

EXPLOSION SHUTS DOWN POWER LINE

Short Circuit in Electric Line Ignites Escaping Gas in Street Manhole and Business Section Is in Darkness.

WORKMEN NARROWLY ESCAPE FROM INJURY

Several Days Will Be Required To Make All Repairs—Special Officers Guard Valuable Stocks in Stores.

Two explosions of illuminating gas in a street manhole at Ninth and Jones streets yesterday afternoon tore open underground light circuits of the Nebraska Power & Light company, resulting in the stoppage of electric power for two hours.

The circuits were partially repaired and power for illumination of buildings was switched on at 4:30, 15 minutes following the second explosion. The first detonation occurred at 2:30.

Street lights and current for power were discontinued last night. Firemen are called.

A fire alarm was turned in. Firemen had difficulty extinguishing smoldering fires along the underground openings.

Elevator service was curtailed in many of the buildings. Department stores were without lights during the period of the trouble.

Officials of the Nebraska Power company were at the scene of the trouble and directed workmen in repairing the broken circuits.

Employees in wholesale houses in the vicinity of the explosions rushed to the streets in fear that a tornado or possibly an earth tremor had occurred.

Buildings Are Shaken. John Deere Plow company building, Tenth and Jones streets, was shaken by the force of the explosion.

Crossed wires in the underground openings, causing a short circuit, was the probable cause of the explosion of gas from leaky mains.

Investigation to Be Made. Evidence of the explosions indicate that the circuit openings had been closed at both ends of the system, thereby causing confinement of gas, firemen said.

Nebraska Power company officials were unaware that both ends of the circuit systems were closed, Mr. Byrne said. An investigation will probably result.

The force of the first explosion tore several lead lines, protecting power circuits, to pieces. The switch pedestals on the curbing near the manhole were torn from their bases.

Spasmodic explosions along the openings occurred while firemen were flooding the hole with water.

Residents Get Light. Residents districts of the city were kept supplied with power from substations in various parts of the city.

Electricians were at work in the manhole repairing cables shortly before the first explosion. Two workmen were just emerging from the pit and narrowly escaped effects of the detonation when the switch pedestals were torn loose.

Three-Cent Postage May Be Necessary to Raise Pay of Postal Clerks

Chicago Tribune-Omaha Bee Leased Wire. Chicago, March 15.—Along with higher rents, costlier clothing, increased street car fare and everything else, the country may soon see a return to three-cent postage on first class letter mail.

Some mailboxes soon be done to provide additional wages for postal clerks and other employees, officials say. Hundreds of them are resigning to engage in more profitable work and the service is becoming badly crippled.

Experts say it requires three years to take the raw material and work up an efficient postal clerk with the force being shot up constantly by resignations, there is a prospect that all lines of business will be badly hampered unless the pay is made attractive enough to hold the men.

A delegation representing the clerks will soon go before congress and acquaint that body with conditions in Chicago which are said to be the worst in the country. The three-cent postage plan meets with most favor.

Payne Sworn in Monday As Secretary of Interior

Washington, March 15.—John Barton Payne retired Monday as chairman of the Shipping board and was sworn in as secretary of the Interior, succeeding Franklin K. Lane, who retired, March 11.

Payne was replaced on the Shipping board by Rear Admiral William S. Benson, retired.

Turkish Peace Delegates. Constantinople, March 15.—Appointment of Turkish peace delegates is announced. The delegation will be headed by Tewfik Pasha, former foreign minister.

Fifty-Fifty Relationship Between U. S. and France Premier Millerand's Hope

Declares Two Nations "Must Continue the Close Friendship Which Has Always Been Maintained"—"No Fleeting Misunderstandings Must Be Allowed to Trouble Their Relations."

Paris, March 15.—Premier Millerand today put aside the German crisis long enough to discuss relations between France and the United States and conditions of international credit. He said to a representative of the Associated Press: "France and the United States must continue the close friendship which always has been maintained. No fleeting misunderstanding must be allowed to trouble their relations. The sooner misconceptions are dispelled the better."

It appears to me an opportune time to recall to our friend, the United States, that France is not asking for charity. The greater part of money France borrowed abroad was spent in the common interest of all civilized countries—a fact which might form the basis of a claim for special consideration, but such is not our intention. "We don't request cancellation of our debt." "We only ask time to breathe and to recover our strength after four and a half years of exhausting war. Our propositions are those which we should feel right in making in the interest of both himself and his creditor."

Hopes to Increase Exports. "We ask nothing better than increased exports. We must first, however, manufacture and we can't make the things for foreign trade until we have factories in which to manufacture them. Do our American friends lose sight of the extent of the devastation of the richest part of our territory; do they forget that we are still partly paralyzed and that it will require years to regenerate our wasted manpower and restore the former flourishing manufacturing centers?"

