

THE WEATHER
Rain this afternoon and tonight; low-est tonight about 30 degrees; Saturday fair; south to west winds.

Evening Public Ledger

NIGHT EXTRA
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AB EXTORTIONISTS FOR PLOT AGAINST MRS. JONES WISTER
H. F. Michell, Another Intended Victim, Helps Trap Men Accused of Conspiracy

ONE PRISONER ADMITS WRITING SOCIETY WOMAN



HENRY F. MICHELL

A band of organized extortionists is believed to have been broken up by the arrest of two men, accused of sending threatening letters demanding money from Mrs. Jones Wister, society woman, of 1819 Walnut street, and to Henry F. Michell, seed merchant, 518 Market street.

The prisoners are George Clemo, Franklin street below Spring Garden, and William Dougherty, Race street near Eighth. Clemo, according to Detectives Lowry and Test, has admitted writing the letter to Mrs. Wister.

The men were captured at 11 o'clock last night after they had been duped into accepting a package of tissue paper, supposedly money, following their demand upon Mr. Michell.

Mrs. Wister received her letter December 28. It was dated December 27, and had been mailed at 11 p. m. at South Penn Square Station.

Letter to Mrs. Wister
Dear Mrs. Jones Wister: Here is a few lines to ask you for \$200; as I am in need of it, there are four of us in the gang, and we are asking a small sum of \$200 from ten people, and if you come over with it, we will be no more said about it, and if you don't then we will see you on the night of January 7, 8:30 p. m.

If you should come over with it, we will be no more said about it, and if you don't then we will see you on the night of January 7, 8:30 p. m.

Mr. Michell received his letter several days ago, and it was demanded that \$500 be delivered to the cashier of a restaurant at 263 North Ninth street last night, on pain of death if he refused.

He was instructed in the letter to his package with red string. If he notified any one of the demand he was warned that his head would be blown off.

Acting under instructions from Postal Inspector Hawkworth and Detectives Barco and Laverty, of the Eleventh street station, Mr. Michell delivered the package of initiation money, as directed, to the cashier of the restaurant. Soon after the two prisoners were arrested.

Mr. Michell delivered his package to himself, to the cashier of the restaurant, asked for the packet, received it, and started down Ninth street, followed by the detectives and Postal Inspector one of the men tore open the package and discovered it contained paper, they were arrested.

When the men were being taken to City Hall to be lodged away by the detectives before being turned over to the post office, Detectives Test and Lowry saw a letter similar to the one sent to Mrs. Wister. Clemo said calmly, "Yes, I wrote it." That was the letter sent to Mrs. Wister.

Four other letters sent, prominent ones in possession of Superintendent, contained in these letters are being traced to the "T. P. M." gang. The prisoners will have a hearing before the Federal Building.

REMBRANDT CANVAS STOLEN
Hamburg, Jan. 14.—(By A. P.)—A Rembrandt's "The Descent from the Cross" was stolen from a private owner here on January 2, and supposedly was shipped to the United States on the steamship Mongolia, which sailed January 6. The painting, which is on wood, is sixty-six centimeters in length and thirty-nine centimeters in height. It is said to be valued at \$2,000,000.

Lim'rick Prize Goes to Jenkintown

That audience out at the Orpheum Theatre in Germantown, gave the prize for Limerick No. 23 to MRS. H. F. HALL, 111 York Road, Jenkintown, Pa. The limerick, as Mrs. Hall completed it, is as follows: The suitor who wooed Sister Sue Sued to suit her, so what could she do? She had to say, "Yes," But since then, I confess, It's purse-sue instead of purr-sue.

Another Limpin' Lim'rick Today—See Page 2

LANSLOWNE SPLIT OVER 'CHECK' DANCE

Women and Legion Post Disagree—Objectionable Steps Used in Hall the Cause

'HOPS' ARE WITHDRAWN

Dancing has become a serious problem in Lansdowne. Women of the Twentieth Century Club are of one opinion and members of the Lansdowne post of the American Legion another.

