

HARRISBURG WAR SUPPLY PLANT BURNS

Shell-Making Factory Is Damaged by Mysterious Fire

TWO WORKMEN INJURED Explosion Precedes Flames That Cause Loss of Several Hundred Thousand Dollars

HARRISBURG, Jan. 2.—The Harrisburg Pipe and Pipe Bending Company's plant engaged in the manufacture of shells for the United States Government, was damaged to the extent of several hundred thousand dollars by fire early today.

The fire started in the paint shop of the works about 4 o'clock and workmen in the vicinity say that it was preceded by an explosion. The paint shop, the high pressure cylinder of the "bottle" shop and the four-inch rough turning and rough boring four-inch shell department were practically ruined.

Two workmen, Clarence Dickey, colored, and Mervin Sherry, were badly burned, but will recover. President David Tracy said this morning that a large number of rough and finished high-pressure cylinders were in the finishing department at the time of the fire and hundreds of rough and finished four-inch shells were in the shellroom.

Mr. Tracy said the biggest loss is the machinery, and orders have already been placed for rough orders to replace the damaged equipment. The company is already advertising for a large number of carpenters and other workmen and the plant will be rebuilt within a very short time.

Mr. Tracy, who was among the first at the fire, said that the co-operation of the workmen with the firemen saved the parts of the plant where the most delicate parts of the shell work are made.

The fire was fought in a temperature hovering near the zero point and snow falling. The loss is covered by insurances.

The Pipe and Pipe Bending Company was among the first to receive shell orders from the Allies after the beginning of the war and when the Allies were able to supply their own needs, turned its capacity over to the United States Government and has been making small-caliber shells on War Department orders ever since.

St. Louis, Jan. 2.—Eight to twelve inches of snow covers Chicago today and has caused a serious shortage of fuel in the city, resulting in the partial closing down of the Wisconsin steel company's plant, throwing 1000 men out of employment.

Railroad Director McAdoo may order that coal shipments to Chicago be held in immediate right over all rail traffic from the west for a week.

Chicago, Jan. 2.—Seven persons have been killed and twenty-four injured by the explosion of a mine washed ashore between Ramsgate and Deal.

LONDON, Jan. 2.—Seven persons have been killed and twenty-four injured by the explosion of a mine washed ashore between Ramsgate and Deal.

NAMES CHIEF CLERK Former Writ Server Gets \$2400 Job Under City Solicitor

TEUTONS PLAN TO OFFER "MODIFIED" PEACE TERMS

To Declare Conditions Based on "Entente's Attitude" Within 10 Days, Swiss Hear

Bolsheviki and Germans Break Off Conference at Brest-Litovsk

Slavs Press Demands for Immediate Withdrawal From All Occupied Cities

Berne, Jan. 2.—Within ten days the Central Powers will make a new declaration of modified peace conditions "owing to a quotation from the Munich Nachrichten, received here today.

PETROGRAD, Jan. 2.—The Brest-Litovsk peace conference broke up with Russian delegates taunting the German envoys on the demands of Junkerdom, according to returning Bolshevik members today.

The Germans, it was said, expressed their willingness to evacuate all of White Russia, but announced flat refusal to withdraw from Riga, Libau or other of the big cities, except in the event of a general peace.

The scheme, as the Russian delegates saw it, was for the Germans to keep great bodies of troops in these sections until, as provided under the other sections of the proposed agreement, the people in those territories had voted on their future Government.

The Russian members declared openly their attitude that, even if Russian troops were to be withdrawn, they would not accept a proposition, tantamount to making delegates with the remainder they would have a hard time explaining it to their own demob.

TEUTON AIM REVEALED Germany will not consider the Brest-Litovsk declaration as binding on her unless the Allies accept the invitation to negotiate a general peace, according to M. Pavlovitch, a non-Bolshevik delegate, who returned from the conference today.

"Germany's fundamental aim in the negotiations," he said, "is to establish an economic union from Hamburg to the Persian Gulf.

"Bulgarian and Turkish representatives are more obstinate in the conferences than the Germans, but I do not think they will hamper future negotiations.

"In return for the evacuation of Belgium and France, Germany will demand the freeing of Mesopotamia, Arabia and Palestine, as well as the return of Tripoli in case of further success against Italy."

WANT GERMAN REIDS FREED Russian delegates to the conference here demanded that Germany release the Junker and Socialist prisoners, according to reports here today.

