of avalanches fell.

At Appenzel a carriage containing four persons was lifted from the road and hurled down a ravine, the occupants being seriously injured. Near St. Gall the main line was blocked with fallen trees, while at Rorschach roofs of houses and chimneys littered the streets, making them dangerous.

The hurricane was followed by a heavy snowfall in the Alps, two feet to three feet of snow being reported.

INSTRUCTS COMMISSIONERS.

Lists of Personal Property Must be Certified Under Oath.

The Auditor of Public Accounts has instructed the Commissioners of Revenue throughout the state to receive no lists of personal property not filled in and properly certified to under oath. These lists are to be subjected to a close examination by grand juries called for that specific purpose and Judge Barley has informed Commissioner Callahan that he is determined to enforce the law in this particular and uphold the Auditor in his commendable effort to equalize taxation. In view of this and to prevent future embarrassment and trouble, Commissioner Callahan requests that taxpayers in this city be especially careful in making out their returns. The commissioner and his deputy are now making the annual house to house canvass. In addition thereto tax lists are being mailed to both resident and non-resident tax payers in order to give all ample opportunity to make proper returns.

Judge O'Brien, of Houghton, Mich., denied a motion to quash the indictment of C. H. Moyer, president of the Western Federation of Miners, and others charged with conspiracy.

STUART SIGNS STATE BUDGET

General Appropriation Bill as Passed Meets Governor's Approval.

CARRIES \$14, 139, 341.

Spending Money Provided For Soldiers' Home Inmates—Other Appropriations Pending.

Richmond, Va., March 24.—The general appropriation bill, known as the House substitute for Senate bill No. O, carrying appropriations for the operation of the State government and institutions for two years, was signed yesterday by Governor Stuart just as the bill came to his desk from Clerk John W. Williams, of the House of Delegates. A total amount of \$14,139,341 is carried in the measure, \$7,118,468 to be expended in 1914 and \$7,020,873, in 1915. As it finally emerged from conference, the general appropriation bill was well within the \$14,200,000 limit laid down by the Governor in his talks with members of the General Assembly as the maximum amount he would approve.

Appropriations made in the bill become available at once. Many of the state departments have become tacitly in paying salaries, as the money voted in the general appropriation bill is for the fiscal year, which began on March 1, 1914. Salaries for the first half of March fell due on March 15, and department heads can issue the delayed vouchers at once.

As finally passed, the bill provides \$580,000 for the grade schools and \$540,000 for Confederate pensions in each year.

The Governor also approved yesterday the special appropriation measure known as House bill No. 113, providing \$1.00 a month for pocket money for the inmates of the Lee Camp Soldiers' Homes.

In addition to the sums voted in the general appropriation bill, the Legislature also passed special appropriation measures amounting to \$292,000 and an appropriation of \$180,000 for the purchase of the Ford Hotel property, provided there is a surplus in the treasury at the end of the fiscal year. None of these special appropriations has been signed yet.

VIRGINIA CONTESTS PLEA.

Brief Filed Objecting to Reopening of Divorce Case.

Washington, March 24.—Attorney-General Lilly, on behalf of the State of West Virginia, yesterday filed a supplemental answer with the United States Supreme Court which asks the court to reopen the entire West Virginia-Virginia debt case because of the recent finding of the West Virginia commission of alleged assets which, if credited proportionately to the younger state, would make a considerable "set off" to the amount which the Supreme Court declared should be paid to the Old Dominion.

The brief, presented in printed pamphlet form, sums up the claims made by West Virginia for "set offs" similar to that presented to the Virginia commission at the time the last meeting was held in Washington last month, and contains practically nothing that was not set forth at that time. It also includes exhibits in printed form of the claims of West Virginia put forward at that time, Virginia's reply, in which it stated the "set offs" could not be considered, and other communications.

Attorney-General John Garland Pollard and Randolph Harrison, acting as associate counsel, filed a brief objecting to the reopening of the case. Mr. Pollard said the question had been litigated eight years and should be settled speedily.

ROYAL ARCH MASONS.

A called convocation of Mount Vernon Chapter, No. 14, Royal Arch Masons, will be held at the Masonic Temple tonight (Tuesday) at 7:30 o'clock. A full attendance is requested. Work Royal Arch.

By order of the M. E. High Priest, A. G. UHLER, Secretary.