

FORTY PERSONS KILLED IN EXPLOSION

TNT Explodes Killing and Maiming Scores and Demolishing Whole Village; Shock Felt 60 Miles Away.

New Brunswick, N. J., March 1.—Forty persons dead and 100 or more injured was estimated tonight as the toll of an explosion in the TNT plant of the Nixon nitration works. Flames showered through 40 buildings of an adjoining celluloid works and demolished the little industrial town of Nixon. An accurate check on the number killed was impossible.

As many of the victims, dead and dying, as could be removed from the blazing ruins were taken to a half dozen hospitals and hastily equipped emergency morgues. Their bodies were so mutilated and burned that only a few were identified.

By nightfall 12 bodies were reported recovered and seven had been identified tentatively. Spurred by reports of survivors that a score still lay buried beneath the burning debris, soldiers joined firemen state police and citizen volunteers in hoisting arc-lights and beginning an all night attack upon the twisted masses of wreckage.

The explosion occurred at 11:30 a. m., in the ordnance salvage plant. The nitration works had been leased to the Amontite company for treatment of army TNT to be used as agricultural fertilizer.

Big Building Blown Up

The building, two stories high, 300 feet long and of hollow tile construction, was literally blown from the earth along with the men believed to have been within it. The shock was felt for 60 miles, shattering windows, lifting roofs and toppling chimneys in many cities. On Staten Island buildings rocked as if in an earthquake.

The single, destructive blast crushed 40 buildings of the Nixon company's celluloid novelties manufacturing works which surrounded the TNT plant and razed as if by shell fire the encircling dwellings of 200 employees whose little settlement was known as the town of Nixon.

Through shattered roofs and crumpled walls—upon piles of flimsy celluloid sheets in every one of the Nixon buildings—showered embers, blazing TNT and boiling acid broadcasted by the force of the explosion. The blue flames of the highly inflammable celluloid with which all the structures were filled, burst forth on the heels of the blast like a huge blowtorch, cutting down everyone and everything within a radius of several hundred feet.

The screams of men and girls pinned down by steel girders, crushed by falling walls of tile, or caught beneath several pipe lines which showered them with nitric acid, mingled with cries of housewives and children whose dwellings only a few feet from the celluloid works, came tumbling down upon them.

Wounded Men Frenzied

Men, wounded and frenzied with clothes burned off and bodies scorched black, ran out upon the road to New Brunswick, two miles away.

A hundred soldiers hastily mobilized by Major A. S. Casad at the Raritan arsenal were speed by automobile to the place of the explosion almost before the echoes had died away.

Accompanied by the arsenal's ambulance and hospital corps they were the first to attack the flames and start rescue work.

Later it was discovered that four of the arsenal high explosives magazines had been crushed by the explosion and the roofs of two others blown in. Fourteen companies of firemen helped check the flames, which for a time threatened to spread to the arsenal's scores of powder warehouses.

Doctors and nurses from hospitals in nearby cities were early on the scene. Numerous heroic rescues were recorded, nurses and soldiers working side by side amid the smoke and dense yellow fumes which all day rolled up from the ruins as tank after tank of nitric acid and ammonia burst.

An hour after the explosion the village of Nixon and the 30 acres or more of buildings which had housed the explosive works looked like a sector of battle front—no man's land. Only a few fragments of wall remained standing.

For two miles the narrow road leading from the main highway was lined with automobiles both deep in mud, and which rushed fire apparatus ambulances, police and army cars

and people running and crying. Straggler banners carried the dead and injured through crowds of relatives of the victims who besieged the gates of the plant. Telephones were being installed on every standing pole to replace the lines of communication that had been swept away by the explosion. Airplanes with photographers circled overhead.

Those uninjured who had seen the explosion were unable to tell what caused it. Those who were in it and survived were unable to talk.

WOODROW WILSON'S WILL IS MADE PUBLIC.

Leaves Entire Estate to Widow and Income of \$2,500 to Margaret Wilson.

Washington, Feb. 27.—The will of Woodrow Wilson, filed for probate Monday, leaves the estate to his widow, Mrs. Edith Bolling Wilson, with the exception that his daughter, Margaret Wilson, shall receive \$2,500 annual income as long as she remains unmarried.

A request in the will calls upon Mrs. Wilson to distribute among Mr. Wilson's daughters such articles of clothing, jewelry, personal mementoes and art works that may have belonged to their mother, the first wife of the former president.

