

PROBING NEW YORK SUBWAY DISASTER

Eight Separate Investigations by State, City and Traction Officials Under Way

77 VICTIMS STILL IN THE HOSPITALS

Death List Remains at One and No More Fatalities Are Expected—More Than 700 Men and Women in the Panic

By Associated Press.

New York, Jan. 7.—Seventy-seven victims of yesterday's subway accident were still in hospitals to-day recovering from their injuries.

The death list of what was first believed to be a great disaster remained at one. How many persons were carried unconscious from the smoke-filled tube to the streets, probably will never be definitely established.

In the aftermath of the accident the usual machinery of investigation was set in motion. Eight separate investigations, conducted by State, city and traction officials, were under way to-day.

In an autopsy performed this afternoon the coroner's physician found that Miss Ellen O'Grady, the sole victim of the accident, died of asphyxiation by smoke.

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PART OF THE MEXICAN NAVY NOW FAVORS NEUTRALITY

Dispatches to State Department Thought to Indicate Gunboats Were Preparing to Move Carranza Government From Vera Cruz to Progresso

By Associated Press.

Washington, Jan. 7.—The Mexican navy or part of it at least, has declared for neutrality, according to dispatches to the Gutierrez agency here, which say four gunboats on the Atlantic coast have retired to a quiet cove off Yucatan to await the result of the battle between the factions.

Dispatches to the State Department, however, were interpreted as possibly indicating that part of the navy was preparing to move the seat of the Carranza government from Vera Cruz to Progresso.

The dispatches were summarized in this statement:

Information has just been received by the department to the effect that the Mexican gunboat Bravo left Vera Cruz for Progresso on the night of January 5. It was reported to have on board a considerable number of soldiers, constitutionalist money and gold and silver bullion. It is also stated that the Progresso left Vera Cruz on the same night and that she had on board saddles, foodstuffs, a supply of dry goods, a printing press and paper and a number of soldiers. It is reported she sailed for Tampico.

The Carranza agency issued this statement:

Official advices to-day from General Carranza at Vera Cruz state that the agitation on the isthmus of Tepic-Tehuacan has undergone no change. The agency was instructed to deny emphatically that any bridge tunnels of the Tepic-Tehuacan railroad had been destroyed, as was erroneously reported.

General Carranza holds that the magnitude of the defeat of the Villalita troops at Marté compares favorably with that at Puebla. Marté will be the base of operations for the attack on Torreón.

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GERMAN OFFICIALS DENY CARDINAL MERCIER WAS ARRESTED AT BRUSSELS

Continued From First Page.

authorities in Belgium, an arrest which the German officials have categorically denied have been printed in pamphlet form in London. They are as follows:

"I consider it an obligation of my pastoral charge to define your duties of conscience towards the power which has invaded our soil and which at this moment occupies a greater part of it. That power has no authority in law. In the sanctuary of your soul you owe neither esteem nor attachment nor obedience. The sole legal power in Belgium is that which is derived from our king, our government and the representatives of the nation. This alone has a right to the affections of our hearts and to our submission."

"Of themselves the acts of those in occupation are without force; but the legal authority ratifies tacitly the acts which are justified in the general interest and from this ratification alone they derive all their judicial worth."

"The occupied provinces of Belgium are not conquered provinces. Belgium is no more a German province than Galicia is a Russian province. Nevertheless the occupied part of our country is confronted by a situation to which it must submit. The greater number of our towns have been handed over to the enemy; they must respect the conditions of their surrender."

"From the beginning of military operations the Belgian authorities have insistently recommended that private persons abstain from acts of hostility against the armed enemy. These recommendations are still in force. Our army alone is charged with the duty of our national defence. Let us know how to await in its hands the final deliverance, let us comfort ourselves as the general interest demands. Let us respect the regulations they (the Germans) impose on us so long as they do not attack our liberty of Christian conscience or the dignity of our patriotism."

Belgian reservist's wife and 3 children strangled.

Montreal, Jan. 7.—Mrs. Robert Van Looy, wife of a Belgian reservist and her three children were found strangled to death at their home here to-day. The police believe they do not know the murderer.

Mrs. Van Looy's husband joined the first contingent of Belgian reservists who left Canada to fight for their country. Neighbors, alarmed because there had been no sign of life for two days at the Van Looy home, notified the police who broke in the doors of the house and found the woman and her children dead. Apparently they had been strangled and the police thought, the attack had been made upon them as they slept. There were few signs of a struggle.

The children, two girls and a boy, were aged 9 and 7 years, and 18 months.

Affraid of Austrian Submarines.

