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OVER MILLION DOLLAR FIRE AT DURHAM; FLAMES STILL RAGING

ENTIRE DUKE BLOCK, THE LARGEST IN THE CITY, DESTROYED
ENTIRE BUSINESS SECTION MAY GO
A Break in Water Main Made The Firemen Helpless, The Supply Thruout Intermittent

(By Associated Press.)
Durham, N. C., March 23.—The entire business section of Durham is threatened with destruction by a fire which originated in the Duo building, a five story structure, at 11 o'clock last night.

Building 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 and the water supply is still intermittent.

At 1:30 the fire had destroyed one entire block, had crossed over to the next block and First Baptist church is now in danger.

The flames, driven by the N. W. wind, crossed Parham street and entered the second block of buildings. One building in this block has been completely destroyed at 2 o'clock this morning. All buildings except three, in the block in which the fire originated was destroyed.

The whole of the business section was made dark, except for a few gas lights, by the burning of the electric light feed cables. The telephone feed cables also were destroyed by the flames.

No person has been reported as injured, as yet, on account of the conflagration.

The loss was estimated at over \$1,000,000 and the conflagration was still raging as the Intelligencer went to press.

BIG LEAGUERS GO NORTHWARD

Have Finished Preliminary Work—36 Games Scheduled in South This Week

(By Associated Press.)
Atlanta, Ga., March 23.—Thirty-six games, including those today are scheduled to be played in the south this week by baseball clubs of the American, National and International leagues and the Southern and American associations, now engaged in spring training. Most of the games are between representatives of the 5 organizations, although a few of the contests will be with college and independent teams.

Practically all of the teams of the north have finished their preliminary work and are making ready to return to their home cities. The return southward, however, will be by slow stages, in order that the players may not be subjected to a too sudden change in the climate. The exhibition games arranged along the northward routes by the teams from that section will result in none of the teams reaching their home cities for at least a week or ten days.

U. D. C. CONDUCTS PICTURE SHOW

Palmetto Chapter in Charge of Palmetto Theater Next Thursday

(By Associated Press.)
It has been announced that on next Thursday afternoon, March 26th, the Palmetto Chapter of the U. D. C. will give an entertainment at the Palmetto theater, in the afternoon and evening of that day the ladies of the Palmetto chapter will have entire charge of the show. This speaks well for the generosity of the manager, since one-half of the proceeds of the show will go to the U. D. C.

The President's address, a special three reel attraction, has been secured for this day and the fact that the Palmetto chapter is in connection with the splendid program arranged will doubtless be sufficient to make the Palmetto show extraordinarily well next Thursday.

MAJORITY FAVOR POLICY REVERSAL

Coalition of Democrats and Republicans Brought About Tolls Exemption

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 23.—President Wilson declared today that in seeking the repeal of the Panama canal tolls exemption, he not only was asking that the nation do that which it was bound in honor to do, but was going the way of the majority in the democratic party. He pointed that when the Panama act was passed, a majority of the democrats then in the house, voted against the tolls exemption, and that only by a coalition of a minority of democrats with a number of republicans did the measure become law.

The announcement was taken in administration circles as the president's answer to the arguments as to the Democrats' toll exemption activities.

The president made no secret to callers of his anxiety for the repeal measure to come to a vote.

Condemnation of the Property for Nation's Greatest Fort Begun

Norfolk, Va., March 23.—The condemnation of property at Cape Henry, needed for the establishment of that point of what is expected to be the greatest fortification of the nation, was begun here today before a jury in the United States court. There are ninety odd property owners who are defendants with the Cape Henry syndicate owning most of the property which is needed.

BRYAN CONTINUES ACTIVE FOR PEACE

Washington Fact is Fourfold—Which the Great Campaign is Accomplished

Washington, March 23.—A new treaty has been signed between the United States and Venezuela, by which all questions not capable of settlement by diplomacy shall be submitted to investigation by an international commission for at least one year. It is the fourteenth of Secretary Bryan's peace treaties.

The convention does not provide for maintenance of the military and naval status quo during the investigation period, but like all of the peace treaties, binds the two countries not to engage in hostilities until the commission has reported.

RIOTOUS SCENES FEATURE STRIKE

Four Men Shot, One Fatally, in Depew Shop Str. in Buffalo

Buffalo, N. Y., March 23.—The riotous scenes today which resulted in the shooting of four men, one of them fatally, and the injury of many others were the first serious disturbances since the strike began at the Depew shops eight weeks ago.

