

PLOT SHOWN IN BLAZE BURNING WAR SUPPLIES

GERMAN SPIES DESTROY HUGE MUNITION AND GRAIN STORES IN \$5,000,000 BALTIMORE FIRE Eight Men Missing Supposed to Have Lost Their Lives—British Steamship Sunk. Suspect Running From Scene Arrested

BALTIMORE, Oct. 31. Fire of undoubted German agency origin which started last night on the Baltimore waterfront destroyed two Baltimore and Ohio Railroad piers at Locust Point, together with large grain and munition supplies, with a total estimated loss of \$5,000,000.

One man, Michael J. Hand, an import clerk employed by the Furniss-Withy Company, Ltd., was burned to death, and Chief Gunner Brownley, of the British steamer Kerry Range, and six members of the crew, with a negro stevedore, are missing.

That the fire was of incendiary origin has been established beyond a doubt, and one suspect has been arrested and turned over to the United States authorities.

The munitions destroyed, which were stored upon the piers, were intended for the Allies and for General Pershing's army in France.

Federal agents are positive that German agents are responsible for the fire, and the full force of the Department of Justice has been thrown behind an immediate investigation.

All about as to the origin of the fire was removed this morning by statements from the Baltimore and Ohio guards and firemen stationed at the pier. A few seconds before the flames broke out in five sections of the pier these men saw what appeared to be rockets going up from half a dozen places on the pier.

Ten stevedores of the twenty working on the pier and on the wharf when the fire broke out had not been accounted for early this morning.

Chief of Police Edmund Leigh, of the Baltimore and Ohio system, and the local police officials began immediately an investigation into a report of the pier watchman that he saw five or six men jump out of the pier into the water.

A dozen men remained to be accounted for by the investigators at Locust Point this morning. It is believed that at least five lost their lives when the great piers were destroyed.

Chief Flynn, of the Treasury secret service in Washington, and Chief Blaisdell, of the Justice Department, today were in close touch with the chase for clues in Baltimore. "Whether arrests were imminent both related to state.

Smash Window to Steal Jewelry Thieves smashed the bulk window of the jewelry store of Emil Victor, 2338 Kensington avenue, with a paving block at 8 o'clock this morning and stole jewelry valued at \$125.

Former President WILLIAM HOWARD TAFT Will analyze the Italian Situation On the Editorial Page of Tomorrow's PUBLIC LEDGER

This will be the first article by Mr. Taft since joining the staff of the Public Ledger as contributing editor.

1 DEAD, 3 INJURED IN DU PONT BLAST Explosion Wrecks One of the Plant's Houses at Carneys Point

APPARENTLY NOT PLOT Injured Men Were Walking Past Blast House When It Went Up An explosion wrecked one of the houses of the Du Pont Powder Company's Plant No. 1 at Carneys Point N. J., this afternoon, killing one man and injuring three, two of them seriously.

The dead man was William H. Jacques, twenty-six years old, operator of the house. His home was at Alloway, N. J., but he boarded at Carneys Point Village.

The injured, all of whom are in the Delaware Hospital, Wilmington, are: Timothy J. McCarty, thirty-six years old, 2123 West Eighteenth street, Wilmington; skull fractured.

William R. Hyland, twenty-eight years old, 114 French street, Wilmington; leg fractured. Samuel Howard, thirty-four years old, 617 French street, Wilmington; slightly hurt.

The house was a powder hardening house. It is at the time of the explosion was 600 pounds of powder in two drums.

The injured men were electricians, who were walking past the house when the blast occurred. One's skull was fractured and one suffered a leg fracture.

The explosion apparently was not due to a plot such as that which resulted in the Baltimore explosion. The explosion, it was said, came from a natural cause.

The wrecked powder house was in what is known as the "sporting area," the place where powder for sporting use is made. The plant is composed of many small buildings, called houses, through several of which the powder passes in the course of its manufacture.

The plant is so arranged that an ordinary explosion wrecks only one house, the others being designed, unless the blast is so great as to throw sparks or debris into the others.

The explosion today, according to a statement made by an official at Plant No. 1, affected only one small house.

