

S. S. DRAGNET SET IN HIGHEST SWINDLE

Bachman and Hayden Sought in Alleged \$2,500,000 Fraud

ARRESTS EXPECTED SOON

A Federal dragnet has been spread broadcast in Philadelphia and other eastern cities for the four "high financiers" wanted in connection with the three alleged swindles, one of which is said to have involved \$2,500,000, exposed in this city by United States postal inspectors.

Two arrests at least are predicted by Government officials for today. Postal inspectors are especially anxious apprehend Clawsbach, Bachman, of 533 East Johnson street, and Joseph T. Hayden, of 638 Locust avenue, Germantown. Both have been indicted in connection with the alleged \$2,500,000 International Gas and Electric Company fraud, and are said to have been the "master-minds" of the scheme, which took such a heavy toll among widows, school teachers, clergymen, farmers and others throughout the city and State. Amos H. Nisley, of Steelton, also is wanted.

A. Ellwood Lancaster, of 2117 North Thirteenth street, wanted in connection with the alleged \$100,000 realty swindle, has not yet been taken into custody. His two sons were arrested yesterday. All three have been indicted by the Federal Grand Jury for their alleged fraud, which, postal inspectors say, were fraudulent.

ACHMAN IN NEW YORK

Bachman is known to be in New York. Postal Inspector Frank Wilbur Smith, who investigated and unearthed the alleged international gas and electric company swindle, left this city hurriedly last night, his destination unknown. It was rumored that he had gone to New York to arrest Bachman or to Steelton to take Nisley into custody.

Ex-Congressman J. Washington Logue, counsel for Hayden, did not produce his client, as promised, today. Instead, Mr. Logue appeared in the United States District Court before Judge Thompson, and pleaded for a reduction of bail for his client.

The bail for Bachman already has been fixed at \$10,000 on the advice of United States Attorney Francis Fisher Kane. That of Hayden has been fixed at \$12,000. "I wish to plead for a reduction of this \$12,000 bail for my client," Mr. Logue said in court. "Mr. Hayden is a married man with seven children. Judge Thompson said he could not reduce the bail and cannot very well leave the city."

BAIL REDUCED

"I can promise to produce him tomorrow; in fact, I would have him here today; but he had gone South on a two weeks' business trip and decided to remain at once," Judge Thompson said. He learned that a warrant had been issued for his arrest."

Mr. Kane said that the Government was willing to have Hayden, who had been and Judge Thompson fixed it at \$7000.

Chief Postal Inspector James T. Cortelyou said today that it would be useless for the men to try to escape. "They are well known," he said, "and they can easily be apprehended. It may take a few days, but we can get them before long."

Inspector Smith said that investigation showed that both Bachman and Hayden had been identified with stock-jobbing schemes in this city for the last eight years.

Mr. Smith called attention to the fact that after Bachman had formed the banking firm of Bachman & Co. to assist in floating the stock, they took advantage of the similarity of names with their firm with H. F. Bachman & Co., of 1115 Chestnut street.

The H. F. Bachman & Co. a most reputable firm, Mr. Smith said, was frequently mistaken for the firm of Bachman & Co., and had become a victim of the fraud. "Notice that it had no connection whatever with the Bachman-Hayden concern."

Postal inspectors told the alleged \$2,500,000 International Gas swindle, a "marriage of convenience" between the Federal officials, the alleged swindlers reared in many of the International Lumber and Development Company victims by telling them that by buying the International Gas and Electric stock they would have a chance to recoup their losses.

Many of the supposed victims of the alleged International Gas swindle are known to the Federal authorities. United States Attorney Kane has issued an appeal to other supposed victims to communicate with him or with Postal Inspector Frank Wilbur Smith in order to give information, he said, will hold in the Government's prosecution of the men.

SUIT TO KILL TURNPIKE CONTRACT IS DISMISSED

Dr. Jacobs' Complaint, at Norristown, Against Ambler-Davis Co. Fails, Brought Too Late

NORRISTOWN, Pa., Dec. 12.—In an opinion covering ninety-five typewritten pages, Judge John Miller today dismissed the bill in equity filed by Dr. John N. Jacobs, Lansdale, for County Controller, against the Ambler-Davis Company, Commissioners and the Ambler-Davis Company. The costs were placed on the county.

It was sought by Jacobs to have declared null and void the contract which the county authorities had let to the Ambler-Davis Company for the reconstruction of the Tuzig turnpike road from Philadelphia city line to the borough line of Norristown for \$25,000.

