

MORE THAN A SCORE OF BODIES STILL IN RUINS AT PEKIN, ILL.

The Rescue Workers in the Ice-Covered Debris Are in Constant Danger From the Tottering Walls.

CANNOT YET FIX NUMBER OF DEAD

Most of the Survivors May Never See Again, Even if They Win the Battle With Pneumonia.

Pekin, Ill., Jan. 4.—More than a score of bodies still are buried in the ruins of part of the plant of the Corn Products Company here, where an explosion early yesterday caused the deaths of upward of forty employees and serious injuries to twenty-eight more.

One building collapsed, and two adjoining buildings were partly wrecked and swept by the fire which still was being fought early today.

A further check is being made to identify the men missing from their homes. Superintendent Lawton, of the company, said it would be impossible to definitely fix the number of the dead until all the bodies were recovered.

Throughout the night while watchers dug into the wreckage, knots of waiting women waited in zero weather outside of the steel fence around the plant.

Several explanations for the explosion are offered. A spark from the drive wheel igniting dust from starch was the cause, in the opinion of R. S. Sherwin, chief chemist for the company.

John G. Gamber, state fire marshal, attributed it to an explosion of accumulated dust, similar to recent explosions in plants of the same company at Argo, Ill., and Des Moines, Iowa.

Every precaution had been taken, the superintendent said, and officials of the company said the buildings had been inspected frequently and pronounced safe.

Nearly all the dead were Americans, and at least twenty-five had families, according to the Red Cross.

One hundred men worked all through the night clearing away wreckage with the primary purpose of putting out the fire.

Derrickmen concentrated this morning on the mass of the wreckage where most of the missing men worked, which happens to be it was reported, directly beneath the heaviest mass of debris.

Pitiful accounts came from the bed-sides of the survivors who are fighting for life at Pekin, and Peoria hospitals. Most of them, physicians said, may never see again, even if they win the battle with pneumonia.

BEAUTIFUL GIRL SLAIN MYSTERIOUSLY IN OHIO

Ruth Hunter, 18, Found Dead in Road Several Miles Out of Town.—One Man Arrested.

Canton, Ohio, Jan. 3.—Louis Griffith, Jr., wealthy manufacturer of this city, arrested tonight, was questioned by the police regarding the death of Miss Ruth Hunter, 18, beautiful Canton girl, whose body was found on a lonely road near here early today.

A charge of illegal possession of intoxicating liquor was placed against Griffith to hold him. Prosecuting Attorney C. R. McCintock declared in the belief that Griffith could throw some light on the mystery.

Griffith told the police that he was acquainted with Miss Hunter but he denied he was with her last night or that he knew anything about her death.

Mrs. O. P. Hunter, mother of the girl, told the police a man whose name is not known to her, had been attempting to talk to her daughter almost daily for several weeks and that he had frequently driven past her home in his automobile.

Mrs. Hunter believes that the girl was forcibly dragged into the automobile between her home and a street car line two blocks away.

The girl was last seen alive last evening when she left her home to meet her brother, Earl Hunter, who had an appointment to take her to a dance.

After waiting a reasonable time for his sister, young Hunter became uneasy and started an unsuccessful search for her. The girl's body was found lying in mud by a farmer driving along the road.

NINE MEN BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN DROWNED

Coast Guardsmen Cruising About Looking for the B-Boles.

Babylon, N. Y., Jan. 4.—The Atlantic off Fire Island continued to subside today from the storm which raged all day yesterday, coast guardsmen cruised about looking for the bodies of nine men believed to have gone down last night. Five of the nine were members of a rescue party.

A rescue party and the other four were shipwrecked men who the rescuers had braved the storm to save.

The rescuers went out last night in search for the Electra, a speed boat, which left Rockaway Wednesday. The Electra struck a shoal off the Fire Island bar, about a mile off shore on Wednesday night as the storm came up.

