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FOUR PERISH IN NEW YORK FLAMES

APARTMENT HOUSE BLAZE IS STARTED BY DRUNK TOSSING AWAY CIGAR.

MANY PERSONS ARE INJURED

Firemen Use 65 Foot Ladders to Rescue Some of Frightened Occupants.

New York.—A lighted cigar believed to have been carelessly tossed by an intoxicated man, started the seven-story Princeton Apartments in West 57th street, occupied by theatrical and business folk and caused the death of four persons and the serious injury of many others.

The dead are:
Annie Fries, 35, an exhibition roller skater, killed in a jump from the sixth floor.

Mrs. Margaret Lee, 65, and her daughter Emily, 35, a stenographer, burned to death in their apartment on top floor.

Gaston Mizoule, 26.
Miss Margaret Lee, an actress, daughter of Mrs. Lee, was severely burned and may not live, it was said at the hospital to which she was taken.

Dr. John M. Callahan jumped from a rear window on the third floor and fractured both arms. His wife, suffering from pneumonia, was rescued by firemen. A number of firemen and police were burned while engaged in daring rescues, and a dozen of more tenants were treated for slight burns and injuries.

The apartment of the old non-fireproof type, adjoins the West side Y. M. C. A. building. Shortly after day-break the superintendent was called to an upper floor hallway to eject an intoxicated man who had wandered in from the street. The man, puffing a cigar, was seen to enter the building some time earlier but was thought to be a tenant. He was led from the building by the superintendent and disappeared.

Half an hour later two policemen were attracted by a woman waving her arms frantically from a smoke-filled window on the top floor and sounded an alarm.

They then returned to the burning apartment and, aided by the superintendent, began the work of rescue.

There were 150 persons living in the building.

The firemen used 65 foot ladders to rescue some of the frightened occupants who stood on window ledges in their night clothes. David Miller, 22, slid down a pipe from a fourth story window and broke both legs when he landed in the courtyard.

U. S. Glider is Flown in Test.

Washington.—Experiments with motorless aircraft have been started by the Army Air Service at McCook Field, Ohio, with the first official glider to be constructed by this Government.

Reports of tests already made announced by the War Department, said results so far obtained, gave promise of rapid strides in the art. With a wind from five to 15 miles an hour, the G-L-2 glider rose in the air after a run-off of 15 feet and flew at an altitude of 12 feet for a distance of 300 feet.

Aviators are gaining experience which will be invaluable to them as airplane pilots, the announcement said, adding that the gliding training will make their work as pilots comparatively easy.

Exports of Grain Show Big Drop.

Washington.—Grain exports from the United States last week amounted to 3,057,000 bushels as compared with 3,328,000 the week before.

Total of grain exports for the last week as compared with those of the week previous were made public by the Commerce Department as follows:

Wheat 1,643,000 bushels against 1,848,000 bushels; corn 1,065,000 bushels against 1,040,000; barley 10,000 bushels against 148,000; oats 406,000 bushels against 73,000; rye 383,000 bushels against 219,000; flour 350,000 barrels against 415,000.

Weeks Back at Desk.

Washington.—Secretary Weeks resumed his official duties at the War Department, returning from a vacation in Florida. The condition of Mrs. Weeks who became ill while cruising in southern waters, is so satisfactory, the secretary said, that there is no reason now for further alarm.

SARAH BERNHARDT FAMOUS FRENCH ACTRESS PASSES.

Paris.—Sarah Bernhardt died peacefully in the arms of her son Maurice after long fight against death. In life she had had an amazing power of emotion, of marvelous realism and pathos in her acting of death scenes. At the end of her days she quietly drifted away into eternity, tired after her long fight against death, which she did not wish, but never feared.

Hope for the life of the great actress had long since been abandoned, and half an hour before she passed away, those in attendance found her sinking beyond recovery, though, knowing her recuperative powers, it was thought she might live throughout the night.

Mme. Bernhardt died in a large room on the second floor of her home with windows wide open on the Boulevard Pereire, the noise of trucks and the railroad keeping up a low roar to which she was long accustomed.

