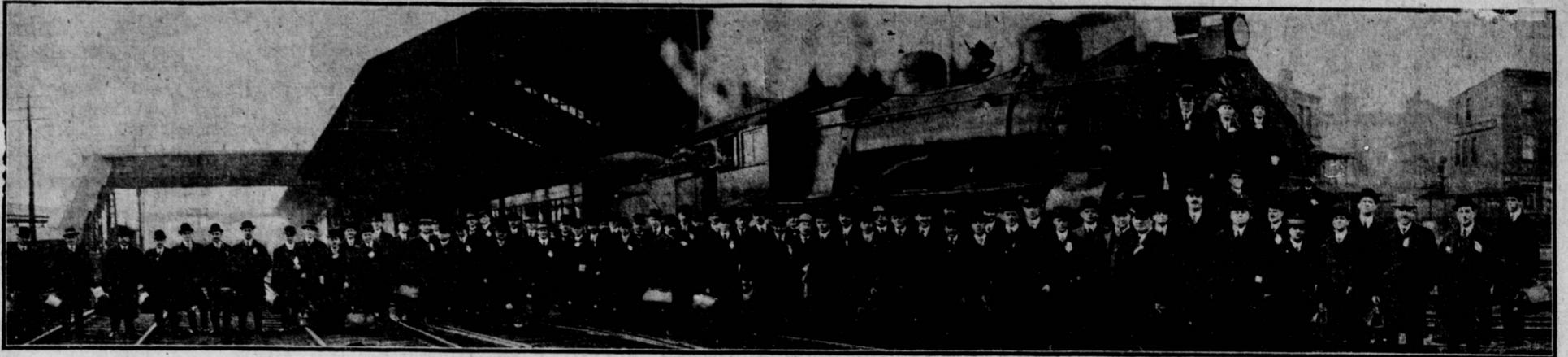


ABOUT TO SWING AROUND THE LOOP WITH THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



BUSINESS MEN BEGIN 2-DAY TOUR

Chamber of Commerce Trade Excursion to Take in Central Pennsylvania Cities

LOOP THE LOOP IN SPECIAL CARS

Big Commercial Advantages Expected to Result From Annual Trip to Meet the Representatives of Many Business Organizations

BY ROBERT R. FREE

Sunbury, Pa., Feb. 17.—Seventy-five Harrisburg business men, members of the Chamber of Commerce, having thrown dull care away for two days to spread the message of "Buy in Harrisburg" through Central Pennsylvania, arrived here at noon to-day happy and contented, with two stops and as many royal receptions behind them.

Before night the whole Susquehanna Valley will know that Harrisburg is on the commercial map. The cities not lucky enough to have the Harrisburg men stop learn of the passage of the business men when the special of two cars passes through. Both cars are elaborately tagged with "Harrisburg."

The men also are tagged. Each is wearing a badge, heart-shaped, bearing the Chamber of Commerce slogan, "Harrisburg, the Heart of Distribution." Across the face of each tag is a space for the name and the business of the member and there is none so modest that he is not advertising himself among his friends.

Five committees are already formed. Richard M. H. Wharton heads the vigilance. He had examined the baggage of the various members and no contraband has been taken. Howard C. Fry heads the cheering section and sees to it that no town goes by without a proper salutation. A. E. Buchanan personally looks after the train to see that no one steals it.

Musser Leads the "Choir." John S. Musser assumed the leadership of the choir, and song sheets prepared by the Chamber of Commerce are a great help to him.

The souvenirs appeared soon after the party embarked in the special, there being books in which to keep "scores," with pencils, openers for pop bottles, court plasters for use in case of injury and matches to light cigars. J. Will Bowman is the boss of the cigar concession.

A bit of factory discipline was shown to the visitors in Millersburg, the first stop on the trade expansion trip. The employees of the Johnson-Baile shoe factory marched in fire drill as the visitors looked on.

W. H. Bowman, president of the Millersburg Chamber of Commerce, welcomed the visitors, speaking from the bandstand in Market square. Others on the reception committee were: J. Hay Bowman, W. L. Brubaker, A. Dowden, Ned Thornton, A. J. Folk, L. B. Bowman, H. M. Fairchild, Frank L. Payne, Frank Campbell, Howard E. Fredericks and T. F. Braidenbaugh, representing practically every manufacturing plant in that busy town.