The blast occurred shortly before 1 o'clock. It shook buildings for miles and the flames shot high in the air. As usual, the du Pont works were besieged with inquiries as to the nature of the blast, the casualties and the extent of the damage.

Philadelphia newspapers were telephoned by many persons who had relatives or friends working at the du Pont plants at Carneys Point and Carneys Point who wanted to know whether their relatives and friends were alive or dead or hurt.

Officials at Plant No. 2 admitted that an explosion had occurred and when asked if it was true that only one house had been lost replied in the affirmative. They said an investigation of the accident was still in progress.

Chili Remains Neutral BUENOS AIRES, Oct. 31.—Dispatches today from Santiago say that, despite the offer of sympathy with Brazil, Chili will remain neutral.

MANY WAR TAXES DUE TOMORROW Wide-Ranging Levies Will Be Imposed Under New Revenue Act VERY LITTLE ESCAPES

The war tax on many articles becomes effective here tomorrow. Moving picture, theatre and railroad tickets, telephone and telegraph messages are included in the list. The taxes going into effect include:

Ten per cent on theatres and moving picture houses. Eight per cent on passenger fares by rail and water, except on trips of less than forty miles.

Ten per cent for berths, staterooms and seats in parlor cars or steamships. Ten per cent on clubs where dues are more than \$12 annually.

One cent on each 25-cent charge for parcel post. One cent on each 20-cent express package charge.

Five cents on each telephone, telegraph or wireless message costing more than 15 cents. Eight cents for every \$100 worth of life insurance.

The tobacco tax also goes into effect tomorrow, although dealers have already been collecting this tax. The postage rates will be raised starting next Saturday. Letters will cost three cents and postcards two cents.

Collector of Internal Revenue Ephraim Lederer announced today that Friday, November 2, will be the last day for the return of all "door" taxes under the war revenue bill. This particularly applies to wine, beer and liquors in storage, as well as to tobacco, cigars, automobiles, trucks, jewelry, musical instruments, mineral waters, films, sporting goods, perfumes, cosmetics, toilet articles, pianos, drug goods, chewing gum and candies, etc.

He added that bond could be given for an extension of time to merchants and manufacturers if the security, Liberty Bonds or real estate, were equal to the amount of the tax. If real estate security is given it may be accompanied by 20 per cent of the amount of the tax in cash. The balance is to be paid in equal parts over December, January, February and March.

Auto License Receipts \$1000 Daily HARRISBURG, Oct. 31.—Despite the fact that not much more than two months of 1917 are left, receipts from automobile licenses for this year are running about \$1000 a day to the State Treasury. The applications for 1918 receipts are being filed and more than \$7000 has already been paid for 1918 tags.

ALLIES SPEED TROOPS TO AID ITALY'S ARMY

French and British Rush Re-enforcements CADORNA FIGHTING AS HE FALLS BACK Retreat to Tagliamento River Barrier Now Made in Good Order

ENEMY'S DRIVE SLOWING BERLIN, Oct. 31. "The movement of our armies from the Carnic Alps is taking place in accordance with the intentions of our leadership," declared today's official report.

PARIS, Oct. 31. French and British armies are rushing to aid of the Italians. Paris expects one of the greatest battles of the war to be fought on the Italian plains.

M. Jules Cambon, of the Foreign Office, expressed his firm conviction that the Italians, with this Allied assistance, would succeed in stopping the Austro-German invasion.

ROME, Oct. 31. The Italian retreat to prepared positions continues in an orderly fashion, today's official report asserted. Bravery of the defending troops permitted the redeployment of the Italian forces, according to strategic plans.

There were various engagements yesterday on the hills of San Daniele del Friuli, along the Ledra canal and at Pasi, Schiavonico and Pozzuolo on the del Friuli front. Dispatches from the front declare Cadorna is master of the situation now and that he is checking the enemy in effective fashion.

Italian bayonet forces continue to harass and hold up advanced detachments of the Germans and Austro-Hungarians. Newspapers today point to the fact that the Germans have ceased citing the number of prisoners taken recently, which indicates that the Italians have recovered from their first panic and that the enemy is not making the progress he did for the first day or two of the drive.