Under the will, Mrs. Wilson is to retain the estate during her life, and the unexpended portion at her death is to be distributed among Mr. Wilson's daughters.

The will was opened February 13, according to a notation on the envelope, in the presence of Mrs. Wilson, Margaret Wilson, Eleanor Wilson McAdoo, W. G. McAdoo and N. W. White, the attorneys who filed it.

The will reads: "I will and devise my property, real and personal, after the payment of any debts that may constitute a claim upon it at the time of my death, to my beloved wife, Edith, for her lifetime, with the request that she distribute among my daughters such articles of clothing, jewelry, personal ornament or art material as may have been the personal belongings of their mother, and with the direction that my daughter, Margaret, shall receive out of the income of my estate so long as she remains unmarried the sum of \$2,500 annually unless that amount should at any time exceed one-third of the entire annual income of my estate; in which case she shall receive one-third of the income.

"Upon the death of my beloved wife, Edith, it is my will and direction should she die without issue that the whole of my estate, real and personal, or so much of it as shall remain unexpended or undisposed, shall revert to my children, share and share alike, and if she should die leaving issue, her child shall inherit share and share alike with my daughters."

The document was dated May 31, 1917. It was witnessed by Helen Woodrow Bones, a cousin of the testator, I. H. Hoover, chief usher at the White House, and Ralph M. Rogers, formerly an usher there. Mrs. Wilson is named as executrix.

On the envelope which contained the will is written in the handwriting of Mr. Wilson the words:

"Last will and testament of Woodrow Wilson."

Bailey Bros., Inc., to Be Sold March 20th

Winston-Salem, Feb. 27.—The real estate, good will, brands, etc., of Bailey Bros., Inc., tobacco manufacturers which were placed in bankruptcy last December, will be sold March 20, according to announcement made by the receiver. The concern owes several hundred thousand dollars, but many believe that the assets very nearly equal the liabilities. The business and plant are expected to be bought by others engaged in the same line of business.

CATTLE DIPPING WAR AILED IN COURT

Down in Georgia a war against the government officers who tried to force the "Crackers" to have their cattle dipped to eradicate ticks is now being aired in the court at Valdosta. Anti-dipping farmers dynamited 80 cement tanks used for the purpose and fired upon and killed at least one of the federal agents, while the authorities had to use machine guns to quell the rebellion. Twenty-one citizens are now being tried for conspiracy to violate the dipping laws.

INDICTED FOR TAKING BRIBE IN VETERAN BUREAU

Ex-Chief Charged With Getting \$5,000 from J. W. Thompson, Contractor, Also Accused

Chicago, Ill., Feb. 29.—The special Federal Grand Jury investigating corruption in the Veterans' Bureau returned four indictments this evening against Col. Charles E. Forbes, former director of the bureau, and John W. Thompson of Chicago and St. Louis.

Col. Forbes is named in two indictments. In the first he is accused of accepting a bribe of \$5,000 from Elias H. Mortimer in the Drake Hotel in Chicago while Mortimer was an agent of the contracting firm of Thompson & Black.

In the second he is charged with conspiracy with Thompson & Black and General Counsel Cramer of the bureau to defraud the Government by using his influence to favor that company.

Thompson is first accused of bribing Forbes by giving him \$5,000 through Mortimer.

Inquiry Only Began

Second he is accused of conspiracy to defraud the Government by obtaining from Col. Forbes favors for his company.

In its special report the Grand Jury stated much in the bureau required further investigation, but since this was outside the jurisdiction of this Federal Court it suggested the Government push the investigation where it had jurisdiction.

The Grand Jury said: "Incidental to the investigation of matters of which this Grand Jury had jurisdiction certain other facts not directly pertaining to the Veterans' Bureau were developed by counsel for the Government which we regard of great importance.

"There is no jurisdiction of them in the Northern District of Illinois, but we are assured by Mr. Crim he will lay them before the Attorney General and the President for consideration."

DRY PLEDGE OR NO JOB, SAYS PINCHOT

All Appointees Must Enforce Law, Keystone Governor Announces

New York, March 4.—Obedience to the law is not an academic matter. It is personal. And so long as I am Governor of Pennsylvania I will appoint no man to public office who will not give me his personal pledge to obey all laws, including those enacted to make effective the 18th Amendment to the Federal Constitution.