RUM RUNNERS OFF COAST

ARE FAR FROM ABLE TO COPE WITH THE TRAFFIC, SAY OFFICERS.

Six Vessels, Sailing From the Bahamas, Are Put on the "Suspicious List."

New York.—Reports that six more rum laden vessels had left the Bahamas for American waters and that three schooners believed to be the advance guard of a spring rum fleet from St. Pierre, Miquelon, had dropped anchor off the Rhode Island coast, added to the worries of prohibition enforcement authorities.

R. Q. Morrisk, newly appointed zone enforcement chief, met the news with the statement that there was nothing he could do about it. The federal prohibition enforcement office has no fleet to send out to cope with the situation, he said, and was compelled to rely on the coast guard and customs service to break it up.

Captain Reed, coast guard commander for the New York division, said there were three coast guard vessels in his district—which has a coast line of about 200 miles—doing "occasional" work against the rum-runners. He pointed out that the coast guard had other duties to perform.

Customs authorities said they had the cutter Lexington on the trail of the rum-runners, but declared she was far from able to cope with the traffic.

The six vessels which customs authorities were notified had cleared from the Bahamas with liquor and which have been put officially on the "suspicious list" although they are ostensibly bound for other ports, are: British schooner Lucille M. Smith, 3,600 cases; British schooner Sadie A. Nickles, 1,800 cases; American motor boat Truant, 400 cases; British auxiliary schooner Inia, 700 cases; American schooner Liberty, 500 cases; and American auxiliary schooner Esther, 600 cases.

Edward Barnes, assistant solicitor for the customs service, has begun an investigation of the registry of three vessels classed as American. If they are found to be American registered, it was said, they will be seized under Attorney General Daugherty's ruling that the American ships must travel "dry" throughout the world.

Retail Sales Keep Up Pace.

Washington.—All of the production statements and business records available to the Commerce Department indicate that business in the United States during February was proceeding at the rapid pace noted earlier in the year, according to a summary of these issued. Building, manufacturing and railroad freight movement, the department's statement said, all continued to reflect the stimulation.

The wholesale price index advanced one point, and again the decline in coal prices prevented a further rise. Food prices, both at wholesale and retail, declined. Increased prosperity is confirmed by the marked decline in business failures and the continued rise in stock prices.

"In the textile field, the increasing rate of cotton consumption reduced total stocks of raw cotton at the end of February to the lowest point reported at this season of the year since 1914. Wool receipts, with one exception, were higher in February than in any month since April, 1921, while silk consumption, also with one exception, was the largest since 1919.

FRENCH PAPERS ATTACK TREATY

THE WASHINGTON NAVAL CONFERENCE IS BEING CRITICIZED.

BITTER NOTE IN EDITORIAL

"We Are the Victims at Washington of an Anglo-Saxon Commission," Says La Libert.

Paris.—Criticism and comment on the Washington conference continue to appear in the press along the same lines as that followed by The Matin, which says that proportional naval armament cannot be considered as a permanent principle binding the future.

The Matin supports Mr. Gurenier, president of the merchant marine committee of the chamber, in his opposition to the automatic continuance of the treaty without definite renewal as events may oblige France to make fresh dispositions, of Germany tries to re-establish her fleet secretly despite the Versailles treaty.

The Paris Mide says: "If the problem is regarded with coolness it can quickly be seen that the treaty presents no serious disadvantage to France on the ground that her right to denounce it in 1934, if thought advisable, is strictly maintained."

A bitter note in The French comment finds expression in Jacques Bainville's editorial in "La Libert" in which he says: "We are the victims at Washington of an Anglo-Saxon commission and two questions of money prevent us from escaping. The first is that we are debtors of England and the United States, who add us by their claims; the second is that the ravaged state of our finances does not permit explanation of naval program. The terrible hypocrisy of the Washington conference is that the whole world knows our navy is dying."

