

TO BRIDGE PENNSY AT DIVISION ST.

Company Announces Work of Spanning 34 Tracks Will be Start- ed To-morrow

THE LAST GRADE CROSSING IN CITY

Commissioner Taylor Says This Means the Construction of Beautiful En- trance to Wildwood Park—Steel- ton Company Gets Contract

With the announcement this afternoon by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company of a plan to bridge its thirty-four tracks at Division street, with a continuous ten-foot wide foot bridge of the girder and truss type, and the assertion that the first half of the structure is to be completed and put into service three weeks from to-day and possibly in a shorter time, came the assurance that the last of the dangerous grade crossings of importance in the city is to be abolished in so far as foot travel is concerned.

Following the announcement by the railroad company, M. Harvey Taylor, City Park Commissioner, let it be known that he now is formulating plans for establishing a new entrance to the beautiful Wildwood Park at that point and that work on this proposed entrance will be begun upon his being officially informed by the railroad of its decision to build the Division street bridge.

Work on the first half of the structure, which will be approximately 359 feet long and will extend to the main transfer yards, will be begun to-morrow morning by the Pennsylvania Steel Company, to which the contract has been awarded.

The first half will be a five-span bridge, with three girder and two truss sections, and will extend over twenty-one of the thirty-four tracks including the company's main line and the eastbound freight transfer, or that part of the companies line which most frequently has caused a blockading of foot travel at Division street.

The construction of the second section of the bridge, or that portion which will complete the footpath over the railroad and eventually mean the opening of the new Wildwood Park entrance, has been authorized by the company. The money has been appropriated and, according to local officials, the second section soon will be put under contract.

At the local offices of the Pennsylvania it was said that the matter of getting bids and awarding a contract for the second portion of the bridge now is in the hands of the company's purchasing agent. It also was said that the temporary delay on the completion of the second section of the bridge will in no wise prevent pedestrians—non-railroad employees—from using the first portion, which is to be completed before April 1.

\$900 MORE FOR RELIEF WORK

Sunday Schools and Organizations of City Respond to Appeal

Contributions totaling more than \$900 have been received to date from the Sunday schools and organizations of the city who were appealed to by the ways and means committee of Home and War Relief Committee. This brings the grand total to more than \$11,000. If contributions continue to come in as at present, the work of aiding the more than 350 needy families of this city will continue until April.

Sunday schools and organizations which have contributed more than \$900 in a week's time are:

Keystone Motorcycle Club, Harris Street United Evangelical Sunday school, Pine Street Presbyterian Sunday school, Central Democratic Club, Grace Methodist Episcopal Sunday school, Capital Street Presbyterian Sunday school, Mount Calvary Episcopal Sunday school, Camp Hill; Harrisburg Republican Club, Brotherly Love Lodge No. 986, G. U. O. P.; Motor Club of Harrisburg; College Club of Harrisburg; John Harris Lodge, Knights of Pythias; Dauphin Conclave, I. O. H.; primary department, Market Square Presbyterian church; Wesley A. M. E. Zion Sunday school; Rely Hose Company No. 10, Silver Star Conclave No. 130, Daughters of Liberty, and Susquehanna Fire Company.

Wheat Remaining on Farms March 1

Washington, March 8.—Wheat remaining on farms March 1 amounted to 152,903,000 bushels, or 17.2 per cent. of the 1914 crop, the Department of Agriculture announced to-day.

WOMEN MADE VICTIMS OF BAND OF PURSE SNATCHERS

Miss Allemen Attacked on Street By Crook Who Cuts Handbag From Her Wrist—Four Other Cases Are Reported From Allison Hill Section

The city has been invaded by a band of pocketbook snatchers. At first their operations were confined to the Allison Hill section where lone women were robbed in almost deserted streets, but one case of a purse being snatched in crowded Market street came to the notice of the police on Saturday night.

There have been many cases of pocketbook snatching which have not been reported to the police but the number of "cleaned" purses collected by mail men on their rounds of the letter boxes testifies to the activities of the light-fingered crooks.

Miss Beatrice Allemen, 223 South Nineteenth street, was attacked Saturday night on Holy street, between Eighteenth and Nineteenth streets, and her hand bag was cut from her arm. It contained \$2 and some small change.

