

# EIGHT KILLED BY RIO EXPLOSION

LARGE NUMBER OF FAMILIES MADE HOMELESS BY EXPLOSION OF POWDER.

Buenos Aires.—A dispatch to La Nación from Rio Janeiro says the known casualties in Friday's explosion on Caju island, near Niteroy, are eight dead and 600 injured, but that 300 persons who were on the island have not been accounted for.

The hospitals were besieged by persons who had relatives on the island, seeking to obtain information about them. A large number of families were made homeless in consequence of the destruction of their houses.

The explosion was of such force that it caused a partial disintegration of Caju island from which a number of small islets, once a portion of the main island, are now separated.

The Brazilian Lloyd Steamship company's coal barge on nearby Concepcion island, caught fire, causing considerable further damage. All the buildings on this island were razed by the explosion on Caju island, and it is believed there were many casualties there.

The war arsenal of Rio de Janeiro and ammunition plants were situated on Caju island, where 40 tons of powder exploded Friday. In addition to the explosion and arms plants, there was a tailoring establishment on the island which made uniforms for the Brazilian army. It employed at times about 2,480 women, most of them widows or daughters of soldiers.

A reservoir on Caju island supplied Rio de Janeiro with a portion of the city's water. There were several hospitals on the island including an institution for feeble minded and on isolation camp for use in case epidemics.

The powder that exploded had been imported from the United States. In addition there were on the island quantities of gasoline and kerosene. The explosion is believed to have been caused by a fire which destroyed two lighters anchored near the storage houses on the island.

## President Signs Postal Bill.

Washington.—The postal pay and rate bill was signed by President Coolidge.

Announcement at the White House that the President had signed the measure came as a surprise, as earlier indications were that he would send it to the Post Office Department and the Budget Bureau for study before taking action.

The bill, which was received at the White House, provides for an average increase of about \$300 annually in postal employees' salaries effective as of January 1, this year, and increases postal rates, effective April 15, next, to raise about \$60,000,000 of the \$68,000,000 required for the pay advances.

The bill also carries a "rider" recommended by the Senate campaign funds committee strictly limiting campaign expenditures of Congressional candidates. The salary increases are similar to those carried in the measure passed at the last session, which was vetoed by President Coolidge on the ground that no provision was made to meet the expense incident to such a raise.

Two Meet Death in Wreck of Cars.—Greenville.—Wm. Haynes, freight conductor, injured in a wreck in the Southern Railway yards here at the same time Earle Lineberger, fireman, and H. L. Wright, engineer, were killed, was reported resting well in a local hospital. Hope for his recovery is entertained, although he is not yet out of danger.

Insufficient hand braking on a cut of cars in the south yard of the Southern Railroad together with the vibration of the tracks caused by passing trains, started the cars rolling down hill toward the Southern depot on West Washington street. The rolling cars, which were loaded with coal, struck a freight engine pulling 21 laden cars, drove the tender through the cab of the freight engine and killed Yard Engineer Herbert Leon Wright, 43, and Fireman Earl M. Lineberger, 25. Yard Conductor W. W. Haynes, 50, was critically injured.

## Invest Near Miami.

Miami, Fla.—A party of Northern capitalists, headed by E. Bascom Slemph former secretary to President Coolidge, made an initial investment of \$1,000,000 in 50,000 acres of land near here, which will be held for development purposes. Slemph has been here several days but left for Washington for the inauguration.

Inventor Sells "Death Ray."—Southampton, England.—H. Grindell Matthews, inventor of the "death ray," asserted on his arrival here from the United States that he had disposed of his invention in America, but he would not divulge the buyer's price. Mr. Matthews, who was a passenger on the Apitania, said:

"England now has definitely lost the chance of obtaining my invention known as the 'death ray.' America snapped it up. I had been there only a week when I concluded negotiations for its sale."