It was stated tonight that the lawless element at Depew had received a large shipment of arms and that an attempt would be made to get possession of the guns and ammunition tomorrow.

Tonight Sheriff Becker was busy swearing in every deputy he could secure. The deputies will be armed with repeating shotguns tomorrow and will be instructed to shoot to kill, the sheriff said.

The second exchange of shots occurred last night near the plant. A party of special deputies was the target.

Former Professor Columbia Kills Himself

Stamford Conn., March 23.—Harry Thurston Peck, a former professor at Columbia University, committed suicide at a rooming house here today by shooting himself.

He was a writer of note and for 23 years was professor of ancient languages at Columbia University. He left the institution more than three years ago because of notorious incidents. \$50,000 brought against him by E. J. Quinn, a stenographer. He was an authority on Latin and the classics, and the author of numerous books.

COVENANTERS WON THE FIGHT

NOW APPEARS THAT ULSTER WILL BE SPARED A WAR

ALL WAS A FIASCO
English Government Trembles Because Army Officers Are Resigning

(By Associated Press.)
London, March 23.—The decision in the army by officers who refused to serve against Ulster is accepted as a victory by the Covenanters. Premier Asquith made an explanation that the orders of the troops was the result of a misunderstanding, and that the blame is laid on Sir Arthur Paget, commanding general.

The King is reported to have declined the resignations of the army officers on account of the circumstances, and he wishes to effect a compromise.

The Unionists of Ulster believe that the government has participated in a fiasco. They think that David Lloyd George and Winston Churchill were the chief movers in the plan for a wholesale movement of troops into Ulster to overcome the Covenanters by a display of superior force and the arrest of the leaders and that this was frustrated only by the wholesale resignations of officers from the British army. They quote one of the highest of fliers in the army as saying:

"By Saturday there will be hundreds of dead in Ulster."

The Unionists also accuse the government of making a scapegoat of General Paget for their own "Colossal blunder."

The future of the home rule bill is in debate. None of the fire and the firmness which permeated the speeches of the ministers last week was in evidence. The army has checked the government, according to the Unionist view, and the covenanters of Ulster have won their fight.

So one will be surprised if the government soon relinquishes armed force in the north, and the immediate result of striking a shower of sparks of class hatreds.

REPORT ON CUMBRE TUNNEL DISASTER

Only Few Bodies of Those Who Lost Lives in Catastrophe Identified

Washington, March 23.—Consul Edwards, at Juarez, today made his final report to the state department on the Cumbre tunnel disaster. Of the thirty or more persons who lost their lives when a passenger train dashed into the burning tunnel on February 4, the bodies of eight men believed to be Americans, and those of a man, wife and child were citizens of France, have been recovered and placed in sealed metal caskets. Examination of the tunnel was not complete until March 17, on account of the continued burning of woodwork.

The consul reported that only a few bodies, including those of the French family, had been identified with any degree of certainty.

Maximo Castillo, the Mexican agent charged with setting fire to the tunnel, is in the custody of the United States, interned as a fugitive from Mexico.

MR. LUM PRUITT IS VERY ILL

Belton Man Suffering With Pneumonia, But Did Not Die Monday

It was reported in Anderson Monday that Mr. E. Pruitt, a well known and successful farmer living near Belton had dropped dead Monday morning while in a field near his home. This report was inaccurate as Mr. Pruitt was living at midnight last night and it is hoped that he may have some chance of recovering.

Dr. W. H. Haynie was summoned as soon as the members of Mr. Pruitt's family found out that he was ill and Dr. Haynie said last night that the well known Anderson man was suffering with an attack of pneumonia which he reached him. He applied restorative and is now administering treatment and while the patient's condition is certainly critical it is possible that he may recover.

Mr. Pruitt is 55 years of age and is one of the best known farmers of Anderson county. He sold 80 hales of cotton last week. He is known by all his friends as "Lum" Pruitt.

INQUIRY ENDED IN BENTON CASE

INVESTIGATION DIRECTED BY BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE ENDS

EVIDENCE MEAGER
Carranza Commission's Report is Now Awaited With Much Apparent Interest

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 23.—Inquiry into the death of the Scotchman Benton, five weeks ago at Juarez, directed by the British foreign office, has been concluded, and today the results were laid before the British ambassador here for transmission to London. This investigation was conducted by C. A. S. Perceval, British consular representative, whose district includes the town of El Paso opposite Juarez.

