

TORNADOES KILL 12 IN MIDDLE WEST

HOMES WERE DEMOLISHED, WIRE SERVICE CRIPPLED AND LIVESTOCK KILLED.

SNOW REPORTED IN DENVER

Thousands Made Homeless by Tornadoes and Floods Which Swept Over Central West.

Chicago—Twelve persons are known to have been killed, more than a hundred injured and thousands made homeless by tornadoes and floods that swept over the central west.

Tornadoes were reported in a score of Illinois, Indiana and Arkansas towns. Homes were demolished, wire service crippled and livestock killed. Throughout the area from Ohio on the east to Kansas and Nebraska on the west, heavy downpours swelled the flood waters of streams already out of their banks and inundated thousands of acres of rich farm land in addition to the vast tracts already under water.

While snow and sleet covered Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri and Iowa were pelted with heavy hail storms which smashed windows and caused much damage to crops. Several inches of snow were reported from Denver.

Shoe Machinery Company Loses.

Washington—The government won in the supreme court in the case brought by the United Shoe Machinery corporation and others to have set aside the restraining order prohibiting them from using certain lease clauses in their contract for the rental of patented machinery. The supreme court affirmed the decree of the United States district court at St. Louis, which enjoined the corporation under the Clayton act. The lower federal court prohibited the corporation from compelling, by lease agreements, the exclusive use of its machines and from enforcing an alternative royalty clause found to be prohibitive, upon all footwear manufactured in factories where machines of competitors were also used. It also held invalid the agreement by which the corporation required those using its machines to purchase supplies for it.

Justice McKenna dissented, but did not express his views. Justice Brandeis took no part in the consideration of the case.

Former Service Man Killed.

Atlanta—The former soldier whose body was found on the Southern railway tracks near Augusta was David H. Miller, 24, of Kannapolis, N. C., according to a statement by O. J. Boston, who is connected with the United States veterans' bureau here.

Mr. Boston said he was taking the man from his home to the government hospital in Augusta for treatment for shell shock and that Miller disappeared en route. He thought the veterans must have left the train at Warrenville, S. C., but did not miss him for some time after that.

Miller's mother had given him a sum of money in an envelope before he left home, Boston said, but he declared he did not know the amount. Boston came on to Atlanta after his charge disappeared.

Reach Agreement.

Washington.—An agreement was reached by Secretary Denby and Chairman Lasker, of the shipping board, for elimination of the provision in the pending administration ship subsidy bill for a merchant marine naval reserve. Organization of adequate naval reserves will be left to separate legislative treatment in measures to be proposed by the navy department.

Federal Buildings Destroyed.

Norfolk, Va.—Twelve government buildings on Fisherman's island, in the Chesapeake bay, were destroyed by fire. Unofficial estimates say the loss may reach \$100,000. The weather bureau station, hospital and other buildings escaped the flames.

Battleship Used as Target.

Philadelphia.—The battleship Iowa, once the pride of the United States navy, left the Philadelphia navy yard for Cape Henry, where she will be used as a target for the Atlantic fleet in a series of radio and air experiments.

For two years the Iowa has been used as a radio experimental craft with her sister ship, the Ohio, as the control vessel. In the approaching tests off Cape Henry, the Iowa, controlled solely by radio, will attempt to run the gauntlet of the Atlantic fleet.

Cyclone in Georgia.

Atlanta.—A storm of cyclone fury swept through Louisville, Ga., according to dispatches received here, leaving great damage in its wake and cutting off the town from outside communication. No lives were lost.

Telephone and electric light wires are down and the little town is without light.

Owners of farms near Louisville report heavy damage to houses, fences and crops which were flooded by the downpour of rain.

Large Meeting of D. A. R.

Washington.—The recording of accredited delegates and alternates had reached above 2,000 when the thirty first Continental Congress of the Daughters of the American Revolution convened in Continental hall, thereby assuring, general officers said, the largest meeting in the history of the society.

The first session of the congress was given over largely to the formalities of opening except for the annual address of Mrs. George Maynard Miller president-general.

\$2,000,000 FIRE IN POCOMOKE, MARYLAND

Pocomoke City, Md.—With ten acres in the heart of the city burned over, causing an estimated property damage of more than \$2,000,000, Governor Ritchie ordered a company of the first regiment, Maryland national guard, at Salisbury, to proceed here at once to protect property which escaped the flames.