About a week ago the Lansdowne post held a dance in the hall of the Twentieth Century Club, which they rented for the occasion. The hall was tastefully decorated with greens and signs to the effect that "Check to Check and Other Objectionable Forms of Dancing Are Not Permitted."

The signs had been contributed by the Twentieth Century Club. In the course of the evening, several couples on the floor did a little "check-to-check" dancing or something that looked like it, according to Mrs. Samuel Kent, president of the club. They were warned by a committee of three members of the club who were on hand to oversee the affair, that they would have to observe the rules.

The Legion post, which was planning a series of mostly dances at the Twentieth Century Club, has decided to discontinue this program and hold all future affairs at the Craftsman's Club in Drexel Hill.

The Twentieth Century Club has issued a statement justifying its position, as follows: In order to bring itself into line with the new code of dancing throughout the United States, in colleges, clubs, houses, dancing classes and the best clubs, the board of the Twentieth Century Club will hereafter require lessees of the club to bring chaperons with them, these chaperons responsible to the club dance secretary for the enforcement of the hall rules.

"The board asks the hearty co-operation of its patrons and the parents of the town in its efforts to keep the club-house as it has always been—a center of entertainment of the best class. We are only using our rights in enforcing rules of dancing that the club has decided are best," said Mrs. Samuel Kent, president of the club, "and we do not mean to criticize the American Legion dancers. The dancing was not objectionable, but some of it did break our rules about 'check-to-check' dancing."

"We are going to hold the rest of our dances somewhere other than the Twentieth Century Club," declared J. S. Shoemaker, of the executive and entertainment committees of the Lansdowne post.

Members of the Twentieth Century Club say the dancing rules were not aimed at any particular organization and that the issue was especially proud of the American Legion.

"On with the dance,"

MIST, RAIN AND SLUSH ON WINTER'S WORST DAY

Gloomy All Day and Warmer, is Weatherman's Prediction

Today started out to be winter and soon became something worse. And more in a half hour, the weatherman could see only mist and fog and gloom and rain until some time tonight. He couldn't even predict with any certainty, he said, when the rain would stop this evening, though he was hopeful tomorrow would be fair.

It was easily the most unpleasant day of the winter season, with streets covered with slush and mud. Horses slid about and so did some pedestrians who lost their tempers. Trolley cars crept along and automobiles skidded around corners while their drivers strained to see through rain-obscured windshields.

Late last night, when the youngsters—the only ones who would have appreciated it—were all snug in bed, the city was treated to what looked like the start of an old-fashioned snowstorm. The flakes fell thick and white, and "lay as the small boy phrases it. They piled up fast, until the snow was not quite an inch deep. Then, toward morning, the snow turned to sleet, which froze as it fell. Rising temperature soon dissipated the fog that coated the city, and made pavements slippery, and slush took the place of ice.

A heavy mist spread over the city at 10 o'clock, and gave signs of having come to stay for the rest of the day. When it was at its thickest, shortly after 11 o'clock, the electric current in the central part of the city took a sudden slump. Lights became dim and some passenger elevators in central buildings went on strike. The Philadelphia Electric Co. said it was station trouble, and got the lights to burning brightly again by the members of the firm's various theatrical companies.

INCENDIARIES BURN COAL MINING TOWN; LOSS \$250,000

Business Section of Madera, Clearfield County, Destroyed by Fire, Clearfield, Pa., Jan. 13.—(By A. P.)—Fire, believed to have been of incendiary origin today destroyed fifteen buildings in the business section of Madera, a thriving town in the bituminous coal district, with a loss estimated at \$250,000.

Fire companies were summoned from Clearfield, Houtzdale, Osceola and Philipsburg, but when it was done, it was impossible, he declared, for members of the firm to give personal attention to all minor disputes.

The girl was taken home last Tuesday by her brother, John Porter, though the facts did not become known until today. She is a victim of a form of insanity which resembles kleptomania.

Miss Catherine Porter, the young girl arrested in Broad Street Station about a week ago, and charged with having gone through the pockets of passengers while they slumbered in a sleeping-car, was a patient escaped from a Southern sanatorium, and a member of a prominent Baltimore family.

