

NORFOLK HAS \$2,000,000 FIRE.

Explosions Lead to Belief in Incendiarism Being at Work.

Norfolk, Va., Jan. 1.—Nearly two blocks in the heart of Norfolk's business district, including the Monticello Hotel, were destroyed, three men were killed and a score more injured in a series of explosions and fires to-day which both the police and naval authorities believe were incendiary. The fire had been checked to-night, but still was burning fiercely in the ruins. The loss is roughly estimated at more than \$2,000,000.

Three distinct explosions in as many buildings, one after the fire once virtually had been brought under control, led to the general belief that enemy agents were at work. Mayor Mayo placed the city under martial law and some 2,500 marines and bluejackets from nearby naval stations assisted the police and home guards in maintaining order and preventing looting.

Naval patrols rounded up suspicious persons throughout the afternoon, while five men were arrested as suspects. Two of these, Hugo Schmidt and H. K. Lessing, said to be Germans, were turned over to Department of Justice agents.

The fire started before dawn in the Old Granby Theatre, and gained rapid headway, as the firemen were handicapped by frozen fire hydrants, low water pressure and near zero temperature. It quickly spread to the Monticello Hotel and other nearby buildings in the block. It was brought under control late in the day, but broke out anew early to-night, leaped across Granby street and leveled half of the block there before being checked.

Falling floors and walls took toll of firemen and naval guards. One fireman, Chas. McCoy, was killed and seven others hurt in the collapse of an upper floor of the Monticello Hotel in the day, and to-night two firemen and several sailors were caught in a falling wall of the Lenox building. Three were brought out badly burned, but two others were left in the debris.

Firemen of Norfolk, Portsmouth and Suffolk, with organized sailor fire brigades, fought heroically amid ice and blinding smoke, and blue-jackets led the rescue work when the fighters were trapped. Several of the firemen caught in the hotel were brought out alive through the daring of a score of the police force.

Reports vary. It was first said that the fire in the Granby Theatre had followed an explosion, but Fire Chief McLoughlin and naval investigators announced to-night that this was not the case. They said, however, there had been three distinct explosions. The first was in a cloak and hat shop near the Monticello. The second was on the sixth floor of that hotel after the first fire was practically under control, and the third in the Lenox building, which later was destroyed.

Guests from the Monticello, who were forced to flee in the biting cold of the dawn after they had watched the theatre burn, were taken care of in nearby homes and hotels. As building after building went down, with them an apartment house, scores were made homeless and the national guard armory on City Hall avenue was thrown open to them.

Hydrants Frozen. When the firemen responded to the alarm for the theatre fire, they found all hydrants in the vicinity frozen. Fires had to be built to thaw them out. In the meantime the firemen looked on helpless while the big theatre building burned. When water finally came the pressure was so low that streams would not reach the upper stories of the burning building and the fire was soon beyond control.

Portsmouth, across the Elizabeth river, was called upon for aid and the fire was checked until fall sparks fired the Monticello, where many of the guests had gone back to bed in the belief that the fire was controlled. They were soon forced to turn out again.

The combined departments were making good headway against the flames when the explosion occurred in the cloak shop and another blaze started. Suffolk was then asked for aid and rushed apparatus to the city by train. In the meantime the naval authorities and the navy yard and naval base offered aid and fire brigades were soon on the scene.

When the second explosion occurred, this time in the Monticello Hotel, Mayor Mayo put the naval authorities in charge. They placed patrols throughout the business district, threw a cordon of marines and blue-jackets around the fire district and began picking up persons unable to account for themselves.

Department of Justice agents joined with the city detective force in seeking to unravel the mystery of the explosions. Three of the men arrested were placed in the city jail and Federal agents took charge of the

NITRATES FOR FARMERS' USE.

Ag. Department Arranges for Chilean Fertilizer—First Shipment Soon.

(Columbia State.)

The State has received the following telegram from Congressman W. F. Stevenson, dated Washington, December 29th:

"The Secretary of Agriculture has just been informed that the government has bought 100,000 tons of nitrate of soda and after great difficulty has succeeded in securing shipping to bring it to the South Atlantic ports. Eighteen thousand tons are to be delivered in January and the balance as rapidly as possible thereafter. Until it is all delivered the price will be around \$75 a ton at the ports, to which the farmers will add the State tag tax and the freight and terminal charges from the ship to the farm; will be sold only to farmers, and for cash and limitations will be placed on the amount any one farmer can buy. Deliveries will begin at the more Southern ports, as the Florida farmers are now needing it, but the wants of all the farmers on the South Atlantic coast will be cared for at their most convenient ports. Unless some unforeseen contingency arises this program will go through."

