ranscript

LINS, T. D. BOWERS
EDITORS.

Postoffice at Chestertown, Md., matter.

. MAC REICHE, a former boy, and now touring in mbia, has a splendid article column of this issue. It is ly written and the style is fine.

HE power to declare war does not t with the President of the United tates, but with Congress, but the Republican politicians are seeking to make political capital out of the Mexican and European situation by endeavoring to discredit the President's course in these matters. It can't be done.

THE contested election case of J. Turner Cameron, Democrat, vs. John F. Johnson, Republican, for short term county commissioner in Cecil county, has resulted in a victory for Cameron. This will change the political complexion of the board from Republican to Democratic.

THE bill providing for state-wide prohibition has been introduced in the Legislature and Supt. Hare, of the Anti-Saloon League, says that there are enough votes pledged to pass the bill in both houses. The bill provides for the submission of the question to a vote of he people.

IT is the Jingoists who are clamoring r intervention in Mexico, and it is the gorists who are crying for war with European nations every time a vessel is sunk or a torpedo boat is destroyed. What a blessing it is that we e in the White House a man who is losing his head on such clamorings.

ORMER Senator Joseph I. France, of imore and Cecil county, has anced his candidacy for the United s Senate subject to the Republican aries. Senator France is a wealthy and it is reported that he will have pport of former Collector of the Vm. F. Stone, of Baltimore, and f former Senator Jackson. He d Mrs. Evelyn S. Tome, widow b Tome, of Port Deposit, some go.

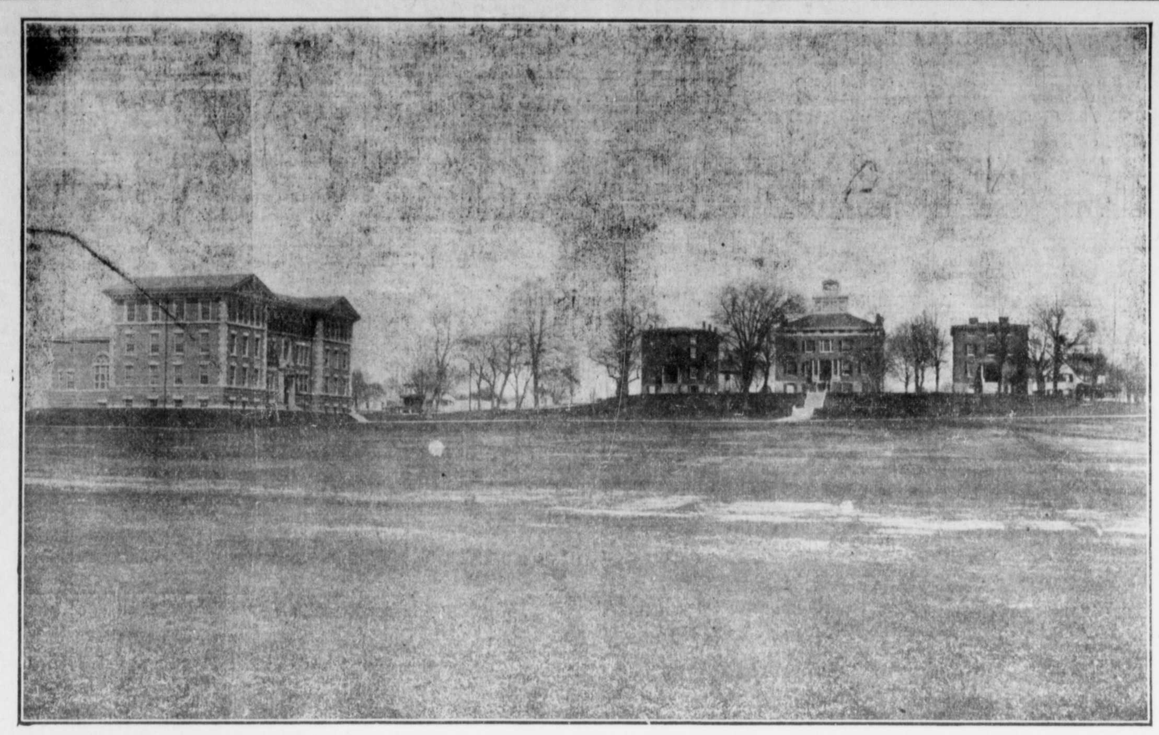
Democrats of the Maryland Leg- in joint caucus on Tuesday Annapolis refused to vote for Murray Vandiver for re-elec- State Treasurer for the 17th is our honest conviction that interests of the Democratic be served if Gen. Vandiver ire from one of the positions ow holds. Public sentiment he State is strongly against ection will costly thing to the Demo-

P. MCCOMBS, owner of the Grace Republican, died at his at city on Thursday of last e was 92 years old, and probldest newspaper may in the It was our pleasure to know Combs personally, and we are testify to his genuine worth and aracter. He was one of the big Havre de Grace, and his death used a great loss to the newspaperternity. We extend to his son, whom we also have the pleasure to know personally, our sympathy.

