

# HUNDREDS OVERCOME BY SMOKE IN NEW YORK SUBWAY FIRE; 1 DIES

## Flames Break Out in Stalled Train at Height of Rush Hour This Morning and the Entire Fire Department of the City and All Ambulances Are Summoned to Scene---Hundreds of Half-Suffocated Passengers Rescued From Subway Stations and Hurried to Hospitals---Preparations Are Made to Dynamite Streets to Let Air Into the Tube

By Associated Press.

New York, Jan. 6.—New York's subway was visited by fire and panic to-day which sent some 200 persons to hospitals, caused the death of one woman and damaged the transportation system of the city.

The fire was said to have been due to an electrical explosion in a conduit between the Fiftieth and Fifty-ninth street stations. The noise and smoke terrified the 700 or more passengers of two down-town trains stalled near by and in their unreasoning efforts to escape scores were badly bruised, many knocked unconscious and still others were overcome by smoke.

The subway service, according to Commissioner McCall of the Public Service Commission, may be tied up for several days as a result of the accident. If this proves true, it will mean that the more than a million persons a day carried by subway trains will be diverted to the surface and elevated systems and cause a congestion without a parallel in the history of the city.

At first it was thought there had been a terrible catastrophe and reports reached police headquarters that at least a score had been killed. The entire fire department and all the ambulances in the city, together with the pulmotor squad, were rushed to the scene.

Smoke was pouring out of the subway entrances, manholes and ventilators and screams for help could be heard. It turned out, however, that while police and firemen had all they could do in bringing out the unconscious, including a score or more of women who fainted, the early reports had been exaggerations.

It was more than three hours after the accident that the last passenger was rescued and during that time in the streets nearby there was a continuous procession of flying ambulances and private automobiles removing the injured to the various hospitals.

The accident was described by the police as the worst in the history of the subway.

New York, Jan. 6.—Three alarms of fire were sent in for a fire in the subway at Broadway near Fifty-fifth street to-day shortly after the resumption of slow service, following a tie-up of an hour and a half. The service was again halted. Police headquarters received word that a number of people had been overcome in the subway and ambulances were sent to the scene.

The early tie-up was sudden. Trains came slowly to a standstill and remained stationary. Some of them between stations. Smoke from burning insulation at the Spring street station filled the subway for blocks. A mile away the fumes affected throngs of passengers who crowded the station platforms.

All along the line the sale of tickets was stopped. Surface cars and elevated trains were badly congested and all subway stations were filled to overflowing with struggling crowds. Many persons imprisoned on trains stalled between stations were overcome by smoke and taken out unconscious by the police.

Carry Out Unconscious Victims  
The tie-up started at 8 o'clock this morning, the beginning of the rush hour. An hour and a half later, a slow express service was started only to be halted by the discovery of fire. Three alarms were turned in. Eight ambulances were soon on the scene. More were called for immediately. From trains stalled between stations firemen emerged bearing unconscious victims. Every available fireman that could be spared was called on to help.

Fire Commissioner Adamson, who assumed personal charge of the situation sent men scurrying throughout the city with orders to bring every pulmotor available to the scene. Some of the

Continued on Thirteenth Page.

## CIVIC CLUB FIGHTS FOR \$30,000 GIFT

Organization Carries to Court Dispute as to Ownership of the Fleming Mansion

## TRUST COMPANY RAISES ISSUE

As Executor of Estate It Holds Club Has Not Legal Right to Take Property Willed to It—Action to Decide to Whom Mr. Payne Shall Pay Rent

Because the Civic Club of Harrisburg, composed of many of the wealthiest and most prominent women of this city, to which organization the late Virginia H. Fleming bequeathed the magnificent \$30,000 Fleming mansion at 612 North Front street, was not a chartered corporation under the laws of Pennsylvania when Mrs. Fleming's will became effective on June 14, last, immediately following her death, the Central Trust Company of New York, executor of the estate, claims the Civic Club cannot take over the property.

The Civic Club disputes the trust company, however, contending the club is rightfully entitled to the mansion, and it is because of this dispute that Frank Payne, the present tenant of the mansion, a wealthy shoe manufacturer, who is prominent socially, has refused to pay his monthly rent either to the executor or to the Civic Club, pending an adjustment of the dispute as to ownership of the property.

