

Eight Families Driven Into Street by Midnight Blaze

Robert Shilley, 7, in Lord Lister Hospital in Serious Condition From Inhaling Smoke.

Eight families were driven out into the snow in their night clothing shortly after midnight Saturday night by fire of unexplained origin which broke out in the basement of an apartment house at 2638 Dodge street.

Robert Shilley, 7, is in Lord Lister hospital in a serious condition as the result of inhaling smoke and fumes from a broken gas pipe.

His mother, Mrs. Emma Shilley, left Robert and his brother, Raymond, 10, in care of A. H. Jacobs, who lives on the first floor of the house, while she attended a party.

Earl Juda, 2640 Dodge, and Howard Oldheim, who lives in the basement apartment at the same address, also were driven into the street.

All the residents at the two addresses were lodged temporarily at homes in the neighborhood.

The building in which the fire broke out is a double, two-story frame house. Damage was confined to the apartments in 2638. This half of the building virtually was gutted.

Lincoln Cow Leads Fat Production in December

Aggie Paul Johanna McKinley, a purebred Holstein owned by Woodlawn dairy of Lincoln, led the mature cow class and all classes in the tests conducted for December by the state agricultural college with a production of 5.85 pounds of butterfat in two days during her second month.

May Lincoln Pontiac Colantha, owned by H. L. Severe of Palmyra produced 5.126 pounds butterfat in the two days and was closely followed by Blossom Butter King Korndyke, owned by W. A. Peterson of Harvard with a production of 5.102 pounds.

Sarah Boon Leda, owned by Union college, College View, produced 4.736 pounds of butterfat, and Lady Pictorje Spofford Pontiac, owned by the Walthill Holstein company, was a close rival with 4.70 pounds of fat.

A notable feature in the mature class was the production of 4.562 pounds of butterfat by Cleona Wayne Butter Queen 2d, owned by Woodlawn dairy, in her 12th month.

Butler's Charges Aired Before Welfare Board

(Continued from Page One.) was eager to get in line on Mr. Butler's psychology.

"I believe that Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Meila have told the truth in their testimony and should be protected," said Mr. Butler. "From remarks I have heard around the table I would infer that they will be replaced."

Objects to Comment. "I don't like insinuations unless you are ready to shoot square," replied Member Clark Coit.

In his written charges, Mr. Butler alleged that on the occasion of the December incident Superintendent Wilson said to Mrs. Johnson: "Butler don't look any different to me than anyone else."

In her testimony Mrs. Johnson stated that Mr. Wilson merely told her that the case that came to his office would receive the same treatment, whether from Butler or anyone else.

The case that caused the ruction was that of Mrs. Ollie Tullis of the South Side, who called at the acting mayor's office for assistance. Mr. Butler referred the case to the welfare department for investigation and report.

The records of the welfare office show that the case was investigated within two hours after being reported. Mrs. Johnson testified that during the last six weeks harmony has existed in the welfare office.

Mrs. Johnson testified that when she was inspecting dance places two managers told her that Mr. Wilson had permitted them to disregard certain public regulations and that at one place she was humiliated.

"I could not work for a nicer man," was the testimony of Miss Esther Wilson, the superintendent's stenographer.

"Mr. Wilson is a very busy man. He puts in long hours," said Gertrude Lucas.

Superintendent Wilson refuted the testimony which had been offered against him. He said that in the Tullis case Mrs. Johnson wanted to handle the case herself, although it was Miss Muller's case.

"Mrs. Johnson was operating a little welfare board of her own, was she?" asked Mr. Monsky.

Intended No Discourtesy. Mr. Wilson added that he intended no discourtesy toward Mr. Butler nor the mayor's office.

"Our office is a very busy place," said Mr. Wilson, "and sometimes we may speak quickly or even sharply, but no discourtesy is intended."

A pointless discussion followed over dance hall supervision. Mr. Butler asking why a certain downtown dance hall was not required to have a regular inspector.

"I think it is for this board and not for Mr. Butler to adopt a dance hall policy," retorted Member Coit.