OUR representatives in the Maryland Legislature should make every effort to secure an additional appropciation for Washington College in order to restore the burned administration building. Washington College is worthy of our very best efforts in its behalf on any occasion, but in a time like this every one should rush to its assistance and assist in keeping the college upon the high plane to which it has arisen through the efforts of its president, its faculty and its Board of Visitors and Governors. The destruction of William Smith Hall is a great misfortune and a heavy financial loss, but the authorities of the college, sustained and aided by a strong public sentiment, will cause to rise from the ashes a building in every respect the peer of the burned structure. Let everybody use his best efforts to aid the college authorities.

HARRINGTON CAN HEAL BREACH

Gov. Harrington has a fine opportunity to bring the two factions of the Democratic party in Kent county together. The Organization faction was no more loyal to Mr. Harrington in the election than was the Anti-Organization, and if recognition is given to the Organization faction exclusively in the appointments for Kent county, it will go a long way towards preventing a union of the two elements. We are not saying this in the nature of a threat. The TRANSCRIPT asks nothing at the hands of the present administration. The paper has fought the battle of the Democratic party in elections in the past, and after having won the victories, we scarcely got the crumbs that fell from the favored one's table. We are simply taking this position because we know the attitude of the people of this county towards the Organization wing of the party, and we know the strength of the Antis. Kent county is in the control of the Republican party to-day because of the treatment of the majority of the Democratic party by the State leaders and the people of the county have long since lost the virtue of their patience. We sincerely trust that Gov. Harrington will do nothing to drive the factions further apart than they are now. They can be gotten together, and Gov. Harrington above any other man in the State can bring the factions together or he can drive them further apart. Conditions in the Democratic party in this State are not such as to warrant a feeling of indifference towards the party's welfare in Kent. Will the Governor see it that way?



THE BURNED BUILDING. DORMITORIES. PRESIDENT CAIN'S RESIDENCE.

WILLIAM SMITH HALL BURNED.

Valuable Records, Archives, Library and Other Valuable Articles Destroyed.

LOSS ON BUILDING $65,000, PARTIALLY COVERED BY INSURANCE.

College Closed for Two Weeks—Burnt Structure to be Rebuilt.

With all records and archives, William Smith Hall, the handsome administration building at Washington College, was destroyed by fire at three o'clock on Sunday morning. The watchman of the Pennsylvania Railroad yards, Mr. Lecates, was the first to give the alarm by blowing an engine whistle. Dr. James W. Cain, president of the college, and members of the faculty living on the hill were awakened at 2.30 o'clock by the alarm, and hurriedly dressing, they called the student body and, forming a fire company, the students attempted to fight the fire with the college fire apparatus, but found it useless because of a broken water main. Dr. Cain and Prof. Jones made a desperate effort to rescue the valuable archives from the college office and library, which were located on the first and third floors, but were unable to do so. Every vestige of the historic records of the oldest educational institution in the State was destroyed.

For a time the fire was confined to the basement, but a heavy south wind soon created the draft necessary to communicate the flames to other parts of the building. Before the town fire department reached the scene the handsome building was doomed and the efforts of the firemen were directed to saving the fine new gymnasium, which stands but a few feet from the site of the burned building.

STARTS IN COAL PILE.

The fire is believed by President Cain to have been due to spontaneous combustion in the soft coal. The janitor, Jackson Coleman, states that when he left the building Saturday night the furnaces were all right. A meeting of the Board of Visitors and Governors of the college had been held in Dr. Cain's office until nearly 11 o'clock. President Cain, however, is confident that the fire was caused by the combustion among the coal, as only recently fire had been discovered in the pile and extinguished.

The valuable library of some 3,000 volumes, all papers and the extremely valuable records of the college, which had been carefully prepared by Prof. J. S. W. Jones, of the faculty, and greatly prized by President Cain, were destroyed. Not an article of any description was saved except the large oil painting of William Smith, the founder of the college and its first president, which one of the students, Mr. Donald Tydings, of St. Michaels, at the suggestion of Prof. Jones, rescued from its position on the wall at the rear of the auditorium stage.

