

\$3,000,000 LOSS IN WILMINGTON FIRE

Ten of Fourteen Buildings of Leather Company and Six Residences Destroyed

RAW MATERIALS BURNED

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 29.—The costliest and most spectacular fire in the history of Wilmington yesterday destroyed ten of the fourteen buildings of the Wilmington Leather Co. The total loss was estimated by James I. Ford, secretary and treasurer of the company, at \$3,000,000. A large part of the loss is made up of stocks of raw material which have been laid in preparatory to a resumption of business by the company on a larger scale.

Six frame dwellings adjacent to the plant also were destroyed, but all the occupants had fled from their homes when the fire got under way. The factor which prevented the flames from causing more havoc was the company's location in the outskirts of the city.

Fifteen minutes after the 250 employees who had been kept at their jobs when the main forces had been laid off several months ago had left the factory at 5 o'clock, the fire started in a drying lot of one of the older buildings. The flames spread rapidly and in half an hour had swept several of the older buildings, none of which is of modern fire-proof construction.

Just after all the engine companies in the city had arrived and got their hoses into play, the flames spread to the newest building in the plant, a six-story structure, supposed to be aboo-lutely fireproof. In this building were stored most of the raw material.

The Wilmington Fire Department is made up almost entirely of volunteers, and although William J. Lutz, the chief, said his men acquitted themselves well, citizens of the city said the fire had proved the final argument for a thorough re-organization of the department, eliminating the volunteer feature.

The delay of the ladder companies in arriving and getting their ladders up prevented the firemen from getting a stream of water into the new building for almost twenty minutes.

The plant which covers two blocks, running from Second to Fourth street on Greenhill avenue, normally employs 1000 persons. The loss is partly covered by insurance. The homes destroyed were those of Herbert H. Wallace, 2510 West Second street; Louis Ivory, 2508 West Second street; H. R. Jenkins, 2506 West Second street; John Wilson, 300 Webb street; Antonio Sansoni, 310 Webb street; and C. C. Cammillo, 406 Webb street.

After an investigation lasting until late in the night, it was learned that the blaze began in a drying lot on the third floor of a building on Webb street, above Second and Greenhill streets. This is one of the older structures of the plant, and by the time an alarm was sounded it was ablaze and had spread to the surrounding buildings.

One woman, Mrs. Antonio Sansoni, berated the firemen loudly for their failure to save her house at 310 Webb street in time to prevent the consumption of a barrel of wine.

"Turner for Concrete"

Some winter-built Turner buildings:

- American Woolen Co.
- National Biscuit Co.
- Seville Mfg. Co.
- A. Mendlesohn's Sons
- Norwich Woolen Mills
- Shuttleworth Bros.
- Bullard Mach. Tool Co.

—all built as satisfactorily as in summer and at slight extra cost.

TURNER Construction Co.
1913 Sanson Street



Blackened walls and great masses of warped and twisted iron pipes and girders are all that remained today of the big tannery owned by the Wilmington Leather Co., which was burned yesterday with a loss estimated at approximately \$3,000,000. A large quantity of raw material and manufactured products was destroyed, together with six residences.

D'Annunzio Yields to Fiume Council

Continued from Page One

expressed that a petroleum refinery near the powder magazine also had been set on fire.

Italian regular troops surrounding Fiume continued to advance west and north of the city yesterday. On the eastern side the situation was unchanged, as the regular troops remain on one side of the River and the legionaries on the other, and it is impossible to cross this stream because the bridges have been destroyed.

The fiercest fighting occurred west of Fiume, where Alpi advanced from Castra reached the public gardens. When they had forced their way that far they found all the houses surrounding the gardens had been transformed into machine-gun nests, from which a terrific fire was poured upon them.

D'Annunzio Fight Fiercely

An armored car advanced against the regulars and inflicted heavy losses, the Alpi throwing themselves on the ground and continuing the struggle for some time. Major Dambra, in command of the Alpi, rode through the gardens on horseback, and rushed toward the car, but was wounded twice and his horse was shot dead. When the fire ceased, Major Dambra was able to struggle toward the car, and upon entering it found three dead legionaries and two seriously wounded commissioned officers.