This, Gifford Pinchot, Governor of Pennsylvania, said yesterday, explaining his failure to reappoint John M. Phillips, of the Keystone State.

"I did not," said the Governor, who is convalescing from a slight operation in Dr. Leroy's sanitarium in West 5th Street, "turn Mr. Phillips down. He, in fact, turned me down. I offered to re-appoint him on the same terms that I have appointed every other man that he give me his personal pledge that he would obey and sustain the Constitution, including the eighteenth amendment and the laws made under it.

"More than that, I sent mutual friends to him to explain that I could not treat him any differently than I have treated others. He has seen fit to decline renomination on those terms. So far as I am concerned, that settles it. He may have his place yet, but only on that condition."

Gov. Pinchot explained that his decision to exact such pledges was made known in his inaugural address.

"I found that all over the State officials, sworn to obey the law, were breaking it openly and otherwise," said he. "Therefore, to bring home to them the fact that obedience to the law is not an academic but a very live, personal pledge. What is more than that, I will continue to insist upon it and will apologize to nobody for doing so."

World News Briefly Told

FLAPPER BANDIT JAILED—

Dorothy Rogers, bobbed-hair flapper bandit, after a four day carnival of crime with her lover Paul Worth, sobbed out her bitter story in Philadelphia's central police station. She was captured when she and her companion attempted to hold up a shoe store. Worth shot a policeman as he escaped.

DANIELS WRITING BIOGRAPHY OF WILSON—

Josephus Daniels who is being carried as Democracy's dark steed to romp in the Presidential race is now in Philadelphia writing a "Life of Woodrow Wilson." Daniel's friends confidently hope to see him capture the Democratic convention. But the North seems to be more impressed than the South with his possibilities.

COURT ACTION IN OIL LEASES

Special counsel in the oil lease scandals announce that court action will be taken this week to prevent the further drainage of oil from naval reserve oil lands leased under questionable title. Annulment of leases made by Albert B. Fall as Secretary of the Interior to the Doherty and Sinclair interests will be asked for. Criminal action against the principals in the oil scandal must await further investigation.

DID METHUSELAH DIE PREMATURELY?

The yearly cost of sickness in the U. S. amounts to over two billions, according to Dr. Darlington of New York, who asserts that one should live 120 years. He declared that Methuselah, who was drowned in the flood when 969 years old, died prematurely. To live properly one should brush his teeth seven times a day and eat and drink properly. Ninety-six per cent of all people die younger than they should.

14 PRISONERS ESCAPE—

Fourteen of the 21 prisoners in the Alamo county stockade a short way from Graham squeezed out of prison thru a hole dug under the wall and made their escape Sunday. The seven remaining prisoners begged the guards to stop up the hole, preferring to remain. The prisoners lustily sang a rousing gospel hymn while they tunneled under the wall.

HOUSING AND HANDLING FARM FLOCKS

COMPROMISE TAX MEASURE ADOPTED BY HOUSE

Both Mellon and Garner Plans Give Way to Longworth Schedule; 25 Per Cent Cut in 1924 Income Taxes

Washington, Feb. 29.—By a vote of 408 to 8 the revenue bill was passed late today by the house.

As sent to the senate, the measure carries an income tax schedule offered by Representative Longworth, the Republican leader, as a substitute for the Democratic rates. This was adopted 216 to 199 after the house had refused, by a vote of 361 to 153 to reinstate in the bill the original Mellon schedule.

The Longworth substitute, which was supported by Republican insurgents who previously had thrown their lot with the Democrats, provides for a normal tax reduction to two per cent on incomes between \$4,000 and \$8,000 and to six per cent above \$8,000. It also would cut by one fourth the present surtax rates, making the maximum 37 1-2 per cent on incomes exceeding \$200,000. No increase in existing personal tax exemptions will be allowed.

The house also approved a proposal for a flat reduction of 25 per cent on all personal income taxes payable this year. Two unsuccessful efforts were made to eliminate this provision.

Specific rate changes carried in the bill will not become effective until tax payments are made next year on income and profits of 1924, except those made in the excise levies which would go into effect 30 days after enactment of the law.

In addition to the new income tax schedule, major provisions of the bill as approved today are:

A 25 per cent reduction in taxes on earned incomes, all incomes under \$5,000 being defined as earned for purposes of this reduction.

Repeal or reduction of many of the miscellaneous or excise taxes, involving about \$120,000,000 in revenue annually.

