

BARRAGE PUT DOWN BY A LIGHTER

VESSEL CATCHES FIRE; SMOKE EXPLOSIONS FOLLOW

BROOKLYN PEOPLE IN PANIC

Fort Hamilton Section of City Scene of International Blasts from 6 and 10-Inch Shells.

New York.—Hundreds of homes in the Fort Hamilton section of Brooklyn virtually were under heavy artillery bombardment resulting from intermittent explosions of six-inch and ten-inch shells on a steam lighter which caught fire while moored to the army reservation wharf.

Gathering together their belongings in a belief that the naval arsenal at Fort LaFayette, a small island near Fort Hamilton, was ablaze, terrified scores fled their homes for safer zones driven to frenzied haste by the series of detonations which were heard for miles around.

An official statement from Ft. Hamilton said no lives had been lost and that only four persons had been slightly injured.

One of the terrifying incidents of the barrage was the 400-yard flight of a ten-inch shell clear over the reservation and into a house in Ft. Hamilton parkway. The projectile tore a huge hole in the roof of the dwelling; passed through two floors and buried itself in the cellar. The house, occupied by the family of August Galtner all of whom escaped injury, was shaken with the violence of an earthquake.

The lighter which was laden with 900 shells for shipment to Boston, was torn from its moorings by the violence of the first explosion. Two men were on board, but they escaped.

A naval tug soon reached the scene and in a desperate effort to prevent the flames spreading to the wharf, the commanding officer deliberately headed his craft for the blazing lighter and its exploding cargo. He stuck her nose against the side of the lighter and pushed her away to a sand bar in imminent peril of his own craft being blown from the water.

Harding Arrives in Nation's Capital. Washington, D. C.—President-elect Harding slipped quietly into Washington recently, several hours before the special train bearing Mr. and Mrs. Harding and the members of the party which accompanied them on their vacation trip to the Panama canal zone was expected to arrive. Reports had spread that the president-elect would not reach Washington until a latter date with a result that only a small gathering was on hand to greet the senator.

Women Lobbyists Reach Washington. Washington, D. C.—In conjunction with the opening of the short session of congress, women from many sections of the country have arrived in Washington to join the national league of women voters' lobby for the furtherance of the legislative program adopted by the national league and endorsed by ten of the leading women's organizations of the country.

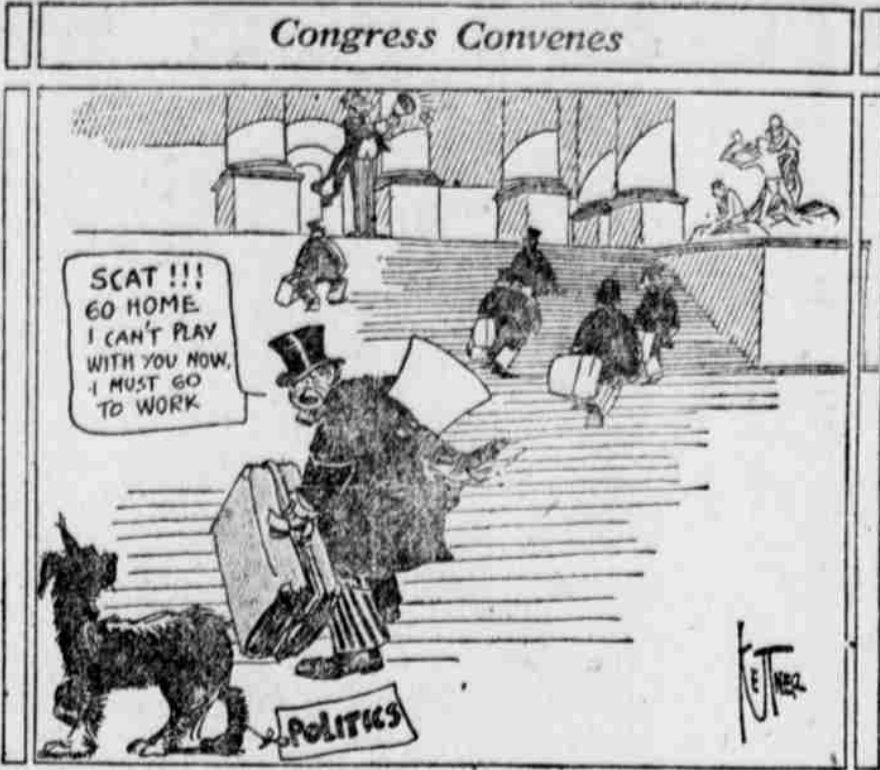
Battle Staged in Virginia Town. Bristol, Va.—Tate Blondell, a chauffeur, was killed and several men were wounded during a pitched battle resulting from the attempt of a mob to storm the jail at Wise, near here, and obtain possession of a negro named Williams, who is accused of assaulting and robbing Creed Robinson, an aged merchant of Ahalachia.

