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FORTY-SIX BURN WHEN ASYLUM IS SWEEPED BY FLAME

Sisters of Charity and Imbecile Charges Victims of Fire That Destroys Old Institution.

STRUGGLE WITHOUT HELP Remote From Habitations, Aid Does Not Reach Scene Till All Is Over.

COLD ADS TO SUFFERING

Montreal, Jan. 1.—Forty-six women were burned to death in a fire that destroyed St. Ferdinand de Halifax asylum at St. Ferdinand de Halifax, Megantic county, Quebec, late Saturday night, according to a report received here.

Meager reports obtained from availsources give no intimation of the cause of the fire which started while the inmates were asleep and apparently spread rapidly.

Without Fire Protection.

The asylum which cared for 180 female idiots virtually was without protection from fire. The inmates of the asylum were uncontrollable and many of them were said to have leaped from high windows. Others in bewilderment crouched in terror near the windows until the flames caught them.

One of the sisters died trying to rescue several of the girls, who were trapped by the flames. Owing to the intensely cold weather, the mercury registered 20 below zero, the water in the hydrants about the building was frozen and little could be done to stay the progress of the flames.

Many of the girls who fled in terror were located by villagers who took them to their homes. Thirty girls, who were students at a convent adjoining the asylum, which also was burned, are said to have had narrow escapes.

The property damage is estimated at \$200,000.

No Outside Aid.

Quebec, Jan. 1.—Sisters of charity were without outside aid in rescuing inmates of the St. Ferdinand de Halifax insane asylum at St. Ferdinand de Halifax, Megantic county, when fire destroyed the building late Saturday night, resulting in the death of forty-five women inmates and one sister. The old building was in a remote district, far from other habitations and until after the forty-six women had perished and the sisters had saved the remaining 135 inmates, and thirty girls attending a school conducted in a wing of the structure. A high wind spread the flames quickly. The sister who lost her life was trying to save one of the inmates.

Advices received here today said the loss would not exceed \$100,000. The cause of the fire was not known.

Much Suffering from Cold.

There was much suffering, as the night was intensely cold. After the flames had reached all parts of the building so that no further attempts at saving lives could be made the sisters turned their attention to caring for the survivors. The building was owned by the Quebec branch of the Sisters of Charity. By arrangement with the government it was maintained as a regular government establishment for the care of insane women.

Hamilton Wright Mabee, Editor and Author, Is Dead

Summit, N. J., Jan. 1.—Dr. Hamilton Wright Mabee, assistant editor of the "Outlook," died at his home here Sunday. He was 70 years of age and was born at Cold Springs, N. Y. He is survived by a widow and one daughter.

Dr. Mabee was graduated from Williams college in 1867 and from Columbia law school in 1869, and for several years practiced law in this city. He became associated with the "Outlook" in 1879.

Dr. Mabee was the author of several literary studies, but his most frequent contributions were to magazines and newspapers in the form of essays. Some of his best known works are: "Norse Stories, Retold from the Eddas," "Nature in New England," "Short Studies in Literature," "The Life of the Spirit" and "Life of Shakespeare." Three years ago he was received by the emperor of Japan at Tokio, while on a lecture tour of Japan.

Dr. Mabee was president of the New York Kindergarten association, Secretary of the American Institute of Arts and Letters, and a member of the Century association and other organizations.

The Weather

For Nebraska—Fair. Temperatures at Omaha Yesterday.

Table with 3 columns: Hour, Temperature, and Wind. Rows include 5 a.m., 6 a.m., 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 12 m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m., 5 p.m., 6 p.m., 7 p.m.

Comparative Local Record.

Table with 3 columns: Date, High, Low. Rows include 1917, 1916, 1915, 1914, 1913, 1912, 1911, 1910, 1909, 1908, 1907, 1906, 1905, 1904, 1903, 1902, 1901, 1900.

CHOSEN BY DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS TO BE SPEAKER.



George Jackson

JACKSON CHOSEN SPEAKER OF HOUSE

Nuckolls County Man Picked By the Democratic Caucus at Lincoln.

POTTS CLERK OF THE HOUSE

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

Lincoln, Jan. 1.—(Special Telegram.)—George Jackson of Nuckolls county was selected for speaker of the house at the democratic caucus here tonight after four ballots were taken.

On the first ballot Jackson failed to get a majority, receiving only 24 votes, while Ollis received 10, Reifenrath 14, and Trumble 9. The second ballot went the same way and the third ballot was thrown out because one too many votes was cast. On the fourth ballot Jackson got 29 votes, which gave him a bare majority.

