

THE WEATHER
Fair to a continued cold tonight with
lowest about 25 degrees; Friday in-
creasing cloudiness.

TEMPERATURE AT EACH HOUR								
8	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5
24	26	25	26	25	26	25	26	25

Washington "Deb"
'TAKE US TO CIRCUS'
EASTLAKE TOTS CRY
AT SCENE OF TRIAL

GOING HOME
ALTERNATE PLANS
FOR BRITISH SHIPS
BEFORE 'BIG THREE'

Wilson Comrade of All
War Veterans, He Says

IRISH PACT SIGNERS
SURE DAIL EIREANN
WILL BACK TREATY

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PRICE TWO CENTS

FRIENDLY FRENZIED
FINANCE SEEN IN
SALE OF COAL CO.

Wilkes-Barre Minority. Insists
"Baker Group" Is Merely
Old Reading Interests

COURT ASKED TO EXPOSE
REAL INFLUENCE INVOLVED

"The Street" is waiting eagerly to see what happens when the United States District Court "lifts the lid" on the sale of the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company.

This lid-lifting process ought to come within the next few days. What bankers and brokers and men who are "on the inside" in the coal business expect to see is a modern exemplification of the "frenzied finance" of those fat years of company looting that are now financial history.

The reason for the Court's action is to be found in a suit brought by the minority stockholders of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, who have demanded that the Court set aside the sale of the property to the Jackson E. Reynolds Syndicate.

The reason for the minority stockholders' anxiety is not far to seek—they have a well-formed impression that they have been "strung," that they have been left to "hold the bag."

See **Trick in Sale**
The stockholders, hardly and in no uncertain terms, are asserting that the property was not sold to the highest bidder, and that furthermore, the law was broken because the property was sold to "insiders."

Needless to say the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company is valuable. The amount bid by the Reynolds Syndicate, to which the award was made, came to \$31,410,750.

The Central Railroad of New Jersey, both majority and minority stockholders, would gladly have kept the property. It couldn't—the law would not let it. The sale was not the company's idea; it was ordered by the courts.

Virtually every one knows that the United States Courts some time ago ordered the Reading Company to dispose of its coal and iron properties. The Reading Company has always been known as a corporation with many irons in the fire. One of its recognized subsidiaries is the Central Railroad of New Jersey.

What went for the Reading Company went for the Central Railroad of New Jersey. The latter organization, no less than the former, was under the necessity of selling its coal and iron properties. One of the Central's most valuable coal properties was the Lehigh and Wilkes-Barre Coal Company. It held 169,788 shares.

That is the reason the coal company came into the market in the first instance.

MISS JULIA HUME
Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rawlin Hume, of Washington, a debutante of this season



MAYOR SIGNS TAX BILL;
SILENT ON BUDGET PLANS

May Not Send Message to Council
Session Today

The \$1.75 Tax Rate Bill, fixing the city rate for next year, was signed last night by Mayor Moore. It was announced at the Mayor's office today. Council passed the measure Monday.

The Mayor has not indicated what action he will take on the municipal budget, which is now in his hands. It is possible that he will not send a message on the budget to Council at its session today.

There has been considerable speculation in political circles as to what action the Mayor will take with respect to the Municipal Court in view of the fact that the Mayor and Judge Charles L. Brown, of the Municipal Court, were allies at the last primary election.

It will be recalled that Mayor Moore disapproved of a number of Municipal Court jobs last year, but Council passed the budget over his head. This year, while the fight against the Municipal Court was being made by Councilmen Roper and Devolin, the Mayor, who questioned as to his present attitude toward the court and said that it was the same as last year.

Should the Mayor veto a number of jobs in the over-manned Municipal Court, the Combine members of Council will ride roughshod over the Mayor's friends and pass the bill over his veto.

FUGITIVE, ARRESTED HERE,
TRIES SUICIDE IN CELL

Walter Segal, Johnstown, Pa., Recovers After Attempt at Hanging
Walter Segal, twenty-three years old, 1107 Green street, who was arrested shortly before midnight in a pastry shop, where he was employed at Sixteenth and Market streets, on a fugitive warrant from Johnstown, Pa., attempted to commit suicide by hanging a few hours later in a cell at Central Station.