Miss Allemen was returned from market and alighted from a car at Eighteenth and Derry streets. She saw a man follow her from the car. At Eighteenth and Holly streets, an automobile approached and stopped and a man got out.

She paid little attention to these things until she was suddenly seized

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FAVORS NEW CONSTITUTION

State Administration Goes on Record This Afternoon as Favoring the Calling of a Convention

The State administration went on record to-day as favoring a constitutional convention, such as was advocated by Justice Von Mischke, of the Supreme Court, in an interview in Philadelphia yesterday.

Governor Brumbaugh this afternoon was asked his opinion as to the holding of such a convention and while not making direct answer, referred his questioners to Attorney General Brown, who, he said, would express the opinion of the administration on the subject.

Attorney General Brown unhesitatingly declared that a constitutional convention ought to be held as soon as one could be arranged. He said he favored a convention of two delegates from each Senatorial district and one from each Congressional district, but the Governor should be authorized to appoint a certain number of delegates, men of high standing and ability who would not care to be placed as candidates at an election.

The Roney bill for the holding of a constitutional convention was introduced several weeks ago and is still in committee. It is thought that after this administration endorsement of the bill will have clear sailing and will be reported out of committee and passed.

3 YEARS FOR PASSPORT FAKER

Charles Ruroede Pleads Guilty and Is Sentenced to Penitentiary

New York, March 8.—Charles Ruroede, one of the six persons indicted in an alleged conspiracy to defraud the United States in obtaining false American passports for German reservists, pleaded guilty to-day to one of the three indictments against him and to the second count of another.

District Attorney Marshall, in an address which was interpreted by some as recommending a light sentence for Ruroede, announced that Hans Adam Von Weddell, who was also indicted and fled the country, had been captured and would be returned here. He said Von Weddell was the chief conspirator in the case.

Federal Judge Netter, before whom the cases are being tried, sentenced Ruroede to serve three years in the Atlanta Penitentiary. The maximum penalty that could be inflicted under the indictment is 12 years.

WILL CEILING FALL OUT?

Police Inaugurate a Policy of "Watch- ful Waiting" at Headquarters

A policy of "watchful waiting" is occupying the attaches at police headquarters, all except the city electrical department head, who is alarmed that the fire alarm system may be damaged. It all came about this morning when a part of the ceiling over the test board of the fire alarm system was loose and in grave danger of falling on the board.

Not long ago a part of the ceiling over the detective's office was repaired and now a piece over the test board is in danger of falling. City Electrician Clark E. Diehl is anxious to have it repaired before any damage is done while the disinterested ones are awaiting its fall.

DROPPED DEAD IN HOTEL

Millersburg Citizen Died Suddenly While Conversing With Friends

Millersburg, March 8.—While speaking to a number of friends in the Hotel Koppenhaver late Saturday night, Cornelius Fralick, 64 years of age, a retired hotel man, fell to the floor and died almost instantly.

Mr. Fralick was well known here, having conducted a hotel in the borough twenty years ago. Since his retirement he had won quite a reputation as a fisherman. He is survived by a widow, one son and one daughter.

WARNING SENT TO CARRANZA BY U. S.

An Improvement of the Conditions in Mexico City Is Demanded in Note

SILLIMAN WILL CARRY MESSAGE

Diplomatists Interpret It as an Entire Change of Policy on the Part of the Washington Government Toward the Mexican Situation

Washington, March 8.—New and urgent representations amounting practically to a warning have been sent by the United States to General Carranza demanding an improvement of conditions in Mexico City.

Diplomatists familiar with the contents of the note which American Consul Silliman has been instructed to present to General Carranza interpret it as an entire change of policy on the part of the Washington government toward the Mexican situation.

The communication to Carranza which was drafted after conferences between President Wilson, Secretary Bryan and Councillor Lansing, was guarded with secrecy pending some word from Carranza as to his attitude.

It was said by some officials that the note contained the strongest representations that ever have been made to Carranza and indicates that the American government is rapidly losing patience with his indifference to the objectionable acts of General Obregon at Mexico City.