A searching party of nine men headed by Arnold Mayne of Babylon, put out in the Sid, a power boat. They took the men off the Electra and then took four men off a fishing smack. En route back to Babylon a big wave came over the deck and swept the nine men overboard.

The drowned men, with but two exceptions, were members of the rescue party that had gone out to search for the speed boat Electra, owned by C. C. Eccleston of Bay Shore. The other two were with Eccleston in the Electra.

First word of impending tragedy was received when Mrs. Eccleston notified the police that her husband had not returned from a trip in his boat. Immediately a searching party was organized and the Sid, a 40-foot power sloop, was chosen to attempt the rescue.

Of the nine men who set out on the Sid only two returned, William McDonald and James Delaney. Eccleston was the only one on his craft to survive. All three were suffering from exposure when they reached Bayshore and McDonald was the only one able to talk.

His tale was rambling and incoherent at times and it was a long time before the true story of the disaster could be learned. Those who lost their lives were Arnold Mayne, of Babylon, who commanded the Sid, Arthur Nolan, Ives Cleaves, James Wellman, Bert Tilston, all of Babylon, two unidentified men who also were in the Sid rescue party, John Nigrliner and a man named Williams.

FAYETTEVILLE POLICEMEN ARE UNDER SUSPENSION

Charged With Failure to Arrest Law Violators at New Year Celebration.

Fayetteville, Jan. 4.—Assistant Chief of Police J. T. Kelly and seven policemen today were under suspension voted last night by the police committee as a result of New Year celebrations here.

They are charged with failing to arrest law violators and of participating in the firing of pistols while on duty during the New Year celebrations. The suspensions, which were accompanied by fines, ranged from five to fifteen days.

It was charged that New Year's night automobiles speeded through the streets three and four abreast, and drove through the market house. A negro girl was killed while sleeping, by a stray bullet.

MODIFICATION OF DRY LAW RIGHT OF AMERICAN PEOPLE

Prosecutor Says Enforcement Has Proved Impossible.

Atlantic City, Jan. 2.—That it is almost impossible to enforce the provisions of the prohibition laws was declared here today by Prosecutor Repetto in an address before the annual dinner of the Atlantic County Board of Freeholders.

"It must be realized," he said, "that when the American people do not want a law they are not going to obey it. We, as American citizens, have a right to demand modification, and it is time that we should launch a movement to reform a law with which 99 per cent. of the American people are not in sympathy."

"It is almost impossible to enforce the provisions of either the Volstead act or the Hobart act," concluded the prosecutor.

AUTOMOBILES SKID FROM ICY STREETS INTO RIVER

Eight Cars Plunge Into Stream, But Occupants Are Unhurt.

Louisville, Ky., Jan. 2.—Eight automobiles skidded off icy streets into the Ohio River here today, but none of their occupants was reported as injured or drowned. The automobiles were taken from the water and their passengers carried to safety by members of the United States Coast Guard, the only inland Federal Coast Guard station in the country.

Bandits Escape With \$32,500.

Kansas City, Mo., Jan. 4.—Five bandits held up two messengers of the Centropolis state bank at 15th and Belmont Avenues here today, and escaped with \$32,500 in cash, intended for pay rolls.

A Swiss inventor claims to have produced a typewriter which will automatically type words as they dictated to it by the human voice.

WHAT SAT'S BEAR SAYS.

The McBrayer Case Again. (By the Associated Press.)

Raleigh, Jan. 4.—Action of Governor Morrison's letter requesting that the board of the state Sanatorium remove Dr. L. B. McBrayer, will be taken at a meeting of the Board of Trustees to be held at Sanatorium, N. C., on January 9th, according to a statement made here last night by U. L. Spence, of Carthage, a member of the board.

A new and universal "air language" is suggested, to enable pilots of any nationality to understand wireless telephone messages from earth stations all over the world.

NECESSARY NUISANCES



SCHOOLS MAY CAUSE LEGISLATURE SESSION

Distress of County School Boards Unable to Meet Expenses May Mean Call to Assembly.

