

Fiume Blockade Is Compared to Movie Comedy

But to Tired People of Little State, Siege Borders on Tragedy—Inhabitants Face Starvation.

By FRAZIER HUNT. Chicago Tribune Cable, Copyright 1920. Fiume, Dec. 22.—(By Courier to Venice).—The stage is all set here for a fine old-fashioned motion picture war. It is billed as a comedy, and yet any moment may turn it into a tragedy.

At midnight the Italian government announces a blockade and at daybreak d'Annunzio declares war. From his one-time Hungarian palace on a hill overlooking this long-disputed harbor, he vows to defend Fiume "for Italy against Italy" until the curtain drops.

If it is to live, the poet warrior thunders in his latest proclamation, "Fiume will live only in the splendor of the flag of Italy. If it is to die, Fiume will die only as sacrifice to the flag of Italy."

This is all high comedy to the outside. But to the poor, tired people of this heart-throbbing little state there is mighty little of comedy about it.

"Wh, will save us from our savors?" they try to ask with a smile—but it is a pitiful smile.

Music Pleasant. It is late afternoon as I write and a battalion of legionnaires under full war equipment just marched by behind a band on their way to the front. There is plenty of music here, for after all a motion picture war must have its music.

On the surface, everything is calm and peaceful. The coffee houses are full of d'Annunzio's soldiers playing billiards or cards and arguing the tops of their voices in an effort to drive away the monotony of the streets there is plenty of a ruffing and lovelorning. There is no terrifying tension as yet, and the air is free from any apparent suspicion of impending tragedy.

Yet tragedy may be near, for d'Annunzio has declared war upon Italy and this man, poet as he is, is the same man who had the power and the push to bring Italy into the great war.

Fiume Tired of Struggle. But Fiume is tired of it all! She is fed up to her ears on war and on d'Annunzio and on his dashing soldiers and on blockades. Broken, half fed, discouraged with her harbor and factories routine, she is tired to take this last war very seriously.

She has seen d'Annunzio threaten war before. She knows her merchants will grow a little poorer, her beautiful port a little rustier, and her children a little hungrier.

She simply wants what she thinks is hers. She once welcomed d'Annunzio, but now she gratefully would build him a statue if he would only leave.

In the tired hearts of these people of Fiume there is more than a little fear. If Italy's blockade proves to be real, within a week there will be 40,000 starving people here. This is the real danger which may turn this comedy into a tragedy, for once starving, these people, cowed and broken today, would turn into desperate street mobs and there would be killing enough then to suit anyone.

Little Chance of Real War. Certainly there is little chance for actual warfare between d'Annunzio's 5,000 legionnaires and the Italian troops. Few people here in their heart believe in the Rome government would dare to try open war upon d'Annunzio. No strong army appeal to put him back, and much of a hero is he to the whole army, if the soldiers were ordered against him, they probably would desert to him.

This is true as well of the navy. Five destroyers deters sleep along the Fiume coast, but he is the great hero of Italian sailors.

The majority here believe that things will slip and slide along with more compromises and more shifting of gears. Fiume frankly is cynical. The rank and file of the legionnaires are gay and unconcerned.

Only d'Annunzio and his immediate staff are taking themselves seriously. But even comedians must do that.

All foreigners have been ordered to leave the city by 6 o'clock tomorrow night. Trains have stopped running and the only known way out is by foot. I expect to leave tomorrow. In the meantime I am enjoying the comedy from a good seat.

Fish Transferred From Farm Lake at Table Rock. Table Rock, Neb., Dec. 26.—(Special).—The upper lake on the Wopata farm north of town was drained and many pounds of fish taken from the bed. The carp have been given away but the channel cat, bass, crappie and other valuable fish have been put into a new lake, which Mr. Wopata has formed.

The lower lake also will be drained and the fish of a high grade saved. This lake was stocked with bass, crappie and cat fish by a company of Table Rock men. The late Charles S. Wood stocked the upper lake. Thousands of young fish were put into these two lakes.

Body of Humboldt Soldier Arrives at Hoboken, N. J. Table Rock, Neb., Dec. 26.—(Special).—Word has been received by members of the family that the body of Ukke Harms, one of Humboldt's soldiers who died on the battle fields of France, has reached Hoboken, N. J., and is now on its way to Humboldt. On arrival the body will be met by members of Humboldt post No. 269, American Legion, and held to rest with military honors.

Cut in Wages Announced. Sutton, Neb., Dec. 26.—(Special).—The city council, on recommendation of Mayor Scott, has given notice to all day-laborers employed by the city that their pay will be cut to 40 cents an hour on and after January first. This is a reduction of 30 per cent.

Lighting Fixtures—Grauden Electric Co. formerly Burgess-Grandon Co.—Adv.