The heart of the business section is in ruins. Both banks have been destroyed, and in addition to business structures, 50 homes fell prey to the flames. Communication with the outside world has been established by tapping wires on the outskirts.

FIRE SWEEPS AREA MILE LONG

MORE THAN 100 HOUSES ARE BURNED AT BERKLEY, VA., A SUBURB OF NORFOLK.

Hundreds of Families Estimated to Have Been Left Homeless in Seaport Town.

Norfolk, Va.—Berkley, a suburb of Norfolk, was swept by a fire which destroyed more than 100 houses, covering an area one mile in length and average from two to four blocks in width. Five hundred families are estimated to have been made homeless, and the damage will run to nearly a million dollars.

The blaze originated in the Tunis lumber mills, on the southern branch of the Elizabeth river. A woman whose husband is a watchman at the Tunis docks, discovered the fire from a houseboat in which they live.

Within forty yards of the dock where the fire started are the St. Helena Oil company docks. Three steamers in the river were burned, catching fire from sparks.

The fire quickly spread to the north, the sparks being carried a hundred yards or more. Most of the houses in the path of the fire were negro homes, and were of wooden construction. They were as dry as tinder and a few sparks only were required to set them ablaze. At one time there were nine fires blazing in different places simultaneously.

Although the fire departments, both civilian and navy, from all the cities and towns in the vicinity of Berkley, were called into service, they were helpless against the spreading flames, which soon reached Liberty street, one of the oldest business streets of the town. One block on Liberty street was completely wiped out. A negro church was also destroyed.

For a time it appeared that a large gas tank owned by the Municipal gas plant was doomed, but the gas was burned off by means of safety valves. After four hours the fire appeared to have reached its climax, although it was still blazing stubbornly in several parts of the town.

Samuel M. Brinson Dead.

New Bern.—Hon. Samuel M. Brinson, representative from the third North Carolina district, passed away at New Bern General Hospital, following a critical illness there since he came home from Battle Creek, Mich., where in vain he had sought to stem the tide of falling health that dated back to the close of the campaign in 1918.

This city is under a pall of deep grief at the passing of Sam Brinson. And with the feeling of distance less there is felt here, messages have come from all in the state and nation expressing the universal sorrow felt by hundreds of close friends at the news of his death.

Mr. Brinson was serving his second term in congress and had indicated that he would be a candidate to succeed himself at the primary this fall. He was born in this city on March 20, 1870 and was educated at Wake Forest college and the University of North Carolina, being admitted to the bar in 1895. He practiced law until 1902, when he became superintendent of public instruction of Craven county, holding this position until 1915, when he was elected a member of the sixty-sixth congress.

Covered by Flood Water.

New Orleans.—Reports from Helena, Ark., that approximately 235 square miles of land in the lower part of Phillips county were covered by flood waters from the White and Arkansas rivers, which are backed up by the high stage of the Mississippi river, gave a more serious aspect to the flood situation.

The village of Melwood, in the flooded area, was reported covered with from eight to ten feet of water, while Elaine is completely surrounded by the street.

Street Car Service Resumed.

Augusta, Ga.—City council and the Augusta-Aiken Railway and Electric corporation came to an agreement and the street cars, which have been in the barn for a month, will resume operations. The cars were halted because unrestricted competition by jitneys had cut deeply into the company's revenues.

The city now agrees to restrict jitney operations to the extent of not allowing them to take on or discharge patrons within one block of streets on which street car tracks are laid.

Virginia University Receives Gifts.

Charlottesville, Va.—Gifts of fifty thousand dollars by Paul Goodloe McIntyre for the construction of an orthopedic wing to the University of Virginia hospital and ten thousand dollars by Mrs. William H. White and family to the University law school as a memorial to the former president of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac railroad, were announced at the university recently. Dr. John Merriam, president of Carnegie Institute, was the principal speaker at the celebration.

BIG WATER SPOUT CHASES STEAMER

LINER ABOUT 800 MILES OUT OF NEW YORK WHEN SPOUT WAS SIGHTED.

VESSEL HAS NARROW ESCAPE

Passengers Make Bets on Result Before Realizing That Tie Meant Instant Death.

New York.—The story of a gigantic waterspout which chased the Cunard liner Carmania half an hour and then suddenly subsided when it was almost upon the hard driven ship, was told by officers and passengers when she arrived after a round trip to the Near East.

