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HELICON HALL BURNS

Upton Sinclair's Colony Building In Ruins.

INQUEST TO PROBE CAUSE OF FIRE

Lester Briggs Report Says Death—Mrs. Cooke and Miss McGowan In Serious Condition—Many Narrow Escapes From Flames.

ENGLEWOOD, N. J., March 18.—Coroner Lees has requested Prosecutor Keester to assist him in the investigation and inquest which is to follow the destruction by fire of Upton Sinclair's Helicon hall.

"So many conflicting stories have reached me from both members of the colony and outsiders that I deem it my duty to go into the matter most fully and ascertain the facts if that is possible, and because of that I have asked the prosecutor to be present and question the witnesses who will be called. I have constables running down the stories that have been circulated, and the tallers will be summoned to testify.

"Many people declare the fire mysterious in its origin, and the various rumors that arise out of those stories and conjectures will be sifted. "That the fire was discovered immediately after it had started seems very unlikely. There were men in the building who reached it about 2 o'clock, and some of them are said to recall having heard peculiar noises below their rooms for some time before the fire broke out."

Mrs. Grace McGowan Cooke and Miss Alice McGowan, who were injured by leaping from the burning building, are still in a serious condition. The others who were burned are doing well.

The members of the colony seem inclined to continue the experiment in a fireproof building. Through the home of Upton Sinclair's cooperative colony was totally destroyed by the fire, with the loss of one life and injury to five of the colonists, Mr. Sinclair is emphatic in his statement that a new co-operative colony will soon take the place of the old and that the fire will prove to be an incident merely and not a setback.

The father of the colony said that as soon as they got the smoke out of their eyes the searchers after a modern Utopia would set about re-establishing themselves.

Lester Briggs, a carpenter from Providence, R. I., was caught in the burning building and killed. The most seriously injured are Mrs. Grace McGowan Cooke, who, like her sister, Miss Alice McGowan, is a well known writer of fiction, severe strain of the spinal column; Mrs. Leonie Fichtenberg, cook for the colony, burned about the body and blinded through fall; Miss Helen Knoll, assistant housekeeper, burned and jarred by fall; Miss Alice McGowan, bank sprained by fall; James McNiff, engineer for the colony, burned.

A New York dispatch says that Mr. Sinclair lay on a couch in the home of Gaylord Wilshire, editor of Wilshire's Magazine, who lives in New York and traced the silver lining to the cloud that had suddenly settled over his colony. Mr. Sinclair wore some of Mr. Wilshire's clothes.

"Just as soon as we get the smoke out of our eyes we will begin to look for a place to re-establish our colony," said Mr. Sinclair. "It has been a heavy blow, and nobody feels the strength of it more than I, but I am convinced that those who tried the experiment of living at Helicon hall felt that it was a success and will be glad to begin again at some new place.

"The colony had no great encumbrances financially. It achieved most of the purposes for which it was started. There were twenty-five people waiting for places in the home when the fire came. For my part the success we achieved in bringing up babies on the co-operative plan merits a try anew at the colony scheme."

There are others of the colonists who are not so optimistic. They said that there had been too many psychic cross currents in the life of the colony. Mr. Sinclair wanted to go ahead with a rush and make the settlement a big thing right off at the start. The rest were not so anxious.

About a month ago, so one of the colonists said, Mr. Sinclair resigned from the head of the colony and from the board of directors, urging as the cause of his action the necessity of work on a novel which he had contracted to write for a publishing firm. Mr. Sinclair assured the colonists that he resigned in the best of good will, but that he did not care to be re-elected a director.

SOLDIER CONFESSES

True Story of Brownsville Shooting Up Told.

ONE MAN OPENED FIRE FOR REVENGE

Galveston Report Says Band of Colored Troops Fired into Town and Then Cleaned Rifles and Answered Roll Call.

GALVESTON, Tex., March 18.—The Galveston News has printed the alleged confession of a discharged negro soldier in explanation of the midnight riot of negro soldiers of the Twenty-fifth infantry who "shot up" Brownsville, Tex., on Aug. 13, 1906. A state witness was one of the discharging negro soldiers to two reporters, and thus after seven months of investigation by the authorities of the United States what appears to be the true version of the riot has come to light.

The discharged soldier admits that he participated in the riot. This man has been living in Galveston since he and many others of the Twenty-fifth were discharged without honor or by order of President Roosevelt from the military service.