A. C. Summers, South Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture, expressed himself as well pleased with the information given in the above telegram from Congressman Stevenson. Mr. Summers said that from his correspondence he knew that a great many farmers were looking forward anxiously to a government supply of nitrate of soda. He said that he could not give accurately the amount needed in South Carolina, but he felt sure that the demand was greater than the supply and that whatever was South Carolina's proportion of the 18,000 tons to be shipped to the South Atlantic ports it would not only be eagerly taken, but would not satisfy the demand.

Secretary Writes of Arrangements. Washington, Dec. 29.—In a letter to Representative Jas. F. Byrnes, of South Carolina, the Secretary of Agriculture states that arrangements were completed several weeks ago through the War Industries Board, under the immediate supervision of Mr. Baruch, to purchase approximately 100,000 tons of nitrate of soda in Chile in accordance with the authorization for such purpose in the food control act.

"Because of disturbed shipping conditions," Secretary Houston adds, "it has been impossible until recently to definitely to secure facilities for transporting the nitrate in whole or in part. Within the last few days preparations have been completed for the delivery at the seaboard during January of 10,000 tons, and every available assurance has been given that supplies up to 100,000 tons for the ensuing months will be delivered. Every possible effort will be made to make certain these deliveries, but it should be understood that, on account of existing situations, circumstances over which there is no control might intervene.

"I cannot state exactly what the price will be, but it will be approximately \$75 on board cars at the seaboard. Farmers will have to pay freight charges to their local stations, the State fertilizer tax fee, which varies in different States, but will probably not average more than 25 cents a ton, and any other local charges.

"The nitrates secured under the appropriation will be sold only to farmers for their own use during the coming season and generally not in excess of the amounts used by them heretofore. The department is now arranging machinery for the distribution of the material and will give full publicity concerning the details of the matter.

The Quinine That Does Not Affect the Head
Because of its tonic and laxative effect, LAXATIVE BICHO QUININE is better than ordinary Quinine and does not cause nervousness nor ringing in head. Remember the full name and look for the signature of E. W. GROVE, 30c.

other two, Schmidt and Lessing. The latter, officers said, first represented himself as a Department of Justice official.

Fire tugs from the navy yard early in the day took up positions on the waterfront three blocks away and assisted the fire engines in pumping tons of water into the burning buildings, but the block on Granby street virtually was destroyed, only two buildings, the Dixon and Commercial structures, both now, escaping destruction. They were badly damaged.

Just at dusk the fire in the Monticello broke out afresh and despite the heroic work of the firemen and sailors, the Lenox, Carpenter and Tazewell buildings, six-story structures across the street, were wrecked. For a time the naval Y.M.C.A. was threatened, but the wide lane separating it from the burning buildings enabled the firemen to save it and other large buildings nearby.

GERMAN PEACE CONSIDERED

Unfavorably in Russia—Trotzky and Associates Balk.

Petrograd, Jan. 2.—The chances of a separate peace between Russia and the central powers being effected, seem remote, because of what are regarded as Germany's unreasonable demands. Leon Trotzky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, and his associates take the stand that the Baltic provinces are in reality under military pressure while they continue to be occupied by Germany, and that their votes with respect to peace must be ignored, as now these provinces are virtually German dependencies, the loyal Russians having fled.

The Russian delegation upon its return from Brest-Litovsk Tuesday had before the council of commissioners at Petrograd Germany's demands, which caused amazement and the declaration that the council was not favorable to acceptance. An elaboration of the German position in letters and statements which followed the general terms showed that the Germans hold that Poland, Lithuania, Courland, Livonia and Esthonia have already defined themselves nationally within the meaning of the peace terms proposed, and insist that they shall not vote again.

The Germans also explained, through Gen. Hoffman, that Germany cannot evacuate Riga, Libau and other occupied points until certain that all Russia sanctions peace; otherwise, Germany's enemies might assist Ukraine or other disaffected sections in opposition to the central powers.

Even Trotzky Skeptical. Petrograd, Jan. 2.—Bolshevik Foreign Minister Trotzky declared today that the government of Russian workers would not consent to German peace proposals.

