

# MERRIMAC SHOT UP BY MOUNTAIN MEN

HEAVY FIRING OPENS IN THE  
KENTUCKY HILLS.

## TROOPERS SENT TO SCENE

Other Places in the Trouble Zone  
Along Tug River Are Reported  
Quiet.

Williamson, W. Va.—Thirty minutes of shooting at Merrimac, W. Va., was the extent of hostilities in the West Virginia-Kentucky border battle, according to Capt. J. R. Brockus, of the state police, who returned from the zone of operations. After examining reports from Mingo region he said the situation was quiet.

Sheriff A. C. Pinson said his reports indicated that the shots from Kentucky hills had been answered by riflemen on the West Virginia side.

Heavy firing on Merrimac, W. Va., from the Kentucky mountains opposite that village broke out, according to a report received by Capt. J. R. Brockus, of the state police. All other places in the trouble zone along the Tug river were reported quiet.

A squad of troopers headed by Capt. Brockus left immediately for the scene.

Before leaving Capt. Brockus communicated with the Kentucky national guardsmen on duty at Spriggs, and requested that they move on the attackers. He was informed, the captain said, that the soldiers could not leave Spriggs as they were watching a body of men in the mountain there.

With Kentucky national guardsmen on duty in the region along the Tug, which was the scene of the three-day mountain battle growing out of industrial conditions, authorities believed the fighting would cease.

Capt. Brockus had just reported "all quiet" to his superior officer, when the dispatch telling of hostilities at Merrimac was received.

Seventy-five Kentucky national guardsmen arrived here from Moorehead, Ky., and were stationed at points of vantage on the Kentucky side.

Reports from McCarr were that the mountain fighters there were observing the truce arrangement.

Report here was that only one shot was fired from the West Virginia mountains during the day.

Two fires, which Harry Olmstead, acting chairman of the labor committee of the Williamson Coal Operators' association, said he believed had been caused by incendiaries, occurred in the region.

Washington, D. C.—Official silence was maintained concerning the situation in Mingo county, W. Va., and Pike county, Ky., on the possibility of issuing proclamations declaring a state of martial law there because of the coal strike riots.

The proclamation was prepared and signed by President Harding, but given to Secretary Weeks to be issued if necessary.

### France Would Fight with Poles.

Paris.—The entry of German troops into Upper Silesia would provoke intervention by regular Polish troops, which would mean war, and in such a war France could not remain neutral, according to expressions in official circles here. The utmost amazement was expressed in these circles at the speech of Mr. Lloyd George, the British prime minister on the Upper Silesia situation, containing what is regarded here as extraordinary friendly references to Germany and judgments hostile toward Poland and unsympathetic toward France.

### Asks Removal of McMillan.

Sioux City, Ia.—Removal of Rev. C. N. McMillan as a state agent has been requested by Councilman J. B. Mann in a telegram to Ben J. Gibson, attorney general of Iowa. The request for the dismissal of Rev. Mr. McMillan as a state officer is an outgrowth of a complaint made by Anna Lamar, a waitress, that the minister made improper proposals to her after his alleged "kidnaping" of her in Grand View park early Thursday morning.

### Irish Raid Dublin Prison.

Dublin.—An unsuccessful attempt was made to rescue Arthur Griffith, founder of the Sinn Fein organization, from his confinement in Mountjoy prison.

### Ex-Senator Catron Dead.

Santa Fe, N. M.—Thomas Benta Catron, United States senator from New Mexico from March 27, 1912, to March 4, 1917, died at his home here.

