

Many Are Killed in a Big Explosion at Pekin, Ill.

Between 20 and 35 Persons Were Killed and 100 Injured as Result of Explosion and Fire.

BUILDINGS ARE REDUCED TO DEBRIS Accident Occurred in Powder House of Starch Buildings of the Corn Products Refining Company.

Pekin, Ill., Jan. 3.—(By the Associated Press.)—Between twenty and thirty-five persons were killed and 100 injured, according to estimates, in an explosion and fire in the starch building of the Corn Products Refining Company here early today.

At that hour, two buildings of the big plant were in ruins, building No. 33, the starch powder house, where the blast occurred, being reduced to a mass of scalding debris, and building No. 27, the starch house, still ablaze, its walls standing, but giving off hot intense heat so that efforts could be made to search for the bodies.

Five men, working in five box cars about 30 feet from the building were missing, and are believed to have been killed as the cars were destroyed by the explosion.

Although ordinarily 250 men were employed in the starch houses, according to Frank Wede, manager, only seventy-two men were in the starch powder house where the explosion occurred, according to the best information he had.

When the blast occurred, relatives and friends of the employees rushed to the plant from their homes in Pekin, two miles away.

Trapped on the third floor of the burning plant, Frank Lichtweiss, aged 26, of Peoria, sang to his fellow workers for nearly an hour to calm them, and when the last retreat was cut off jumped from the blazing building. He has a voice of unusual quality and some of his companions went to their death with the strains of the songs in their memory. He did not jump until all the men were able to leave the floor had gone so. He is severely burned, and is in a hospital here.

Fire companies from both Peoria and Pekin responded to the calls for aid. Distance and severe cold handicapped the fire fighters and rescue workers. Water frozen on the ruins and gave a lacerated mantle to the walls of the starch house and debris of the starch powder house. Only the walls of building No. 27 was standing at 10 o'clock.

The Story From Peoria. Peoria, Ill., Jan. 3.—Between 20 and 30 men trapped in the basement of the starch works of the Corn Products Company plant at Pekin are believed to have been killed in an explosion which wrecked the building about 3:35 this afternoon. More than 100 other workmen were injured, of whom about twenty probably will die of burns, physicians said.

Rescue workers report seeing many bodies in the basement, but they will be unable to reach them until the pines are controlled.

The plant employed about 800 men and it is estimated that about 250 were at work when the explosion occurred, members of the night shift which went on at 11 o'clock. Among the victims also were about twenty-five workers due to go on at 4 o'clock. The cause of the blast has not been determined, but it is believed to have been due to a dust explosion. The explosion was so terrific that several box cars alongside the plant were shattered or blown off the tracks. The property damage is estimated at about \$1,000,000.

The identified dead are: George Harman, Lee Harding, Louis Schmidt, William Rumber, John Hooper and William Vogelsang.

New Marriage License Record in Durham. (By the Associated Press.)

Durham, Jan. 3.—Durham county established a new marriage license record during December, according to the report of N. G. Markham, register of deeds. One hundred twenty licenses to wed were issued during the 31-day period. The previous record was made last December when 112 of the documents were issued, while the monthly average is around 60. The record for the year, also a new high record, was 772 licenses.

Another Unit of the National Guard. (By the Associated Press.)

Asheville, Jan. 3.—Another unit of the National Guard probably will be organized in North Carolina according to advice received here from Adjutant General J. VanB. Metts. The city of Asheville has been invited by General Metts to organize a headquarters and service company for the new engineering Regiment. Asheville already is the location of cavalry and veterinary troops.

Some Marrying in Cumberland. (By the Associated Press.)

Fayetteville, N. C., Jan. 3.—Dan Cupid took the toll of 44 couples in Cumberland county during 1923, according to the records of the register of deeds made public here on January first. It was a close race between Caucasians and Ethiopians, the records indicated, 223 of the licenses going to white couples while the dusky race got the remaining 219.

Queen Mary of Eng'nd is said to be the best cook among the royal women of Europe.

BY GOLLY! THIS IS GETTING EXCITING



DON'T PAY TO SWAP COTTON DOLLARS FOR BREAD AND MEAT

(By the Associated Press) Atlanta, Ga., Jan. 3.—It has taken the advent of the boll weevil to blast into the minds of southern farmers that it does not pay to swap cotton dollars for bread and meat from the west, former Governor R. I. Manning, of South Carolina, stated today in speaking in opposition to lower grain rates from the west, at an Interstate commerce hearing here.

