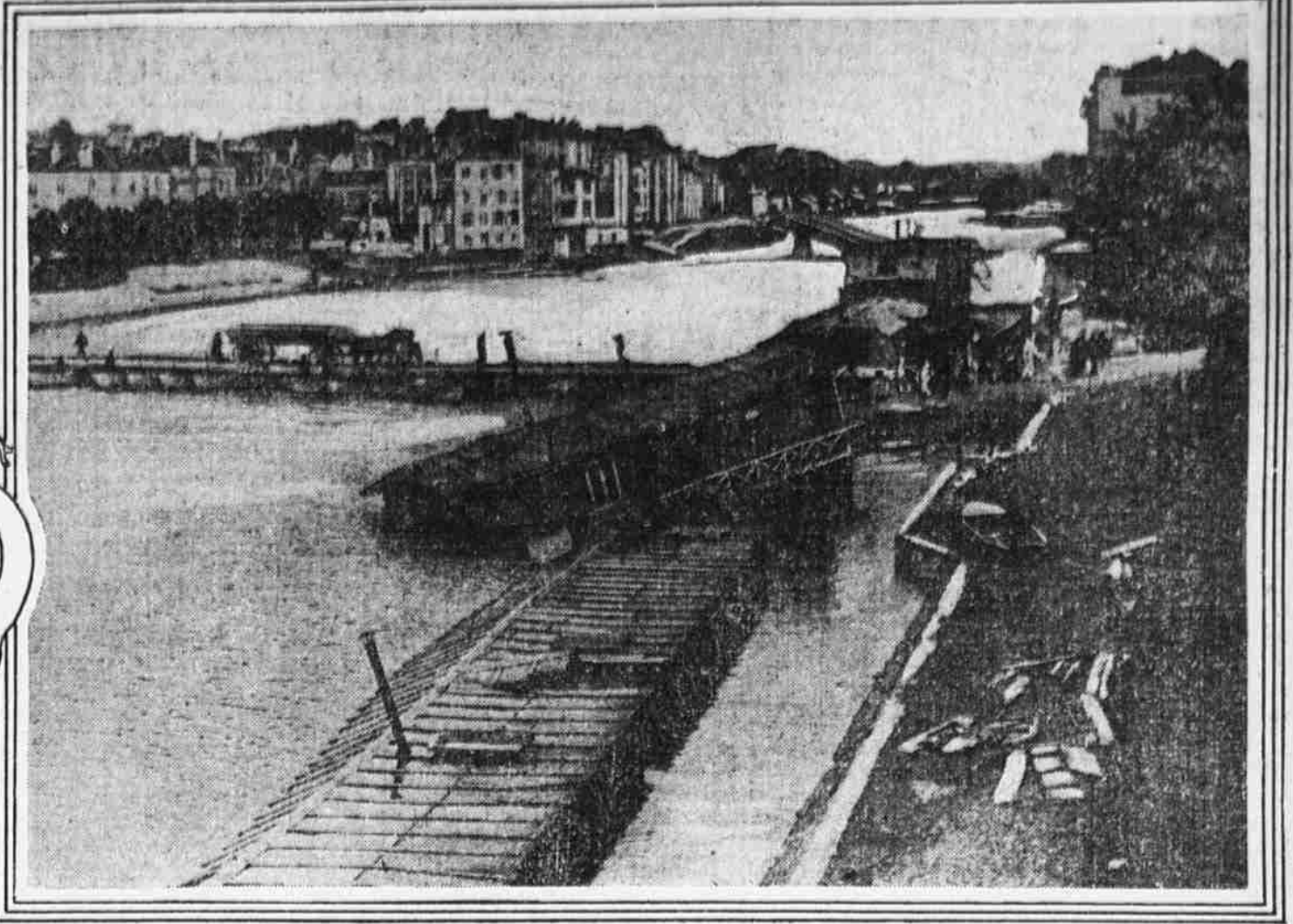


French engineers taking a well-earned rest while building a pontoon bridge over the River Marne to allow the French troops to pass. Pontoon bridge built by the French over the River Marne to take the place of the one in the background, which was blown up by the French army during the retreat towards Paris.



Photos by International News Service.

ENGINEERS OF THE FRENCH ARMY AND THEIR WORK IN THE WAR

FIGHT ALONG AISNE PROBABLY GREATEST IN HISTORY OF WARS

Expert Declares Passage of River by Frontal Attacks Would Be Most Notable Military Feat.