Leases Home in Reno; Divorce Rumor Grows



It is reported from Reno, Nev., that John D. Spreckels, Jr., wife of the wealthy Californian, has leased a residence there as "Mrs. Smith." Last October, Mrs. Spreckels' visit to London was suddenly terminated by the disappearance of \$100,000 worth of jewels entrusted by her to Captain William Barrett, former husband of Alice Drexel of Philadelphia. Barrett, to whom the jewels were given to have them cleaned and reset, was located in Los Angeles after his departure. He was released by the Los Angeles police because of insufficient evidence.

Santa Charters Fast Trains To Take Gifts to Girl Invalid

Employees of Illinois Central Raise Fund to Provide Happy Christmas for Lass Chained to Bed for Last Six Years—Chicago Prisoners Enjoy Real Yuletide Feed.

Chicago Tribune-Omaha, Dec. 26.—Santa Claus chartered two of the Illinois Central's fastest passenger trains and brought them to an abrupt halt before a lonely little farm house near the village of LaCade, in Effingham county, while delegations of Illinois Central trainmen carried their gifts into the home of Lottie Sprouse, 18, invalid.

For six years, Lottie has carried on a "romance" with trainmen of the Illinois Central, although her identity was unknown to them until a few months ago. When 12 years old the girl was stricken with infantile paralysis and was rendered helpless. Coincident with this misfortune her father met with financial reverses and the child could not be treated.

Waves to Trainmen. From a cot near a window in her home, six years ago, she began waving at trainmen as they whizzed by. During the last two years she has not missed waving at a single train, even signaling those at night with a lighted match. Trainmen considered it a duty to "wave at the arm in the window." Recently they investigated and found the young woman helpless, with her parents unable to assist her.

Over the Illinois division the trainmen passed the word, and a fund was subscribed. The trainmen named two committees, one from Champaign and the other from Centralia.

Shortly after 2 o'clock the train

of complexity in the robbery. Lukins refused to name the man who had helped him, and says he was "railroaded" for murder.

On entering the penitentiary, Lukins set out to get affidavits covering every day of his life. He now has these letters, including one he says, from Governor Sprong of Pennsylvania vouching for the good name of his family. He has other letters from relatives covering his youth and more recent letters from his former employers. J. L. McIntosh, former mayor of St. Paul, has written to him saying that he would not make efforts to prevent his parole. Radcliff's letter is of the same sort.

Employed as Photographer. During the first year at the prison, Lukins was employed as a photographer for the rogues gallery. He was employed to write the catalogues for the prison furniture factory.

He is now employed as prison librarian. Warden Fetton says he has been an ideal prisoner and that he is highly recommended for parole.

Lukins is the author of a book entitled "A Modern Prison." More than 2,000 copies have been sold. The money went into the prison amusement fund.

In addition to studying business, advertising and letter writing, Lukins has spent some time studying law. He has a complete set of student law books.

His case probably will be one of the first to be brought to the attention of the state board of pardons. Mr. McFadden has volunteered to present Lukins' case to the board.

Writes a Poem Every Day. Claud E. Burton, a London journalist of prominence, claims to have published more verses than any other man living. For 20 years he has written an average of one poem a day, or a total of 6,300 poems.

Burglars Loot Vault In Office of Sheriff. Milwaukee, Wis., Dec. 26.—Burglars looted the vault in the sheriff's office at the county jail here and took \$1750, which had been placed there for safekeeping by Joseph Suber, turnkey.

Small Reduction Anticipated in Building Costs

Expert Says Price of Erecting Houses Will Be 30 or 40 Per Cent Less Than Six Months Ago.

The cost of building will be only 30 to 40 per cent less next spring than it was six months ago, according to W. Boyd Jones, head of the construction department of H. M. Builders, Inc., in an article appearing in the January number of the bulletin published by the firm.

Mr. Jones states that a house which would have cost \$3,000 to build in 1916, \$4,500 in 1919 and \$7,500 in July, 1920, will cost approximately \$4,500 in the spring of 1921, or about the same as the 1919 price.

Omaha Underbuilt. The article continues: "At the recent 'Onward Omaha' meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, 1,500 men of Omaha unanimously agreed to help boost the city's population to a million. Can you picture in your mind's eye five times everything about Omaha, this picture can you imagine the buildings which will be necessary? And then, too, Omaha at this time is 40 to 50 per cent underbuilt. It is only a question of days until building operations must start.

Public opinion is gradually coming to the conclusion that present prices cannot be expected on building and real estate. Activity is simply suspended until the public is satisfied that a stable price level has been reached.

Prices Will Advance. "The so-called 'buyers' market' will continue only so long as conditions are at a standstill. When things commence to open up, prices will advance over present quotations. In my best judgment, 60 to 90 days will be the limit in which it will be possible to buy construction materials at the lowest price level. There are many reasons, why prices will not be as low as before the war.

For instance, freight rates were raised 50 per cent during the war, with a further advance of 40 per cent last August—and freight enters largely into the cost of building materials. Then there is the question of labor. All labor is from 70 to 125 per cent higher than before the war and, although there may be a reduction in most lines, the reductions will not average over 25 per cent. It takes only 25 or 30 per cent labor to construct a building.

