THE WEATHER
Mostly cloudy and somewhat unsettled tonight and Saturday; little change in temperature; moderate winds.

TEMPERATURE AT EACH HOUR								
8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5
35	35	34	35	37	38	38			

EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER

NIGHT EXTRA

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YALE FRESHMAN KILLED IN CRASH ON RIVER DRIVE

Boston Student Victim in Midnight Accident When Car Skids

LITTLE GIRL HURT FATALLY IN RUSH TO GREET "SANTA"

Crushed Under Wheels at Barrington in Haste to See Packages for Her Christmas

Four persons are dead in pre-Christmas auto accidents in and near Philadelphia, one a Yale student here for the holidays, another a little girl waiting for Santa Claus.

The dead are:

William Resor, of Boston, a freshman at Yale, killed on East River Drive and Nicetown lane shortly after midnight when the car of a chum with whom he was spending the holidays ran into a tree.

Helen Gormley, five years old, Barrington, N. J.

James McDonald, twenty-seven years old, 2224 Dickinson street.

Margaret Alcroft, twenty-six years old, Van Pelt and Berks streets.

With Resor were Harry Sauers, nineteen years old, of the Longacre Hotel, 1431 Walnut street, driver of the car, who was seriously hurt, and Edward G. Trasel, nineteen years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Trasel, of State road, Torresdale, who escaped with a few scratches. All are students at Yale.

Resor's skull was fractured and he died while being taken to the Lankenau Hospital. A passing car took Sauers to the Medico-Chi Hospital.

Driver Still Dazed

Physicians said this morning that Sauers was in a dazed condition and they have not yet been able to determine the extent of his injuries. It is believed, however, that he received several broken ribs.

Park guards are keeping watch over Sauers in the hospital, and Trasel was taken to the Sedgley guard house and later held by Magistrate Stevenson to await the Coroner's investigation. Further action will be taken as regard to Sauer when he can leave the hospital.

"We were returning from a dance at the Philadelphia Country Club at Bala when the accident occurred," said Trasel. "We had been going along at about thirty-five or forty miles an hour and when we reached the turn, just beyond the Girard avenue bridge, the car began skidding. The last thing I remembered was that I saw the car lurching sideways toward a tree.

"When I came to I was hanging over the steering wheel; Sauers and Resor were lying on the ground outside the car. I struggled out of the wreckage and seeing that I was only scratched I went to aid my companions. Sauers was just coming to, but appeared dazed. He asked for a cigarette and lit it, then started back toward the car.

Went to Aid of Companion

"Next I went to Resor. I saw that he was badly hurt. I said to Harry that we'd have to get him to the hospital. Although he was badly hurt himself and bleeding Harry told me to take care of Resor and get him to a hospital. Then I fainted away. I remember, however, being placed in another car. The car took us to Medico-Chi Hospital, where Resor was pronounced dead. Later I was able to go to the Park Guard station."

Mrs. Catherine Sauers, mother of Harry, a widow, was greatly excited when she learned of the accident. She went to the hospital at once. She has resided at the Longacre for several years.

Park Guard Flood heard the crash. He hurried up and says he saw Sauers free himself from the wreckage, light a cigarette and stagger away, apparently in a dazed condition.

The automobile was owned by Sauers, according to Park guards. Trasel is a member of a socially prominent family.

Resor was a first-year student at Yale. Trasel was also a member of his class and Sauers is a sophomore. Resor had planned spending the holidays at the Trasel home.

Young Woman Killed

Mrs. Marguerite Alcrofter, twenty-six years old, who lived at Van Pelt and Berks streets, was instantly killed in a collision between a United States mail truck and an automobile at Twenty-third and Market streets early today.

Mrs. Alcrofter was riding home in a large touring car with her brother-in-law, George De Haven, of 241 Nichols street, who was driving. As they reached Twenty-third and Market

Continued on Page Eighteen, Column Six

They Fall in Love Then Vanish!

Think of this situation—a beautiful woman who inspires the affection of three different men, two of whom mysteriously disappear. It is the plot of

"The Vanishing Men" By Richard W. Child

Read this thrilling and romantic story by the United States Ambassador to Italy, now serving as American official observer of the Lausanne Conference.