Raleigh, Jan. 3.—Distress in three county boards of education may furnish Governor Morrison his emergency which will justify his calling the legislature into special session.

Representative Grady of Dare, brings a message from his people who are embarrassed by the shortage between the amount of the expense of running the schools. The equalizing fund is far shy of the necessary amount.

The commissioners seem unable to fund the amount which the legislature turned back on wholesale to the counties. They send out distress calls and ask other counties to join them.

The school appeal would probably move a council of state not yet certain that freight rates can be called an emergency measure. Mr. Grady's is only one of many. Substantially all the counties which share the equalizing fund are in a hole about it.

Governor Morrison is believed to be favorable to a called session but he must have a worthy excuse for bringing the body together, the Virginia suit is helping. He would have his best chance to put over boats and terminals, and the school needs would be the universal prayer.

GREAT BRITAIN ASKS FOR RELEASE OF SCHOONER

Alleged Rum Runner Seized, It is Claimed, Beyond the Three Mile Limit.

London, Jan. 4. (By the Associated Press).—Great Britain has asked the United States for the release from bail of the British and Canadian members of the crew of the British schooner Tomoka, alleged rum runner seized last November beyond the three mile limit off New York.

The request for the release of the crew is being made through the British charge of affairs in Washington at the instance of the Canadian government.

Further information also is being sought by the British government regarding the circumstances attending the seizure of the schooner beyond the three mile limit. Investigation by the British authorities, it is stated, showed the Tomoka to be of Canadian ownership and seized well outside the three mile limit.

FIVE CONVICTS ESCAPE IN DAVIDSON COUNTY

Got Away From Guards Last Night.—Camp Located at Silver Hill.

High Point, Jan. 4.—Five white convicts sentenced by the Wilkes County Superior Court, and several of them serving long terms, escaped last night from the guards in Davidson County. The camp was located at Silver Hill, several miles from Lexington.

The five men sawed their way to freedom from the iron cage where they slept. Their names were not available here today. Officers are pursuing them with blood hounds. Three of them are shackled. Davidson County is using the Wilkes County convicts under lease.

Confessed Slayer Hanged.

Folsom, Cal., Jan. 4.—Alex A. Kels, confessed slayer of an aged wandering worker near Lodi, Cal., on September 12 last, was hanged at the state prison here this morning. He went to his death smiling.

Option jury service for women has been recommended to the legislature of Massachusetts by a special legislative commission which has been investigating the subject of jury service.

KING TUT'S SARCOPHAGUS FOUND IN MONARCH'S TOMB

(By the Associated Press.)

Luxor, Egypt, Jan. 4.—The sarcophagus of the Pharaoh Tutankhamen, arch's tomb in the Valley of the Kings, it was announced today. The long sought treasure of antiquity lay within the fourth chamber. It was of white and red granite.

WET QUEBEC BOASTS OF ORDERLY NEW YEAR'S DAY

Not One Violent Death, Quarrel or Robbery Reported.

Montreal, Jan. 2.—Provincial officials, emphasizing the liberal regulatory liquor laws in effect in Quebec, today boasted of the fact that the province had enjoyed an absolutely crimeless New Year's day.

Not one violent death, riot, quarrel or robbery was reported anywhere in the most thickly populated province of Canada. New Year's eve was celebrated in all the hotels, but nowhere was police aid invoked.

In Montreal only 11 arrests were made on the last day of 1923 and the first of 1924—all for petty offenses. The usual daily list contains 100 to 150 names.

HAS HEARD SCOTTI AT EVERY PERFORMANCE FOR 25 YEARS

New York Iceman Comes Down to Metropolitan Stage From Gallery to Pay Tribute to Baritone.

New York, Jan. 4.—Soon after the deafening applause which acclaimed Antonio Scotti, at the testimonial of his twenty-fifth anniversary, at the Metropolitan Opera House, on New Year's night, had died to silence, a man who never before had been below the top balcony made his appearance on the stage.

