

**THE WEATHER**  
Washington, Feb. 24. Generally cloudy tonight and Wednesday.  
TEMPERATURE AT EACH HOUR

8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5
36	35	34	34	34	34	34	34	34	34

VOL. VI.—NO. 139  
Entered as Second-Class Matter at the Postoffice at Philadelphia, Pa., Under the Act of March 3, 1879.

# SMITH EXPECTED TO DESERT VARE FOR MAYOR MOORE

Leader of 47th Ward, Now in South, Ready to Flip, Cunningham Belief

STATE EXECUTIVE MAY AID FIGHT UPON CONTRACTORS

Governor Discusses Qualifications of Senator Harding for Presidential Nomination

**Smith and Penrose to Fish and Fish**

"Pete" Smith is awaiting the arrival of Senator Penrose at Stuart. His son said today that the forty-seventh ward leader and the Senator would fish extensively.

It is reported that Smith will announce his abandonment of the Vire machine upon his return to the city.

Peter E. Smith, leader of the forty-seventh ward, is expected to desert Mayor Moore, following the trail blazed several days ago by John P. Connelly, former city solicitor and Eleventh ward chief.

The Smith carried his ward for Judge Patterson at the September primaries, the Moore forces gave him a hard battle. The judges obtained 2400 votes there, while Mr. Moore won 2440.

Thomas W. Cunningham, president of the Republican Alliance, is said to be confident that the name of Florida will announce he has through his support to the administration.

**Conference With Penrose**

The forty-seventh ward leader is in Stuart, Fla., and is expected to have frequent conferences with Senator Penrose, who left yesterday for the same place. Smith has been in the South for several weeks.

The ward leader's son, William Smith, who is connected with the State Workmen's Compensation Bureau, is said to be in the elder Smith's anticipated change of front.

A definite announcement on the administration candidate for Congress from the Third district, formerly represented by Mr. Moore, is looked for within two or three days. Mr. Connelly will not be a candidate, it is said now, and reports come from the Twenty-seventh ward, with the battle to be made on the Vire chief.

**Stern is Still Anxious**

Isadore Stern, former state representative, would like to have the administration support for Congress. Stern called on the Mayor today and discussed the congressional situation.

Another caller at the executive's office was James B. Sheehan, register of wills, and leader of the Twelfth ward, which is included in the Third Congressional district.

Mr. Sheehan's visit, from one angle, was inspired by his desire for a \$4500 appropriation by Council to provide two extra clerks and a watchman in his office.

Sheehan sought the Mayor's help in having his request brought before the Council. He pointed out the register's office had received over \$70,000 of the city's share of receipts in excess of the office expenses.

**Sheehan for Ransley**

The register let it be known he is committed to help Ransley's congressional candidacy.

There have been persistent rumors for several days that Senator Edward W. Patton, Vire leader of the Twenty-seventh ward, was about to declare his allegiance to the city administration, according to the report of a source here. "If I had anything to say, I would say it quick. I am not one of those to hold back."

The Moore forces in the Thirtieth ward were strengthened further today through an appointment made by Sheriff Lambert at the request of James A. Savage, Republican Alliance leader of the district.

**Lamberton named** William J. Daily, 2322 Christian street, a former service man, as driver of the prisoners' van of the sheriff's office. The position pays \$1200 a year, the bonus bringing it to \$1510.

**McCoach May Flip, Too**

Councilman William McCoach is Vire leader of the Thirtieth ward. Administration supporters expect to see McCoach join forces with them in the near future.

Mr. Savage expects to land another appointment to the sheriff's office tomorrow. Thomas Waters, 1922 Webster street, is Savage's candidate for a state ship.

Detective Charles Schwarz heard the boy's mother, today. Mrs. Farrell believes her son is still alive and will return to her if he knows that she is near a physical breakdown as the result of his disappearance. She does not believe that he went away of his own accord.

