



FLAMES SWEEP FORD AUTO BUILDING; 3-STORY BRICK STRUCTURE COLLAPSES; 34 CARS LOST; 5 MEN LEAP FOR LIFE

Pillar of Fire Rises 4 Times as High as the Mulberry Street Viaduct When All Four Walls Fall at Same Instant During Dangerous Cameron Street Blaze—Frequent Explosions Make Firemen's Task Most Perilous

TOTAL LOSS IS PUT AT \$30,000

Firemen Flood Cellar Containing Big Tanks of Gasoline and Prevent a Catastrophe—One Smoke-eater Hurt by Falling Glass—Water Tower Damaged When the Walls Collapse

In the most spectacular daylight fire that has occurred in recent years in Harrisburg, the big three-story brick building of the Ford Motor Sales Company, No. 145 South Cameron street, close to the \$300,000 Mulberry street viaduct, was wiped out in twenty minutes this afternoon.

At 12.30 o'clock the first alarm was sounded and at 12.50 the whole structure except small sections of the walls of the first story, came to the ground with a crash.

Along with the building were destroyed thirty-four Ford automobiles that were in the second and third floors. Twenty-four of these were brand new and the remaining ten had been sent of their Harrisburg owners to the building for repairs.

Every piece of fire fighting apparatus in the city was called to the scene by Fire Chief Kindler. Patrick Driscoll, manager of the Ford business in this city, said that the thirty-four destroyed autos averaged \$425 apiece in value. They were all reduced to junk. Mr. Driscoll places the total loss, including building and contents, at \$30,000, only partly insured.

Fire Chief Kindler late this afternoon discredited a rumor that a man had been caught in the ruins when the building collapsed.

For five minutes after the building fell flames shot into the air to a distance four times as high as the Mulberry street bridge, which at that point is almost 100 feet above Cameron street. In the crash of the building a one-story blacksmith shop nearby was crushed and five firemen, who had been directing a stream of water from the top of the shop, saved their lives by jumping in the nick of time. Another fireman was badly cut by falling glass and was taken to the Harrisburg hospital in the police ambulance.

The firemen on the roof of the blacksmith shop are members of the Shamrock Fire Company. They were stationed on the roof of the one-story structure that was owned by Erick & Frederickson. It was on the north side of the burning building. The firemen were directing a stream into one of the upper floor windows.

The men performing this dangerous duty were John Moore, Irvin Wenrick, William Low, Newton Metzger and S. C. Weaver. As the flames shot high into the air the north side wall trembled and wobbled. Then and only then did the fire ladders drop the hose and jump to the ground, a distance of 15 feet. In an instant the mass of brick and burning embers fell in their tracks, crushing the frame blacksmith shop and burying the line of hose.

Before the building fell there were

frequent small explosions of gasoline in the structure and the task of the firemen was most dangerous. In the crash hundreds of tons of hot bricks, and burning joists were piled on several large tanks of gasoline in the cellar. There was constant danger of the explosion of these tanks and Chief Kindler directed that many streams of water be turned into the basement for the purpose of flooding it and cooling the tanks to prevent the dreaded catastrophe. In this the smoke-eaters were successful.

There is no definite information as to how the fire started. Those at the scene at the beginning said that the flames originated in one of the upper floors. In the opinion of Mr. Driscoll, the manager, steam pipes along the stairway between the second and third floors may have been responsible for the blaze.

When the fire was under control Fire Chief Kindler gave out a statement in which he declared that in all his experience he never before saw a building crumble so quickly as this structure. He repudiated a report that the firemen were handicapped by poor water pressure.

In the opinion of the Fire Chief, the fire had been burning at least twenty minutes before it was discovered, so that by the time he was making a dash over the Mulberry street bridge in his auto in response to the first alarm the second and third floors all were in flames.

Upon determining the extent of the fire Chief Kindler sent phone calls to the following fire companies: Hope, Mt. Pleasant, Shamrock and Allison. Later he sent in the general fire alarm, the "two-threes" call, which brought all the engines of the department. That was about 12.45 o'clock and five minutes later the whole burning building collapsed.

Before the crash of the structure an improvised water tower was made with the use of the aerial ladder of the Mt. Vernon Truck company. To this was attached a hose line which was used to send a stream into a third story window. When the building fell part of a wall hit the water tower, put it out of commission and did some damage to the truck.