Begins tomorrow.

EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER

LIONEL BARRYMORE DIVORCED IN NEW YORK

Action Against Actor Based on Referee's Findings

DORIS RANKIN

New York, Dec. 22.—An interlocutory decree of divorce from Lionel Barrymore, motion-picture star, dramatic actor and a member of an illustrious theatrical family, was obtained yesterday by Mrs. Doris Rankin Barrymore, an actress.

The decree was based on the findings of a referee reported to Joseph Morschauser, Supreme Court Justice, but not made public. That divorce proceedings had been begun was not generally known. The decree was granted within two weeks after the appointment of a referee, an action which neither principal opposed.

Mrs. Barrymore, who had just completed an engagement, in which she played in the same company with Lionel Barrymore's sister Ethel, received custody of the one child of the marriage.

WOULD BANISH TRUCK TRAILERS FROM CITY

Coroner Knight at Inquest Says Practice Is Menace to Life

A bill to prohibit truck-trailers in the streets of Philadelphia will be introduced in the Legislature to safeguard pedestrians and motorists from injury.

Coroner Knight made that known today following an inquest into the death on December 10, of James E. Rich, thirty-six years old, 118 North Sixteenth street, after being crushed by a trailer attached to his truck.

The accident occurred at Broad and Glenwood avenue. While Rich was standing between the truck and its trailer another automobile driven by Aaron Lippman, twenty-three years old, 6102 Washington avenue, bumped into the rear of the trailer. Lippman was exonerated by the Coroner.

In commenting on the proposed bill, Coroner Knight said:

"The streets of Philadelphia are congested enough without the added burden of truck-trailers. The trailers are dangerous because they swing all over the street, and, especially when turning corners, they are apt to crash into anything in the vicinity."

MRS. CLARKE DURANT MISSES $800 BROOCH

Believes It Was Stolen Last Night From Her Locust Street Apartment

A diamond brooch, valued at $800, has been reported as stolen from the boudoir of Mrs. T. Clarke Durant, in her apartment on the ninth floor of 1530 Locust street. The theft occurred, it is believed, during Mrs. Durant's absence last evening.

"I laid the brooch upon the dressing table before going on a visit to my sister," said Mrs. Durant today. "The door to the apartment I locked securely. Then I went down the elevator to the street. Upon my return, some hours later, I unlocked the door, entered, switched on the lights, and the brooch was gone.

"I have searched everywhere for it, and I am convinced it must have been stolen. The apartment was not disarranged in any way, and there are no marks of forcible entry. The thief must have used a master key to open the door."

TRUCK AND CANDY STOLEN; MAN BOUND

Highwayman Beat and Throw Driver Into Field—Loss $13,000

The driver of a truck which was loaded with five tons of Christmas candies was bound, gagged and beaten by two highwaymen at Butcrowood street and Byberry road shortly after midnight. The hold-up men escaped with the truck and candy, valued at $8000, after they had thrown the helpless driver into a vacant lot.

Edward Lynch, 2341 Gerrett street, the driver, was found by Edward Cronin, 2932 North Lambert street, who was passing and was attracted by the man's groans.

The truck left the city late last night with the load of candy, intended for the New York Christmas trade. When passing along Byberry road two men, a Negro and a white man, stepped out of the darkness in front of the truck and Lynch stopped. The highwaymen climbed aboard the truck, leveling revolvers a the driver.

Lynch was then bound hand and foot, gagged and thrown in the back of the truck and covered with boxes of candy. The bandits turned the vehicle around, and upon reaching Hunting Park avenue and Fox street, Nicetown, they lifted Lynch from the truck and hurled him into a vacant lot.

HARVEY SAILS TOMORROW

Ambassador Ready for Return to U. S. as Wife Goes to Madeira

London, Dec. 22.—(By A. P.)—American Ambassador Harvey today accompanied Mrs. Harvey to Southampton, whence she sailed for Madeira to spend the holidays while he is in America.

The Ambassador sails tomorrow on the steamship Berengaria, accompanied by his military attache, Major Oscar N. Solbert. Mrs. Harvey is being accompanied to Madeira by her daughter, Mrs. Marcellus Thompson.