AMBASSADOR MIRBAH, head of the German mission, protested against the demand as being entirely political. The conference is continuing here today.

NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 2.—While shivering patrols guarded the fireproof business section today, Government and city officials sought to make a list of the buildings which were the root of the fires and explosions which yesterday did about \$2,000,000 damage to the Monticello Hotel and other buildings.

A spy hunt while the flames still blazed netted Hugo Schmidt and H. Lessing and a number of other suspects, Schmidt and Lessing, held by Department of Justice agents, were given the same treatment.

Winter winds sweeping in from the Atlantic stirred the flames through the night in the ruins of the hotel, Granby Theatre and other structures, but the fire chief believed that any serious spread was doubtful.

MEANTIME THE HAMPTON ROAD DISTRICT was the scene of two other fires.

PEACE MOVES SHOWN IN NEWS

GERMANY and her allies will issue a new declaration of "modified" peace conditions within ten days, according to Swiss reports.

The Russian and Rumanian are close to a break because of the withholding of food from the latter people. A Rumanian army has invaded Besarabia and occupied several towns.

In the meantime fighting between Bolshevik and Ukrainian forces continues, the latest battle reported being at Smolensk.

BRITISH THWART SIX MONTHS SET TO DECIDE WAR

Germans Attacked and Routed While Still in No Man's Land

Captain Tardieu, French Envoy, Sees Victory in Short Time

AN ATLANTIC PORT, Jan. 2.—Captain Andre Tardieu, French High Commissioner to the United States, returning here today, made this statement:

The Entente Allies are entering the hardest period of the war, but a period which will prove richest in decisive results if we know how to spend it for a period of six months.

The commissioner first arrived in this country last May. He returned to France in November, and his Government decided to continue his office until the end of the war.

While Captain Tardieu pointed to the possibility of a strong German attack on the western front during this winter, he is "absolutely confident" that it will be another Verdun, he said in a statement.

The urgency of an enormous economic effort was emphasized by the French representative in this statement.

"The battle is not only on the battle field, I have told the French, with complete frankness, what American experts from them in the way of restrictions and new sacrifices, I am convinced that they will have to make necessary sacrifices that France and her Allies are expecting from America for victory."

Men, wheat, oil, shoes and locomotives are the things most needed, and which America is able to give, Captain Tardieu said.

By way of tribute to Colonel E. M. House, who headed the American mission to the Inter-Allied War Conference in Paris, Captain Tardieu said:

"Thanks to the presence of Colonel House and his associates, the Inter-Allied Conference has done excellent work. It was necessary that the Government of the United States should assert its will and its capacity to take, in Europe the part which belongs to America in the direction of the war."

The French army has never been more magnificent, the British army is equally superb and the American army is increasing day by day, Captain Tardieu said in speaking of the morale of the Allied forces.

So that he might retain his commission to the United States, Captain Tardieu declined to accept a proposal in President Clemenceau's cabinet. He did this, he said, because he believed "nothing is more necessary" than the work to be done through this commission.

CHARLTON HOME AGAIN

Defies U-Boats on Another Trip Through War Zone

Lieutenant-Commander John Frederick Charlton, U. S. N., a Philadelphian, who, as captain of the tanker Silver Shell, had the distinction of sinking the first German submarine disposed of by the American forces after the entrance of this country into the war and who received a commission in the navy in recognition of his services, has made another voyage in safety across the Atlantic and back through the war zone.

The news of his arrival in an American port was conveyed in a telegram to the United States, which was received this morning. The message, which was dated last night, read: "Arrived here safely tonight. Happy New Year greetings to all. Will be home in a few days."

FIRST U. S. SOLDIER BURIED AT VERDUN

Impressive Services Held on Historic Ground for American Killed in Accident

French Pay Tribute

By HENRI BAZIN Staff Correspondent, Public Ledger and the American Army in France

CITY ICE-BOUND; SCHOOLS CLOSE

Weather Bureau Holds No Hope of Relief Before Friday

RIVER TRAFFIC IMPEDED

Coalless Bins and Bursting Pipes Add to Zero Spell's Discomfort

Today's Cold Comfort

SEVERAL public schools closed. Charitable societies helpless. Ferries to Gloucester shut off. Ice streets caused broken limbs. No let-up before Friday, says the Weather Bureau.