The war cost us 600,000 industrial workers, 600,000 of our buildings were destroyed, regions were ruined which in 1913 gave us 90 per cent of our wool, 90 per cent of linen thread, 90 per cent of our pig iron, 70 per cent of our sugar and 53 per cent of our coal.

The war wasted our railroads to an unimaginable extent. Thirty per cent of our merchant fleet was sunk and our wheat production was diminished two-thirds, involving a deficit of 2,000,000,000 francs. These catastrophic changes were a blow to the very base of the economic and financial situation of France."

Refers to Ruinous Exchange. The premier referred to the ruinous fluctuations in exchange, which he held would be aggravated rather than palliated through measures proposed by France by those not taking sufficient account of interior conditions.

"If France is obliged to meet her obligations abroad at the present rate of exchange she will be forced to pay a and a half times what she owes," he continued. "Thus, after spending for the common good 30,000,000,000 francs borrowed from

OMAHA WOMAN PROSTRATED BY COURT SENTENCE

Mrs. Katherine Hammond Granted Leniency in Contempt Case.

Lincoln, March 15.—(Special Telegram.)—Standing before the bar of the supreme court Monday to receive the sentence of the court for contempt, Mrs. Katherine Hammond of Omaha, when she heard the sentence, fainted in the arms of her attorney and was taken from the room.

Mrs. Hammond had been cited to appear two weeks ago to answer to the charge of taking her grandson, the son of her daughter, V. Hammond and his divorced wife, out of the jurisdiction of the court and spiriting him away.

The court withheld sentence and when Mrs. Hammond appeared she was called before the tribunal of justice by Chief Justice Morrissey, who was present.

"The court has reached the conclusion that M. O. Cunningham, attorney for Mrs. Katherine Hammond, is not guilty of wrongdoing in the matter and is therefore purged of any complicity in having the child taken from his mother, and there will be no penalty attached except that of paying the costs in this action, and as for your son, the further judgment of the court will be withheld to him as the main offender, until he can be brought into court."

The court has been unable to locate Mr. Hammond, who is said to be either in Wyoming or Canada.

Germans Are Successful in Schleswig Plebiscite

Copenhagen, March 15.—Latest unofficial figures relative to the plebiscite held yesterday in the second zone of Schleswig show that 13,025 votes were cast for Denmark, while 48,148 were in favor of German control. The districts of Gotting, Hedehusum and Uetersum show Danish majorities. Results in four districts have not been learned.

Ministers Request "Sins of the Flesh" Be Not Forbidden

Chicago Tribune-Omaha Bee Leased Wire. Chicago, March 15.—Methodist ministers are tagging at the leash proposed by paragraph 280 of the general laws of the church, which deals with "imprudent acts." At a meeting of 150 pastors Monday there was not a dissenting vote when a resolution passed, asking that paragraph 280 be abolished.

This law forbids ministers attending theaters, indulging in alcohol, dancing, card-playing and gambling. Twelve ministers expressed their views, all to the same effect, which may be summarized as follows:

"This law does not help the church. On the contrary, it keeps away persons who otherwise might belong to the church. Ministers are human and appreciate the enjoyment derived from theaters—and other things."

Congregational ministers at their meeting decided to lose no time in raising their \$3,000,000 quota for the benefit of the new inter-church movement. Eight millions of the \$11,000,000 quota of the Congregational church was raised at a recent drive and it is believed the \$3,000,000 still required will be speedily brought in.

ARTICLE TEN RESERVATION IS ADOPTED

Senators Reaffirm Disagreement With President Wilson On Dominating Issue in Treaty Controversy.

14 DEMOCRATS SWITCH OVER TO REPUBLICANS

Senate's Decision Accepted Generally as Hastening Versailles Peace Pact Toward Another Deadlock.

By ARTHUR SEARS HENNING. Chicago Tribune-Omaha Bee Leased Wire. Washington, March 15.—Although the senate today adopted the new Lodge reservation to article 10 of the league of nations covenant by a vote of 56 to 26, one man, the senator who suggested it, made by the United States that France could raise the value of the franc by increasing exports, the premier said that the question appeared to be imperfectly understood by the American people.

Senators Reaffirm Disagreement. "We have given our blood, we have given our money. To ask us now to give more than double our debt is an anomaly that cannot fail to strike the most impartial judges. After mentioning the suggestion made by the United States that France could raise the value of the franc by increasing exports, the premier said that the question appeared to be imperfectly understood by the American people."