Save for those in the gallery, so it called upon the oldest habitue of the top seats, Thomas R. McDermott, of Jersey City, who, when not worshipping the operatic muse from the cradle of music appreciation in the family circle, is delivering ice in wholesale lots to restaurants and hotels in Jersey City and elsewhere.

During Scotti's 25 years at the Metropolitan Opera House, McDermott has not missed one performance. He is even more proud of that than the fact that he has been at every performance at the temple of music for 27 years, for the great baritone is his favorite singer.

"That's why I'm an iceman," said McDermott today to a reporter, "so I can attend grand opera. In the summer when ice business is brisk, opera is at a standstill. But in the winter, when ice does not melt so rapidly, I can spend all my spare time in the upper balcony of the Opera House, drinking in the melodious strains of the world's masters and discoursing between acts with my friend Scotti," he added.

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GIVING PRIZE TICKETS DECLARED LOTTERY

No License Tax Could Make Project Legal, Says Manning.

Greensboro, Jan. 3.—Attorney General James S. Manning in a letter to the Greensboro merchants association under date of December 31 gives as his opinion that the giving of tickets calling for a chance on a capital prize with each purchase made in a store or other place of business is illegal and should come under the head of a lottery.

The opinion of the attorney general was made in response to a request of John W. Trimble, secretary of the local merchants association. The attorney general was asked, "What law, if any, prevents a merchant from giving a coupon or ticket with each purchase which entitles him to a chance on a prize to be given away to the holder of the winning number at the close of the period of time," and "if the payment of \$25 license fee in accordance with section 53, Revenue act of 1923, exempts him from prosecution?"

Judge Manning's opinion is full follows: "The scheme outlined in your letter of December 29 (Mr. Trimble's letter), is plainly a lottery and all lotteries are forbidden by criminal laws of the State. No license tax could legitimize this project."

MERCURY AT 9 BELOW IN CALIFORNIA RESORT

Pacific States Have Frigid Weather, But Citrus Crops Escape.

San Francisco, Jan. 4.—The Pacific coast states experienced low temperature records last night and today, with a forecast in California for continued cold tonight. Records that had stood for years were shattered.

Paso Robles, Calif., a resort town, had a temperature of 9 below zero. Santa Barbara reported 25 degrees above, and Los Angeles 37. The lowest reading in San Francisco was 37 1/2 degrees.

In Washington and Oregon, the temperature showed indications of rising. The thermometer registered 26 above today in comparison with 17 above yesterday.

Last night's cold in Southern California did practically no damage in the citrus groves, according to a statement issued today by the California Fruit Grower's Exchange.

THREE REJECTED FOR JOB IN MARK TWAIN'S TOWN

Candidates for Postmastership Are Short in Requirements.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 4.—None of the three candidates for the postmastership of Hannibal, Mo., a city of more than 10,000 population and where Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain) spent part of his early life in a newspaper office, has been able to measure up to the minimum requirements for eligibility laid down by the Civil Service Commission. The position pays \$3,400 a year. Another examination will be advertised. Meanwhile the acting postmaster will continue his duties.

Pre-Inventory Sale at Eldred's.

Beginning Saturday, January 5th, there will be seven days of the big Pre-Inventory Sale at Eldred's. Not a garment is to be carried over, and the prices on all dresses, suits and coats have been cut to the limit. Prices are reduced nearly one-half. You will also find some super shoe bargains in this sale. Reach page three today and find all about this sale.

All Mexican Oil Fields in Possession of Rebels.

Galveston, Texas, Jan. 4.—All of the Mexican oil fields are now in the possession of the rebels, according to an official dispatch received here today by Adolfo Jimenez, from rebel headquarters at Vera Cruz.

HITCH IN PLAN TO SELL WAR MATERIAL TO MEXICO

President May Need Authority From Congress Before Approving Agreement.

Washington, Jan. 4.—Although nothing has developed to affect the American government's decision to sell war materials to the Obregon government in Mexico insofar as the general policy is concerned, it is known that certain details of the transaction are presenting a difficult problem.

