

WOOD CONCERN 'SCAVENGER,' IS OPINION IN OHIO

Identity of Consolidated President Mystery in West

STOCKHOLDERS JOIN IN RECEIVER PLEAS

Cincinnati Mayor and Others Make Complaint to Commissioner O'Neil

REGARDED AS "FAKE"

Pension Mutual and Other Concerns Linked Up in General Scheme

Who is president of the Consolidated Investment Company?

In these parts everybody has believed him to be R. C. Bowers, the young man who also heads, in name, the Union Casualty Company since Lyndon D. Wood gained control of that corporation.

Out in Ohio, it develops, they believe Lyndon D. Wood is president of the Consolidated Investment Company.

Everybody knows that Wood is the dominant figure, but nobody in Pennsylvania has heretofore believed he allowed any investors to believe he held office. The Consolidated Investment Company was planned by him to be a holding company for all the insurance companies he hoped to bring under one management.

Wood's affairs come into court next Monday and Tuesday, for, on the first of these days, he defends an attempt by insurance Commissioner J. Denny O'Neil to have a receiver appointed for the Pension Mutual Life Insurance Company, and the following day he defends a similar action against the Union Casualty Company.

CONSOLIDATED ASSAILED

How he is regarded in Ohio is shown by the following excerpt from a letter written by Aaron A. Ferris, a Cincinnati lawyer, who holds fifty shares of the Union Casualty stock. He says, writing to Mr. O'Neil:

From my point of view, the Consolidated Investment Company is ill-fated better than a false concern, certainly a get-rich-quick scheme; and that the principal business of the Consolidated Investment Company is to gather up corpses of insurance companies that have fallen into hard lines financially, get hold of their assets, and pick up the bones that are left.

Letters dated July 10, 1916, bear the signature of Bowers in which he is classed as president of that concern.

But in Ohio it is different. In the "Buckeye" State, where many stockholders of the Union Casualty Insurance Company reside, Wood is looked upon as the president of the Consolidated Investment Company, which in insurance circles is described as a sort of "melting pot" for life insurance companies.

The puzzling feature as to the real identity of the president of the Consolidated was raised today in a communication which reached State Insurance Commissioner O'Neil, from George Puchta, Mayor of Cincinnati, Ohio, and several well-known citizens of that city, all of whom signify their willingness to join in the petition to have a receiver appointed for the Union Casualty Insurance Company. Mayor Puchta and his friends who sent the communication are stockholders in the Union Casualty Insurance Company of Philadelphia. This company, which is controlled by the Consolidated Investment Company,

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GIRL KILLED BY RUNAWAY

Driverless Garbage Wagon Runs Down Seven-Year-Old

Theresa Kuhn, seven years old, 8236 Wheeler street, was run over and killed this afternoon at Sixty-third street and Kinwood avenue when the horse attached to a garbage wagon took fright and ran away. The child died in the patrol wagon of the Sixty-fifth street and Woodland avenue police station on the way to the University Hospital.

The driver of the team, Joseph Myerhoff, 25 years old, of Eighty-sixth street and Ludlow avenue, was arrested following the accident and is being detained at the police station.

According to the police, the dead girl and a number of her friends were playing around the heads of the horse while the driver was in a nearby alley collecting garbage. The horses took fright, bolted and the wheels of the wagon passed over her chest.

THE WEATHER

FORECAST

For Philadelphia, and vicinity—Generally cloudy and continued cold tonight and Thursday, with probably some snow; lowest temperature tonight about 32 degrees; moderate winds, mostly south-west.

LENGTH OF DAY

Day... 7:14 a.m. Moon rises... 8:29 p.m. Night... 4:44 a.m. Moon sets... 2:33 a.m.

DELAWARE RIVER TIDE CHANGES

CHESTNUT STREET High water... 2:42 a.m. Low water... 11:49 a.m. Low water... 11:52 a.m. High water... 1:49 p.m.