Public Opinion Forcing U.S. to Act in Europe's Problem

Borah's Plan for Economic Conference Gives Administration License to Move With Expectation of Senate Backing

By CLINTON W. GILBERT
Staff Correspondent Evening Public Ledger
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Washington, Dec. 22. — American public opinion is forcing the hands of the Administration on the European problem.

Senator Borah, who is a keen judge of what is going on in the people's minds, is once more to the front in a movement which is likely to have a powerful effect upon this Government's course toward Europe in the coming months.

The situation resembles that which preceded the Arms Conference last year, when the Administration hesitated over just what action it should take to bring about a reduction of armaments and the saving of expenses which the country wanted. Public opinion formed strongly and rapidly in favor of a meeting of the nations to agree on armament policies, and Senator Borah forced the issue by his resolution, which at first the Administration opposed, urging the President to call the leading naval nations together in Washington.

The first sign of the immense public interest in the European situation was the outbreak of conjectural dispatches from here as to what the Administration would do to bring order out of the European chaos. There was little or no basis for the stories that were printed, but the excitement which they caused was significant. The public evidently felt that something must be done and welcomed the idea that the Administration was about to act.

Secretary Hughes Annoyed

Secretary Hughes was annoyed by the activities of the "irresponsible press," because, as the State Department said, of the false hopes that were being raised in Europe, but even more, as a matter of fact, because of the false hopes that were being stirred up in this country. A state of mind was being created which made some action by the American Government necessary and the situation bristled with difficulties for the legal mind of the Secretary of State.

Now Senator Borah has given a new flip to public expectancy by asking the President to call an economic conference of the Governments involved in the European difficulties.

At the same time the United States Chamber of Commerce has started a movement for sending a commission of American business men to Germany to and in the settlement of the European problem.

Public Opinion Being Formed

That is to say, in the absence of evidence that the United States Government is doing anything effective to save a smash-up in Europe, every one else is taking a hand in it; first, the Washington journalists, then the Chamber of Commerce and finally Senator Borah. It is all irresponsible, but it is all tending to form American opinion in favor of a constructive policy toward Europe's economic distress. It is not sentimental; it springs from a sense that American economic interests are involved in the restoration of Europe.

The proposal of the United States Chamber of Commerce may probably be dismissed. It might be acceptable to Germany, but it clearly would not be to France. M. Poincare made that clear in his talk to the French Senate yesterday. France is unlikely to deal with unofficial representatives of the United States.

The Borah proposal, however, is to be taken seriously. It is made first of all by a man who is an isolationist. That is to say, supposing Mr. Borah has the support of his group in the Senate, it gives the State Department the license to act with the expectation of being sustained by the Senate.

Administration Must Act

Then, too, it has become clear that the Administration must do something more this time than use its "influence," its favorite word in Europe, and a conference of economic conditions is the natural step to take.

Mr. Borah is free from some of the inhibitions of Mr. Hughes. It is an odd consideration that, where Mr. Borah is an isolationist and Mr. Hughes is not one, Mr. Borah admits the possibility of canceling the allied debt to the United States where Mr. Hughes does not.

The Idaho Senator has said if thorough disarmament in Europe might thus be brought about, the cancellation of the debts might be considered. To Mr. Hughes debts and reparations have no relation whatever. It is this fixed idea of the Secretary that has caused the initiative toward settling Europe's difficulties to pass from his into other hands.

DR. REEVES GRILLED BY GRAND JURORS

Furey Ellis, Also Member of Prison Board, Calls Holmesburg Rules Outrageous

DR. BALDY IS UPHELD

Dr. Joseph M. Reeves, president of the Board of Prison Inspectors, who declared that he would not change the rules of the Holmesburg County Prison, which have caused general complaint by the convicts, was quizzed today by members of the Grand Jury.

Dr. Reeves and Furey Ellis, another member of the board, were the last two witnesses to appear before the jury, which closed its investigation today. The jury will submit its presentment next week to Judge Audenreid, who ordered the investigation.

Despite the fact that other members of the board contend that these rules inflict unnecessary punishment, Dr. Reeves, it is said, reiterated the statement made a few days ago that they were "just what was needed for a lot of convicts."