Consideration of a method of payment for the arms by the Mexican government apparently has raised a question as to whether a credit agreement might be construed as a loan to Mexico, in which event, the President would need Congressional authorization before approving an agreement. Surplus army stores have been sold in the United States on deferred payment contracts, but it is not known whether application of the same principle is being discussed or could be employed in the Mexican situation.

THE PARIS FLOOD

Height at 8 O'clock This Morning Was Over 25 Feet.

Paris, Jan. 4. (By the Associated Press).—The height of the Seine flood at the Pont Royal at 9 o'clock this morning was 25.26 feet, a 24-hour rise of 8.66 inches. The rise during the previous 24 hours was 15.7 inches.

The weather forecasters predicted mild but persistent rain throughout the day, and a repetition of the disaster of 1910 seemed probable unless there is a drastic change of temperature before night.

The situation in Paris had not changed materially this morning but in the suburbs the situation was growing steadily worse. In Alfortville the citizens were making plans to evacuate the district.

The tributaries of the Seine, notably the Yonne and the Aube are reported to be receding, while the river Marne is still rising and the Grand Morin which enters that stream near Meaux, went on a rampage last night. In parts of the Marne valley the waters have flooded an area more than a mile wide.

MEMORIAL SERVICE TO LATE CLAUDE KITCHIN

Republicans and Democrats Alike to Eulogize the Dead Leader.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 4.—Republican leaders of the house decided today to devote next Wednesday's session to a memorial service of the late Claude Kitchin, of North Carolina for many years the minority floor leader. Republicans and democrats alike will eulogize the former representative.

The house legislative program for next week calls for a series of prepared speeches and action on a bill by Representative Little, republican, of Kansas, which codifies the federal laws of Monday, the report of the interior department appropriation bill Tuesday, and the beginning of its consideration on Thursday.

CONGRESS RECESSES TILL NEXT MONDAY

House Ways and Means Committee Continues Study of Mellon Tax Bill.

Washington, Jan. 4.—With Congress in recess until Monday, the Senate and House committee members today set about preparing measures which will occupy the two chambers from now until adjournment. The House ways and means committee continued its study of administration features of the Mellon tax bill, and the rules committee met to discuss amendments to the rules advocated by the insurgent republican group.

The Senate foreign relations committee took up the resolution of Senator Borah, republican, of Idaho, calling for recognition of the Russian soviet government.

VENIZELOS REACHES ATHENS

Inferred That He Does Not Take an Optimistic View of the Situation.

Athens, Jan. 4. (By the Associated Press).—Former Premier Venizelos, who reached Athens at an early hour this morning, refused to make a detailed statement. From his general remarks to General Plastiras, head of the revolutionary committee, and the several officers and men who met him, it is inferred that he does not take a very optimistic view of the internal political situation.

He said he had come back to Greece at the invitation of leaders of the revolution, that he would carefully study the situation, and that he would endeavor to help his country out of her difficulties. He did not intend to remain here long, he added, but would stay till he thought his presence no longer necessary.

Will Hays is Going to Hollywood With Chin Out.

Chicago, Jan. 3.—Will H. Hays, known as the czar of the movies, was speeding westward to Hollywood today "with his chin out" but with little to say regarding the shooting of Courtland Dines by Mabel Normand's chauffeur.

Mr. Hays stopped in Chicago for a time today. He said he had no real information about the "unfortunate affair" and that it would not be right for him to say much at this time but "I'm going to California—forthwith—and I have my chin out."

Mr. Hays recalled in a significant manner that it had been a year and a half since the headlines screamed of scandal in Hollywood.

"Nothing in the way of a scandal in 1923, I believe," he remarked, smiling.

Two Freight Steamers Drifted.

San Francisco, Jan. 4.—Each with a broken steering gear, the Japanese freight steamer Kyosei Maru and the Harold Dollar, of the Dollar Steamship Line, are drifting in a storm raging in mid-Pacific, according to radiograms to the Federal Telegraph Company early today from the steamship President Cleveland. Neither carries passengers.