Short Stop at Herndon. A short stop was made at Herndon, but the party could not leave the station. There Gus M. Steinmetz made a short address.

The officers of the Merchants' and Business Men's Association met the wayfarers at Sunbury and conducted the party to the City hotel, where luncheon was ready. P. L. Wright, a Harrisburg insurance man, spoke during the luncheon.

Stops will be made this afternoon

POWELL WITHHOLDS PAY ON BIG ROAD CONTRACTS

Auditor General Unwilling to Recognize Charges Alleged to be in Excess of Contract Prices Unless Compelled to Do So by Legislature

Auditor General Powell is viewing with a good deal of complacency the clause to compel him to pay bills "as per bill rendered," which was inserted in the deficiency appropriation measure to apply to payment for advertising the Constitutional amendment and lost in that bill, but which has been revived in another measure relating to payment of other state bills. This is alleged to be a feeler and forerunner of some very large bills that are in excess of the contract prices for paying, in which certain material used, and which the Auditor General has so far declined to pay.

The story on Capitol Hill to-day was to the effect that bids were made for the construction of certain roads in the state, one of the component parts of which was Warrenite. The parties who obtained the contracts were unable to use Warrenite, it being a patentable use of Warrenite, unless they paid a royalty to the owner of the patent, and in order to meet the demand for the royalty it is said they submitted bills above the contract price and are now demanding their pay "as per bill rendered."

Auditor General Powell says he has thus far declined to be a party to any such transaction because he does not think it is fair to the State, and he will not pay until compelled to do so. If the bill providing that the Auditor General shall pay bills "as per bill rendered" goes through, then, it is apprehended, the big road bills with their increase because of the payment of royalties to the owners of Warrenite will be submitted, and the Auditor General may, like conditions being presented, have to pay out the money "as per bill rendered."

HEAGY AND GIBB ARE HELD

Men Accused Here of Robbing Sheriff of Potter County Are Put Under Bail To-day

Albert Heagy and John E. Gibb, Jr., Steelton men, this morning were heard before Alderman C. E. Murray, in this city, on a charge of attacking and robbing J. F. Higgins, former Sheriff of Potter county, and each was held for court under \$1,500 bail. Tom Nolley, proprietor of the Half-Way house, a Steelton hotel, went Gibb's security and Heagy was released on a bond furnished by his father, who is a mute.

Higgins was on hand and positively identified Heagy and Gibb as the men who, he said, struck him and then took all his valuables—jewelry and cash—totaling more than \$800. The crime was committed in the White House lane below Highspire, on the evening of January 19, while Higgins was a visitor in this city to attend the inauguration of Governor Brumbaugh.

Higgins said he accompanied the men on a trolley trip to the lane upon their representation that he would be entertained at an Elks club house. He said Gibb made the first attack and ordered him to throw up his hands. Heagy then finished the job while Gibb rifled his pockets, the former Sheriff said.

SARAH BERNHART TO LOSE LEG

Famous Actress Awaits Knife That Will Deprive Her of Limb

Bordeaux, Paris, Feb. 17, 5.40 A. M.—Sarah Bernhardt, who is in a hospital here awaiting the amputation of her leg, necessitated by an injury to her knee, continues to maintain her strength and spirits.

In answer to one of hundreds of inquiries, regarding her condition, she telegraphed that her leg would be amputated next Monday and after that she should be quite happy.

NOTE GIVES FRESH CLUE TO MURDER

Anonymous Letter Causes Authorities to Start Entirely New Line of Investigation

BRINGS ANOTHER GIRL INTO CASE

Information Secretly Given to District Attorney May Lead to Identification of Bones Found in Cellar—Still Hum for Bessie Guyer

An anonymous letter received this morning by District Attorney M. E. Stroup gave the authorities an entirely new lead in their investigation to determine the identity of the murdered girl whose bones last Friday were found buried in the cellar of the house at 133 South Fourteenth street.