Mr. Payne is ready and willing to pay the rent, but he wants to be satisfied, when he does make payments, that he is giving the money to the legal owner. The situation is almost unique, few cases of its kind being on record.

Continued on Ninth Page.

## HONOR MEDALS TO VERA CRUZ HEROES

Presentation Was Made by Secretary Daniels at Brooklyn Navy Yard To-day

## BRAVERY OF THE MEN EXTOLLED

Head of Navy Also Pays Touching Tribute to Nineteen Sailors and Marines Who Lost Their Lives During Occupation of Mexican City

By Associated Press.

New York, Jan. 6.—Thirteen enlisted men of the United States navy who won special mention for distinguished conduct at the occupation of Vera Cruz, were presented medals of honor by Secretary Daniels to-day on the deck of the battleship Florida at the Brooklyn navy yard. Rear Admiral Fletcher, now commander-in-chief of the Atlantic fleet, who commanded the American naval forces at Vera Cruz and other high officers of the navy participated in the formal ceremony.

The medal winners were: Henry N. Nickerson, boatswain's mate, first class; Abraham De Somer, chief turret captain; Joseph G. Harner, boatswain's mate, first class; George Cregan, boatswain's mate, first class; Lawrence C. Sennett, gunner's mate, third class; Percy A. Decker, chief boatswain's mate; Charles F. Bishop, quartermaster, first class; James A. Walsh, quartermaster, third class; Charles L. Nord-siek, seaman; Fred J. Schnepel, seaman; Berrie H. Jarrett, gunner's mate, third class; William Zuiderveld, hospital steward; Harry C. Besley, coxswain.

Edward Gisburne, electrician, second

Continued on Eighth Page.

## MILLION SPENT FOR PENROSE

So Declare Palmer and Ruple to the Senate Elections Committee Probing Campaign Expenses

Washington, Jan. 6.—Representatives Palmer and Ruple, of Pennsylvania, alleged before the Senate Elections committee to-day that more than a million dollars was spent on behalf of Senator Penrose in his recent successful campaign for re-election.

The committee resumed consideration of the Norris resolution to direct an inquiry into Senatorial campaign expenditures in Pennsylvania and Illinois. On request of Senator Oliver the committee deferred action until Mr. Penrose could be asked if he wishes to appear.

"We were able to show the committee that more than a million dollars was expended and spent in behalf of Senator Penrose's candidacy," said Representative Palmer, who was the Democratic candidate for Senator in Pennsylvania.

"We charged that both Pennsylvania and federal laws were violated in the expenditure of vast sums on behalf of Senator Penrose," said Representative Ruple, "and that proper returns of the expenditures never had been filed."

Chops Brother's Fingers Off  
Paul Fisel, 3 years old, son of Calvern Fisel, of Gettysburg, was treated this morning at the Harrisburg hospital for a maimed left hand. He and an older brother were playing when the latter wielded a hatchet, chopping the ends off three fingers of the child's left hand.

## YOUTH IS KILLED COASTING

John Walker, of Near Carlisle, When on Sled, Crashes With Fence and Is Fatally Hurt

(Special to the Star-Independent.)  
Carlisle, Pa., Jan. 6.—John Walker, 19 years old, a farm hand, whose home was in Hantsdale, died last night a few hours after crashing into a rail fence on his sled near Hunter's Run. He had been coasting down a steep hill and while going at high speed his sled left the road resulting in fatal injuries.

The boy had been alone on the sled, but his companions were nearby and rushed to his side. They pulled him on the sled to the home of his brother, Levi Walker, where a physician was summoned, but the doctor was unable to save the boy's life. His abdomen was injured where it struck the rail. There were no bones broken.

Besides his mother, the boy leaves three brothers, Levi, Leo and Harvey, and a sister, Claire, of Hantsdale, and a sister, Mrs. May Reid, of Harrisburg.

## SAYS CROGGS GOT HIS \$300

Frank Marshall Tells Police He Was Cheated Out of the Money by Pair of Clever Rogues

Frank Marshall, of 946 Paxton street, told the police this afternoon that he has been cheated out of \$300 in a novel way, by two men known only by their descriptions, who, he said, fled from the city. He asserted the men offered him a job in a Market street hotel yesterday morning, posing as the proprietors of the establishment, and requiring a check for \$300 from him as security for the job.