WALL ST. BOYS DEMONSTRATE U. S. IS LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

(By the Associated Press.) New York, Jan. 3.—That the United States remains a land of opportunity is evidenced by the fact that during the last five years 30 former page boys on telephone clerks have purchased seats in the New York Stock Exchange at \$50,000 or more each. Benjamin Jacobson, former page boy who paid \$50,000 for a seat, is the most recent example.

Among the members who worked from a humble position to a seat in the exchange is Celestin A. Durand whose phenomenal rise from an obscure clerk to his present position occurred in a period of eight years. He has the record of being a trade exchange and has purchased seats in the exchange for two assistants.

Another striking example is Arthur G. Somers, now a member of Charles M. Schott, Jr., & Co., of which he became a senior partner January 1st. He began his business career as a runner for a Wall Street brokerage house. For twelve years he worked as clerk and six years ago bought exchange membership with \$50,000 borrowed money. He now has 100 clerks in his employ.

There are now more than 3,000 stocks listed on exchange instead of about 250 as there were years ago. These are increasing steadily, said Somers. "Now something like 1,000,000 shares change hands daily; I predict that before 1924 has run we will see 3,000,000 shares a day.

This means that experienced men will be in greater demand. It means that less men who have been in the stock market as page and clerk must buy seats.

Mr. Somers declared the first requisite for the young man who would succeed in Wall Street, is honesty.

Per Acre Crop Value in State Multiplied

Raleigh, Jan. 2.—North Carolina per acre crop values have climbed from \$22.10 in 1900 to \$59 in 1923, according to an annual report issued today by Commissioner W. A. Graham, of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, setting forth comparative figures demonstrating the state agricultural progress.

This state ranked fourth among the states of the union in 1923, as it did in 1922, in the total value of the 22 principal crops, the reports stated. The average per acre value of cotton in North Carolina in 1923 was given as \$100, while it was stated many farmers averaged over \$200 gross return per acre on the cotton planting.

Tobacco averaged \$180 per acre, according to the report. The total value of all of the principal crops produced in the state last year was estimated at \$431,500,000, as compared with \$131,072,000 in 1900.

German Druggist Sent to Jail When He Seized Paper Marks

Berlin, Jan. 3.—Six months in jail and a fine of ten trillion marks was the sentence imposed on a Frankfurt druggist for refusal to take paper marks in exchange for petroleum. He told the court he had to pay for the oil in some sort of stable money and consequently did not know how he could replenish his stock if he sold for paper marks. Under the laws of the republic paper marks are legal tender and the judge had the druggist hustled off to jail immediately, explaining that such treatment of the dealer would have good effect on other merchants and afford the public protection.

Mississippi Cyclone Does Damage

Meridian, Miss., Jan. 3.—A cyclone struck Causeville, four miles south of Meridian, shortly after midnight, injuring several negroes, and doing heavy property damage. Numerous families are homeless.

Call For National Bank Statements

Washington, Jan. 3.—The Comptroller of the Currency today issued a call for the condition of all National Banks at the close of business on Monday, December 31st.

WHAT SAT'S BEAR SAYS.



Rain and colder tonight, Friday fair and much colder.

ABOUT THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Places of Meeting Since 1844 and Ballot on Which Nominees Were Named.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 3.—St. Louis is engaged just now in a vigorous campaign to capture the Democratic national convention to be held this summer. New York, Chicago and several other cities will also be applicants for the convention when the national committee meets here this month to make the final decision.

While the Republicans have confined their conventions almost entirely to the middle West, the Democrats have done considerable wandering in the past. In comparatively recent years they have been as far south as Baltimore and as far west as San Francisco. Should St. Louis be named as the convention city this year, abundant precedent may be found for the choice. Since 1876 St. Louis has had the honor of entertaining more Democratic national conventions than any other city. Four times within that period have the presidential tickets of the party been named in the Mound City, Chicago, with three of the Democratic national conventions to its credit, is next in the list. In the early years Baltimore was the favorite convention city of the Democrats. Going back more than seventy-five years, the meeting places of the Democrats were as follows, with their presidential nominees:

- 1844—Baltimore; Polk nominated on ninth ballot.
1848—Baltimore; Cass nominated on fourth ballot.
1852—Baltimore; Pierce nominated on ninth ballot.
1856—Cincinnati; Buchanan nominated on seventeenth ballot.
1860—Charleston, S. C.; Douglas led on fifty-seventh ballot, when convention adjourned to reconvene at Baltimore, where Douglas was nominated on second ballot.
1864—Chicago; McClellan nominated on first ballot.
1868—New York; Seymour nominated by acclamation on twenty-second ballot.
1872—Baltimore; Greeley nominated on first ballot.
1876—St. Louis; Tilden nominated on second ballot.
1880—Cincinnati; Hancock nominated by acclamation after second ballot.
1884—Chicago; Cleveland nominated on second ballot.
1888—St. Louis; Cleveland nominated by acclamation without ballot.
1892—Chicago; Cleveland nominated on first ballot.
1896—Chicago; Bryan nominated after fifth ballot.
1900—Kansas City; Bryan nominated by acclamation.
1904—St. Louis; Parker nominated after first ballot.
1908—Denver; Bryan nominated on first ballot.
1912—Baltimore; Wilson nominated on forty-sixth ballot.
1916—St. Louis; Wilson nominated on first ballot.
1920—San Francisco; Cox on forty-fourth ballot.
1924—? ? ?

Reward Offered for Gattling's Arrest.

(By the Associated Press.) Raleigh, Jan. 3.—While Raleigh police reported that no trace of Lawrence Gattling, alleged slayer of his wife and Owen Stephens had been found, Governor Morison today offered a reward "for an alleged party in the county of Wake, wanted for the murder of Mrs. Lawrence Gattling, and Owen Stephens." The Governor named \$400 as the amount of the reward, the highest allowed under the state law.

Kansas is Geographically the Central States of the United States, Being Equally Distant from the Four Boundaries of the Country.

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ORDER IS ENTERED TO VACATE THE DIVORCE

Until Mrs. Sanderson Shall Satisfy the Court That She is a Resident of Rhode Island.

(By the Associated Press.) Providence, R. I., Jan. 3.—Judge Chester W. Burrows of the Superior Court, today entered an order vacating the divorce granted yesterday to Nina Wilcox Putnam Sanderson, from Robert J. Sanderson, until such time as she shall appear in person and satisfy the court that she has been a resident of this state for more than two years prior to October 16th, 1923.

Judge Burrows also sent a letter to P. Francis Cassidy, attorney for Mrs. Sanderson's son, stating that if the court does not hear from his client within a reasonable time, it will feel that it is its duty to lay the facts before the attorney general for suitable action.

PRESIDENT TAKES HIKE WITHOUT HIS OVERCOAT

Shivering Washingtonians Gasp as the Executive Seizes Cold Wave.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 1.—Persons on the Washington streets today, bundling up their wraps in one of the coldest snaps of the winter, noticed a man in ordinary business suit walking along betwixt without an overcoat. His indifference to the cold made him a rather curious figure, and the curiosity was increased when passers-by, approaching nearer, saw it was the President.

Mr. Coolidge missed his early morning walk today, but made up this afternoon with a jaunt around Lafayette Square and the ellipse back of the White House.

He propped the Washington temperatures have not thinned his blood by leaving all outer covering behind, much to the interest of those who were discussing the cold wave. The mercury stood at 35.

The President returned to the White House smoking a cigar and in the best of spirits. He rose at his usual hour today, 6:30 a. m., and was at the executive offices before any one but his personal secretary, Edward T. Clarke, was on deck causing other employees to understand he intends to set a fast pace for 1924. He signed a number of papers before returning to the White House.

Irvin York Honored.

Nashville, Tenn., Jan. 3.—Pall Mall post office, in Fentress county, the home of Alvin York, hero of the World War, has been named "Alvin York" by the post office department at Washington in honor of the soldier, said to be one of the greatest of the war.

General Advance of Rebels to Begin Today.

Vera Cruz, Jan. 2.—The general advance of the rebels on Puebla and Mexico City will begin today, according to insurgent headquarters.

Resolution to Investigate Election of Mayfield.

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Jan. 3.—A resolution formally authorizing investigation of the election of Senator Mayfield, democrat, of Texas, was adopted today by the Senate. A sub-committee will meet in a few days to map out procedure.

Fire at Halifax, Nova Scotia.

(By the Associated Press.) Halifax, N. S., Jan. 3.—Fire this afternoon swept the Paris and Union Hotels on Water street. The blaze started in the Paris. The entire upper story was in flames before fire apparatus arrived and, fanned by a stiff wind, the fire spread to the Union. Soon both buildings were blazing furiously.

Masked Robbers Get \$4,000 Worth of Jewelry.

(By the Associated Press.) New York, Jan. 3.—Two masked robbers with drawn revolvers this morning invaded the suite occupied by David Palter, a stock broker, on the fifth floor of a West 70th street apartment house, forced their way into Mrs. Palter's bedroom and escaped with \$4,000 worth of jewelry.

To Count a Trillion No Idle Job.