The liner was about 800 miles out of New York when the spout was first sighted. At first, passengers said, it appeared as a slight disturbance of water about eight miles astern. Then the waves were twisted and churned and hurled skyward with terrific force in an ever increasing volume. For a time, they stated, it stood still while Captain Nelson, after pronouncing it a big waterspout, ordered the liner sent ahead at full speed. At almost the same moment, the spout seemed to take wings and rush after the big ship.

The passengers crowded aft. Smoke belched from the ship's funnels while the Carmania strained every atom of her strength to escape. As the spout traveled it grew larger. It widened rapidly and towered high in the air, throwing off spray.

As first the passengers thought that it was just a wonderful phenomena. They began to bet on its speed, on whether it could catch the boat, or pass it. Then, as it towered in the Carmania's wake, gaining rapidly, it suddenly occurred to the passengers that it carried certain death with it—that the race was one for life.

The spout continued to rain until it was almost upon the ship. The passengers, huddled and awestricken, along the decks watching the oncoming mass of water. It had only to reach out for the ship—and it subsided as suddenly as it had risen. Five minutes after there was nothing to show there had been any disturbance of the placid sea.

Captain Nelson smiled when he was asked about it.

"I'll never tell what would have happened if it had caught us," he said. "In fact, I never could have told. We would have been listed as missing on the marine register."

Cases Facing Supreme Court.

Washington.—The legality of army "plucking boards," the illegality of transportation of liquors through the United States while en route to less arid jurisdictions, and the usual set of tax cases, are among the actions to be presented before the supreme court in the 49 hours remaining of the time designated in the present term for oral judgment. The court's plans are said to fix a date early in June for final adjournment and April 28 as the last day for hearing oral arguments on cases now on the calendar.

Among the cases which probably will be called this week is that of the Baltimore club of the defunct Federal league against the present major league, charging violation of the Sherman anti-trust laws.

Foreign governments as well as American prohibition enforcement officers are interested in the construction the supreme court will place in two cases brought under the Volstead law to block transportation of liquor through the United States. The divisions of lower federal courts were conflicting.

Tree Planted on Grave.

Washington.—With appropriate ceremony, the American Forestry association planted a memorial oak in front of the house in Glen Echo, just outside of Washington, in which Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, died Easter Sunday, 1912.

Aviator Killed in Nose Dive.

Galveston, Texas.—Capt. G. S. Little and Sergeant James L. Johnson, army aviators from Kelly field, San Antonio, were killed here when the airplane in which they were flying went into a nose dive at a height of about 100 feet.

Officers at Love Field who are investigating the accident believe that Captain Little was piloting the machine. The accident occurred near a private landing field and it is believed the aviators intended to make a landing when the plane dropped to the ground.

Lloyd George at Conference.

Genoa.—Premier Lloyd George has announced that his aim at the Genoa conference is to bring into being a pact among the 34 nations represented, agreeing not to invade one another's territories.

Britain is against a pact with military sanctions, it is declared, because sanctions belong to the order of ideas that an endeavor is being made to get away from, and guarantees would mean a new grouping of the powers. The military holiday idea is not practical.

May Have Decision.

New York.—Fifty aviation officials and firms petitioned the Aero Club of America to reopen hearings to determine the winner of the aviation trophy.

Fred E. White, of Tulsa, Okla., was declared winner by the Aero Club of America, which conducted the contest. Upon the appeal of John H. Larson, a contestant, the Aero Club recently investigated his charges that there was fraud in the decision and returned a verdict stating the club was unable to make an award.

BOG INCREASE SHOWN IN AMERICAN EXPORTS

Washington.—Increase in value of America's foreign trade was reported here by the Department of Commerce, with announcement that exports last month aggregated \$382,000,000, the highest since October, 1921, and that imports totaled \$258,000,000, the greatest since December, 1920.

The trade balance of \$124,000,000 in favor of the United States shown by the figures is the greatest since November, 1921, when the total was \$83,000,000. The trade balance in February was \$35,000,000 and in March, 1921, \$135,000,000.

Exports last month compared with \$357,000,000 during March, 1921, and were nearly twice as great as the pre-war figure of \$187,000,000 in March, 1914.

Imports in March compared with \$252,000,000, a year ago and with \$183,000,000 in March, 1914.

GRAIN PLANTING IS DELAYED

SEEDING OF SPRING GRAIN IS BEHIND THE AVERAGE SEASON.