Hope to Increase Exports. "We ask nothing better than increased exports. We must first, however, manufacture and we can't make the things for foreign trade until we have factories in which to manufacture them. Do our American friends lose sight of the extent of the devastation of the richest part of our territory; do they forget that we are still partly paralyzed and that it will require years to regenerate our wasted manpower and restore the former flourishing manufacturing centers?"

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Love Me—Love My Dog



NO PASSPORTS HOLD UP THIRSTY BOUND FOR CUBA

State Department Without a Head for First Time in History.

Chicago Tribune-Omaha Bee Leased Wire. Washington, March 15.—For the first time in American history, the State department is without a head.

Acting Secretary of State Polk, serving under the law for 30 days since the resignation of Mr. Lansing, reverted today to his own office of under-secretary and the senate's delay in confirming the appointment of Bainbridge Colby leaves the cabinet office vacant.

Until the office is filled no one can leave the United States for a foreign country because there is no one to sign passports.

Scores of congressmen discovered this today when they sought to get passports to Europe, Cuba, South America and other places for constituents.

No One to Sign Passports. "Is there no one to sign passports?" asked one congressman at the passport bureau.

"No one," was the reply. "Why can't the president sign them?" he asked.

"Maybe he could, but he's not signing any today," was the response.

It further developed today that the president had been advised by the attorney general that he could not designate another cabinet officer under the Overman act to serve temporarily as head of the State department. The department of Justice held that the act provided for changes of cabinet jurisdiction only for conduct of the war.

Not at War, Yet No Peace. This interpretation involved the conclusion that the government is not now conducting a war, although there has been no declaration of peace, in contrast to the opinion held last fall when the Lever act, another war measure, was used as an instrument against the coal strike.

The president, it is understood, had planned to name Secretary of War Baker as temporary secretary of state under the Overman act, but the attorney general's opinion put an end to this.

The senate foreign-relations committee did nothing today with the Colby nomination and the prospect is that there will be no secretary of state for some time.

Meanwhile the exodus of the thirsty to Cuba and tours to Europe are held up.

Dramatic Art Student Arrested in Lincoln For "Shoplifting"

Lincoln, Neb., March 15.—(Special Telegram.)—Love of fine clothes is the reason given by pretty Mona Banca, 17-year-old student of dramatic art, for the theft of \$700 worth of clothing from stores here, in a case closing to police. The loot was recovered in her room.

Suits, shoes, silk hose and silk tights bears in large quantities were found in her room. All were identified as having been stolen from Lincoln stores.

Miss Banca's home is in North Loop Neb., where her father is a prominent business man.

60-Mile Gale Demolishes Airplane on McCook Field

McCook, Neb., March 15.—(Special Telegram.)—A new Curtiss airplane recently purchased by J. E. Brumley and housed in a hangar on the municipal landing field was overturned and completely destroyed by a 60-mile gale which blew here Sunday night and Monday. Five store fronts were blown in and many houses had windows destroyed by the high wind.

Sprightly Models Lament Passing Of "Perfect 36"

Chicago Tribune-Omaha Bee Leased Wire. Chicago, March 15.—Farewell to the "perfect thirty-sixes." Fashion designers have put the delectable creatures out of the running, at least for this season, and there is much lamentation among the sprightly models who formerly swept majestically up and down in front of the buyers.

"There ain't no such a thing as a feminine form today," wailed Gertie, one of the models. "A lady might as well be a barrel of sater kraut as a perfect thirty-six." A classy built dame can't show the styles no more. What they need for a model is a circus freak—Rubina, the rubber lady, or something like that. She's gotta have a spaghetti spine, double joints and accordion-pleated muscles to fit into more than one gown a year."

Gertie is right. There are two ways to follow the fashions this year. One is to follow them all the way. In the morning mid-lady will need a slim, wasp-waist in the afternoon she will require a few curves, and in the evening she will have to be as straight as a ramrod. As for the gowhs displayed at the opening of the Fashion Art league, one must be a mathematician to guess whether the forms they encase are spheres, hemispheres, parabolas or comet-like wisps of atmosphere. A thousand dressmakers and designers are attending the convention.

Guard Ex-Kaiser Strictly, Even as He Saws Wood; Crown Prince Keeps Mum

Amerongen, March 15.—The former kaiser was up early Monday. He seemed much calmer and sawed wood three hours.

The former empress is well again. The guard about the castle is very strict.

A high government official assured the Associated Press: "The allies and the world may safely rely upon Holland to guard the ex-kaiser, though no more measures will be taken than are necessary to prevent his escape."

Wieringen, Holland, March 15.—Frederick William, the former German crown prince, who is very ill, served in expressing his ideas about the counter revolution, seems to be entirely unperturbed. He may go wherever he likes about the island.

Subcommittee Completes Draft of Naval Measure

Washington, March 15.—The house subcommittee has completed its draft of the naval appropriation bill carrying approximately \$400,000,000. The bill will be submitted to the full committee Tuesday.

