

BIG FIRE IN ORANGEBURG.

MUCH PROPERTY IS DESTROYED BY FLAMES.

Conflagration Penetrates From St. John to Russell Street—Buildings Destroyed Valued at \$25,000.

Orangeburg, Oct. 31.—Orangeburg was visited this afternoon by a disastrous fire, destroying approximately \$25,000 worth of property with very little insurance. The big fire was in the center of the east business section and great fears were entertained that the entire big block of stores would go. The fire was held in check to wooden buildings and one brick building. Adjacent brick buildings aided the firemen to stop further spread. Five buildings were entirely destroyed and one very badly damaged. Other buildings sustained smaller damage.

Shortly after 3 o'clock the fire alarm was sounded. The streets were crowded with people and volumes of smoke in the business section caused great excitement. The fire began in the sales stables occupied by G. Henry Slater and J. D. Bolen on St. John street. The origin is unknown. Before the fire department could get to that street the fire had spread to the adjoining stables of L. C. Hughes on one side and a rented stable on the other. Shortly the large sales stables of R. Doyle caught. All of these buildings except that of L. C. Hughes were wooden buildings. These were large buildings. The quantities of feedstuffs caused the fire to burn fiercely and get a big start. The conflagration was huge. For a time it looked as if a large part of the business section was doomed, as the fire had burned through from St. John street to Russell street, the main business street of Orangeburg. The two-story building of C. A. Stroman on Russell street was practically destroyed by the fire. The modern brick home of the Elliott Hook and Ladder fire department was very badly damaged.

The losses are approximately: C. A. Stroman, two-story store building on Russell street and two sales stable buildings on St. John Street, valued at \$6,000, insurance \$2,500; L. C. Hughes, sales stable buildings, feedstuffs, etc., value, \$6,000; insurance, \$2,500; Slater Brothers, sales stable building, value \$3,000, insurance \$1,000; R. Doyle, feedstuffs, etc., value \$400, no insurance; G. Henry Slater sustained big loss of feedstuffs, etc.; J. D. Bolen lost two head of stock and feedstuffs, no insurance; J. R. Schachte, grocer, suffered \$500 damages by breakage, moving and water; John Wannamaker, grocer, lost \$500 in breakage, water and moving; both grocers had some insurance. E. M. Grady, fruits, confections, groceries, etc., sustained slight damage; T. E. Andrea, jeweler, sustained slight damage; M. T. Siffly, department store, suffered slight damages; E. E. Culler, blacksmith, buggies, etc., sustained slight damages; H. Von Ohlsen, bakery, sustained several hundred dollars' damage; a negro pressing club lost about \$100 in clothing and supplies; William Kelley lost household effects, no insurance; Elliott Hook and Ladder Fire company lost about \$1,500 on building, covered by insurance.

The fire was one of the biggest that has visited Orangeburg in a long time, burning a district of several acres and going from street to street. The work of the fire department was exceptionally fine and great praise is due the members.

In the stables of L. C. Hughes were horses and buggies, etc., of county folk and some of them sustained losses. Z. E. Stroman lost a horse. L. C. Hughes two head of stock. Thad Barton a threshing machine, Jeff Davis a buggy, Julius Ahrens lost feedstuffs and buggy. A large number of stock and buggies were saved. Some valuable papers were destroyed.

The average out-of-town investor is somewhat "skittish" about putting his money in a Sumter business enterprise that is talked and written about as a possible paying business, when Sumter men themselves don't show their confidence in the future of their own town and county by being willing to take a little risk in a proposition put up to outsiders by the business men of Sumter.

The Sumter Chamber of Commerce has received a number of letters from the president of the Grain Dealers' Association during the past thirty days assuring the Sumter organization that the grain dealers of the north and west sympathize with the thousands of farmers and business men in the cotton growing States, and want to help out all that they can. A number of bales, aggregating hundreds of dollars, have been sold through the Sumter commercial organization already to business men and others all over the United States through the efforts of President Chas. D. Jones, of the association, a resident of Nashville, Tenn., and chairman John H. Bell, of the "Buy a Bale Committee" of the Nashville Grain Exchange.

LUMBER PLANT BURNED.

BIG FIRE IN SOUTHEASTERN PART OF TOWN THIS MORNING.

Buildings and Machinery Belonging to United Trust Company of Lynchburg, Va., Destroyed with Large Amount of Lumber Belonging to Witherspoon Bros.

