



GROSS SENDS APPARATUS TO CENTRAL IRON PLANT AGAINST CHIEF'S WISH

Kindler Supported by Verbeke Who Sends Firemen Home

ORDER LEFT CITY WITHOUT PROTECTION, MEN DECLARE

Robert H. Irons Turns in Alarm When Department Refuses More Steamers to Fight Blaze in Iron Scrap

E. Z. Gross, superintendent of the city fire department, overruling Fire Chief John C. Kindler and Assistant Fire Chief Marion Verbeke, yesterday afternoon sent two of the last three fire engines available for use in the city to the scene of the week-old fire on an iron heap of the Central Iron and Steel Company.

With one engine working at the iron heap night and day for 144 hours until 12.30 yesterday afternoon, and with two of the engines being repaired, but three engines were available for use in the city. Despite Chief Kindler's claim that the three engines were needed in case of a possible fire in the city Mr. Gross ordered two more of the engines to the fire.

Kindler Refuses Request

Robert H. Irons, of the Central Iron and Steel Company, yesterday made known his desire for two more engines to Fire Chief Kindler and Assistant Fire Chief Verbeke. Neither of them could see his way clear to send two additional engines to the iron company plant, in view of the fact that two of the engines were out of use while being repaired. They were acting in accordance with instructions of Mr. Gross, they are alleged to have said.

Alarm Is Sounded

The iron company official is then reported to have declared that he would sound an alarm and have the engines respond through that method. Assistant Fire Chief Verbeke was at one of the firehouses and had started to telephone to the different houses in the district, requesting that they should not respond in the event of an alarm from 442 at the Central Iron and Steel Company plant.

Hardly had he picked up the receiver for one of the calls when the alarm was struck. Immediately after the alarm had been sounded, he stepped to the firebox and sounded the three traps to indicate that the fire was under control, and so only the Washington Hose Company responded.

Mr. Irons then took up the matter with Mr. Gross, who, in turn, despite his alleged previous orders, ordered Chief Kindler to send the Citizen and Good Will Companies to the scene of the fire.

144 Hours in Action

At that time the Susquehanna engine had been at the plant operating for 144 hours continuously, and the Hope and Paxton engines were being repaired. So only the Friendship fire engine and the Pumpers of the Camp Curtin and Mount Pleasant Companies were available for immediate use. The Citizen and Good Will engines could have been brought into the city for use after considerable delay, while the Susquehanna engine was enclosed in a house at the iron company plant, built for its protection during its long period of work.

Irons Praises Men

Mr. Irons to-day did not care to make any comment in reference to the situation. He said the three engines now at the plant, are co-operating to the full extent of their power and that he expects that the fire will be extinguished before evening. It was said by others, however, that the iron already melted, is entirely lost. The value of the iron in the heap is said to be \$70,000.

Mr. Gross, in giving his side of the matter, said the Central Iron and Steel Company had asked that the entire fire department be sent to the fire. At first, he said, he thought the Susquehanna company engine could render all assistance necessary. The Paxton engine had been at the fire for several days until it developed mechanical trouble, he said. When the matter was presented to him later, Mr. Gross said, he decided to send the Citizen and Goodwill engines. Chief Kindler, he said, was not disposed to send additional engines, feeling that it was unnecessary to have engines in each of the city districts.

Captain of "Ark" Is Permitted to Choose Own Landing Port

New York, Dec. 22.—Sailing orders now in the hands of the master of the "Soviet ark" Buford, a 24-hour liner, will permit him to use his discretion as to what one of several Russian or Finnish ports his cargo should be landed at. The flexibility of these orders, it was said, was provided so that the captain may be able to meet unforeseen conditions of ice and weather or possible refusal of officials at any one port to permit Emma Goldman, Alexander Berkman and the others to land. The supplies on the Buford are sufficient for 60 to 90 days, and regardless of the time it takes, the passengers will be landed.

THE WEATHER

Harrisburg and Vicinity: Generally cloudy to-night and Tuesday. Not much change in temperature. Lowest to-night about 25 degrees. Eastern Pennsylvania: Cloudy to-night and Tuesday, not much change in temperature. Fresh north wind.

OVERRULED BY EDWARD Z. GROSS



FIRE CHIEF KINDLER Who Is Supported by Assistant Chief Marion Verbeke in Controversy With Superintendent of City Fire Department.