MYSTERIOUS BLAST RENDS HOUSE; MAN SAFE WITH FAMILY

A mysterious explosion at midnight shattered the home of Fred Vesper, at 1339 South Woodstock street, and drove him, with his wife and three children, one a two-week-old baby, to a relative's house for shelter. The police have not been able to determine the cause of the explosion. They believe it was a bomb, though Vesper said he had received no threatening letters or intimations that he or his family were in danger, and has no enemies so far as he knows. He is a young man, a tailor by trade, with a shop at Twentieth and Reed streets.

TAKES WIFE AND CHILDREN TO HOME OF HER MOTHER

The entire matter came to a head with the commitment to the House of Correction yesterday of Theodore Roosevelt Cramer, former service man, whose name was on the list of the Federal Aid Bureau; Miss Elizabeth Wood, representing the Red Cross; Frank J. Columbus, representing the Knights of Columbus; Robert J. Fuller, representing the Federal Board of Vocational Education; Colonel William S. United States army recruiting service; Commander Clarence Galbranson, United States navy recruiting service; W. Verly Walton, war-risk insurance; Dr. W. G. Stimpson, United States Public Health Service; Dr. Edgar Farley, chief physician of the Welfare Department, and representatives of the Y. M. C. A. and other organizations.

Two Cases Are Cited

As for the mentally weak, as the law now stands, a man once sent to a government hospital for treatment for mental disorders, who escapes, cannot be forcibly returned there. In consequence, men who may have escaped, or been discharged as cured, only to have a recurrence of their mental malady, roam about the country. What is an old case in one district becomes a new case in another district when the man bolts up there. The seriousness of the situation may be seen, it is pointed out, when it is realized one-third of the men requiring treatment as a result of their army experience, are mental cases.

LOGAN M. BULLITT DIES IN HOSPITAL

Attorney, Prominent in Reform Fights, Was Patient in Institution Six Weeks

DEATH NOT EXPECTED

Logan M. Bullitt, for years prominent of an attorney and fighter for reform politics here, died at 8:55 this morning in the Pennsylvania Hospital of hardening of the arteries.

He was 57 years old, and had been in failing health for two years and for six weeks had been a patient at the hospital. Recently his condition took a turn for the worse, and his recovery was not expected. His son and daughter were present when he died. He was a widower, his wife having died in 1912.

Logan McKnight Bullitt was one of the sons of John Christian Bullitt, himself a widely known lawyer of this city, who in 1862 prepared the city charter, known as the Bullitt charter, and recently by the Woodward charter.

The Bullitts came to Philadelphia in 1840 from Jefferson county, Ky. John Christian Bullitt taking up the practice of law in the city in 1853. He was a member of the bar and a legal acumen. The Bullitt family, of English and French extraction, had been in this country since colonial times, and a prominent ancestor, George Washington as commander of British Colonial troops.

Logan M. Bullitt was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1883. He went to Danbar, a mining town in western Pennsylvania, upon his graduation and became a mine foreman. A few months later he was made superintendent for a year, remained in charge of more than 1000 men, though himself only twenty-one years old.

At the end of that time he was engaged to give a year's service to the Pacific Railroad Co. and sent west to be superintendent of coal mines in North Dakota, Montana and Washington. He was interested in coal mines most of his life.

NEW STRIKE OF ACTORS THREATENED IN NEW YORK

Managers Called Together to Act on Equity Demand

New York, Jan. 14.—(By A. P.)—Possibility of a new actors' strike loomed today when members of the Producing Managers' Association were called together to act on demand of the Actors' Equity Association that the producing firm of Lee & J. J. Shubert be dropped from the managers' association roll.

The Equity, which conducted the actors' strike in 1919, submitted its demand yesterday, basing it on allegations that the Shuberts had caused guilty of "flagrant and continued violation of the basic agreement of September 6, 1919." It was this agreement which ended the 1919 strike.

The violations charged include "unfair discrimination, failure to give contracts, failure to pay according to contract and discharge of actors who complain of such matters."