## FIRST PRESIDENT OF GERMANY IS DEAD.

Berlin.—Theatres and operas were dark throughout Germany, concert halls were closed and cafe orchestras silenced in mourning for German's first president, Friedrich Ebert, the former saddle-maker of Heidelberg, who succeeded Kaiser Wilhelm as the chief executive of Germany and steered the new republic through six stormy years.

President Ebert died at 10:15 o'clock Saturday morning from peritonitis following an operation for appendicitis five days ago. His system had been undermined by an attack of influenza preceding the operation and his heart was not equal to the burden imposed which spread throughout his system.

## WARRANTS ISSUED FOR 18

DEMOCRATS LEAVE STATE TO DEFEAT GERRYMANDER MEASURE.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Eighteen democratic members of the Indiana senate bolted that body seeking by their action to prevent passage of a gerrymander bill which they declared would react against their party in the second Indiana congressional district.

Reports were received that 15 of the bolters were at Dayton, O., and Jerome Brown, principal doorkeeper of the senate, departed for that city armed with a mandate from the senate to arrest them.

Emulating the Rhode Island republicans who performed a similar coup several months ago, the Indiana democrats left the city secretly and for several hours were the object of an intensive search by senate officials. Three of the democrats were reported to be in Indianapolis, but Mr. Brown and his deputies had not succeeded in locating them.

Republican members of the senate declared that indictments against the fugitives would be sought in the Marion county criminal court under a law which provides a fine of \$1,000 for legislators who willfully refuse to vote or attend sessions of the general assembly.

Indictment of the absent democrats, Senator Hodges, republican of Gary, pointed out would make them fugitives from justice and their extradition could be asked. Whether the extradition would be granted was uncertain.

Stone Mountain Sculptor Dismissed.—Atlanta.—Warrants charging Gutson Borglum, sculptor, and J. G. Tucker, his superintendent of construction, with malicious mischief in connection with the destruction of the working plans and models for carving the Confederate memorial on Stone Mountain, near Atlanta, were sworn out by the Stone Mountain Memorial association which dismissed Borglum as directing sculptor.

The warrant was served on Tucker and Sheriff J. A. McCurdy, of DeKalb county, in which Stone Mountain is located, was looking for Borglum to serve him with the warrant. The association asked that bonds of \$25,000 be fixed in each case.

The association announced that it had filed suit against Borglum for \$50,000 for alleged destruction of the models and working plans. Armed guards were placed on duty at Stone Mountain by the DeKalb county sheriff, the association said.

Gutson Borglum declared that the action of the Stone Mountain Memorial association in dismissing him as directing sculptor "is a blow not particularly against me but against the south." It is struck at me because I am a northern man.

Declaring that he had been unfairly treated Mr. Borglum asserted that the record of the past nine years would show "that a crime has been committed."

Mr. Borglum reached Atlanta from Washington and went to Stone Mountain immediately after the meeting of the executive committee which discharged him as sculptor. With his superintendent, J. G. Tucker, he assumed direction of the workmen engaged in removing granite from around the equestrian figures which will form the central group of the Confederate memorial. He did not attend the meeting of the committee but left for Stone Mountain in company with Mr. Tucker and Sam H. Venable, owner of the mountain, immediately after its sessions were concluded.

## Japs Launch Cruiser.

Tokio.—The Japanese naval cruiser, Furutaka, the first of several war craft proposed under the Washington agreement, was launched.

## Aged Harvard Professor Quits.

Cambridge, Mass.—After 45 years of service on the Harvard faculty, LeBaron Russell Briggs has resigned at the age of 76 years. He was graduated from Harvard in 1875 and was successively tutor in Greek, instructor, assistant professor and professor of English. He was made a full professor of English in 1890, dean of the college in 1891, and dean of the faculty of arts and sciences in 1903. For 20 years he was president of Radcliffe college, resigning in 1922.