The court found that the complainant was not entitled to the writ of injunction, under the rules of equity, because he delayed bringing action until half of the time allotted to the Ambler-Davis Company had passed, the contractor had completed 8500 feet of base and 800 feet of top and had prepared 16,000 feet of roadway.

Judge Miller justified Jacobs on his action by not putting the costs upon him, and also by stating that his delay had no purpose in bringing action should not be imputed.

COUSINS CLAIM ESTATE

Three Appear for \$200,000 Left by Charles R. Simister

Letters of administration on the estate of Charles R. Simister, who died November 7 following an automobile accident at Norristown, were protested today by John Robinson, Anne Robinson and Charles Simister, saying they were cousins. Simister was a shoddy manufacturer of the northeast section of the city and left an estate valued at \$200,000.

On his death it was supposed that his relatives were living, and William J. Gillman and John K. Foulkner were appointed executors. An investigation will be made by Register of Wills Sheshan.

CONTEMPT POWERS ARGUED

Marshall Pleas Against House Warrant Before U. S. Court

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—The authority of the House of Representatives to punish by contempt of its privileges was the subject of argument before the Supreme Court today, when the court heard the case of the Southern Railway, District Attorney of the Southern District of New York, against the House. The New York official had been held in a contempt court by the House. The New York official said he had been held in contempt by the House of Representatives, and that he was now before the Supreme Court to have the contempt order set aside.

GERMANY READY FOR PEACE, HE SAYS



Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg today announced before the German Reichstag that three neutral nations, including the United States, had been officially informed that the four Powers embraced in the Teutonic alliance are ready to discuss the terms of peace.

GERMANY OFFERS PLAN TO END THE WAR TO ENTENTE POWERS

Continued from Page One

In that case the attitude of the Allies, tested out by public opinion abroad and

GERMANY'S PEACE OFFER COMES AT ZENITH OF HER CONQUESTS

By J. W. T. MASON
NEW YORK, Dec. 12.

Germany's proposals for peace are made at a time when her armies have taken the offensive in the newest battle area and when the western front has reached another deadlock.

The peace that Germany now wants is one with Teutonic troops occupying enemy territory on virtually every front.

The war is far from having gone to the knock-out that David Lloyd George demanded in his interview a short time before he became the British Premier. On the contrary, Germany's position now is not that of a beaten antagonist. The Germans occupy at the present moment probably the highest position they will reach so far as practical purposes are concerned, no matter how long the war continues.

They have a clear road to what they regard as the center of their future colonial empire, in Asia Minor, and they are holding in check every movement to break through the German defenses.

It would be, therefore, greatly to Ger-

PRESIDENT MAY TAKE LEAD FOR PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—President Wilson may become the active force in effecting peace between the European nations. The speech of Chancellor Bethmann-Hollweg, as received here, does not indicate whether this nation is asked to be the messenger of Germany's proposal or the suggestion that it use its efforts to effect peace. In any case, the President of the United States, as the head of the great neutral Power, will become the leading factor in the peace negotiations.

In August, 1914, the President sent to the heads of the countries at war this message:

As official head of one of the Powers signatory to The Hague convention I feel it to be my privilege and my duty, under article 3 of that convention, to say to you in a spirit of most earnest friendship that I should welcome an opportunity to act in the interest of European peace, either now or at any other time that might be thought most suitable as an occasion to serve you and all concerned in a way that would afford me lasting cause for gratitude and happiness.

WOODROW WILSON.

In this the President had tendered his service to the cause of peace, and he is acting upon that offer of more than two years ago.

The Central Powers' first formal move for peace will be by the Teutonic allies by American diplomats accompanied by an informal expression of the desire of the United States that the allies enter into peace negotiations.

President Wilson, it was learned this afternoon, will ask the Allies to make every effort to have a peace convention result from the initial proposals, perhaps by the advance information received from Secretary Grew of the American Embassy in Berlin, that Germany and her allies would today begin formal negotiations for peace, which was received by the President late yesterday, resulted in the decision.

Preparations for the formal steps to be taken by this Government were being made this afternoon. They will not be concluded until after receipt from Secretary Grew of the official copy of the Central Powers' outline of peace. The note, it was learned from Berlin, has already been handed to Secretary Grew and was started for Washington this morning.