The plant of the old Sumter Lumber Company, which has been shut down for several years, was practically destroyed by fire this morning together with several thousand feet of lumber belonging to Witherspoon Bros. The total loss is estimated at between \$5,000 and \$6,000 with some insurance.

The plant, which consisted of several long sheds covered with corrugated iron sheeting, was the property of the United Trust Company of Lynchburg, Va. There was considerable machinery in the plant, all of which was destroyed. Much of the machinery, however, was in a bad state of repair, it having been left there for the last two or three years unattended. Practically all of the plant except the office and the engine house was burned to the ground. There has been considerable litigation concerning the plant, and the present owners are said to be as stated above, they having secured it on a mortgage. Whether they had any insurance on it or not is not yet known here. Their loss will probably be between \$2,000 and \$3,000.

Witherspoon Bros had several thousand feet of lumber under the sheds and all of this except a small pile was burned. Mr. E. L. Witherspoon stated today that while he did not know accurately how much lumber was in the pile, he estimated that they would lose about \$1,500 worth of lumber with \$1,000 insurance.

The fire started after 7 o'clock, at which time the night watchman left the place. It was first discovered shortly after 8 o'clock the alarm being sent in at 8.35. At this time the fire had already spread to nearly all of the lumber in the plant and the fire department had a hard time fighting the blaze, as it was fearfully hot. When the iron roofs gave in and fell, it made the attack upon the fire still more difficult. A box car full of lumber on a spur track in the yard was practically destroyed before the fire in it was extinguished. Three negro houses situated just across the street from the plant were smoking, but were soon rescued from the fire, after several lines of hose had been attached to the private hydrant in the lumber plant's yard. The lumber was piled close together and the firemen found it difficult to extinguish the blaze, which had gotten down under the lumber near the bottom of the piles. Two piles which were not caught were saved from the conflagration.

Safety First.

Von Moltke's son wore a suit of mail, but the top of his head was blown off by a shell. The forts of Liege were impenetrable, but were penetrated. The Titanic was unsinkable, but sank. The British cruisers cost \$4,000,000 each, and were proof against torpedo attack, but they went to the bottom in pieces, with all but a bare 778 of the enlisted men on board. A steel-built railroad coach crumpled like a sardine can. Out in Colorado the other day a man accidentally shot himself with a safety revolver. How many men cut their faces with safety razors, the record fails to say.

A baby jumped from a third-story window and escaped without a scratch, but a man crossing a footbridge slipped, fell four inches, and broke his neck. A man raised an umbrella in a storm and was killed by lightning that passed down the steel rod through his arm. It is nearly always the expert swimmer who is drowned, and, somehow, the buffoon who can't swim a stroke rocks the boat, is the one to escape. Somewhere recently one of these daredevil automobile racers was knocked down by a milk wagon, unless the news reports jested, and went to a hospital with three ribs caved in.

All of this is from the Richmond Times-Dispatch, which paper concludes that "safety is a word that means that if nothing happens to you, in spite of your precautions, you have not been hurt."

However, it must not be inferred that The Times-Dispatch does not believe in precaution. It insists on stringent laws governing automobilism; a superior police force; the best of fire departments and the most up-to-date appliances for the protection of employees. Further, it has its building watchman, insures its plant and, probably, with a blanket accident policy, covers its employees.

Notwithstanding its definition of the word "safety," you may as well take it for granted that this splendid Richmond newspaper is wrapped up in precaution.—Augusta Chronicle.

MEXICANS CHOOSE PRESIDENT

ROBLIS AND VILLAREAL CONSIDERED BY CONFERENCE.

Would Appoint Villa Secretary of War and Leave Carranza in Supreme Command of the Army—Carranza May Not Accept.

Mexico City, Nov. 1.—The Aguascalientes national convention balloted today for provisional president, according to advices reaching here. It was stated that Gens. Roblis and Villareal were the only candidates. Up to a late hour tonight the result was not known here.

The advices reaching here said the convention had abolished military divisions, placed all troops under a secretary of war and decided to give this position to Gen. Villa. Villa's resignation as commander of the north accordingly was accepted. Carranza's resignation was accepted unconditionally.

The foreign minister said the action of the Aguascalientes convention would in no way affect the status of Carranza, who will continue to act as supreme commander until Villa and Zapata have left the country.

Forest Notes.

Six thousand bushels of lodgepole pine seed are being collected this fall on the Arapaho national forest, Colorado, for use in reforestation work next spring.