Hourly Temperatures

Table with 2 columns: Time and Temperature. Midnight 11, 1 a.m. 11, 2 a.m. 9, 3 a.m. 8, 4 a.m. 8, 5 a.m. 8, 6 a.m. 7, 7 a.m. 7, 8 a.m. 8, 9 a.m. 9, 10 a.m. 8, 11 a.m. 9.

With the Weather Bureau holding out no encouragement that the extreme cold weather will moderate before Friday at the earliest, the suffering in thousands of the city's houses on account of the lack of coal continued today.

Several of the city schools were closed, among them the William Penn High School, Carnegie schools, and the University City School. The schools were closed, however, because of their own lack of funds, were able to do little to alleviate the suffering.

Skating is to be had on all the lakes in Fairmount Park and on the Schuylkill River, from the Dauphin street to the Girard avenue bridge.

The several schools of the city which were hard hit today by the present glacial temperature, combined with the present severe coal shortage, included the Belmont, the E. Spangler Miller School, the Colchuckin School Annex, Fourth street and Montgomery avenue; the New Market and others, whose names were not available this morning at the offices of the Board of Education.

William Dick, secretary of the board, announced this morning that the William Penn High school for girls may be closed due to lack of coal. A peculiar condition exists there in that the bins of the school are not large enough.

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REPORTED HELD IN RUSSIA George Gibbs, of Philadelphia, is one of the members of the American Railway Mission to Russia, reported arrested at Irkutsk, Siberia, by the Bolsheviks. He formerly was chief mechanical engineer of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

NO INFORMATION HERE ON MISSION'S ARREST

Pennsylvania Railroad Electrical Engineer One of Five Reported Seized by Bolsheviks

No information about the reported arrest of the members of the American Railway Mission to Russia by Bolshevik authorities at Irkutsk, Siberia, has been received by the Pennsylvania Railroad, it was said today at its offices here.

George Gibbs, consulting electric engineer for the railroad, is one of the five men composing the mission, which left Washington May 2, arriving at Vladivostok June 2. There the members were reported to have remained several days to arrange for the construction of shops for the assembling of American locomotives to be shipped to Russia.

The arrival of the mission was hailed as an important event by N. V. Nekrasoff, Minister of Communications in the Kerensky Provisional Government. The mission probably was a route to Petrograd on a tour of inspection of the trans-Siberian railroad when the Bolsheviks seized the Government.

More than 100 of the 2019 Pennsylvania Railroad employees in the United States service are believed to be in Siberia at the present time, as members of the several railway units, of several hundred men each, which are helping to reorganize the Russian railway transportation problem. The arrest of Charles R. Smith, of St. Louis, by the Bolsheviks at Tchita, Siberia, was reported December 14, but he was released. He went to Russia on a private mission in May, 1916, later joining the official American representatives.

QUICK NEWS

BRITISH AMBASSADOR GOING HOME "ON LEAVE" WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—British Ambassador Sir Cecil Spring-Rice is returning to England "on leave," he announced today.

STREET FIGHTING RENEWED IN ODESSA COPENHAGEN, Jan. 2.—Another outbreak of street fighting is reported from Odessa. All Cosacks of military age have been ordered mobilized.

PLAN TO BOOM WAR THROUGH CHAUTAUQUAS WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—Thirty field agents of the Radcliffe Chautauquas, headed by Victor W. L. Radcliffe, called on the Secretaries of State, War and Navy to confer on methods of spreading war propaganda through the various Chautauquas.

TROTSKY NAMES NEW AMBASSADOR TO LONDON LONDON, Jan. 2.—Leon Trotsky, leader of the Bolsheviks, has sent a wireless message announcing the appointment of Citizen Litvinoff as Russian Ambassador to London and commands that all embassy and other officials of the Russian Government now in Great Britain turn over to the new appointee all State documents and funds.

RAILROAD WOULD CANCEL NEW YORK FERRY TRIPS WASHINGTON, Jan. 2.—The Lehigh Valley Railroad applied today to the Interstate Commerce Commission for permission to cancel the round-trip of passenger transfer boats and to increase the charter price \$50 between the Lehigh Valley pier in Jersey City and the docks in the Harlem River.