LONDON, Sept. 30. In an interesting article in the London Daily Express, Lieutenant-Colonel Alagier Pollock, of the British army, gives a minute description of the theatre of the world's greatest battle on the banks of the Aisne. It is only necessary to possess reasonable intelligence and a fairly large map of the country through which the Aisne flows in order to understand how it is that the Allied army, after successfully effecting a crossing, has not only been prevented from prosecuting its advance beyond the river, but has even been temporarily driven back to the left bank, at some points, by counter-attacks, and thus compelled to brave again and again the perils of forcing the passage.

Colonel Pollock describes the Aisne as a very sluggish river. From Meuse, one mile east of Soissons, to Lamotte, eight miles east of Compiègne, a distance of nearly seventeen miles, the fall is only twenty-one feet. The flats between the hills forming the valley are seldom less than one mile in breadth, and the hills themselves rise thence, rather abruptly as a rule, to heights of from 200 to 300 feet above the river. The configuration of the hills is very indented, so that on either side, but more especially on the right bank, the guns and also the silences of a force disputing the passage can readily be disposed so as to be perfectly sheltered from artillery fire from the opposite bank, while at the same time command-range reaches of the valley both up and down the stream.

RANGE FINDING DIFFICULT. According to Colonel Pollock, climatic conditions render the finding of an accurate range for heavy guns almost impossible. In the clear atmosphere of South Africa, where he served during the Boer War, the fire of artillery at 8000 yards, or even more, could be quite safely observed, particularly when the sun shone on the target; but it is not so on the banks of the Aisne, and this fact is one of much disadvantage to the Allies. Here, then, we have an explanation sufficient in itself to account for the difficulty experienced by the British and French troops in making good their hold on the right bank of the Aisne, in spite of all the valor displayed by them in successfully effecting the crossing of the river.

"A single example," says Colonel Pollock, "will suffice to make clear the whole matter in this connection. Let us assume an attempt to cross at Vic-sur-Aisne, among, of course, a number of other points simultaneously attacked. One mile south of Vic-sur-Aisne is an artillery position three miles long and having a command of, roughly, 300 feet over the level of the river. The hills on the opposite bank have in no case a command within 60 feet as great. In other words, the artillery positions at the disposal of the attackers enjoy a command of not less than 60 feet over any position of the defenders."

A POINT OF VANTAGE. But, according to Colonel Pollock, on the left bank of the d'Honin, a tributary stream which falls into the Aisne at Vic-sur-Aisne, a convenient spur juts out westward, from behind which an open field of fire extends for about 500 yards along the right bank of the Aisne, and guns there posted would be quite safe against anything but chance shells from howitzers, which might occasionally drop on their lurking place—assuming this to have been indicated by aviators. There is no commanding position whatever from which direct fire could be brought to bear on guns placed behind the spur in question.

The point that Colonel Pollock makes in this connection is that while the actual passage of the Aisne by well-trained and valiant troops would involve in many places no insurmountable difficulty, the supporting artillery effectively preventing the enemy from offering serious resistance, the chances become very difficult from the moment when the attackers begin to mount the slopes beyond the river in face of artillery, machine guns, and rifles accurately placed where it is impossible to reach them from the opposite bank. Fortunately, he adds, the difficulty confronting a flank attack directly over the Aisne is far less and in his opinion such an attack can be successfully made.

MAY MAKE HISTORIC RECORD. "Meanwhile," Colonel Pollock says in conclusion, "there is also another factor of the problem which has most certainly

exercised a weighty influence. Von Kluck's defeated army, we may be quite sure, is not that which brought the pursuit to a standstill. Von Buelow without doubt, moved up his own army to occupy and entrench the most favorable positions on the right bank of the river, in anticipation of Von Kluck's retirement behind it. "Repeated failures in the actual conditions cannot have been otherwise than costly, and we must therefore prepare ourselves for a very heavy list of casualties, as well as for further delay pending the exercise of strong pressure upon the enemy's right flank. "If the purely frontal attack succeeds, the passage of the Aisne will be the most remarkable of all recorded in history."

FEW CANARIES COME NOW SINCE THE WAR STARTED

Shipments From Germany Cease and the Prices Are Mounting. Some things the Germans made before their trade was halted by the war were hard to get. We do not find it difficult to manufacture here. But when we get the fatal word that bars from import to the U. S. A., it makes the prospect drear. None would object but Britons if this warfare should deprive us of the canary bird. But losing the canary bird is surely bound to narrow us.