Trotzky's declaration was made before the central committee of the Council of Soldiers' and Workmen's delegates during an address, in which he denounced in scathing terms Germany's "hypocritical peace proposal," asserting that the government of Russian workers would not consent to such conditions.

He said that if the central powers did not agree to free disposal of the Polish and Lithuanian nations it would be urgently necessary to defend the Russian revolution.

Trotzky said that the needs of the front would be satisfied with whatever efforts might be necessary. Representatives from all fronts who attended the meeting declared that troops would defend the revolution, but that bread and boots were necessary.

May Revive Fighting.

Petrograd, Jan. 2.—The Russian peace delegation has officially suggested to the central powers that the meeting place of the peace delegates be transferred to neutral soil and has protested against certain articles in the Austro-German terms already submitted.

The halt in negotiations and indications of German refusal to move the conference to Stockholm has revived universal discussion here of a resumption of fighting with a greatly reduced army, probably three million men.

Even the great radical Bolsheviks, the most ardent peace advocates, are aroused by the German position and declare that a resumption of fighting is imminent. They express the belief that it is possible to organize and make effective a small army.

The indications are that the German attitude is in harmonizing domestic differences concerning Russians and that they must fight to save revolutionary principles.

Rulers Interested.

London, Jan. 3.—The situation created by the hitch in Russo-German negotiations, according to Amsterdam dispatches from Berlin, has aroused the activities of the rulers of Austria and Germany.

Emperor William received yesterday in joint audience Chancellor Hertling, Von Hindenburg, Von Lendorff, Finance Minister Von Rodern, and Foreign Secretary Von Kuehlmann. Other important conferences also were held.

Emperor Charles received in audience Prof. Kucharski, the Polish premier.

It is reported that both Von Kuehlmann and Count Czernin have returned to Brest-Litovsk with new instructions.

Third Liberty Loan After Feb. 1.

Washington, Jan. 2.—The next national loan will be designated officially as the "Third Liberty Loan" and not the victory loan, freedom loan or peace loan, as has been suggested. This was made known today after the receipt of hundreds of suggested names from persons all over the country in response to a request for submission of ideas. The loan will be announced some time after February 1. The amount of interest rate has not yet been decided.

SOME ASTOUNDING FACTS.

Military Records of Camp Jackson Reveal a Menace.

Columbia, Jan. 3.—Thirteen out of every 1,000 South Carolina men mustered into the service of the United States at Camp Jackson up to December 13, 1917, were subsequently discharged from the army because they were feeble-minded. This fact was ascertained through a study of the medical records of rejections at Camp Jackson made for the State Council of Defense and the State Board of Charities and Corrections by Dr. Hastings H. Hart, of the Russell State Foundation, and Secretary Albert S. Johnstone, of the State board. Permission to study the medical records at the camp was granted by Gen. Bailey, former commander of Camp Jackson, at the request of Governor Manning.

The astounding fact that out of every 1,000 South Carolina men mustered into service at Camp Jackson 13 were rejected for feeble-mindedness (will doubtless add to the alarm of those citizens of the State who are already aroused over the menace of the problem of the mentally deficient and who are urging the Senate to pass the bill providing for the State Custodial Training School for the feeble-minded white people of South Carolina.)

The State Board of Charities and Corrections, which, with expert assistance rendered by Miss Helen F. Hill, a trained psychologist, has been studying the problem of the feeble-minded in South Carolina for about two years, has never claimed that more than three people out of every 1,000 of the general population were feeble-minded. However, the official medical records at Camp Jackson show that the ratio is really over four times three out of every 1,000 among the men between 21 and 31 years of age sent to the camp for army service up to December 13th, 1917.

From the ranks of the feeble-minded are recruited a large percentage of the paupers of the State, many of the criminals, many of the disease-ravaging prostitutes, and many other social undesirables.

Feeble-mindedness is due very largely to hereditary causes which can be controlled by stopping the propagation of children by persons one or both of whom are feeble-minded. Experience has proved that the best way to put an end to propagation among the feeble-minded is to place them in a special institution by themselves where they, since they are nothing but children in mind, can be kept happy and contented and trained by special teachers to become at least in a measure self-supporting. Instead of being as they are without training, economic burdens.

(At its 1917 session the House of Representatives passed a bill providing for the establishment of the State training school for the feeble-minded. This bill is now on the calendar of the Senate with a favorable report from the finance committee. Its passage early in the session of 1918 by the Senate is anticipated.)

