POSTSCRIPT EDITION

Evening Public Ledger

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HALIFAX HORROR GROWS AS RUINS ARE SEARCHED FOR EXPLOSION VICTIMS

Estimates of Dead Range from 500 to 5000—Property Damage Far in the Millions—Thousands of Persons Are Homeless

Pitiful Scenes Enacted at Temporary Morgues in Churches, Theatres and Schools—Business Absolutely Suspended and Troops Guard Streets and Buildings

HALIFAX (by telephone to St. John, N. B.), Dec. 7. Conservative estimates made by city officials today of the death list from yesterday's frightful explosion place the total at close to 2500.

HALIFAX, Dec. 7.

Estimates of the number of dead and injured as a result of the collision between the munition ship Mont Blanc and the Belgian relief ship Imo continued to grow today.

As additional bodies were being recovered from the debris of hundreds of wrecked houses and reports of missing continued to pour in, Chief of Police Hanrahan estimated the missing and unaccounted for as high as 2000.

Thousands are homeless, and churches, theatres and schools are being use as temporary hospitals and morgues.

FRAGMENTARY REPORTS ON DEAD

Some progress is being made in the relief work, but estimates of the dead are as yet based solely upon fragmentary reports.

These estimates run from more than 500 to the 2000 the police estimate as dead or missing. Many of the latter, it is realized, may later be found when complete order is restored.

The property damage will mount far into the millions. There is scarcely a window left intact in the city.

In Richmond, a suburb across the narrow arm of water that is Halifax harbor, the loss of life was heaviest. Frame and business buildings collapsed like paper houses when the force of the explosion struck them. On one ship in the bay forty men were killed.

Twenty-five wagons loaded with dead have arrived at one of the improvised morgues.

Business is absolutely suspended. Armed soldiers and sailors are patrolling the city. Not a street car is moving and parts of the city were in darkness all night.

Many private houses have been thrown open for the care of the wounded and to provide a covering for dead bodies.

WORK OF RESCUE IMPEDED

The work of rescue is greatly impeded by the masses of debris that litter sections of the city where loss of life was heaviest.

Among other buildings leveled by the blast the railway station, the arena rink, military gymnasium, a sugar refinery and a large elevator are blackened ruins today. Scores of persons were in these buildings. Many were injured and some killed.

Women were seen digging in the ruins of their houses. Wagons which went about the streets picking up rubbish and trying to open the thoroughfares occasionally found fragments of human bodies projecting from piles of junk. There were many corpses buried as "unidentified."

The present plan is to bury them all in one long grave, like a trench grave on the battlefield. Temporary morgues have been established in various parts of the ruined section. Some are in houses. In one house bodies were placed on the shelves of a closet. The cold weather prevents immediate danger of a plague from the great masses of dead.

No accurate count of wounded has yet been attempted. Hundreds of slight injuries have been attended to.

Troops quartered here have given up their barracks for women and children, and they will live for the time being in a city of 500 tents erected on the Common.

The Academy of Music and many other public buildings are crowded with weeping women and children. Their homes are shattered or burned ruins.

A part of the town of Dartmouth, a suburb of Halifax, also caught the force of the explosion and is in ruins.

Virtually all the north end of the city of Halifax is in ruins, an area lying torn and jumbled from the North street railway station as far as Arioville to Bedford Basin and covers about two square miles.

Buildings which were wrecked by the explosion immediately disappeared in the fire that followed, when stoves and boilers were torn asunder.

Schools and other available buildings in the Weyburn section of the city have been turned into morgues or hospitals. Doctors and nurses are working with unending energy rendering aid to the injured. Many of those less seriously injured have gone into service for the more gravely wounded.

SUPPLIES OF FOOD ARRIVE

Supplies and food from all sections of Canada and parts of the United States are rushing here.

The twisted and battered Mont Blanc, whose dangerous cargo caused the disaster, lies still visible in the narrows. The Belgian relief boat is beached on the Dartmouth side of the harbor near what is known as Tufts Cove.

The collision that wrecked the munition ship was on her port side and the bow of the Imo pierced nearly to the engine room. The relief ship, hoping to keep water from flooding her victim, kept ahead, shoving the Mont Blanc on. Fire, however, broke out, and the skipper of the Imo ordered the ship to back away and the crew to the boats.

The Mont Blanc was in flames, a deckload of benzine blazing briskly. The sailors knew an explosion was certain. They rowed for shore and took to their heels. The burning vessel drifted toward Halifax and blew up.