Cameron street is an important thoroughfare for trolley cars of the Steelton and Middletown lines and as hose lines prevented the cars passing the building they were sent to the lower end of the county by the Vine street route.

Before the building collapsed, Ray Yohe, 24 years old, 1254 Derry street, who responded on the first alarm with the Mt. Pleasant Engine Company, was struck by glass from one of the upper windows that was broken by the heat.

His head was badly gashed and he was rushed in the police ambulance to the Harrisburg hospital. The surgeons there said Yohe will recover from his injuries.

Fire department officials said that the whole building collapsed at the same time, at 12.50 o'clock, or just twenty minutes after the first alarm was sounded. Some of the falling bricks and blazing timbers fell on a frame building nearby, used as a blacksmith shop and wrecked the latter structure.

The Ford Motor Sales Company building was a 3-story brick structure, practically new. It was opened last April. The fire, which started in an upper floor, was discovered by William Worden, of the Worden Roofing Company, who was having an automobile repaired at the building.

The flames quickly spread. Smoke was pouring out of the third-story windows when the first engines responded to the alarm.

The alarm was sent in from box 19, Cameron and Kittatiny streets, to which the central district apparatus responded. Before the first streams were on Fire Chief Kindler had called out every company in the city.

During the progress of the fire there was a series of explosions in different

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DOCTOR SHOT DEAD BY POSSE

Georgia Physician Charged With Assaulting Young Married Woman, Daughter of Prominent Citizen

By Associated Press.
Augusta, Ga., Feb. 4.—Dr. A. N. Culberson, a physician of Evans, Ga., was shot dead to-day by a posse of citizens which had been searching for him since last night, according to reports received here.

Culberson was charged with assaulting a young married woman, the daughter of a prominent citizen of Martinez.

Dr. Culberson was killed at a farm house near Evans, in Columbia county, 12 miles from Augusta. The assault with which he was charged was committed early yesterday. Sheriff Plunkett, of Richmond county, with three deputies, started for Martinez at midnight to arrest the physician who was reported to be in hiding there. After several hours futile search, Plunkett and his deputies returned to Augusta.

A posse of citizens, however, continued the hunt and found Culberson early to-day in the farm house. The physician was ordered to come out. Then, it is reported, Culberson drew a revolver and tried to escape, but the posse fired and he fell with his body riddled with bullets.

Culberson went to Evans about two years ago. He came to Georgia from Culberson, N. C. He was married but it was said he and his wife had not been living together for some time.

THREE SEEK FOCHT'S PLACE

Lively Struggle for \$3,000 Water Board Post to Be Relinquished by Man Elected to Congress

The resignation of Benjamin K. Focht, of Union, Congressman-elect, as a member of the State Water Supply Commission, will not be handed in until March 4, when Focht takes his seat in Congress. Focht says he does not intend to retire until the last day left him for doing so, when he will notify the Governor.

Three candidates for the place are prominent. David Pritchard, of Senanton, is being backed by the State Sportsmen's; former Senator Walter McNichols, of Senanton, who served in the Senate from 1911 to 1913 and was defeated for re-election, and former Auditor General Edward H. Hardenbergh, of Wayne, who is backed by the political organizations of the northern and eastern part of the State. The position pays \$3,000 a year and the term is four years.

Focht was appointed more than a year ago on the resignation of Fred W. Fleitz, of Senanton, and his appointment was resented by the Lackawanna politicians who claimed that as Fleitz was from Lackawanna the appointment belonged to that county. Hence the two Senanton candidates in the field at present.

For Hardenbergh it is claimed that the position does not belong to any particular county, but to a political section, and that he represents the entire northeast. This is disputed by the Senantonians, who say they are determined that Lackawanna shall land the plum.

DR. KREIDER GETS JOB BACK

Former Bull Moose Candidate for Congress Goes to Work Again on Hill.

Dr. J. H. Kreider, of this city, who was the Bull Moose candidate for Congress in this district last fall, has been reappointed to a clerkship in the Auditor General's Department and began his duties this week.

When Auditor General Powell first took office he appointed Dr. Kreider to a \$2,000 job as clerk in the Bureau of Corporations, and Kreider was fixed for four years. Last summer, when the primary campaign opened and candidates for office were making their announcements, Dr. Kreider became a candidate for Congress on the Washington party ticket and he obtained the nomination without much effort. When the campaign was about to begin Dr. Kreider, knowing he would have to devote his time to his canvass, resigned his clerkship, went to work but went down to defeat.