TEMPERATURE AT EACH HOUR

3 9 10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5

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FIRE THREATENS CRAMPS SHIPYARDS



The blacksmith shop at Cramps shipyard was destroyed by fire this afternoon which threatened the adjoining buildings. Two alarms were rung in to prevent the fire from spreading. The firemen were seriously hampered by smoke.

FATE OF BERLIN PEACE OFFER IN HANDS OF LLOYD GEORGE; COUNTER-PROPOSALS LIKELY

Premier Will Reply to Germany's Move Next Tuesday—Neutrals Asked to Act as Messengers Only, Berlin Explains

LONDON, Dec. 13.

England and the entire world is looking forward to next Tuesday, when Premier Lloyd George will address the House of Commons for Britain's answer to Germany's peace proposals.

Until that time British men and women are considering but one thing—to continue the war until a decisive victory is won.

The statement of Lloyd George in a recent interview is cited as the only answer England should consider until the little Welshman, in whose hands England's fortune has now been placed, has spoken again. In this statement, Lloyd George said:

"The fight must be to a finish—to a knockout." If the comment of London newspapers is any criterion, England does not propose to regard the German peace proposals in any other light than "another German trick."

It was conceded Germany has made a very clever diplomatic play. According to all unofficial texts the note itself does not contain any concessions as the basis for Germany's desire for peace. It merely states Germany's willingness to enter into peace negotiations. Such a counter proposal on the part of the Allies which will state some basic principles on which they are willing to end the war. The absence of any reference to Luxembourg in unofficial dispatches on the terms offered by Germany has excited considerable speculation with that Duchy, which was created as a buffer State between Germany and France.

It was stated in high official circles that a flat refusal to consider Germany's proposal obviously would leave Germany in an advantageous diplomatic position in the eyes of the world and in the view of her own people. Therefore, it is considered a virtually a diplomatic necessity that a formal reply, at least designed to shift responsibility for further warfare to Germany, must be made by the Entente Powers.

SCORNS 'GENEROSITY'

"Germany's and her allies' cue was to snatch a military victory to balance the five great military defeats which they suffered in the western, Italian and Russian theatres," said the Daily Chronicle, "and then at the top of their territorial conquest to come forward with an appeal for cessation of bloodshed and an offer of peace on as-you-were terms, which in such circumstances could be given a false air of generosity."

"The course which the Allies must take to meet these tactics is perfectly clear," asserted the Times. "They must absolutely reject any idea of mediation in any shape and from any quarter so long as the proposed is the triumph of might and not of right. They must refuse with equal firmness to talk about an armistice until the terms which the enemy has overrun are stored and compensated. They must read the enunciation of their peace terms in down once for all in Asquith's Guilden speech, and they must redouble their efforts to force these terms upon the accomplices. There can be no compromise and no talk of a drawn war where the very principles of public right are at stake."

WOULD AFFECT NEUTRALS

The Express calls the peace proposal a deep laid diplomatic scheme to affect neutrals.

Commenting today upon the German offer, the Express says:

"The Kaiser now dons the robe of peace maker with the consciousness of being the victor. The real victor dictates terms, but even Wilhelm II recognizes that he cannot do that. He is a victor who fears disaster. His Chancellor harps upon the fact that the German armies are unconquerable. Dare he pretend they are unconquerable? The editorial then sets forth what it believes is the attitude of the public saying:

"We are certain the defeat of the German Premier Briand was scheduled to make a speech in the chamber of deputies today.

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FLAMES SWEEP SHOP AT CRAMPS

Firemen Battling to Confine Blaze to Blacksmith Plant

HAMPERED BY SMOKE

Fire believed to have been caused by the ignition of oil swept the blacksmith shop at Cramp's shipyard this afternoon and threatened a number of surrounding buildings.

Two alarms brought a quick response by the firemen who have so far been able to confine the blaze to the shop, at Richmond and Cumberland streets.

The work of the firefighters is greatly hampered by thick clouds of smoke which pours from the windows in all directions. At times these smoke clouds completely engulf the building.

When the flames were discovered the men engaged in the shop dropped their tools and fought the fire pending the arrival of the firemen.