Wounded regulars have been taken in motor lorries to Trieste and Gorizia, where special hospitals were organized. The number of men being taken to these hospitals is increasing hourly. All agree in declaring that the regulars are handicapped in their fight against the legionaries. They are armed only with rifles, while the D'Annunzio troops use hand grenades and machine guns, and besides, have laid mines everywhere so that at every step the government soldiers are in danger of being blown up or killed by debris and splinters. Two houses in Fiume have already been destroyed by mines.

Regulars Progress Slowly

The majority of the wounded were struck by machine-gun bullets or splinters of hand grenades. They say the regular troops were ordered not to fire unless absolutely obliged to do so, while the legionaries have taken every advantage to shoot at their assailants, while at the beginning of the struggle the government forces held a numerical superiority, that progress is very slow, as the legionaries are entrenched in buildings and have an enormous advantage. It is agreed that unless Captain D'Annunzio capitulates, the occupation of the entire town of Fiume will be accomplished only with the utmost difficulty.

Great Excitement at Rome

There was great excitement in Rome over news from Fiume yesterday. Senators and deputies are having frequent meetings. Former Premier Salandra who for a long time has been absent from Rome, has returned and is participating in the discussions.

Some of the senators and deputies insist that a truce be granted or that there shall be a suspension of hostilities for concluding an armistice. Others express the belief, however, that no action has begun it would be much better to end the situation now and avoid later complications in the application of the treaty of Rapallo.

Paris, Dec. 29.—By A. P.—Fighting at Fiume between Italian Government troops and the legionaries of D'Annunzio has been suspended for a time at least. It was reported here today.

A dispatch from Rome stated delegates appointed by the mayor of Fiume met General Ferrario, in direct command of the Italian regulars, at Abbazia yesterday, and agreed to the terms laid down for the capitulation of the city. D'Annunzio was expected to sign them this morning and a truce was arranged until noon today.

The Duke of Aosta, cousin of King Victor Emmanuel, was said to be on his way to take part in the negotiations.

London, Dec. 29.—By A. P.—Discussion of terms for the capitulation of Fiume began at Abbazia at 2 o'clock yesterday. It is not known what the patch to the London Times. The conference was still in session at 4 o'clock last evening, the message states.

The Exchange Telegraph, Rome correspondent says that according to the latest news from Fiume, the Italian regular forces have occupied the Italian shipping, the oil refinery, the Whitehead torpedo works, the public gardens and Monte Calvario. On the Susak side the line remains unchanged owing to the destruction of bridges.

Abbazia, Dec. 29.—By A. P.—The taking of Fiume from the past commander has all the accompaniments of war, with this exception that if life can be spared it will be by bombardments by the artillery and battleships, machine-guns and bombs, with intermittent firing being continued throughout the day.

The regulars are well supplied with food, it is reported. They occupy half of the city, while D'Annunzio's forces, ambushed in the houses, resist with determination. The regulars are commencing semicircle, which has at its base the sea. The Italian regulars are displaying perfect discipline.

Service Hearing Postponed

Continuation of hearings before Public Service Commission on S. Willing regarding complaints lodged against the Reading Transfer and Light Co.'s operation of the trolley line through Manayunk, Westborough and Haverhill, has been indefinitely postponed. It is understood that the next hearing will take place at Norristown, as it is the desire of the commission to also hear complaints against the Norristown branch of the traction company. A hearing on the Philadelphia and Reading Railway Co.'s Chester branch, scheduled for today, has been postponed until tomorrow.

Arch St. Fur Shop Looted of \$23,700

Continued from Page One

Stecher store. These were stolen, with the contents of the Stecher store, and it is understood, are not included in the stock covered by burglar insurance.

A few minutes after 4 o'clock a big touring car, carrying Pennsylvania licenses 400-144, with five men in the car, went west on Arch street. Police have sent out a flier in the hope the car will be located, as they believe the machine was the one in which the thieves escaped with the furs.

Four thieves escaped after looting a shop at 258 South Fifty-second street of furs valued at more than \$10,000 at 2:30 o'clock this morning.

The shop is owned by Louis Hultzman and was equipped with a burglar alarm system. Four men were in the gang. One remained at the wheel of the car, one stood guard duty on the pavement, while the two others jammed a front door and gained access to the shop.

Fifteen thousand dollars' worth of furs were piled up ready for removal when Leo Daly, a special officer from the agency controlling the system under which the store was protected, ran down Fifty-second street. Daly was in his office at Fifty-second and Chandler streets, when the alarm sounded.