Among the records were an old ledger containing the signature of General George Washington to his subscription towards the building of the college, made in 1783, and other valuable information relative to the cost of erecting the first buildings and the names of the original contributors, all records of students from 1889 to the present, a valuable picture of the original buildings, all correspondence relative to the college's past history and all of Dr. Cain's correspondence since he became president of the institution. The archives and books in the library were of inestimable value, and many can never be replaced. There is a splendid sentiment back of the saving of William Smith's picture, and to Mr. Tydings and Prof. Jones are due the credit for having thought of this valuable relic. The old ledger, which contained so much of the valuable historical information regarding the founding and erection of the college, was found some years ago in the loft of the old granary which stood at the foot of Front street on the water front. It was placed there by the late Judge Chambers, and when the property was purchased by Mr. Wilbur W. Hubbard several years ago, Hope H. Barroll, Esq., a member of Board of Visitors and Governors of the college, got possession of the ledger, had it rebound and presented it to the faculty as one of the valuable college records.

William Smith Hall was erected in 1907 at a cost of $65,000. Its cornerstone was laid in June, 1906, and at the celebration of the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the college during the commencement exercises in June, 1907, the handsome structure was dedicated, and prominent educators from all parts of the East, representing the largest universities and colleges in the land, attended. The hall had been the seat of every commencement since. This building was the first of a group of handsome buildings erected during the administration of President Cain, the handsome new gymnasium finished last year at a cost of $50,000, being the second.

LOSS $65,000.

The loss on the building and contents is placed by the college authorities at $65,000. There is insurance of $43,000 on the building and $10,000 on the contents. The building contained all the classrooms and laboratories of the college, the library, Dr. Cain's office, where most of the valuable records and papers were kept, and the heating plant for the entire set of buildings was located in the basement.

The following companies carried risks to the amount set opposite their names:

EDGAR P. BECK.	
Fidelity-Phœnix, N. Y.	$11,000
Fireman's, N. Y.	10,000
H. L. BOYD.	
Phœnix of Harford	4,000
Orient of "	5,500
JAMES G. BECK.	
Continental, of N. Y.	5,500
L. B. RUSSELL.	
American, of N. J.	3,000
West Chester, N. Y.	3,000
JOS. N. WHEATLEY.	
Glen Falls, N. Y.	1,000
Royal of England	1,000
Pennsylvania of P. A.	2,500
N. B. & M. London, Eng.	2,600
Kent Mutual	3,000
Philadelphia Underwriter	1,000
	$53,000

William Smith, in whose memory the hall was erected, was at one time the provost of the University of Pennsylvania and was rector of Emmanuel Protestant Episcopal Church of this town, when called as the first president of the college.

Washington College is one of the oldest and most honorable institutions in the east. Its cornerstone was laid in 1783, and it was the successor of the Kent County School, which dates from 1723. The degree of doctor of laws was conferred by it on General Washington in 1783, and on a visit to Chestertown in 1784 the General presided at a meet of the Board of Visitors. In the original scheme of public education in Maryland, St. John's was made the college for the Western and Washington for the Eastern Shore.

The latter has had an eventful history, many of its graduates attaining prominence in the State and nation. In 1782 fire destroyed all the buildings of the college. Its name was bestowed by the Legislature "in honorable and perpetual memory of His Excellency General Washington, the illustrious and virtuous commander-in-chief of the armies of the United States," when King William's School at Annapolis became St. John's College and the Kent County School Washington College, as the constituent bodies of the projected University of Maryland.

The State appropriated $50,000 toward the cost of William Smith Hall.

Following the fire on Sunday a meeting of the Board of Visitors and Governors was held and arrangements were made for the immediate rebuilding of the burned structure. Dr. Cain and his faculty held a meeting on Monday morning and owing to the condition of the steam pipes, and pending an inspection by insurance adjusters it was deemed wise to close the school for one week, in order to arrange classroom accommodations in Normal Hall, the old and new gymnasiums, and to permit the repairing of the heating plant. The students left for their homes on Monday afternoon. The insurance adjusters met a committee of the Board, Dr. Cain and Contractor A. M. Culp on Tuesday morning and viewed the ruins. The work of clearing away the debris was started shortly afterwards, but the heating plant, which though not badly damaged, and classroom arrangements will not be ready for a resumption of the exercises until Monday, January 31st, notice to that effect having been sent to the students on Thursday. The work of rebuilding will be started at once, and the new building will have many improvements.