The combustible materials stored in the shop, including oils, paints and varnishes of all description, scattered nauseating odors all over the neighborhood and also added to the difficulties of the firemen.

There is little hope of saving the building, and all efforts are now being made to prevent the spread of the flames to other buildings.

WOMEN HURT IN EXPLOSION

Munitions Plant Near Baltimore Scene of Accident

BALTIMORE, Dec. 13.—Two women were seriously injured and six others slightly hurt when powder, used in the manufacture of munitions, exploded in the plant of the Bartlett Hayward Company, near Turner's Station, Baltimore County, today.

The two more seriously injured were rushed to the Mercy Hospital here in automobiles, while the others were treated in the company's emergency hospital.

BACHMAN STILL FREE; ASSOCIATE GIVES UP

Amos H. Nisley, Accused in Alleged \$2,500,000 Swindle, Surrenders

Amos H. Nisley, of Steelton, Pa., one of the three men wanted by the Federal authorities for using the mail to defraud in conducting alleged swindles in the operation of the \$2,500,000 International Gas and Electric Company, surrendered himself to the Government agents in Harrisburg today. News of his surrender was received by Chief Postal Inspector James T. Cortelyou, who will have him brought to Philadelphia for trial.

Nisley was arraigned before United States Commissioner Wolf in Harrisburg and furnished \$7500 bail for his appearance in this city.

Clawson Bachman, of 597 West Johnson street, said to be the master-mind of the alleged swindle, is still at large, and, according to postal inspectors, is a fugitive from justice. Joseph T. Hayden, another member of the Bachman-Hayden-Nisley triumvirate, also will surrender today, according to his attorney, J. Washington Logue.

James T. Cortelyou said indictments might be asked against four more men in connection with the alleged swindle. He said Bachman and Hayden were the dominant figures, that Nisley had a good share in the scheme, and that others to be apprehended would be agents and other employees of the men who helped materially to advance the plot.

QUICK NEWS

H. L. DAVIS LOSES SUIT AGAINST BROTHER

TOMS RIVER, N. J., Dec. 13.—The jury in the suit of Howard L. Davis, of New Egypt, against his brother, Malcolm I. Davis, of Philadelphia, this afternoon returned a verdict of "no cause for action." Howard brought suit against his brother for \$100,000 damage for alleged alienation of the affections of his wife.

FLOUR PRICES TUMBLE AT MINNEAPOLIS

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 13.—Flour prices went tumbling in Minneapolis today as a result of yesterday's sensational decline in wheat. Prices were off twenty to sixty cents a barrel, the big millers announced. It was the biggest slash in flour in many months.

PEACE TALK LOSES INFLUENCE AND STOCKS GO UP

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—Wall street today saw a direct reversal of the conditions ruling in the stock market yesterday. While the market showed much irregularity in the morning session and stocks, after advancing, declined only to advance again, the tone was much improved. It was apparent that the proposals of peace made by Germany, which caused weakness yesterday, had lost their influence. The stock market as a whole was strong in the afternoon and there was a good demand for stocks. Gains ranged from one to more than three points. In the morning Bethlehem Steel dropped fourteen points, but five points of this were recovered.

JAPANESE STOCKS CRACK AT PEACE MOVE

TOKIO, Dec. 13.—The Tokyo Stock Exchange was closed today because of the tremendous shrinkage of values in stocks, occasioned by Germany's peace overtures.

BIG INCREASE IN STATE FUNDS

HARRISBURG, Dec. 13.—The statement of the Treasury Department of the amount of general funds of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shows the total on hand November 29, 1916, exclusive of moneys appropriated to the sinking fund to be \$4,580,463, as against \$1,544,859 September 30, and \$1,399,947 January 1, 1916. Of the total deposits of \$4,580,463, Philadelphia institutions hold \$758,302, as against \$205,035 September 30, 1915.