# BOYCOTTING OF SUGAR PROPOSED

ALABAMA SENATOR AND BORAH IN WARM EXCHANGE IN SENATE.

Washington.—Retaliation by the south for efforts of western states to pass laws discriminating against cottonseed products already is underway, Senator Heflin, democrat, Alabama, declared in the senate.

Steps looking to boycott of typical western products such as beet sugar may be expected, he predicted adding that he knew personally that a southern senator had telegraphed his legislature advising the member to assist such a boycott.

Senator Heflin's statement was made when his sixth attempt to obtain consideration of a resolution placing the senate on record as opposed to the discriminatory laws had met the fate of the preceding efforts.

Senator Borah, republican, Idaho, made the objection which prevented consideration and the Alabama senator warned him "the fight you have started will cost Idaho millions of dollars before long."

Senator Borah, replying, declared it was not "a matter of personal favor," but that a difference of opinion as to the merits of the resolution which led him to take the position he had.

"I maintain," Senator Borah explained, "that so important an action should be thoroughly discussed, and we can not do it now."

At one point Senator Heflin issued an ultimatum that "if you desire to transact any business now this resolution must be considered," and he forced one roll call, but later permitted the routine call of the calendar to proceed. Senator Heflin did not identify the member who he said sent the request to the southern state legislature.

When objection was raised to his bill proposing an amendment to the cotton futures act, Senator Heflin forced a conclusion of the night session by again demanding a quorum.

"There is no difficulty," he said, "in getting through any number of bills in behalf of the big interests, but as soon as someone proposes a measure vital to the public we find it is instant objection. It is time some of us become active in behalf of the people."

## Senate Debates Port Bill.

Washington.—Carrying more than 50 new proposals added by the senate, the \$41,000,000 rivers and harbors authorization bill appeared to have entered a stormy period in the senate because of attempts to attach to it several vigorously controverted measures as riders.

Senator Fernald, republican of Maine, proposed an amendment to incorporate in the measure the house bill for government purchase of Cape Cod canal for \$11,500,000.

Western senators, led by Senator Gooding, republican, Idaho, immediately launched an attack on this amendment and in turn proposed to add to the Cape Cod proposal the Gooding bill prohibiting lower freight rates on long haul on short hauls over the same railroad route.

## Ebert Passes Crisis.

Berlin.—President Ebert's physicians expressed the opinion he had successfully passed the crisis of his illness. His condition, they said, was improving constantly, although slowly.

## Wall Crushes Seven.

Sarrebourg, France.—Seven persons were killed and 15 injured here when the workshop in which they were employed was crushed by a wall blown over by a high wind.

## Alabama Hangs Man.

Montgomery, Ala.—Clarence Bailey was hanged in the Montgomery county jail for the murder at Kilby prison in November, 1923, of James Culpenter a fellow prisoner. Bailey mounted the scaffold at 5:45 and the trap was sprung at 5:50. He was pronounced dead 39 minutes later.

## Heavy Loss in Fire.

Berwick, Pa.—Fire destroyed the pattern storage shop and badly damaged the pattern and wheel foundry of the American Car and Foundry company here with a loss estimated at \$80,000.

## To Create Monument.

Washington.—The senate passed the house bill creating a national monument at Fort McHenry in commemoration of its connection with the Star Spangled Banner.

## Going Into Drydock.

Manila.—The U. S. S. Haron, flagship of the American Asiatic fleet, damaged when she went aground Wednesday off the island of Palawan, 200 miles southeast of Manila, arrived at Olongapo. The vessel will be dry-docked to ascertain the extent of the damage.

## Named After Lenin.

Douarnenez, France.—The ancient square of the Holy Cross has been renamed Square Lenin by the recently elected municipal council.

## TWO CHILDREN BURNED TO DEATH.

Alexandria, Ontario.—While their father was absent on business and their mother was at the bedside of a stricken son in a Montreal hospital, Pearl, 12, and Paul Emilio, 10, children of Mr. and Mrs. Cyrille Lacombe were burned to death when fire destroyed their home here. The father is a prominent lumber man.

