



The Star-Independent

LXXXVI— No. 86 18 PAGES

HARRISBURG, PA., TUESDAY EVENING, APRIL 10, 1917.

Single Copy, 2 Cents HOME EDITION

250 KILLED AND 300 INJURED IN POWDER PLANT

Three Explosions Wreck Eddystone Munitions Shops of Aetna Company; Physicians Rushed to Scene From Surrounding Cities and Towns; Fire Destroys Big Building; Whispers of Plot to Destroy Factories; Place Was Well Guarded by Secret Service Men and Detectives

By Associated Press

Chester, Pa., April 10.—A terrific explosion at the great plant of the Eddystone Ammunitions Corporation at Eddystone, Pa., a mile from this city, is reported to have killed 125 to 250 persons and injured at least 300 more.

A railroad official asserts that nearly 300 were killed, but this estimate cannot be confirmed.

The explosion occurred soon after 10 o'clock in the pellet room of the shrapnel building where about 100 girls were employed putting the finishing touches on shells. In a building adjoining approximately 30,000 shells were stored. A second explosion demolished this building and scattered the shells in every direction.

Immediately calls were sent for outside aid and physicians, firemen and policemen from surrounding towns arrived in great numbers. The buildings in which the explosions occurred caught fire and by strenuous work the flames which burned two hours were confined to these structures. Meanwhile charred bodies were being pulled from the wreckage and injured persons were being picked up and taken to Chester.

The two main hospitals of the city were soon filled and others injured were taken to the Fifth Regiment Armory and a frame tabernacle recently erected here for religious services.

No official of the company was found who could tell anything about the explosion. There were whispers of a plot to destroy the plant. If there was a plot, no more effective spot could have been selected for the work. It was near the Delaware river bank and well isolated.

The plant was originally constructed soon after the European war started by the Baldwin Locomotive interests. Recently it was taken over by the Russian government which has been employing about 10,000 people making shells.

The place has been thoroughly guarded night and day and after dark immense searchlights made every portion of the ground as light as day. In addition secret service men and detectives worked in the various departments disguised as munitions workers.

Confusion About Plant The greatest confusion prevails and no one is allowed to approach the plant in which the explosion occurred. The trolley line to Eddystone is not running because its wires were destroyed.

The little Chester morgue is filled with bodies and they are piled up on the sidewalk outside the building. It is stated the building in which

Obey the Sentry's 'Halt' or He Must Shoot You

Within the last few days several instances have occurred—some of them fatal—over the country of shooting of civilians by National Guardsmen. Just recently a soldier on the Rockville bridge was forced to fire at a man. In every instance the shooting resulted from the failure of a civilian to obey a sentry's command to halt.

In order to prevent, if possible, recurrences of these unfortunate tragedies, the HARRISBURG TELEGRAPH advises all its readers that a Guardsman on duty has full authority to enforce his commands and has no choice but to shoot when they are not obeyed.

THE WEATHER

For Harrisburg and vicinity: Fair, continued cold to-night with low temperature about 30 degrees; Wednesday fair and warmer. For Eastern Pennsylvania: Fair to-night and Wednesday, warmer Wednesday; strong northwest winds diminishing.

River The Susquehanna river and all its branches will continue to fall. A stage of about 6.5 feet is indicated for Harrisburg Wednesday morning.

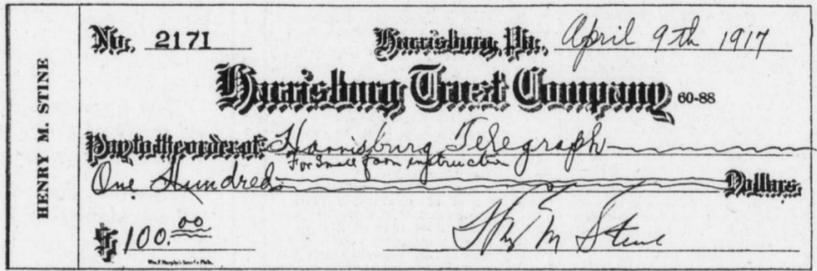
General Conditions The storm has moved northward some distance off the Atlantic from Virginia to Northern New England during the last twenty-four hours with increasing force. It caused snow in the New England States and the St. Lawrence Valley, with strong winds and rains along and near the Atlantic coast from Hatteras northward to the coast of Maine. The disturbance from the North Pacific ocean is now central over Nebraska. It has caused light, scattered rains and snows over the Pacific slope in the last twenty-four hours, with a general rise of 4 to 16 degrees in temperature in the Plains States. Temperatures have risen slightly over the greater part of the territory east of the Mississippi river. Frosts occurred this morning in Alabama, Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina and freezing temperature from the Upper Ohio Valley and the Lake Region eastward to the Pacific coast.