Home expects the great German-Austrian drive to come to a halt on the flood-swollen banks of the Tagliamento River. Reports from the front today declared the river was a roaring torrent, which it was confidently believed would offer a formidable barrier of defense for the Italians.

Continued on Page Four, Column One

TORPEDO'S VICTIM SINKS SUBMARINE The Lewis Luckenbach Goes Down After Bagging U-Boat in Battle 26 SURVIVORS AT HOME

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Oct. 31. The American steamship Lewis Luckenbach sent a German submarine to the bottom three hours before the vessel itself was sunk by another U-boat, declared survivors reaching here today.

Richard Dunphy, third officer of the torpedoed vessel, acting as spokesman for the survivors, of whom there were twenty-six, said: "We were first attacked about 5 o'clock on the afternoon of October 1. The submarine came to the surface not 100 feet in front of us. The target was too good to miss and the first shot from our bow gun struck squarely between the U-boat's two periscopes. She sank like a plummet."

"Triumphantly, we steamed toward the French coast. Suddenly, about 8 o'clock that night, there was a loud explosion and the whole ship trembled from stem to stern. It didn't take long to realize we had been torpedoed. The Luckenbach settled as one. Two boats got away safely. A third, with Captain Watkins, the first mate and one of the naval gunners, smashed against the side of the ship and the three were drowned. We were picked up by a Norwegian ship."

VON HERTLING REFUSES THE CHANCELLORSHIP Opposition in Reichstag Changes Purpose of New German Appointee

LONDON, Oct. 31. An Exchange Telegraph Company's dispatch from Amsterdam this afternoon asserted that Count von Hertling had refused to accept the German Chancellorship because of his inability to control a majority in the Reichstag.

A storm of opposition had developed in Germany to the appointment of Count von Hertling. The Socialists and Liberals were daily against him because of his known stand against parliamentary government.

The fact that the Emperor did not consult any representative of the Reichstag on political conditions before the appointment added to the antagonism of a large number of the members of that body.

QUICK NEWS

SOCCER SCORES LAFAYETTE 1 2-3 LEHIGH 0 0-0

ADDITIONAL RACING RESULTS Third Latonia race, mile and 70 yards—Julia L., 108, Connelly, \$13.70, \$3.50, \$4, won; Ninety Simplex, 108, Howard, \$3.00, \$3, second; Ben Spiller, 108, G. W. Carroll, \$6.80, third. Time, 1:46 1-5.

Fourth Latonia race, 3 furlongs—Night Angle, 114, Mor., \$3.50, \$2.40, out, won; Herald, 111, Gentry, \$2.50, out, second; U. Levy, 103, Dishmon, out, third. Time, 1:14 2-5.

SLAVS RESENT TEUTONS' FRATERNIZING EFFORTS PETROGRAD, Oct. 31.—Enemy attempts to fraternize with Russian soldiers on the northern front were met with Russian artillery fire, the official statement announced today.

COASTWISE ELECTRICAL STRIKE HALTED SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 31.—The coastwise strike of members of the electrical workers' union, which was scheduled to begin at midnight tonight, has been halted by the intervention of President Wilson and the Federal mediation committee.

DODGES WIN SUIT AGAINST FORD COMPANY DETROIT, Oct. 31.—The Ford Motor Company has lost the suit brought against it by John F. and Horace E. Dodge to compel distribution among stockholders of about \$60,000,000 accumulated dividends that Henry Ford was to use to build his new style plant at River Rouge, according to a decision of Judge George S. Rosser, of the Wayne Circuit Court, handed down today.

AUSTRIA'S WAR TRIBUTE NOW TWELVE BILLION ZURICH, Switzerland, Oct. 31.—Austria's share in war expenditures will total \$12,000,000,000, according to Baron Ernest von Piere, who made the statement during the budget debate in the upper house of the Austrian Reichsrath. The speaker stated that the note circulation had reached a total much higher than any one expected, and that Austria would have to suffer from a low rate of exchange.