He handed over the check, he said, and the men then took him to the hotel, where they acted as though they owned the place, treating him at the lunch counter and even showing him rooms up-stairs. He left but returned again, according to his story, and demanded the \$300 back, telling the men that he had changed his mind about taking the job offered to him.

The men, he said, then ran from the building and made their escape in a hired automobile, refused to pay the chauffeur, Archie Olewine, and made their getaway on a train to Elizabethtown.

## GUYER AND BARBER ARE RE-ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY

No Evidence at Reorganization Meeting of Directors of the Poor of Alleged Plan to Oust These Two County Employees—Walters President

John P. Guyer, clerk to the Directors of the Poor, and S. F. Barber, steward in the Dauphin county almshouse, were unanimously re-elected to their present positions and all other county employees connected with the poor department, were retained for another year when the directors organized this morning for the new year. Harry A. Walters, one of the Democratic majority members, again was elected head of the board. Charles L. Boyer, the other majority member, was elected agent, and B. Frank Nead again was chosen as legal adviser.

There was not the slightest evidence of the alleged plan, referred to recently by Director Walters, under which he said politicians sought to compel him to "fix" Guyer and Barber. Walters made no reference to the so-called

Continued on Ninth Page.

## MOTHER WHO RISKS LIFE TO SAVE SON AT FIRE; BOY SHE RESCUES



MRS. A. C. BLAIR  
Carries Child Through Smoke-filled Halls at Early Blaze



ROY BLAIR  
Boy, 10 Years Old, Who Is Rescued From Flames by His Mother

## RISKS LIFE SAVING HER SON AT FIRE

Mrs. Blair Carries Boy Through Smoke-Filled House, Then Helps in Mother's Rescue

## GAS EXPLODES DURING BLAZE

One House Ruined and Four Others Damaged by Early Morning Flames—Rescued Woman Seriously Burned—One Man Injured

Through the smoke-filled halls of her burning home at 2 o'clock this morning Mrs. A. C. Blair, 613 Schuylkill street, carried her son, Roy, 10 years old, saving his life and risking her own. Then she directed the efforts of Claud Lantz, 20 years old, of 611 Schuylkill street, in rescuing her mother-in-law, Mrs. Wilbur Blair, from a burning room on the second floor.

Mrs. Wilbur Blair was burned about the face, hands and feet when she attempted to extinguish the fire which started when a blazing matchhead fell on the carpet as she attempted to light the gas. She was taken to the Harrisburg Hospital where her condition is said to be alarming, although she has a chance to recover. Eugene J. McCurdy, of 612 Schuylkill street, was burnt by falling plaster while helping the firemen.

The fire destroyed the Blair home, did slight damage to the adjoining house, 611 Schuylkill street, occupied by Charles Lantz and the house adjoining the Blair home on the other side, 615 Schuylkill street, occupied by George W. Pressley, superintendent of the Pennsylvania Railroad stockyards. An explosion which occurred in the Blair home before the firemen arrived slightly damaged two other dwellings, 617 and 619 Schuylkill street. The houses are all in one row and are owned by J. C. Mehring. The loss will reach \$3,000.

The explosion which followed the

Continued on Eighth Page.

## WILL BRING WITNESSES HERE FROM FLORIDA CITY

County Officials Working Hard to Secure a Conviction of H. R. Mercer and Fred LeBrun Charged With Forgery and False Pretense

That the Dauphin county officials are determined to do everything possible to secure the conviction of H. R. Mercer and Fred LeBrun, now awaiting trial in the January term of Criminal court on charges of forgery and false pretense, is apparent when it became known this morning that witnesses will be brought here from Jacksonville, Fla., to appear for the Commonwealth.

Continued on Ninth Page.

## TO-DAY'S BARGAIN PAGE IS THE LAST

Final Awards in Star-Independent's Contest to Be Made Next Wednesday

## THIS WEEK'S WINNERS NAMED

Best Letters Selecting Offers Appearing on Page Are Written by Mrs. H. F. Stahl, Paul E. Reiff and R. M. Baskin

In to-day's issue of the Star-Independent there appears for the last time a Bargain and Educational Page, and the final opportunity is offered readers to select what they consider the best bargains and to receive prizes of \$3, \$2 and \$1 for the best letters on the subject. These last prizes will be awarded next Wednesday.