URGES \$1,500,000 NAVAL LABORATORY FOR ANNAPOLIS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—The Naval Advisory Board, of which Thomas Edison is the head, has recommended to Secretary Daniels the establishment of the naval experimental laboratory at Annapolis. One and a half million dollars was recommended for the establishment. The Secretary is expected to accept the recommendation.

GERMAN WAR LOSSES 3,921,859, LONDON SAYS

LONDON, Dec. 13.—Germany's total losses in the war up to the end of November were 3,921,859 men, according to figures based upon the official casualty lists. Of this number 946,027 are listed as dead.

GERMANS SEIZE TWO NEUTRAL SHIPS

BERLIN, Dec. 13.—On the night of December 9 German sea forces in Flanders undertook an advance and stopped the Dutch steamship Caledonia and the Brazilian steamship Rio Pardo, said a Press Bureau statement today. "Both were loaded with contraband en route for England and were brought into port."

CONGRESS RAILROAD PROGRAM OFF TILL JANUARY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—Consideration of President Wilson's railroad legislation program in Congress probably will be delayed until after the Christmas holidays, according to plans framed by Administration leaders today. Differences in the Senate Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce over the President's recommendation for compulsory investigation of strikes and lockouts is expected to delay the railroad measure in its progress to the Senate floor.

WILL TRY TO RELEASE STRANDED U. S. TRANSPORT

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—Wrecking tugs and coast guard cutters will attempt today to pull the United States transport ship Summer off the sands near Barnegat, N. J., where she has wallowed since early yesterday after going ashore. It is feared that if the vessel is not taken off immediately the waves will pound her to pieces. Captain Webber, 10 officers and 118 men remained aboard the ship all night directing operations. The passengers were brought ashore yesterday.

HUGE INCREASE IN COTTON EXPORTS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—The Department of Commerce today announced the exports of cotton during the week ending December 9 at the twelve joint customs districts totaled 148,161 bales, making a total since August 1 of approximately 2,215,285 bales. Exports for corresponding periods in the preceding year were 98,581 bales for the week and 1,385,552 bales after August 1.

PRICE PROBER CANCELS WESTERN TRIP; GOES TO BOSTON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—Canceling his plans to proceed immediately to the middle West to assume personal direction of the Federal Grand Jury food probe, George W. Anderson, special assistant to the Attorney General, left here late last night for Boston. Until today it was presumed he had gone westward.

ALLIES MAY GRANT SAFE CONDUCT TO AUSTRIAN ENVOY

LONDON, Dec. 13.—The Foreign Office announces it is still communicating with France in regard to a safe conduct for Count Tarnowski, recently appointed Austro-Hungarian Ambassador to the United States. No hint has been given regarding what will result from the negotiations, but it is generally believed in diplomatic circles here that the safe conduct will be granted.

LITTLE GIRLS HERE AFTER 20,000-MILE TRIP

After traveling 20,000 miles to reach their father in Philadelphia, two little Russian girls, Rose Sorkin, aged six, and Hinda, aged five, are now mastering the English language in the Wharton-Ralston public school, Third and Lombard streets. They traveled with their mother through Siberia from Vladivostok to Japan, then by another steamship to Seattle, thence across the continent. The father has been in American about five years.

MINERS BACK WHITE FOR THE PRESIDENCY

HAZLETON, Pa., Dec. 13.—The 175,000 mine workers throughout the anthracite field and the other 525,000 men in the bituminous sections all over the country and Canada have voted on the election of international officers. John P. White, of Oskaloosa, Ia., will receive the bulk of the vote in the hard-coal region for presidency. Friends of the leader said here that he would win by a big majority over Thomas Walker, of Illinois.

STOVE STRIKE INVOLVING 14,000 IMPENDS

ATLANTIC CITY, Dec. 13.—A general strike in the stove trade, affecting 14,000 workmen and seventy-five per cent of the stove output of the country, may be the outcome unless wage committees of the International Molders' Union and the Stove Founders' Protective Association succeed in reaching a compromise on wages and working hours. Committees went back to work this morning at Haddon Hall, with a deadlock, which dates from Monday, still in effect. The manufacturers' attitude amounts to a flat refusal to concede either a seven-hour day or wage increase.