Bitter cold added to the sufferings of homeless victims today. Members of families, separated during the panic, besought police to find their loved ones.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN FLEE STRICKEN CITY

MONTREAL, Dec. 7.

A great exodus from Halifax, city of horrors, has begun, according to information reaching here today. While police, soldiers, United States sailors and civilian volunteers are digging in the debris of the ruined portions of the city for dead and maimed, a stream of women, children and some men are flocking from the town.

Preparations to care for these refugees have been made in many nearby towns. Most of them are being con-

AIM NEW BLOW AT ITALIAN LINE

Germans Renew Effort to Roll Back Defenders on Piave River

SUCCESS DOOMS VENICE

LONDON, Dec. 7.

On the same section of the Italian front where Austro-German armies tried vainly for weeks to break through and to roll down behind the Italian forces standing on the Piave River, the Teutonic invaders are again trying to force a decision.

The task of breaking through has again been given to Field Marshal Conrad von Hoetzendorf, of the Austro-Hungarian army, who commands the group between the Brenta and Piave valleys.

In the new battle, which was renewed on Wednesday, the German War Office claims capture of 11,000 men and more than sixty guns, but they suffered very heavy losses.

Advices from Rome today admitted that the Italians had given up some ground in the mountains of the Asiago plateau, but their main lines are holding intact and the dents given them by the invaders are not serious.

The Teutons are striving to break the Italian line in the Venetian Alps and to overrun the "wall" which overlooks and commands the Italian rear on the Piave. If they are successful a general Italian withdrawal may be necessary, with evacuation of Venice.

British and French veterans are fighting with the Italians and have given a brilliant account of themselves in the latest burst of hostilities.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.

More than 100 British aviators have arrived safely on the Italian front to aid in stemming the advance of the Austro-German armies, according to official advices reaching here today.

Word of the arrival of the British aviators after a record-breaking flight from the western front, across the Alps to northern Italy may now be printed for the first time.

Single machines have made longer flights than that undertaken by the British squadron, but never has so long a trip been taken by so large a fleet of aircraft. Word that the men and machines had reached the Italian front in safety was taken to mean that there had been no mishaps of any kind on the way.

City Appointments Today

City appointments today include Thomas J. Rose, 110 West Susquehanna avenue, and Louis Kiehne, 2905 North Reese street, clerks, Bureau of Water, salaries $1000 a year each; William A. Johnson, 1818 Sharswood street, fireman, Bureau of Water, salary $900; Donald S. Frey, 1617 North Fifty-ninth street, clerk, Department of City Transit, $900; Lucille B. Teed, 831 South Fifty-ninth street, housekeeper, Bureau of Charities, $720; William C. Wolfersberger, 261 West Rittenhouse street, and Charles F. Scharf, 2209 South Croskey street, architectural draftsmen, Department of City Transit, $1400 each.

BYNG TRICKS FOE; RETIRES TO NEW LINE

British, in Strong Positions, Await Germans' Greatest Attack

WITHDRAWAL ORDERLY

Teutons Gain Unoccupied Ground—Closely Packed Ranks Pelted With Shells

By WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES IN THE FIELD, Dec. 7.

The British army expects Germany's biggest—and perhaps its final—offensive effort of the war shortly.

General Byng's retirement from Bourlon was regarded today as the first prime precautionary measure for the British to withstand such a shock.

As the British see it, Germany is now at the zenith of her military power. With Russia out of the war, Germany is enabled to draw on increased man power heretofore held along the Russian lines. She is apparently preparing to throw every ounce of her energy into a supreme attempt at a military victory before the arrival of American troops on the fighting line.

In the Bourlon sector there were only two alternatives open to General Byng. One was to push ahead and the other was to step backward to a more secure footing. With the Russian situation permitting the enemy to mass the forces on the Cambrai line, the backward step seemed the only thing to do.

The withdrawal puts the British into a much better posture to receive the expected attack. It was carried out perfectly—so perfectly that the Germans looked foolish in their attacks on unoccupied land.

The Boches shelled the uninhabited land and thereabouts for hours with a hurricane barrage. Then they attacked with dense masses. Their storming waves found the forest of Bourlon garrisoned only with the dead.

Patrols from the enemy lines later cautiously wormed their way to the ruins nearby—like wary mice approaching a suspicious bit of cheese. One dash of British shrapnel sent them scurrying back. Then came thick waves of more German "shock troops," charging over the crest and upon both sides of Bourlon. They were charging positions occupied at that moment only by ground rats. When they got there and were trying to puzzle out the withdrawal British guns pelted their closely packed masses with shells.