Francis was employed as a messenger boy for a millinery shop on Market street, near Tenth. On September 15 he went to a house at 5028 Palmsky street, where he had collected \$6.50. He was never seen after that. Francis had carried as much as \$150 at a time for the firm, so that theft is dismissed as a motive for his disappearance.

**TO SEARCH WORLD FOR BOY**

Efforts to locate Francis Farrell will be renewed.

Although six months' search of the country has failed to locate Francis Farrell, fifteen years old, 24 East Ashland street, who disappeared September 15, 1919, the Bureau of Missing Persons today renewed its efforts with the intention of extending the search to every nation on the globe.

Every corner of his country will be searched and American consuls in foreign lands will be requested to investigate.

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**CREW SAVED AS SHIP SINKS**

Men From British Schooner Are Taken Aboard the Pike Pool

Boston, Feb. 24.—(By A. P.)—The sinking of the British schooner Greenwood, Warren, was reported in a wireless message today from the British steamer Pike Pool, which has the rescued men on board and will take them to Hampton Roads.

The Greenwood was bound from St. John's, N. F., for Brazil.

**WOOD IN SOUTH DAKOTA**

Opens Campaign With Speech Tonight—Primary March 23

Yankton, S. D., Feb. 24.—(By A. P.)—The campaign of Wood in the maintenance of right and justice, will be a potent factor in the attainment of these happy results.

The federal authorities are lining up additional witnesses to make their case against the draft dodger even better than it now is. The prosecution apparently has here no chance for Bergdoll being declared insane.

# SPRING OMENS APPEAR

**Pussywillow and Skunk Cabbage Are Harbingers**

Spring is right near, according to Messrs. Salix & Simplicarpus, the widely known weather sharps.

If today you wandered countryward, the message of those two trusty prognosticators was doubtless delivered to you in person, for they shouted their glad tidings from woods and open fields.

Salix discolor, to give him his full name, was known to you in the pleasant days of youth as "pussywillow." The little bumps on the hard, woody stem, which later will grow and become soft, silvery fur of the catkins, were swelling with the first impulse of spring.

And in the woods appeared the pussy-willow's brother, prophet of soft breezes and warm skies, the homely skunk cabbage, one of whose hard, scientific names is "simplicarpus proflum." He "braves" welcome adversity with hay fever, for to them it means the recurrence of the annual plague of sneezing. But to all others the skunk cabbage speaks eloquently of springtime and the breaking up of the long bonds of snow and ice.

They're here, pussywillow and skunk cabbage, and now our spring-attuned ears are filled with a cheery note of the first robin redbreast.

There was a warm gleam of sunshine now and then today, but generally cloudy tonight and tomorrow, with lower temperatures in forecast. The temperature at 1 o'clock this afternoon was 40.

# LAUNCH SHIP TODAY IN SOLDIERS' HONOR

**Argonne to Leave Ways at Hog Island—General March's Daughter to Be Sponsor**

PARTY FROM WASHINGTON

The United States army transport Argonne, named in honor of the American soldiers who fell in the great engagements in the Argonne Forest, and the eighty-eighth ship built at Hog Island, will be launched late this afternoon.

General Peyton C. March, chief of staff of the United States army; his daughter, Mrs. M. M. March, who will act as sponsor for the ship, and the official party, arrived from Washington at 2:10 o'clock at the West Philadelphia station. Others in the group were Lieutenant Colonel Millett, Brigadier General and Mrs. Frank T. Hines, Captain Charles W. Mason, Major Frank Van Vleet and Alden March, of Philadelphia.

General March and his party were met by Matthew C. Brush, president of the American International Shipbuilding corporation, and Frederick Morris, of the Emergency Fleet Corporation.

At the request of General March, the party was escorted over Hog Island, inspecting the great plant in detail. They spent about half an hour aboard the army transport Cantigny, first of this type of ship to be built at the island. The Cantigny was christened by King Albert of Belgium. It is the largest of the Argonne class.