Charges Manipulation of Markets. Washington, D. C.—An investigation by the federal trade commission of possible violations of the anti-trust laws in the operations of foreign governments in the grain market of the United States is sought in a resolution to be introduced by Representative Stenerson, of Minnesota, in the house this week.

Tulsa Mob Hangs Negro. Tulsa, Okla.—An unidentified negro charged with an attack today upon a white woman, 67 years old, was taken from the Hughes county jail at Holdenville by a mob of about fifty men and hanged to a telephone post. The negro's body was then riddled with bullets.

Church Lecturer Scofield Is Dead. Peroria, Ill.—James Scofield, known as "Sunny Jim," well known church lecturer, died suddenly at Peroria, Ill., from what is believed to have been ptomaine poisoning. Scofield had made his home in Peroria for the past five years. He formerly lived in Denver.

Big Jewel Theft in Kansas City. Kansas City, Mo.—Police declined to discuss details of an alleged theft of jewels estimated to value \$104,900 from the home of H. C. Flower, chairman of the board of directors of the Fidelity National Bank. The robbery, on the night of November 22, became known after efforts of the police and the flower family had failed to keep it secret. The jewelry, mostly diamonds, is believed to have been stolen by porch climbers.



A VERY HEATED DISPUTE AT AGRICULTURAL HEARING

Wm. P. G. Harding, Governor of the Federal Reserve Board, Declares He Was Target For Abuse.

Washington, D. C.—The congressional joint committee hearings on the agricultural situation developed in a dispute at times quite heated between William P. G. Harding, governor of the federal reserve board, and members of congress.

"Mr. Chairman what is the purpose of this hearing?" Governor Harding finally demanded, while being questioned by Representative Byrnes, democrat, of South Carolina. "Is the federal reserve board on trial? Am I on trial here?" he continued declaring he had been a target for "all kinds of abuse."

Representative Byrnes said he meant no reflection on Governor Harding.

Circulars issued by the regional reserve bank of Richmond Va., to member banks and which Mr. Byrnes was attempting to show had resulted in right restriction of farmers' credits, were under discussion. Governor Harding said such circulars were not submitted to the board until printed, when they were looked over, and attention of the regional bank issuing them called to anything the board deemed unwise.

The board, he added, was not a central bank.

At one point Governor Harding told Representative Byrnes, he "ought to read the federal reserve act and try to understand it." Mr. Byrnes replied that he did understand the act, as he had helped frame it.

To Check Speculative Grain Trading.

Washington, D. C.—Two measures looking to the relief of farmers have been drafted by Representative Dickson, republican, of Iowa, who announced that they would be offered immediately after congress convenes Monday. One is a bill imposing a tax of 10 per cent in the total value of all contracts for the sale of grain when delivery is made within thirty days, and the other is a resolution special Eoc etat taol taol taol authorizing the appointment of a special committee to investigate grain, live stock and cotton prices and to recommend legislation designed to remedy present conditions.

Husband Kills wife Ends Own Life.

Duluth.—Joseph O'Rourke, 53 years old, shot and killed his wife and then killed himself. The O'Rourke children awakened by the shot, rushed down stairs and found their father standing over his wife. The older children rushed forward, but were commanded to stand still, they said, while the father fired another shot into his wife's body as she lay on the floor. He then sent a bullet into his own breast, dying at a hospital a few hours later.

Primary Election Officials Indicted.

Pittsburg, Pa.—The federal grand jury here returned many indictments in connection with the last primary election in the Thirty-first congressional district. Among the men indicted are Charles Anderson, member of the city council; Magistrate P. J. Sullivan, republican candidate for the congressional nomination; Edward W. Kenna and Bernard McKenna.