Grilled for an Hour

For more than an hour the head of the board was grilled by various members of the jury. He was especially questioned concerning the no-talking and no-smoking regulation. His interrogators desired to know how indulgence in these normal habits would affect the men, several hundred of whom are penned up without daily employment.

The physician explained, it is said, that he did not make the rules, but it was his duty to see they were enforced. As several convicts who testified during the last week said they were forced to endure long foodless periods and also suffered from lack of medical attention, Dr. Reeves was asked to explain how such a condition was permitted to exist.

Among the convicts and some of the members of the board, Dr. Reeves was known as a stickler for adherence to the rules and could not be swerved from this position.

Mr. Ellis, the next and last witness to appear before the jury, advocated a change in the rules of both the Holmesburg and Moyamensing Prisons. He said the rules were outrageous. He contended there was no harm in the men talking and having an occasional smoke under proper regulation. He said the men should be given opportunity for more exercise, which would be conducive to better health and general improvement in their mental condition.

The investigation closed today following revelations regarding conditions at the prison by the EVENING PUBLIC LEDGER.

Dr. Baldy Upheld

Dr. John M. Baldy's right, as Commissioner of Public Welfare, to order needed reforms in prisons in the State has been upheld in an opinion from the office of Attorney General Alter.

The opinion, written by Deputy Attorney General Emerson Collins, is considered important, as it settles the controversy as to the right of Dr. Baldy to interfere where conditions are found to be bad in the penal institutions.

LAW BECOMES "GRANDPA"

London, Dec. 22.—Premier Bonar Law became a grandfather for the first time last night. A son was born to Lady Sykes, the Premier's daughter.

SPIESE RELEASED BY PAYING $45,000

Credit Corporation Promoter to Turn Over Stock and Cash to Shareholders

ONLY ONE OBJECTOR

A verdict of not guilty on seventeen bills of indictment against Franklyn J. Spiese, promoter of the National Guarantee Credit Corporation, and five co-defendants, was ordered returned by Judge Davis in Quarter Sessions Court No. 2 today.

The order that the criminal charges be dropped followed the statement in court by counsel for 90 per cent of the shareholders in the credit corporation that their interests had been satisfied by an agreement reached in civil court.

As the stockholders were satisfied, Assistant District Attorney Maurer said the District Attorney's office had also agreed to such action.

One Objector Silenced

There was only one man in the crowded courtroom who wanted to offer an objection to such a settlement. Frank Farrel, manager of the Philadelphia office of Worth & Co., a subsidiary company of the credit corporation, said that the agreement was unjust, and he objected to the dropping of the criminal charges. He was told that his case was outlawed by the statute of limitations.

Judge Davis explained that the civil court agreement provided that Worth & Co. was to surrender its contract with the credit corporation as selling agents and that it should surrender 4813 shares of stock which it held in the Guarantee company, while Spiese is to turn over to Worth & Co. $45,000.

The one exciting moment in the trial came when Farrell attempted to interpose his objection.

"Your honor," said Farrell, "after swearing out a warrant in this case, have I no right to say something?"

Assistant District Attorney Maurer then told him his case was outlawed by the statute of limitations.

Charges Crooked Work

"Regardless of that fact," said Farrell, "I wan to enter a protest against this settlement. It is not fair. I was manager of the Philadelphia office and there was crooked work going on in that office, and I know who I'm talking about.

At this point Charles W. Wesley, counsel for the Guarantee Credit Company, interrupted. He said:

"Your honor, the committee stockholders representing virtually every interested stockholder, unanimously approved of this settlement, and unles-

Continued on Page Eighteen, Column Three

MRS. HARDING TO DINE WITH HUSBAND AT XMAS

White House Chefs Preparing Cakes and Pastries for Her

Washington, Dec. 22.—The White House chefs were told yesterday that Mrs. Harding would sit at the table with her husband on Christmas Day, for the first time since Thanksgiving Day, and she would be permitted to eat anything she wished. So cakes and pastries are being prepared.

The President and Mrs. Harding will receive all executive officers and White House employes and present each with a gift.

