

Weather Survey of U. S. Made in Hour, Says Robins

Secrets of Forecasting Given by M. V. Robins at Meeting of Engineers—Illusions Destroyed.

The American Association of Engineers heard at their meeting Tuesday night at the Chamber of Commerce the secrets of the weather man, revealed by the local forecaster, M. V. Robins, who explained the value of applied meteorology and climatology to the farmer, the fruit grower, the tobacco grower, to shipping and especially to the army and navy.

There are 249 meteorological stations in this country and by means of these the weather bureau makes a general survey of the country every 12 hours," he said. "It is as accurate as if a man could actually get a birds-eye view of the whole United States."

"At 7:45, morning and evening, these observations are made and telegraphed in cipher to the central office. Maps are immediately constructed from the data received and we sometimes get the full report from the entire country an hour after the observations were taken. In addition to this there are 125 climatological reporters in Nebraska alone."

Mr. Robins destroyed a number of popular illusions, such as "red sky at night, sailor's delight." When questioned as to the accuracy of the almanac, he laughed. "It is founded on the scientific fact that it is colder in January than in July," he commented.

His hearers also learned that the weather map is no picture puzzle when you know what the isotherms and isobars mean, and were instructed in the significance of the arrows, circles and other cryptic signs which dot its surface. After his talk Mr. Robins took the audience over to his office in the Federal building where they were allowed to investigate his barometer, thermometer and other implements and insignia.

100 Killed and Injured in Explosion in Cuba
Havana, Cuba, Dec. 13.—(By A. P.)—One hundred workmen were killed or injured yesterday in a boiler explosion which wrecked the Estrella sugar mill, near Camaguey.

Thirteen bodies had been recovered up to p. m. yesterday and 40 injured persons were being cared for in Camaguey. Most of the victims are Spaniards.

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Father of 10 Loses Hand; Gets \$41,000



A Chicago jury awarded \$41,000 to Clinton F. Anderson of Grand Rapids, shown here with his wife and 10 children, for the loss of his left hand through an accident alleged to have been the fault of the Pere Marquette railroad.

Anderson, as a brakeman, was on top of a car and seized a brake which was declared defective, causing him to fall to the ground resulting in the amputation of his hand.

Medic Men Fear Heresy in Ranks

Report That Candidate Is Practicing Tabooed Theory Causes Furore.

Reports that a candidate for office in the Douglas County Medical association had endorsed and is practicing the teachings of Dr. Abrams of San Francisco—tabooed by the more "regular" members of the profession—furnished a lively undercurrent at the association's annual meeting at the University club Tuesday evening.

Dr. Abrams professes to be able to diagnose the ailment of any individual by a test applied mechanically to a blood sample. "Why, this man has an Abrams machine in his office," was the pre-election whisper. "Dirty politics," was the answer from the other side. The latter won. Officers elected were: Dr. J. M. Pat-

ton, president; Dr. G. W. Dishong, vice president; Dr. Roy A. Dodge, secretary-treasurer (re-elected). Following the election, members of the society heard an address by Dr. R. E. Farr of Minneapolis on "Local Anesthesia."

New Japanese Ambassador to America Is Announced

Tokio, Dec. 13.—The Japanese cabinet yesterday announced that Vice Foreign Minister Han'bara will be appointed ambassador to the United States, succeeding Ambassador Shidehara. Mr. Han'bara was a member of the Japanese delegation to the Washington disarmament conference. Mr. Shidehara is in Japan on leave of absence because of ill health.

Consolidation of Army and Navy Is Urged

Washington, Dec. 13.—Consolidation of the War and Navy department in a department of national defense designed to function under a cabinet manner, with assistants in charge of the army and navy, respectively, has been definitely recommended to President Harding by Walter P. Brown,

head of the commission appointed to prepare a plan of governmental reorganization. The president is giving serious consideration to this and other recommendations submitted by Brown and may lay them before congress within a week or two, accompanied by a special message expressing the opinion of the administration on each of the changes suggested.

Honeymoon Ends Fatally

Beloit, Wis., Dec. 13.—The honeymoon tour of Mr. and Mrs. Stevan Brown ended disastrously when the car, driven by Brown, overturned in a ditch on the outskirts of Durand. A broken steering gear caused the crash. Mrs. Brown's neck was broken, and she died almost instantly. The Browns had been married less than a week.

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Origin of Dime Store Fire Is Undetermined

Theory That Blaze Destroying Bluffs Building Started by Safe Cracker Disproved.

Origin of the fire which gutted the Woolworth building at Fourth street and Broadway in Council Bluffs early yesterday morning remained undetermined last night.

Damages at the fire have been estimated at near \$100,000. Theory that the flames started from an attempt of yeggmen to blow two safes in the Woolworth 5 and 10-cent store in the building was broken down yesterday morning when William P. Walton, manager, found the safes intact, with valuables and money unharmed.

The fire was discovered shortly after 11:30 Tuesday night by Police Sgt. Jack Dempster while away from his desk for his midnight lunch hour. He noticed smoke pouring from the building when he crossed Main street at Broadway, and after an investigation turned in an alarm.

Omaha Gives Aid. Every fireman and every available piece of fire fighting apparatus in Council Bluffs, as well as the company from the Omaha fire station at Eleventh and Dodge streets, battled the flames until after 4 yesterday morning.

A \$20,000 stock of Christmas goods in the store was consumed. The building was gutted, the roof caved in and the front wall leveled. Efforts of the firemen were con-

tinued for hours to halting the flames from spreading to frame buildings immediately in the vicinity and in the heart of the business district of the town.

Smoke early filled the Bluffs branch of the A. Hospie company, next door west, and pianos, talking machines and office fixtures were moved to the sidewalk. Part of the jewelry stock of George Gerner, second door west, also was removed, and automobiles in the Central garage, on the alley in the rear of the dime store, were run out.

Flames Spread. The flames spread several times to both the Hospie building and the garage, but were extinguished each time. Water is in the basements of almost all the buildings in the vicinity.

The front wall of the four-story Woolworth building fell out into the street at 4 a. m. Six firemen, playing a three-stream nozzle over the fire, heard the rumble as the wall tottered and fled backwards just in time to escape being buried in the debris. The giant nozzle, under the terrific force of the water, broke from their control and knocked down several of the men.

Firemen at work on the fire escape on the east wall were ordered down by Chief Cotter when it seemed the rear wall, too, would cave in.

Landmark of City. The Woolworth building was erected in 1879 and was a landmark of the city. It first was two buildings, owned by Mayor Louis Zurmuehlen and Fred Emplie, but later was remodeled for the dime store, the middle wall being removed on the first floor but remaining in the upper stories.

Absence of the high wind which has been sweeping the Bluffs for several nights materially aided the firemen, although the bitter winter cold froze much of the water played on the flames.

Emplie and Zurmuehlen estimate

the loss to the building at \$60,000, with \$15,000 insurance on their half. Owners of adjacent property commended the Bluffs firemen for their efficient work in stopping the flames from spreading to the rest of the block.

Hundreds of spectators braved the chill winter night to watch the spectacular battle of the fire fighters.

Prairie Oil Increases Stock. Independence, Kan., Dec. 13.—Stockholders of the Prairie Oil and Gas company at their annual meeting yesterday ratified capital stock in crease of 200 per cent payable to stock holders of record December 20.

"Why did you shoot your husband?" asked the Judge: "Poisons is so uncertain," said Cordelia. "Not Guilty," said the Jury. Read Ring Lardner's amusing one act farce

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