Receivership for Aerial Plant.

New York.—The L. W. F. Engineering company of College Point, Long Island a \$1,000,000 aircraft corporation, filed a petition for a voluntary receivership and the Federal Judge Julius M. Meyer appointed Ernest Whitebeck receiver.

Cheats Law With Razor.

Burlington, Ia.—Louis Markum who was found guilty by a jury in the district court of murder in the first degree, and his penalty fixed at life imprisonment, committed suicide by cutting his throat with a safety razor blade in the county jail. Markum came to Burlington with a string of race horses to the tri-state fair last August. Without apparent provocation, while drunk, he shot and killed Peter Moran, another horseman, in a stable at the fair grounds. Markum's mother lives in St. Louis.

CUBAN AFFAIRS ARE IN A VERY CHAOTIC STATE

Financial Condition of Republic Worse Than the Political—Maj. Crowder To be Sent.

Washington, D. C.—Cuba's affairs are in such a chaotic state, politically, financially and industrially, that the United States government finds itself confronted with the task of bringing about betterment of conditions in the perturbed island in order to obviate military interventions. Every effort of this government is being directed to staying the necessity for taking physical control, but the situation is complicated and is causing much concern.

Intervention would be undertaken only of a last resort. Although general elections were held in Cuba on November 1, the outcome is still in doubt, due to the nonreceipt of election returns from many precincts or "colleges" as they are called in Cuba, and to charges and countercharges of fraud and intimidation.

The financial condition of Cuba is even worse than the political. Various proposals of plans to bring about financial betterment have been vetoed by the United States under the authority vested in it by the Platt amendment, which is a part of the Cuban institution. An earnest effort is now being made to save Cuba from financial disaster and there is strong hope that it will be successful, and thus lessen the danger of American intervention.

In connection with the state of affairs in Cuba, it has become known that the United States government has in contemplation sending Maj. Gen. Enoch H. Crowder, the judge advocate general of the army, to the island on a diplomatic mission designed to bring the interests of Cuba and the United States into closer association and lay the foundation for better political and financial conditions in that country. The idea behind the consideration of Gen. Crowder for this mission is that he might ultimately be designated as American minister to Cuba. He has renewed his application for retirement from active military service and when this is granted he will be in a position to accept a civilian office.

Bandits Rob Bank Messengers.

New York.—Four bandits held up two messengers of the Manhattan brokerage firm of Kean, Taylor & Co., in Brooklyn, and seized a package said to contain \$167,000 in Liberty bonds, fired a fusillade of shots and escaped. Three of the bandits thrust revolvers in the messengers faces while the fourth snatched the package. Then entering an automobile standing at the curb they drove away.

Hart Wins Suit Against Film Producer.

Los Angeles, Cal.—William S. Hart motion picture actor, was granted judgment for \$87,779.73 against Thomas H. Inch, film producer, in a decision handed down here today by Judge Lewis R. Works, of the Los Angeles county superior court. Hart brought suit for profits he alleged were his under a contract made in June, 1917.

Government Troops Circling Fiume.

London.—Fiume is surrounded by three battalions of carabinieri and shots have been exchanged between the regulars and Gabriele D'Annunzio's legionnaires, says a dispatch to the London Times from Milan. Gen. Caviglia, commanding the government troops says he will do his best to disperse them.

Not Attempt Robbery at the Bluffs.

Council Bluffs, Ia.—Today after twenty-four hours investigation by Milwaukee railroad officials, the three young men arrested yesterday as suspects in an attempted mail car robbery were released, the men claiming they were merely trying to enter the car to escape the cold.

Boy Murderer Given Life Term.

Bassett, Neb.—Floyd R. Wick, 18, of near Malvern, Neb., has been sentenced by District Judge R. R. Dickman to serve a life sentence in the penitentiary at hard labor for the murder of Clyde M. Patterson, a neighbor and bachelor ranchman, shot to death August 15. Wick pleaded to second degree murder. Patterson's body was found buried under a pile of dirt and hay at his ranch home six weeks after the crime had been committed. Wick is alleged to have driven Patterson's cattle away.