Segal is charged with aggravated assault and battery on his mother-in-law, Mrs. Frances Zada, of Johnstown, Pa. Police say he struck her with a hammer about six weeks ago and then fled to Philadelphia.

Following his arrest last night, which is said to have resulted from a tip given by a woman who lives in the neighborhood of Almont, near Doylestown, he was taken to Central Station.

Shortly after, Guard William Wolf was passing his cell and heard a peculiar gurgling noise. He looked into the cell and saw Segal hanging from a crossbar overhead by his belt and shirt, which he had made into a noose. Segal opened his eyes and looked at him down. Segal was strangled into unconsciousness. He was taken to the Hahnemann Hospital, where he recovered.

WON'T BE CALLED TO
TESTIFY, PROSECUTOR SAYS

By a Staff Correspondent
MONTROSS, Va., Dec. 15.—Roger D. Eastlake, Jr., eight years old, and his sister, Margaret Katherine, five, were whisked past the Little courthouse this morning when Roger D. Eastlake, their father, is on trial for the murder of their mother, Mrs. Margaret T. Eastlake.

The big automobile in which they were out for a morning ride did not slacken speed as it passed the courthouse, already crowded, with the trial under way, and the lines of horses tied to hitching posts and automobiles parked waiting for their owners.

The children turned eagerly to the Rev. Wade Mayo, brother of Watt T. Mayo, the commonwealth's attorney, and young Roger said:

Amazed at Number of Carriages
"Is there a circus—what are all those carriages and automobiles for?" Before Mr. Mayo, who was driving the big car, could answer, Roger's little sister asked:

"Oh, won't you please take us—we'd love to see it."
"We can't stop today, children," said Mr. Mayo, and he drove on.

At that moment the children's father, at the beginning of the third day of the trial which may end in his conviction and sentence to death, was sitting on the prisoner's bench on the second floor of the small and overcrowded courthouse. Three hundred people who had come to packed themselves into the courtroom, suffocatingly close and hot, were listening to the fervid words of the prosecutor.

And as it happened, Mr. Mayo was talking of those very children who had been begging his brother to stop the car so they might "see the circus."

"I am not going to bring these children into court," said Mr. Mayo to Judge Chinn, who is presiding at the trial, "unless it become absolutely necessary. I do not expect it to become necessary unless some one were to do the commonwealth without their help."

Think Mother Is Ill
"These children, Your Honor, believe their mother is ill in a hospital at Frederickburg, and I have promised to take them to see her."

"How can I put these trusting children in the court stand and tell them that their mother is dead—murdered? They believe that their father is in Europe. How can I bring them into court to tell them that their mother is sitting there on the prisoner's bench, under weight of the heaviest accusation that can be hung upon a man. How can I tell them that their mother is accused of their mother's murder?"

"Only the little girl could be of any use to us as a witness. She could tell a story that would show beyond a doubt that her father was in the room when the crime was committed. She tells her story in her childish, simple way, not knowing what it means. She believes that her mother fell and died."

Won't Let Father See Children
"No, I will permit the father to see these children. Better far that they go on believing that he is far away. I will not subject these little ones to the shock of meeting him here in the courtroom, where he will be a stranger. He may want to see them, but he cannot see them."

Mr. Mayo spoke also of the letters which he had received from Mrs. Eastlake and Miss Sara Knox, the Baltimore nurse, indited jointly with Eastlake.

Another letter which the prosecution is likely to offer in evidence, undated, seems to indicate that Eastlake wanted to arrange to have Miss Knox in the neighborhood. The letter was written while Eastlake was up in a navy airplane.

OPENS COURT FIGHT
ON COLLEGE RULING

Miss Barker on Stand to Win
Bryn Mawr Rein-
statement

Marjorie Barker, a pretty twenty-two-year-old girl, appeared in Common Pleas Court, Norristown, today in connection with mandamus proceedings to bring about her reinstatement as a student in Bryn Mawr College.

The girl was dismissed April 6, although no specific reasons were given her at that time by the college officials.

With a voice trembling with indignation, Miss Barker told the stand of incidents leading to her dismissal and declared it was uncalculated and cruel.

Students Encourage Her
Miss Barker, who is of medium height and slim build, made an attractive figure as she reviewed the various incidents. She wore a dark crimson gown and neatly trimmed black hat.