The Philippine bureau of forestry has recently invited bids for the cutting of nearly 300,000 acres of choice timber land on the public forests on the island of Luzon.

Officers of the Okanogan national forest in the State of Washington are installing powerful signal lanterns for night use in reporting forest fires from lookout peaks.

It is said that the first sawmill in the United States was at Jamestown, from which sawed boards were exported in June, 1607. A water-power sawmill was in use in 1625 near the present site of Richmond.

California yew which grows on the national forests of that State is finding some use in present-day archery practice. Its qualities closely resemble those of the old-world yew which made the English long-bow famous in medieval times.

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has decided that the amount of damage collectible on growing timber set on fire through negligence is not only the value of the wood destroyed, but also the injury to the property as a whole through the destruction of the young growth.

Turpentine.

"Turpentine" is beginning to figure in the war news. There have been latterly many reports of this new and deadly substance the secret of which is said to have been discovered by some genius in France who communicated it to his government. According to rumor, the turpentine guns are doing terrible execution on the battlefield and whole companies of Germans are being wiped out instantaneously and painlessly and with never a scratch on their bodies. Some believe the stories and some do not. They belong to that class of news which the old-fashioned newspapers used to head "important, if true."

Turpentine and the turpentine gun, be they fable or fact, are shrouded in mystery. Turpentine is said to produce a gas which causes immediate paralysis followed quickly by death, and the turpentine guns are said to fire shells which burst and diffuse this deadly gas among the ranks of the enemy. Deadly as it is, it is said to be the most humane of all the instruments of war, since the death which it spreads broadcast is an absolutely painless death. British correspondents at the battle of the Marne have told of long lines of dead German soldiers, standing rigid and erect in the trenches, their rifles still in their hands and their faces as calm and composed as they were in life.

It is one of the penalties of the censorship that the world must wait a while longer before it knows the truth about these and many other wonderful stories of the war. The more cautious ones among us will demand better evidence before we will believe. Yet the French are a brilliant people. There is no telling to what extent they have made science the servant of their armies. Pasteur, Curie, Bequerel and a dozen other great names attest the genius of the French for wresting great secrets from nature. There was much mysterious talk when the Germans were approaching Paris of a grim surprise that was awaiting them there. Was turpentine that surprise? And now that the Germans have been driven far back from the French capital, have the deadly turpentine guns been transported to the banks of the Aisne?—News and Courier.

Upwards of ten thousand dollars have been brought to Sumter through the organized efforts of the Sumter Chamber of Commerce and Retail Dealers' Association to buy cotton at ten cents per pound.

AID FOR RED CROSS.

Cotton Pickers Secure Fund for Starving Belgians.

The Red Cross cotton pickers, nearly one hundred strong, gathered on the graded school green Saturday morning to go out to the farm of Mr. L. D. Jennings, just west of the city, where they were to pick cotton during the day, the proceeds of their work going to the Red Cross association for the relief of the non-combatants of Europe, who were suffering from the effects of the great war now in progress.

The wagons were on hand, but the morning was cool and the cotton pickers were slow in arriving at their meeting point. It being after 9 o'clock before the wagons left for the cotton fields, where they arrived shortly before 10.00. The young folks, and older ones too for that matter—who were in the wagons took the occasion as something of a picnic and had a big time all the way out to the farm. Here they put on their cotton sacks and prepared to pick cotton. Mr. Mellette having come out and shown them where to go and how to gather the cotton.

For two hours the pickers gathered in cotton with or without the leaves. It was new work to them and they found it very interesting at first, but after a time their backs became tired from unaccustomed position and they decided it was time to rest and eat dinner.

The Red Cross workers had been careful to provide lunch for dinner and this was made a big picnic affair. In fact it was one of the most enjoyable events of the day for the younger folks. After their dinner everybody gathered in the big barn and played on the hay. The new mown hay was a delightful place for a frolic and the children tumbled about on it, hid under it and had a big time for two hours. So gay had they become and so much were they enjoying their fun that the leaders of the expedition had much trouble in getting them to go back to work, after two o'clock, when their noon-day rest was declared over. However they soon went to work with a will and ere 3 o'clock came when work was declared off for the day they had gathered nine hundred and forty-six pounds of cotton, quite a large amount for amateur pickers. Mr. Jennings had promised to pay the pickers one cent a pound for all that they picked and he made the amount he contributed to the Red Cross workers an even ten dollars.