The Argonne, which will leave the ways at 4:15 o'clock, is 448 feet in length and forty feet deep. It is a light draught and is an oil burner, guaranteed to make fifteen knots an hour. The vessel is built to accommodate a crew of eighty-one officers and men and seventy-seven army officers and 2133 troops. It is the eighth ship of the type built here.

# ZONE STRIKE THREATENS

**Not Expected Panama Canal's Operation Will Be Affected**

Panama, Feb. 23.—(Delayed)—(By A. P.)—A strike of the negro maintenance of way employes in the canal zone is threatened for tomorrow afternoon. Labor leaders claim that 17,000 men will be affected. The canal authorities, however, say not more than 5000 men will be affected. The canal zone organization in the United States with which the men are affiliated has guaranteed them aid amounting to \$20,000.

The canal authorities for the workers who remain at their tasks, and operation of the canal is not expected to be interfered with.

# POLES ASK INDEMNITIES

**Peace Terms Also Include Strip of Russian Territory**

Warsaw, Feb. 24.—(By A. P.)—The government note to the Allies setting forth the peace terms Poland proposes to submit to the Russian soviet government is being examined by the foreign affairs committee of the Diet.

The Polish demands include renunciation by Russia of the territory west of Poland's frontier in 1772 and Russian recognition of the independence of the Baltic states.

Poland declares her interest in the Ukraine, asks guarantees against soviet propaganda and demands war indemnities from the Bolsheviks.

# MINISTER TO THE HAGUE

**William Phillips to Represent U. S. in Netherlands and Luxembourg**

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# ELDERLY CASHIER AND ARMY CAPTAIN ROUB CAFFE BANDITS

**Filbert Street Place Employe Grabs Revolver While Being "Covered" by Robber**

**OFFICER RUSHES TO AID AND MEN RUN TO STREET**

**'L' Riders See Window Smasher at Work in Another Case.**

**Silverdale Store Looted**

Phreak of an elderly cashier, supplemented by the aid of an army captain, frustrated an attempt of two men to rob the Watson Cafe, at 1535 Filbert street, shortly after 7 o'clock this morning.

Charles Mitchell, sixty years old, is the cashier. Ignoring the fact that the robbers "had the drop on him," he reached beneath a counter, and drew his own revolver, and simultaneously, an army captain sprang to his aid.

Two men slouched into the cafe and ordered a package of cigarettes. Mitchell was stooping to procure the cigarettes from a case when one of the men drew a gun and the other a black-jack.

"Hand over the money from the till if you value your life," one robber demanded.

The cashier made a move as though to comply, and suddenly ducked beneath the counter, to reappear with a revolver he had kept for just such an emergency.

The army captain was seated in the rear of the cafe. He looked up from his breakfast, and, springing from his chair, rushed to the front of the restaurant. The robbers stood not upon the order of their going, but fled.

Police of the Fifteenth and Vine streets station located at least one of the men has been located.

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Central News Photo.  
**MADAM BARTET**  
The first French actress to receive the insignia of officer of the Legion of Honor

# HINT FURTHER RISE IN PRICE FOR 'GAS'

**Two Cents Boost Per Gallon in Sixty Days Seen by Oil Counsel**

**REFINERS MEETING HERE**

An increase in gasoline prices of one cent a gallon in thirty days and another cent rise in sixty days was predicted today by C. D. Chamberlain, general counsel of the National Petroleum Association, unless the present acute situation in the refining industry is alleviated.

Mr. Chamberlain acted as temporary chairman at a conference of independent oil refiners from western Pennsylvania, meeting at the Bellevue-Stratford. The conference is to consider means of relieving conditions which, they declare, are menacing the market.

Mr. Chamberlain placed the blame for the present high price of gasoline (now twenty-nine cents a gallon, generally) on the "Bolsheviks" and their allies, upon the shoulders of the Pennsylvania and West Virginia oil producers.

"They are holding the crude oil in the pipeline, and will not release it until there is a further advance in the price," he said.

"Hence, a further increase in the price of gas and other products is inevitable. A critical situation has arisen, threatening the whole oil refining industry in this state.