According to the negro, the outrage was not premeditated, but was the result of an alleged injury done one of the soldiers by a white man in Brownsville about a half hour before the riot started. The negro was struck by the white man at a resort in Brownsville. The negro, returning to the barracks, set his mind on revenge and he was going to kill the white man. Several other negroes promptly volunteered to go along to wipe out old scores against white citizens on account of injuries they had suffered.

The negroes returned to the barracks after committing the assault on the town, and many soldiers assisted in the hurried cleaning of the guns for fear of the shooting they would do after the alleged confession.

According to the alleged confession, the soldiers from only one company of the Twenty-fifth infantry participated in the riot, although nearly an entire battalion, later discharged, knew that soldiers had done the shooting.

Many of the negroes belonging to this battalion enlisted in Galveston during the summer of 1906 and returned to the city after being discharged from the army. The returned soldiers, it is said, were advised by negro politicians to avoid newspaper men, but two reporters finally procured the alleged confession through the fact that the negro concluded that they were United States secret-service detectives and let the secret out.

The man who talked to the reporters said his name was D. C. Gray and that he was formerly a private in Company B of the Twenty-fifth infantry.

Overman Confirms Galveston Story. WASHINGTON, March 18.—Senator Overman of North Carolina, who is a member of the senate committee on military affairs, which is investigating the "shooting up" of the town of Brownsville, Tex., when shown the dispatch from Galveston telling of the alleged confession of a discharged negro soldier said that the committee received information two weeks ago that a former member of the Twenty-fifth infantry had expressed a willingness to make a full confession if he could receive some assurance from the government that he would be protected.

Senator Overman says that this information was forwarded to Secretary Taft with the suggestion that he be investigated by the war department. "All the discharged troops who tell the truth about the affair," said the senator, "will certainly be protected by the government."

Didn't Know It Was Loaded. BRUNSWICK, Me., March 18.—Mrs. Lucy E. Frost, a seventy-year-old woman, was killed here, it is said, accidentally by the discharge of a shotgun which was being cleaned by Horace E. Dunning, sixty-five years old, the owner of the house and for whom Mrs. Frost acted as housekeeper. Mr. Dunning, who is a widower, told the coroner's jury that he did not know the gun was loaded. Dunning was not arrested.

Joseph L. Caven Dead at Haverford. PHILADELPHIA, March 18.—Joseph L. Caven, president of the Real Estate Title Insurance and Trust company of Philadelphia and the United Firemen's insurance company, died at his home at Haverford, Pa., aged seventy-two years. Death was caused by apoplexy. Mr. Caven was for years president of the common council of this city.

Promptly Quit Work to Get \$100,000. ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., March 18.—Charles Clegg, an Atlantic City hotelier, was informed that he had fallen heir to a fortune of \$100,000 or more by the death of his father in England. A law firm of England asked the police department to find Clegg. Clegg promptly quit work and prepared to go to England.

Japan Increases Her Army. TOKYO, March 18.—In pursuance of the programme to increase armaments of fourteen infantry regiments have been organized, mainly for the concentrated northern isles. The main base will be at Kurume, fifty miles northeast of Nagasaki.

Thieves Got Jewels Valued at \$2,500. LOS ANGELES, Cal., March 18.—Uninterrupted by hundreds of people who passed the corner of Sixth and Spring streets Saturday night two men entered a jewelry store in the Hotel Hayward and took jewels valued at \$2,500.

YANKEE GIRL TAKES DERBY.

Feature Event of New Orleans Racing Won by a Length.

NEW ORLEANS, March 18.—Yankee Girl, owned by Lucky Charlie Ellison, won the City Park Derby in impressive style before one of the largest crowds ever seen on a race course in New Orleans. There was 3 to 1 on her chances at one time. Burlew & O'Neill's Sir Toddington, with J. Hennessy in the saddle, was second and J. H. McCormick's Tiding finished third.

There was no doubt that Yankee Girl was the best at the weights. She carried 117 pounds and had to work her way to the front in the middle of the stretch, and although she finished very tired, she was a length to the good at the finish. Mountain rode the winner. Sir Toddington was the pace maker for the first mile and led his field by several lengths for that distance. He was sent out to make the running for his stable companion, Judge Post, ridden by Frank O'Neill, who, with his partner, Fred Burlew, was very confident of landing the \$3,700 which went to the owner of the winner.

At the stretch Yankee Girl was drawing away from the field in every stride. Judge Post showed signs of fatigue and dropped back. O'Neill saw that he was fleetly beaten and eased him up. Sir Toddington hung on gamely, but could not last the route, and Yankee Girl crossed the line with a good length to spare. Tiding managed to last just long enough to stand off the California Derby winner, Temasco, and got third place.