Requisition Refused. Bismarck, N. D., Jan. 28.—Governor R. A. Nestos refused to honor the requisition of the state of Montana for return to Plentywood, Mont., of C. J. Beiseker, charged with irregularities while an officer of the Sheridan County State bank, Beiseker, who has been at Minot for some time, is under \$20,000 bond to return to Montana by January 31.

Financial

New York, Jan. 28.—During the greater part of last week it was necessary to draw a rather sharp distinction between the attitude of the stock markets and the action of foreign exchange. If someone, seeking for financial judgment on the very obscure European situation, had happened to observe the stock market but had known nothing of foreign exchange rates, he would undoubtedly have concluded that financial judgment was wholly incredulous over the prediction of disastrous results from the Franco-German deadlock.

While in ignorance of the stock market movement, his conclusion would probably have been that the financial mind was deeply apprehensive, but also occasionally much perplexed as to what the real situation was.

The seeming composure of the stock exchanges, both of Europe and America—at any rate—the absence of any sign of acute misgiving—was explained by many people on the theory that a highly favorable economic situation exactly counterbalanced, in its effect on financial sentiment, the political misgivings.

Explanation Hardly Plausible. But in another way, the supposition was that, but for the Ruhr episode, all the world's stock markets would have been in a state of comparative indifference to the consequences on the continent had kept prices from moving at all.

The explanation is plausible up to a certain point, but it would hardly pass muster if it were assumed that financial opinion, as reflected on the stock exchanges, was taking seriously either the rumors of a German military demonstration against France, or Lloyd George's talk in his syndicate articles about a resultant situation "the most sinister that has been witnessed for many centuries in Europe."

Either the London Stock Exchange or the New York Stock Exchange had accepted such a prediction, with the result that what was about to happen would be more disastrous than what followed July, 1914, or in July, 1919, the best imaginable outlook for trading and industry could not have averted a formidable collapse of prices. Indeed, the financial and industrial outlook would itself have been reversed as abruptly as it was in the summer of 1914.

Peculiar Situation. The absence during the past week of any apparent effect on the stock markets by the Franco-German imbroglio, leaves a somewhat peculiar situation. It may be foreboding a period of prolonged inactivity on such markets, either until the dispute has been terminated or else until such further developments for good or bad should have occurred in the Ruhr itself as would necessarily change the financial attitude.

The attitude of our stock market last August, during the three or four weeks when no one ventured to predict the upshot of the coal and railway strikes, was much like that; the stock markets did not decline, but they virtually marked time until the negotiations for a settlement were actually in sight. Allowance must be made in that comparison, however, for the fact that the markets of the strike areas were missummer markets, normally inactive.

May Ignore Situation. It is possible in the present case, in default of any sudden and definite change in the continental situation, that the stock markets in this country at any rate, will come to the point where the "European crisis" will be flinty ignored, with prices moving in line with whatever conditions are developing in home finance and industry. There was an ardent tendency towards such an attitude last week.

Wall Street, which had been talking of nothing but France and Germany since the beginning of January, evidently turned its attention to the American situation, leading to a situation unquestionably strong, with railway traffic measured by loadings found all records for the period, with exchange of bank checks in the United States 11 to 17 per cent above last year, with mercantile trade maintaining a volume very exceptional for midwinter, and with steel production, the millar barometer of industry, going on at a pace 10 to 15 per cent greater even than in November and 20 per cent greater than what was predicted in the early autumn as the season's probable maximum.

With this background, it is not impossible that the home markets will drift into a movement in which the European deadlock will virtually be ignored.

Weekly Bank Clearings

Bank clearing at leading cities of the United States for the week ending January 25, as reported by Bradstreet's Journal, aggregates \$7,088,861,000, a loss of 11.6 per cent from last week, but a gain of 20.3 per cent over this week last year. Outside of New York the total is \$2,937,551,000, a decrease of 19.4 per cent from last week, but an increase of 29 per cent over this week last year. New York shows a gain of 15.1 per cent over last week. Cities reporting show gains over last year, while only one exhibits a loss. Chicago reports a gain of 21.1 per cent, Philadelphia 28.4 per cent, Boston 27.2 per cent, San Francisco 26.9 per cent, Kansas City 8.1 per cent, Detroit 6.4 per cent, Los Angeles 5.4 per cent, Cleveland 6.7 per cent, Minneapolis 25.3 per cent, Cincinnati 25.5 per cent, New Orleans 27.9 per cent, Richmond 22.9 per cent and Atlanta 20.1 per cent.