State Department officials this afternoon were confident that the proposals would result in a convention, probably of a semi-formal nature, to determine whether there is a possibility of reaching a basis for peace, should a formal convention be held. German Ambassador von Bernstorff and Charge D'Affaires Zwidnick of Austria, this afternoon began preparing complete statements of the intentions of their governments for presentation to Secretary of State Lansing and President Wilson.

Following receipt of a wireless message from Berlin, Ambassador von Bernstorff instructing him on what to say before this government, Baron Zwidnick was called to the German embassy and held a long conference with the Ambassador. It was learned that they would later today deliver to Secretary Lansing information of an informal nature, which was not included in Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg's proposals handed to Secretary Grew.

OPINIONS ON OFFER

Opinions on peace offers.

A. C. LATHROP, Secretary of the American Peace Society: "We have been expecting a move for long time, it is

POSTCOMMITTEES HEAR PLEAS FOR MAIL TUBES

Philadelphians Protest Against Abolishing System, as Planned by Burleson

SPEED IS THE DEMAND

Other Cities Also Ask Continuance of Service, Arguing There Is No Substitute

By a Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Appearing before the House Postoffice and Post Roads Committee today, representatives of Philadelphia business interests protested against the proposed abolition of the pneumatic tube service in that city, asserting that it is one of the most important services. Before the Philadelphians had a hearing, business men from Boston and Chicago protested against abolishing the tubes in their cities.

Representative J. Hampton Moore explained that A. B. Klemmer would appear for the Commercial Exchange; J. Allan Thompson, for the Philadelphia Clearing House; William H. Mills, for the Traffic Squad; Robert Morris, for the Chamber of Commerce; George E. Bartol, for the Bourse; and Kenneth E. Stewart, for the Philadelphia Trust Co.

"The Commercial Exchange," said Mr. Klemmer to the committee, "is in nowise interested in the Pneumatic Transit Company's service in Philadelphia. The members of our organization deal largely in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, New York and New England. Postal tubes are not used in any of our offices in these States. A delay of five minutes in getting this first-class mail matter to the main postoffice would make them worthless to send by telegraph, the only alternative if the service is slowed up at all, would be prohibitive."

"If you could get the same service at one-seventh the cost to the Government, you would have no objection," asked Representative Cox, of Indiana, a Democratic member of the committee.

"We do not care whether we get our service by tube or aeroplane, just so we get it, but we are not convinced that we can get it by automobile trucks as proposed," asked Representative Cox.

"The postmaster of Philadelphia," said Representative Cox, "reports that only 14,000 pieces of mail would miss their connections if the tube service there should be abandoned."

Mr. Thompson dealt largely with the volume of business transacted by the Philadelphia Clearing House in his statement to the committee.

"The Philadelphia Clearing House," he said, "is not having a rule changing exchange on out-of-town items. Those items are cleared at night. If there is a delay in getting mail from the Bourse substation to the main postoffice."

"The Postoffice," he said, "is not responsible for the delay. The delay is in the hands of the Postoffice. The delay is in the hands of the Postoffice. The delay is in the hands of the Postoffice."

Then there's the office boss. Ordinarily he's very sore and very old when any papers are brought to his desk. He'll miss and docking. He wants to know if it was the alarm clock's fault this time or just the same old sore tooth. He's altogether another fellow."

On a snowy morning, such as today, nobody wonders why his wife married him. They all know it's because of his busy life. He speaks in tones of dismissal. Any old excuse for being late is acceptable.

"I slipped and had to go back and change my shirt, it got so wet," he said. "I couldn't find my rubber," he said. "That's all right, John, you must get your feet wet."

The cars were tied up. "The cars were tied up" he said, "this morning. He speaks in tones of dismissal. It's a great day," he responds quite humbly.

Even the little newsboy who has to swallow his papers very unconcernedly, he must get all puppy and unamiable grins a broad grin just because it's snowing.

Only certain city officials consider it in their interest to strike the wrong note. Chief Counsel of the Bureau of Highways, for instance, went to great lengths to assure the general public that just because the snow is falling, the roads need not be afraid to come out and do their business shopping. As though the snow wasn't just what they have been waiting for.

"I don't want to be a shopper," he said, "I don't want to be a shopper. I don't want to be a shopper. I don't want to be a shopper. I don't want to be a shopper."