SMILE MAY WIN HOME FOR ABANDONED BABY

A smile may win a home for the six-week-old baby that was found abandoned in a basket on a tombstone in Monument Cemetery. The infant was found by Policeman Rinck, who took it to the Twentieth and Bewis streets station. Once there the infant smiled happily at House Sergeant Charles Borukness, who decided to adopt it, if his wife is willing.

GRANGE FAVORS OPTION IN PLAN OF LEGISLATION

Woman Suffrage Also Urged in Program Fixed Here

REVISION OF TAX SYSTEM ADVOCATED

Farmers Seek Scheme to Relieve Present Burden on Real Estate

FOR NATIONAL DRY LAW

Program for Legislation Fixed by State Grange

THE legislative program of the Pennsylvania State Grange, which was presented at the general meeting of the grange this afternoon by the legislative committee of the farmers' organization, declared in favor of:

1. Local option.
2. Woman suffrage.
3. National prohibition.
4. Conservation of resources.
5. Revision of the system of taxation, so as to relieve the burden on real estate.
6. Reorganization of the State Highway Department.
7. Vocational education in the country schools and increased appropriations for them.
8. The budget system for State charity appropriations.

Declarations in favor of local option and woman suffrage were made in the legislative program of the Pennsylvania State Grange, which was submitted to the farmers of the State at this afternoon's meeting by the legislative committee of that body.

The report of the committee was a lengthy one, and contained a score of recommendations. In addition to local option and suffrage, the legislative committee asked the grange to go on record in favor of national prohibition, a State anti-trust law, conservation of national resources, a revision of the present system of taxation, so as to relieve real estate of its present burden, new roads legislation, increased appropriations for the country schools and the budget system of State appropriations to charitable institutions.

ITEMS OF LEGISLATION

Other legislation favored includes completion of the denatured alcohol legislation, the revision of the Hagen bill on clean-up, as advocated by the National Dairy Union, and an increase in the weight limit of parcel post packages. The problem of the high cost of living was touched upon only lightly. The committee recommended in a general way legislation that "will tend not only to bring a proper compensation to the producer, but also give to the consumer those products at a reduced cost."

The farmers of the State have had to bear the "cost of economy of government," declared the report. It quoted the following examples:

The cutting off of appropriations for dirt roads in spite of the law on the statute books requiring state aid for township roads. The failure to provide the aid granted by law for the wiping out of tuberculosis in cattle. The throwing back on local taxation the cost of the primary elections. Decreased appropriations for country agricultural fairs. Descending ratio for the maintenance of the rural school system.

TAX RELIEF BOUGHT

The interests of the farmers of the State and of the people of Philadelphia are identical, declared the report. The farmers, it pointed out, are the rural taxpayers and the producers of foodstuffs, and the people of Philadelphia are the city taxpayers and the consumers of foodstuffs.

Investigations made by the Grange recently on the subject of taxation, have shown, according to reports issued by the departments of Internal Affairs and of the Auditor General at Harrisburg, that real estate has paid on the valuation of four and a half billions, a tax of over seventy-seven millions annually; whereas personal and corporate property of an assessed valuation of more than nine billions, was paying a tax of about twenty-five millions annually. In other words, according to the committee, real estate has been paying a tax of eighteen mills, while personal and corporate property has been paying an average tax of only three and a half mills on each dollar of assessed valuation.

The result of the increase in the cost of conducting the State Government has been, said the report, that during the last four years, the State has failed to pay to the local governments the money it agreed to pay for the support of schools and roads.

LITTLE BOY BURNED TO DEATH

"Dared" by Youthful Companions to Play With Fire

CHESTER, Pa., Dec. 13.—The tragic death in Chester and vicinity in a week occurred here this morning when five-year-old Zalaco Taria was burned to death at his home, 722 West Front street, while his mother was in a nearby store.

The boy dared by his three-year-old brother, set some hair on fire at the store and his clothing was ignited.