## FRUIT PRODUCERS COMBINE

INVESTIGATOR OF TRUST FILES REPORT WITH CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

Ottawa, Can.—Green fruit producers and consumers throughout Western Canada and in a large portion of the United States are under the domination of jobbing and brokerage houses. It was charged in a report filed with the Canadian government by Duncan Lewis, recently appointed to investigate an alleged fruit distribution trust.

In his report Commissioner found that the combination "has operated detrimentally to the interests of the Canadian public" in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba provinces. He further held that the Nash houses, of which there are 45 in Canada, linked up with 84 in United States, are a price-fixing combination illegally maintained under the combines investigation act of 1923. It was under this statute that Lewis was appointed as investigator.

Various combines under the Nash leadership, described as the largest handlers of green fruit in the world, according to Lewis, have divided western Canada into brokerage areas and have compelled all brokers seeking produce direct to jobbing houses to pay toll to the brokerage houses of the alleged combine. In some instances, the report said, this toll amounts to as much as \$90 a car. This practice, the report holds, "restricts distribution, assists the creation of monopoly, and injures consumer, producer and broker."

Lewis recommended the establishment of nationwide grower-owned selling agency as a remedy for existing conditions, in the marketing of fruits and vegetables throughout western Canada.

## Slew Sister to Send Her to Heaven.

Paris.—"I killed her because I wanted to open the gates of heaven to her," said Anna Levasseur, a middle-aged dressmaker who shot and instantly killed her sister, Anais, on February 16, when she was arraigned before the investigating magistrate, charged with murder.

The woman explained that her sister was suffering from tuberculosis of an advanced stage and that she shot her to relieve her suffering. She denied her act had been influenced by the killing of Mile Umiska, a Polish actress of her finance to relieve him from agony from an incurable disease. Mile Umiska recently was acquitted.

"I am a firm believer in the hereafter," declared Anna Levasseur. "I have no fear of going to the great beyond to meet my sister if men sentence me to die."

## Three Killed in A. C. L. Smash-Up.

Newark, N. J.—Three railroad employees were killed and about 40 passengers were injured, a few seriously, in a rear end collision between two passenger trains at Manhattan Transfer.

A local train from New York to Philadelphia, crashed into the Atlantic Coast Line Express, from New York to Washington and the south.

The dead are: Joseph Petric, Jersey City, and George Huther, Newark, both coupling inspectors, and L. E. Johnson, negro dining cook, Jamaica, N. Y.

The inspectors were preparing to couple an engine to the express. The nine-car train was thrown forward into the engine by the collision and they were crushed.

Pennsylvania railroad officials attributed the accident to "Man failure or brake failure."

As the dining car turned over its load of passengers eating breakfast were hurled into a tangled mass of wreckage, in which was the dead negro dining car worker. Passengers from other cars, considerably shaken, came to the aid of those imprisoned, pulling them out through broken windows. The railroad company had five doctors on the scene a few minutes after the crash together with police patrol wagons and ambulances from Harrison and Newark.

## Urges Tax Reduction.

Washington.—A further reduction of 25 per cent in the tax on personal incomes for 1924 was proposed in a resolution by Representative Ackerman, republican, New Jersey.

## Embassy Attache Dies.

Paris.—Herbert P. Middleton, special disbursing officer of the United States embassy in Paris, died at the American Presbyterian hospital in Constantinople of pneumonia, the embassy was informed.

# BANK INCREASES DISCOUNT RATE

FEDERAL RESERVE GOVERNORS REORGANIZE WITH PROSPERITY.

New York.—Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York formally recognized the rising tendency of money rates, resulting from recent business expansion and the greater demand for funds in expanded securities trading, by raising the rediscount rate from 3 to 3 1/2 per cent. The 3 per cent rate which was the lowest in the history of the federal reserve system as well as the lowest bank rate in the world, had been in effect since August 8, 1924. The new rate becomes effective at once.