The authorities regard the note, which is written on a piece of scrap paper, as well worthy of their attention and, although the investigators have not entirely abandoned the theory that the victim may have been Bessie Guyer, the Mechanicsburg nurse girl who was employed by Dr. Charles E. Ayers, a dentist, while he occupied the Fourteenth street home, the new clue points to the probability that it was another girl who was murdered.

The detectives' efforts to locate the Guyer girl have thus far been in vain, but they propose to continue the search for her, but at the same time to follow up the new clue which points in an entirely different direction.

The writer of an unsigned note was particularly careful to conceal his or her identity, notwithstanding the fact that some intimation is made that the writer's name will be given to the proper authorities sooner or later.

The District Attorney, for the present, declines to publish the contents of the note, which, it is understood, contains the name of a girl other than Bessie Guyer, and additional specific information which the sleuths on the case regard as of sufficient importance at least to warrant full inquiry.

There is some evidence that the person sending the note attempted to disguise the penmanship. The brief note is written on a piece of scrap paper not more than three inches square. It had been folded in a large piece of heavy brown paper and carefully sealed, presumably to prevent its contents being read by any one holding it to the light before it reached the District Attorney. The brown paper was fastened together with a gummed paper seal.

County Detective James T. Walters, who has been detailed on the case, to-day had detectives in other cities and towns working on a clue which, it is believed, will unearth certain missing details of the case and he now is awaiting developments from those sources.

Villages Disappear Under Snowfall. Rome, Feb. 17.—Many villages in the Friuli region of the Italian Alps have disappeared from sight under a snow fall of almost unprecedented extent for that locality.

LATE WAR NEWS SUMMARY

The German war office announced to-day that in the recent defeat of the Russians in the Mazurian lakes region of East Prussia, more than 50,000 prisoners were taken. The invaders, it is said, were "utterly defeated at most points," only remnants of the Russian army escaping after a battle of nine days. An earlier official German statement said that 20,000 Russians had been captured.

The Russian army at the other end of the eastern front also is in danger, according to the correspondent of a Berlin newspaper who states that the force which penetrated Bukovina has been enveloped by Austro-Hungarian troops. Another battle is believed to be pending near Czernowitz.

Germany's reply to the American note concerning the rights of American vessels in the war zone which the Berlin government announced will be established.

Continued on Ninth Page.

MURDERER STILL AT LARGE

Whereabouts of accused Italian Slayer Continue to Baffle Police

Harrisburg police authorities are still seeking for Carlo Conte, the Italian who is accused of the murder of John Polasch during a fight Monday night at 228 Cherry street.

A man who answered to the description of Conte, with the exception of a missing finger, was arrested yesterday in York. Word was received at the local station of his arrest, but Detective White later learned from Mrs. Lauda that Conte was not minus any fingers.

The foreigner told the York police he came from Philadelphia and that he left Harrisburg Friday night. He was later released.

BRITISH COLLIER PREY OF GERMANS

Kaiser's Submarine Torpedoes Dulwich and Latter Vessel Goes Down Quickly

Nearly All of Crew Are Saved

Twenty-two Members of the Crew of Thirty-one Are Picked Up by a French Destroyer and Taken to Havre

Havre, via Paris, Feb. 17, 1.45 A. M.—The British steam collier Dulwich, bound from Hull to Rouen, was torpedoed by a German submarine twenty miles north of Cape De La Heve at 6 o'clock last night. The torpedo struck the middle starboard side. As the crew took to the boats the submarine which torpedoed the ship was seen speeding away. The Dulwich sank in twenty minutes. Twenty-two members of the crew of thirty-one men were picked up by the French destroyer Arquebuse and brought to Havre. Seven others rowed to Facamp. The fate of the other two is unknown.

The weather was clear but a heavy sea was running when the Dulwich was blown up. The torpedo struck under the water line and the explosion which followed was terrific. While pulling toward the French coast seeking a ship which might rescue them, the crew of the Dulwich saw the submarine rise to the surface several times as if watching them and then disappear again.

A dispatch from London last night stated that Lloyds had received information from Focamp, France, that the Dulwich had been blown up. This information was brought ashore by seven men of the crew who rowed to land. The Dulwich was a vessel of 3,289 tons owned by the British Steamship Company.