WHY HUGHES REFUSES

State Library

DEALINGS

WITH SOVIET RUSSIA

Communist Propaganda in the United States Part of His Defense of the Administration's Policy.

MAKES PUBLIC THE TRANSLATION

The Communication Hailed the Advent of the Daily Communist Newspaper as a "Great Event."

(By the Associated Press.)

Washington, Jan. 4.—Further evidence of communist propaganda in the United States in the form of a translation of a communication signed by G. Zinoviev and addressed "To American Communists" was published today as a part of Secretary Hughes' defense of the administration's policy of refusing to deal with soviet Russia under the present conditions.

The communication which appeared in the Moscow Pravda on December 14, 1923, purporting to have been "written at the request of the American comrades," and hailed the advent of "the daily communist newspaper (in English Daily Worker) which will appear from January 1, 1924, in New York," as a "great event not only for the American labor movement but also for the whole communist Internationale."

The State Department in making public the translation identified Zinoviev as "president of the Petrograd soviet, member of Communist Internationale, president of All-Russian Central Executive Committee, and member of the Federation Central Executive Committee."

TRINITY PLANS FOR ITS SUMMER SCHOOL

Board of Managers of the Summer School Meet and Make Necessary Arrangements.

Durham, Jan. 3.—Looking to and making plans for the largest summer school for preachers and lay workers of both North Carolina Methodist conferences, the board of managers of the summer school has just closed an important meeting held at Trinity college.

One of the chief items of business which the board transacted was the arrangement of the program of teachers and speakers for the largest summer school term, which begins on Wednesday, June 4, at Trinity. This board of managers is co-operating with the general board of missions and the Sunday school at Nashville, Tenn., in conducting the term. Each of these general boards is furnishing its quota of instructors consisting of men who are specialists in their respective fields of work. The list is not yet complete, but there is already an unusually strong faculty signed up for next summer.

The summer school will continue twelve days, embracing two Sundays. It is arranged to have once each day during the term and twice on Sundays some outstanding platform speaker to address the preachers who are in attendance. Both the conferences are arranged to have laymen's program for one of the Sundays while the preachers are away.

THE COTTON MARKET

Nervous and Irregular—9 to 32 Points Lower.

(By the Associated Press.)

New York, Jan. 4.—The cotton market was nervous and irregular during today's early trading. The opening was 9 to 32 points lower on all months except December which was five points higher, and there was selling on relatively weak cables. The latter was accompanied by rumors of luscious private ginning returns, but according to reports circulating here, these returns indicated a ginning of 9,712,000 bales to January 1st, which was considered about in line with the recent government estimate of the crop. March contracts sold off to 34.80 on the call, but almost immediately rallied to 35 cents, while there were also rallies in Liverpool and a sharp recovery from the opening decline in New Orleans.

Cotton futures opened steady. Jan. 34.30; March 34.80; May 35.10; July 34.15; October 28.55.

Continual Leap Year is Advised By Spokene, Wash. Woman.

Spokene, Wash., Jan. 4.—Woman's right to propose marriage, theoretically hers during 1924, should be accorded her in fact at all times, Mrs. W. E. Barnhart, President of the Spokane Women's Club, declared yesterday.

"The reason many girls who would build up wonderful homes go through life without marrying is that they are not able to make their love known to the right man," she said.

"In many cases, through lack of bashfulness, the right man was held back, when if the way had been made easy or clear to him he would have welcomed matrimony."

"Give the woman the right to propose marriage to the man she believes can make her happiest."

With Our Advertisers.

W. A. Overcash is offering 25 per cent. reduction on all suits and overcoats. Better have some alcohol put in your radiator. King Tut Service Station has it.

The January Clearance Sale at Fisher's is now on in full blast. No left-overs at that store.

Miss Isek Forster, Chicago contralto, was struck at twice by the rattle, and had the narrowest escape of her life.

North Carolina manufactures the most tobacco of any of the States.