The winners of the prizes this week are: Mrs. H. F. Stahl, 1114 Bartine street, first prize of \$3; Paul E. Reiff, New Cumberland, second prize of \$2; and R. M. Baskin, York Haven, third prize of \$1. The prize winning letters follow:

First Prize Winner  
The Bargain Editor:  
Dear Sir—

Of unusual importance to the average woman and girl is the cost of lingerie. It has been the aim generally to dress elegantly at the least possible cost. How to do this has always been wisdom bought at the loss of dollars and cents. Yet when one is compelled with the necessity of minimizing, no better opportunity affords than the announced bargain of La Perle, 204 Locust street, which to the average person and especially to my judgment is the biggest bargain listed on your esteemed page.

Continued on Eleventh Page.

## COUNTY TAX RATE WILL REMAIN AT FOUR MILLS

This Is Practically Assured When Prison Inspectors and Directors of the Poor Announce They Can Get Along With Smaller Appropriations

County Controller Henry W. Gough and the County Commissioners to-day began the real work of preparing the 1915 annual appropriation bill for the courts. The Directors of the Poor and the Board of Prison Inspectors both asked for decreased appropriations and it now is conceded that the county tax rate can be fixed at the same figure as last year and 1913—four mills. The tax rate in 1914 and in 1913 was half

Continued on Ninth Page.

## TURK CORPS COMPLETELY ANNIHILATED

Defeat Inflicted on the Ottoman Army at Sari Kamysh Was a Crushing Blow

## RUSSIANS TOOK MANY PRISONERS

Turkish Losses in Killed and Wounded Were Enormous—Victorious Troops Now Pursuing the Tenth Corps, Which Is Trying to Escape

By Associated Press.

Petrograd, Jan. 6.—The following official communication from the headquarters of the army of the Caucasus was issued last night:

"The defeat which we inflicted on the Ottoman army in the region of Sari Kamysh is complete. The Ninth Turkish corps was completely annihilated. We made prisoner the commander of the corps, Iskhani Pasha; the commanders of the Seventeenth, Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth divisions and two lieutenants (these chiefs with their staffs) more than a hundred officers and a great number of soldiers. The Turkish losses in killed and wounded were enormous. We took many cannon, machine guns, munitions of war and revictualing convoys.

"A company of one of our glorious regiments captured the entire command of the Ninth corps. Our victorious troops are pursuing the rest of the Tenth corps which is trying to escape.

"During the taking of Ardahan one of our Siberian cavalry regiments charged the enemy and cut to pieces two companies of Turkish infantry. A squadron of the same cavalry regiment captured the flag of the Eighth regiment of infantry belonging in Constantinople. The Turks are retreating in all directions."

## LATE WAR NEWS SUMMARY

A German trench nearly half a mile long in the Argonne region was blown up by the allies, according to to-day's official statement from Paris. The French then made an infantry attack and captured half of the trench. During this charge a grandson of the Italian patriot Garibaldi was killed. The recent death in action of another grandson was said in Rome to have reawakened the war spirit in Italy.

Aside from the fighting in the Argonne, activity is limited chiefly to upper Alsace, where the Germans seem to have checked the French advance. The only claim made in the French statement is that the ground won has been held. The loss of one position to the Germans is admitted.

The Berlin War Office states that the French are bombarding towns to the rear of the German lines and "seem indifferent to the killing of their own countrymen and to the destruction of French homes." The capture of several trenches from the allies is reported.

Fighting continues along the main line west of Warsaw, but dispatches from Petrograd and Berlin agree that there have been no important developments recently. To-day's developments German official communication says that few Russian positions were captured.

The garrison which has been defending the Galician fortress of Przemyel under siege by the Russians for many weeks, attempted another sortie. Of the

Continued on Ninth Page.

## WALL STREET CLOSING

By Associated Press.

New York, Jan. 6.—Late dealings were noteworthy chiefly for recurrent weakness in the Gould group, Missouri Pacific and Denver and Rio Grande, pfd. and St. Louis Southwestern declining to new low prices. The closing was irregular. Intermittent advances and declines marked the course of to-day's stock market, and prices show ing general recession from the best.