The British did not leave a single piece of material in the evacuated section. Even telephone wires were neatly rolled up and taken away. Every dugout was destroyed.

Today the German airmen in flocks were trying with all their might to find out what was occurring behind Byng's lines of retirement.

POLICE SEEK INCENDIARIES

Fourth Fire in Year at Station House Arouses Suspicion

The fourth fire in a year in the Sixty-first and Thompson streets police station has caused Lieutenant Smiley, of the station, to suspect incendiarism, and he has assigned Detectives Seal, Wootan, Sibre and Martin to investigate.

The fourth fire started in the patrol crew's quarters last night when the crew was out with the wagon. Firemen of Engine Company No. 41, next door to the police station, walked over and extinguished the flames. Their suspicions were aroused by one-half of a celluloid collar, which they found on the table. Of the three previous fires, one started in the patrol room and two in the police station proper.

$5000 Willed to Charities

Five thousand dollars to be divided among the Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Women's S. P. C. A., the Home of the Merciful Saviour for Crippled Children and the Home for Incurables is left by the will of Mary A. Day, who died recently in the Women's Homeopathic Hospital, leaving an estate valued at $7000.

Another will probated today was that of William H. Galbraith, who died in the Lankenau Hospital, leaving an $9800 estate to his widow and a daughter.

"FIRE WILSON" NEW DEMAND OF 1000 COPS

Resolution Requests the Mayor to Dismiss Three Department Chiefs

INTIMIDATION CHARGED

Crooked Politicians Used Police, Charge

In demanding the dismissal of Director Wilson, Assistant Director Davis and Superintendent Robinson, by resolution, the police said:

"For years the police in Philadelphia have been used as tools by crooked politicians.

"These politicians are responsible for the intolerable existing conditions in the police department.

"The climax was reached on September 19 last, when Eppley, a member of our department and association, was murdered by a thug imported to this city by politicians.

"We are unwilling to endure another year of intimidation and oppression.

"We want immediate relief. We believe the first step should be a change in the management of the police department."

Philadelphia policemen who are threatening to strike have asked Mayor Smith for the "heads" of Director Wilson, Assistant Director Harry C. Davis and Superintendent of Police Robinson.

The demand was made in the form of a resolution passed at a meeting of the Patrolmen's Benevolent and Protective Association at 1626 Arch street.

More than 1000 policemen attended the meeting.

Director Wilson and his two highest assistants were accused openly of "intimidation and oppression" by the police.

"We are unwilling to endure oppression and intimidation for another year," the resolution said. "We want immediate relief."

This is the first time in the history of Philadelphia that the police thus have risen openly against their superiors. Yesterday, also for the first time, saw policemen in this city guarding against a possible outbreak by other policemen.

There will be no immediate strike of the police.

Open "hostilities" have been postponed until next Thursday. An important meeting of the association has been called for that day.

The resolutions branded present police conditions in this city as "intolerable." They were passed after a sensational scene at City Hall—when 300 reserves and fifty mounted men prevented 1000 patrolmen from meeting and voicing their opinions of dissention.

The doors of Councils also were closed on the members.

Intensely aroused, many members of the association were for calling an immediate strike. Cooler heads advised a temporary delay and fixed the meeting for Thursday in order to give Mayor Smith time to act.

The resolutions point to the killing of Detective Eppley on primary election day in the Fifth Ward murder as the climax of existing intolerable conditions. The resolutions follow:

Whereas for many years the police of Philadelphia have been the subject of criticism and have been regarded with contempt by the police department and citizens of other municipalities, and

Whereas, for years the police of this city have been used as tools by crooked politicians who are responsible for the deplorable conditions now prevalent in our department, and

Whereas, A climax was reached on September 19 last, when one of our comrades and members was murdered by a thug brought to this city by these politicians and again today, when members of our own organization were ordered to drive us from City Hall plaza, where we planned to hold a peaceful demonstration, and

Whereas, The citizens of Philadelphia are entitled to protection from the Department of Public Safety, and it is to insure this protection that we are engaged in the present struggle for a square deal from our superior officers; and

Whereas, nearly a year will elapse be-

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BATTLING SMOKE AND FLAME AT POTTER FACTORY FIRE

More than one-half of the city's fire-fighting force was called into service today when fire threatened destruction to the extensive oilcloth and linoleum plant of Thomas Potter Sons & Co., along the track of the New York branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad, at Second street, Glenwood and Erie avenues. A two-hour heroic struggle saved the main buildings after damage estimated between $100,000 and $250,000 had been done.