Good Progress Made in Central South Carolina and South Eastern North Carolina.

Washington.—Seeding of spring grains is very much behind the average season as a result of frequent rainfall for more than a month in most of the interior valley states, according to the weather and crop report issued by the department of agriculture. Very little spring wheat or oats was seeded during the week, although seeding made good progress in the upper lake region and the light rainfall in the Atlantic coast states was favorable to field work.

Warm weather and wet soil caused a rapid growth of winter wheat throughout the interior of the country, and satisfactory conditions and progress were reported in the southern and Atlantic coast states.

Germination and growth of corn was favored by high temperatures in the southern districts, but much replanting will be necessary on lowlands in Texas because of floods. Corn planting made satisfactory progress in most of the southeast, but was delayed by wet soil in the lower Mississippi Valley.

The week was favorable for the preparation of soil and the planting of cotton in most eastern districts of the belt, the weather and crop review stated.

Seeding made good progress in southeastern sections, extending northward during the week over the central counties of North Carolina.

Conditions were somewhat more favorable for field work in Alabama and Mississippi, but the wet soil held planting mostly at a standstill in the western part of the belt, where dry weather and sunshine are much needed.

Seeding is being delayed in Texas, where little has been accomplished outside of the Rio Grande valley and the lower coast counties. The condition of the cotton planted, however, is fairly satisfactory except for some damage by high winds.

Arbuckle Freed of Manslaughter.

San Francisco, Cal.—A verdict of acquittal was returned by a jury in the third trial of Roscoe C. (Fatty) Arbuckle on a manslaughter charge growing out of the death of Miss Virginia Rappe, motion picture actress. The jury was out six minutes.

The defendant was deeply affected. He received the verdict with a great sign of relief. There was no demonstration, the court having warned against it. Mrs. Minta Durfee Arbuckle, the defendant's wife, cried quietly. Both she and Arbuckle shook hands with the jury.

The quick return of the jury was a surprise.

Edward Brown, whose presence on the jury was objected to by the prosecution, was foreman. There was a slight delay when the jury returned, due to the absence of the district attorney.

United States Owes Much Money.

Chicago.—The United States owes 23 times as much money now as in 1917, when the public debt was about \$1,000,000,000. Elliot Wadsworth, assistant secretary of the treasury, declared in a speech here.

"This huge debt we must pass on to future citizens," he said. "For this reason it is the intention of the financial leaders of our government to pay all new debt from current funds. We are just beginning still financially as our expenses this year just about equal our revenues."

W. A. Law Leads Insurance Company.

Philadelphia.—William A. Law has offered his resignation as president of the First National bank of Philadelphia, effective June 30, to accept the presidency of the Penn Mutual Life Insurance company.

No successor has yet been chosen to fill the vacancy that will result when Mr. Law's resignation as head of the bank becomes effective. The matter will be considered by the directors in the near future. It is expected he will continue as a member of the board.

Venezolas Story Gets Attention.

Athens.—The report that Elipheo Venezelas has been invited by King Constantine to re-assume the presidency is characterized in responsible circles as "mere conjecture." It had been hoped, it was stated, that the former premier would devote his activities wholly abroad to supporting the national cause, in the general effort to obtain an honorable peace with the Turks and safeguard the national interests. His sudden return to Europe was thought to be in connection with this movement.

OPPOSES CUT OF NAVY PERSONNEL

HARDING OPENLY DECLARES HIS OPPOSITION TO A CUT BELOW \$6,000.

PRESIDENT WRITES LETTER

Says He Believes Country Will Be Greatly Disappointed at Proposed Reduction.

Washington.—President Harding, in his first public utterance on the 1923 naval bill, declared in a letter presented to the house that while the decision must lie with Congress, he would be greatly disappointed as he believed the country would be, if the enlisted force was cut below \$6,000.

The opinion was not set gratuitously. It was given in response to a request for the President's view by Representative Longworth, republican, Ohio, one of the leaders in the fight to defeat the proposal in the bill limiting the force to 67,000. There had been unofficial statements to the effect that he opposed a drastic reduction in personnel, and that he stood for the figures proposed in the McArthur amendment.

In presenting the letter toward the close of an all-day debate, Mr. Longworth said he was glad to accept the challenge from friends of the measure as framed to find out what the President wanted and to let the house know.