Temperature: 8 a. m., 30. Sun: Rises, 5:30 a. m. Moon: Rises, 10:21 p. m. River: Stage, 7.5 feet above low-water mark.

Yesterday's Weather Highest temperature, 41. Lowest temperature, 28. Wind temperature, 34. Normal temperature, 48.

HOME GARDEN MOVE WELL UNDER WAY; WHOLE STATE NOW READY TO MOBILIZE

Legislature Outlines Bill Following Telegraph's Agitation For Hiring of Supervisor; Governor Urges School Authorities to Enlist Boys and Girls in Movement



CAPTAIN HENRY M. STINE HEADS TELEGRAPH FUND WITH \$100 GIFT. He was the first contributor. He came into the TELEGRAPH office yesterday with a check for \$100.

Important Movement The employment of an expert to supervise backyard gardening is very important to the solving of Harrisburg's food problem the coming summer, said Captain Stine. "I believe there should be three or four organizers and superintendents to teach the boys and girls and keep their interest up during the growing season. Keep up the agitation. You ought to get money together easily for this work from Harrisburg people patriotic enough to do their small part in this way."

STOTESBURY AND FELLOWS PLEDGE BILLIONS TO PA.

Tell Governor Their Finances Are Absolutely at Disposal of State and Nation

Pennsylvania may be called upon to assume from eight to ten per cent. of the proposed war loan to the Allies of \$3,000,000,000. The possibility of this was discussed at last night's conference between the Governor, the Attorney General and Senators Crow, Sproul, McNichol and Snyder.

(Continued on Page 18)

U. S. AVERTS TIN SHORTAGE Washington, April 10.—Efforts by the Government to avert a tin shortage promise to be successful, Secretary Redfield yesterday said after a conference with other officials and with tin-plate manufacturers. Distribution of supplies hindered by the car shortage will be taken up immediately by the Council of National Defense through Daniel Willard, of its advisory commission.

DRUG HABIT SENDS HUNDREDS TO RUIN IN PENNA. YEARLY

Archibald Mackrell Makes eloquent Plea For Remedial Legislation

"Across the page of that one sordid chapter which must be written in the history of every nation—'It's Crime'—should be inscribed in glaring letters one little word 'DRUG' and that would tell the whole story as briefly as it could ever be told. I say that without exaggeration or embellishment, because experience has taught me the truth of it. The one simple little word composed of four small units of the alphabet is the foundation of a story that no orator or writer could adequately describe because its ramifications are so numerous and its developments so varied."

(Continued on Page 5)

CONSCRIPTION ARMY PLAN IS MUCH OPPOSED

President Wilson Tries to Break Down Opposition to Measure

Washington, April 10.—Efforts to break down opposition to the draft feature of the proposed army bill were continued to-day by President Wilson. He arranged to see Representative Anthony, of Kansas, a Republican member of the House Military Committee and an opponent of conscription and to explain how

(Continued on Page 5)

CARLISLE PRESBYTERY MEETS The spring session of the Presbytery of Carlisle opened in Mechanicsburg this afternoon. The Rev. Harvey Klaier, pastor of the Covenant Presbyterian Church, the retiring moderator will deliver a sermon entitled "The City and The Garden," late to-day. President E. D. Warfield will have as his subject "The Endowment of the Biblical Chairs of Our Colleges." The new moderator is the Rev. Thomas J. Ferguson.

VOLUNTEER UNITS NOT WANTED FOR NATIONAL GUARD

War Department Will Not Accept Nondescript Companies and Regiments

Washington, April 10.—Plans for the National Guard were definitely outlined to-day by the War Department. Adjutant general of the States have been informed that no new units of the guard will be recognized except such special forces as may be necessary to complete divisional organization of the present establishment and those which have armories have been recruited in definite localities and have other indications of probable permanency.

(Continued on Page 18)

AMERICAN LINER HITS MINE OFF LIVERPOOL BAR

The New York Manages to Steam Safely into Port

Washington, April 10.—The American liner New York struck a mine at 7:40 p. m. last night, five miles off Liverpool bar. No casualties were reported. The vessel later proceeded to Liverpool.

(Continued on Page 3)

American on Board New York, April 10.—The American Line steamship New York left this port on March 29 for Liverpool with fifty-eight passengers, cargo and mail. The passengers included seven American citizens. She carried a naval crew of gunners and was armed. Her crew of 224 men included 144 American citizens.

STATE EDITORS PLEDGE SUPPORT TO GOVERNMENT

Penna. Newspapers Endorse Declarations of War on Germany

Endorsing the action of President Wilson and Congress in declaring war on Germany and pledging their hearty support to the government, the Pennsylvania State Editorial Association, the Associated Dailies of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Association of Weekly Newspapers assembled in joint session this afternoon, unanimously adopted the following resolution:

(Continued on Page 3)

THREE NOMINATED TO FILL VACANCY IN CITY COUNCIL

J. Grant Koons, William Pavord and Charles A. Miller Are Named

Three men were nominated this morning at Council, one of whom is to be elected to fill the unexpired term of the late Commissioner Harry P. Bowman.