Then he went on to expatiate on Philadelphia's preparedness to meet weather conditions. He spoke boastfully of the 4000 men who stood ready to cut away the snow

TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION

DEATHS

DR. J. H. HARRIS, husband of Ellen Harris, relative and friend invited to funeral services at 1010 Walnut st. at 8 P. M. on Friday, Dec. 12.

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COMPO BOARD

THE ORIGINAL AND REAL

HOWARD KETCHUM

TERRITORIAL FACTORS INVOLVED IN POSSIBLE PEACE DISCUSSION

GERMANY'S move for peace comes just two years and 183 days after she declared war on Russia and two years and 129 days after England declared war on Germany.

German territory held by the Allies—The western edge of Alsace-Lorraine, Austro-Hungarian territory captured by the Allies—About half of Galicia and all of Bukowina and the southern fringe of Trentino, as well as the western border of the Italian Peninsula, north of the city of Trieste.

Turkish territory captured by the Allies—All of northeastern Armenia and part of Mesopotamia. Bulgarian territory taken by the Allies—None. Entente territory occupied by the German allies: Northeastern France, virtually all of Belgium, Poland and Lithuania.

More than half of Rumania, all of Serbia and Montenegro and nearly all of Albania, as well as part of Persia and Egypt. Some of the Greek Macedonia is occupied by German-Bulgar forces, although Greece is not in a state of war. Germany lost all her overseas colonies.

"GERMAN SECURITY WON, CAN HONOR PEACE DUTY TO WORLD"—HOLLWEG

Continued from Page One

adjourned, but the calling of the next session has been left to the discretion of the President.

"This decision," said the Chancellor, "was caused by the hope that soon happy events in the field would be recorded. That hope has been fulfilled quicker almost than was expected. I shall be brief, for our actions speak for themselves."

"Rumania had entered the war in order to roll up our positions in the east and that of our allies. At the same time, the grand offensive on the Somme had for its object the piercing of our western front, and renewed Italian attacks had as their purpose to paralyze Austria-Hungary. The situation was serious."

"But with God's help our troops shaped conditions so that they give us security, which not only is complete, but still greater than before."

"The east front stands now firmly, and in spite of the fact that the Rumanian campaign was outfitted with larger reserves of men and material than had been used on any former occasion. Most efficient precautions have been taken against all Italian diversions. And while on the Somme and the Karst drumfire resounded, while the Russians launched troops against the eastern frontier of Transylvania, Field Marshal von Hindenburg captured the whole of western Wallachia and the hostile capital of Bucharest, meeting with unparalleled genius troops which, in competition with our allies, made possible that which hitherto was considered impossible."

"And Hindenburg does not rest. Military operations are in progress, by strokes of swords. At the same time, firm foundations have been laid for our economic needs."

"Great stocks of grain, victuals, oil and other goods fell into our hands in Rumania. Transport immediately began."

"In spite of the scarcity that existed, we could have lived upon our own, but now our safety is beyond question."

"The Chancellor then referred to the fact that, added to the events on land, heroic deeds of equal importance had been accomplished by the German submarines. He said that the specter of famine, which Germany's enemies had intended to appear before Germany, now pursues them. He said the German Empire is not the besieged fortress which its adversaries had imagined, but is a gigantic, firmly disciplined camp, with inexhaustible resources, faithfully united with the Austro-Hungarian, Turkish and Bulgarian flags."

PHILADELPHIANS PRAISE GERMAN PEACE OFFER AS START, AT LEAST

Varied opinions as to the motives of Germany in presenting peace proposals to the Allies and the probable result of the proposal were expressed today by representatives of Philadelphia business men.

"These men, who have followed the war closely, with sympathies at variance, could not agree on what would be the outcome. The consensus of opinion, however, was that the terms suggested by Germany constituted a sound basis for negotiations, although they did not form a comprehensive plan for the ending of the war."

DR. R. TRAY MCKENZIE, physical director of the University of Pennsylvania, and recently with the British army as surgeon

—"The terms of peace offered by Germany are not acceptable, but they afford a good basis for further discussion. The Allies are always willing to discuss peace if proper terms are suggested. These terms, as they are given to us, leave many other things to be taken into consideration; for example, indemnity to Belgium, indemnity for shipping destroyed, the German colonies, and, greater of all, a guarantee that such a war as this cannot occur again within our generation. I do not think that there will be peace until it is made impossible for such a war to happen again. If these terms were accepted by Germany, Russia would be the strongest ally and the situation would be the same as it is now."