RAILROADS MAKE DEMANDS FOR PAYMENT OF MONEY

Company Declares Sum is due Under Provisions of Transportation Act—\$300,000,000 Claimed.

Washington, D. C.—Mandamus proceedings against the secretary of the treasury were instituted in the District of Columbia supreme court by the Grand Trunk Western Railway company to require payment of an interstate commerce commission certificate calling for \$500,000 as due the road under the guaranty provisions of the transportation act. Justice McCoy issued an order returnable December 7, requiring Secretary Houston to show cause why the writ should not be granted. While the Grand Trunk company is the only petitioner in the case, approximately \$100,000,000 claimed by the railroads is involved by the litigation, according to a statement issued by the Association of Railway executives.

"This proceeding grew out of the opinion rendered October 7 by the controller of the treasury," the statement said. "Based on certain certificates presented by the interstate commerce commission to the treasury department in favor of the Grand Trunk Western Railway company and the Detroit, Grand Haven and Milwaukee road, in which option the controller of the treasury held that partial payments could not be made by the secretary of the treasury to a carrier in advance of final settlement."

"The controller held that the interstate commerce commission was empowered to issue only one certificate to each carrier, which certificate must be for the full amount of the final settlement. While in this proceeding the Grand Trunk railway company is the only petitioner, yet the result of the decision rendered in this case will involve the payment of approximately \$400,000,000 now due to railroads of this country under the guaranty provisions of the guaranty act."

Taxation Provision Advanced By Hull.

Washington, D. C.—Elimination of the "capital invested" provisions of the excess profits tax and merging into the income tax a substitute provision to place individuals, partnerships and corporations on the same relative basis was advocated today by Representative Hull, of Tennessee, a democratic member of the house ways and means committee and for many years one of the most active members of congress in connection with tax legislation. While Representative Hull was defeated for reelection, he is expected to have a hand in shaping the policies of the minority party for the coming revision of revenue laws.

Berlin Has Recognized Mexico.

San Antonio, Tex.—Germany has officially recognized the De La Huerta government of Mexico, according to a dispatch printed in La Prensa, a Spanish language newspaper published here. The announcement came in a cablegram from President Ebert, to Dr. Cuthberto Hidalgo, secretary of foreign affairs of Mexico, according to the report. The German minister to Mexico has been instructed to attend the dispatch says.

Objectors Released.

Salt Lake City, Utah.—Seven men imprisoned at the war prison barracks at Ft. Douglas, near here, as "conscientious objectors" since 1917 were released today on orders from the secretary of war. They are the last prisoners of that class to be released from the barracks. All are from the east, it was said at Fort Douglas.

Republicans to Celebrate.

Lincoln, Neb.—Republicans of both sexes will hold a big ratification meeting and banquet in January to celebrate the victory won at the recent election. Members of the state legislature will be invited to attend. Etta Caton, of Hastings, and Mrs. Elizabeth O. Lynn-Smith, of Chadron have charge of arrangements.

Johnson Appeals to Wilson.

Sioax Falls, S. D.—Senator Ed S. Johnson, of South Dakota, has sent a telegram to President Wilson urging immediate financial relief for the farmers and livestock producers of the northwest. The message stated that "conditions are extremely serious."

Held for Burning Wheat.

Kimball, Neb.—Walter Zaiser is under arrest, charged to having set fire to 31 wheat stacks belonging to Charles Long. An inspector of the state fire prevention bureau ordered the arrest of Zaiser.

Six Killed at Crossing.

Muskogee, Okla.—One woman and five men were killed and a 16-year-old boy was seriously injured when the automobile in which they were riding was struck by a train near Okapa, Okla.

Crime to Increase Says Pinkerton.

Salt Lake City, Utah.—The crime wave now prevalent throughout the country will show an increase of 200 per cent, declared William A. Pinkerton, head of a detective agency, who arrived here from Denver today. Mr. Pinkerton characterized the enforcement of the prohibition law as being farcical in many instances. He said the number of drug addicts had increased 200 per cent since prohibition went into effect and that the drug fiend was much more liable to develop into a criminal than a drunkard.

CORNHUSKER ITEMS

News of All Kinds Gathered From Various Points Throughout Nebraska.