Since the November election his efforts to be reinstated were unsuccessful until this week when, a vacancy occurring, he was reappointed to his old place.

Not Enough Workers to Remove Snow

New York, Feb. 4.—Although New York City is said to have tens of thousands of men out of employment, the street cleaning department announced to-day that it had been unable to obtain enough workers to remove the recent light snow.

PROBE BY GOVERNOR; HILL FEARS A SHAKE-UP

Brumbaugh Starts Inquiry as to Political Backing of Men Employed in Capitol

RUMORS OF BIG CHANGES

Heads of Departments Directly Under Governor's Control Instructed to Make Up Lists—Bigelow Among First to Comply

Governor Brumbaugh, it was learned to-day, is looking over the departments that come under his direct administration with a view to ascertaining all of the information possible concerning them, but principally to learn the number of employes, their duties and salaries and under whose political backing they obtained office.

When State Highway Commissioner Bigelow called on the Governor last week he was requested to give this information about his department, especially with regard to the number of employes and their political backing.

To-day Commissioner Bigelow was a caller on the Governor with as much as he could obtain of the desired information. A new list of employes of the department is prepared each month. Some of the State Highway Department attaches are hold-overs from a previous administration so that all of the information regarding political backing cannot be obtained with ease, but the greater part of them are known to have got their jobs through political leaders of the State, on whose recommendations they were selected.

It is said that Governor Brumbaugh proposes to make the same request of the other departments whose heads are subject to appointment by the Governor of the State, with a view to learning just "who is who" among the political backers in each county.

Talk on Capitol Hill is to the effect that the census of departmental attaches is being obtained by the Governor with a view to making some drastic changes, but this rumor could not be verified. It has occasioned much consternation in the various departments where there are rumors that a big shake-up is contemplated.

STEAMER SINKS IN ICE JAM

The Iowa Lost in Lake Michigan Off the Chicago Harbor—No Lives Reported Lost

By Associated Press.
Chicago, Feb. 4.—The steamer Iowa of the Goodrich Transit Company sank in Lake Michigan about three miles off the river mouth to-day after being crushed by what lake men declare was the heaviest ice jam seen in years off the Chicago harbor.

The crew, numbering 70, and one passenger struggled over the ice pack as the vessel settled and struggled over the hummocks to shore. Some reached the government breakwater and were rescued by tugs and others landed at different points. Those who reached safety first declared that no one had been lost.

Scott to Be Sentenced Monday

Robert F. Scott, city patrolman, convicted by a criminal court jury on a charge of murder in the second degree, growing out of the fatal shooting of Nathan Barke, will be called for sentence at the regular morning, so District Attorney M. E. Stroup said to-day. Half a dozen defendants, now in jail awaiting the action of the Grand Jury on various criminal charges, to-day decided to plead guilty and they, too, will be called for sentence on Monday.

30 Days for Bridge Wrecker

Vanceboro, Me., Feb. 4.—Werner Horn was to-day sentenced to thirty days in the county jail on conviction of having damaged property in this town by the explosion of dynamite under the international railroad bridge.

JAP CRUISER IS WRECKED; 500 ABOARD

Rear Admiral Howard Reports the Asama Breaking Up in the Pacific Ocean

FATE OF THE CREW AS YET UNKNOWN

No Further Details of the Disaster to Big Japanese Warship Were Contained in Dispatch From Commander of U. S. Pacific Fleet

By Associated Press.
Washington, Feb. 4.—Rear Admiral Howard, commander of the Pacific fleet, reported to the Navy Department from his flagship San Diego that the Japanese cruiser Asama, with 500 men, was wrecked about 350 miles south of Port Bartolome and was breaking up.

No further details were given in Admiral Howard's dispatch and nothing was said of the fate of the crew. The Asama, a sister ship of the Tokiwa, is 442 feet over all with a beam of 67 feet, and capable of making 21 1/2 knots. She had 8,000 horsepower and was armored with Harvey nickel steel. She was built in Elswick, England, in 1898. She carries four 8-inch guns, 14 six-inch guns and 12 three-inch guns, four torpedo tubes below the water and one above. Her complement is 500 officers and men. As the San Diego was at the city of San Diego, Cal., to-day navy officials assumed that the admiral's message was sent from there on information received from an American vessel off Eusebia.