The first effects of the advance were felt in the foreign exchange market where a break of more than a cent took place in sterling. The reaction in the British currency apparently was based on the theory that with the New York rate only one-half per cent below the London bank rate, the attraction of capital to Great Britain for interest returns would be lessened. Maintenance of lower rediscounts in the United States had been expected to aid in the possible return of sterling to par.

Although both the stock and bond markets are normally sensitive to any change in the discount rate the action had no direct effect since it was not announced until after the close of the sessions. Dealings, however, were somewhat restricted, as had been the case on almost every meeting date of the reserve bank directors this year.

The advance ordered was the first upward revision of the rate since February 23, 1923, when a 4 1/2 per cent charge was established. This remained in effect until May 1, 1924, when the first of last year's series of reductions was initiated. Two subsequent cuts were necessary to bring the rediscount rate into alignment with open money market quotations, which have governed the reserve bank stock policy. Since the post-election stock market boom and trade expansion got under way late last year however, Wall street has been looking for a higher discount rate.

Ponzi Guilty in Theft Case.—Boston.—A verdict of guilty was returned in Suffolk County Superior Court by a jury trying Charles Ponzi, former international postal return coupon financier, on charges of larceny from clients. Judge Sisk increased Ponzi's bail from \$2,000 to \$10,000 and gave him time to file a motion for arrest of judgment.

The jury found Ponzi guilty on fourteen counts of the four indictments against him which covered an aggregate of \$9,500. The complainants were persons who in 1920 invested in Ponzi's enterprise which guaranteed fabulous returns. Evidence at the trial showed that the former financial "wizard" had taken in millions from investors.

Ponzi pleaded guilty in 1920 to fraudulent use of the mails and was sentenced in Federal court to a term in Plymouth jail. He has now been tried in the State courts three times on indictments arising from his financial operation.

## Millionaire Accused in Plot.

San Francisco.—Richard M. Hotaling, millionaire clubman, actor and landholder, is expected to face the grand jury to refute statements by Ralph P. King, former city jailer, of Hilo and Louis Madison, supposed gunman, that he inspired a conspiracy to murder his sister-in-law, Mrs. Frederick C. Hotaling, because of a grievance against her.

King and Madison were arrested. A third man, Al Reels, also a supposed gunman, also is involved as a conspirator and is being sought.

King made a statement that Hotaling proposed, in Lakeport, Calif., last September, that King take the life of Mrs. Frederick Hotaling and he agreed to do so. Coming to San Francisco, he got in touch with Madison and Reels and they agreed for a consideration of \$3,300 to kill the rich matron. Later they included in their plot, a plan to murder Frederick Hotaling, also, and his mother, Mrs. Lavina Hotaling.

Seek Baroness in Richmond.—Richmond, Va.—Police authorities here were requested to search for Baroness Frederick Cotta von Cottendorf, who dropped from the sight of friends soon after filing divorce proceedings at The Hague, Holland, in 1916. The baroness was Miss Eleanor Vincent, of Virginia before her marriage.

Record Salary For Moviedom Given.—Los Angeles, Cal.—According to The Los Angeles Examiner competition among motion picture producers for the services of Gloria Swanson, screen star, who is ill in Paris, has resulted in the signing of a new contract with Famous Players-Lasky, by which she will receive \$17,500 a week. This salary is said to be the highest ever paid a motion picture performer as a direct salary where no percentage is involved.

# DOINGS IN THE TAR HEEL STATE

NEWS OF NORTH CAROLINA TOLD IN SHORT PARAGRAPHS FOR BUSY PEOPLE

Charlotte.—The three year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralston Winchester was killed by an automobile while crossing the Dixie road. The party driving the car has not yet been found.