NEW WAR SPIRIT STIRS CONGRESS

Austrian Declaration Will Be Rushed Through Both Houses

DEBATE TO BE LIMITED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.

America will be at war with Austria within twenty-four hours unless all signs fail. To do the President's bidding both houses of Congress met at noon today and purpose to sweep the war declaration through.

Virtually no debate was in sight. The temper of Congress is stripped of pacifism.

Despite the strong sentiment for including Bulgaria and Turkey in America's enemy list, there appears little likelihood that Congress will depart from President Wilson's counsel that they be not included now.

However, members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee reserved the right to offer a separate resolution for a declaration against two lesser vassals of Germany.

The State Department said in effect there is some chance of detaching Turkey, at least, from the Central Powers and making a separate peace with her Secretary Lansing reiterated the Administration's position in opposition to the Turko-Bulgar declaration, but declined to state whether the Administration actually would block such a trend now. He manifestly believed it advisable to ponder a bit while the Americans are removed from Turkey.

The House plans to set a limit on debate. Probably by tonight the resolution will clear that branch and the only discordant note in prospect was a possible speech from Socialist Representative London.

In the Senate unanimous consent to consideration of the resolution is necessary for immediate action, and the only potential obstacle there is Senator La Follette.

QUICK NEWS

PHILADELPHIAN DIES AT ASHEVILLE, N. C.

J. Blair Kennerly, prominent Philadelphia coal operator, died yesterday in Asheville, N. C., where he went last September in the hope of regaining the health he had lost from overwork. His wife and daughter Vivian were with him when he died. The body will be brought to Philadelphia tomorrow.

SUSPECTS PLOT AGAINST BABY WAR BONDS

LANCASTER, Pa., Dec. 7.—Asistant Postmaster Whitson said today that reports made by letter carriers who are conducting a voluntary campaign for the sale of baby war bonds reveal what appears to be a county-wide propagauda to block the sales of stamps and certificates. Cases are benig investigated where mailmen have been accused of "knocking down" on the sales. Rumors of graft in the sales have been heard in all sections.

THOUSANDS OF BUSHELS OF GRAIN BURNED

ABERDEEN, S. D., Dec. 7.—The Freeman-Bain elevator, part of its contents of 28,000 bushels of grain and adjoining office building were destroyed by fire today, with a loss of more than $50,000.

DENMARK MAKES TRADE DEAL WITH GERMANY

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 7.—Negotiations by Austria and Germany for Danish coal, iron, steel, agricultural products, etc., have been concluded. Negotiations by Great Britain for agricultural products are still being conducted.

MORE BRAVE AMERICANS DECORATED

AMERICAN FIELD HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, Dec. 7.—American Sanitary Section No. 5, serving with the Fernch army, which has been twice cited for splendid conduct before the enemy, received their decorations today. Every member received the War Cross and permission to wear the fourrage (knot of braid over the shoulder), which marks a unit officially recognized by France for bravery.

CADETS PROBABLY WIN ELECTION IN RUSSIA

PETROGRAD (via London), Dec. 7.—The Dieto Naroda fears that the Cadets have been victorious in the elections in most parts of the country and warns the Bolshevists of the consequences.

BLISS WILL SEE WAR AT CLOSE RANGE

LONDON, Dec. 7.—An opportunity to get a glimpse of the twentieth century warfare at close range will be given to General Tasker H. Bliss, chief of staff of the United States army, who arrived at British headquarters today to be the guest of Field Marshal Haig. General Bliss was one of the American representatives at the first meeting of the Supreme Inter-Allied War Council at Versailles recently.

WOULD REVISE SOUTHERN FREIGHT RATES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—General revision of freight rates by southern carriers is proposed in an application filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission today. Foodstuffs, iron and steel products, petroleum, cotton products and other commodities are included. General increases are planned, but a number of decreases are proposed.

AUSTRIAN EMPEROR YEARNS FOR DAY OF PEACE

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 7.—The Austrian Emperor at the reception of the Austrian delegations, remarked to the presidents of the Parliaments: "It will be the finest day of my life when I can conclude peace."

CECIL DENIES ALLIED TREATY AGAINST POPE

LONDON, Dec. 7.—Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of Blockade, denies that England and France entered into any treaty or understanding to support England against the Holy See if the Holy See attempted to take steps toward peace. Asked in the House of Commons why no reasonable reply to the Pope's note was made by England, France and Italy, he said: "The British, French and Italian Governments considered no reply necessary beyond that returned by President Wilson."