The Japanese cruiser Asama has a war record that dates back to the battle of the sea of Japan, May 27-28, 1905, on which occasion she received the surrender of Rear Admiral Nebogotoff, of the Russian navy. After this fight she was engaged successfully with the Russian cruiser Dmitri Donskoi and it was from the decks of the Asama that the Emperor of Japan reviewed the naval parade in Japan waters the latter part of October, 1905.

More recently the Asama has been active in the Pacific. In November she was reported as hovering outside of Honolulu harbor, awaiting the coming out of a German warship and in January of this year she was steaming up and down the coast of Peru looking for the German cruiser, Prinz Eitel Friedrich.

LATE WAR NEWS SUMMARY

German attacks have been resumed in several sections of the western battle front and, according to to-day's official communication from Berlin, one of these movements, in the Argonne, has resulted in a victory of importance. Three lines of trenches were stormed, and the statement is made that the principal French positions for more than a mile were taken, with the capture of 600 prisoners, 18 guns and much war material. The French statement mentions a few small engagements, which are said to have ended favorably for the allies.

The German statement confirms Petrograd's assertions that another great battle is in progress in Poland west of Warsaw. Russian attacks were repulsed, the Berlin War Office says, and the Germans were able to make further progress in the vicinity of Beshimow, in the section of the front closest to Warsaw.

Germany to-day notified the United States that American vessels should

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MERCER TO ASK NEW TRIAL

Ho and LeBrun, Who Tried to Swindle Banks to Be Heard Again Feb. 15
Before H. R. Mercer and Fred LeBrun, swindlers, who were convicted by a criminal court jury on charges of forgery and false pretense, are called for sentence, the Court will hear argument on their attorneys' motion for a new trial and an arrest of judgment.

The defendants' counsel contend that the Court erred in not permitting Mercer's alleged confession, made to the District Attorney, to be read in its entirety to the jury. They also claim that sufficient evidence to warrant a conviction on the technical charge of "uttering and publishing a forged check" was not produced by the Commonwealth. The cases probably will be argued on February 15.

Mercer and LeBrun are the pair who deposited two fake clerks for \$1,000 each in Harrisburg banks and were arrested when they tried to draw against the "deposits."

VILLA PROCLAIMS SELF PRESIDENT

Appoints Three Ministers to Take Charge of Civil Government in Mexico

STATES REASONS FOR ASSUMPTION

Compelled to Assume Political Authority On Account of Disrupted Communication Between Convention Government and Division Under Him

By Associated Press.
El Paso, Tex., Feb. 4.—Francisco Villa has proclaimed himself in charge of the presidency of Mexico. This was announced in a telegram from General Villa received last night by his agents here. Villa appointed three ministers to take charge of the civil government.

Villa gave as his reason for assuming the office that his forces had been separated from the convention government headed by Roque Gonzalez Garza as provisional president who left with the Zapata forces when they departed south from Mexico City, at its occupation recently by Obregon's Carranza troops. Villa telegraphed from Aguas Calientes under date of yesterday the following:

Names of His Ministers
"On account of communications having been cut off between the convention government and the division under my command and as public service cannot be interrupted on the extensive zone which I control I find myself compelled to assume the political authority creating three political admin-

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4 KILLED IN INDIAN MUTINY

Twenty Others Wounded When Yaquis Rebel Against Supporting Retreating Column of Villa Soldiers

San Diego, Cal., Feb. 4.—Four persons were killed and twenty were wounded, including two officers, when 1,000 Yaqui Indians mutinied at Guaymas yesterday, according to wireless advices received to-day by Rear Admiral Howard, on board the flagship San Diego, now in the harbor.

The mutiny occurred while the Indians were being sent to support a retreating column of Villa soldiers which had evacuated Navajon, Sonora. No foreigners were injured.

The Villa troops sailed for Ybaros aboard the steamer Bonita and the schooner Leonore. The latter vessel was compelled to return to Guaymas on account of bad weather.

GERMANY TELLS U. S. OUR SHIPS SHOULD AVOID NORTH AND WEST FRENCH COASTS

Washington, Feb. 4.—Germany to-day notified the State Department that American vessels should avoid the north and west coasts of France. The State Department does not regard the notice as a formal declaration of blockade by Germany of the French coast. It is said that the mere presence of German submarines of the planning of German mines would not constitute a blockade, which, according to long established principles of the State Department, requires the maintenance of a fleet of warships sufficient to prevent any intercourse with the blockaded port.