Those who know the contents of the communication said it did not threaten force and was not in the nature of an ultimatum but pointed out in explicit language the serious consequences that might follow if the welfare of foreigners continued to be disregarded.

Much Concern Over Situation
Early in the day, Secretary Daniels had said no additions were contemplated to the fleet in Mexican waters but later it was learned that the cruiser Tacoma had been ordered from Port Au Prince, Haiti, to Vera Cruz. Secretary Daniels was in consultation later with Secretary Bryan concerning the situation. Further movements of vessels may be decided upon.

In diplomatic quarters there were more manifestations of concern over the Mexican situation than at any time since the American forces were landed at Vera Cruz. The foreign diplomatists conferred among themselves and communicated to one another the latest developments as they heard them.

Some of the diplomatists declared themselves satisfied that the course of the American government would produce results. One of the ministers, who had received a telegram saying the

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SUFFRAGE UP IN THE SENATE

Measure Will Be Considered on First Reading To-night and May Pass Finally by End of Week

The woman suffrage amendment to the Constitution, providing that the voters of the State shall pass on the question in November, will come up in the Senate to-night on first reading, will receive consideration to-morrow on second reading and, if the Senate holds a session on Wednesday, the measure will be finally considered on that day.

There does not seem to be much opposition to its final passage, and it is said that even some of the Senators who voted to keep the bill in committee will vote for its final passage. It already has passed the House.

Following the final passage of the measure the women advocating its adoption by the people will begin a campaign which promises to be one of the most spectacular ever waged in this State. Prominent women suffragists, who have been engaged in the work in other States, will come here in numbers and every county will be thoroughly canvassed.

HORN A FEDERAL PRISONER

Bridge Dynamiter Rearrested As He Finishes Jail Sentence in Maine

Machias, Me., March 8.—Werner Horn, the German who attempted to blow up the international bridge at Vanceboro, was taken to Bangor to-day for arraignment before a United States commissioner on a federal indictment charging violation of the laws regulating interstate transportation of explosives. He was arrested yesterday on the expiration of a sentence of thirty days in the county jail for damaging property at Vanceboro.

United States Marshal John Wilson deemed it advisable to handcuff Horn to a deputy. The prisoner protested and wept when the shackles were fastened.

Horn and his custodians were due to reach Bangor at noon. Counsel for the prisoner was prepared to request a continuance of the proceedings.

INSISTS ON TEST OF HOME TRACTOR

One Commissioner Will Demand a Fair Trial For Harrisburg-Made Product

TO TRY TO HALT THE PURCHASES

Says He Will Seek to Delay Award of Fire Apparatus Contracts to Out-of- Town Firm, Whose Bid Is Higher, Until Morton Machine Is Studied

One of the City Commissioners who has expressed himself as opposed to the reported plan to award the contracts for three motor-driven fire engine tractors to an out-of-town concern that submitted a higher bid than the Morton Truck & Tractor Company, of this city, said this morning that he is hopeful of being able to prevent the award of the contract by the City Commission at its meeting to-morrow.

He hopes to be able either to induce Fire Commissioner Taylor to withhold the recommendation for the award of the fire apparatus contracts for one week or else to induce the Commission to lay the matter over for one week if the recommendation is made to-morrow.

This Commissioner said that the purpose of this delay would be to give the Morton people an opportunity to demonstrate whether its tractor, which, it is understood, will be completed in its factory this week, can meet the Fire Department's needs just as well as the tractor it has been reported intention to buy from the out-of-town firm at the higher bid.

To Give Local Firm a Chance
He wants to give the Morton people a fair chance to prove the efficiency of their tractor and if it succeeds in doing this it is understood he will advocate the award of the contracts for two tractors, for use on steam fire engines, to the local firm.

He may advocate that the third tractor, which is to be used on a hook and ladder truck, be purchased from the out-of-town concern.

There will probably be no opposition to the award of the contract for two motor-driven chemical wagons to the local firm.

The motor-driven combination hose and chemical wagon of the Friendship Company, a product of the Morton Motor Truck and Tractor company, of this city, has given perfect satisfaction since it was placed in service early in October, said Fire Chief John C. Kindler to-day, when he was asked for his opinion of the machine.