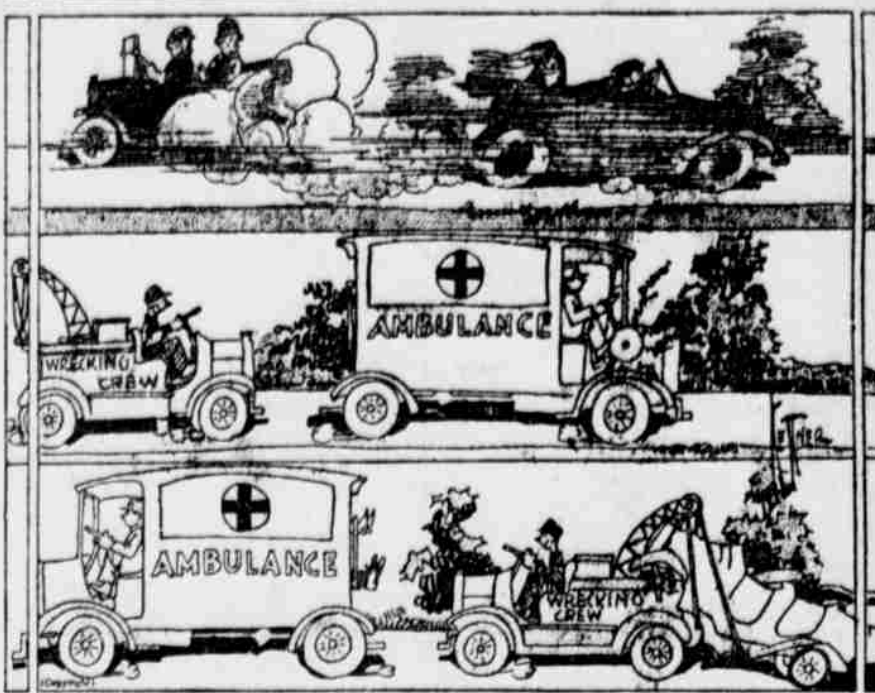
### Methodists Pick Meeting Place.

Portland, Ore.—The board of bishops of the Methodist Episcopal church in session here, decided to hold the next meeting at Syracuse, N. Y., November 24 to 27, instead of at Washington, D. C., October 26, as had been planned.

### Troops Sent to McCarr.

Frankfort, Ky.—To companies of Kentucky National Guardsmen were ordered to McCarr, Ky., in Pike county, where a state of virtual war, it was stated, has been on for two days.

## To and Fro



### FLAG OF TRUCE HOISTED BY EMISSARY OF STATE

Chief Declares Willingness to Accept  
Truce When Guerrilla Tactics  
Are Discontinued.

Williamson, W. Va.—An emissary of the state forces taking part in the battle which has raged for two days in the Mingo mountains along Tug river, approached the stronghold of a leader of the mountaineers under a flag of truce and asked that the mountain men cease firing into villages in the region. This information was received here from Chief Deputy Sheriff John Hall, who sent one of his men into the hills to confer with the attacking party.

Hall reported to Sheriff A. C. Pinson that his emissary, carrying a piece of white muslin on a stick, reached the party of men who were raining bullets into a nearby town. The mountaineers respected the white flag and when the deputy made known his mission of peace, according to Hall, a leader of the forces opposed to the state officers, replied that the hill men would accept a truce only when the firing from the Kentucky side of the river had ceased.

Three men are reported by state troopers to have been killed in the terrific battle firing at McCarr and telephone reports to the office of the New Howard Coal company at Gates indicated that forty miners are surrounded by belligerent forces. Capt. Brockus, with fifteen state police, boarded an engine bound for the seat of trouble. The firing is reported to be increasing in intensity.

The reports from the New Howard company indicated that heavy firing had begun at their mines at Gates, between Matewan and Spriggs. Advice to the company relatives to the forty miners being hemmed in, said the men had taken refuge in sheltered spots in their camp and were being subjected to a veritable hail of shots. The mountain battle believed by authorities to be an outgrowth of disturbed industrial conditions was general again, according to passengers arriving from the troubled area. Terrorized women and children were reported hiding in cellars and dugouts, in many cases without food and water, reports said.

Dan Whit, said by the state police to be a non-union miner, was shot and killed at Matewan when he ventured out to obtain water for women and children, according to reports.

State troopers working in the firing zone reported that most of the shooting was directed from mountaintops to mountainside on the Kentucky and West Virginia sides of the Tug river. Shots were said to be falling into various nearby towns.