Necessarily, the evidence as to what actually took place in Villa's headquarters at Juarez, where Benton was last seen alive, was meager. Most, if not all of the eye witnesses were officers and private soldiers under Villa's immediate command, who are now with the General in the interior of Mexico.

The testimony quoted by the consul make it appear that Benton was unarmed when he entered Juarez, and sought Villa's headquarters; that he entered Villa's office; that there was a tremendous scuffle, followed by perfect quiet. No witness could be found who had heard the sound of a shot. Benton did not emerge from the office alive, but where and when his body was removed the report does not disclose.

The consul drew the inference that Benton was killed by a knife and that his body had been secretly removed and interred somewhere in the immediate neighborhood, though there was no direct testimony adduced to sustain this inference.

The substance of the report will be communicated to Secretary Bryan, and the report itself will be transmitted to the British foreign office. Nothing further can be done in the case at this stage. The report of the Carranza commission, appointed to investigate the Benton killing is awaited with much interest and will be received by the British embassy, but it was not at least.

No immediate action is expected at the British embassy, but it was recalled that Sir Edward Grey, in his last statements to the house of commons upon the Benton case, made it plain that there must be a heavy reckoning for the killing of a British subject; and that the debtor would be the future permanent government of Mexico.

Professor Evidently Murdered

Naples, March 23.—The police believe that Professor Giuseppe Mercalli, director of the Vesuvian Observatory, who was burned to death on March 19, was murdered. A sum of \$1,400, which he had in his possession is missing. It is believed thieves broke into his residence, took the money, strangled the professor, saturated the body with petroleum, and then set fire to it.

EXPLORING PARTY LOST ALL N 'APIIDS

Roosevelt Party in South America Had Misfortune With Their Spoil

(By Associated Press.)
New York, March 23.—After waiting all day in vain for further advice regarding a report of an accident to the Roosevelt exploration party in Brazil, the American Museum of Natural History tonight cabled to the American consul at Para asking for information. The message said:

"Can you obtain any information concerning the Roosevelt party? Wire Santarem. Advise by telegraph at earliest possible moment. All expenses guaranteed."

Santarem is the town in the state of Para, from which Anthony Plaza on Sunday sent his brief message that the Roosevelt party had "lost everything in the rapid."

Nothing to supplement Plaza's dispatch was received here during the day.

Rio Janeiro, March 23.—No advance news received here of the reported losses suffered by the Roosevelt expedition. The arrival of Colonel Roosevelt is being awaited at Manaus, capital of the State of Amazonas, where the government has arranged a reception in his honor.

U. S. LAUNCHES THE OKLAHOMA

NEW SUPERDREADNOUGHT IS ONE OF NATION'S GREATEST

OFFICIALS PRESENT
Displacement 500 Tons Greater Than Any American Sea-Fighter Now Afloat

(By Associated Press.)
Philadelphia, Pa., March 23.—The super-dreadnought Oklahoma, one of the largest and most powerful American battleships afloat, was launched today from the yards of the New York Shipbuilding Co., at Camden, N. J. The giant sea-fighter was christened by Miss Lorena Jane Cruce, daughter of the governor of Oklahoma, who broke a bottle of champagne against the ship's prow as the hull began to glide into the Delaware River.

Surrounding the christening party were Secretary of the Navy and Mrs. Daniels, Assistant Secretary Roosevelt, members of the congressional naval committee, the Oklahoma delegation in congress, state officials and other Oklahomans. Governor Cruce of Oklahoma was detained at home.

In honor of the ceremony the flag of Oklahoma today waved over independence hall.

The dreadnought Oklahoma will be one of the most powerful battleships that has yet been floated for the American navy. A sister ship, the Nevada, is under construction at Quincy, Mass. Only the Pennsylvania building at Newport News, and the battleship "Number 29", the keel of which was laid last week at the New York navy yard, will outstrip the Oklahoma in tonnage, displacement, strength or the power of her great guns.

The length of the new sea-fighter is 27,500 tons or 500 tons greater than the largest American battleship now afloat. A feature of the armament will be the placing of three of the great guns in one turret.