Tightening of the limitations of capital loss and gross income reductions which, it is estimated, will yield about \$60,000,000 revenue annually. Increases in the estate tax rates of about 38 per cent.

Institution of a gift tax with the same rates as carried in the estate tax.

Creation of a board of tax appeals to decide tax disputes between the treasury and tax payers.

Opening of the income tax returns to inspection by certain congressional committees.

House leaders admit that the bill undoubtedly will be altered in important particulars by the senate. The decisive record vote by which the Mellon rates were rejected today, however, makes it certain, they say, that regardless of what senate sentiment may be the treasury schedule will not be restored to the bill.

While President Coolidge has expressed himself as strongly in favor of the Mellon rates his attitude toward the compromise accepted today by the house has not been defined. White House officials were considerably stirred by the publication of a story that Mr. Coolidge was willing to accept the compromise, and it was stated that the executive had given no such indication.

Says President Asks For Daugherty's Resignation

New York, March 2.—President Coolidge has asked for the resignation of Attorney General Daugherty, but has not received it, Frank A. Vanderlip, retired banker, declared today in an address at the Heights Free synagogue.

Asked to elaborate on his assertion or to tell from whom he had obtained the information, Mr. Vanderlip was uncommunicative.

"I will stand on that statement, that's all," he told newspapermen.

Mr. Vanderlip added in his speech, however, that he had sent word to the President, but did not know whether his communication had been received, that Daugherty should not be allowed to resign if the resignation was to be accompanied by a "white-washing" letter.

Mr. Vanderlip said a new political

B. F. Kaupp, Poultry Investigator and Pathologist, Tells How to Make Hens Board Themselves.

In regard to the housing of farm poultry, the most successful and profitable way is to have the poultry house portable. The timbers supporting the building should be four inches thick and six or eight inches broad and dressed like a sled runner, so that horses may be hitched to it and move it from place to place.

Corn fields, cotton fields, best field cane fields, and orchards make excellent locations for the poultry. They also do well in fields of rape, vetch, cowpeas and soja beans.

The breeding stock may be allowed to run in a field in one part of the farm and the youngsters in another field. The sitting and brooding coops or the movable colony brooder houses may be located in the corn field or orchard and the chickens allowed the run of the clean grass orchard or plowed fields from the time they are baby chicks.

By this method a greater percentage will be raised. Two crops will be yielded by the same ground, that is, a crop of chickens and a crop of corn or fruit. The orchard furnishes the needed shade and the same may be said of the corn or other large plant crops.

It has been found that hens running in cultivated fields do not interfere with certain crops as corn or cotton and that one hundred hens through the day will in the course of a year void approximately three-fourths to one ton of valuable fertilizer and at the same time, the bugs and other insects and worms they consume furnishes them animal food and protects the crop. The New York Experiment Station estimates that each one hundred hens will directly benefit the ground on which they run at least \$15 a year.

The straw and other litter used in the houses for scratch material, after it becomes of no further use for scratch material, is valuable as a fertilizer on the fields and helps to make the humus which is needed in the soil for the best crop production.

One hundred hens will consume from 300 to 500 pounds of oyster shell a year some of which goes back to the land.

Hens act as scavengers not only consuming hundreds of pounds of insects in the course of a year, and thus protecting the crops from pests, but they also pick up waste grain and other food material.

It has been found by experiments at the West Raleigh plant and at the Edgecomb, Pender and Iredell Test Farms during the past year that the cost of raising hens on such free range conditions is only about one-half as much as on the intensive method where the hens are restricted in their range and everything is brought and carried to them.

Poultry on range will go at least one-fourth of a mile to hunt insects, always returning to their own house at night, thus making fencing on their account unnecessary.

The injury poultry will do to a crop is not serious unless too many birds are kept in one flock. The portable houses should be made to accommodate not more than 50 birds each, and the houses should be located a considerable distance apart.

party would be formed if the President did not "go through" with the present investigation in Washington "whatever it leads, and to purify the federal government."

"There will be one plank in its platform," he said, "and there will be two words in that plank—'Be Honest.'"

Declaring that "the men in the newspaper field have gone out in the capacity for hard investigating service, this being especially true of the correspondents at Washington," Mr. Vanderlip suggested the formation of a "citizens' federal research bureau" to conduct investigations. The data accumulated would be sent to the newspapermen of the country, he said, and most of them will print it because they will fear that something will and then they will have been left."