MAKE PLACE FOR WOMEN IN BRITISH NAVY LONDON, Jan. 2.—England today issued a call for women in the navy, not as fighting sailors, but to replace men doing clerical and repair work on land. It was announced by the Admiralty that a Women's Royal Naval Service is to be established for women and that they will be equipped with special uniforms. A recruiting scheme is now being worked out.

MASKED RAIDERS SEIZE ARMS IN GALWAY DUBLIN, Jan. 2.—A party of men wearing disguises raided farm houses at Galway, confiscating arms and ammunition, according to reports received here today.

GERMANS DEPRESSED BY KAISER'S PROCLAMATION THE HAGUE, Jan. 2.—The Kaiser's latest proclamation to the German army and navy has had a depressing effect upon the German people. A telegram from the German frontier said that the people interpreted it as meaning that peace is still far in the future. The Kaiser's defiant address and his admonition to his troops to "march forward with God for fresh victories" acted as a wet blanket.

SUSPECT GERMAN INFLUENCE IN INDIAN PLOTS LONDON, Jan. 2.—A special commission, sitting at Delhi, has begun an investigation of the revolutionary conspiracies in India, according to a telegram from Bombay today. The investigation is being carried on in secret by five commissioners and one of its objects is to ascertain how far German influence was responsible for the plots. Some of the conspiracies are said to have been hatched in the United States and that German gold was behind them.

FINED FOR RIDING TO CHURCH IN AUTO LONDON, Jan. 2.—A. O. Symes and his son, of Dorchester, were fined \$125 each for riding to church in an automobile. They were arrested under the motor restriction order on the ground that they used up gasoline unnecessarily.

GALSWORTHY DECLINES BRITISH KNIGHTHOOD LONDON, Jan. 2.—John Galsworthy, the author, has declined knighthood, but his letter was too late to prevent the publication of his name in the official list of New Year honours.

SENATOR HUGHES IN SERIOUS CONDITION TRENTON, Jan. 2.—William Hughes, United States Senator, of Paterson, N. J., ill in a hospital here with poisoning from his teeth, is suffering complications caused by bronchial pneumonia. His condition is considered serious.

RANGERS RUSHED TO BORDER TO PREVENT RAID AUSTIN, Tex., Jan. 2.—All available rangers of the Texas force have been dispatched to Alpine and vicinity by Adjutant General Harley on receipt of reports that Mexicans were planning a raid over the border near that point. No details have been received here with reference to the trouble.

REPORT ALL CARS WITHOUT 1918 LICENSE TAGS Names of all automobile owners who run their cars without the 1918 license tags will be reported to the State Highway Commissioners for further action, regardless of whether the new tags have been received or not, according to a statement given out from the office of the commission.

Y. M. C. A. BUILDING BUSINESS MEN PLAN FOR HOG ISLAND MEN TRANSIT-LEASE STAND

Huge Structure Will Provide Ample Facilities for Recreation

Action to Be Taken by United Association Will Be Discussed Tonight

Hog Island is to have what probably will be the largest industrial recreation building in the United States, operated by the Young Men's Christian Association.

According to final plans just approved, the building is to be 206 feet long and 160 feet wide, divided into three main sections. The association expects to finish it within a few weeks.

Thousands of men at the Hog Island shipbuilding plant will be accommodated by the building. One of its three sections will contain an auditorium, with a seating capacity of 1200. The central portion of the building has a large lobby, 112 feet by 96 feet, with tables for writing, games, canteen and executive offices and room for twelve pool tables. This room has a large open fireplace. There is also space for barber, tailor and cobbler shops.

The right wing of the building will be used as a gymnasium to accommodate large classes in wrestling, boxing and other sports. Bowling alleys will be built and ample lockers and shower baths provided.

Charles A. Green, general secretary of the Y. M. C. A., at the du Pont Mills, Carey's Point, N. J., will take charge of the association's work in the new building. Mr. Green has had nineteen years' experience in various branches of association service.

Pending completion of the new building, temporary quarters have been provided by the Y. M. C. A. in the heart of the workmen's quarters, where men may amuse themselves after working hours by writing letters home.

Burned to Death in Cabin Theodore Zeiser, sixty years old, was burned to death in a fire which destroyed the cabin in which he lived at Richmond street and Wheatthorpe lane.

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Baby Falls in Tub of Cold Water Fifteen-month-old Edward Pollock, 2422 South Jessup street, is in a serious condition in the Methodist Hospital after being frost-bitten and nearly drowned when he fell in a tub of cold water in the hallway of his home.