As he heard the Hultzman store, two men ran from the building, their arms loaded with fur garments. With the guard, the three jumped into the automobile and there was a lively interchange of shots between Daly and the man who had been standing on the

Arch St. Fur Shop Looted of \$23,700

pavement during the robbery. The pistol duel continued until the car disappeared, going east on Spruce street.

In the rush to escape the two men looting the store could not carry all the furs piled up for removal. Mr. Hultzman said today they had taken about \$10,000 worth.

Job Logan House

After thieves had broken a pane of glass in the door of the home of Clement D. Goodman, Wingochock street east of Broad, Logan, before midnight today, they were able to throw the lock of the door and gain entrance. They stole watches, jewelry and clothing which Goodman values at \$3100, and made their escape in an automobile.

Overcoats and suits of clothing, valued at \$250, were stolen from the display window of MacDonald & Campbell, Chestnut street near Broad, by window smashers, who escaped.

North & Co., Chestnut street near Eleventh, reported the loss of five beaded bags, worth more than \$100, stolen from the store window.

Window-smashers broke the display window of the Rosoff & Zinder store at Fourth and South streets, and made their escape with clothing worth more than \$100.

Valuables worth \$850 were stolen from the home of George O. Suddart, 6301 Drexel road, Overbrook, by thieves who operated while the family was away from home over Christmas.

Home of George D. Kane, 343 West Duval street, Germantown, during the

Arch St. Fur Shop Looted of \$23,700

absence of the family. Robbers escaped with jewelry and clothing worth \$140.

Clothing worth \$50 was stolen from the apartment of Harvey Walters, an employe of the Aged Men's Home, Thirty-ninth and Baring streets, by a thief who picked the lock of the room.

Worth & Co., Chestnut street near Tenth, reported the theft of a fur garment worth \$50, stolen from a showcase in front of the store.

Thieves broke into the home of Michael DeVito, 1234 Durfor street, and escaped with more than \$100 worth of clothing and jewelry.

Doctor Phones Police

Dr. Walter J. Daly, 2000 Spring Garden street, foiled an attempted hold-up or robbery in his home by promptly telephoning the police when two men attempted to force their way into his office last night. The men stepped from a touring car, left the engine running, and pushed by Mrs. Daly who answered the ring of the door bell. When they heard Dr. Daly calling the police over the telephone, they ran from the house and drove rapidly in the direction of Broad street.

SIX LIKELY CHOICES 'N HARDING CABINET

Hughes, Hoover, Daugherty, Weeks, Wallace and Dawes Probable Selections

WILL MAKE DECISION SOON

By the Associated Press

Marion, O., Dec. 29.—After weeks of consideration and consultation President-elect Harding is nearing a decision on several of his most important cabinet appointments.

It may be said authoritatively that so far no such decision has been made and that any suggestions he may have dropped on the subject have been of a tentative and indefinite nature. It is equally certain, however, that in his talks here with leaders in many walks of life he has indicated clearly what men are uppermost in his mind as he asks for advice on the make-up of his official family.

Those who have discussed the question with him intimately believe that appointments under very serious consideration include the following:

- Charles E. Hughes, of New York, secretary of state.
- Charles G. Dawes, of Illinois, secretary of the treasury.
- John W. Weeks, of Massachusetts, secretary of the interior.
- Henry Wallace, of Iowa, secretary of agriculture.
- Herbert Hoover, of California, secretary of labor.
- Harry M. Daugherty, attorney general.

Aside from the six names mentioned, recent gossip about Harding headquarters has brought to the fore the names of several possibilities who hitherto had been in the background of cabinet speculation. Among these are Joseph Dixon, of Montana, prominently mentioned for secretary of the interior; Charles D. Hillen, of New York, discussed for secretary of commerce or the

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treasury, and A. T. Hert, of Kentucky, whose name has been associated with the portfolio of war.

A miscellany of subjects occupied Mr. Harding today in a busy succession of short conferences arranged to permit his Chicago Daily News, publisher of the president of the Advertising Agencies Corporation of New York, and Harry Stafford, president of the Chicago Live-

stock Exchange; Representative Patrick J. Kelly, of Michigan; Albert Sidney Gregg, of Cleveland, representing the American Civic Reform League; Victor F. Lawson, publisher of the Chicago Daily News; Charles Hoyt, president of the Advertising Agencies Corporation of New York, and Harry E. Riekey, national director of T. E. Scripps newspapers.