OPPOSES CLOSING OF SCHOOLS TO SAVE COAL

WILMINGTON, Del., Dec. 7.—President Miller, of the Broad of Education, will have a conference next Monday with State Fuel Administrator Ten Weeges, relative to the threatened closing of the schools of the city to help conserve the fuel supply. He and other members will strongly oppose the plan. It is understood the fuel administration wants to close the schools, take their coal and distribute it for public use and then have the schools in session all summer, if necessary, to make up for lost time.

U. S. CONSUL GENERAL AT HALIFAX IS SAFE

Ethelbert Watts, Noted Philadelphian, Escaped Death in Big Explosion

Ethelbert Watts, noted Philadelphian and American Consul General at Halifax, is safe. Mrs. Watts, who lives at the family home, 1021 Clinton street, received a telegram from him advising her that he and his helpers had escaped death and injury in the frightful disaster. Mrs. Watts was overjoyed to know her husband was safe, and yet grieved deeply for the sufferings of others.

The State Department at Washington has been much worried as to Mr. Watts's fate, no word having been received from him since the disaster. Consul Freeman, of Sydney, N. S., has been ordered to Halifax to investigate. Why the State Department did not receive a message from Mr. Watts is not explained.

Mr. Watts entered the consular service in 1896 and held important posts in Switzerland, at Cairo, Egypt—where he signally served the United States during the Spanish-American War—at Kingston, Jamaica, at Brussels and later at Halifax. He went to Halifax a few months ago to relieve Consul General Eben Young, to whom a leave of absence was granted.

Appointed Consul of Venezuela

J. J. Turney has been appointed consul ad honorem of the United States of Venezuela in Philadelphia. He has assumed his duties as consul, with offices at the Mercantile and Merchant Building, [illegible] street.

COUNCILS GET REVISED TRANSIT LEASE TODAY

Changes in Smith-Mitten Proposal to Be Submitted at Meeting of Committees

The revision of the Smith-Mitten transit lease will be presented to the Joint Committee on Finance and Street Railways this afternoon at the sixth meeting of the committee to get the views of all interested parties. The meeting of the committee will be held in Room 496, City Hall.

The revision of the lease comes as the result of many conferences held between Mayor Smith, officials of the department and the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company since October 26, the date of the last councilmanic meeting. Dr. William Draper Lewis, the Mayor's legal advisor in transit matters, was asked at that meeting to make amendments to the lease, meeting the objections of several persons who expressed their opinions on the faults of the lease at the hearings before the Joint Committee on Finance and Street Railways of Councils.

The latest terms were worked out by Director Twining, Doctor Lewis, Thomas E. Mitten, president; Ellis Ames Ballard, chief counsel, and A. L. Drum, chief engineer of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company. It is believed that transit officials will present an analysis of the new lease to assist the members of the committee in digesting its different phases.

The city's transit officials would not discuss the new proposals last night. They have already been passed upon by Mayor Smith, who in all likelihood will attend the hearing today.

HOOVER GOES AFTER FOOD DISTRIBUTORS

Rejection of Shipments Unjustifiably to Be Cause for Revocation of License

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.

Herbert Hoover in his war on waste in foodstuffs has gone after the scalps of licensed distributors in big cities. The food dictator today sent out instructions to all State administrators designed to round up food handlers who have been following the peace time practice of hoodwinking farmers and other shippers by rejecting shipments unjustifiably and permitting them to go to waste.

Consignees now under license who refuse without good cause to unload shipments of perishables will have their licenses revoked. This action is expected to have a salutary effect in speeding up the unloading and movement of refrigerator cars, in addition to preventing a very large wastage of food.

$5700 LOSS IN GARAGE FIRE

Blaze Starts When Employe Stumbles With Lantern in Hand

When an employe of McElwee Brothers' Garage, at 1208 South Twenty-third street, stumbled with a lantern in his hand early today a fire resulted, causing a loss of $5700.

Thomas Taylor, a mechanic, was the man who stumbled. The lantern fell into a pile of rags, which quickly took fire. John Snyder, another employe, rushed to Taylor's assistance and the two succeeded in removing twelve of the fourteen automobiles in the place. The garage was partly destroyed, the loss being $200, and the two lost cars were worth $600 and $3000.

POT OF TAR FIRES OILCLOTH WORKS

Six-Alarm Blaze in Uptown Factory Blocks Traffic on P. R. R.