The European war has cut off the supply of canaries. The birds come from the Herts and St. Andrew's, Mountains in the heart of the war country. The birds are extremely scarce in Philadelphia. The regular importation of the "golden-throated songsters," as they are termed in the catalogues, ceased with the start of the war. It is reported that a large shipment has been finally started to this city from Holland, whence it had been sent overland from Germany, but there is no hope of being able, the dealers say, to satisfy the demand which is always greatest at this time of year and during the holiday season. One fancier said today that in other years he has had from 400 to 500 birds in stock, but that now he has less than 100. "I can't get any more anywhere at any price," he said. "Of the one shipment that has gotten through I was able to procure four dozen. What will happen to the Christmas trade when ordinarily I sell 700 birds I do not know. In consequence, instead of being able to offer the cheapest birds as low as \$1.75, the minimum price is now \$2.50."

Bird seed, cuttlefish and other bird foods, all of which are imported, have jumped greatly in price. A few months ago a pound of bird seed and wholemeal cost 75 cents. The quotation today is 115 cents.

RURAL VISITORS CROWD TRENTON ON "FARMERS' DAY"

Agriculturists Attend Interstate Fair in Great Numbers—Governor, Officials and Politicians There Tomorrow.

TRENTON, Sept. 30.—Today was "farmers' day" at the Interstate Fair, and the rural sections of New Jersey and parts of Pennsylvania were represented by thousands of farmers, their sons, daughters, sweethearts and wives. While crowding the exhibits of great interest to them, such as agricultural, horticultural, poultry, farm implement, machinery and domestic displays, they also took an interest in the fair generally and were seen in the midway and at the races.

The display of automobiles drew the largest crowd today, when all kinds of motor vehicles were in evidence. The freaks in the side shows and the fairs outside did a thriving business. All were liberally patronized by the rural visitors, who were out to enjoy themselves regardless of expense. One of the most sensational feats at the fair is the air-flying of Charles F. Niles, a 25-year-old aviator, who, with a seven-cylinder, 25-horsepower monoplane, climbs 250 feet into the air and makes a corker descent. His most daring maneuver is to fly in a circle with his machine inverted. Niles remained in the air today more than half an hour and imitated the birds in many of their flying feats, winning frequent applause from the admiring crowds below.

Tomorrow, "big Thursday," will be "politicians' day" at the fair. Governor Fielder, many of the State officials and scores of the candidates of the three parties, Republican, Democratic and Bull Moose, will attend. The politicians will be the guests of the fair management. They always draw a large crowd to the exposition.

CONFESSES KILLING YOUNG WOMAN CLERK AND ROBBING STORE

Struck Down Victim With Hatchet and Stole Contents of Cash Register Because He Was "Broke."

AKRON, O., Sept. 30.—Sullenly refusing to add to his signed confession that he brutally murdered pretty 23-year-old Vinnie Becker, mission worker, Harry Boomer, 26 years old, today prepared to tell his story to the Summit County Grand Jury. Boomer with utter calm, police say, told how he entered the little Barges street tea store where Vinnie Becker was the clerk, how he proposed to rob the store, she recognized him and he struck her down, then finished the murder with a heavy steel hatchet; how he sank the weapon to the handle in the victim's skull and fled with \$2, the contents of the cash register. "It was broke. I went to the store to rob it. The girl said, 'How are you, Harry?' She stooped over a barrel to get some oatmeal. I struck her. She said, 'Oh, Harry!' Then I killed her." This confession, police say, is in the hands of County Prosecutor H. F. Castle and will be presented to the Summit County Grand Jury which is now in session.

Boomer formerly worked in the tea store, and knew the routine of the establishment. He waited until Fred M. Becker, the proprietor and brother of the dead girl, left the place, then entered and carried out what police say is one of the most wanton murders in the history of Ohio criminal annals. He confessed how in primitive manner he fashioned a rude tomahawk of wood that he found in a lumber yard. This weapon, the confession says, was abandoned when the murderer found a heavy steel hatchet hanging on the wall of the little back room where he attacked his victim.

A modern cash register proved the key of solution to the murder mystery. Three persons knew the combination to the electric apparatus. These were Boomer, Miss Becker and her brother, the proprietor. Suspicion naturally pointed to Boomer. He was found at his home last night, and after a brief struggle, in which he attempted suicide with a newly purchased revolver, he surrendered and confessed.