St. Louis Beaten in Sunday Ball Game. HOUSTON, Tex., March 18.—The St. Louis National league baseball team was defeated 1 to 5 in an exhibition game yesterday afternoon by the Washington Americans. Karger did most of the pitching for St. Louis and let in three runs in the fourth inning. Falkenberg was the principal pitcher for Washington.

Cambridge Wins Boat Race. LONDON, March 18.—Cambridge won the annual boat race from Oxford by four and a half lengths. The time for the four and a quarter miles from Putney to Mortlake was 20 minutes 35 seconds. Last year Cambridge won by three and a half lengths in 19 minutes 24 seconds.

Herrschhoff Wins Golf Cup. PINEBLUFF, N. C., March 18.—Frederick Herrschhoff, the young Garden City amateur, was an easy winner of the president's cup in the final of the third annual spring tournament, defeating J. D. Foot, the Annapolis veteran, by 10 up and 8 to play.

Old Couple Try to Die Together. HILLSDALE, Mich., March 18.—Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Terpening, an aged couple who had been in feeble health for months, attempted to commit suicide together by wrapping their heads in cloths soaked with chloroform. Only the aged woman was successful, however. When found she was dead, and her husband, although unconscious, responded to the efforts at resuscitation. They had evidently planned their suicide together for some time. The chloroform was purchased ten days ago, and Terpening gave \$25 to a neighbor to be used for their funeral expenses. Both of them had been in feeble health for so long that no suspicion was aroused by this act.

Wendel Court Martial Opens. NEW YORK, March 18.—A trial of great interest to military men will be the court martial of Captain Louis Wendel of the First battery, New York national guard, which opened here today, on charges of misuse of his control of the First battery armory. Captain Wendel has been indicted by a grand jury on the charge of obtaining \$200 from the state treasury by submitting false bills for hiring horses for drills or parades. He is also charged with exacting from the employees of the armory payment of a portion of their wages to him under the guise of rent.

Five Hundred Homes Threatened. HUNTINGTON, W. Va., March 18.—The Ohio river reached its highest point, with 58.3 feet. After remaining stationary two hours it began to recede slowly. The stage exceeded the January flood, but much less damage was done than in January. Some 500 homes in Huntington and Central City are surrounded with water. Cattleshurg, Ceredo and Proctorville are flooded. The Baltimore and Ohio railroad has not run a train into Huntington since Wednesday last.

Mr. Thorpe Dead. CLEVELAND, O., March 18.—Mr. Thomas P. Thorpe, well known prelate in the Cleveland diocese of the Roman Catholic church, is dead here of arterial sclerosis, following an illness of several months. He was pastor of the Church of the Immaculate Conception here for fourteen years, previous to which he spent twenty years as pastor of St. John's cathedral here.

Boy Thought Gun Was Empty. STACY, N. Y., March 18.—Donald Dunlap Dunning, fourteen years old, son of the late Dr. J. A. Dunning of Spring Valley, is dead here from a shot fired from a gun by his younger brother, Norman. The boys were playing, and Norman supposed that the weapon was empty.

Soldier Kills Handi Pasha. CONSTANTINOPLE, March 18.—In Trebizond, Asiatic Turkey, Handi Pasha, commanding the local troops, while leaving the mosque yesterday was assassinated by a noncommissioned officer who had been punished shortly before.

WAR FOR ONE MULE

Nicaragua and Honduras Fell Out Over Its Theft.

TO STEAL FROM REBEL NOT A CRIME

Dispute Over Jerusalem Pony Ended in Defense and Declaration of War Between Two Little Latin Republics.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—One mule—a mule belonging to Senor Irujo Salgado—was the chief object of dispute between Nicaragua and Honduras when they began the quarrel which finally ended in the war that is threatening the peace of all Central America, according to the official communications exchanged by the ministers of the foreign affairs for the two republics, copies of which communications have been received in Washington.

The controversy began when Senor Augusto C. Cosío, the Honduran minister for foreign affairs, wrote a note to Senor Jose D. Games, the Nicaraguan minister for foreign affairs, on Jan. 26 protesting against the theft of a mule from Irujo Salgado by thirty-five Nicaraguan cavalrymen, who were charged with entering Honduran territory.

In reply Senor Games said the Nicaraguans did not quite enter Honduras, although they passed near to the little town of Los Manos, in that republic. The taking of the mule was not denied, but Senor Games insisted in his letter that Salgado was not a Honduran citizen, but a Nicaraguan, who had to leave that country because of the part he played in a revolution two years before. Consequently Nicaragua maintained that Honduras had no right to fly to the defense of Salgado's mule.