TWO DEAD FOUND IN LAKE BELIEVED VICTIMS OF KLAN

Dynamite Brings Bodies to Surface—Supposed to Be Missing Louisiana Men

MORE STATE TROOPS RUSHED TO MER ROUGE

Serious Outbreak With Bloodshed Feared—Whole Neighborhood Reported Under Arms

Shreveport, La., Dec. 22.—The badly decomposed bodies of two men, believed to be Major Watt Daniels and Thomas Richards, missing victims of the Morehouse mob of last August, were found today near the Eastland ferry on Lake La Fourche, which separates Morehouse and Richland parishes, according to the special correspondent of the Shreveport Journal.

The limbs of the dead men were tied with wire. They came to the surface as the result of a big charge of dynamite, exploded last night by unidentified persons.

The bodies were nude except for belts and a portion of the trousers. One man's head was gone. It is thought that those who used the explosives left without knowing the bodies had come to the surface.

The mob to which the deaths of the two men is attributed was a hooded gang, composed, it is said, of members of the Ku Klux Klan.

Owing to the condition of the bodies it is believed identification will be difficult unless there are marks on the belts.

The place on the bank near where the ferryboat was accustomed to landing was badly torn up by the explosion. Many dead fish were on the surface of the water.

Mer Rouge, La., Dec. 22.—It was reported here today that the bodies of two missing men believed to have been victims of masked and hooded Klansmen last August had been brought to the surface by fishermen in La Fourche Lake, twelve miles from here. A military detachment in automobiles was immediately dispatched to the place.

State guardsmen early today shot at men they saw moving about Cooper Lake, near here, which was searched yesterday for the bodies of the two men, Major Watt Daniels and Thomas Richards.

Two of the detail of six soldiers at the lake hurried to Mer Rouge, and Department of Justice agents and the entire company of militiamen stationed here went to the lake in automobiles.

A number of civilians who accompanied the troops to Cooper Lake returned to Mer Rouge and reported that no one had been found near the point where he guards reported having seen a number of men wading about.

The militia company was ordered kept on guard at the lake.

With firearms in evidence throughout Mer Rouge, and rifles and shotguns loaded for immediate use reported in stores and residences as a result of the feeling that has divided many of the citizens into hostile camps since the events of August, machine guns were ordered mounted at the lakes yesterday to be used to repel any attacks by opponents of the present efforts on the part of the State.

Fred J. Carpenter, Sheriff of Morehouse Parish, refused to come to Mer Rouge for a conference with Colonel W. W. Cooper, commander of the State troops, according to a telegram sent by the officer to Governor Parker, and late last night the Executive directed the Sheriff to proceed immediately to Mer Rouge as requested by Captain Cooper. The Sheriff then announced he would arrive in Mer Rouge today.

The investigation which resulted in a decision by the State authorities to search the lakes has been under way nearly four months, it was said today. Governor Parker and Attorney General Coco are reported to have begun their inquiry immediately after the kidnaping of Daniels, Richards and their three companions. The companions of the missing men escaped alive.

The investigators are said to have

Continued on Page Eighteen, Column Four

'SNOW FLURRIES' ONLY. PLEDGE FOR CHRISTMAS

Day Will Be Cloudy and Mild, Says Bliss

A white Christmas—there is just a chance that as you clamber out of bed to grab that Christmas stocking, you'll look out of the window to find everything still under a covering of snow.

But "snow flurries," is the only real promise toward a "white Christmas" George F. Bliss, the weather man, will make.

Christmas Day will be cloudy with a mild temperature, with the flurries of snow promised but not pledged.

SALOONKEEPER HELD UP BY THIEVES WITH REVOLVER

Loses $8 to One While Companion Holds Weapon Against His Body

George Schneider, owner of a saloon at Front and Cambria streets, was held up by two highwaymen in front of his saloon early this morning and robbed of $8. While one man held a revolver to his body the other went through his pockets.

The hold-up took place immediately after Schneider had closed his place and was starting home. He told the police the footpads were both young and thought he would be able to identify them.

LENINE ACUTELY ILL

Report Little Hope Is Held Out for His Recovery

Copenhagen, Dec. 22. — Premier Lenine, of Russia, is seriously ill, according to dispatches printed by the Gothenberg (Sweden) Handelstidning.

