

300 BELIEVED DEAD IN MUNITIONS BLAST

HUGE U. S. DEFENSE PROGRAM EXPECTED TO PASS BY FEB. 15

Hearings Will Begin Monday by House Naval Committee on Expansion Proposals

ROOSEVELT PLANS WILL BE ENACTED

Favorable Committee Report in Two or Three Days Predicted by Vinson; Monopoly Program May Assume Form of Inquiry Now, Not Legislation

Washington, Jan. 29.—(AP)—Leaders said today they expected the House to pass President Roosevelt's huge navy and navy expansion program by February 15.

Chairman Vinson, Democrat, Georgia, called the House Naval Affairs Committee to begin hearings Monday on a bill to authorize the \$800,000,000 naval building program. He predicted a favorable report would be forthcoming after "two or three days."

The measure, carrying out Mr. Roosevelt's request for a 20 percent increase in the navy's building limitations, would authorize 47 additional fighting ships, 22 auxiliaries and 1,000 airplanes. The President suggested that of the total, two battleships and two cruisers be started this year.

Chairman May, Democrat, Kentucky, of the House Military Affairs Committee, said he would confer immediately with War Department officials to get their views on how best to fulfill the President's recommendations for strengthening land forces.

Members of a mid-western bloc in the House, however, indicated they would oppose the program outlined in the President's special message yesterday.

Both House and Senate were in recess today, and southern senators held a caucus to review their fight against the anti-lynching bill.

Meantime, some administration supporters in Congress said the President's

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Scott Urges Less Control U. S. Crops

Raleigh, Jan. 29 (AP)—Kerr Scott, commissioner of agriculture, today advocated more attention to distribution of crop surpluses and less to controlling them.

"It seems to me there is a need for more study of means of getting our crop surplus to the one-third of our population that is ill-fed and ill-clothed," Scott commented. "At present we spend millions to teach our farmers how to make two blades of grass grow where one grew before, then turn around and spend millions telling them not to grow them."

Meantime, the State's method of meeting "offsets" provided for agricultural work through the Bankhead-Jones funds has been approved by Federal officials. F. E. Miller, test farm director director of the State Department of Agriculture, said. This year, Miller said, the State will realize about \$78,000 from the Federal fund by putting up a like amount for research. He added the department expected no difficulty in offsetting the fund again next year.

Worst Winter Blast Of Season Losing Its Grip

Moderating Weather Leaves Trail of Death and Destruction in Its Wake Over Large Portion of Country and Adjacent Sections of Nation

(By The Associated Press.) Moderating temperatures and falling of Arkansas food crops marked the beginning today of the end for winter disturbances that claimed 12 lives and heavy property damage this week.

High seas and strong winds, however, were reported in the Caribbean, where the latest Newsmo grounded on one of the Courtown Cays, 150 miles east of Nicaragua.

"Rounding very heavy," the master radioed. The United Fruit Line steamer Varago, stood by for rescue operations.

More than 80 persons forced from lowland homes by ranging streams in Arkansas and east Texas awaited

WASHINGTON AWAITS JAP REPLY TO NOTE ON SENTRY'S INSULT



Falls to Death

Representative Edward A. Kenney, New Jersey Democrat, fell six floors to his death from his hotel room in Washington. Kenney, 54, recently suffered heart attacks, and police believe he fell as he went to the window for air during the night. He was serving his third term as Representative from the Ninth New Jersey District.

(Central Press)

State Department Sends Demand to Tokyo To Know What Has Been Done About Affair

DIPLOMAT SLAPPED BY GUARD SOLDIER

Meantime, Japanese Restrict Shanghai Areas Into Which Foreigners May Go; Move Seen as Effort To Avoid New "Incidents"; Slow To Explain Acts

Washington, Jan. 29.—(AP)—State Department officials awaited with intense interest today Japanese reaction to formal representations by this country against the slapping of an American Embassy secretary at Nanking.

The department sent instructions last night to Ambassador Joseph Grew at Tokyo directing him to inquire as to what the Japanese government had done about one of its soldiers slapping the face of the John Allison, third secretary of the embassy.

Allison himself has furnished an account of the incident, which was officially published by the State Department. Flatly denying the official Japanese version that he had insulted a Nipponese officer, the diplomat asserted the attack was unprovoked.