Berlin, Jan. 7. By Wireless to London, 5.45 P. M.—The German press bureau this afternoon gave out a statement to the effect that the activity of Austrian submarines apparently has crippled the French admiral in the Adriatic sea to withdraw his ships from the Strait of Otranto, at the entrance of the Adriatic. The French admiral, the statement goes on, has postponed their attack on Cattaro, the Austrian seaport in Dalmatia, until next spring.

Great Britain's Reply Conciliatory.

London, Jan. 7, 4.40 A. M.—The reply of Great Britain to the American note regarding interference with American shipping, it is said in well-informed quarters, is wholly conciliatory and shows a disposition on the part of England to do everything within reason to avert delay to American shipping at a time when freight rates are high and consequently loss of time is reverted to the owner.

Bar Pictures Bring \$72.50.

The bar and fixtures of the Ann street hotel, Middletown, for a number of years conducted by John A. Haas, this morning were sold by Sheriff Wells to Harry White, a Middletowner, for \$72.50. Haas, it is understood, will continue to conduct the hotel until the court passes upon White's application for the license transfer, which will be made within the next few days.

Court Names Auditors.

The court this afternoon named Senator E. E. Beideman, of this city, and George Q. Horwitz, of Philadelphia, auditors to examine the accounts of Charles S. Johnson, receiver of the American Union Fire Insurance Company. The receiver to-day filed his account.

Wrist Broken in Fall on Ice.

J. D. Byers, 2120 Jefferson street, an employe of the store department of the Pennsylvania railroad, suffered a fractured left wrist in a fall on an icy pavement at Sixth and May streets last evening. The fracture was reduced at the Harrisburg hospital.

Hot Mills to Resume January 18.

The hot mills at the Lalancé-Grojean manufacturing plant will resume operations on full time, Monday, January 18, it was announced by the management to-day.

Erivion Stares Mines in Face.

Bellaire, O., Jan. 7.—Announcement was made here to-day that the Youngblood and Ohio Coal Company, the Rail and River Coal Company and the United States Coal Company would next week offer employment to their 5,500 striking men on an open shop basis. Those of the miners, it was said, who would refuse to go to work would be evicted from the houses they have occupied since last April without paying rent.

Ship Purchase Bill in Senate.

Washington, Jan. 7.—After several days of persistent efforts by administration leaders, the ship purchase bill was placed before the Senate for discussion to-day and Senator Burton opened debate for its opponents. "I believe this bill will prove ineffectual for the restoration of the American merchant marine and that it offers serious danger that privileged business will be built up," he said.

VERBEKE DOESN'T LIKE HIS JOB EVEN AT \$125 A YEAR

Continued From First Page.

known to Verbeke by the County Commissioners, he says, in face of advice from the Jury Commissioners to "ask for an increase." This is what Verbeke says about it:

"When Jury Commissioner Dapp informed me of the cut in the salary the County Commissioners proposed, I told him I would not serve and advised him to get someone else. Yesterday he asked me what I intended to do. Sometimes I think I ought to serve, even if I don't get a cent, just to be accommodating."

Verbeke said he did not believe the Jury Commissioners told the County Commissioners that the job is not worth more than \$100.

"I don't know anything about that," he said. "In fact I cannot imagine which one would suggest that. Both Taylor and Dapp advised me to put in a salary claim for \$165. Then I looked up the county records, found that George McElhenny, the former clerk, was paid at the rate of \$125 a year, and that is all I asked for."

"I'm not stuck on the job. I lost another job that would have paid me three times what this does. Freeman Gerberick, of Dauphin, is after the job and Ross Seaman, the assistant city clerk, is after it."

"Will you serve at the drawing of a jury next week," Verbeke was asked. "If they don't have anyone else, I will. I won't let them stick."

Verbeke also stated that he first intended resigning the clerkship in July, 1914, but did not do so because of notice but was induced by the Jury Commissioners to continue to serve.

WHEAT NEAR \$2 A BUSHEL?

Chicago, Jan. 7.—Two dollars a bushel for wheat, the dream that only enthusiasts ever expected to come true, was within half a cent of being a reality to-day on one grade of wheat, if the cost of delivery to Europe might be counted as a load of the kind of wheat known as Durum was sold to-day to go to Italy on a basis that figured delivered at destination, \$1.99 1/2 a bushel.

Such a price breaks all records for Durum wheat. The supply of that variety in the United States is said to be virtually exhausted for this season.

Rapid returns were witnessed in the speculative market after a period of wavering during the early hours. News that France and Italy had purchased 1,500,000 bushels or more at the seaboard made the price of options here leap higher than at any time since the beginning of the European war and reach levels that before had not been equaled since the celebrated attempt at a world-wide squeeze by Joseph Leiter.