Therefore, the department regards the notice as similar to one issued by the British government and to a preceding notice from the German government regarding the waters of the North sea, both of which recited that mines had been sown within specified limits and that the waters would be unsafe for passage of neutral shipping except under pilotage.

Technically, the waters on the north and west coasts of France, therefore, are to be regarded as within the war zone and American mariners are supposed to take notice of the warning and enter those waters at their peril. The notification was presented by the Berlin Foreign Office to Ambassador Gerard who transmitted it to-day to the State Department.

KAISER'S SON RECOVERING FROM MOTOR CAR ACCIDENT

Amsterdam, Via London, Feb. 4, 4.06 A. M.—Prince August Wilhelm, fourth son of Emperor William, is recovering from a double splintered fracture of the lower part of the thigh and several broken bones in his left foot, the "Lokal Anzeiger" states. The nature of the fracture was disclosed only recently by an X-ray photograph. The Prince is convalescing slowly, but is allowed to take short trips in a specially built motor car. He was injured in a motoring accident late in November while making a military tour.

NEW ATTACK ON BELGIANS ALONG YSER

Their Positions Are Again Scene of Fierce Assaults at Hands of Germans

BAYONETS USED BY BOTH SIDES

Kaiser's Troops, After Preparatory Bombardment by Artillery, Made Repeated but Unsuccessful Attacks on Important Belgian Trenches

Amsterdam, Via London, Feb. 4, 9.33 A. M.—The Belgian positions on the Yser near Westende again have been the scene of fierce attacks by the Germans in which the bayonet was used by the troops on both sides of the trenches, the "Telegraf" states in a dispatch from its Brussels correspondent.

The Germans after the usual preparatory bombardment by artillery, the correspondent says, made repeated but unsuccessful attacks on several important Belgian trenches. The desperate nature of the fighting of the past two days is indicated by the large envoys of wounded being sent to Germany.

French Attacks at Perthes Repulsed
Berlin, Feb. 4, By Wireless to Sayville.—The announcement on the progress of the war given to-day by the German general staff says the Germans, near Masignes, have been successful over the French, occupying their positions for more than a mile and the capturing of over 600 men. They claim also success in the fighting on skis in the Vosges.

In the eastern area of the war no important engagements seem to have occurred. German, Austrian and Hungarian soldiers are described as fighting successfully side by side in the Carpathians. Elsewhere in the east the German report claims success. The statement is as follows:

"Yesterday saw nothing more than artillery engagements on the front from the North Sea as far as Rheims. Further French attacks near Perthes were repulsed with losses to the enemy. "German forces yesterday delivered attacks at points north and northwest of Masignes and to the northwest of St. Menchould. They stormed three lines of French trenches, one behind the other and occupied the principal French positions for a distance of two kilometers (1 1/5 miles). All the French counter attacks which were continued during the night were repulsed. We took prisoners seven officers and 601 soldiers and we captured 9 machine guns, nine other guns of smaller calibre and much war material.

Germans on Skis Successful
"In the middle Vosges there occurred the first encounter of German troops mounted on skis with French chasseur. The outcome was successful for us.

East Prussia, Russian attacks against the German position south of the Memel River were driven back. "In Poland, north of the Vistula, there have been skirmishes between small detachments of German and Russian cavalrymen. At a point south of Sochaczew, the Russians delivered repeated night attacks upon our positions. They were forced to retire with heavy losses. The German advance in the vicinity of Bolimow is progressing, and this in spite of the violent Russian counter attacks. The number of prisoners are being increasing.

Fight Shoulder to Shoulder
"In the Carpathian mountains German and Austrian and Hungarian soldiers have been fighting shoulder to shoulder for some days. We and our allies have been several times successful in this difficult, snow covered mountainous country."

Russians Drop Bombs on Germans
Petrograd, Feb. 4.—Russian aviators on February 2 successfully dropped bombs on the mobilized reserves and trains of the Germans at Bawa, Zarzeece and Boguszye, about fifty miles southwest of Warsaw, according to an official announcement issued here to-day.

WALL STREET CLOSING

New York, Feb. 4.—There was recurrent selling of leading stocks in the afternoon and Bethlehem Steel reached a point on denial of dividend rumors. Specialties also declined on profit-taking sales after which trading lay down to dullness. The extreme dullness of the afternoon was followed by further selling in the final dealings. The closing was irregular. Mixed price movements were the chief characteristic feature of to-day's stock market. Dividend issues were under pressure, with advances in some of the specialties.