"The British and Swiss Governments were both compelled to expel representatives of the soviet government from their respective countries because of their attitude toward the oil embargo. It is our duty to conform to those of all civilized governments.

"The Allies cannot enter into diplomatic relations with the soviet government in view of their past experience, until they have arrived at the conviction that the Bolshevik horrors have come to an end and that the government at Moscow is ready to conform to its methods and diplomatic conduct to those of all civilized governments.

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# ENTENTE WILL NOT DEAL WITH LENINE

**THE HORRORS END**

No Political Recognition Yet, but Trade "Will Be Encouraged to Utmost"

**BRITISH-ITALIAN POLICY OPPOSED BY MILLERAND**

Peace Council Favors Mission of International Labor to Study Russia

By the Associated Press  
London, Feb. 24.—The Allies will decline to deal with soviet Russia "until they have arrived at the conviction that the Bolshevik horrors have come to an end," it was announced after a meeting of the Allied Supreme Council today.

The decision of the supreme council, it was recognized, precludes diplomatic relations with the allied governments to their intervention with the soviet government in the immediate future. Trade, however, "will be encouraged to the utmost," it was officially stated.

The council expressed itself as pleased that the International Labor Bureau had decided to send a delegation to Russia to study conditions, but it said supervision of the delegation should be under the control of the League of Nations, giving the investigators greater authority.

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# "NO GAG ON ARMY OFFICERS," SAYS GENERAL MARCH

**WELL DRESSED MAN DROPS DEAD IN BELLEVUE**

A well-dressed man of middle age, as yet unidentified, dropped dead this afternoon in the basement of the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel. The coroner was notified and is investigating to learn the man's identity and the cause of his death. The hotel management was unable to report whether or not the man was a guest, but it was believed he had been taken ill on the street and had come into the hotel for aid.

"There's no gag placed on army officers," declared General Peyton C. March, chief of staff of the United States Army, this afternoon. He was on his way to Philadelphia to attend a Hog Island launching. "There has been an unending procession of army officers, whose criticisms were welcomed by the Senate and House military committees, and by the Secretary of War and myself," he said.

# THREAT OF BREAK AMONG RAIL UNIONS AT CAPITAL PARLEY

**Split Looms Up and Menaces Solution of Wage Problem**

**INSIST THAT PRESIDENT VETO COMPROMISE BILL**

**Wilson Delays Action on Conference Measure Passed by House and Senate**

By the Associated Press  
Washington, Feb. 24.—Threats of a break in the affiliated railroad employees' organizations militated today against immediate solution of the question before the representatives of the 2,000,000 rail workers conferring here on President Wilson's proposal for a settlement of their wage demands.

Because of the wide divergence of views held by the committee called to Washington to consider the White House policy, executives of the organizations insisted that the Department know whether they would hold their strength, they had gained when it was agreed ten days ago that the organizations should affiliate to consider the proposal.

In every conference, it was said, demands for an appeal to the President to veto the railroad bill continued to grow more insistent. The leaders, therefore, were confronted with the task of explaining to the local chairman the basic reasons for their tentative acceptance of the President's plan, while the latter were bitter in attacking the government's general policy and the manner in which it had dealt with the wage controversy.

The leaders also were forced to combat moves of radical elements in several directions. They said these might take their stand against the bill.

That the general committee are not by any means united in favor of the President's proposition was indicated by private discussions among the executives of the organizations, who expressed their opinion of the plan in various ways.

E. J. Manion, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Telegraphers, was bitter in his attack on the bill. The whole controversy he referred to the general membership. This proposal has not gained headway among the other executives, who said it but it serves to indicate the trend of thought of the leaders.

President Wilson will not act immediately on the railroad bill. It was announced at the White House today that the measure be referred to the Department of Justice as soon as it reached the White House from Congress.

The executive has ten days in which to pass upon the act before it can come a law. It is generally expected that he will formally urge by representatives of the railroad brotherhoods and organized labor generally to veto the bill because of its retroactive effect.