The dispatches state Lenine's condition is acute, that he has been taken to a place of secret confinement for treatment and that there is little hope for his recovery.

When You think of Writing, Think of WRITING.—Adv.

LAST-MINUTE NEWS

CHRISTMAS FREEDOM FOR IRISH REPUBLICANS

DUBLIN, Dec. 22.—A large number of Irish Republicans held prisoner in Mountjoy Prison will, it is understood, be released Christmas, having signed a declaration of allegiance to the Free State. For the remainder no holiday parole will be granted.

ARGENTINA TO SELL WHEAT AND CATTLE TO GREECE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—The Department of Commerce was advised by cable today that a provisional contract has been arranged under which the Argentine Government will sell 300,000 tons of wheat and 10,000 head of live cattle to Greece. The Greek Government will pay one-half of the total in cash and the remainder in two-year treasury notes bearing 6 per cent interest.

'SUNNY PETE' READY FOR NEW LIBERTY

Webber, 'Dean of Penitentiary,' Hopes for Christmas Dinner With Old Mother

MODEL PRISONER 27 YEARS

The old thrill that set "Sunny Pete" Webber a-tingle as a boy when he waited for Christmas morning has come to him again after twenty-seven years in the Eastern Penitentiary.

This Christmas means freedom for Webber. It means the right to come and go when he pleases. There was a tone of wistfulness in the man's voice this morning when he said he wanted to walk along Market street and "see what's what."

The State Board of Pardons last night recommended a pardon for the aging convict who killed his father-in-law, Justus Klemmer, in 1894, and was sentenced to be hanged. He won commutation to life imprisonment. Now, fifty-eight years old, he is preparing to leave the penitentiary a free man.

Has Been Model Prisoner

In all his years as a convict, Webber has never violated a single rule, a record which Warden McKenty says is almost without a counterpart in any penitentiary in this country.

Webber arose at 6 o'clock this morning. From breakfast time onward he was congratulated by every fellow convict who could reach him and most of them saw to it that they did.

"Sunny Pete" showed no emotion as he talked over the few plans he has. His prison hours have been crowded with duties. For the last ten years he has been head of the penitentiary choir. He has charge of the Bible Class and the orchestra and is director of the motion picture exhibits. His duties include supervision over the croquet grounds in the prison yards where old prisoners knock the balls about occasionally.

"The first thing I'm going to do when I get out is to take a walk around the block. I think I'm entitled to a walk after twenty-nine years in prison. I was in jail in Reading for two years before I was sent here.

"Then I want to go down to Market street and just stroll along. I've kept in touch with the outside world to some extent. But I have never seen a subway or an elevated. And I understand a lot of skyscrapers have been built in Philadelphia.

Christmas Dinner With Mother

"I am going to eat my Christmas dinner with my eighty-year-old mother in Harrisburg. She is paralyzed. It will be like coming back from the dead to her. I haven't any complaint to make. Everybody has been fine to me and I am grateful to Warden McKenty and John and Reuben, his sons."

Webber said he has been sorry for the murder ever since it occurred. His wife has never forgiven him and he believes his daughter has been "turned against" him, as he expressed it.

"Of course, I'm glad to leave here and at the same time I'm sorry," he went on. "Warden McKenty has placed in my care a number of young boys who are not real criminals, but who killed in the heat of passion the way I did. One of them is Lester Newhall, who killed Josephine Howard. He is serving twenty years.

"I'll miss him, but I guess he'll miss me more. I've tried to make him look on the sunny side of things as I have done."

Webber reverted again to his daughter, whom he has never seen since his term began.

"Forgiving and forgetting ought to hold good outside a prison as well as inside," he said.

The 1700 other convicts in the penitentiary are raising a purse for the pardoned man. It will total about $1500, the largest ever given to a departing prisoner.

MAN IS SHOT DEAD FROM PASSING AUTO

Carbon County Police Mystified at Unwarranted Assault

Scranton, Dec. 22. (By A. P.)—Several men in an automobile are being hunted by Carbon County detectives today for the killing late last night of Evan J. Parker, of Dickson City, near here.