Richard every, who, according to the state police, is a member of the United Mine Workers of America, was arrested in the Kentucky mountains and will be brought to this city. He is charged with participating in the battle.

### Stillman Quits, Rumor.

New York.—James A. Stillman has "quit," it was reported here. Attorneys for the former president of the National City bank were said to have asked for an indefinite postponement of the "secret" hearings in his divorce suit, which were to have been resumed in Poughkeepsie. The request was granted by Referee Daniel J. Gleason.

### Tincher Bill Passes House.

Washington.—The Tincher bill to regulate dealings in grain futures was passed by the house and sent to the senate. The bill is designed to put an end to the practice of "putting" and "calling" "ups" and "downs" and "in-amities." It would permit what is known as the "legitimate hedge."

### Says She Buried \$105,000.

Washington.—Mrs. Emma C. Bergdoll, who was the first of a series of Great Britain to aid in the retirement of its 5 1/2 per cent bonds, maturing, has arrived here, consigned to the J. P. Morgan & Co. fiscal agents for the English government.

### NORTH DAKOTANS IN A HOT VERBAL ENCOUNTER

Former Attorney General and Challenger Devote Most of Time to  
Attacks on N. P. League Leader.

Salina, Kans.—Charges that the leaders of the national nonpartisan league were associated with the I. W. W. and the socialist party and counter charges that opposition to the league is fostered by "grain gamblers," insurance companies and other business interests were made in a debate here between William Langer, former attorney general of North Dakota, league foe, and A. C. Townley, national leader of the league. The question was, "Resolved, That the nonpartisan league program as managed by the nonpartisan league has been detrimental to the people of North Dakota."

An audience of approximately 1,000 persons, many of them farmers, attended the debate. Rain began falling shortly after Langer opened his address, and made it difficult for the audience to hear. An admission fee was charged, the speakers explained, to pay expenses.

Langer, the challenger, devoted most of his time to attacks on Townley, who, he declared, was "farming the farmers." He declared Townley had "robbed" the farmers of North Dakota through the formation of the United Consumers Store company, a co-operative agency, and that he had a half million dollars in state funds deposited in the Scandinavian-American bank, of Fargo, which he knew was insolvent.

Townley, replying, outlined the origin of the league and gave practically all his time explaining the league program in North Dakota. He did not answer charges that the league managers in every state are either I. W. W. or socialists, and said in future debates he would reply to some of the many charges made by his opponent.

In opening Langer declared he pursued Townley for two years in an effort to get him on the same platform. He presented the league leader with a check for \$100, which he had offered in his challenge. Langer explained it was post-dated and could be cashed in two years and said "that is the kind of checks the nonpartisan league put into the North Dakota bank as security."

### Germans and Poles Clash.

Oppeln, Upper Silesia.—Insurgent Polish forces have crossed the Oder and captured the town of Kosel after hard fighting. The population is fleeing in panic. The French control officer took refuge in the Kosel barracks and the Poles opened fire on him there, according to interallied commission reports. Numerous casualties are reported to have occurred at the Krandrzn railway station when the Poles drove out the Germans after three days' continuous fighting.

### Boys Admit Part in Murder.

Philadelphia.—Two boys arrested in their school class rooms confessed, the police say, that they were with a third boy, who shot and killed Edward E. Hatch, wealthy brick manufacturer of Riverton, N. J., at his boat house at Delair. The boys, Walter Dajewski, 13, and David Augustino, 15, both of Philadelphia, are alleged by the police to have named George Conn, 19 years old, as the slayer of Hatch. The police are searching for Conn in New York.

### Bandit Robs Kansas Bank.

Wichita, Kan.—A bandit entered the Stockyards State Bank here, forced the cashier to open the safe, and escaped with \$12,000 in cash and Liberty bonds.

### \$5,000,000,000 in Gold.

New York.—A \$5,000,000,000 gold shipment to be the first of a series by Great Britain to aid in the retirement of its 5 1/2 per cent bonds, maturing, has arrived here, consigned to the J. P. Morgan & Co. fiscal agents for the English government.