The Temps in emphasizing the desirability of the government taking the initiative in formulating resolutions in the text of the ratifying act so that parliament will not acquire the habit of maending treaties, renews its discussion of the submarine agreement. It reviews the suggestion that Article 4, seems to nullify Article 1, and concludes the decision of commerce refers only to unlimited warfare against commerce. This decision is utilized to reaffirm the necessity of both France and England of a mutual guarantee pact for maritime communications and aerial defense. "Then," adds The Temps, "the peace of Europe would be practically invulnerable and the whole world would profit."

A. C. L. To Double Track.

Savannah, Ga.—Atlantic Coast Line announces an improvement program involving the expenditure of \$26,000,000, a large part of it to be spent at and in the vicinity of Savannah, R. A. McCrawe, general superintendent, with headquarters in this city, said.

While the new project contemplates double-tracking from New York to Jacksonville, enlargement of the shops at Savannah is a feature of the proposed improvement. New equipment amounting to \$10,000,000 is included in the expenditure authorized.

Denies Zionism is Slowly Dying.

New York.—Assertions by the editor of The London Daily Express in dispatches to his newspaper from Palestine that Zionism is slowly dying and rich American and European Jews have withdrawn their support, "are in complete contradiction to the actual state of affairs," the Zionist organization of America declared in a statement.

The editor "has been known as one of the bitterest opponents of British Zionist policy in Palestine," the statement added.

Two Burn to Death.

Kokomo, Ind.—Lieutenant T. Glimmer Baker of Frankfort, Ind., and Private Earl Thornburg of Whittier, Calif., were burned to death when their airplane caught fire.

Three Killed in Crash.

Terre Haute, Ind.—Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Goble and their daughter, Margaret, of near Farmersburg, Ind., were killed when their motor car collided with an interurban car south of here. Miss Nell Goble and Mrs. Julia Hattery, of Farmersburg, and Miss Josephine Goble, of Terre Haute, were seriously injured.

SMUGGLING ALIENS INTO AMERICA IN AIRPLANES.

El Paso, Tex.—Smuggling aliens in the United States in airplanes has become a serious problem to immigration authorities, according to Robert Carl White, second assistant secretary of labor, who has arrived here after visiting immigration inspectors along the Mexican border from Tijuana to El Paso. Chinese especially are being brought in airplanes from Mexico to this country, White said.

SECRETARY HUGHES ANSWERS

COMMITTEE FOR RECOGNITION OF RUSSIA BEFORE AMERICAN STATE DEPT.

Salvation of Russia Cannot Be Contrived From Outside and Injected, He Asserts.

Washington.—Secretary Hughes flatly rejected an appeal to recognize the Russian soviet government made to him by representatives of the Woman's Committee for Recognition of Russia, Inc. in a formal statement, declared the "salvation of Russia cannot be contrived outside and injected." The statement which was made to the delegation in reply to arguments it advanced touched Russian government trade, finance, economics and various policies inaugurated by the soviet affecting international relations.

Mr. Hughes' discussion of these subjects did not reveal any probability of action by the Washington government, looking to recognition of the soviet, although the hope was expressed that conditions in Russia would change in a way which would make America's helplessness available to the people of that country. It is his belief, he thought, Mr. Hughes said, to find a ground for helplessness, recuperation and restoration of peace in Russia.

"I know how deeply interested you are in promoting the cause of peace and I can assure you that I am profoundly in sympathy with your desires and aims. I have done the best that I could in the discharge of my official responsibilities to serve that cause which is very close to my heart. "In speaking to the representatives of your general organization last May, I noticed the concern which we felt for the welfare of the people of Russia. The evidence of the last year, as we have become even more intimately acquainted with the great distress into which they have been plunged, has intensified that feeling. The constant and dominant thought in our minds is how can we help that stricken people?"

Reports Big Gain in U. S. Exports.

Washington.—Exports from the United States during January, according to final figures reported by the Commerce Department, amounted to \$335,539,192, compared with \$278,848,469 in January, 1922.

Europe and North and South America took larger quantities of American goods during January, the department's analysis showed, than they did during the same month a year ago, while there was a slight falling off in shipments to Asia.