COURT HOLDS UP ITS DECISION ON VOLSTEAD'S BEER

Adjourns Until January 5 Without Ruling on One-Half of One Per Cent.

GRANTS RETAILER'S PLEA

Government Must Show Cause Why Original Proceedings Should Not Be Instituted

Washington, Dec. 22.—The Supreme Court to-day recessed until January 5, without handing down an opinion on the constitutionality of sections of the Volstead prohibition enforcement act, which fixes the lawful contents of beer at one-half of one percent.

The court, to-day ordered the government to show cause on January 5, why original proceedings should not be instituted by the States of Rhode Island and New Jersey retail liquor dealers to have determined the constitutionality of the national prohibition constitutional amendment.

Applications for permission to contest the amendment's validity and seek injunction against its enforcement in those States were presented last week. In both instances the amendment was alleged to conflict with the State police powers and with the Federal Constitution.

Wilson to Give Gift to Children Despite His Illness; Will Eat Turkey

Washington, Dec. 22.—Children living along the road between Washington and the Country Club in Virginia where President Wilson plays golf will receive Christmas presents from the White House this year as usual, despite the President's illness. The presents have been purchased and will be delivered Christmas morning, probably by Mrs. Wilson.

Women of Nebraska Force Down Price of Eggs Through Boycott

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 22.—Women of Nebraska are being called upon by the Lincoln Women's Club to wage an active campaign against the high cost of living.

WOMEN OF NEBRASKA FORCE DOWN PRICE OF EGGS THROUGH BOYCOTT

This was announced to-day by Mrs. N. E. Hildreth, head of the women's department of the club, who declared that through a boycott of eggs the women of this city had forced prices from 85 cents to 55 cents a dozen in approximately two weeks' time. The ban on eggs now has been lifted.

12-MILL TAX LEVY FOR 1920 DECIDED UPON BY COUNCIL

Budget to Pass on First Reading at Tomorrow's Session

\$126,000 MORE REVENUE Many New Items and Increased Operating Costs Responsible

City Council will pass on first reading to-morrow morning the 1920 budget ordinance, and will fix the tax rate for next year at 12 mills, thus providing about \$1,062,000 in revenue, it was announced in city official circles to-day.

Final action on the budget was taken at a conference of Councilmen this afternoon, when it was decided to include a number of important items for the coming year.

Much Additional Revenue The two-mill increase over this year's rate of ten mills will provide \$126,000 more revenue than was available this year. But the city will lose about \$22,000 because of not receiving any liquor license money, \$5,000 less from fines and forfeitures from the police department, and the cash balance of \$20,000 at the end of this year, most of which will be used to pay for remodeling and improvements to the Fager building, now used for the police and health bureaus. Because of this total loss in revenue of \$47,000, of the \$126,000 provided by the two-mill advance, only \$73,000 will be available for increases in various departments and for new work.

It is understood that because of the increasing popular demand for the erection of the Donato fountain, "Dance of Eternity Spring" Council will provide \$5,000 for placing the statuary, which was given to the city by M. S. Hershey, the "chocolate king."

REHEARSAL OF CHOIR CALLED

An important rehearsal of the City Choir and those interested will take place in Fahnstock Hall, Y. M. C. A. building, this evening at 7.30 o'clock. Mrs. Florence Ackley Loy will be in charge, and has urged all those in the choir to be present in order to assure the success of the rehearsal. The choir will take an important part in the Pageant of the Nativity, Christmas night, and in other municipal demonstrations in the future.

WEED DROP NOT CUSTOMARY

Druggists do not favor the suggestion of the internal revenue department that a dangerous emetic be mixed with bay rum so as to discourage the drinking of this brand of toilet water by inebriates who feel the need of a wee bracer now and then.

SEVEN HUNDRED TO TAKE PART IN HOLIDAY PAGEANT

Christmas Day Exercises to Be Played Before Thousands

BRIDE OF HUMMELSTOWN YOUTH DIES THREE HOURS AFTER MARRIAGE CEREMONY

Married to Miss Estelle English, of Williamsburg, as she lay abed at her home, Herrin J. Rousch, of Hummelstown, a 20-year-old freshman at Carnegie Institute of Technology, became a widower just three hours later. He is a son of Mrs. Annie Rousch. He has lived at Hummelstown for four years.