SHANGHAI AREAS LIMITED IN ADMITTING FOREIGNERS

Shanghai, Jan. 29.—(AP)—Japanese today restricted the Shanghai areas into which foreigners may go, apparently in an effort to avoid possible new "incidents."

A Japanese Embassy spokesman announced the regions prohibited to foreigners including, Kiangwan, Tazang and Liuhong, to the north of the city.

Japan's week ago announced foreigners would not yet be permitted to visit Nanking, although foreigners already there were allowed to stay.

The embassy did not explain the new restrictions, but they apparently resulted from a combination of circumstances: the wish to avoid possible "incidents," military activity in the areas, and efforts by Chinese guerrilla units to disrupt Japanese supply lines about Shanghai.

A Japanese spokesman said there would be no further announcement on the slapping by a Japanese sentry of John Allison, third secretary of the United States Embassy, in charge of the embassy at Nanking.

HERBERT FALK TO OPPOSE WINBORNE

Greensboro Lawyer to Seek Utilities Job, Report in Raleigh Says

Daily Dispatch Bureau, in the Sir Walter Hotel. Raleigh, Jan. 29.—Herbert S. Falk, Greensboro lawyer and civic leader, will oppose Utility Commissioner Stanley A. Winborne in this spring's primary, according to exceptionally reliable information reaching this bureau.

Falk's backing will come largely from the retail merchants of the State, although it is unlikely that he will be officially sponsored by the North Carolina Retail Merchants Association.

If the Guilford man enters the race as it now appears certain he will, his principal platform will be a sweeping demand for reduced electric and power rates in the State, particularly in commercial power rates.

In June, 1932, Falk, then serving

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SLIGHT DECLINES SHOWN BY COTTON

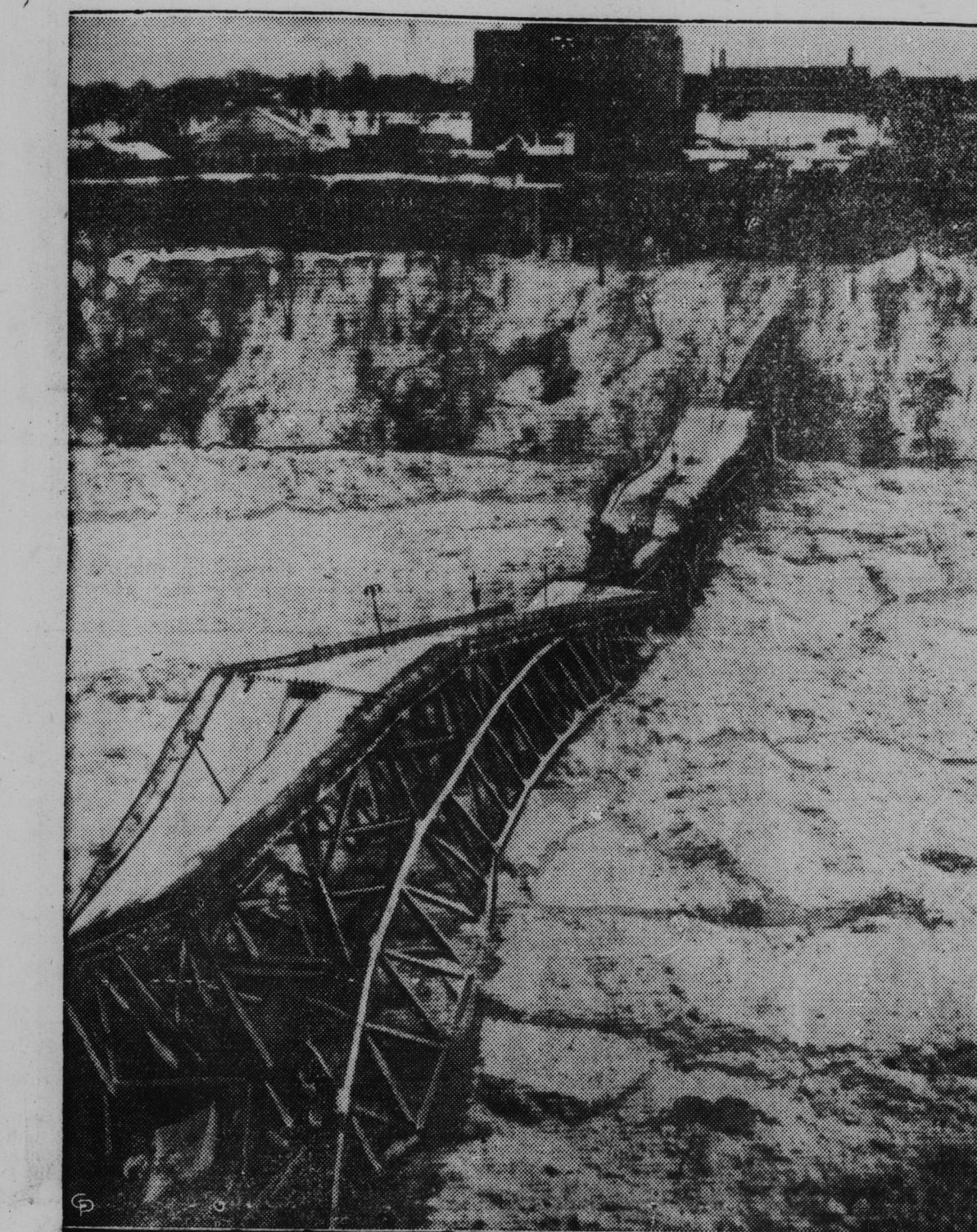
Liquidation and Hedge Selling at Outset Absorbed by Trade During Session