It appeared before the caucus that it was George Jackson, former speaker, against the field with J. A. Ollis, C. M. Trumble and J. H. Reifenrath and other candidates.

A rumor about 5 o'clock had it that the opposition against Jackson had made up its mind to concentrate on Ollis, but friends of the other candidates refused to confirm it and when the democratic house caucus was called at 7:30 there appeared to be much uncertainty to the fight.

This morning Senator Phil Kohl withdrew as a candidate for re-election as president pro tem, leaving the fight between Beal of Custer, Mattes of Orono and Howell of Douglas, although few appeared to know whether the latter was a candidate or not. E. A. Walrath had no opposition as secretary of the senate and D. D. Carleton of Loup City, who held the job at the last session, will be selected as first assistant. It is probable that George Dole of Stockville will be the other assistant.

Fight on Aids.

Little or no opposition developed against the re-election of George W. Potts as chief clerk, but during the day considerable of a fight was developed for the jobs of first and second assistant. Ted Metcalf of Omaha, Jerry Kelley of Custer and E. E. Ridgeway of Douglas appeared to be the most favored candidates, but as two of the number live in Douglas, it appeared that both would not land and that Kelley would be one of the favored ones. Before the caucus, Metcalf appeared to be in the lead.

For sergeant-at-arms of the house there was a lively scramble, between ex-representative Clayburn of Platt and Judson Pierce of Boone and when the caucus was called it appeared that neither had much of a bulge on the other. Evans of Lancaster, who was early in the race appeared to be making a good showing.

Pick Committees.

A place on the committee on committees during the afternoon seemed to look good to many and congressional districts took time by the forelock and made their selections as follows:

- First District—DeLoe of Johnson and Holchick of Richardson.
Second District—Hulla and Shannon of Douglas and Bass of Sarpy.
Third District—Osterman of Merrick, Radke of Cedar, Day of Dodge.
Fourth District—Norton of Polk and Feltner of Seward with Lamar as second choice, provided that Norton was made chairman of the committee.
Fifth District—Swanson of Clay and Hoskins of Chase.
Sixth District—Taylor of Custer, Trumble of Sherman and Anderson of Boyd.

There is a lively contest on between Taylor of Custer and Norton of Polk for the chairmanship of the committee.

The legislature convenes at noon tomorrow. If Governor Neville has arrived in the city he had not made his appearance at 6 o'clock tonight and no one appeared to know when he would come.

Aged Philosopher and Teacher George Holmes Howison, Dead

Berkeley, Cal., Jan. 1.—George Holmes Howison, professor of philosophy, emeritus, at the University of California, died at his home here last night, 82 years old. Prof. Howison retired from active work a few years ago. Among his former pupils are many well known men in the world of thought and letters. Among them were C. M. Bakewell, professor of philosophy at Yale; A. O. Lovejoy, professor of philosophy at Johns Hopkins; C. H. Rieber, professor of logic, University of California; Harry Overstreet, professor of philosophy, University of the City of New York; and H. E. Mezes, president of the University of New York. Last summer he and his wife gave \$70,000 to the University of California to finance the Howison foundation, by means of which the aged philosopher had planned to perpetuate his work of discovering and training new philosophers.

PEACE MOVES TO REST WITH NOTE SENT BY WILSON

Belligerents See Hope That Entente Allies May Not Yet Close Door on Discussion.

BRITISH VIEW Press Expresses Wish That Next Note Be More Carefully Drafted.

HOW GERMANS TAKE IT

Washington, Jan. 1.—The reply of the entente allies to Germany's peace proposals had not been forwarded today, and the indications were that it would not be sent on before tomorrow at the earliest.

There is no intention to delay it beyond the time necessary to make certain that a complete and accurate copy is being forwarded to all the central belligerents.

The hope that the entente reply to the German proposals had not closed the door on further negotiations was undiminished, but the German embassy's attitude that they had been made doubtful by the reply was reflected generally. The hope for progress toward peace negotiations now has turned to the replies to President Wilson's note.

No Second Note to Neutrals.

The American government, it was made known here today sent no second note to neutrals subsequent to the dispatch of President Wilson's peace note, but American diplomats at neutral capitals were instructed that in transmitting the peace note they should convey a suggestion that if the neutral governments thought it wise to take action on peace the United States considered the time opportune.

It was stated definitely that no other government knew the United States was contemplating action, that no other government was asked to approve its action before it was taken, that the American government acted entirely on its own initiative, and that no attempt was made to act in concert with any other nations.