Wheat and Corn Exports

Wheat, including flour, exports from the United States and Canada for the week ending January 25, reported by Bradstreet's Journal, aggregates 1,031,390 bushels, against 747,909 bushels last week and 4,746,251 bushels in the like week a year ago. For the 20 weeks ending January 25, exports are 23,228,098 bushels, against 267,298,719 bushels in the corresponding period a year ago. The total for the year is 1,837,364 bushels, against 2,029,771 bushels last year and 4,270,141 bushels in the 20 weeks ending January 25 last year. Exports are 61,620,855 bushels, against 72,083,093 bushels a year ago.

Weekly Food Index Lower

Bradstreet's Food Index Number, based on the wholesale price per pound of 31 articles used for food, is 43.37, comparing with 43.40 last week and 42.05 for the week ending January 25, 1922. This week's number shows a loss of 1 per cent from the like week of last year. Of the 32 commodities of all kinds quoted weekly, 19 advanced as compared with last week, 13 declined and 43 remained unchanged.

Weekly Failures

Business failures for the week ending January 25 number 588, which compares with 540 last week, 644 in the like week of 1922, 429 in 1921, 404 in 1920 and 140 in 1919.

Nebraska Wins Honors in National Canning Contest

In the national canning contest held by the Hazel Atlas Glass company of Wheeling, W. Va., for members of boys' and girls' canning clubs, Nebraska took the first three places, and in addition took the sixth and ninth, out of a possible 10 places. This contest was open to 12 states in the central division. Eleanor Borson of Wahoo took the high place with a jar of carrots, and was followed by Blanche Thorn of Mason City with an exhibit of kale, and Mabel Gustafson, also of Wahoo, who exhibited raspberries. Mabel Gustafson took sixth place with a can of corn, and Eleanor Borson ninth with apples.

Two Omahans Nabbed at Fremont, Nebraska

Blair Boyle, salesman, Lincoln apartments, and J. W. Boyle, clerk, 124 South Twelfth street, were arrested yesterday by federal officers at Fremont, Neb., with Richard Schaefer, who was wanted by postoffice authorities. They were turned over to Omaha detectives. Muskrat, fox and mink furs valued at \$600 were found in their possession, according to officers. The brothers are being held for investigation. Schaefer is wanted for short-changing the postmistress at Waterloo, Ia., according to the authorities.

Oxygen and hydrogen, mixed proportionately with their presence in water, are in their most explosive form.

Haynes Names New Dry Head for Texas

Austin, Tex., Jan. 28.—Frank Cole, acting prohibition director of Texas, Saturday named director by R. A. Haynes, federal prohibition director, who was here conferring with state officials regarding prohibition enforcement work. Cole succeeds David H. Morris, who resigned recently.

Mr. Haynes' address in the chamber of the state house of representatives was along the line of law enforcement with special reference to prohibition laws. He denounced bootleggers and challenged anyone to present any logical argument against prohibition. He cited figures tending to show that the country is better off in every respect as a result of the workings of the eighteenth amendment.

Hylan Disregards Hearst in Signing Gas Ordinance

New York, Jan. 28.—Mayor John P. Hylan, disregarding opposition of William Randolph Hearst, his chief political supporter, approved a city ordinance compelling property owners to install automatic gas cutoffs in all residential buildings above five stories high.

The proposed measure was bitterly opposed by Mr. Hearst's newspaper and various realty and taxpayers' organizations. It had almost unanimous support, however, of members of the fire department.

It has been estimated that the ordinance would put an outlay of from \$15,000,000 to \$25,000,000 on owners of buildings affected.

Great Britain exported \$359,716,934 worth of goods to the United States during 1922.

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The Business Barometer

This Week's Outlook in Commerce, Finance, Agriculture and Industry Based on Current Developments.

By THEODORE H. PRICE, Editor, Commerce and Finance, New York. Copyright, 1923.