OF INTEREST TO ALL READERS

Fairbury is to have a municipal skating rink.

Bloomfield business men have organized a retailers' credit association. A decline in bread prices throughout the state is predicted before the first of the year.

Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons of Nebraska will meet in Omaha, December 10.

Petty thieves are operating in Fremont, and many small thefts are being reported.

St. John's Catholic church at Waukegan was dedicated Sunday by Bishop O'Reilly of Lincoln.

Nearly 50,000 people visited the display at the show of the Omaha poultry association last week.

Omaha women will urge the next legislature to pass laws that will act as preventatives of divorce.

McCook will stage a drive to raise \$100,000 for the purpose of establishing a hospital at that place.

Hog cholera has broken out in Gage county, and every effort is being made to prevent its further spread.

Births exceeded deaths more than two to one in Sherman county during the three months ending November 30th.

A meeting of the Nebraska state college athletic association will be held in Lincoln, Saturday, December 11th.

The new municipal ice plant at Grand Island has begun operations, with a capacity of twenty-five tons daily.

Albert Norgren, a farmer living near Overton, fell off a windmill, breaking his neck. He died almost instantly.

Fire in the printing plant of Scott & Milburn at Beatrice caused a damage of nearly \$40,000, covered by insurance.

F. D. Millich of Iowa, who was recently elected superintendent of the schools of Blue Springs, has assumed his duties.

Nebraska's apple crop, this year, is the lightest in the past decade, according to reports from towns in the apple-growing belt.

New markings of the Lincoln Highway from Omaha to Los Angeles are being put up by the Southern California Automobile club.

Frank P. Lawrence, a pioneer of Fremont and a veteran of the civil war, is dead. He was at one time a captive in Libby prison.

All recruiting records for the Omaha army recruiting district were broken in the month just ended, when 281 were enlisted.

C. H. Gustafson, a farmer of Mead, is being strongly endorsed by his friends over the state for secretary of agriculture under President Harding.

There were 1,927 chickens, ducks, pheasants, turkeys and other fowl in the exhibit at the Omaha poultry show last week. Their total valuation was \$45,500.

The state college of agriculture has issued a circular protesting against the modern abuse of the Christmas spirit in the promiscuous exchange of presents.

Coyotes are becoming active in Cheyenne county, and many losses of poultry have been reported. In some localities old-fashioned wolf hunts are being planned.

Daughters of the American Revolution will erect a \$10,000 fountain on the courthouse square at Omaha in memory of Thomas L. Cuming, first territorial governor.

A wild-cat measuring thirty-nine inches from nose to tip of tail, and weighing forty pounds, was caught near Chadron by Joe Jansek, in a trap he had set for skunks.

Governor McKelvie has issued a proclamation requesting the people of the state to contribute freely to the fund being raised for the aid of the suffering children of Europe.

The shut-ins at the state penitentiary gave their annual Thanksgiving show to inmates and officials and in the evening repeated the performance to a crowded house from outside.

A subscription amounting to several hundred dollars has been raised for Henry Uresh of Columbus, whose home and contents was destroyed by fire last week. His loss was complete, with no insurance.

A Ladies' Auxiliary to the American Legion Post has been organized at Columbus.

Edwin Crawford of Violet was seriously injured when a rock weighing between two and three tons which he had undermined and planned to bury, fell on him. His leg was crushed so that amputation was necessary.

The supply of teachers in Thayer county promises to be more nearly equal to the demand by next fall, as an unusually large number passed the examinations. Sixty-five registration numbers were sold in the county, 26 of them in Hebron.

Olaf Olson, Lincoln's new fire chief, appointed to take the place of Chief Sommer, killed in an automobile accident while going to a fire a couple of months ago, arrived from the Panama zone, where he has been connected with the fire department at Cristobal.

Preparation of a complete state budget embracing all departments, institutions and enterprises of the state of Nebraska, as well as public and semi-public activities supported by it in whole or in part, has been commenced by Finance Secretary P. F. Ross, as provided for by the code law and the amended constitution.

Officers at South Omaha raided a "Moonshine" plant, and amongst other paraphernalia, captured a still made from a gallon coffee pot.

Nebraska is the first of the states to raise its quota toward construction of a National Chamber of Commerce building at Washington, D. C.