COAL REVENUE STILL REVENUE DEALERS

Cold Weather and Mines Nullify McAdoo's "Clear Tracks" Order

DRIVERS QUITTING JOBS Employes Fail to Return to Work in Yards After New Year's Holiday

City's Coal Situation Assumes Grave Aspect

COAL situation for city assumes serious outlook. Drivers abandon positions for higher wages at Hog Island.

Relief postponed for day or two, dealers say, due to many idle mines yesterday and railroad stoppages.

Railways Director General McAdoo speeding shipments; may bring some relief to city.

Business men meet tonight at Bingham Hotel; will discuss Francis A. Lewis and take protest over new prices to President Wilson.

State Controller Potter orders all violators of lightless nights ban use of current for night display.

The coal shortage in Philadelphia today is as acute as at any time since the fuel famine began.

The combination of tied-up railroads and idle mines during the last two-four hours has postponed any measure of relief for at least two days.

At a conservative estimate the nation lost about 200,000 tons of coal through the idleness of the mines, which means that Philadelphia's promised receipts of 15,000 tons daily cannot possibly reach the city and possibly neither tomorrow nor Friday.

To make the situation more serious, a number of dealers complain that the higher wages offered workmen at the shipbuilding plant of the American Shipbuilding Corporation at Hog Island, has caused scores of dealers to leave their position with the Philadelphia coal companies and take jobs at Hog Island.

"If coal does not reach the city in larger quantities than during the past few days and the shortage of labor continues," one prominent dealer said, "it will be extremely difficult for the consumer to obtain coal. In many instances but 20 per cent of the coal has returned to their positions at the New Year holiday."

The shortage of drivers of delivery trucks is another cause of concern. A general shortage of drivers was general throughout the city. At the George B. Newton Company, the largest coal concern in Philadelphia, but eighteen trucks and wagons out of the fleet of seventy, it was said, are delivering coal.

So indifferent are a number of the drivers because of the much higher wages that they may obtain at Hog Island, said the United Business Association, that they have refused to report for work, or notify the companies that employed them they were leaving. Some, he said, even failed to bring back trucks or turn in the money collected.

Although it was announced at Washington that William G. McAdoo, director general of the railroads, was clearing away "obstacles" of the coal dealers were inclined to be optimistic because of the severe weather and the start of a slight thaw.

Some of the dealers said that the snowfall about the city has caused many yards and terminals to roll up passenger trains were sidetracked to allow the prompt shipment of coal. In Philadelphia would be very hard hit.

The continued cold weather is causing much suffering in all sections of the city. Thousands of men at the Hog Island shipbuilding plant will be accommodated by the building.

But 8000 tons of family coal were reached the city yesterday, 10,000 below the normal amount needed. Householders and manufacturing plants are unable to obtain sufficient quantities of the fuel. Managers of three sugar refining plants announced that the outlook is anything but hopeful.

Tonight the United Business Association will meet to protest against the action of the city Fuel Administrator in increasing the price of coal.

It is pointed out that the price of coal is now \$12.50 a ton. It is pointed out that the price of coal is now \$12.50 a ton. It is pointed out that the price of coal is now \$12.50 a ton.

An average increase of thirty cents a ton is taken by the Y. M. C. A. building.

Crowded Trolley Car Jumps Overboard NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—Two men were seriously injured and a score of others bruised and cut by flying trolley cars today when a city-bound trolley jumped the track and crashed over the Port Lee, N. J., ferry tracks in Edgewater, opposite 100th street. The car was crowded to the top and shot down the incline to heights above with great speed.

THE WEATHER FORECAST For Philadelphia and vicinity this afternoon and tonight, probably fair; moderate breeze; lowest temperature below freezing; fresh northwesterly wind.

LEHIGH VALLEY RAILROADS The Lehigh Valley Railroad will cancel the round-trip of passenger transfer boats and to increase the charter price \$50 between the Lehigh Valley pier in Jersey City and the docks in the Harlem River.

SKATING ON SCHUYLKILL, LAKE AND WISACHICKON THERE is skating today on the Schuylkill River from the Girard avenue bridge to the bridge Dauphin street. The ice is all in good condition on all the park lakes, Wissachickon Creek and the lake in Hunting Park.