While the form of the instructions to the American diplomats transmitting the American note to neutrals was not disclosed, it was learned that the president considered the instructions immaterial.

What Might Have Happened.

It is said to be possible that some American representatives may have made it appear as though the United States was directly urging the co-operation of other neutrals. This idea was based on the note from Spain to the United States in which mention was made of a second communication. Spain's suggestion for an entente of neutral nations to define rights of neutrals was not commented on today by officials.

Delivery of the American note to neutrals is not construed by administration officials as an effort to invite their co-operation. In discussing the question today officials made clear that there was no such intention on the part of the president. The United States, it was said, will continue to act on its own initiative.

It was reiterated again today that as well as being a move for peace, the president's note was also intended to point out that the position of the neutrals was becoming intolerable.

Berlin Regrets Tone of Reply.

Berlin, Jan. 1.—(By Wireless to Sayville.)—The text of the entente note replying to the peace offer of the central powers, says the semi-official Overseas News Agency, "reached Berlin as transmitted from Paris by the Havas News Agency. The general impression here is—if this version is correct—that the entente answer to the sincere German offer, while verbose, nevertheless is a flat refusal to end the war. This is especially regretted for the sake of the neutral countries suffering from the consequence of the war.

"It is pointed out as especially remarkable that the entente note mentions the right of nationalities, although one of the avowed war purposes of the entente is the conquest of Constantinople and the Straits."

Reply to Wilson Next.

London, Jan. 1.—The hope is expressed by the Manchester Guardian that the forthcoming note of the entente to President Wilson will be written by a different hand and in a different spirit than the reply of the allies to Germany.

"Several things must be remembered in extenuation of the poor quality and poorer expression of the allies' reply to Germany," says the Guardian. "Obviously it is not a good translation from the French. Moreover, the French original clearly is not the French of a Frenchman. We should say it is a French rendering of a Russian original, passed through an unskillful modification in Paris and finally badly done into English in London.

"Aside from these blemishes, in substance the reply was very much what was expected and inevitable. We venture to think nothing was added to its form by the verbal embellishments with which it was enlarged and weakened. These emotional appeals continue throughout the note under the pretext, which is strong, clear, logical, convincing and obviously by a different hand, dealing specially with Belgium.

Let Balfour Write Note.

"Nevertheless we see no reason why, if Germany is willing publicly to state what it is prepared to do, we should not follow with statement of what we demand. The next exchange of views will be between the allies and President Wilson. This is a different and in many respects (Continued on Page Two, Column Two.)

A Big Job for a Boy



SIMPSON MANAGER NEW HORSE CONCERN

Grand Island Horse Men Take Over the Horse Interests of the Omaha Stock Yards.

TO MAKE LEADING MARKET

At a meeting of the stockholders of the Omaha Horse and Mule Commission company, Perry W. Simpson, formerly president of Hilliker-Simpson company of Grand Island was elected general manager and treasurer. Mr. Simpson's notable achievement was in developing the Grand Island market and broad experience in other centers, makes him one of the best known figures in the business.

The new company announce officers as follows: W. E. Hilliker, president; N. A. Proctor, vice president; Frank E. Simpson, treasurer and general manager. Other members of the board of directors are Maurice Davis and Frank Snyder; other stockholders are Victor Smiley, R. Tally, John Roddy, Al Challis, William Walker, J. P. Aiken, Thomas Thompson, Roy Fletcher and Shinstock brothers.

The New Organization will be known as the Omaha Horse and Mule Commission company, and has leased the entire South Omaha Stock Yard company's horse and mule plant, and the extensive sheep-fencing plant of Burt, west of South Omaha. This place will be entirely remodeled for the care and feeding of branded army horses.

Arrests for Intoxication in Des Moines Show Big Gain

Des Moines, Ia., Jan. 1.—Police department statistics made public today revealed that there were more arrests during 1916 for intoxication than during 1915. Total arrests for drunkenness in 1916 were announced by the department as 3,472. In 1915, which included six "wet" months and six "dry" months, 2,956 persons were arrested, charged with being intoxicated. Saloons were banished from Des Moines six months before state-wide prohibition went into effect.

Retired General Joins French Army as Private

Porquignon, France, Jan. 1.—General Gerard Amanrich, commander of the Legion of Honor, who had retired from the service, has joined the army as a private in an artillery regiment. General Amanrich is 65 years old and is now at the regimental depot at Versailles.