Lee Shubert denied the charge of continued violation of the agreement, asserting that it was based on "six or seven dinky little cases" in which he admitted injustices might have been done. It was impossible, he declared, for members of the firm to give personal attention to all minor disputes.

GIRL THIEF IS FOUND TO BE MENTALLY UNSOUND

Comes of Prominent Baltimore Family—Robbed Sleeping Car Passengers

Miss Catherine Porter, the young girl arrested in Broad Street Station about a week ago, and charged with having gone through the pockets of passengers while they slumbered in a sleeping-car, was a patient escaped from a Southern sanatorium, and a member of a prominent Baltimore family.

The girl was taken home last Tuesday by her brother, John Porter, though the facts did not become known until today. She is a victim of a form of insanity which resembles kleptomania.

When you think of writing, think of WHITING—440.

Veterans' Pitiabie Plight Spurs Agencies to Action

Ex-Servicing Men, Weakened Mentally by War Horrors, Found Wandering Country Without Proper Aid

PERET HEADS NEW FRENCH MINISTRY

President of Chamber of Deputies Asked to Form Cabinet by President

BRIAND MAY BE MEMBER

By the Associated Press

Paris, Jan. 14.—Raoul Peret, president of the Chamber of Deputies, was asked today by President Millerand to form a cabinet to succeed the one headed by Georges Leygues, which resigned Wednesday.

M. Peret accepted the task and immediately began consultations with his friends over the formation of a ministry. He was expected to return to the presidential residence by 6 o'clock this evening to report on the outcome of his efforts.

M. Peret was said at first to be reluctant to assume office as head of a new cabinet, because of his health and his lack of knowledge of the nation's foreign affairs.

Aristide Briand, former premier, has expressed his willingness to serve under M. Peret, either in the department of foreign affairs or any other capacity. Charles C. A. Jonnart, who was recalled to Paris from Marseilles.

WOMAN DEAD FROM BURNS AFTER EXPLOSION IN STOVE

Father Makes Futile Effort to Save Her When Clothing Took Fire

Margaret Mohan, forty years old, of 1527 Ritter street, died last night in the Methodist Hospital, several hours after she had been burned, following explosion of a gas stove at her home.

Physicians faced a futile task in their efforts to save the life of the woman, for she had been severely burned from head to foot. When neighbors rushed into the house after the explosion they found her enveloped in flames.

Miss Mohan went to the third floor of the house shortly after noon, to do some housework. She was in the room but a short time when the stove exploded, igniting her clothing and the curtains and draperies.

She screamed for help, and her father and neighbors, living in an adjoining house, responded, while a alarm was sent to the fire companies. Blankets were wrapped about Miss Mohan and the flames extinguished.

Firemen confined the fire to the room in which it started, only small damage resulting.

FOUR SACKS OF REGISTERED MAIL DISAPPEAR

MOUNT VERNON, Ill., Jan. 14.—Four sacks of registered mail, one reported to have \$80,000 for use in making up payroll at Franklita county coal mines, disappeared here today. An estimate of the value of the contents of the other three sacks was not available. The sacks were received at the local postoffice from St. Louis. Federal authorities refused to discuss the matter.

GIRL IS HEROINE OF FIRE

Child Runs Two Squares in Night-gown to Give Alarm

Ten-year-old Madeline Bannon, clothed in only nightgown, coat and shoes, ran more than two blocks through the snow and bitter cold early this morning to give alarm of a fire which threatened the lives of her aged grandmother and her baby sister.

Mrs. James Bannon lives with her husband and three developed the fire, and Marie, the child, was on the second floor of a house at 1741 Point Breze avenue.

At about 5 o'clock this morning she detected smoke issuing from a first floor and aroused the two children. Madeline refused to let her grandmother go out to give the alarm, and took the duty upon herself.

She went to the home of Max Wejss, at 1740 South Twenty-fourth street, who conducts a fruit store on the ground floor of the Bannon house. Wejss, when alerted by the shivering girl, turned in an alarm and the fire was extinguished before the home was greatly damaged.

When you think of writing, think of WHITING—440.