Parker was on his way home and was a half block from his door when shots were fired from a passing automobile and he fell fatally wounded. He crawled home, called to his wife, "Those fellows in the auto shot me," and died.

The police have been unable to determine whether the men in the machine were bandits or drunken joy riders. There is a theory also that the men in the automobile had a Dickson City man marked for death and that Parker had been shot in mistake.

The delicious flavor and delicate tang of cranberry sauce give extra zest to the Christmas dinner. Specify Eatmor brand.—Adv.

LEIGHTON TAYLOR PLEADS LIMITATION

Asks Dismissal of Suit Brought by Woman Who Charges He Kissed Her

PLAINTIFF OWN ATTORNEY

By a Staff Correspondent

Washington, Dec. 22.—"Your client assaults a lady by kissing her and now wishes to plead the statute of limitations."

Thus Justice Hitz, in the District of Columbia Supreme Court today, summed up the case brought by attorneys for Leighton Taylor, former secretary to Senator Penrose, of Pennsylvania, who is now being sued by Mrs. Alma C. Smythe for $100,000 damages. Mrs. Smythe charges that Taylor kissed her and hugged her when she visited Senator Penrose's office in May of 1921. Taylor's attorney asked that the suit be dismissed on the ground that the statute of limitations had expired on the case.

When Justice Hitz made his suggestion, John Thomas Taylor, Mr. Taylor's attorney, jumped to his feet and advised Justice Hitz that no such inference was to be drawn from the request that the suit be dismissed. He insisted that his client had not kissed or hugged the woman and that no proof or suggestion of proof that the charges could be made.

Plaintiff Acts as Own Counsel

Mrs. Smythe was in court today to plead her own case. Leighton Taylor, the defendant, was not present, and he could not be located in Washington. He was represented by his counsel.

It was the first time in the history of a district court that a dog was brought before the bar to assist in pleading a case. There was Mrs. Smythe, acting as her own counsel, sitting complacently while Taylor's attorneys presented their brief claim that the case should be quashed. And there, at her side, sat a little fox terrier that made no effort to move or disturb the proceedings.

Mrs. Smythe, a young woman of possessing appearance, well-groomed and with the indication of refinement and education, presented her case in a manner surprising to those who had expected the case to lack much support. When she had concluded her arguments against the quashing of the case and related her story, there was some manifestation of approval of her work.

Mrs. Smythe insisted that the statute of limitations had not expired. She contended that she was the victim of a deal to prevent her pushing the case through to a successful conclusion.

Blames First Attorney

Mrs. Smythe charged that she had to dismiss the first suit she had filed because she learned that her attorney had not properly presented the case. Then, she added, he had filed the suit again, and had secured it herself to insure that it would be carried through the courts.

Mrs. Smythe reiterated the old charges she has made that through the influence of Taylor and his political friends, she has been hounded. Her daily life was besieged by agents of the Department of Justice working under Attorney General Daugherty, she said. In fact, she added, he had feared leaving Virginia and coming to Washington until she was arrested by district authorities that she could be protected.

Had "Watcher" Arrested

Mrs. Smythe related one incident similar to others which have occurred in the last ten days, she said. She said she had been accosted and signed at and spoken to on a street in Alexandria yesterday by a man named Charles E. Petty. She linked him to another man named Roby, who with effort to watch her and prevent her making her case.

As a result of the Alexandria episode, Mrs. Smythe will defend herself in court there on the charge that she carried concealed weapons. Mrs. Smythe said that, after Petty had spoken to her, she led him to a garage where she advised him he would be offensive with a "pistol in his pocket." Then she called the police and had Petty arrested. Petty retaliated by saying that he was guiltless of any misconduct, and he had Mrs. Smythe arrested.

Mrs. Smythe also told of how she had taken as companions two women in Alexandria in order to protect herself until the case was brought to trial and the decision made. She gave the names of two women who were her associates, she said.

Taylor Unperturbed

Later in the day, Leighton Taylor was located here, but he indicated he did not take the case seriously.

"I didn't know the thing was up," he commented when advised that the trial was held. Then he asked what charges were made, and what his attorneys had replied.