(Continued on Page 18)

DR. J. K. MITCHELL DIES Philadelphia, April 10.—Dr. John K. Mitchell, noted as a neurologist, writer of medical works and university lecturer, died to-day. He was 68 years old and was a son of the late Dr. S. Weir Mitchell.

GERMAN LINES WAVER UNDER NEW ASSAULT

British Offensive Opens With Material Gains in Men and Booty For Haig's Troops; Series of Hills Taken Give English Immense Advantage in Driving Wedge Into Enemy; 9,000 Taken Prisoners

By Associated Press

London, April 10.—The British offensive between Lens and St. Quentin with which the spring operations have been opened and which is still in progress has proved even more successful than the earlier accounts indicated.

General Sir Douglas Haig to-day reports that yesterday's captures exceeded 9,000 men, while forty guns fell into the hands of his troops.

The Canadians, who had one of the hardest bits of the front to contend with, are now in complete occupation of the famous Vimy ridge, even its eastern slopes having been cleared of Germans. The Canadians also have repulsed German counterattacks.

These reactions by the Germans indicate the importance they attach to this position, whence the conquerors look down over the plain of Douai. With Vimy ridge gone, the whole German line covering the French towns and industrial districts to the north becomes a wavering one and any leisurely retreat the Germans may have planned is made uncertain and precarious.

London, April 10.—The news of the successful opening of the new British offensive has stirred intense interest and high hope among the people throughout the country. What ever the enemy may have claimed as to the retreat in the Somme sector having been pre-arranged and strategical, it is contended that their recoil before the blow delivered in the Arras-Lens region cannot be explained away in any such manner. It is urged that there is no possible voluntary retreat in this retirement and that there can be no dispute as to who took the initiative.

A new chapter in the conflict on the western front has begun and whether or not it is to prove the beginning of a decisive battle it is bound, according to the prevalent opinion here, to lead to results of the highest importance. The main feature of the battle thus far, on which attention has been focused, is the capture of Vimy ridge. The immense value of this series of heights, which dominate the plain for an elevation of 400 to 500 feet, has been recognized throughout the war and great sacrifices have been regarded as justifiable if they resulted in its possession.

Long Fought For The French and Germans fought fiercely for control of the ridge in the summer of 1915, both sides suffering heavy losses but in the end the Germans held the main portion of the position. Later the British took over the French line and were ousted by the Germans from the part of the ridge which had been won by their predecessors. One military critic, commenting on the present battle, thus

(Continued on Page 3)

MAY AGREE ON WAR BOARD

Harrisburg.—The proposal was made this afternoon that the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Auditor General and the State Treasurer be given a commission to supervise the \$2,000,000 the State will appropriate for Safety and Defense purposes. Then plan has the support of Senator Vare and will be submitted to Governor Brumbaugh for his approval this afternoon.

ONE UNDERTAKER HAS 80 BODIES

Chester, April 10.—At the undertaking place of Coroner White there are eighty bodies, seventy-nine being those of girls. Thousands of girls were employed at Eddystone plant, coming from Philadelphia, ten miles away. They were attracted by the high wages.

MARKET CLOSING HEAVY

New York, April 10.—Prices sagged again in the last hour, some specialties then making lowest quotations. The closing was heavy. Munitions, equipments, metals, oil, and a wide variety of specialties yielded 1 to 5 points under further pressure to-day. Sales estimated at 700,000 shares.

CONGRESS MAY ADJOURN JUNE 1

Washington, April 10.—The meeting of the Senate Finance Committee to-day developed a feeling among both Democrats and Republicans that Congress should attempt no legislation but that of an emergency character at the present special session and should adjourn by June 1.

T. R. TO GET BACK \$40,000

Washington, April 10.—Senator Lodge introduced a bill to-day to return to Theodore Roosevelt the \$40,000 cash Nobel prize which the Colonel gave to the foundation for the promotion of industrial peace while President. The money has been insufficient to carry out the purpose of the foundation.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Michael O'Hanlon, Wilkes-Barre, and Elizabeth Mary Murphy, Harrisburg. Cornelius Jesse Keil, Mill City, and Nellie Beatrice Dunkelberger, Fawling Springs. Roy William Reddel and Jennie Irene Miller, Penbrook. Chester Shope Coranitz, Enbaut, and Harriet Amalia Caldwell, Harrisburg. Christian Eby Metzler and Elsie Ellen Zinn, Harrisburg. Harry Albert Grimes and Mary Esther Boyer, Harrisburg.