More than two-score Bryn Mawr students occupied one side of the court and sniled back at Miss Barker assuringly as she spoke.

"Counsel on both sides agreed that the question before the court was whether or not the college authorities had the right to dismiss Miss Barker from the college without giving a specific reason."

George Winston Pepper, representing Miss Barker, contended the action had affected the girl's reputation and subjected her to deep humiliation.

Reasons leading to the action of the college were given in the testimony of Miss Barker.

Shortly before her dismissal Miss Barker said several of the college authorities told her numerous articles had been missing from the rooms of the students. They questioned her about this and asked if she had ever viewed any of the girls' rooms.

Dr. Thomas, president of the college, said she had entered rooms at various times, but gave her satisfactory explanation.

Had Requested Hearing
On seeing that suspension was directed toward her, she requested Dr. M. Cary Thomas, president of the college, to allow her a hearing before the girls, or means of making an explanation. Dr. Thomas told her, she said, nothing but "such questions" would justify such a course as that.

During the Easter vacation, prior to her dismissal, she said she was requested not to return until she received word from the college. Later, according to her testimony, she received a communication saying she had neglected to leave her name at the dormitory office. This was followed by word that she had been dismissed.

Nicholas Lutzere, representing the college, contended the court had no jurisdiction in the matter, for the reason that it was an affair of the college. Mr. Pepper declared in view of the harm done Miss Barker's character the court action was justified.

BRIDGEPORT WOMAN FOUND ON
LINCOLN HIGHWAY AFTER
TAKING POISON

Bridgeport Woman Found on
Lincoln Highway After
Taking Poison

After pleading vainly for a young man to come with her, according to State police, Minerva Hoffas, of Bridgeport, Pa., drank poison at noon today and was found unconscious in a ditch on the Lincoln Highway near Berwyn.

In a pocket of the girl's coat was a note, addressed to Robert Morris, attendant in the baggage room at the Radnor station, which read:

"I have just gone into a drugstore and bought enough poison to kill myself. Yours forever, Minerva."

The girl was found by Joseph Miller, of Ardmore, an automobile salesman, as he was driving his car east on the highway when Mrs. Hoffas was found in a ditch near Berwyn.

He saw an object in a ditch and first believed it was a rock, where Morris is employed. Morris is nineteen years old.

General Molinkoff, of the State police, said the girl quarreled recently with her mother and left home. He said he learned Morris had been attentive to her and that she suggested an elopement to this city. She became despondent when Morris would not agree.

The State police questioned Morris, but he declined to make a statement.

FIREMEN KEPT ON JUMP
Many Small Blazes Occur Throughout City on Cold Day

Small fires were prevalent in the city today.

A two-story frame dwelling belonging to Mrs. Maudy Easton, colored, of 7101 James street, Troyn, caught fire at 11 o'clock this morning, and the roof was destroyed with damage estimated at \$300.

At the same hour Jacob Kuntz, of 2074 Gas Victoria street, Troyn, was burning kerosene in his yard, preparatory to mending his roof. The flames caught the fence, which was destroyed.

Fire of an unknown origin did \$2000 damage to back room of the saloon of Harry Young, Frankford avenue and Huntington street, at 2:45 this morning. No one lives in the building and the authorities are at a loss to account for the fire, as the saloon had been closed nearly two hours.

A small storage shed belonging to Casson Spadensky, 158 Roxborough street, Manayunk, caught fire this morning when children, who were playing inside, ignited boxes of matches. The flames spread to a shed in the next yard, belonging to John Levandowski, of 156 Roxborough street. Both sheds were destroyed.

ALTERNATE PLANS
FOR BRITISH SHIPS
BEFORE 'BIG THREE'

Two Super-Hoods or Royal Sovereign Type Warships Proposed for England

CONFUSION OF FIGURES
DELAYS NAVY AGREEMENT

By the Associated Press
Washington, Dec. 15.—Alternate proposals relating to the 5-5-3 ratio, as worked out, apparently overnight, by naval experts, were presented today to Secretary Hughes, Mr. Halsey and Baron Kato, which indicated, according to delegation spokesmen, that no formal agreement had been reached by the "Big Three."