"That thing was so old, I sure thought the statute of limitations had expired," he commented, and then he chuckled a bit. "But I don't care. Let my attorneys talk. There was never anything to the case or the charges."

NIGHT SENTRY ADMITS FIRING BARN AT RADNOR

Police Quiz Leo Finerty in Belief He May Be One of Arson Gang

FINGERPRINTS THREAT BRINGS HIS CONFESSION

Set Riding Academy Stable Ablaze After Reading of Burnings, Then Fired Shotgun

FIREBUGS DESTROY MILL

Co-operative Plant Near Doylestown, Operated by Farmers, Is Burned to Ground

The first uncovering of the mystery of any of the barn burnings which have terrorized three counties for weeks came today.

A watchman at Radnor confessed that he had set one of the fires—there have been nearly forty recently—but he declared he had merely started the blaze to cause excitement.

The Radnor police and the State police are quizzing the man in an attempt to connect him with a possible gang of "firebugs."

Leo Finnerty, night watchman employed to guard the stables of the riding academy of Arthur J. Fox at Radnor, is the man who confessed.

"I had been reading about the firebugs who have been burning barns," he said, "and I decided to be a hero and have some excitement, so I set it on fire myself."

Told Story of Burning

Only a small spot was burned by the fire. Immediately after it had started Finnerty threw a blanket over the blaze to smother it, then ran into the yard and fired six shotgun twice.

When Mr. Fox and other employes, awakened by the report of the shotgun, came running to the barn, Finnerty told them he had seen two men throw a burning rag, soaked in oil, into the barn, and that after throwing the blanket over it, he shot at them. Radnor police were hurriedly summoned and secured the section for miles but failed to find any trace of the firebugs.

Suspicion was directed toward Finnerty by the police when they discovered his lantern had stood in it. Fingerprints were found on it and when Chief of Police E. S. Sweeney called the watchman to take his finger prints for purposes of comparison, Finnerty made his confession.

Held on Arson Charge

The confession was made about noon to District Attorney William Taylor, of Delaware County, directed that Finnerty be taken to Media at once and lodged in the county jail on a charge of arson.

At Media, State police and county detectives put the man through a grilling in an effort to wring from him confessions of firing other barns which he did not immediately extinguish. The police regard him as mentally unbalanced and believe that a thorough investigation may reveal his connection with other fires, although Finnerty maintains he is innocent of any connection with the firebugs who have terrorized farmers of Delaware, Chester and Montgomery Counties for three months.

Feed Mill Burned

The Dublin Feed Mill, operated by farmers in the vicinity of Doylestown on a co-operative basis, was burned to the ground early this morning. The fire is thought to have been the work of the incendiary gang that has terrorized farmers in counties adjacent to Philadelphia for three months.

The fire in the Dublin Feed Mill caused a loss of approximately $25,000, of which only a part is covered by insurance. It occurred at 5:30 o'clock this morning.

Twenty minutes before the fire was discovered, Charles Hager, watchman in another mill nearby, heard an automobile engine start at the Dublin mill and saw the car drive away. When he saw flames leaping from the building he telephoned the Doylestown fire department. Farmers joined with the firemen in attempting to extinguish the blaze, but their efforts were unsuccessful.

The building was filled with feed-stuffs from some of the farms of the

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BERNHARDT IS BETTER; CREDIT COUE METHODS

Reports to Effect Actress Improves by Will Power

Paris, Dec. 22.—The rapid cure of Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, restoring her to her usual health within a few days after an attack of sciatica, was effected by her adoption of Prof. Coue's theory of autosuggestion, according to an intimate friend of the actress.

This friend says that as soon as Mme. Bernhardt regained consciousness after her attack during rehearsal Monday she began repeating:

"I am not ill. I am just tired. I shall return to the theatre in three days as soon as I am rested."

The doctors at first diagnosed the illness as a heart attack and declared the attack came within a narrow margin of being fatal. They were literally astounded when they returned to Mme. Bernhardt's home and found the actress sitting at her desk writing letters, apparently completely recovered.

DO YOU WANT A JOB? THERE ARE plenty of them advertised in the Help Wanted columns today on page 29.—Adv.