KERENSKY PROHIBITS DEATH PENALTY AT FRONT PETROGRAD, Oct. 31.—Premier Kerensky today announced a prohibition against imposing of the death penalty on troops at the front.

LUFBERRY HONORED BY U. S. AERO CLUB PARIS, Oct. 31.—Lieutenant Raoul Lufberry, second in command of the Lafayette Escadrille and one of the two "aces" in that flying corps of Americans, was today awarded a medal by the Aero Club of America as "a mark of the admiration of his fellow Americans for his services in the war." Lieutenant Lufberry is a native of Wallingford, Conn.

AIRPLANE REPULSED ON KENTISH COAST LONDON, Oct. 31.—One enemy airplane raided the Kentish coast at 4:30 this morning, according to an official announcement. The statement adds that the airplane was immediately attacked and fled, dropping its bombs in the sea.

BOY CRUSHED TO DEATH BY MOTORTRUCK A six-year-old boy was crushed to death at Kensington avenue and Westmoreland street today when he ran across the street and stepped in front of a motortruck. The victim was John Garretty, of 1905 East Willard street. He died in the Episcopal Hospital. Edward Gregory, 3545 Mascher street, driver of the machine, was held without bail by Magistrate Wrigley to await the action of the Coroner.

SWITCHMEN WILL ASK 50 PER CENT WAGE INCREASE CHICAGO, Oct. 31.—Members of the Switchmen's Union of North America are preparing today to submit to all railroads in the United States a demand for a 50 per cent increase in wages, according to a decision reached at a conference of representatives of the union here. A nation-wide referendum vote to strike will be taken if the demands are not granted within thirty days after submission to the railroads.

TROLLEY CAR DAMAGED BY FIRE An overheated airpump set fire to a trolley car on the Bridesburg line at Tacony and Bridge streets, near the Frankford Arsenal. The crew ran the burning car to Richmond street, where Engine No. 33 fire house is located, where the blaze was extinguished. The car was badly damaged.

WAR ZONE ORDER OUSTS 2000 GERMAN WORKERS NEW YORK, Oct. 31.—Two thousand Germans, employed along the Brooklyn waterfront on Long Island and on Staten Island, lost their jobs today as the result of the Federal order regulating the movements of enemy aliens. The list of enemy aliens in Greater New York now under the eye of the Federal Government totals 25,000. These will not be molested unless they commit suspicious acts.

HYLAN BETTING FAVORITE IN N. Y. MAYORALTY RACE NEW YORK, Oct. 31.—Betting on the Curb today on the result of the mayoralty contest is 24 to 1 on Hyman against the field.

PITTSBURGH THEATRE TO PAY OWN WAR TAX PITTSBURGH, Oct. 31.—Directors of the Pitt Theatre here have issued a statement in which it was declared that patrons of the theatre would not be charged with the war tax which the Government has placed on amusements.

"We believe that the Government's tax is not only eminently just and fair, but that the assumption of it is a privilege rather than a burden and we have no desire to shift what we conceive to be our duty upon the shoulders of the public," Manager Patch said.

HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION BARRED IN CHESTER CHESTER, Pa., Oct. 31.—There will be no Halloween celebration in this city. This was reiterated yesterday by the Mayor in a public statement. The action of the executive was caused by the receipt of private information that certain trouble would occur if whites and negroes were allowed to mingle upon the streets garbed in masked attire. Masquerade dances and parties are permissible if the numbers come to the City Hall and obtain a police permit.

ALLEGHENY VALLEY TELEGRAPHERS' STRIKE ENDS PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa., Oct. 31.—Telegraphers of the Allegheny Valley division of the Pennsylvania Railroad who were out on strike have been returning in groups for several days and the remainder went to work yesterday with exception of several rejected by the company on account of special activity in the strike. The men won 25 per cent increase in wages, but lost the right to have the train dispatchers reinstated. The dispatchers followed the telegraphers in the strike and none is permitted to return. The telegraphers' organization is unrecognized. Nearly 400 operators were out at the height of the strike.