The general store of Theo. Harney at Manley, in Cass county, was broken into and robbed of \$1,900 worth of merchandise, one night last week.

Paul F. Wright was instantly killed when he grasped a live wire at the new Evans hospital at Columbus, where he was working as a carpenter.

The bond of Keith Collins, said to be the "brains" of the \$3,500,000 mail robbery, and who was arrested at Muskogee, Okla., has been set at \$50,000.

From Saturday, December 18, until Saturday, January 1, has been set for Christmas recess at the University of Nebraska; instead of the "inter period" beginning Wednesday, December 22.

A large part of the biggest corn crop Cheyenne county ever produced is still in the field. The weather has been ideal for shucking, but the price is so unsatisfactory that farmers are hiring but little help.

When the state legislature meets this fall, the teachers and school officials of the best-growing districts will demand a law requiring attendance in the rural as well as city schools nine months of the year.

Nebraska will be the only state to furnish women electors when the time comes to cast the electoral vote for president, according to Col. J. H. Presson, recording clerk in the office of Governor McKelvie.

The state railway commission has granted an increase in telephone rates to the Nebraska Telephone company, totaling 10 per cent of the present exchange rate, effective December 1 until June 30, 1921.

The sleet storm that swept the eastern portion of the state last week caused a damage of over \$20,000 to the Nebraska Telephone company. Wires, arms and poles were torn down by the weight of ice and snow.

Miss Elizabeth Parsons, attorney, has the distinction of being the first woman in Omaha to receive a permit to practice in the federal court, permission having been granted by the Nebraska supreme court.

Twenty neighbors of Oscar Groth, south of Blair, met last week and gathered his corn crop. Groth's 8-year-old son died a few weeks ago, and since then another son was badly injured when he was thrown from a wagon.

Lieutenant Governor Barrows, in his capacity as commander-in-chief of the Sons of Veterans, has accepted an invitation to be one of the speakers to address the big banquet of the order in Philadelphia on Lincoln's birthday, February 12.

The University of Nebraska wrestling team and the Omaha Y. M. C. A. wrestling team will meet in Omaha, January 12, and in Lincoln the following week-end, according to announcement made by the university athletic department.

Floyd R. Wick of Malvern has been sentenced for a life term in the penitentiary for the murder of R. R. Dickson, a rancher and a neighbor. Wick is only 18, and is the youngest person to be convicted of the crime within the state for many years.

More than a hundred over-looked Hastings college students completed the excavation of Liberty Memorial Hall, the quarter million dollar structure which is to be the next addition to the college plant. The co-eds joined by cooking dinner for the laborers.

Not a death in the family for nearly fifty years is the remarkable record of Mr. and Mrs. George Shafter, who celebrated their golden wedding at Kearney recently. Ten children and sixteen grandchildren are living.

State university and agricultural farm authorities are urging the necessity of asking the legislature to give the farm bureau extension department an increased appropriation amounting to about \$200,000 for the coming two years.

A bandit killed at Fremont last week, following the hold-up of the College Book store and a gun battle with the police, has been identified as Ernest A. Guest, a deserter from Troop L, 15th Cavalry of Ft. Russell at Cheyenne, Wyo.

According to word from the western part of the state, farmers in that locality would gladly give large quantities of grain to help starving peoples overseas if the government will provide free transportation and send something in the nature of a Christmas ship.

Twelve young men and one young woman passed examination and were admitted to practice at the bar of Nebraska, at Lincoln last week.

For the third time in a year, a rural school house near Emerson in Dixon county was the object of an incendiary attempt last week. The building had been burned down twice before and was rebuilt this fall.

J. W. Freeman, Omaha ex-police officer, shot by his wife last week, is alive with a bullet in his heart. Not only that, but following the shooting at his home he walked unaided into the police station for treatment.

Counterfeit \$10 bank notes of a crude sort are in circulation over the state and authorities have issued a warning to be on the lookout for them.

With seventy-eight members, the Nebraska High School Debating League will soon announce the schedule of thirty-nine first series debates in the fourteenth year's work of the league, which opens in January and ends with the newly arranged two-day tournament at the University of Nebraska in May by all the district championship schools on the question of repealing the literacy test restrictions on immigration.