The Oklahoma will burn oil and her engines will have 24,880 indicated horsepower, sufficient to develop speed of 20 1-2 knots an hour.

FARMER'S RELATIVES ARRESTED FOR MURDER

Warrant Issued for Calhoun Man in Connection with Death of Wife's Uncle

Calhoun, Ga., March 23.—A warrant was issued today for the arrest of Charles Chapman in connection with the killing of Mrs. Chapman's uncle, Sid Chapman, near this place, early Saturday. The dead man's sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Starns, on whose doorstep the body was found Saturday morning, and her daughter, Mrs. Charles Chapman are already under arrest on suspicion.

Charles Chapman, who with Mrs. Chapman, lived at the Starns home, was said today to be in Wildwood, Ga., and officers were sent there to arrest him. According to Mrs. Chapman were at Mrs. Starns during Friday night, and both women professed ignorance of the killing. Charles Chapman has been absent from this locality for several weeks.

Authorities today continued their questioning of the two women held here and made a thorough search of the house before which the young farmer's body was found. It was stated that Mrs. Starns and Mrs. Chapman would not be arraigned for preliminary hearing until after Chapman's arrest.

The Virginias Can't Reach An Agreement

Washington, March 23.—Continued failure of Virginia and West Virginia to agree on a complete settlement of the state debt case became apparent today when counsel for West Virginia asked permission of the Supreme Court to file a supplemental answer and counsel for Virginia objected.

The court has notified the states that if they did not adjust their differences by April 15 it would determine the remaining issues itself.

West Virginia seeks to have the court pass upon its claim that it will ask for a renewal of debt aggregating \$20,000,000, held by Virginia at the time of separation, and also share in Virginia's sinking fund of that date. The court would reduce West Virginia's liabilities to \$2,000,000 from about \$7,713,000.

Cotton Report Standard Warehouse
This season, 26,782.
Last season, 26,684.

VILLA NOW ATTACKING TORREON; HE IS IN VERY BUOYANT SPIRITS

GREASERS ROUTED BY U. S. SOLDIERS

It is Reported That They Started Something—Several Killed

(By Associated Press.)
Eagle Pass, Tex., March 23.—American soldiers and Mexican Federals engaged in a battle Sunday at McGee crossing, three miles above Del Rio, on the Rio Grande, in which several Federal soldiers were killed. A patrol from E troop of the Fourteenth Cavalry returned the fire of the Mexicans across the Rio Grande and for ten minutes the shooting continued. None of the Americans were injured.

San Antonio, Tex., March 23.—Only two United States troopers engaged in the exchange of shots Sunday with Mexican Federal soldiers at McGee crossing, according to the official report of Capt. Geo. Winterburn, who was in command of the detachment of the Fourteenth Cavalry stationed at that point. The bullets fired by the cavalrymen were effective, however.

Will Purchase and Enlarge Chesapeake And Delaware Canal

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, March 23.—Federal purchase and enlargement of the canal between Chesapeake and Delaware Bays, proposed in the river and harbors bill, was under sharp fire in the house today but finally was agreed upon. The bill would appropriate \$1,300,000 as a starter. It would ultimately cost \$5,000,000.

ISSUE INJUNCTION AGAINST FEDERALS

Another Shot in the Baseball War Fired at Hot Springs, Arkansas

Hot Springs, Ark., March 23.—S. H. Cummins and "John Doe," representatives of the Pittsburgh Federal League baseball club, were temporarily enjoined by the circuit court here today from interfering with in any manner, speaking, writing, or communicating with members of the Pittsburgh National League team, now in training in this city.

The injunction was asked by the Pittsburgh Athletic Association, owners of the Pittsburgh National League club and was sought under an Arkansas statute which prohibits interference with persons whose services have been pledged by contract.

LINCOLN'S LIKE IN WHITE HOUSE

Great Heart of President Touched By Visit of Lad Stricken With Paralysis

Washington, March 23.—A pale, smiling lad of 12 lay on a stretcher in the Blue Room of the White House today and beside him sat the president of the United States. The scene was the sequel to the president's response to the sick lad's plea to see him.

Paralyzed in limb and with strength slowly ebbing, Harry Winthrop Davis, of Sewickley, Penn., was the president's caller. He came in an motor ambulance and three hospital attendants bore him into the blue room. The president came and chatted with the little fellow for several minutes. Then Harry asked about Mrs. Wilson and left some flowers for her.