BRITISH ISLE BLOCKADE IS PROCLAIMED

Waters Surrounding Coast of United Kingdom Under Ban of Germans at Midnight

NO PROSPECT OF TRUCE IN SIGHT

Apparently Great Britain Has Made Up Her Mind Not to Deviate From Proposed Plan to Shut Off Germany's Foodstuffs

London, Feb. 17, 12.47 P. M.—At the stroke of midnight the waters surrounding the coasts of the United Kingdom will become, so far as lies within the power of Germany to make them, a war zone which all vessels, neutral or otherwise, will penetrate at their peril.

Some of the services across the channel probably will be curtailed but a majority of the neutral shipping lines will accept the risk and continue their sailings. The names and nationality of the vessels and the flags of their nations will be painted on their sides in the hope that German submarines will not sink them by mistake.

Will Not Accept Germany's Proposal

England's announcement of the details of her proposed retaliatory policy, by which she plans to shut off the German food supply from the outside, is expected momentarily and apparently there is not the slightest prospect that this country will accept the German proposal to call off the blockade if England will retain naval pressure on shipping.

It is not expected that there will be any immediate and widespread activity by the German submarines but the developments regarding neutral ships should bring to a head one of the most interesting and threatening situations of the war.

England was noticeably cheered by the second big air raid upon the German bases on the Belgian coast but, as was the case at the time of the previous raid, the official report does not indicate the extent of the damage.

Rejoicing Over Hindenburg

Berlin is again celebrating the success of Field Marshal Von Hindenburg, as further details of the East Prussian operations are received. It is officially claimed in Berlin that 50,000 Russian prisoners were taken while all dispatches agree that the Russians are still being pressed further eastward, fighting a rear guard action in an endeavor to prevent the Germans from surrounding their wings. In the Carpathians the fighting is yet to reach a decision. The western end and the center of the Russian line is holding out notwithstanding repeated and violent attacks, but in Bukovina the Austrians have pressed on to within 12 miles of Czernowitz.

It is believed that a recurrence of the general German offensive in the western theatre depends largely upon the outcome of the present eastern situation. Opinion here is divided whether the Germans are planning a great invasion of Russians or whether their chief desire is simply to free Austrian territory of hostile forces and make secure their lines in central and northern Poland.

\$16,900 Paid on City Contract

The Stucker Brothers Construction Company to-day was paid \$16,900 as an installment on the contract price for building the intercepting sewer protective wall along the river. This payment is made in accordance with the agreement entered into yesterday between the city and the contractors under which the contractors waive the right to appeal from the decisions of the engineers on the question of paying for extras on the wall job.

BRUBAKER IS ELECTED HEAD OF THRESHERMEN

Rohrerstown Man Honored To-day by the Convention in Chestnut Street Hall—J. A. Rose, of Harrisburg, Is Chosen as Secretary-Treasurer

Officers for the ensuing year, elected unanimously this morning by the Pennsylvania Threshermen's and Farmers' Protective Association in convention at the Chestnut street hall, are as follows: President, A. H. Brubaker, Rohrerstown; vice president, W. B. Crawford, Saltsburg; secretary-treasurer, J. A. Rose, this city, and executive committee, Frank George, Indiana; George F. Sellers, Gap; P. M. Spangler, Cumberland; George A. Dechant, this city; W. F. Hoover, this city, and Ira M. Hart, Mechanicsburg. Mr. Hart is the retiring president.

The roll call at the opening of the morning meeting showed delegates present from practically all counties in the State, one to six from each. Almost four hundred farmers and threshermen were present. The treasurer reported the finances of the organization in good condition. A rising vote of thanks was given to the retiring officers.

Following the installation of the new officers the closing meeting this afternoon, insurance questions were taken up, including a discussion of the subject, "Shall We Have a Mutual Insurance Company to Insure Threshing Machinery?" By the time last night's session of the convention was called to order there were 300 threshermen in the hall, half of whom were delegates from various localities of the association throughout the State. Mayor Royal made an address of welcome, to which George A. Dechant, of the Case Manufacturing Company, responded.

"Farmer" William T. Creasy, former master of the State Grange, advised.

ALLEGED SCHEMERS ON RUN

Wheat Dealers Disappear When Probe Into High Cost of Wheat and Bread Is Resumed

By Associated Press.