Gives Perfect Satisfaction
"The truck has never missed a call on account of mechanical trouble," said Chief Kindler. "It has given perfect satisfaction. I, however, would hesitate to recommend an untried tractor for the department."

The first one of this company's tractors is now in the course of construction at the plant at Nineteenth and Manala streets, and, it is understood, will be ready for a test in a few days.

HE PLANS BURIAL; THEN HANGS SELF

Abram Geyer, Wealthy Farmer, Asks Church Folk Not to Tolerate Bell

WAS DESPONDENT THROUGH ILLNESS

Widely Known Resident of London- derry Township Was 75 Years Old and Had Long Been a Keen Suffer From Heart Attacks

(Special to the Star-Independent.)
Middleton, Pa., March 8.—After writing a note in which he outlined plans for his burial, selected the clergyman to conduct the funeral services and urged against the tolling of the church bell to announce his death, Abram Geyer, a wealthy Londonderry township farmer, early yesterday morning placed about his neck the noose of a rope that he had attached to a beam in his granary. Then he stepped from a box on which he had been standing and hanged himself.

Half an hour after he had strangled to death his body was found by Jacob Geyer, a son, who went to look for him after becoming alarmed by his father's absence from the house.

Mr. Geyer would have been 75 years old next month. During the last several years he suffered much from a weak heart and stomach trouble. At times he became greatly depressed and, it is believed, temporarily deranged. Members of his family believe it was during one of these periods of despondency that he took his life.

On his way to the granary, shortly

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MIDNIGHT BLAZE IN EDISON PLANT

Inventor Discovers Flames While Work- ing in Laboratory and Summons Firemen

HE DIRECTS WORK OF SMOKE-EATERS

The Building Destroyed Was One Not Touched by the Fire Last Decem- ber Which Nearly Wiped Out the Entire Edison Plant

West Orange, N. J., March 8.—Thomas Edison, at work in his laboratory after midnight to-day, discovered a fire in one of the buildings of his great plant here and summoned the firemen in time to prevent what might have been a serious loss. The fire practically destroyed a building where the most valuable phonograph records were stored, but most of the records, which were in a concrete vault, were saved.

When he saw the flames Mr. Edison dashed out of the laboratory in his shirt sleeves and stood outside directing the firemen for some time before his wife and son, who arrived from the Edison residence nearby, could persuade him to put on an overcoat. The inventor was soaked to the skin by a hose which twisted out of the hands of the fire fighters and fell within a few feet of him.

The combined efforts of the fire departments of West Orange and Orange were required to subdue the blaze. The building burned was the one not touched by the conflagration which nearly wiped out the Edison plant last December.

CARNEGIE STEEL PLANT BUSY

First Time in Nearly Two Years That Every Department Has Been in Operation

Pittsburgh, Pa., March 8.—Every department of the Homestead works of the Carnegie Steel Company was in operation to-day for the first time in nearly two years and officials declared that orders lately received for structural materials and ship and armor plate assured activity at the plants for months. The open hearth department and the plate mills were started yesterday and the structural mills to-day, resulting in 4,000 men being put to work.

Orders received for pipe for the southwestern oil and gas fields have resulted in more activity at the McKeesport plant of the National Tube Company. It is said that the open hearth plants of the Edgar Thompson Company will also soon reopen.

\$2.50 FOR UNSKILLED LABOR

Minimum Wage Per Diem Advertised By Frank P. Walsh

Chicago, March 8.—A minimum wage of \$2.50 a day for unskilled labor was advocated by Frank P. Walsh, of Kansas City, chairman of the United States Commission on Industrial Relations in an address here last night.

Mr. Walsh said the government should retake all land procured by fraud, withhold all benefits of the tariff from every employer who exploits children and women and prevents labor from organizing for its own good.

"Every great fortune," Mr. Walsh said, "is a fundamental wrong. He who gives bountifully to the poor must have first robbed them a plenty."

WILL ENLARGE PLANT

Pipe Bending Works to Erect New Ma- chine Shop

With a view of increasing their capacity for turning out shrapnel shells for the United States Government, the Harrisburg Pipe and Pipe Bending Works will erect a new building within a few days. The building will be an extension to the machine shops, in which will be placed additional lathes, drills and other machinery necessary for the equipment of the department.