The president's eyes were dimmed as he turned away to his day of work and the little boy was carried out on the stretcher.

Georgia Man Killed Marshal; Shot Brother

Douglas, Ga., March 23.—Charles Graham was brought to Douglas today and locked up on the charge of shooting and killing Lawrence Newbern, town marshal of Broxton, Ga. He was arrested last yesterday near Hazlehurst, Ga., by county authorities of this place.

Graham is alleged to have killed Marshal Newbern yesterday, when the latter attempted to arrest him in Broxton for disorderly conduct. The prisoner is also charged with slightly wounding his brother, I. T. Graham, who was hit by a stray bullet said to have been fired at a constable aiding Newbern.

SAYS HE WILL CAPTURE THIS STRATEGIC POINT IN THE NEXT FEW HOURS

BATTLE OPENS EARLY MONDAY

Velasco Came Out of Invested City and Suffered Severe Repulse at the Hand of the Rebels

(By Associated Press.)
El Vergil, Coahuila, Mex., March 23.—The real attack on Torreon began today when General Villa occupied Lerdo practically without resistance and at 1 o'clock this afternoon began attack on Gomez Palacio. Gomez Palacio and Lerdo are without important natural defenses, and in previous revolutions never have been seriously defended. The real test of strength is expected to soon come when Villa hurries his forces upon the defenses of Torreon. On this battle, it is conceded, hangs the fate of the revolution.

The mountain, Cerro De Las Pillas, lies to the right on the street car and railroad tracks which connect Gomez Palacio with Torreon, and forms an advance portion of the Torreon defenses.

General Villa telegraphed that he would take Gomez Palacio tonight. His confidence is based on the fact that the mountain is usually defended merely for the purpose of inflicting what damage is possible. Otherwise, the position is such that the defending force could be cut off by a superior enemy.

The advance of Gomez Palacio began at this point which is only 2 or 3 miles from Gomez Palacio. The action was preceded by a furious cannonading directed at the Federal batteries with their infantry supports on the mountain slopes.

When rebel officers with their glasses observed that the Federal works were shilling their position, they immediately set in motion across the plain in the direction of the mountain.

Other troops advancing. It is reported that other troops were advancing in other directions. For the last week Villa drove in the Federal outposts from all points of the compass and made the way clear for his own attack by taking Matamoros, Brittingham Junction and a number of other towns.

Once Gomez Palacio and the mountain La Pila is taken the rebel troops may move through a gully following the street car line to Torreon, until the city itself is reached. It is possible, however, that they will have to fight across the Sasa River, which runs between the two cities.

The whole valley is reported to be in a state of defense with barbed wire entanglements and trenches. Irrigation ditches in some instances have been flooded while others are left dry which will shelter the Huerta soldiers. Federal batteries everywhere occupy the hills which rise in on Torreon from all sides.

Juarez, Mexico, March 23.—It was reported late Monday night that General Velasco came out of Torreon in force and that Gomez Palacio was being made the point of main contention. Villa was said to have captured 300 prisoners. His wounded, it also was reported were being brought back from the front to El Vergil in large numbers.

El Verjel, Mex., March 23.—Fighting of the most sanguinary nature today took place in the streets of Gomez Palacio. The rebels took the water tank of Cerro De La Pila, the Brittingham soap factory and the Cuartel.

Officials Jubilant. Juarez, Mexico, March 23.—Officials here were jubilant tonight of the news from El Verjel and predicted that news of the fall of Torreon would be received here in this to be included in the reception to General Carranza, who is expected to arrive next Thursday.

Scraps of information over the wire indicated that the Federals were fighting desperately to retain Cerro De La Pila.

Federals Routed. Brownsville, Tex., March 23.—Rout of the Mexican Federal army under General Guardia near Guerrero and the capture of large quantities of arms and ammunition was claimed in official dispatches received at Constitutionists headquarters at Matamoros. According to dispatches, Guerrero, sixty miles South of Laredo, on the Rio Grande, has been occupied by the rebels. The battle lasted nine hours.

Camden C. Team Wins. Camden, March 23.—The Camden C. Polo team today defeated the Camden Free Booters 17-2 to a thereby obtaining the privileges of meeting the 11th Cavalry team Wednesday in the finals of the Cleveland cup.