New Names Are Given Companies After Experiences on the Border

battalion have new appellations upon their return from the border. "The Mule Shooters" is the common name now attached to Company C, commanded by Captain Irvin V. Todd. The name was acquired when Private Sammy Rasmick was placed on outpost duty, the second night the Nebraskaans arrived. Sammy heard a rustling in the underbrush. "Halt, who goes there," he challenged. "Advance and show yourself." But the rustling continued and the enemy did not advance or show himself. Wherein the name was given. After the entire camp had been aroused and prepara-

Omaha Speeds Old Year On Way And Gives New Hearty Welcome

Churches Observe Holiday With Watch Services, While Hotels Entertain Merry-Makers.

"Double-header" holiday served well to speed the parting and to welcome the coming year.

It was a time of much rejoicing in Omaha which had just finished the greatest year of its history. The snow of Sunday morning made the outdoors look "holiday-like" and the temperature was just pleasant.

Sunday was a big day in the churches. Many of the ministers took their topics from the thought of the day, the resolve to make the new year better than the old one. The hymns and choir music partook of the same spirit.

A number of the churches had special watch services in the evening. Plymouth Congregational had one beginning at 8:30 o'clock and lasting till after midnight, including music, preaching, social hour and hot refreshments and stereopticon entertainment. The Luther league of Kountze Memorial Lutheran church had a

watch service beginning at 11 p. m.

Hotel and cafe men say that New Year's eve was never before celebrated in Omaha with such "ecstasy" as this one was. The Fontenelle, Blackstone, Rome, Henshaw, and all the rest of the hotels and cafes were filled to capacity with merry-makers, joyous over the going of the old and still more joyous over the coming of the new year.

At the theaters the spirit was abroad, too. Most of them and some of the moving picture houses gave special performances after the regular evening performance. The street railway company had a special service of cars that left the downtown corners for all parts of the city up to 3 a. m.

And after all this festivity came the big day itself, the first day of 1917. All the stores and banks and public offices were closed of course and everybody gathered at home where mother and wife and sisters were busy preparing the big dinner to gladden the day and start the folks well on the new year.

Altogether it was a double day of great joy and festivity and Omaha felt it had much to be joyous and festive about and feels that it will have just as much to be joyous and festive about in the next year.

Americans Purchase Lafayette Birth Place For Museum Purpose

New York, Jan. 1.—The historic chateau in France, which was the birth place of Marquis de Lafayette, has been purchased by Americans to be restored and perpetuated as a memorial, museum and home. The purchase was made possible through the efforts of Mrs. William Astor Chanler and John Moffat, associated with other prominent Americans and the chateau will become the property of the French Heroes' fund.

The estate was sold by Marquis Gaston de Lafayette, who inherited in 1890 from Senator Edmund de Lafayette. The present Marquis is a grandson of General Lafayette's only son, George Washington Lafayette. The chateau de Chavaneau Lafayette in the province of Auvergne in south France, some 400 miles from Paris.

The purpose of the French Heroes' fund, it was announced, is to make the chateau a complement to Washington's home at Mount Vernon. In it are to be kept records of colonial days as well as those of the present war. It will be a home for orphans and soldiers, who have been disabled. Among those associated with Mrs. Chanler and Mr. Moffat, Clarence Mackay, John G. Hillburn, George von L. Meyer, Dr. John Grier Hibben and Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler.

J. A. McIntyre, Well Known Auto Dealer Dies at 52 Years

J. A. McIntyre, president of the McIntyre-Hayward Motor company and well known along automobile rows since 1909, died at his home, 3100 Woolworth avenue, Sunday. He was 52 years old.

Mr. McIntyre was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1864, and came to Omaha in 1897. He is survived by his widow, his mother, who lives at Villisca, Ia., and one brother and four sisters, all living in Iowa.

Although not a member of any church, Mr. McIntyre attended the First Methodist church regularly. He was a member of the Field club and the Seymour Lake club.

Funeral services will be held from the Taggart undertaking parlors, 2212 Cumings street, at 2:30 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon. Interment will be in West Lawn cemetery.

Stanton Soon to Be Enlivened By Two Mountain Canaries

It isn't all burros, especially Texas burros that are inclined to bray with an alto twang. That's why Major Iver S. Johnson of the second battalion and Captain Chris L. Anderson of Company G sent two of the hyphenated quadrupeds as pets to their home town of Stanton from the border.

"They were some pets," said the major, "and their brays, they were wonderful. They cost us \$1 each on the border, but the express company charged us \$16.60 to express them to Stanton."

Other officers who heard the major express his comments on the burros agreed that they were wonderful. One lieutenant remarked that they were so wonderful that no one within the camp could sleep when the "mountain canaries" started an animated conversation.