REFORM CHIEFS MAKE SUPREME COURT APPEAL

Town Meeting Leaders Begin Campaign to Meet New Issue

PLAN TO OFFSET ADVERSE DECISION Common Pleas Judge Rules Independents Cannot Name Other Party's Nominees

GOOD CHANCE REMAINS Republican City Committee May Issue Warrants for Perjury on Opponents

There is still a good fighting chance for the Town Meeting party to keep all its candidates on their own ticket intact. An appeal to the Supreme Court was made this afternoon by the Independents, in which it was contended that Judge Wessel, of Common Pleas Court No. 2, erred when he ruled that the Town Meeting party could not nominate its candidates who had already been nominated by another party.

As a result of this action the County Commissioners are prevented from printing the election ballots until the question is decided by the Supreme Court.

Attorneys for the Town Meeting party, ex-Judge James Gay Gordon, Allen Morley and Leonard Stern, filed the petition of superedeas with the higher court this afternoon. The petition is returnable at 10:30 tomorrow morning and will be argued before Chief Justice Brown, Judge Potter, Judge Metcalf and Judge von Moschisser.

This is the first time that such a legal step has been taken in the history of Pennsylvania.

The petition is brought in the name of I. Walter Thompson and Francis F. Burch, candidates for Common Council on the Town Meeting ticket in the Forty-sixth Ward.

Immediately after the petition was filed Alexander Simpson, counsel for the County Commissioners, was notified by the attorneys of the action taken.

The action of the Independents, which started with the ruling of Judge Wessel, following this decision the independent leaders of the Town Meeting men decided to make a conference in which they decided to make the appeal in the shape of the test case mentioned. The Supreme Court is not in session and will have to be called hurriedly to hear the case.

While the Town Meeting men were in conference the Republican city committee also met to consider the arrest of many of the affidants who swore to amendments yesterday to the Town Meeting petitions.

PLAN PERJURY CHARGE The Organization leaders contemplate making a charge of perjury against many of the Independents in this connection. The Republican city committee is planning to raise another obstacle by testing in court the ruling of Judge Davis. He decided yesterday that all five affidants need not appear before the notary at one time. The appeal from Judge Davis's ruling was made yesterday by Attorney J. Lee Patton, and he passed the matter before the city committee today for action.

Objections of the Vore-Smith organization against Town Meeting councilmen's nomination papers in several wards were sustained today.

The wards affected were the Forty-sixth, forty-fourth, Twenty-eighth, Forty-first, Twenty-second and Thirty-second. Including these, the independent candidates of eight wards are now forced off the Town Meeting ticket, unless the Supreme Court rules otherwise.

The first decision handed down today by Judge Wessel eliminated four of the five independent nominees' names from the Town Meeting column on the ballot.

The decision of the court grounded that the Town Meeting party cannot nominate candidates already nominated by another party. It indicates that nearly half of the Town Meeting councilmen candidates' names will not appear in the Town Meeting column on the ballot in next Tuesday's election. About that number already have

Continued on Page Fifteen, Column Six

WILL PROBE SITUATION IN N. Y. STOCK EXCHANGE Board of Governors Would Know Causes for Liquidation Movement. That Upset Market

NEW YORK, Oct. 31.—The Board of Governors of the New York Stock Exchange started an investigation of the liquidation movement which has kept the market upset for the last two days. It was learned on high authority this afternoon that the chief aim of the inquiry is to find out whether or not the selling orders placed by a number of big houses represented on the floor were backed by a concerted scheme, to raid the market.

THE WEATHER FORECAST For Philadelphia and vicinity: Fair tonight and Thursday; continued cold tonight; slowly rising temperature Thursday; moderate westerly winds.

For eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey: Fair and continued cold tonight and Thursday; fresh west to southwest winds.

LENGTH OF DAY Oct. 31. Sun sets 5:58. Sun rises 6:58. DELEWARE WATER PIPE BRANCHES CHESTNUT STREET High water 1.31 a. m. High water 7:35 a. m. Low water 3:59 a. m. Low water 10:05 a. m. TEMPERATURE AT EACH HOUR

81 81 10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

The Continuation of the Story RASPUTIN Devil or Saint? by the Princess Catharine Rudnikoff is printed on Page 19