An advance of from 12 to 15 per cent in the price of tailor-made clothing was predicted by the secretary of the National Merchant Tailors' association in a session at St. Louis last week, and a telegram from St. Johns, Newfoundland, reports that the extensive iron mines there have shut down because the German manufacturers who had contracted for their output were no longer to be expected.

These two seemingly unimportant news items are quoted because they contain some tendencies generally discernible. Prices are advancing and production is increasing in the United States, mostly because labor is scarce and the buying power of Europe is diminishing as the French occupation of the Ruhr brings nearer the day when the industrial paralysis of Germany may be followed by revolution or war.

Economic Impasse. If these tendencies are not checked America and Europe will both be drawn into an economic impasse from which they can only escape with great travail, but in the United States at least the probability of advancing prices has made many unconscious of the danger.

The result is that the firmness of most markets is mistaken for prosperity and those who have goods to sell think themselves better off because the money of their customers will buy less than formerly.

It remains to be seen how the ultimate consumer will act when retail prices are raised, as they may be, to a parity with the wholesale markets, but recent history suggests that he may reduce his purchases unless wages and agricultural profits are speedily increased.

That the wage earners intend to make an effort to balance their budgets by getting higher pay is already evident from the demands that are being made by the union leaders, but the farmers and the army of "white collar" workers who are organized have no means of protecting themselves and it seems certain that they will be compelled to bear the brunt of the purchasing power of their dollar diminishes.

May Minimalist Consequences. To write in this strain is distasteful to a temperamental optimist, but I should be recalcitrant to my duty if I expressed myself otherwise. By caution and economy it may be possible for us to minimize the consequences that are otherwise certain to follow the waste of a "near war" in Europe, but we shall indeed be fatuous and foolish if we think any such result can be affected by it.

Specifically, the week's developments are not otherwise important. The stock market has been comparatively quiet. A small sensation was created by the fact that the name of the automobile manufacturer has become associated.

The railway shares were on the other hand in greater favor, probably because of day becoming plain that government operation or ownership is inevitable unless the consolidation of which the Esch-Cummings bill provides are speedily made. Some of the holdovers have not hesitated to express themselves in this sense and as it is realized that there

Table with 4 columns: Item, Last Week, Previous Week, Last Year. Includes Bank clearings, Business failures, Federal reserve ratio, Security Prices, etc.

Foreign Bonds Weaker

Foreign bonds have been weaker, reflecting the uncertainty in Europe, and the French dollar bonds in particular sold at the lowest price since the war, French, Belgian and German exchange and currencies have likewise declined as might have been expected, but the fluctuations of the market, which is quoted at about 4 1/2 cents thousand, have ceased to have any significance.

The latest report of the Reichsbank shows that there are over four billion dollar marks outstanding and it is folly to expect that such an ocean of floating currency can ever be stabilized or controlled.

Even so, that or the other reason most commodity markets are higher. Rubber touched 28 cents but has reacted slightly upon the expectation that month's British scheme of price control a larger supply would be made available at 28 cents. Coffee has advanced as it is coming to be believed that the Brazilian government has sold more than 100,000 tons of rubber, higher because there is a strike in the Swedish pulp mills.

From a price of 11 1/2 cents there has again advanced. Wool is higher and so are wooden goods. The steel industry, and higher prices for prompt delivery are bid in an attempt to stimulate production, which is restricted by strictly enforced labor. Lumber is in good demand at full prices for the same reason. But it hardly needs to be said that the retail rate is falling.

Statement Shows Gains. The weekly statement of the Federal Reserve system shows a gain of \$3,000,000 in the gold held and a fractional advance in the reserve ratio, which now stands at 75.4 per cent. The changes in the statement are not particularly important. A continuance of easy money is indicated and a reduction in the rediscount rate is talked of.

The announcement that the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America has a substantial interest in the Empire Trust company of New York and is contemplating the establishment of its own bank in the city is an important sign of the financial conservatism of the day. A bank in Cleveland that has over \$15,000,000 in deposits.

It may be said that it is to be hoped that we are approaching an economic nullity in which the rift between labor and capital will disappear because all those who labor have become capitalists.

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