It was stated to-day that a number of the steel mills throughout the country are turning down government contracts in order to supply foreign countries with orders, which necessitated the local plant enlarging its capacity.

Coal Railway Rate Law Annulled

Washington, March 8.—The North Dakota Lignite Coal rate law was to-day annulled as unconstitutional and unconstitutional by the Supreme Court when applied to the Northern Pacific and the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie Railways.

FORECASTING READING'S WEATHER IN HARRISBURG

Chief of Reading Bureau Running Two Offices While E. R. Demain Is Ill— He Even Tells Pretzel Town When Schuylkill Is Going on Rampage

Reading's weather is being forecasted in Harrisburg.

Paradoxical as it seems, that is the case. C. J. Doherty, chief of the Reading Weather Bureau, who vies with the goose honers in forecasting the Pretzel town weather, is in Harrisburg temporarily in charge of the local office during the absence of E. R. Demain, who is confined to his home, 308 North Second street, with pneumonia. Mr. Demain is out of danger and will be at his post in a short time.

Forecaster Doherty finds it easy to make Reading forecasts in Harrisburg because the identical weather reports that come to this city also go to Reading and the identical weather forecasts that emanate from the office in this city will also do for Reading—that is in the general run of things, local conditions not being taken into consideration.

He makes his map in Harrisburg just as if he were in Reading and keeps in touch with the Reading situation by telephone. His assistant in Reading can phone him the Schuylkill river reports and the forecasts for Reading's floods, too, are made in Harrisburg.

This will work well as long as a sleet storm does not come along and knock the wires down—but that is a slight matter, for then the weather reports from Washington are all late and forecasts are delayed as a consequence. Nineteen years ago Mr. Doherty was in charge of the local office, being relieved by Mr. Demain. After many years in the south, in twenty-five stations, Mr. Doherty came north again to establish the Reading bureau two and one-half years ago.

THAW IS PLACED ON TRIAL

Five Others Also Being Tried for Con- spiracy in Former's Escape From Matteawan Asylum

New York, March 8.—Harry K. Thaw, slayer of Stanford White, smilingly came into the Supreme Court to-day to stand trial for conspiracy to escape from the State Hospital for the Criminal Insane at Matteawan. Five men, charged with assisting in the conspiracy, were placed on trial with him.

Mrs. Mary Corley Thaw, the chief defendant's mother, accompanied by Mrs. George Carnegie, Thaw's sister, appeared in court early.

The contentions of the State were partly outlined by Assistant District Attorney O'Malley in questioning the first witness, S. D. Fitch, a public accountant. These questions indicated that the prosecution would request the Court to instruct the jury that, notwithstanding Thaw's insanity, he might have a capacity to conspire.

Five of the 12 jurors who will decide the case of Harry K. Thaw were selected within less than three hours to-day. When court recessed this afternoon for luncheon indications were that the jury box might be filled by night.

LATE WAR NEWS SUMMARY

Dispatches from Greece report the situation there as grave as a result of the political deadlock over the question whether the country shall intervene in the war on the side of the allies. M. Zaimis, Governor of the National Bank of Greece, has not yet shown any indication of being able to get together a new Cabinet to succeed that of Premier Venizelos, which resigned on Saturday because King Constantine did not approve the premier's aggressive policy for participation in the war.

King Constantine is understood to desire the maintenance of neutrality, but Athens dispatches say popular feeling is with M. Venizelos, who has declared that he and his party will not support any new government which may be formed with a policy of neutrality.

The bombardment of the Dardanelles by the allies, which is primarily responsible for the present situation in Greece, has had its effect also on other

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LATE AID OF THE CZAR SPENT \$100,000,000 IN AMERICA

New York, March 8.—Captain Dmitri Vassiliev, acting naval attaché of the Russian embassy at Washington, who died here yesterday was stationed in this city to direct the purchase of war supplies for Russia in this country. Before illness prevented him from continuing his work it was said he had spent nearly \$100,000,000 in America.

Captain Vassiliev was a personal friend of Emperor Nicholas of Russia, and for several years was the emperor's aid on board the royal yacht.