(By the Associated Press.) Heidelberg, Jan. 3.—Since the terms billions and trillions came into daily usage in Germany in connection with the paper mark, some one has figured out that if Old Adam had started counting in the Garden of Eden, and kept on counting ever since to this day, he would reach the total of a trillion some time within the next year.

Two Trainmen Killed.

(By the Associated Press.) Orangeburg, S. C., Jan. 3.—Two trainmen were killed and four seriously injured near here early today when a locomotive pulling a freight conductor's cab ran into a special freight train on the main line of the Southern Railway. The crash occurred in a dense fog, members of the train crew said.

EDITORS MEET AT PINEHURST

North Carolina Press Association Opens Its Mid-Winter Session.

(By the Associated Press.) Pinehurst, N. C., Jan. 3.—With the publishers and editors from all sections of the State present, the North Carolina Press Association opened its mid-winter meeting here today with President Chas. A. Webb, of the Asheville Citizen, presiding. During the morning session the members of the craft heard addresses by Leonard Tufts, of Pinehurst, on North Carolina's natural resources, and Bion H. Barber, of Southern Pines, on the Sandhills.

Today's session followed the executive committee meeting last night and a meeting of the Associated Press Club composed of members of the association who also are members of the Associated Press. This meeting adjourned this afternoon at 1 o'clock.

The evils of free publicity were to be discussed this afternoon. Golfing and other amusement will also occupy a portion of the afternoon.

Harry Thaw Will Again Seek His Freedom.

(By the Associated Press.) New York, Jan. 3.—Bartholomew B. Coyne, a New York lawyer, who for a number of years has represented Harry K. Thaw, today definitely confirmed reports that his client, the slayer of Stanford White, now in a Philadelphia asylum, would soon seek his freedom.

Confirmation of reports that Thaw would seek his freedom and face charges of having whipped Frederick Gump of Kansas City in a New York hotel in 1917, today was followed by announcement that Gump would agree to settle a \$650,000 civil damage suit against Thaw out of court, and indications that he would let the criminal charge lapse.

Thaw's Mother Will Oppose Attempt.

Philadelphia, Jan. 3.—Former Judge James Gay Gordon, counsel for Mrs. Mary Copley Thaw, mother of Harry K. Thaw, indicated today that any attempt to have Thaw released from the Pennsylvania Hospital for Mental and Nervous Diseases would be opposed.

Man and Eight Children Burned to Death.

(By the Associated Press.) Oil City, Pa., Jan. 2.—Trapped in an upstairs room with escape cut off by the burning of the stairs, James Mentzer, aged 77, and eight of his grandchildren ranging in age from two months to fourteen years, were burned to death yesterday, when fire destroyed a farm house at Tylesburg, in a remote section of Clarion County.

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CONGRESS RESUMES WORK AFTER THE HOLIDAY RECESS

With Indications Pointing to Busy Five Months Before Adjournment for the National Conventions.

DEADLOCK STILL REMAINS UNBROKEN

The Senate Ballots for Chairman of Interstate Commerce Committee.—Pyrotechnics in the House.

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Jan. 3.—With the two weeks holiday recess over, Congress went back to work today with indications pointing to a busy five months before adjournment for the national conventions.

In the Senate, balloting for a chairman of the Interstate Commerce Committee was the order after the usual morning hour for transaction of business of a routine character. Despite holiday confusions there appeared little prospect for a breaking of the deadlock which developed soon after Congress convened a month ago.

The House program called for a day of oratory. Three members had prepared addresses to deliver, Representative Treadway, republican, of Massachusetts, on the anthracite situation; Representative Upshaw, democrat, of Georgia, on "The Majesty of the Law and National Sobriety," and Pedro Guevara, the resident Philippine commissioner, on Philippine independence.

Next week the House expects to receive from the committee carrying funds for the interior department, Army and navy and other supply bills will follow.

The House ways and means committee had before it again today the Mellon tax revision bill, but members said it would be another 10 days or two weeks before consideration of the administrative provisions of the measure would be completed.

HINES' CHANCES FOR RECOVERY ARE GOOD

Mabel Normand Taken to Hospital in Highly Nervous State.

(By the Associated Press.) Los Angeles, Jan. 3.—Courtland S. Dimes, Denver oil operator, shot New York's night by H. A. Grier, chauffeur for Mabel Normand, film star, passed a satisfactory night at a hospital here, according to attending physicians. They added his chance of recovery was good.

Miss Normand, who last night, was taken to the same hospital, is said to be in a highly nervous state. She will be operated on for appendicitis in a few days, her physicians said.

Texas is After Irvin S. Cobb For Violating Hunting Law.