**Oppose Tripartite Boards**

The railroad men oppose this section because it would tripartite labor boards, whereas they desire to return to the old method of negotiation and decision by representatives of the workers and the railroads.

President Wilson was asked today by George P. Hampton, managing director of the Farmers' National Council, on behalf of farm organizations affiliated with the committee, to veto the bill on the grounds of public policy.

Mr. Hampton's request was by letter. He asked that the President personally, or through Secretary Tumulty, declare his opposition to the bill, so that the farmers' representatives have a chance to express more fully their reasons for opposing the measure.

It was said today that the return of the railroads would mean an increase of "four to five billion dollars" in the cost of living because of the increase in freight rates. It is estimated that the increase would be in the order of \$4 billion.

Mr. Hampton said could not be borne, as agriculture now was in a "precarious" position.

The bill was passed by the Senate last night, 47 to 17, following similar action in the House Saturday.

Strike in the coal fields today in the hotel lobbies where the union men gathered, though by some of the higher officials it was discontinued. While claiming that a strike call would be issued, it was said that the expressed belief that this was not the time for such drastic measures in view of the public disapproval such a course would command.

Thirty-two Republicans and fifteen Democrats voted for adoption of the conference report in the Senate. Three Republicans and fourteen Democrats opposed it.

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# PROSECUTOR ASKS MERCY FOR WOMEN

**Camden Official Makes Eloquent Plea for Three Facing Judge on Murder Charges**

Prosecutor Wolerton stood before Supreme Court Justice Minturn today in Camden and begged for the lives of three women who had entered pleas of non vult to charges of murder. By this plea they throw themselves on the mercy of the court.

One of the three women had killed her two children; a second had drowned her two grandchildren; the third had battered her husband's skull with a sledge hammer when he slept, and then turned on the gas and told the neighbors he had committed suicide. Five other cases of men who pleaded non vult were disposed of during the afternoon.

Prosecutor Wolerton's eloquence was fully successful in only one case, that of Mrs. Mary Whitehead, of Had donfield, who smothered her thirteen-year-old daughter, and Earl, her five-year-old son, on November 25, 1917, by turning on the gas. She tried to kill herself at the same time.

Justice Minturn decided to send her to the State House for Women, at Clinton, N. J., for an indefinite term.

The same sentence was imposed on Mrs. Carolina Prineti, thirty-two years old, of Line street, Camden, who killed her husband, Virginia, on November 22, 1919. She told the neighbors he had died of gas poisoning, and she was arrested at his funeral and confessed.

The prosecutor advanced the husband's harsh treatment of the wife as an extenuating circumstance, saying she feared for her life. She has had two of her four young children—one of five years old and the other two, two-year-olds—along with her in jail and will take them along to the home at Clinton.

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# NORTH PENN BANK TO PAY 25 PER CENT

**Depositors Are Assured Return Within Two Months, Col. Pusey States**

**MAY ULTIMATELY GET ALL**

Depositors in the wrecked North Penn Bank will get 25 per cent of their money within about two months.

This announcement was made this afternoon by Colonel Fred Taylor Pusey, special deputy attorney general appointed to handle the bank's affairs. Later, he expects further payments, with a good chance of getting the full amount of their deposits ultimately.

Charles A. Ambler, one of the bank's heaviest debtors, has made several payments to the bank, totaling \$20,000. Colonel Pusey said, and is now waiting a schedule of his remaining indebtedness, with the promise to settle in full by giving mortgages and otherwise.

"The question of Liberty Bond payments will have to be settled in the courts," said Colonel Pusey today. "There are three possible ways in which the courts may take it: First, that the money paid in by Liberty Bond purchasers was a segregated fund, which would give the bond holders a preferential position; second, that they were merely depositors in the bank, which would give them the same status as that of other depositors; or, third, that they are creditors of the bank, in which case their chances would be poor."

**Pay Off Liberty Bonds**

George Ross, attorney for the Federal Reserve bank here, has been appointed to look after the interests of the Liberty Bond purchasers.