NOVELTIES IN PULPITS DEPLORED BY PREACHER

Urges Reformation of Inactive Members and Deacons Who Doze. The need of novelties in pulpits to induce people to attend church was deplored by the Rev. Dr. Charles E. McChellin, pastor of Fairhill Baptist Church, Fifth street and Lehigh avenue, late yesterday afternoon when the North Philadelphia Association of Baptist Churches assembled in his church to open its fifty-seventh annual celebration which is to continue through today and tomorrow. Dr. McChellin urged that prayer be offered for a great revival so that all the members might be active and the "deacons would not sit through the services and doze."

In the evening there was an enthusiastic meeting for the young people, when the Rev. Peter C. Crawford, pastor of Germantown Church; A. C. Moore and Thomas Leavely made addresses. The association elected the following officers: Moderator, the Rev. E. C. Colby, Hatboro. Vice moderator, the Rev. William H. Van Toor. Clerk, the Rev. Clarence Larkin. Corresponding secretary, the Rev. A. W. Anderson.

Two Facing Charges of Theft. RED BANK, N. J., Sept. 30.—A man who said he was James Gordon Bennett and John Bald are in jail at Freehold, awaiting the action of the Grand Jury charged with entering the paint store of Frank M. Chambers, of this place, and stealing a quantity of oil and paints. Reed-Bird Mackerel \$1.00 A KIT. Nicaragua Blend Coffee. The famous blend is the utmost in coffee quality at a reasonable price. MERRILL & HOPPER. READING TERMINAL MARKET. Stalls 1217-28. Arch St. Side.

ROAD JURY AWARDS IN THE NORTHEAST DISTRICT OF CITY

Kensington and Lehigh Avenue Changes of Grade Due to Abolition of Railroad Crossings.

In a report filed this month Horace Yardley, William R. Dougherty and James Johnson, viewers, awarded damages caused by the change of grade in the abolition of grade crossings on line of the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Company, Richmond Branch, as affecting the following streets: Kensington avenue, between Harold and Boudinot streets; Lehigh avenue, between Jasper and A streets; Oakdale and Albert streets, between Kensington avenue and Jasper street; Tusculum street, between Kensington avenue and Ruth street; and Potter street, between Lehigh avenue and Huntingdon street. The change of grade of Kensington avenue at Lehigh avenue was approximately eight feet six inches on the south side and ten feet on the north side; the grades of all intersecting streets being adjusted to conform to this grade. It ran out at 2008 Kensington avenue to the south and at 274 Kensington avenue to the north. DAMAGES CAREFULLY CONSIDERED.

The viewers in making awards took into consideration that the physical work was begun during the years 1912 and 1913, and the delay incident thereto, also that in making excavations rock was found in many instances and had not been provided for in owner's testimony. This, of course, doubled the cost of excavating in adjusting the properties to new conditions.

AWARDS ON KENSINGTON AVENUE. 74 properties... \$294,952.70. 1 no damage. 1 no claim. LEHIGH AVENUE. 34 properties... 50,408.00. ALBERT STREET. 1 property... 50.00. OAKDALE STREET. 8 properties... 2,633.00. 2 no damage. TUSCULUM STREET. 18 properties... 11,115.00. POTTER STREET. 11 properties... 4,020.00. 1 no damage. One hundred and fifty-six properties were considered, and the total award was \$271,674.50. Taken as a whole, the award seems as fair to both sides as may be, when it is considered that loss of rental and loss of business cannot be regarded as such.

In the cases where no damage was given six properties showed only a range in change of grade from one-eighth of an inch on one line to zero on the other to one and seven-eighths inches on one line to zero on the other. One claim was that of a tenant who had a yearly lease, and the case of the Episcopal Hospital, where only the adjustment of the stone wall and iron fence on same, together with relaying pavements and resetting curbs, was asked. This has been done in the best way possible by the city.

DAMAGE IN SMALL GRADES. In regard to the properties mentioned with less than two inches of grade, the viewers have usually given something, and it would seem that owners should recover. Real estate men, except in a few instances, are united in the belief that there are damages even beyond the grade to a point fixed by a well-known

Our Tile, Slate, Metal and Slag Roofs Are Standard. Residential Work a Specialty. Crescent Compound keeps roofs water-tight for five years, and is also guaranteed. Real Estate Roofing Co. 2343-2349 Wallace St. Bell-Poplar 1027. Why Not? If you were to ask a salesman in the average store what a fixture was made of, he couldn't tell you—couldn't tell you if it was solid brass, iron, plated brass or plaster paris coated with brass. Why not visit our factory and salesrooms, where salesman with factory experience can intelligently discuss fixture construction and composition? Our 30 years' experience is at your disposal. The Horn & Brannen Mfg. Co. Display Rooms and Workshop 427-433 N. Broad St. Port Walk Along Automobile Row