New York, Jan. 29.—(AP)—Cotton futures opened unchanged to two points lower. Liquidation and hedge selling were absorbed by the trade. May moved over a one-point range and shortly after the first half hour was 8.42, with the list one net higher to one point lower.

Futures closed unchanged to three points lower. Spot steady, middling 8.42.

Table with columns: Open, Close, March, May, July, October, December, January. Values range from 8.34 to 8.66.

As Niagara Bridge Plunged In to Gorge!



Exact moment Falls view bridge toppled at Niagara Falls. This remarkable photo, taken by Walter Bortas, star Central Press photographer, shows exact moment of collapse of Falls View bridge into gorge at Niagara Falls. Weakened by relentless pressure of the greatest ice jam in history of the Niagara river, the bridge buckled and crashed to the ice below.

Alfred E. Reames Oregon's Senator

Salem, Ore., Jan. 29.—(AP)—Alfred E. Reames, Medford attorney, today was appointed by Governor Charles Martin, Democrat, to serve out the unexpired term of Frederick Steiwer as United States senator from Oregon. Reames is a Democrat.

Reames will be 68 years old February 5. He is expected to go to Washington immediately to take the seat of Senator Steiwer, whose resignation is effective Monday, and whose term has eleven months to run.

Steiwer resigned Thursday after eleven years in the upper house, to become a member of a Washington law firm. He was one of the staunchest Republican critics of the Roosevelt administration.

Reames' name was mentioned in Capitol gossip yesterday. He will be the first Democrat in many years to serve Oregon in the Senate. Oregon's senior senator is Charles McNary, the Republican minority leader.

Liquor And Sales Taxes Rising Again

Merchants Group to Fight Sales Tax and West Liquor in 1938 Primaries

Raleigh, Jan. 29.—Personalities and new-fangled ideas will play their part in the coming North Carolina legislative primaries, but two hardy perennials, sales tax and liquor, will figure heavily in determining who shall be the "gentleman from Dare" and the "senator from Cherokee" in the 1939 General Assembly, using these two geographical extremes as illustrative of all counties.

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Britain, France, Russia Agree To Help China In Her War Against Japan

Economic and Financial Aid Will Be Extended, Provided United States Will Aid

NO NOTION HERE OF ANY SUCH PROGRAM

This Government Not So Inclined, Hull Says; Has Received No Communication From Either of Three Governments on Decision at Geneva

Geneva, Jan. 29.—(AP)—Great Britain, France and Russia were reported today to have agreed to extend economic and financial aid to China in her war with Japan, provided the United States would cooperate. Communist League circles said the three major League powers had determined to follow such a course either with or without approval of the League Council.

A Polish decision to block passage by the Council of a resolution of aid to the three powers to take the position that such a measure was unnecessary. The resolution passed by the League Assembly October 26, 1937, was deemed sufficient to justify the aid to China.