Notes of the Fire.

Quite a number of the residents of the town, several living quite near to the scene of the fire, did not know anything about it until some time during the day on Sunday, while many in the surrounding country saw the reflection and called over the phone to know what it was.

Contractor Culp and plumbers Sutton and Miller have been at work during the week clearing the debris and getting the heating plant ready for operation by Monday morning.

The College authorities may erect an independent heating and power plant on the White lot recently purchased by the College. This plan has been under discussion for sometime.

Many theories have been advanced as to the origin of the fire but the one entertained by President Cain is probably the correct one. He believes that combustion among the coal was the cause. Certain it is that the fire had been burning for probably an hour before it was discovered.

Mr. William Wallace, one of the students, who had gotten up to assist a sick room-mate, was the first student to discover the fire. He gave the alarm from the college and awakened the students. Mr. James Lecates, the night watchman at the Pennsylvania yards, was the first to give the alarm.

Besides the library and valuable records mentioned as burned, President Cain lost a set of very valuable notes on the financial history of the United States, which he had been collecting for the past 25 years, and which some day he hoped to put into book form. He lost also a great number of valuable private papers, and a small sum of money which he kept in his desk, and three of the most highly prized records by Dr. Cain destroyed were a copy of the Philadelphia Gazette and Saturday Evening Post, published in 1789, containing an account of the conferring of the degree of LLD. upon George Washington, also the first commencement exercises with the orations delivered in Latin and French, and other articles of interest about the college. All the class shields presented by the graduating classes of the college for years past have been destroyed, also the piano in the auditorium, and everything in the biological and chemical laboratories. There was scarcely a sheet of official correspondence paper saved.

Mr. Washington I. Woodall, first mate on the steamer B. S. Ford, deserves the highest praise for his heroic work in assisting to save the new gym. He and Mr. Walter Wright worked manfully, as did others.

Dr. Cain wishes through the TRANSCRIPT to acknowledge with sincere appreciation the numerous telegrams of sympathy and offers of substantial assistance which have come since the fire. Owing to his greatly increased labors since the fire he has been unable to answer any of these letters and telegrams, which show a fine spirit on the part of those educators who are interested in the college. Messages have come from Dr. Frank Goodnow, president of Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Thomas Fell, president of St. John's College; Dr. Thomas Stockton Baker, head of Tome Institute; the president of New Windsor College, Governor Harrington and others.

SUGGESTIONS.

It will be a splendid idea if the members of the graduating classes from the beginning of the practice, would restore their class shields to the walls of the new building.

Every effort should be made by the alumni of the college to restore the valuable library, and if each alumnus of the college will present at least one book it will go a long way towards restoring the lost treasures. It would also be a good idea if everyone interested in the college, who may have any records of value concerning the college, would present them to the faculty.

When the new building is erected there should be provided in the President's office a fire proof vault for the safe keeping of the college records and the President's valuable papers.

Mr. George H. Camp, who succeeded Mr. J. T. DeCourse in the mercantile business here and who recently bought the store of A. Stein at Edesville has applied for the benefit of the bankruptcy laws.

THE disastrous fire in William Smith Hall on Sunday morning demonstrated the fact that there is something radically wrong with the new fire system. It was the second time within two years that the people have simply stood helpless and see two of the town's handsomest structures on Washington avenue become a prey to the devouring flames. There is entirely too much money wrapped up in the town's water system for the existence of a condition like this. The trouble is not a lack of water, but as usual is in the pressue system, and this defect in our judgment is due absolutely to a difference in the size of the hose and the fire plug openings. All the pressure in the world is of no avail under such conditions, and the Water Board will undoubtedly make a thorough investigation of the system and remedy existing defects. If there is anything wrong with the fulfillment of the contract work, it should be exposed and the contractor required to live up to agreement. If the cause of the defective system is within the power of the Water Board to remedy it should be done at once. It is high time that the property holders who are compelled to pay the cost of these improvements should have the protection to which they are entitled.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN.

Chestertown, Md., Jan. 17th, 1916.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE CHESTERTOWN TRANSCRIPT,

GENTLEMEN:

If the people in Kent county believe that delegates to the State Convention should be pledged to the support of President Wilson for re-nomination and election to the second term, now is the time to say so. If they wish to take steps for this purpose it is time to look around and determine upon proper men as candidates for the State Convention. Delegates to the National Democratic Convention will be chosen in May, when the primaries take place. Unless there is an agreement that men satisfactory to all elements of the Democratic party shall be chosen as delegates, then the Anti-Organization, which has always been identified with and advocated measures and policies of President Wilson, should take steps to put delegates in the field. Men who are pronounced for Wilson, who are in favor of an instructed delegation from Maryland for Wilson's nomination.