This brought a spirited reply from Honduras, the minister for foreign affairs announcing that Irujo Salgado, the Nicaraguan refugee, was living in Tegucigalpa, engaged in trade there while a man by the same name, a Honduran of unquestioned citizenship, lived at Los Manos and owned the much mooted mule.

Nicaragua replied that it was true that Colonel Juan I. Rocha, who commanded a party of cavalrymen, took a mule near Los Manos, but reiterated that the animal was not taken in Honduran territory. Dispatches grew longer as the controversy waxed warmer. Other questions arose. Then the arbitration tribunal was opened, and finally the break came when President Zelaya of Nicaragua withdrew his member of the board of arbitration, and war between Honduras and Nicaragua actually began.

Killed Him With Mining Pick. WILKESBARRE, Pa., March 18.—John Boshus, a Russian, was murdered Saturday night at Brookside, a suburb of this city, by Petro Komleck, a Pole. Komleck came home about midnight and, it is alleged, found Boshus in the company of Mrs. Komleck. Komleck secured his mining pick and literally tore Boshus to pieces. When life was extinct he dragged the body to Mill creek, nearby, and threw it into the stream. The murder was not discovered until the body of Boshus was found. Komleck escaped.

Said Sewall Rained His Home. EL RENO, Okla., March 18.—W. R. Rhea, a cornice maker, returned from Fort Worth, walked into the confectionery establishment of A. Newall, in the principal street of the city, and fired five shots at the proprietor, killing him instantly. Rhea stooped over and put out the powder fire in Newall's clothing and then stepped out in the street and surrendered to the chief of police, saying: "I would kill any man who ruined my home."

St. Patrick's Day at Rome. ROME, March 18.—St. Patrick's day was celebrated at the Irish college, where Cardinal Vincent Vannutelli celebrated mass. The Right Rev. Thomas O'Gorman, bishop of Sioux Falls, Ia., conducted the vesper service at the college and later attended a dinner at the institution. Among the other guests were the Most Rev. Robert Seton of Jersey City, titular archbishop of Heliopolis, and Marquis Martin Maloney of Philadelphia.

Three Flood Victims at Parkersburg. PARKERSBURG, W. Va., March 18.—The bodies of John F. Francis, his son Henry and daughter Della, who were drowned Friday night while fleeing from their flooded home, have been recovered. The river has fallen two feet, but the flood situation is little improved. There is much suffering, and the city is without street cars, gas, electric lights or water.

Husband, Wife and Dog Dead. PHILADELPHIA, March 18.—Lying side by side on a bed in their home here, Thomas Sherlow, sixty-eight years old, and his wife, Annie, sixty-two years old, were found dead, asphyxiated by illuminating gas. A fox terrier lay dead beside them.

Denial From John D. AUGUSTA, Ga., March 18.—In regard to the report wired here from the north that he had given \$50,000,000 to the Chinese famine relief fund, John D. Rockefeller, through his secretary, said the story was all rot.

Eighteen Killed in Wheeling Fire. WHEELING, W. Va., March 18.—Eighteen persons are known to have lost their lives in the fire that occurred at the plant of the Warwick Pottery company, which is located in the flooded district.

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40 in. Panama, every thread wool, 75c. 48 in. Panama, every thread wool, \$1.12 1/2. 56 in. Panama, every thread wool, \$1.25. 46 in. Voile, 75c, \$1.00 and \$1.25. The above prices are exactly as sold in the Scranton store, and you cannot beat them in the larger cities. Direct importation makes these prices possible.

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Wash Checks at 6c, 10c, 12 1/2c, 15c, 25c, 35c, 50c, and 75c. Double fold fancies 15c, 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00 and \$1.25. Come in and look around. Buying is optional.

Snaps for This Week

\$2.00, \$2.25 and \$2.50 Waists, long or short sleeves, open front or back. Special at \$1.50. \$1.25 and \$1.50 kinds, special at 90c. 18c India Linen, Special 12 1/2c. 48 in. Persian Lawn, 18c. 48 in. Persian or French Lawn, 25c. 48 in. Persian or French Lawn, 50c. 50c Table Linen (mercerized) 30c. 36 in. Costume Linen, our own importation, 25c. 40 in. Costume Linen, round thread, our own importation, 45c. 40 in. Costume Linen, round thread, our own importation, 45c. 46 in. Costume Linen, round thread, our own importation, 55c. 46 in. Costume Linen, round thread, extra fine, 75c.

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