The October resolution said, in part, that the assembly: "Expressed its moral support for China, and recommends that members of the League should refrain from taking any action which might have

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ROOSEVELT AIMING AT BASIC ABUSES

Trying to Rectify Big Business Practices Ante-Dating His Birth

By CHARLES P. STEWART Central Press Columnist Washington, Jan. 29.—Big business in the United States undoubtedly is a vast deal decenter today than it used to be.

Time was, up to a couple of generations ago, when financial and industrial buccannery was pretty general in our country. We were young, then—and did not realize how serious a national situation our economic manipulators were running us into. In some few folk reached the conclusion that conditions were becoming intolerable right where they lived, they did not stop to fight it out in that locality they went west, pre-empted homesteads and founded new communities, more to their own liking. Gradually civilized eastern greed followed them up and largely gobbled them, but it was a slowish process; the pioneers were unaware that it was proceeding—until it already was fairly well effected.

Theodore Roosevelt was the first statesman to call attention to the fact that our frontier was gone; that there no longer was any place for individual enterprise to find refuge.

EXPLOSIONS OCCUR IN GREAT ITALIAN PLANT NEAR ROME

All Blamed on Carelessness of Worker in Breaking One of Compressed Air Tubes

TOWN OF SEGNI IS SCENE OF TRAGEDY

Many Roofs Shaken Down and Nearly All Windows Blown Out; Mussolini To Take Personal Charge of Situation; 39 Squadrons of Firemen Are Sent

Segni, Italy, Jan. 29.—(AP)—From 300 to 400 persons were believed to have been killed and injured today in a series of explosions which blasted one of Italy's greatest munitions factories.

Frantically working rescue crews had been able to drag but 15 bodies from the wreckage. Firemen believed many more would be found when they were able to penetrate the smoldering ruins.

The explosion was blamed officially on the carelessness of a worker who broke a compressed air tube. A communique announcing the disaster gave no definite casualty figures, but said there were "some dead and dozens injured."

Stores of wool used in making high explosives were burning in the cellars and prevented further rescue work.

Many persons were injured by flying splinters of glass and the tiles hurled from the rooftops of neighboring buildings by the force of the blast.

Two minor explosions occurred at 7:35 a. m. and 7:50 a. m. before the huge blast at 8:03 a. m., just as the day shift was relieving the night workers.

Segni, a town of 10,000 people 30 miles southeast of Rome, suffered widespread damage. Many roofs were shaken down and virtually all windows in the town were blown out.

King Vittorio Emanuele and Queen Elena hurried from Rome to the scene of the tragedy, accompanied by the governor of Rome. Premier Benito Mussolini was expected to take personal charge of the rescue work.

Thirty-nine squadrons of firemen were rushed from Rome and other surrounding towns to fight the blaze started by the blast, which destroyed three small concrete buildings.

Payne-Turner Case Will Go To Jury Soon

Asheville, Jan. 29 (AP)—Trial of Bill Payne and Wash Turner, charged with murder in the slaying of Highway Patrolman George Penn last August 22, neared the jury stage today.

Arguments of counsel were resumed at the opening of court after a session last night to complete arguments of three lawyers. The State rested at 4:30 p. m. yesterday and the defense followed within a few minutes with an announcement it would offer no testimony.

Cecil Jackson, of defense counsel, opened summations. Charles Ross, of Raleigh, attorney for the State High-

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Pogroms On Jews Banned In Roumania

No Inhumanities Contemplated King Carol Tells Associated Press Writer

Bucharest, Roumania, Jan. 29 (AP)—King Carol, monarch of 18,000,000 people, assured the world today it need fear no Jewish pogroms in Roumania.

Speaking quickly and softly in perfect English, the king in a half hour audience in his quiet study, a sunny room of the royal palace in the heart of Bucharest, told an Associated Press writer:

"A Jewish problem; yes, we have one, and we are wrestling with it. How

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WEATHER FOR NORTH CAROLINA

Partly cloudy and warmer to night and Sunday. WEEKLY WEATHER. South Atlantic States: Rain first part of week, followed by fair and colder Tuesday and Wednesday; rising temperature latter part of week, followed by rain.

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