The proposals, submitted as a means of balancing the naval ratio to compensate for the retention of the Matsuyama by Japan, would permit Great Britain to build two super-hoods, scrapping four old dreadnaughts and one battle cruiser, of the type of the Tiger and Repulse, or to build two battleships of the Royal Sovereign class, scrapping of four dreadnaughts, but no battle cruisers.

It was stated that these alternatives were combined with all sorts of questions as to the method of calculating tonnage, whether by the American or by the British or Japanese systems.

The increase of the American tonnage by 25,000 would admit the substitution of the superdreadnaught Colorado and Washington for the older battleships Delaware and North Dakota, Japan in retaining the Matsuyama would scrap the Setsu.

General Increase of Tonnage
The substantial effect of the adoption of either of these alternatives would be to retain the naval ratio of 5-5-3, while admitting a general increase of tonnage all around.

The British delegates were represented as indignant at the suggestion that they have been opposing the Japanese request for retention of the Matsuyama and increase of tonnage for the reason that the British did not wish to build more ships.

"I have just gone into a drugstore and bought enough poison to kill myself. Yours forever, Minerva."

"No formal decision has been arrived at on that point, although the discussion has been proceeding on the assumption that an arrangement would be possible concerning American and Japanese works on the Pacific."

"So far as the questions of fortifications and works are concerned," he added, "the suggestion has been made that these remain status quo; the works should not be proceeded with either by the United States or Japan. Both the United States and Japan have certain works in contemplation in certain islands and the suggestion that no further steps should be taken along these lines."

"Must Reconcile Figures"
"It should be pointed out," a British spokesman said, "that under the terms of the 1919 treaty, the United States tonnage would be increased to 325,000."

Apparently the delay in reaching a settlement, it was said, was due to the necessity of reconciling the various sets of figures. Long discussions are said to have taken place at the meeting of the "Big Three" on the subject of deciding some plan that would bring the British program into line with the revised Japanese and American programs, and which at the same time would keep the British tonnage in proportion to limits as prescribed by Secretary Hughes.

Regardless of the alternate proposals, the feeling, especially in British circles, that agreement on naval ratio was within reach was so strong that a spokesman for the delegation professed a genuine session of the Conference.

Wilson Comrade of All
War Veterans, He Says

Washington, Dec. 15.—(By A. P.)—Former President Wilson is proud to consider himself as a "comrade of all the men in the expeditionary forces."

Replying to a letter from J. Bentley Mulford, national first vice president of the Rainbow Division Veterans, regarding New Year's greetings, Mr. Wilson in a letter made public today by Mr. Mulford says:

"I am proud to regard myself as a comrade of all the men of the expeditionary forces. It therefore affords me the greatest pleasure to receive from a group of them such a greeting as is the courtesy to me by your letter of December 9."

BANDITS TIE SHOPKEEPER,
ROB MARKET STREET STORE

Samuel Epstein Bound as Three
Escape With Cash and 84 Shirts
Samuel Epstein was bound by three bandits who entered his store at 253 Market street at 4 o'clock yesterday and robbed him of \$102. The men also took seven dozen shirts from the store.

He was released from the ropes which tied his hands and feet, in an office at the rear of the store, by another merchant who called there a half-hour after the bandits left.

The men were well dressed and pretended to be purchasers. Then their hands were tied, and they were forced to the proprietor into the office.

Epstein was unable to identify any pictures in the Regnes' Gallery as those of the men who robbed him.

2D STOLEN AUTO PULLED
FROM QUARRY AT LANSDALE

Think the Third Is Under Water.
Pumps at Work
The authorities today pulled a second automobile out of the quarry near Lansdale, thought to be a graveyard for stolen automobiles.

The car recovered today is a touring car of the mid-twenties make. The car found last night was a more expensive machine, and is said to have been the property of Alexander Carr, lawyer, Eighth street near Chestnut. Mr. Carr said his car was stolen December 7.

Grappling irons have been attached to some heavy object that is believed to be a third car. A curious crowd of about 300 is watching the work of the county authorities. There was forty feet of water in the quarry, but pumping has reduced it to sixteen feet.