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At Extraordinarily Large Price Reductions

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Of pebble cheviot. Belted model; large convertible collar. Full lined with Pussycat willow.
Formerly Priced 42.50 28.00

Smart Wraps & Coats
Veldyne wraps in navy, black, brown, bedouin, gray with self-collars. Also velour with fur collars.
Formerly up to 110.00 58.00

Evora Wraps & Coats
Distinctive models in evora, marvella and other soft fabrics in black, navy, brown and other colors.
Formerly 155.00 75.00

Smart Coats & Wraps
Straight coats, wraps and sports models. Of fine velour, suede and English Tweeds. Some are fur-trimmed.
Formerly up to 69.50 35.00

Chiffon Velvet Evening Wraps
Graceful models with large draped collar. In the leading light and dark shadings.
Formerly 195.00 65.00

Duvetyn and Marvella Wraps
A collection of handsome duvetyn and marvella wrap-coats.
Formerly up to 195.00 110.00

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Elegant wraps of marvella and evora with fur collars. Also duvetyn with self-collars.
Formerly up to 250.00 145.00

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Formerly up to 395.00 195.00

All Other Day-Wraps, Coats and Evening Wraps at Proportionately Large Reductions

SHOPPING AT THE BETTER SHOPS

BEGIN THE YEAR ARIGHT. SHOP WITH FORETHOUGHT. PURCHASE WHERE YOU CAN OBTAIN THE BEST VALUES AT THE MOST REASONABLE PRICES. PAULETTE WILL HEARTILY ASSIST YOU.

My dears, you really must run into Bonwit Teller's, at Thirteenth and Chestnut streets, this week and take advantage of their clearance sale. Prices are to be so emphatically slashed that the shop hesitated to give me actual quotations on them, fearing the reductions might sound like an exaggeration. You will be amazed at the values to be had throughout in this general clearance of gowns, wraps, blouses, neckwear, furs—everything in the big shop. In the gown and coat departments there are to be unbelievable changes in prices, and, my dears, any dainty Christmas novelties which may remain will go for practically a song apiece or at least little more. I am sure you can find several delightful ways to spend your Christmas checks both for useful things or for the luxuries little and large which the shop offers and which a Xmas check, for all the world like a fairy godmother, can so quickly bring true.

Winkelman's new boot shop, 1130 Chestnut street, at Twelfth, is having a phenomenal boom by Philadelphia shoppers—and small wonder, the prices are quite the most inviting for high quality boots that I have discovered since "before de war," and the courteous service which pervades the shop is in itself an invitation to come again. While there is to be had at this shop every style of shoe, I was particularly interested in the strapped high and low French heeled pumps in both black and tan dress calf. I did not know there were many varieties within the bounds of good taste. I was particularly pleased with a slender tan pump (it comes in black, too, I believe) having a double strap, a model with a restrained smartness about it to recommend it to the woman who knows clothes and accessories. I was amazed, truly, to find the price \$10, though I was well aware that the new shop is founded upon the twin ideals of cordial service and fair pricings of from \$8 to \$12. Run in and ask to see the smart two-strap pump which Paulette so emphatically liked.

This week the opportunities for shoppers at B. F. Dewees, 1122 Chestnut street, will be legion, for there's to be a pre-inventory sale that means an amazing tumble of prices. I have room to post you on only a few. Satin charmeuse, in all street shades, which has sold as high as \$6.50 a yard; toys will be half price, bouidour caps will be half price, women's fine cotton stockings will sell for \$1.25 instead of \$1.50, and splendid tea toweling of union crash, valued at 35c a yard, will sell for only 19c. It is white with a neat blue border. Little white tea aprons, regularly priced at 95c each, will be reduced to 50c, and cotton huck towels, measuring 18x34 inches, with a woven white border design of the Walls of Troy will sell for \$3.25 a dozen instead of \$5, though the latter is considered cheap. Silk undervests for women, flesh color, will sell for \$2.25, though values range to \$3.25. Well, the shop will be just so full of plummy bargains this week that I'd like to tell you about every one of 'em.

Week of December Twenty-sixth

Paulette