### Decide Mexican Policy.

Washington.—The administration's policy toward Mexico has been "very well determined," it was stated authoritatively, but officials are not yet ready to enunciate it.

## ROMIG OBTAINED U. S. GOLD

Obtained \$60,000 at One Time and \$45,000 at Another—Accompanied on Second Visit by Mother.

Washington, D. C.—The fact was established through W. L. Alexander, a clerk in the treasury department, by the house committee investigating the escape of Grover Bergdoll, that the latter's mother and a friend obtained \$105,000 in gold from the treasury in 1919. But from there the trail was not uncovered to the buried pot in the mountains of Maryland.

James Romig, awaiting sentence on conviction of conspiracy to aid Bergdoll, was the agent, Alexander said, through which \$45,000, the first batch of gold, was obtained. On his second trip Romig was accompanied by Mrs. Emma C. Bergdoll, also awaiting sentence for conspiracy, and they left with \$60,000 in gold.

When he made his first visit Romig found clerks unwilling to turn over even \$20,000 on their own responsibility, and, Alexander said, he fumed and fretted about the corridors until his application was laid before R. C. Leffingwell, then an assistant secretary, and approved. This amount was given for gold certificates, but once it was placed in an automobile Romig went back for more. There was some delay, according to the witness, but in the end Romig got it.

There was no embargo at that time on the withdrawal of government gold, but the policy of the department, as explained by Alexander, was to keep it in the vaults by placing diplomatic obstacle in the way.

Three weeks later Romig returned with Mrs. Bergdoll. It was brought out that at the moment the woman was at the treasury posters were displayed offering a reward for Bergdoll.

Romig pushed a bundle of bills through the window after some delay, Alexander said, and with the approval of the treasurer left with more gold than a stevedore could lift—\$60,000.

What became of the treasure was not brought out.

The gold chapter was related after Maj. Gen. March, chief of staff, had given his views on getting Bergdoll back from Germany to serve his five-year sentence, and had declared that diplomatic moves were under way to get him. Bergdoll was described as a "bad specimen of deserter" by the general, who stated that he would not have apologized had Americans kidnapped him on German soil.

Other witnesses were Edward S. Bailey, law partner of Samuel T. Ansell, former acting judge advocate general of the army and counsel for Bergdoll, and Col. J. A. Penn, assistant to Maj. Gen. Harris, adjutant general of the army.

### Lone Bandit Robs Cashier.

Sioux City, Ia.—Staging a daylight holdup in the heart of the business district, a lone, unmasked bandit, armed with a revolver, entered the office of Miss Mabel Graham, general cashier at the Martin hotel, held her up and escaped with about \$250 in cash. Nearly 500 people were in the lobby of the hotel at the time.

### Await Rail Wage Decision.

Washington.—Steps toward a readjustment of railroad rates await the decision of the railroad labor board on the wages of employees, according to belief of President Harding and members of his cabinet. This was the conclusion reached following discussion of the railroad problem at the last several cabinet meetings.

### Reach Trade Agreement.

Berlin.—Germany has concluded a preliminary trade agreement with soviet Russia, and the convention became effective May 6.

### Pershing Made Chief of Staff.

Washington.—Selection of Gen. John J. Pershing to be chief of staff of the army was announced by the secretary of war. Gen. Pershing will become the active head of all the armies of the United States on July 1. The assignment of Pershing to this double task reveals a radical army reorganization. Heretofore, the chief of staff, while head of the army, has been an administrative officer, who did not take the field in time of war. Pershing, in case of war, would be the active commander of the armies in the field.

### Knox Resolution Delayed.

Washington, D. C.—On the heels of President Harding's decision to resume participation in European councils, it was authoritatively stated that the restoration of peace with Germany would be held up pending the outcome of the reparations controversy.

### Seven Killed in Riots.

Rome.—Seven persons were killed and 11 were injured in a political campaign riot between nationalists and socialists at Castelvetrano, near Palermo.

### Publishers Indicted.

Ablene, Tex.—Indictments have been returned by the federal grand jury against newspaper men in the Texas oil fields charging violation of the postal laws by publishing lottery advertisements.