New Hungary Cabinet. Budapest, March 15.—Alexander Simonyi Semeden, who last week was asked to form a cabinet, will submit to Admiral Horty, the new regent, names of persons he has chosen. He will be premier and minister of the interior.

Rocky Mountain States Suffer Badly by Storm

Denver, Colo., March 15.—Stripped of heavy property damage, crippled wire service, snow slides and a blizzard came into Denver in the wake of a heavy wind storm which swept the Rocky Mountain states all of Sunday, Sunday night and Monday. The wind is dying down.

Food for Europe Assured. Washington, March 15.—Food relief for Europe was assured when the house passed overwhelmingly a bill permitting the United States Grain corporation to sell 5,000,000 barrels of soft wheat flour on long term credits to Poland, Austria and Armenia.

The Weather Forecast. Iowa—Partly cloudy Tuesday and Wednesday; cooler Tuesday.

Nebraska—Generally fair Tuesday and Wednesday; colder in east Tuesday.

Hourly Temperatures. 5 a. m. ... 36 10 a. m. ... 40 4 p. m. ... 44 8 p. m. ... 40

REVOLUTION IN GERMANY IS AT AN END

Basis of Agreement Reached Between Governments of Kapp and Ebert, the Latter To Retain Presidency.

JOINT DECLARATION IS ISSUED AGAINST STRIKE

Walkouts and General Disorder Following Appeal to Workmen Brings Two Factions Into Accord.

Berlin, March 15.—The counter revolution in Germany appears tonight to have reached the end of the road. There is a strong probability that shortly one government will be in control and that President Ebert will come back to Berlin with his ministers.

A basis of agreement between the government set up by Dr. Wolfgang Kapp as chancellor and that of President Ebert is announced in a declaration issued by the present government today.

The significant clause in the pronouncement is that negotiations toward a settlement have been opened between the two governments at the instance of President Ebert and his associates. There is, however, no direct confirmation of this from Ebert, who is understood to be at Stuttgart.

Chancellor Kapp is agreeable to continuation of the "present imperial president," who is Friedrich Ebert; he renounces formation of a new ministry and places direction of affairs in the hands of the under-secretaries of state.

Agreement of Kapp. The agreement as set forth by Chancellor Kapp provides for a cabinet, which shall include professional ministers, or experts; elections within two months for members of the reichstag and the Prussian national assembly and subsequently an election for "imperial president" by the people—until which time Ebert shall hold office.

One time clause in the pronouncement says "the new and old governments shall issue a joint declaration that under present conditions a general strike is a crime against the German people."

Herein lies the explanation of the proposed settlement for the general strike has proved an effective weapon. Germany already has left its sinister effect, for the strike in Berlin and many other principal cities has cut off supplies, telephone, light and heat.

Ebert Called Out Workers. It was President Ebert and his ministers who called on the socialists to work and all the people to declare a general strike, and there was an instant response. Labor fiercely resisted usurpation of the reactionary government. Vast numbers of men left their work and serious disorders occurred.

Notwithstanding the government threat, it has been evident that Dr. Kapp nor Major General Von Luetwitz was willing to put his warnings to test. Bloodshed would have been inevitable, plunging the country possibly into a state of anarchy and giving communists the opportunity they had

Dismissal of Grammer Appeal Is Asked by Nebraska Attorney

Lincoln, Neb., March 15.—(Special.)—The attorney general's office has filed motion in the United States circuit court in St. Louis for the dismissal of the appeal of Allen Vincent Grammer, stating that the proper jurisdiction lies in direct appeal to the federal court and not the circuit court.

The case went to the United States circuit court from the federal court here, where Grammer was denied a writ of habeas corpus on the grounds that he is being detained and under death sentence without due process of law bringing out errors in the Howard county district court.

Grammer, with Alton B. Cole, was convicted of the murder of Grammer's mother-in-law, Mrs. Lulu Vogt near Elba, Neb.

The attorney general's office made a previous effort to have Grammer dismissed on the grounds that the appeal was frivolous, the motion being denied, and the case set for the May term of the circuit court.

The latest motion of the attorney general will be argued next Thursday by Assistant Attorney General Dorr.

Wood Leads Opponents in Minnesota Primary

St. Paul, March 15.—When returns from last night's state-wide republican presidential preference primary were halted early today by a blizzard which paralyzed wire communication, Major General Leonard Wood was maintaining a commanding lead over Senator Hiram Johnson of California. The vote from about 450 precincts, including a majority of the St. Paul and Minneapolis precincts was: Wood, 12,627; Johnson, 8,517; Hoover, 4,486; and Lowden, 3,510.