Houston, Tex., Jan. 2.—Irvin S. Cobb, humorist, against whom a warrant charging violation of the Texas game law has been issued, is said to be hunting and fishing off Aransas Pass and it is not known when he will return to the city.

Meaning, state officers are holding the warrant, in which it is alleged Cobb took a resident hunting license under the name of J. H. Davis two years ago when he should have obtained a non-resident license. The resident license fee is \$2, the non-resident is \$15. The warrant was issued after a complaint had been filed at Wharton.

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DRASTIC ACTION TO CUT OFF ALLEGED LIQUOR DRINKING

By Members of Congress and Other High Officials is Demanded by Representative Upshaw, of Georgia.

MAKES VIGOROUS SPEECH IN HOUSE

Wants to Stop the Flow of "Diplomatic" Liquor in Bootlegging Channels.—Introduces Resolution.

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Jan. 3.—Drastic action to put a stop to alleged liquor drinking by members of Congress and other high government officials, and to prevent leakage of "diplomatic" liquors into bootlegging channels, was demanded today by Representative Upshaw, democrat, of Georgia. His demand was embodied in a resolution and a speech prepared in support of it.

Mr. Upshaw said Congress should "clean around its own door by passing a resolution declaring persona non grata to the floor of the House, any member found under the influence of liquor in the capitol or house office building, or known to have liquor illegally acquired in his office."

He also suggested that all Federal appointees including cabinet officers, army and navy officers, and diplomatic and consular representatives abroad, be required to take a pledge of total abstinence. The "executive gullotine," he added, should be used on all government officials known to drink liquor.

In reference to diplomatic liquor Mr. Upshaw said: "Recent investigations have convinced me that some diplomats would be heartily glad to be relieved of the expense and all their other troubles and responsibilities from liquor immunity. I am introducing a bill to relieve them of their temptations in our prohibition land."

If he were President, Mr. Upshaw said, he would "declare without delay the White House shall be dry, the President shall be dry, his appointees shall be dry, and I hope and now call for the resignation of every executive appointee, including army, navy and cabinet officers, who drink the liquor that has been outlawed by the constitution of our country."

THE COTTON MARKET

Renewal of Liquidation.—Decline of From 5 to 56 Points.

(By the Associated Press.) New York, Jan. 3.—There was a renewal of liquidation in the cotton market at the opening today owing to the continued weakness of Liverpool and reports that yesterday's break in raw cotton had checked the demand for cotton goods. First prices were easy at a decline of 5 to 34.37 and July to 33.60. Some trade buying was reported at these figures, presumably to fix prices, however, while liquidation was less active than it was yesterday, and the market steadied up some 30 or 40 points from the lowest during the early trading.

Cotton futures opened easy; January 34.00; March 34.40; May 34.60; July 33.65; October 28.15.

With Our Advertisers.

Watch for Ehrd's Pre-Inventory Sale announcement tomorrow. All Ladies' Suits, Coats and Dresses, Men's and Boys' Suits and Overcoats reduced for this big Pre-Inventory Sale.

Is your watch accurate? If not, take it to the Starnes-Miller-Parker Co. New line of dress gingham at Scarborough's. See new ad.

The mid-winter shoe sale at the S. S. Brown Shoe Store is being tomorrow morning. They have 300 pairs of shoes at \$1.00 a pair. One lot of Selly \$12.50 shoes for \$5.95. Look up ad. on page seven.

Lucivan Missionaries in Hospital at Siang Yangfu.

(By the Associated Press.) Hanbow, China, Jan. 3.—Prof. and Mrs. Bernard Hoff, missionaries of the Swedish branch of the Lutheran Church in the United States, who were wounded recently when bandits raided the town of Tsooyand, are in a hospital at Siang Yangfu, according to official advice from Chinese government officials here. No word has been received concerning Mrs. Juliana Klien, who was kidnapped by the bandits.

Kiyoura Will Try to Form Cabinet.

(By the Associated Press.) Tokyo, Jan. 3.—After announcing earlier his inability to complete a ministry, Viscount Kiyoura, who was summoned Tuesday by Prince Regent Hirohito to form a cabinet, has reconsidered. At the further request of the prince regent he has accepted the task of forming a new cabinet. Previous to this he had been unable to obtain the support of any political party in the diet.

To Push Centenary Fund Campaign.

(By the Associated Press.) Statesville, Jan. 3.—Decision has been made that the churches of the Statesville district of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, will hold mission meetings during January for the purpose of stimulating interest in the Centenary Fund Campaign. Eighty-seven churches compose the district.