Observes New Year by Taking His Own Life

Sioux Falls, S. D., Jan. 1.—The body of Oscar Peterson, 30 years old, a bridge worker, was found hanging to a tree in the business section of this city early this morning. Associates said that Peterson had been acting queerly lately and was extreme restless last night, walking the streets until an early hour, this morning.

SOLDIER LADS BACK HOME FROM BORDER SERVICE

Hundreds of Parents, Sweethearts and Friends Welcome Fourth Regiment Upon Its Arrival Home Sunday

CITY DADS ARE ON HAND

Mayor and City Commissioners Extend Hand of Greeting to Khaki-Clad Youths

TEN DAYS TO MUSTER OUT

"Glad to be back, glad to have gone."

That was the feeling of the 660 clear-eyed, tanned, healthy-looking khaki-clad figures and the fifty-two officers comprising the Fourth Nebraska regiment as it detrained at Fort Crook Sunday afternoon after doing border duty since July 6, 1916. Friends, sweethearts, parents and onlookers were there by the hundreds to greet the returning soldiers. Mayor Dahlgren and the city council were also on hand to welcome back to Nebraska the young men who had so loyally joined their country's colors. The Postoffice hand did not put in an appearance, owing to the uncertainty of the time of arrival of the troops. This uncertainty was also responsible for a large number of persons staying away. As it was, the hundreds of parents, sweethearts and friends came to the post and waited several hours for the arrival of the soldiers.

The first detachment, comprising companies A, B, C and D of Omaha and E, F, G and H of Wayne, Blair, Stanton and Madison, respectively, arrived at the post at 2:30. The men started to detrain immediately and took possession of the warm barracks that awaited them. The second detachment, made up of Companies I, Gordon; K, Osceola and Seward; M, York; Supply company, Wisner; Sanitary detachment Lincoln, and the Headquarters and Machine company detachments, arrived in half an hour, but could not detrain until the first section had unloaded.

Dinner is on time. By 6 o'clock everything had been unloaded and the cooks had prepared warm meals for the soldiers. For the field officers provision had been made to house and feed them in the officers' row across from the soldier barracks.

While the soldiers unloaded their paraphernalia and otherwise put their barracks in condition for the evening, friends, sweethearts and parents circulated among the guardhouses, renewing acquaintances and making merry over their return. A few mothers sobbed softly as they embraced their soldier boys, while it was not uncommon to see sweethearts kiss their returning heroes.

Sleepers for All. On the return from Llano Grande the soldiers declare that they had a much more enjoyable trip than going to the border. Although the trains moved slower, the equipment was much better, each having a sleeper. The first detachment consisted of twenty-two cars, all of which were sleepers with the exception of four freight cars. The second section was made up of twenty-seven cars, all sleepers except seven baggage cars.

The troops left Texas Wednesday evening at about 7:30. On the way up they paraded at Houston, Tex., Little Rock, Ark., Coffeyville, Kan., and Wagoner, Okla. This was more for exercise than exhibition. The men, as they swung off the cars, presented a far more healthy appearance than when they left. All were bronzed and showed the effects of six months of outdoor life. Only two were left behind in Texas because of sickness.

The manner in which they set about the task of unloading the cars, and the discipline of the men showed more than anything the evolution which they had gone through. They presented the aspect of regulars in every sense of the word.

While the men all seemed anxious to get back to Nebraska, none of them seemed sorry that they had enlisted. They all were of the opinion that the experience had done them good, but would not care to repeat it unless actual warfare broke out.

Ten Days to Muster Out. Just how long it will take to muster out the men is a question the answer to which none of the officers seems to know definitely. Colonel George A. Eberly, commanding officer, said that he thought it would be at least ten days and possibly a much longer time.

Four United States army officers are now at Fort Crook to aid in mustering the men out. They are Captains Bates, James, King and Irvington. The work of mustering out the soldiers is in fact not a mustering out in the true meaning of the term. Strictly speaking it is a "release from federal duty," the officers and men going back to the National Guard for the term of their enlistment.

The first work in the process is the making out of the muster rolls. This has already been accomplished by the officers of each of the companies. This will be followed by a physical examination in which all physical as well as mental defects will be noted. This is done so as to protect the government in case any of the officers or men afterwards apply for pensions.

Next will follow the real mustering out. This consists of the counting of the property. Everything issued to any of the soldiers must be checked and accounted for. Each soldier has a hundred and one odd things that must be accounted for.

(Continued on Page Three, Column One.)