New York, Feb. 17.—Upon the resumption to-day of the State investigation into the increase in the cost of wheat and bread it was announced that two of the Chicago wheat dealers who had expressed a willingness to appear at the hearing had disappeared from Chicago, and that the direction in which they were traveling was not eastward.

An attaché of the Attorney General's office said that James A. Paten was not one of the men. Among the Chicago grain dealers expected to appear at the hearing were J. Ogden Armour, George Marcy, president of the Armour Grain Company, and C. H. Canby, president of the Chicago Board of Trade.

The first witness to-day was Henry Heiser, chief statistician of the New York Produce Exchange. When the hearing began several of the witnesses called for to-day were absent and process servers were sent after them.

Big Fall in Price of Wheat

Chicago, Feb. 17.—Increasing apprehension as to vessel risks in the war zone largely brought about a serious fall to-day in the value of wheat. As much as five cents a bushel was cut from the price of the July delivery, in which trading chiefly centered. That month dropped to 131½ as against 136½ and 136½ last night.

ONE YEAR FOR HARDCRABBLE

Front Street Settlement Will Be Permitted to Stand at Least 12 Months

Formal court action, incident to the opening of North Front street, between Herr and Cahler streets, and the abolition of the "Hardcrabble" district, will be taken on next Monday morning when City Solicitor D. S. Seitz will ask the Judges to appoint a board of three viewers to assess damages and benefits incident to the razing of the buildings.

With the court rests the power of appointing these viewers who must be selected from the standing board of nine Dauphin county viewers.

The viewers, it is predicted, will not be able to complete their work for five or six months, and the tenants in the "Hardcrabble" homes will not be required to vacate for at least a year.

Reading Declares Usual Dividend

By Associated Press.

Philadelphia, Feb. 17.—The directors of the Reading Company to-day declared the regular quarterly dividend of 1 per cent. on the second preferred stock.

A RUSSIAN ARMY CUT TO PIECES

Berlin Reports Complete Rout of Enemy After 9-Day Battle in East Prussia

50,000 TAKEN AS PRISONERS

Emperor William Present During the Decisive Fighting—Much of the Credit for Victory in Lake District Is Given to Young Troops

Berlin, by Wireless to London, Feb. 17, 9.10 A. M.—Fifty thousand prisoners, besides many cannon and machine guns, were captured by the Germans when the Russian Tenth army was defeated in the Mazurian lake district, East Prussia, according to a statement issued at general headquarters here to-day. The text of the communication follows:

"In a nine days' battle in the Mazurian lake district, the Russian Tenth army, consisting of at least eleven infantry and several cavalry divisions, not only was driven out of strongly entrenched positions east of the Mazurian lake plateau but was forced back across the frontier.

Only Remnants of Army Escape

"Utterly defeated at almost every point only the remnants of the army managed to reach the woods east of Suwalki and Augustow, where they are being pursued. The number of prisoners taken has not been ascertained but certainly exceeded 50,000. More than fifty cannon and sixty machine guns besides an unknown quantity of war material were captured.

"Emperor William was present during the decisive fighting in the center of our line. The victory was won by veteran East Prussian troops, assisted by other troops who were young for such work but proved their worth.

"The achievements of these troops under fearful weakness, marching by day and night and fighting against such a stubborn enemy are beyond all praise."

Russian Army in Tight Quarters

Berlin, via London, Feb. 17, 10.30 A. M.—The Russian army in Bukovina has been enveloped by the Austrian-Hungarians between the Pruth and Serech rivers, a correspondent of the "Tagblatt" says in a dispatch from Bistriz.

One Austrian army pushing the Russians from the south now has reached Storzshinetz, while another Austrian force having advanced eastward from Marames against Wisnicz, now stand in the vicinity of Czernowitz. A general battle may be expected, therefore, south and east of Czernowitz. The Russian army has halted twelve miles from that point, the "Tagblatt" is informed, having met reinforcements.

WALL STREET CLOSING

New York, Feb. 17.—Final operations again reflected pressure upon leading stocks, some of which went to lowest quotations of the day. The closing was heavy. Heaviness prevailed for the greater part of to-day's stock market session. Foreign conditions were against an adverse factor.