SENATE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS CHANGES IN HOUSE WAR TAX

Reduction in Levy on Bank Capital and Revision of Gasoline Clause Among Proposals.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30.—The Senate Finance Committee, when it met today, had before it proposals for several important amendments to the administration emergency revenue bill, recently passed by the House. It has been proposed to reduce the tax of \$2 a thousand on bank capital and surplus to \$1. Some members believe it would be unwise to place a heavy burden on bank capital at this time because of disturbed financial conditions due to the European war. Advocates of this change would revise the gasoline clause and place a tax on automobiles based on horse-power instead of the levy of two cents a gallon on gasoline. They say this would make up the loss of revenue due to the cut in the bankers' tax. The levy on accident insurance imposed by the House also may be eliminated and the committee is considering readjusting the proposed tax on insurance policies. Subcommittees of the Finance Committee were appointed to consider the various sections. They are: Tax on Gasoline, Senators Williams, Shively and Gore; Banks and Brokers, Senators Stone, Hughes and Williams; Stamp Tax, Senators Hoke Smith, Shively and James; on a proposal to add two more classes of cigarettes to those already taxed in the bill, Senators Simmons, Williams and Johnson. Senator Simmons, chairman of the full committee, is an ex-officio member of all the subcommittees. All the appointees to the subcommittees are Democrats, as it is planned to frame the bill with only the Democrats present and then to call in the Republican members before the bill is reported to the Senate. Senator Pomeroy, of Ohio, is fighting the tax on sweet wines provided in the House bill on the ground that it will

NOTES OF THE STREET. The transfers thus far for the week show most activity in West Philadelphia and in the northwest section. In the Sheriff's sales advertised for October 5, West Philadelphia and the southwest section have one-third more properties than the rest of the list, which is widely scattered. Seventeen properties were sold, Nos. 25 to 49 South 8th street, and 59-35-27 to 41 South Fallon street, by Frederick C. Michaelson to C. Clement Ely. They are two-story dwellings. The market has decidedly a firmer tone, and is broadening.

Three Held on Robbery Charge. Three young men were held in \$500 bail each for court today by Magistrate Boyle, at the 29th street and Lancaster avenue station, on the charge of robbing the cigar factory of James E. Phillips, 524 North 4th street. The prisoners are John Hippie, 415 Mantua avenue; Raymond Barker, 321 Holly street; and Edward Hayes, 412 Mantua avenue.

New Record for Anna Bradford. COLUMBIUS, O., Sept. 30.—Another record was broken by Anna Bradford, when in the final heat of the American Horse Breeders' Futurity here yesterday she lowered the 3-year-old pacing record to 2:09. The former record of 2:10 1/2 was also held by Anna Bradford, being made at the same here a week ago.

See us for good printing—we deliver the kind of work that shows its quality. "We Keep Promises" Henderson Printing Co. 155 & 157 N. Fourth St., Phila. Engravers and Embossers. Why Not? If you were to ask a salesman in the average store what a fixture was made of, he couldn't tell you—couldn't tell you if it was solid brass, iron, plated brass or plaster paris coated with brass. Why not visit our factory and salesrooms, where salesman with factory experience can intelligently discuss fixture construction and composition? Our 30 years' experience is at your disposal. The Horn & Brannen Mfg. Co. Display Rooms and Workshop 427-433 N. Broad St. Port Walk Along Automobile Row

SENATE COMMITTEE CONSIDERS CHANGES IN HOUSE WAR TAX

Reduction in Levy on Bank Capital and Revision of Gasoline Clause Among Proposals.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30.—The Senate Finance Committee, when it met today, had before it proposals for several important amendments to the administration emergency revenue bill, recently passed by the House. It has been proposed to reduce the tax of \$2 a thousand on bank capital and surplus to \$1. Some members believe it would be unwise to place a heavy burden on bank capital at this time because of disturbed financial conditions due to the European war. Advocates of this change would revise the gasoline clause and place a tax on automobiles based on horse-power instead of the levy of two cents a gallon on gasoline. They say this would make up the loss of revenue due to the cut in the bankers' tax. The levy on accident insurance imposed by the House also may be eliminated and the committee is considering readjusting the proposed tax on insurance policies. Subcommittees of the Finance Committee were appointed to consider the various sections. They are: Tax on Gasoline, Senators Williams, Shively and Gore; Banks and Brokers, Senators Stone, Hughes and Williams; Stamp Tax, Senators Hoke Smith, Shively and James; on a proposal to add two more classes of cigarettes to those already taxed in the bill, Senators Simmons, Williams and Johnson. Senator Simmons, chairman of the full committee, is an ex-officio member of all the subcommittees. All the appointees to the subcommittees are Democrats, as it is planned to frame the bill with only the Democrats present and then to call in the Republican members before the bill is reported to the Senate. Senator Pomeroy, of Ohio, is fighting the tax on sweet wines provided in the House bill on the ground that it will