DR. GEORGE NORCROSS DIES

Was Retired Presbyterian Minister and Editor of Church Papers

Carlisle, March 8.—The Rev. Dr. George Norcross, retired minister of the Presbyterian church, who had been editor of a number of church papers and well known in this part of the State, died this morning at his home here of a complication of diseases. He was 76 years of age. Formerly he had been pastor of the Second Presbyterian church in Carlisle.

The following daughters remain: Mrs. Carl Foster, Bridgeport, Conn.; Mrs. Francois Bucas, Carlisle; Mrs. H. M. Estery, Portland, Ore.; and Mary Norcross, of Carlisle.

Call for National Bank Statements

Washington, March 8.—The Comptroller of the Currency to-day issued a call for the condition of all national banks at the close of business Thursday, March 4.

BIG BATTLE DEVELOPING ON VISTULA

Great Activity Again Apparent on Eastern Front, Say Advices From Petrograd

GERMANS HAVE EYES ON WARSAW

Kaiser's Army Headquarters Claim Cap- ture of 3,400 Russians at Rawa, Near Warsaw—May Be Part of Great Battle Now Under Way

London, March 8, 1.15 P. M.—The center of interest on the eastern front again has shifted with the announcement from Petrograd that a great battle is developing on the left bank of the river Vistula at a point to the west, and also to the southwest of Warsaw.

It is not yet clear, judging from messages reaching London, which side has taken the offensive, but inspired sources both in Berlin and Petrograd have been hinting lately that vital operations might well be expected in this region. Messages from the Russian capital have declared that the old field of action in direction of Posen and Silesia alone could serve as the decisive battle ground, while Berlin has been practicing another brilliant action in the direction of Warsaw by Field Marshal von Hindenburg.

3,400 Russians Captured

No great activity has been reported elsewhere on the eastern front except at Rawa, to the southwest of Warsaw, where German army headquarters claim the capture of 3,400 Russians. It is possible that this action may be a part of the great battle which Petrograd says is now under way.

Attacks and counter attacks from the text of both the Paris and Berlin official communications covering events on the western battle front, but there is no indication of a decisive gain by either side.

Attempts of the allied fleet to force passage of the Dardanelles has caused a ferment in the near East, which precipitated a cabinet crisis in Greece. No new cabinet yet has been announced and King Constantine may have great difficulty forming a government with the popular former Premier, M. Venizelos.

Await News of Dardanelles

There is no late news of the situation at the Dardanelles and the British public is awaiting with keen interest the next step in the business-like operations marking the work of the storming fleet.

The release of the American cotton ship Pacific after several days' detention at Deal, indicates that Premier Asquith's blockade policy has not yet been ratified by an order in council.

One of the unexpected results of the submarine war operations has been the announcement of a reduction in transatlantic rates. This may even precipitate a rate war, unless passenger agents are willing to pay higher prices.

THE SITUATION IN GREECE DESCRIBED AS VERY GRAVE

Rome, Via Paris, March 8, 7.45 A. M.—Special dispatches to Italian newspapers from Athens describe the situation in Greece as grave. Some of the correspondents express the belief that the present deadlock between King Constantine and many of his advisers regarding the country's intervention in the war is the result of antagonism which had arisen between the ruler and Eleutherios Venizelos, premier in the Cabinet, which resigned Saturday after its declaration in favor of joining the allies was frowned upon by the king.

Other correspondents are of the opinion that the intervention of Greece on the side of the allies already has been agreed upon and that the crisis which now is apparent, is artificial, having been arranged to make it easier for King Constantine to decide against Germany to which he has felt under some obligations for family and political reasons. The influence of Germany is supposed to have been responsible in a considerable measure for Greece obtaining possession of Kavala and Saloniki on the Aegean sea at the end of the Balkan war.

Can't Requisition Neutral Cargoes
London, March 8, 4.15 P. M.—No belligerent government has a right to requisition a cargo belonging to a neutral government according to a decree given out by the prize court to-day.

WALL STREET CLOSING

New York, March 8.—Moderate profit-taking kept the list within narrow limits in the later dealings. The closing was strong. Numerous indications of domestic trade betterment contributed to the strength and breadth of to-day's stock market.