Exports to various grand divisions for the month were: Europe \$139,658,714 against \$149,042,473 in January, 1922; North America \$78,368,455 against \$57,995,082; South America \$21,323,640 against \$13,852,569; Asia \$32,716,966 against \$46,072,866; Oceania \$8,392,294 against \$8,653,100; Africa \$4,479,123 against \$3,232,378.

Control German Munitions Making.

Paris.—The Allied council of ambassadors decided to send instructions to General Nolett, head of the allied military control commission in Germany, that the commission resume its duties of supervising the production of military material in Germany.

The work of the commission has been suspended since the beginning of the Ruhr occupation because the Germans refused to give facilities to that body if the French and Belgian members were present. The Berlin government now has changed its attitude; hence the order for the resumption of the commission's work.

Forty Million Spindles Active.

Washington.—More cotton spindles were in place and the average number operated was greater during February than in January, the Census Bureau announced in its cotton industry activity report.

Active spindle hours for February numbered 8,449,376,685 or an average of 227 for each spindle in place, compared with 9,266,299,904 or an average of 249 for January.

TELLS EUROPE U. S. WILL HELP

EUROPE CAPITALIST URGED TO FRAME PLAN OF DAMAGE PAFMENT.

KENT URGES WORK TO BEGIN

American Bank Talks of Economic Restoration at the Rome Meeting.

Washington.—A proposal that European business men work out a plan for reparations settlement, based on American financial co-operation, was laid before the delegates to the second meeting of the International Chamber of Commerce in Rome by Fred L. Kent, vice president of the Bankers' Trust Company, of New York, and a member of the American delegation.

Coupled with the proposal was the assertion by Mr. Kent, that there was "a great waiting group" in the United States ready to support such a move before the American public.

A summary of Mr. Kent's address, made public here by the American section of the International Chamber, contained the suggestion that a portion of allied indebtedness to the United States might be exchangeable for "positive agreements" between the Allies and Germany on reparations that "included the amount and methods and times of payment and that can and will be lived up to." As to the next step, he added:

"A loan to Germany of sufficient size to restore her economic situation on a sound basis and enable her to make progress toward paying reparations, and which came ahead of reparations, with a stabilized Europe, would be absolutely good, and if at the request for the benefit of the European allied countries, it could undoubtedly be placed in the United States."

The American banker urged that his European colleagues begin work immediately. "If the suggestion of a plan already outlined seems to have within its powers for good," he said, "study it, develop it and make it work for the world. If it does not, get together a small body of able men and no one that does. Set these men to work with instructions to deliver and deliver promptly, place upon them a great responsibility."

"If you do this, we in America will deliver the completed message of these men to a great waiting group of the United States who, if they believe in it, will carry it to the uttermost parts of the country."

The speaker declared emphatically that "no loan could be made to Germany in which the United States had a part that did not come ahead of reparations." And such a loan could be made only if the allies desire it, he said, as their assent was necessary to place it ahead of reparations.

Lander College President Dies.

Greenwood, S. C.—Rev. Dr. John O. Willson, president of Lander college, Methodist school for girls here, died after an illness of four days.

Dr. Willson is survived by one daughter, Mrs. T. Q. Donaldson, wife of Colonel Donaldson, U. S. A., stationed in Washington, D. C.

Dr. Willson became suddenly ill on Tuesday night, and has been gradually sinking since that time. He rallied slightly, and physicians thought that it might indicate a chance for recovering, but he relapsed into a state of coma from which he never rallied.

Dr. Willson was in his 79th year. He was one of the foremost leaders in the Methodist Episcopal church, south.

Soldier, lawyer, minister of the gospel, editor, and educator—such in brief was the career of John Owen Willson.

He was born in Charleston on January 27, 1845, the son of Dr. John Willson and Sarah E. Willson.

Railroads Report Excess Earnings.

Washington.—An order was issued by the Interstate Commerce Commission requiring all railroads to report by May 1 as to their earnings during the year 1922, and to pay over to the Government under the transportation act one-half of the amount by which such earnings exceeded a six per cent return on the value of the investment.

So far practically no payments have been made under the law requiring the return of excess earnings. Forms for making up the report were prescribed by the commission, and where earnings in excess of six per cent, but no payments made to the Government.

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