### Utah Patrolman Shot Down.

Ogden, Utah.—Charles Manzell, Ogden patrolman, on his first shift after a leave of absence for war work, was shot to death by bandits when he came upon them robbing a clothing store here.

## NEBRASKA IN BRIEF

Timely News Culled From All  
Parts of the State, Reduced  
for the Busy.

R. B. Howell, of Omaha, republican national committeeman, announced his candidacy for the United States senate to succeed Gilbert M. Hitchcock.

The senior class of the Tecumseh high school will hold its annual commencement exercises in a barn this year. Because of lack of an adequate opera house or hall, a local sale pavilion has been engaged and is being set in order to stage the affair.

Seventy-five additional men were employed in the Union Pacific car shops at Grand Island at the same rate of pay they were drawing when let out several months ago.

Nonpartisan league and labor leaders met at Lincoln and made final plans for starting referendum petitions on the general primary registration law, which requires all voters, even in rural districts, to register for the primaries; the law giving the state department of trade and commerce discretionary power in granting new bank charters, and the anti-picketing law. The measures were passed by the last legislature.

It has been discovered that during the closing hours of the state legislature an item was slipped into one of the appropriation bills to provide \$2,200 for the payment of J. L. Jacobs, Chicago expert accountant hired two years ago by Governor McKelvie to install an accounting system for the code department. State Auditor Marsh refused to pay the claim because there was no appropriation, and because he thinks it is exorbitant.

The green bugs which have been destroying fields of alfalfa and wheat in Oklahoma and Kansas have been found at work in large numbers on two Pawnee county farms. The insects are working in the alfalfa fields.

The contract has been let by the village board of Elk Creek for the erection of an electric transmission line, eight and one-half miles long, between the town of Elk Creek and Tecumseh.

Theater men of Scottsbluff are considering joining with the Methodist church in showing once a week films vouched for as "character building."

Twelve inmates of the state penitentiary, sentenced from Omaha, have filed applications for pardon or parole with the state board of pardons, which will meet May 17 in Lincoln. Thirty-two applications for release will be heard.

Lincoln citizens are greatly wrought up over the action of the new city commission for naming F. C. Zehrung mayor of the city over Chas. W. Bryan. In spite of the fact that Bryan received the highest vote at the recent election he was defeated for mayor by a vote of 4 to 1. Prior to the vote taken by the commissioners, Bryan indicated he would resign if he were not elected mayor.

According to reports from Washington the long looked for cut in freight rates may be at hand. The administration has started a movement looking to a cut in the charges for carrying coal and wheat. Once this initial attack is successful, the campaign will be carried to other commodities, it is said.

A general order was issued by Colonel J. H. Presson, department commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, announcing the state encampment which will be held at Hastings on May 23 to 28. Special fare reductions have been granted by all railroads to the old veterans.

The village board of Crab Orchard passed an ordinance which will close up all places of business in the town on Sunday except restaurants and drug stores.

The building program for state institutions to be begun immediately amounts to \$1,030,500, according to an announcement made by the state board of control. The work embraces new buildings at almost every state institution.

After being closed two weeks to prevent the spread of scarlet fever, public schools at Gering have again opened. All danger of the spread of the epidemic is pronounced ended.

Duroc Jersey breeders of northwest Nebraska met at Hay Springs and organized the Northwestern Duroc Breeders' association.

Farmers of Nebraska are showing an increasing interest in the breeding of horses this spring, according to the state college of agriculture, with indications that the breeding may be the heaviest in years.

A baseball league has been organized at Arnold composed of teams representing various farm bureau organizations. Games will be played on Saturdays under the schedule.

Broadwater, Lisco, Oshkosh and Lewellen, all North Platte valley towns, have organized an amateur baseball league, all teams to employ non-salaried home players.

Committee meetings held at the Methodist Episcopal and Congregational churches at Butte resulted in the federation of the two churches.