RECASTING OF CHECK-OFF
INJUNCTION IS ORDERED

Circuit Court Directs Judge Anderson to Hold Rearing
Chicago, Dec. 15.—(By A. P.)—The injunction banning the check-off system of collecting miners' dues recently issued by Judge A. B. Anderson in Federal Court at Indianapolis, was today ordered recast by the United States Circuit Court of Appeals. It was remanded to Judge Anderson with instructions to enter a preliminary injunction while the case is being reargued.

IRISH PACT SIGNERS
SURE DAIL EIREANN
WILL BACK TREATY

Say De Valera Merely Opposes
Certain Details of
Agreement

CHIEFTAIN MAY REQUEST
REFERENDUM BE ORDERED

By the Associated Press
DUBLIN, Dec. 15.—As the Dail Eireann met today for the continuation of its secret session, supporters of Michael Collins and Arthur Griffith said they and the other signers of the Irish peace agreement now felt certain of an ultimate majority in favor of the treaty.

"They declared no prominent person in any part of Ireland had yet protested against their action in signing an agreement with the British Cabinet. Eamon De Valera's objections were stated to be to certain details of the treaty, which he thinks would have been improved if it had been resubmitted to him and the Dail Cabinet before it was signed."

The general impression in Dublin today was that Lord Carson's speech in the House of Lords last night had helped Collins and Griffith in their fight in the Dail for the treaty's ratification. It was pointed out that Lord Carson had pictured the English nation toward Ulster in a light that bore out the prediction of Collins at Armagh last September, when he said England would use Ulster as long as it suited her purpose and then throw her over."

As to Mr. De Valera's position with regard to the treaty, it is asserted that, when the Government's proposals were submitted to the Dail Cabinet on September 3, certain objections were made which Mr. De Valera does not think were adequately met in the final draft. It is pointed out that he is expected to discuss these points at a meeting after last night's adjournment that the members had got no further along in their discussion than they were when the public session was concluded early yesterday afternoon.

May Ask for Referendum
It was thought probable that Eamon De Valera and his followers opposing the treaty would not force a direct vote, but would ask the Dail to authorize a public referendum. Reports from various sections of Southern Ireland indicated that such a referendum probably would result in a large majority favoring ratification.

Today's meeting of the Dail was secret, as were the two final sittings yesterday, after the differences between Eamon De Valera and his group of dissenters were finally reconciled. From various sections of Southern Ireland it was indicated that such a referendum probably would result in a large majority favoring ratification.

The clash during the public session hinged on the point whether Griffith, Collins and the other Irish plenipotentiaries should be empowered in signing the treaty instead of referring it first to the Dail. The plenipotentiaries contended their powers were plainly set forth in their credentials, but the dissenters insisted on questioning whether the credentials had been accepted by the British Government.

Mary MacSwiney Protests
The Freeman's Journal states that the private sessions yesterday, courtesy and friendliness entirely superseded the sharpness noticeable in the morning. It was found necessary, however, to refer to the Dail reports on all the correspondence relating to the delegates' mission to London, and the report of this committee was presented today.

The controversy over the procedure of the Irish delegates is regarded with impatience by the press and the public, and expressions are heard on every side which would encourage the real issue of acceptance or rejection of the agreement.

A large crowd assembled again today to watch the members of the Dail arrive at the National University, where the sessions are being held, and the welcoming guests were again impartially treated.

Today's newspapers publish a letter from Mary MacSwiney, sister of the late Lord Mayor of Cork, protesting in strong terms against the treaty.

London, Dec. 15.—(By A. P.)—Meetings today of the Dail Eireann at Dublin and the Imperial Parliament were widely reported to be a landmark in the history of the Irish peace situation that was developed at yesterday's sessions.

GERMANY SAYS SHE CAN'T
PAY; ASKS MORATORIUM

Berlin Declares Sum Due January
15 Can't Be Raised

GIRL IN COMA FIVE DAYS
Seven-Year-Old Child in Critical
Condition After Accident

12 DRAW 'STANDARD FINES'
AT YERKES' 'AUTO MILL'

WOULDN'T APOLOGIZE. SO
PAYS COURT \$5 AND COSTS

15 RESCUED AFTER 48 HOURS IN LIFEBOATS

THIEVES GET "REAL STUFF"
OFFERS SELLERS PROPERTY

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR HELP?
Have the very best person you need—
acting under situations on page 25.