May wheat, the chief speculative delivery, went to \$1.38 5/8, as against \$1.36 at the finish last night. Among the purchasers of the May option was the Rockefeller Foundation which wanted to make sure of charity supplies for Belgium, and had been unable to get satisfactory terms on wheat for spot cash.

MRS. ISABELLE WISE DIES

She Was 80 Years Old and Is Survived by Three Children

(Special to the Star-Independent.)

Middletown, Pa., Jan. 7.—After an illness of three years, Miss Isabelle Wise, 80 years old, died at the home of her son, a Pike street merchant, here last evening at 7 o'clock. Death was due to infirmities of old age.

Mrs. Wise had lived in Middletown the greater part of her life. Her survivors include three children, Edward Wise, of Middletown; Mrs. M. H. Hartman, of Penrose; and Mrs. D. L. Cunkle, of Goldsboro; three stepchildren, John Wise, of Harrisburg; James Wise, of Middletown, and Mrs. Lewis, of Goldsboro; also two sisters, Miss Sarah Lantz, of Middletown, and Mrs. Catherine Karl, of Penrose, and one brother, Isaac Lantz, of Paxtang. Funeral arrangements have not yet been announced.

JOHN F. FORD DIES

Was Grandfather of Fourteen and Great Grandfather of Two

John Franklin Ford, 63 years of age, died this morning at 6.15 o'clock at his home, 912 Hemlock street, after a three months' illness. A complication of diseases caused death.

He leaves a widow, Mrs. Annie Ford, four daughters, Olga L., Mrs. Mary B. Funk, Mrs. Nellie C. Shaffer and Mrs. Lucy F. Thompson, one son, Thomas F., fourteen grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Sunday evening at 6 o'clock, the Rev. Mr. Straub, pastor of the Nagle Street Church of God, officiating. The body will be taken on Monday morning to Downingtown by Undertaker Miller, where burial will be made.

MRS. JOHN FAUBER DIES

Funeral of Halifax Woman Will Be Held on Sunday

Halifax, Jan. 7.—Mrs. John A. Fauber, 60 years of age, died this morning of a complication of diseases. She leaves her husband and six children.

Funeral services will be held on Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock, the pastor of the Lutheran church officiating.

James Johnson

The funeral of James Johnson, 26 years old, who died at the German hospital, Philadelphia, Monday morning at 11.25 o'clock will be held from Hooper's undertaking establishment, 604 Forster street, to-morrow afternoon at 2 o'clock, the Rev. Eugene Leeper officiating. Burial will be in the Lincoln cemetery. Undertaker Hooper brought the body from Philadelphia yesterday.

Charles T. Thompson

Charles T. Thompson, 642 Forster street, died suddenly yesterday. Funeral arrangements will be announced later.

Caldwell to Pitch for Yankees

CAPITOL HILL THE MINIMUM STRENGTH OF NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS

Order From U. S. War Department Announces Number of Men Each Militia Company in Pennsylvania Shall Hereafter Contain

An order was issued from National Guard headquarters to-day announcing that in conformity with orders from the War Department the following will be the authorized minimum strength of organizations in the National Guard of Pennsylvania beginning with January 1, 1915:

For a company of infantry, total enlisted, 65. Viz: 1 first sergeant, 1 quartermaster sergeant, 4 sergeants, 6 corporals, 2 cooks, 1 artificer, 2 musicians and 48 privates.

For a troop of cavalry, total enlisted, 65. Viz: 1 first sergeant, 1 quartermaster sergeant, 6 sergeants, 6 corporals, 2 cooks, 1 farrier, 1 horse-shoer, 1 saddler, 1 wagoner, 2 trumpeter and 43 privates.

For a company of engineers, total enlisted, 65.

For a battery of field artillery, total enlisted, 133.

For a signal corps company, Type A, total enlisted, 75.

For the Hospital Corps, Ambulance company section, total enlisted, 43.

Public Service Commission

The Bell Telephone Company advises the Public Service Commission that it has no testimony to offer in rebuttal in the matter of the complaints as to telephone rates, and suggests that the Commission render its decision on the general principles involved in the general case before the specific complaints are made the subject of separate hearings.

The Commission to-day approved these contracts: Carlisle Light, Heat & Power Company and the Borough of Carlisle; Citizens' Electric Company and the City of Williamsport; the Pennsylvania Railroad Company and the Borough of Newport.

Application of the Florin Water Company and the East Donegal Township Water Company merger was approved.

Five petitions for the sale to the Northumberland County Gas & Electric Company of the property of the Lewis Township Electric Company, Monroeville Electric Company, Penn Township Light Company and Turbotville Electric Company were approved.

The contract of the Harrisburg Light & Power Company with the Bell Telephone Company for the approval of the sale of poles was approved.

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