In a forthcoming issue of "The Quarterly Bulletin" the State Board of Charities and Corrections terms the bill for the training school for the feeble-minded "a war measure" because, with the war taking the best men and the unprotected feeble-minded continuing to propagate children who are burdens to the State, the civilization of South Carolina is being attacked at two points, and one of the attacks can be stopped in a measure by the passage of the bill providing State care for the feeble-minded.

The representatives of the State Board of Charities and Corrections and the State Council of Defense in making their co-operative study of the medical records of the causes of rejection of men from Camp Jackson included the records of men from North Carolina and Florida. Tabulation of the data showed that out of every 1,000 men mustered into service from these three States 14.5 were subsequently rejected because they were feeble-minded. The rejections per 1,000 on account of feeble-mindedness for the three States separately were South Carolina, 13; North Carolina, 16.5; Florida, 11.4.

Drives Out Malaria, Builds Up System
The Old Standard general strengthening tonic, GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC, drives out malaria, enriches the blood, and builds up the system. A true tonic. For adults and children. 60c.

Soldier's Skull Crushed.

Greenville, Jan. 2.—Mystery surrounds the death of Andrew Smith, a private in Company H, 117th Infantry, who died yesterday the immediate cause of death being given as a crushed skull. This became known at division headquarters this afternoon when it was stated that no report of the manner in which Smith had met death had been made. An investigation was being made, it was stated. Smith's death certificate did not give his home place except to state that he was born in North Carolina.

FEDERAL RAILWAY PROBLEMS.

Labor Organizations Pledge Co-Operation With Government.

Washington, Jan. 3.—After a 3-hour conference to-day with heads of the four railway brotherhoods, Director General McAdoo said that some definite agreement on all relations of railroad labor to the government management would be made soon. The conference will continue to-morrow.

A general readjustment of passenger schedules involving general curtailment of traffic is now considered certain. The question was discussed to-day between Director McAdoo and passenger traffic representatives of Eastern railroads.

The brotherhood chiefs assured the director general of the co-operation of their union, and it was said there was no danger whatever of any general strike. Details of the brotherhoods' demands on railway management before the government assumed control, including a 40 per cent wage increase, were discussed at length. Some readjustment of wages and probably a general increase is considered probable, although Mr. McAdoo said to-day no basis of any such action had yet been determined.

John Skelton Williams, Comptroller of the Currency, and the director general's adviser on railroad financial questions, discussed with Mr. McAdoo the situation which will develop soon when railroad companies' bonds and other obligations fall due.

Since Director General McAdoo became head of a unified and government-controlled railroad system a week ago, the main tangible result has been the acceleration of coal shipments, and a beginning of the clearing up of congestion in railroad yards by abolition of all priority orders. Surveys also are under way looking to a practical pooling arrangement.

Presidential Suggestions.

President Wilson to-day finished his address. It is understood to be about 1,000 words long, and, according to the present plans, it will not be confined in advance to newspapers and press associations in advance of delivery.

The President will make specific recommendations for legislation to carry out government operation of railroads.

Bills embodying the President's ideas already have been drafted and are ready for introduction in both Houses at the conclusion of the address. Speedy action on the necessary railroad legislation is looked for.

EAT BIG MEALS! NO SOUR, ACID STOMACH, INDIGESTION OR GAS

"Pape's Diapepsin" is Quickest, Surest Stomach Relief Known. Try It!

Time it! Pape's Diapepsin will sweeten a sour, gassy or out-of-order stomach within five minutes.

If your meals don't fit comfortably, or what you eat lies like a lump of lead in your stomach, or if you have heartburn, that is usually a sign of acidity of the stomach.

Get from your pharmacist a fifty-cent case of Pape's Diapepsin and take a dose just as soon as you can. There will be no sour risings, no belching of undigested food mixed with acid, no stomach gas or heartburn, fullness or heavy feeling in the stomach, nausea, debilitating headaches or dizziness. This will all go, and, besides, there will be no sour food left over in the stomach to poison your breath with nauseous odors.

Pape's Diapepsin helps to neutralize the excessive acid in the stomach which is causing the food fermentation and preventing proper digestion. Relief in five minutes is waiting for you at any drug store.

These large fifty-cent cases contain enough "Pape's Diapepsin" to usually keep the entire family free from stomach acidity and its symptoms of indigestion, dyspepsia, sourness, gases, heartburn, and headache, for many months. It belongs in your home.—Adv.

Bad Fire at Iva.