"My Dear Congressman Longworth: I have to acknowledge your letter of inquiry addressed to me on the tenth instant. If I were to address the Congress formally I could say only what I have already said informally, because I am well persuaded that it is not wise to make so drastic a cut in the naval appropriations as has been proposed in the measure now pending.

"I do not doubt the good faith of the committee majority in believing the limitations fixed in the pending bill, and I am heartily in accord with every consistent effort to deepen the cut in governmental expenditures. At the same time I must believe in the good faith of advisers who say very emphatically that it is impossible to maintain, within the proposed appropriations, the standard set for our navy which was made the base of the international conference, and which standard we have proclaimed to the world.

"Of course the decision must lie with the Congress, but I should not be frank in replying to your inquiry if I did not say that I shall be greatly disappointed, and I believe the country will be greatly disappointed, if the appropriation, to which the navy must and will adhere, is reduced to the point where the limitation of enlisted men and apprentices is below \$6,000. No presentation of the situation, which has come to my notice, has served to alter that opinion.

"Ultimately, perhaps, the lower figures proposed may be reached and I hope it will be possible through later international concert, but the trend toward peace and security ought to be more firmly established before going beyond the limitation to which we were gladly committed at the international conference.

"Very truly yours,
"WARREN G. HARDING."

Girl Millionaire Seeks Surgeon.

San Francisco.—Miss Delora Angell, 21, of Pasadena, who will come into possession of \$25,000,000 left by John V. ("Beta-Million") Gates when she is 22, disclosed definite plans here for using part of the fortune. She says she expects to marry a young American surgeon who has an ambition to maintain a hospital for the poor.

Hospital Facilities Approved.

Washington.—The house bill, authorizing an additional appropriation of \$17,000,000 for hospital facilities for disabled former service men, was passed unanimously by the senate.

Fewer Spindles Now.

Washington.—Almost 2,000,000 fewer cotton spindles were operated during March than in February, although during cotton consumption for March was about 46,000 bales more than in February, the monthly cotton report of the census bureau stated disclosed. Of the increase for the month, 84,000 bales were consumed in cotton growing states, where consumption was the largest of any month since the first quarter of 1917, and amounted to 65 per cent of the total cotton used during March.

Sir Ross Smith Falls to Death.

London.—Sir Ross Smith, the Australian aviator who, with his brother, Sir Keith, had planned to start from Crofton April 25 on a flight around the world, was killed when his plane crashed in a practice flight at Brookland.

Lieutenant Bennett, an engineer, who was planning to accompany Sir Ross and his brother on their around-the-world flight, also was killed.

The machine which crashed was the one the Smiths had intended to use in their flight.

Long Sleep Fatal.

Fort Smith, Ark.—Jim Ellsinger, who had been asleep continuously for three years, died at the county hospital.

Physicians say he was not suffering from sleeping sickness but from mental paralysis. He apparently was insensible to pain, was immobile and his eyes were closed.

In March of 1921, Ellsinger, for a few seconds, showed signs of awakening, but he again relapsed into the comatose state.

BROOKS EXPLAINS BOOK SITUATION

SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION MAKES BRIEF STATEMENT.

REGARDING NEW CONTRACTS

Criticism of Recent Contracts Made on Misinformation on Part of the Public.

Raleigh.—The fact that an erroneous impression still prevails in the minds of many people regarding the recent letting of contracts for text books from the schools of the state led Dr. E. C. Brooks, state superintendent of public instruction, to make this brief statement:

"The previous contracts having expired it was absolutely necessary for the text book commission to make selections and award new contracts. The best selections possible were made from among the books examined, many old books being retained and many new ones being selected to take the place of books that are now either out of date or discontinued by the publishers or that were inferior to other books that were offered by the same or other publishers.

"The contracts just expiring had been made in 1917 when prices were low and if it had been possible to renew all contracts in every detail except to pay prices that are being quoted today on the same books the total cost to the pupils of the state would have been approximately what it will be under the new contracts. For instance, one speller that cost 15 cents under the old contract would have cost 30 cents under the new contract. Therefore the only advantage that would have been derived from retaining all of the old text books would have been through the use of books now in the hands of the pupils, and this matter is taken care of by a provision that the new books shall not be required for two years where the old ones are already available.

"Such criticism as there has been of the text book commission has resulted, I think, from a lack of all information regarding the situation that confronted the commission and of the full intent of its action."

Association Elects Officers.