HUGO LIBERATED UNDER AGREEMENT TO PAY \$1,500 RANSOM WITHIN 12 DAYS

Washington, Dec. 22.—Frederick Hugo, the American ranch manager arrested by Mexican officials in the recent raid on Muzquiz, was liberated, and released under an agreement to pay \$1,500 ransom within twelve days, according to information reaching the Department of State. The department announced to-day that instructions had been sent to the American embassy in Mexico City to insist that steps be taken to liberate the American.

RESTIVE AND WRIGGLY EEL IS THEIR CHRISTMAS FEAST

Staid and Dignified Turkey Supplanted by Fresh and Salt Water Variety; Prices Depend on Ability to Twist and Squirm

New York, Dec. 22.—Fulton market to-day opened with a restive and wriggly eel is to the festive Christmas season of the sons and daughters of Italy, and to meet this annual demand for big, little, dressed and live eels, wholesalers were ready to start marketing this morning something like 400,000 pounds of them.

Law abiding eels have been yanked from the fresh waters of the St. Lawrence river and various streams in Maine, Delaware, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maryland, Virginia and North Carolina to disport themselves in fancy sauces and gravies at Italian feasts. They command high prices. Live ones ranging from 30 to 40 cents a pound according to their wriggling ability, and dressed ones bringing from 15 to 20 cents. Before the world was invaded the eel market, they cost only 15 cents a pound alive, and from 6 to 14 cents dressed, dealers said.

EXTRACTS AND PERFUMES GET LEASE OF LIFE

Druggists Hear They May Be Permitted to Dispose of Stocks

FEAR THE USE OF POISON New Ruling May Keep Flavors and Toilet Waters on Sale

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LOSS OF \$500,000 IS FEARED BY U. S. AT SUPPLY STATION

More Arrests Forecast by Government Secret Service Agents Who Place a High Figure on Alleged Thefts

OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN CLOSELY QUESTIONED

Federal authorities who caused the arrest of William A. Stringer, superintendent of the Army Reserve Depot at New Cumberland, charged with participation in the gigantic looting of depot supplies, are to-day reticent in discussing the case. The loss to the government was placed as high as half a million dollars.

STRINGER PLEADS NOT GUILTY

HARRISBURG.—WILLIAM A. STRINGER PLEADED NOT GUILTY TO THE CHARGES OF LOOTING THE NEW CUMBERLAND DEPOT, OF WHICH HE HAS BEEN SUPERINTENDENT, AT A HEARING BEFORE UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER JOHN A. F. HALL THIS MORNING.

FOX SCAMPERS THROUGH CAPITOL GROUNDS

Washington.—A full-sized fox scampered through the snow covered capitol grounds here to-day, congressmen, attaches and visitors joining in the chase which ended at the peace monument at the main entrance. George M. Green, passing on a motor cycle, caught the animal.

D'ANNUNZIO REFUSES TO ACCEPT VOTE ON ITALIAN OCCUPATION

Triest, Sunday, Dec. 21.—Despite the efforts to delay or cancel the proposed plebiscite in Fiume on the question of accepting the proposals of General Badoglio, the Italian chief of staff, providing for the substitution of Italian regulars for the D'Annunzio forces of occupation, the vote after all was taken, and its reported to have gone strongly in favor of accepting the proposals.

IRELAND TO BE GIVEN VIRTUAL AUTONOMY IN NEW HOME RULE BILL

London, Dec. 22.—Premier Lloyd George was ready at the opening of Parliament to-day to announce the details of the government's Irish home rule bill. This result, which will be believed, give a large amount of autonomy to Ireland, has been, according to recent statements, modeled after the form of governmental system of the United States.

BRING 'EM DOWN

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 22.—Fifty-five cents a dozen is the retail price of eggs here to-day, which sold ten days ago for thirty-two cents. Two thousand women who united to fight the high price, claim the credit for bringing about the reduction.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Milton W. Garland, Worcester, Mass., and Florence A. Whaler, Harrisburg, Ge. and Katharine Burger, Lykens, Daniel T. Jordan, Brookville, and Esther H. McGee, Meigs Mills; Virgil R. Jordan, Jacksonville, Fla., and Helen Lauman, Mt. Holly Springs; Walter C. Myers, Lewisburg, and Mabel E. Drobough, York county.

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