Colonel Pusey said that the state Banking Department would fight any effort of the Boland insurance companies, which are the bank's heaviest creditors, to have the bank's assets, including the \$400,000 "deposits" made with the bank.

"These funds were not actually put in the bank," asserted Colonel Pusey, "but were set to the companies' credit by juggling the books."

**Learn Lafair Motion Friday**

Joseph A. Taulane, assistant district attorney, who is in charge of the prosecutions against the bank officials and others who are accused of having been concerned in the wrecking of the institution, said at his office today, where he returned after a recent illness, that he expects to clean up all the cases by the end of spring.

James Gay Gordon, Jr., assistant district attorney associated with Mr. Taulane in the prosecutions, said that David Lafair, former state insurance commissioner, who is under indictment, has filed a motion for a bill of particulars in his case. Argument on the bill of particulars is pending also in the case of Louis H. Michel, president of the bank.

# HELD ON DRUG CHARGE

**Prisoner Dred Revolver While Trying to Evade Arrest**

After trying to frighten the police off with a revolver, George Ambrose, an alleged drug peddler, was arrested late last night at his home. This "entirely clean" man, who had been in jail and Kater, was arrested on a charge of carrying a dangerous weapon.

Clues obtained from those who had brought dope on the street in the neighborhood of Thirteenth and South streets led to the home of Ambrose. When Ambrose was arrested, he was found with a revolver and a quantity of morphine.

Ambrose, it is said, drew a revolver and tried to escape. He was caught after a chase and taken to City Hall.

The prisoner was held in the morning before Magistrate Rooney and was held in \$1800 bail for a further hearing next Tuesday.

# HURT, TAKES CAR TO BARN

**Motorman, Cut by Glass in Collision, Sticks to Post**

Pluckily sticking to his post rather than "tie up the line," Elmer Van Vant, 2909 Kensington avenue, a motorman on the Girard avenue line, paid no attention to cuts on the face and hands until his car reached the barn.

Van Vant was injured in a collision with a Fifty-second street car at Fifty-second street and Girard avenue. He was taken to the hospital, where he was treated for cuts on his face and hands. He is expected to be discharged tomorrow.

# BUTCHERS ARE DEFIANT

**Lancaster Business Men Tell McClain They Welcome Probe**

Lancaster, Feb. 24.—An ultimatum by Frank B. McClain, federal fair-prices commissioner for Pennsylvania, to Lancaster butchers, who have refused to accept his "punitive" corrections in the prices of the meats or face a federal grand jury, was met by declarations from butchers that they will welcome such an investigation.

Meat dealers here maintain that their prices are honest and their profits small. McClain, at a meeting of Lancaster butchers' fair-price commission, reviewed in general prices being paid for meat in other cities and declared that the commodity is higher in Lancaster than in most places throughout the state. Pittsburgh, he told the commission members, is buying meat from four sources, less per pound than are the butchers here.

# MEXICO TO FREE U. S. FLIERS

**Army Airplane Also to Be Released. Held Two Weeks**

Washington, Feb. 24.—(By A. P.)—Sonora state authorities have been instructed by the Mexican federal government to release G. L. Fisher and M. L. Wolf, American army aviators, who have been held in the border landing about two weeks ago. The State Department was advised today by the American embassy at Mexico City. The airplane also is to be released.

# The Last Letters of Ella Wheeler Wilcox

form a distinct advance in the literature of the life eternal. They will be printed for the first time beginning in next Sunday's

**PUBLIC LEDGER**

# WITNESS IN BERGDOLL CASE

Physician, Who Testified in Former Sanity Trial, Is Summoned

Dr. H. M. Hochrock, 1539 Pine street, one of the experts who testified to the sanity of Grover Cleveland Bergdoll in 1916, has been called as a witness in the Bergdoll court-martial, now scheduled for March 4.

The federal authorities are lining up additional witnesses to make their case against the draft dodger even better than it now is. The prosecution apparently has here no chance for Bergdoll being declared insane.