Rutherfordton.—The four-year-old son of Charles Frady, who lives between Forest City and Bostic, was accidentally killed while out playing when he stepped into it with a younger companion and it turned over, the edge falling on his neck, killing him instantly. His companion escaped injury.

Greenville.—At the meeting of the American Association of Teachers' College at Cincinnati on February 21, Robert H. Wright, president of East Carolina Teachers' College, was elected president of the association for the ensuing year.

Wallace.—Mrs. Carrie Holland, died at her home here after an illness of several weeks. The funeral of Mrs. Holland was conducted by her pastor, Rev. Mr. Lee, of the Methodist church, at the grave, the interment being in Rockfish cemetery.

Goldsboro.—A report that the city board of school trustees were planning to use a part of the proposed \$325,000 bond issue in the purchase and creation of playgrounds is vigorously denied by members of the board. "There is nothing further from our minds," said Col. John D. Langston, a member of the board.

Asheville.—Rob Rathbone, a farmer living at Dellwood, four miles from Waynesville, was shot and almost instantly killed, under mysterious circumstances, according to word received here. Frady made no attempt to escape but was so excited he was unable to give an account of the killing. Less than half an hour after the fatality he was arrested by the Haywood county sheriff and locked up in jail without bond.

Elkin.—Irving Griffith, a member of the force now grading the stretch of the state highway from Brooks Cross Roads to Yadkinville, narrowly escaped fatal injury by a cave-in of a volume of dirt which buried his body for a time while he was engaged in cutting a pipe line to convey the water from the road.

Winston-Salem.—Dr. William Louis Poteat, president of Wake Forest College, speaking before the Wake Forest alumni of Forsyth county and this city here, declared that the carrying out of the projected plan of expansion at the college would require \$3,000,000 and that the present yearly income of \$202,000 is painfully inadequate to the present needs.

Gastonia.—Dr. M. F. Boyle, Gastonia physician, was arrested in New York City on a federal warrant charging violation of the anti narcotic act, his apprehension making the twenty-seventh person arrested in connection with a drive federal agents have been making against an alleged "drug dealing gang" operating in this section of North Carolina.

Rockingham.—Rockingham has a preacher who can fish almost as well as he can preach—and he does not take it out in "telling" of his catches. Rev. Bruce Benton, of the First Baptist church, spent a couple of hours at Ledbetter's Pond, and was rewarded with four trout—one weighing six pounds, and the other three each weighing a pound.

Wadesboro.—D. W. Sedberry and A. D. Griggs, local officers, captured a big still near here on the Wadesboro-Ansonville highway. Officer Sedberry located the still in the woods and, hiding, awaited the return of the distiller. When a young white man named Dock White appeared at the still Sedberry arrested him.

Goldsboro.—The Rev. W. A. Piland, who was on his first year as pastor of the Stedman circuit and who was formerly pastor of the Goldsboro circuit, died at Stedman. He leaves a widow, Mrs. Lillian A. Piland, three children, M. G. Piland, Mt. Olive; J. H. Piland, Beets; Station; Miss Edith Piland Stedman, and five grand children.

Mount Airy.—Henry McCraw, of Virginia, against whom the February Surry Superior Court returned a true bill of indictment for murder in connection with the death of his cousin's wife, Mrs. Gabe McCraw, who before her death charged him with criminal assault, walked into the office of Sheriff Haynes and surrendered; at the same time he presented a bond of \$19,000 properly signed.

Burlington.—John Moser, 42, an unmarried man living near Thompson's Mill in the southern part of Alamance county, was found dead in the one room house in which he lived alone, his brains having been blown out with a .32 calibre pistol, found at his side.

Chapel Hill.—The Carolina Playmakers have just received another much coveted mark of recognition. They have been invited to send a member of their cast to represent them in the production of "Outward Bound" under the auspices of the Dallas Little Theatre in Dallas, Tex., during the week beginning April 20.

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