During the day the parents of some of the children who went on picnic came out to see the children and a number of boys from town rode out on their wheels, all of which added to the pleasure and excitement of the day. During the dinner hour Mr. L. D. Jennings came out with Mr. Winburn, who took several photographs of the pickers. Mr. Winburn will develop these photographs and slides will be made from them to be exhibited at one of the moving picture shows later on for the benefit of the Red Cross association. Post cards will also be sold and the money will swell the Red Cross association fund. Mr. A. C. Kaufman, president of the Red Cross in South Carolina, will be told of the expedition so that he can spread the news and other places can devise similar plans for making money for the Red Cross.

Miss Mary White and Miss Elizabeth White have each contributed one dollar each to the Red Cross and this sum will be sent with the ten dollars to Mr. Kaufman to be forwarded to the managers of the relief expedition, which is being sent to Europe to aid the war sufferers.

Coming back Saturday afternoon the cotton pickers were given a ride through Main street, where they let everybody know that they were coming. Their shouts of glee could be heard for several blocks and the whole party seemed to be in the best of humor possible, showing that they had spent a lovely day in their generous work. All of the boys went to the Y. M. C. A. where they had a dip in the swimming pool.

Mr. E. T. White and Miss Jennie Chandler, the chief promoters of the expedition, wish to extend their thanks to Mr. Jennings and Mr. Mellette on behalf of the whole party for the courteous treatment and help which they received during the day and their aid on behalf of the Red Cross work.

If there are any others who wish to give anything toward the relief of the suffering through the Red Cross association, all contributions will be gratefully received by Mr. E. T. White, treasurer of the fund, at the Sumter Y. M. C. A.

If the Sumter business men will keep on writing to their business associates about the buy a bale movement we will get some more ten cent cotton bales counts. It looks like thousands of dollars are going to be invested in cotton at ten cents to help out and Sumter might just as well get its share, or a little more if she can.

MEXICAN PRESIDENT NAMED.

Aguascalientes Conference Nominates Gen. Gutierrez.

El Paso, Texas, Nov. 2.—Gen. Eulalio Gutierrez, commander of the State troops of San Luis Potosi and military governor of that State has been named as provisional president of Mexico by the Aguascalientes convention, according to unofficial reports reaching here at noon today.

Flag-Makers.

An address delivered by Mr. Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior, to the clerks of his department on Flag Day is claiming attention not only for its literary merit but because of its appropriate appeal to the patriotic impulse of the people at this time. It is worthy of reproduction. He said:

"This morning, as I passed into the land office, the flag dropped me a most cordial salutation, and from its rippling folds I heard it say: 'Good Morning, Mr. Flag-maker.'

"I beg your pardon, Old Glory,' I said, you are mistaken. I am not the president of the United States, nor the vice president, nor a member of congress, nor even a general in the army. I am only a government clerk."

"I greet you again, Mr. Flag-maker," replied the gay voice. "I know you well. You are the man who worked in the swelter of yesterday straightening out the tangle of that farmer's homestead in Idaho."

"No, I am not," I was forced to confess.

"Well, perhaps you are the one who discovered the mistake in that Indian contract in Oklahoma?"

"No, wrong again," I said.

"Well, perhaps you helped to clear that patent for the hopeful inventor in New York, or pushed the opening of that new ditch in Colorado, or made that mine in Illinois more safe, or brought relief to the old soldier in Wyoming. No matter, which ever one of these beneficent individuals you may happen to be, I give you greeting, Mr. Flag-maker."

"I was about to pass on, feeling that I was being mocked, when the flag stopped me with these words:

"You know, the world knows, that yesterday the president spoke a word that made happier the future of 10,000,000 peons in Mexico, but that act looms no larger on the flag than the struggle which the boy in Georgia is making to win the corn club prize this summer. Yesterday the congress spoke a word which will open the door of Alaska, but a mother in Michigan worked from sunrise until far into the night to give her boy an education. She too, is making the flag. Yesterday we made a new law to prevent financial panics; yesterday, no doubt, a school teacher in Ohio taught his first letters to a boy who will write a song that will give cheer to the millions of our race. We are all making flags."

"But," I said impatiently, "these people were only working." Then came a great shout from the flag.