Omaha members of the Modern Woodmen of America are planning to erect a commodious headquarters building in Omaha, and to bring the national encampment of Woodmen to the Nebraska metropolis in 1925.

The Nebraska Free Masons Veterans association will meet in Omaha June 7.

Sunday baseball, a hard-fought issue, was defeated for the third time at Edison.

The test oil well on the Hamilton farm east of Blue Springs is reported down 275 feet.

The farmers union at Lodgepole is planning to build a hall for business and social functions.

More than 130 girls were initiated into Job's Daughters, a new Masonic organization for girls, at Omaha.

The state convention of the National Association of Letter Carriers will be held at Omaha May 30 and 31.

Government forecasts place Nebraska's winter wheat crop at 56,548,000 bushels, or 92 per cent of a normal crop.

Excavation will soon start for Crete's municipal swimming pool which is expected to be ready for use by June 1.

Nebraska has a plentiful supply of farm labor, according to the State College of Agriculture. Wages are about 25 to 50 per cent lower than a year ago.

A special election to vote on a contract with the new hydro-electric light and power company at Hebron has been called by the city council.

Final details for the 54th annual convention of the Nebraska Sunday School association, to be held June 15 to 17 at Holdrege, are being completed by state officers of the association.

Paddock, Glenwood and Elm townships, Gage county, have hired grading equipment equal to that used on county roads and will continue to drag and maintain the roads at township expense.

Pushed by her younger brother into a bonfire while the two were playing with other children near their home at Hastings, Dorothy, 4-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eli Judah was burned to death.

Thomas Einstein, manager of the Stuart Telephone company; Forrest Shearer, Stuart, and John Koepf of Stuart were drowned when a boat in which they were bass fishing capsized in Dora lake, fifteen miles south of Stuart.

In an effort to co-operate with railroads endeavoring to reduce expenses by cutting clerical help, the state railway commission announced it had conceded to the railroads' request that the weekly car bulletins furnished it by railroads since 1907 be discontinued.

The reduction of 30 and 35 per cent in road building materials announced recently by George Johnson, secretary of the department of public works, will mean the building of 100 additional miles of state roads in Nebraska this summer, according to reports.

Former State Senator Adam McMullen of Beatrice, while in Lincoln recently, said it was his intention to be a candidate for the republican nomination for governor at the next primary. He was a candidate at the last primary, when Governor McKelvie won the nomination.

A movement has been started at Liberty and committees have been appointed to look into the matter of providing a playground and public library. Steps have been taken to raise part of the money.

Over 10,000 persons witnessed the three-day aerial tournament at Holdrege. Aviators from a dozen cities participated in the event, the first of its kind ever held in the state.

Pilot Ed Gardner, a Lincoln aviator, was fatally injured at the big aerial tournament at Holdrege, when he crashed 150 feet, coming out of a 1,000 foot tall spin. He was rushed to a Lincoln hospital where he died.

The second annual convention of the Nebraska League of Woman Voters will be held in Lincoln June 7, 8 and 9, according to announcement made by Mrs. C. H. Dietrich, Hastings, president.

It is understood that the use of convict labor in erecting the new \$300,000 reformatory for young criminals is in the range of possibilities. Plans, it is said, are to locate the reformatory at Lincoln, or at Raymond, a little town only a few miles from Lincoln.

Announcement has been made that the fourteenth annual encampment of the United Spanish War Veterans, department of Nebraska, will be held at Lincoln on June 12-14.

Under the provisions of the new automobile license law, 96 1/2 per cent of the money, collected from licenses remains in the counties of collection, of which 75 per cent is to be set aside as a state highway fund to be used for maintenance and patrol. The remainder is to be sent to the Department of Highways for administrative purposes.

The Nebraska supreme court allowed Oscar Peterson, a Boone county farmer, \$300 damages against the Monroe Telephone company. Peterson charged the telephone company with being responsible for the death of two horses because of its failure to give him connection with a veterinarian.

The extension division of the University of Nebraska has announced a short course in citizenship to be given to Nebraskans at the university at Lincoln June 8 and 9 following commencement on June 6.