RAOUL PERET

President of the French Chamber of Deputies, who has been entrusted with the task of forming a new ministry by President Millerand

CABINET BUILDERS PRESSING HARDING TO DECIDE QUICKLY

Interested Persons Fear Loss of Advantage Unless He Commits Himself Soon

PRESIDENT-ELECT LIKELY TO MOVE CAUTIOUSLY

By CLINTON W. GILBERT

Staff Correspondent Evening Public Ledger

Marion, Jan. 14.—There are signs that some interested persons are trying to hurry President-elect Harding into an early announcement of cabinet appointments.

Stories have been given out from time to time that Mr. Harding was likely to name some member of his official family within a few days. First it was to be on New Year's Day. Then within ten days after New Year's Day, and now it is to be before the departure South.

These suggestions do not come from Mr. Harding. All that is known from him is that he would like to make public the name of two cabinet members before he names the rest of his official family, these two being presumably the secretary of state and the secretary of the treasury.

The wish is probably father to the thought in the suggestion of early appointments. Friends of some of the candidates who think their chances good today do not like the caution with which the President-elect is proceeding. They think that an announcement would assure the appointment of their men. Premature announcement of apparent authority circumstances of apparent authority that Frank W. Hitchcock would be postmaster general. That thought it had been made to force that hand. He was angry and sent for Hitchcock, and told him that the premature publication of his name would cost him the place in the cabinet.

Harding Moves Cautiously

Mr. Harding is by nature a cautious man and he is proceeding with extraordinary caution to the choice of his cabinet. His method is, when he has a possible man in mind for a position, to have an exhaustive inquiry made into the candidate's history and character. The motives of those urging his selection are scrutinized. Confidential agents look into and upon the interests which the candidate may represent. And when the inquiry gets around to making a choice in his behalf, he does not tender the place positively and finally to the candidate. His caution comes from a mind for a man who would feel free to accept a certain post in the cabinet if it should be offered to him.

Mr. Harding remains free to reconsider if circumstances should make this appointment inexpedient. He should make another scrutiny. It inevitably becomes known that the President-elect has no and in mind for such a post, such a secretaryship. Perhaps the intention at headquarters here that it should become known. Then follows the public reaction to the suggestion. Everybody knows the reason why the prospective appointee should not be named is heard from. If any of any kind of appointment should later be embarrassed for Mr. Harding or to his party, Mr. Harding is sure to be told of it.

Hears Loud Objections

How this works has been illustrated in the case of Charles G. Dawes, of Illinois, who was and may still be the likely choice for secretary of the treasury. Mr. Harding's tentative offer of the post to Mr. Dawes if it should be named was known. The fact of this approach became known.

Immediately those who thought they knew Mr. Dawes should not be secretary of the treasury made themselves heard. Mr. Harding's tentative offer of the post to Mr. Dawes if it should be named was known. The fact of this approach became known.

Find Out First

The Dawes case illustrates Mr. Harding's cautious method. He is finding out in cabinet making and their results in following out his idea of acting after conference. He finds out first. He has really encouraged the speculation which has gone on in the press with regard to cabinet members. He has wanted to know the public reaction in advance of committing himself further to Mr. Harding's tentative offer of the post to Mr. Dawes if it should be named was known. The fact of this approach became known.

Wilson Kept From Play

Snowstorm Compels President to Abandon Trip to Theatre

Washington, Jan. 14.—(By A. P.)—President Wilson prepared to go to a theatre last night, for the first time since his illness, but was prevented at the last moment by a downfall of snow.

Those in close touch with the President said he was going for the evening, and it is expected that having once made his plans to resume his former practice of almost weekly attendance at a vaudeville theatre, he will find occasion to resume this custom when the weather permits.

Three members of the House of Representatives were among his callers, and he also had appointments with Colonel Theodore Roosevelt and with former Governor Forbes and Judge Johnson, of the Philippine islands. The House members to visit him were Representatives Denison, of Illinois; Rebarbach, of New Jersey, and Sanford, of New

PRE-EMPTION THE FLORIDA RUBY