SULZBERGER'S VIEWS

EM-JUDGING SULZBERGER—Without knowing what the basis of the peace proposals is, I think it would be a crime for any civilized nation to refuse to discuss peace. With winter coming on, both sides could carry on negotiations without losing any advantage and if they failed to agree would not cause a serious breach of the situation which would be the same as it is now.

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TEUTONS ADVANCE UPON MOLDAVIA

Mackensen's Forces Capture Urzazi and Mislui in Drive Northward

TAKE 10,000 PRISONERS

BERLIN, Dec. 12.

Sweeping forward toward Moldavia, von Mackensen's Austro-German troops in northern Rumania have captured Urzazi and Mislui.

These captures were officially reported by the War Office today.

Mislui is upon the railway line that runs northward into Moldavia from Bucharest by way of Buzau.

Within the last three days the Ninth Army of German allies in Rumania has captured more than 10,000 prisoners.

In the wooded Carpathians on the Siret and on the Bala-Ludowa actors, Rumanians renewed their strong attacks against the Austro-German lines.

In the Metemness sector and on both sides of the Trotoneal Valley the Rumanians made powerful assaults, but the War Office stated that all were repulsed.

North of Sultz the Rumanians were driven from a height they had recaptured.

The fresh booty includes three cannon and three machine guns.

The Russo-Rumanian army in Dobrudja is reported in dispatches from the Rumanian front to be falling back.

The Austro-German center in eastern Wallachia has forced a crossing of the Jaitza river and is moving against the Russo-Rumanian flank on the Buzau-Mislui line.

Buzau is sixty miles northeast of Bucharest at the southern edge of Moldavia. Its possession would give the German Allies control of one of the two railway lines running into Moldavia from the south.

GREEKS' FLIGHT DARK; ALLIES' DEMANDS TODAY

LONDON, Dec. 12.

Significance is attached today to the news from Salonica that King Constantine has established wireless communication with the Greek army. Messages have been sent back and forth. Some of these messages were picked up by Allied warships.

This was the date set, according to earlier reports, for the signing of a new ultimatum to the Greek Government by the Allies. If its demands are met it will remove the menace which the newly mobilized Greek army holds for the flank of General Sarrajl's Allied force in Macedonia, because one of the clauses, it is understood, calls for the complete disarmament of the Greek army.

The Allies in Greece stand out today blacker than at any previous time.

GERMANS REPULSED SOUTH OF SOMME

PARIS, Dec. 12.

German troops switched their attacks to a new section of the French line last night. The War Office announced today that the Germans attempted to advance on the edge of Des Loges wood, near Lassigny, but were frustrated by a curtain of fire, Lassigny is south of the Somme sector.

BERLIN, Dec. 12.

"On the battlefield of the Somme the activity of our artillery which since the end of November had been diminished was temporarily increased again in the afternoon," said today's German official statement.

Along the east bank of the Meuse and near the Moselle there was strong cannon and mine thrower fighting without infantry activity.

Cables Laid Under the Delaware

WILMINGTON, Del., Dec. 12.—The Wilmington and Philadelphia Traction Company has completed the work of laying two cables under the Delaware River to Pennsylvania. They will supply electric current to a number of places in South Jersey. The shore ends are yet to be completed.

The Christmas Store for Men

Christmas Neckwear \$1.00

Imported and American silks in all the newest and most highly favored styles and colorings.

Rep silks in beautifully blended striped combinations—adaptations of the English and American regimental colorings, and the English regals and schools. These are made in silks of both American and foreign manufacture.

Twilled silks with polka dots in single and two-color effects. Stripes in abundance. Roman and half-and-half stripes. Many beautiful colorings in Rep Silks.

Basket Weaves of black and white and three-colored blends. Persian Silks, both in small and large "all-over" designs.

Plain rich shades in solid colored Neckwear, made of English Poplin, Regence Silk, Crepe.

New figured patterns of very bright coloring, but unobtrusive designs.

Closing Hour, 6 P. M.

JACOB REED'S SONS

Wells Hats Wear Well - AN IDEAL XMAS GIFT

Steigerwalt

1420 Chestnut St.

"Where On'y The Best is Good Enough"

Women's Storm Boots

of the right sorts. Were you prepared this time?

Victrolas and Victor Records

The ideal Xmas gift which brings joy to the whole family for many years to come. Place your orders now for Xmas delivery.

Weymann

1108 Chestnut St.