I should like to hear from the different districts the local views about this matter, in order that if the fight is to be organized steps may at once be taken looking to this end. Upon receipt of letters to this end a meeting will be called to outline proper district working committees.

Yours very respectfully,
HOPE H. BARROLL.

Answers Inquiry.

In view of the many complaints that have been made by patrons of the rural routes concerning recent changes, Hope H. Barroll, Esq., addressed a letter to the department recently, to which he received the following reply this week from Hon. Jas. S. Blaksley, Fourth Assistant Postmaster General:

January 17, 1916.

MR. HOPE H. BARROLL,
Counsellor at Law,
Chestertown, Md.

MY DEAR MR. BARROLL:

With reference to your letter of the 22d ultimo which the Postmaster General has referred to me, relative to various complaints against the recent readjustment of the rural service in Kent county, Maryland, I beg to state that the matter has had attention.

A careful review of the routes in this county disclosed that by a more systematic arrangement of the service and the elimination of duplication it would be possible to serve the same patrons with two carriers less than formerly required, and in carrying out this plan it was necessary to extend the routes from Chestertown. No impairment of the mail facilities has resulted, but on the other hand, more convenient service is given forty families throughout Kent county, while an average of less than two families a route has been slightly inconvenienced. These changes also reduced the operating expense of the service in the county $2664 per annum, all of which amount is available for the extension or establishment of rural service in the State of Maryland, or elsewhere, for the benefit of families now without service. It is beliveed, therefore, that the present service shoud be given a fair trial before any further action is taken.

Sincerely yours,
JAS. S. BLAKSLEY,
Fourth Assistant Postmaster General.

THE WHITE COMPANY
EVERYTHING FOR YOUR OFFICE
NEW BANK BUILDING. SALISBURY, MD.

TYPEWRITER SALE

No. 4 Jewett	$12.50	No. 1 Royal	$22.50
No. 3 Emerson	15.00	No. 4 Underwood	25.00
No. 12 Hammond	17.50	No. 5 Royal	30.00
Wellington	20.00	No. 5 Underwood	35.00
		No. 5 Royal	40.00

All the above machines are sold under a one year guarantee, and will be sent you subject to examination.

White House Shoe Shop

OUR
1st ANNIVERSARY
SALE

WE have been preparing for our 1st Anniversary Sale for months, and at last we are ready to put these wonderful low prices in Shoes before the public. This is going to be the greatest money-saving sale in Shoes you have ever attended in any city or town.

This Sale of SHOES will start Jan. 8th and Ends Jan. 31st.

You will have a large assortment of Shoes to pick from, and 68 different styles in button or lace.

These Wonderful Bargains Are As Follows:

FOUR BIG SPECIALS!

$2.00 Ladies' Gun Metal, button or lace, ... $1.49
$2.00 Boys' Shoes, lace or button, ... $1.49
$3.00 Men's Tan or Black, lace or button, . . . $2.15
$1.50 Children's Shoes, tan or black, lace or button, . . 90c

MEN'S

$2.00 Men's Black Lace	$1.49
2.50 Men's Black Lace	1.95
3.50 Men's Black or Tan	2.45
4.00 Men's Black or Tan	3.15
1.50 Men's Arctics	.90
5.00 Men's Boots	3.45
2.50 Men's Felts	1.90
1.00 Men's Rubbers	.65

WOMEN'S

$3.00 Women's Pat. Colt and Gun Metal	$2.20
2.50 Women's Black or Pat. Colt	1.95
3.50 Women's Pat. or G. M., button or lace	2.45
4.00 Women's Tan or Black English	2.95
5.00 Women's Black or Pat., lace or but	3.45
1.25 Women's Arctics	.85
.75 Women's Rubbers	.55

Boys or Girls

$2.50 Boys' or Girls' Shoes, lace or button	$1.90
2.00 " " " " " " "	1.49
3.00 " " " " " " "	2.20
2.25 " " " " " " "	1.65
1.50 " " " " " " "	.90
.55 " " " Rubbers	.30
1.00 " " " Arctics	.65

White House Shoe Shop
Across the Street from P. O.
Mail Orders Solicited. Phone 98-J.
CHESTERTOWN, MD.

©Maryland State Archives msa_sc3326_scm8219-0037