LOSS MAY BE $75,000

Several Firemen Overcome by Smoke and Falling Wall Endangers Lives of Others

Unofficial estimate of the fire loss is place at $250,000 by a news bureau. The loss is fully covered by insurance. Trains this afternoon are being operated on two tracks of the New York division of the Pennsylvania Railroad at reduced speed.

A spectacular fire, which temporarily tied up traffic on the New York division of the Pennsylvania Railroad and drew thousands of persons to the scene, was discovered today in the coating building of the Thomas Potter's Sons Company, Incorporated, oil cloth manufacturers, Second street and Erie avenue.

Six alarms brought the bulk of the city's fire fighting apparatus to the scene, which at one o'clock had the blaze under control. The loss may reach $75,000.

The fire was caused by the overturning of a pot of boiling tar on the fourth floor of the building shortly before nine o'clock. An alarm was turned in immediately and the entire force of 250 workmen attempted to check the flames with the company apparatus. They were forced to flee, however, when the engines arrived, and the other alarms were turned in in quick succession.

The building has two wings, is of brick construction, five stories high. It is about 500 feet wide by 600 feet long and is in close proximity to the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks. Numerous small buildings surround it.

In the administration building, a few hundred feet away, were thirty or forty women clerks and stenographers. They refused to leave, however, and went back to their desks when the city apparatus arrived.

Several firemen were slightly overcome by the dense smoke that issued from the burning building, but were revived on the scene. Shortly after 10 o'clock a portion of the wall on the south side collapsed and the lives of ten firemen were endangered.

Elmer Laury, a negro employed in the plant, was prevented from leaping from the fourth floor of the building, and firemen rescued him wth the aid of extension ladders.

BURLESON'S ATTACK ON TUBES RESENTED

Business Men Warmly Defend Service Despite Postmaster General's Argument

The Philadelphia Bourse, Board of Trade, Chamber of Commerce, Commercial Exchange and other commercial bodies of the city, united in the joint committee on the retention of the pneumatic tube mail service, are preparing to make a fight at the present session of Congress for the continuance of the tube service in this city. The attack on the tube service here and in other cities, and the arguments in favor of their abolition contained in Postmaster General Burleson's report, were answered today by Emil P. Albrecht, president of the Bourse and acting chairman of the joint committee, as follows:

"The Postmaster General, after two unsuccessful efforts, is again endeavoring to abolish this most essential mail transmission facility and to substitute, for some unknown reason motortrucks. All of the charges against the tubes which he makes have been disproved by actual tests conducted by the business interests of Philadelphia, New York and the other cities concerned, and his charge of 'exorbitant, unjust and extravagant waste of public funds'—as he characterizes the tube contracts—can, as he well knows, be answered by Government purchase and operation of the tubes.

"His statement that the discontinuance of the tubes will be fought by those 'financially or personally interested' is unfair and untrue. The united business and financial interests of Philadelphia seek the retention and expansion of the tubes because without them business here would be hampered and delayed and immense sums lost on bank deposits while the grain business virtually would come to a standstill. They have neither financial nor personal interest in the sense that Mr. Burleson so unfairly implies.

"The Postmaster General makes his real argument when he says that the postal employes favor the tubes' abolition. Few, indeed, would be brave enough to openly favor the tubes when they know that the head of the postal service opposes them. Why Mr. Burleson persists in his retrogressive policy when he stands alone and when Congress at the last session made it mandatory upon him to extend the contracts for another year, no one knows. The head of the Postoffice Department is to facilitate mail dispatch and to relieve already congested street traffic, which hampers the movement of the motor vehicles now in use by the postoffice authorities in the central districts of this and other cities.

"Because of our extremely narrow streets, the unbearable congestion of vehicular traffic and the distance of our North Philadelphia Station, where long distance trains touch Philadelphia to receive mail, Philadelphia is completely dependent upon the tubes. If the Postmaster General should succeed in his latest attempt, Philadelphia would be placed a day behind in business."

THE WEATHER

THE FORECAST

For Philadelphia and vicinity: Fair and continued cold tonight, with lowest temperature about 25 degrees; Saturday increasing cloudiness; moderate northerly winds.

LENGTH OF DAY

Sun rises, 7:00 a. m. | Sun sets, [illegible]

DELAWARE RIVER TIDE [illegible]

CHESTNUT STREET

Low water, 3:17 a. m. | Low water, [illegible]

High water, 9:32 a. m. | High water, [illegible]

THIRTY-SECOND AT [illegible]