NOTES OF THE STREET. The transfers thus far for the week show most activity in West Philadelphia and in the northwest section. In the Sheriff's sales advertised for October 5, West Philadelphia and the southwest section have one-third more properties than the rest of the list, which is widely scattered. Seventeen properties were sold, Nos. 25 to 49 South 8th street, and 59-35-27 to 41 South Fallon street, by Frederick C. Michaelson to C. Clement Ely. They are two-story dwellings. The market has decidedly a firmer tone, and is broadening.

Three Held on Robbery Charge. Three young men were held in \$500 bail each for court today by Magistrate Boyle, at the 29th street and Lancaster avenue station, on the charge of robbing the cigar factory of James E. Phillips, 524 North 4th street. The prisoners are John Hippie, 415 Mantua avenue; Raymond Barker, 321 Holly street; and Edward Hayes, 412 Mantua avenue.

New Record for Anna Bradford. COLUMBIUS, O., Sept. 30.—Another record was broken by Anna Bradford, when in the final heat of the American Horse Breeders' Futurity here yesterday she lowered the 3-year-old pacing record to 2:09. The former record of 2:10 1/2 was also held by Anna Bradford, being made at the same here a week ago.

See us for good printing—we deliver the kind of work that shows its quality. "We Keep Promises" Henderson Printing Co. 155 & 157 N. Fourth St., Phila. Engravers and Embossers. Why Not? If you were to ask a salesman in the average store what a fixture was made of, he couldn't tell you—couldn't tell you if it was solid brass, iron, plated brass or plaster paris coated with brass. Why not visit our factory and salesrooms, where salesman with factory experience can intelligently discuss fixture construction and composition? Our 30 years' experience is at your disposal. The Horn & Brannen Mfg. Co. Display Rooms and Workshop 427-433 N. Broad St. Port Walk Along Automobile Row

HALF DOZEN HURT IN FIRE

Prompt Rescue Work by Bluecoats Prevents Toll of Death. NEW YORK, Sept. 30.—Two tenement house fires early today caused injury to half a dozen East Side residents, and but for prompt and heroic rescue work by bluecoats might have taken a toll of death.

A Yom Kippur candle in Joseph Schrager's room on the fifth floor of 73 Sheriff street ignited a curtain and the whole room was ablaze before any of the residents awakened. Policeman Festa and Murphy got the two Schragers girls out, entering the burning room for them. With their parents, they are at the Hudson Street Hospital suffering from burns and shock. The other fire was in the four-story tenement at 425 East 57th street. A dozen frightened residents leaped from windows, one, Victor Lawrence, being injured. Several were overcome by smoke.

Perry's Give a Different Kind of Service to Men. A Perry customer writes to one of our salesmen: "Had been buying my clothes at — for years, and I must say (not for any jolly) that I never had nearly so much attention shown me as you have shown." At Perry's. For this is a MAN'S store! Just Suits, Overcoats, Raincoats, Mackinaws, trousers, vests, and such kindred outer garments for men and young men— At Perry's. \$12, \$15, \$18, \$20 for Fall and Winter Suits, Fall and Winter Overcoats whose equals for fit, style and price are found only— At Perry's

See us for good printing—we deliver the kind of work that shows its quality. "We Keep Promises" Henderson Printing Co. 155 & 157 N. Fourth St., Phila. Engravers and Embossers. Why Not? If you were to ask a salesman in the average store what a fixture was made of, he couldn't tell you—couldn't tell you if it was solid brass, iron, plated brass or plaster paris coated with brass. Why not visit our factory and salesrooms, where salesman with factory experience can intelligently discuss fixture construction and composition? Our 30 years' experience is at your disposal. The Horn & Brannen Mfg. Co. Display Rooms and Workshop 427-433 N. Broad St. Port Walk Along Automobile Row