Mrs. Gordon Finer, of Charlotte, was elected president, and Mrs. Chas. R. Whitaker, of Hendersonville, vice-president, at the annual meeting of the board of directors of the North Carolina Tuberculosis association at Sanatorium, Dr. L. B. McBrayer was re-elected managing director. Dr. R. L. Carlton, of Winston-Salem, was named as the association's member on the board of directors of the National Tuberculosis association.

The meeting was taken up principally by the reading of reports on the last year's work, chiefly interesting among which was a compilation showing the sale of Red Cross Christmas seals in the state last Christmas of approximately \$42,600.

Unemployment Decreases.

The United States employment service, reporting industrial conditions in North Carolina for the month of March, announces an increase in textile employes of 747, workers in lumber plants, 75, and fertilizer workers of 150.

Rogers Nominated for Postmaster.

Washington (Special).—The highest three eligibles for postmaster at Oxford with their grades follow: Franklin W. Hancock, 78. James S. Rogers, 73. John M. Fagan, 70.

President Harding has sent to the senate the nomination of James S. Rogers.

Senator Glass Invited to Speak.

Senator Carter Glass has been invited to make the commencement address at the State university. He has the matter under consideration and will accept, if possible.

Station Fight is Postponed.

The battle of Winston-Salem, scheduled for fighting Wednesday, April 19, before the state corporation commission, was postponed by agreement until the following Monday, April 24. The point of disagreement is where the new passenger station in the tobacco city will be located.

Records for attendance and the care of the bid fair to be fractured, if not broken outright, in the opinion of Commissioner Pell, who has recently returned from Winston-Salem.

Highway Engineer Speaks to Students

Chapel Hill (Special).—One of the most successful lecturers that the university has heard in a long time was delivered by Charles M. Upham, state engineer. The keen interest in highway construction now under way in North Carolina, on the part of this community gave Mr. Upham's talk a peculiar timeliness, and a large audience gathered to hear him tell not only of North Carolina's road building projects but of undertakings of the same kind in other parts of the country.

North Carolina Leads South.

The North Carolina department of the American Legion is still leading the southern states in membership. There are more legionnaires in North Carolina than in any state south of Pennsylvania and Kentucky and east of Texas. Tennessee is our nearest rival with a membership of over 300 men less than that of North Carolina. Also, the local posts within this state are continuing their fight for supremacy. Hornets Nest post of Charlotte still ranks first and Clyde Ballou post of Winston-Salem second.

Four Oaks Bond Issue is Valid.

Validating a \$75,000 bond issue for the Four Oaks School District in Johnston county, the supreme court reaffirmed its ruling that the legislature can ratify and confirm the results of proceedings authorized by it under an act rendered ineffectual by reason of some defect in its passage.

The point was raised in the case of the Board of Education vs. Board of Commissioners, a controversy without action. On April 12, 1921, a majority of the qualified voters of the township in the question authorized a \$75,000 bond issue under Article 89, Chapter 95, Consolidated Statutes Chapter 91, Public Laws Extra Session, 1920, it was conceded, was not passed in accordance with the constitutional requirements. It was conceded further that Section 5678, Consolidated Statutes, limits the amount of bonds for any township or school district to \$25,000. But the extra session of 1921 passed an act, valid in all respects, specifically ratifying and confirming the results of the election in question and validating the issuance of bonds up to \$75,000. The only question presented to the court was as to whether or not the bonds in excess of \$25,000 and up to \$75,000 could be validated by a curative act of the 1921 General Assembly.

On this point Justice W. T. Stacy writing the court's opinion, says: "Where the legislature has undertaken to pass a law clearly within its power to enact and by reason of some defect in its passage the statute is rendered ineffectual, we see no reason why the legislature in the absence of any opposite intervening rights could not by subsequent enactment ratify and confirm the results of such proceedings, as in good faith have been taken and had under the prior defective act."

Mortgage Debt on Owned Homes. Washington, D. C. (Special).—According to a preliminary report that has just been issued by the Department of Commerce, through the Bureau of the Census, the total mortgage debt on owned homes and farms in the state of North Carolina in 1920 was \$57,449,641 and the total of these mortgage homes and farms was \$169,290,383, the mortgage debt thus representing 33.9 per cent of the total value. Rented homes, tenant farms, and farms that are partly owned and partly rented, it should be noted, are not included in this report.

The total number of homes in the state other than farm homes was 230,770, of which 90,7