"Let me tell you who I am. The work that we do is the making of the real flag. I am not the flag, not at all. I am but its shadow. I am whatever you make me, nothing more. I am your belief in yourself, your dream of what a people may become. I live a changing life, a life of moods and passions, of heart-breaks and tired muscles. Sometimes I am strong with pride, when men do an honest work, fitting the rails together truly. Sometimes I droop, for then purpose has gone from me, and cynically I play the coward. Sometimes I am loud, garish, and full of that ego that blasts judgment. But always I am all that you hope to be and have the courage to try for. I am song and fear, struggle and panic, and ennobling hope. I am the day's work of the weakest man and the largest dream of the most daring. I am the constitution and the courts, statutes and statute-makers, soldier and dreadnought, drayman and street-sweep, cook, counselor, and clerk. I am the battle of yesterday and the mistake of tomorrow. I am the mystery of men who do without knowing why. I am the clutch of an idea and the reasoned purpose of resolution. I am no more than what you believe me to be, and I am all that you believe I can be. I am what you make me, nothing more. I swing before your eyes as a bright gleam of color, a symbol of that big thing which makes this nation. My stars and my stripes are your dreams and your labors. They are bright with cheer, brilliant with courage, firm with faith, because you have made them so out of your hearts, for you are the makers of the flag, and it is well that you glory in the making."

Hundreds of letters and circulars are being sent out to people all over the United States regarding the Sumter "Buy a Bale" movement, the names being furnished by the officers of the Grain Dealers' National Association.

CORN CLUB MEETING.

Prizes to Be Awarded to Boy Farmers on Saturday, November 7th.

At the meeting of the Corn Club on October 19th, it was decided to postpone the awarding of the prizes until after the State fair, and the day named was Saturday of this week, November 7th. The boys had only a short time in which to gather and make their other reports after receiving the other notice, and three days rain during the week that they were to gather kept several from gathering. I hope that each member of the club will turn out next Saturday with the best single ear, the best ten ears, the best history of the crop, the best paper on "How I Selected My Seed Corn in the Field," and an accurate report of methods used in gathering and weighing corn on acre.

There are nearly two hundred dollars in prizes subscribed, and there will be about fifteen prizes in all awarded. A competent judge will be present to judge the corn. Remember you can win just as much by having the best single ear of corn as you can by making the largest yield. We also wish to organize for next year and we cordially invite all of the boys between the ages of twelve and eighteen to be present and learn all you can about selecting seed corn and making reports, etc.

J. Frank Williams,
Local Agent.

Farmers' Union Meeting.

The monthly meeting of the County Farmers' Union will be held in the Court House at 12 o'clock Friday, November 6. All members are invited to attend this meeting and each local will be expected to send a full delegation. Owing to the weather all the meetings until next spring will be held in the court house. If there ever was a time when the Farmers' Union needed to look closely after its interest it is the present time. With cotton selling three cents under the cost of production and other things which we can grow selling for more than usual, it seems to me that we should get busy and look after growing and marketing those things that will return us the greatest profit.

J. Frank Williams,
President Sumter County Farmers' Union.

Why the Youth's Companion Should Be in Every Home.

"If I could take only one paper," said the late Mr. Justice Brewer of the Supreme Court, "it would be The Youth's Companion—a little of everything in a nutshell, and unbiased." The Companion is a family paper in the completest sense. It provides reading that, without failing to interest the young, still interests the mature. It unites young and old through their common enjoyment of delightful fiction, agreeable miscellany and the clear exposition of public questions. So carefully is it edited, so varied are its contents, that it would easily supply a family with entertaining fiction, up-to-date information and wholesome fun, if no other periodical entered the house.

If you are not familiar with The Companion as it is today, let us send you sample copies and the Forecast for 1915.

New subscribers who send \$2.00 for the fifty-two issues of 1915 will receive free all the remaining issues of 1914, besides a copy of the Companion Home Calendar for 1915.

The Youth's Companion, Mass.,
144 Berkeley Street, Boston, Mass.
New subscriptions received at this office.—Advt.

The Grain Dealers' National Association in convention assembled a few days ago at Kansas City, Missouri, renewed the interest of that association in the "Buy a Bale" of cotton at ten cents per pound movement by unanimously adopting a resolution endorsing the movement, and by every delegate agreeing to buy a bale and to organize a "Buy a Bale" club in his section of the country.

Buy a South Bend

"THE GOOD WATCH"

It's easy if you join our "South Bend Club," now forming. See us at once if you want to get in.

W. A. Thompson,
JEWELER AND OPTICIAN,
"S. & H." Stamps Given.