Iva, S. C., Jan. 3.—Fire this morning destroyed the department stores of W. Frank McGee, one of the largest establishments of the town. It was discovered about 5 o'clock and had made such headway as to make it impossible to save the buildings. The building was a double-store room, one being used for groceries and the other for dry goods and millinery. Mr. McGee stated this morning that his stock of goods and rooms were only partly covered by insurance and his loss would be somewhere near \$10,000.

Mr. McGee has been in business here for the last 12 or 15 years and had built up a nice business, in fact, one of the largest in town. The loss falls very heavily upon him. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Mr. McGee estimates his loss at approximately \$32,000, with insurance to the amount of \$22,500. It is believed that the fire was of incendiary origin.

AS TO COMBINATION SALES.

Only One Combination Allowed—That of Corn Meal and Sugar.

The Courier is in receipt of the following information from the State Food Administration:

Reports of violations of the sugar combination sales ruling recently issued by the United States Food Administration have come to the attention of the food administrator for South Carolina. The Food Administration has issued a warning to all grocers that only one combination sale with sugar is allowed—that of corn meal. Grocers are allowed to require a purchaser to buy two pounds of corn meal to every pound of sugar. No other combination is permitted. The following telegram was received recently from the United States Food Administration in Washington:

"On and after this date all combination sales of food commodities are forbidden, with exception stated below. Sale of one or more food commodities upon condition that purchaser shall buy one or more other food commodities from seller is regarded as combination sale within the meaning of this ruling. Combination sales frequently result in the sale of more foodstuffs than particular purchaser would ordinarily buy, and are, therefore, determined to be wasteful practice within the meaning of Section 4 of Food Administration Act of August 10, 1917.

"Exception: Pending further notice, and as a wheat conservation measure, dealers may sell sugar in combination with corn meal at rate of one pound sugar with two of corn meal. No other combination will be permitted, nor will any other ratio than that here stated be allowed. Dealer shall not sell either sugar or corn meal at a price yielding him profit greater than he has normally enjoyed upon the particular commodity.

"Dealer is not required to make combination sales of sugar and corn meal, but may do so at his discretion."

BOSCHER'S GERMAN SYRUP
will quiet your cough, soothe the inflammation of a sore throat and lungs, stop irritation in the bronchial tubes. Insuring a good night's rest, free from coughing and with easy expectation in the morning. Made and sold in America for 52 years. A wonderful prescription, assisting nature in building up your general health and throwing on the disease. Especially useful in lung trouble, asthma, etc. Bronchitis, etc. For sale by Retail Drug Stores in 30 and 50-cent bottles.—Adv.

"A Little Bit of Licker."

(The State, Jan. 3.)

A. R. Bradley, a North Carolinian, was a star at the recorder's matinee yesterday morning. Bradley came in on the Seaboard with a grip and a tool chest. A carpenter's plane projected through an opening in the lid of the chest and the traveler was making good progress. He left the train and passed Officer Stack. Something had broke loose on the inside of one of the carriers and the odor smelled like booze.

The officer called Constable Fannin and the man was questioned. He acknowledged having "a little bit of liquor" in the grip and when the lid was raised 18 pints was the "small quantity" referred to. The stranger was escorted to the barracks and when the tool chest was opened it surrendered 38 pints, making 56 pints in transit.

Bradley asked the recorder to go easy with him as this was the first time he ever became entangled with booze. The usual fine of \$100 was imposed.

Sevier's Health Report.

Greenville, Jan. 2.—According to the Official Bulletin, published under order of the President by the committee on public information, the number of cases of sickness at Camp Sevier for the week ending December 21 was 431, a rate of 15.7 per thousand. The diseases causing this sickness are tabulated as follows:

Pneumonia 3, malaria 1, venereal 28, measles 1, meningitis 7, other illness 378.

All figures on sickness in this report are of new cases reported during the week. The military reports class the total number of sick and injured as "total non-effectives" and the non-effectives per thousand as the "non-effective rate."

The non-effective rate for the entire National Guard of the United States was, for the last day covered by this report, 47.8 per thousand, and the admission rate for sickness during the week, 31.1 per thousand.

It will be seen from this report, therefore, that Camp Sevier's admission rate is now lower by 50 per cent than the average for all the National Guard divisions.

Piles Cured in 6 to 14 Days
Your druggist will refund money if PAZO OINTMENT fails to cure any case of Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles in 6 to 14 days. The first application gives ease and Rest. 50c.