Arkansas Mob Lynches Negro Who Confessed to Killing Policeman

Jonesboro, Ark., Dec. 26.—Wade Thomas, a negro who last night shot and killed Policeman Elmer Ragland, during a riot in this city, was taken from the jail by a mob of about 400 citizens and after being paraded through the business streets, was hanged to a telegraph pole near the scene of his crime.

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The mob immediately dispersed. A number of negroes held in the jail in connection with the shooting were not molested.

Before being taken from the jail, Thomas was asked to sign the policeman but claimed self-defense.

Paris Bandit Leader Proves to Be Small Boy

New York Times—Chicago Tribune Cable, Copyright, 1920. Paris, Dec. 26.—Torzan, chief of the black-net band, has been arrested with all his followers. His arrest followed the sacking of a candy store and the depositing on the counter of a note demanding \$100,000. "My hand is irresistible," (Signed) "Torzan, Chief."

The exploits of the irresistibles has been many and well planned. When at last they arrested Torzan they found a small boy, 11 years old, named Rene Fournel. All of the band were in their teens and the eldest was 19. In six months they had robbed 20 shops.

Fire Destroys Large Farm Residence Near Stella

Stella, Neb., Dec. 26.—(Special Telegram).—The large residence on the Stella farm was destroyed by fire. None of the household goods in the four rooms of the second story were saved. The house was built 20 years ago and could not be replaced for \$6,000. The loss is partially covered by insurance. The residence was occupied by Mrs. Young's son, William T. Young, and his family. The cause of the fire is undetermined. Mr. Young and his family were in Stella visiting his mother. A neighbor discovered the fire.

200 Mexican Soldiers Are Disarmed Because of Plot

Mexico City, Mexico, Dec. 26.—A reported plot to assassinate General Jose M. Sanchez, candidate for governor in the state of Puebla, caused the disarming of 200 soldiers stationed in the town of Chiantla.

Two men, said to be members of an opposing political faction, have been placed under arrest at Chalchicomula. It is asserted that they were members of the troop that had been disarmed and were sent to kill General Sanchez.

Restful People



"Yes, they're the kind of people who can't play bridge and don't talk." "Put me between them, will you?"

Triangle Club of Princeton Plays To Packed House

Boys of "Old Nassau" Make First Appearance Here in Presenting Musical Comedy Written by Students.

Saturday night was the first night that the Triangle club of Princeton university played in Omaha in its 25 years' history on the stage. But it won't be the last. Not if a "packed" house, wild enthusiasm, the presence of Omaha society in full force and the spirit of "Old Nassau" hovering over all have any power.

"They Never Come Back" is the title of the musical farce comedy presented by the Princeton college chaps and it was good all the way through. The plot hangs together better than the average musical comedy plot, the music is catchy and they are not all the singers had professional voices to sing so well that the audience at times nearly stopped the show in demanding encores. The troupe carries its own orchestra of 16 pieces.

Written by Students. All the dialogue, lyrics and music were written by Princeton boys now in college and every actor in the cast is a Princeton student. If they are as good in "math" and "chem" and the rest of their college studies as they are behind the footlights, they'll never "fink."

A bright and shining star is J. R. Forgan as "Lucky Brewster," leading man of the show and a youth who has the finish of a professional. W. H. Smith, though he is but a freshman, proved himself a comedian of the first order. As "Sylvester," a stupid and stuttering fellow with a foolish grin, he kept the audience in roars of laughter at every appearance.

The Beautiful "Girls." And the "girls," oh, the beautiful "girls!" There were 15 or 20 of them on the stage, ranging from chambermaids to dowagers. Pretty girls, too, though boyish strides and the sturdy brown muscles and sinews seen beneath the Inca dress were among the "ady" mummies" danced were amusing.

E. H. Weaver as "Lord Rollover" and F. T. Corbett as "Lady Rollover" added a great deal to the comedy joyousness of the show.

Followers of college sports noted the presence of Callahan, Princeton foot ball star, in the cast as an "Inca guard."

Visit Guaranteed by Alumni. The first visit of the Triangle club show to Omaha was guaranteed by the Princeton Alumni association of Omaha and there were 100 patriotes of the affair, all Omaha society women.

Extra seats were erected at the rear of the main floor of the theater to accommodate the big audience.

After the show there was a dance at the Fonticelli hotel for the players and the Omaha alumni.

The show started "on the road" December 18 in New York City. The trip includes New York, Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Chicago and Cleveland.

This Old Sofa Could Tell Many Spooing Tales

Birmingham, Ala., Dec. 26.—The following articles were found beneath the back and the cushion of an old sofa on its arrival at a local furniture store to be repaired:

Thirty-five hairpins, 16 suspender buttons, 12 poker chips, four pennies, 36 wads of chewing gum, two mustache combs, eight matches, four cigars, five cut buttons, and last but not least, a small package of "nerve" powder.

An investigation showed that a salesman for the furniture store had purchased the sofa from a man having three unmarried daughters.

German Foreign Trade Relations In Bad Condition

Impossible to Reach Normal Basis Without Revision of Treaty, Chamber of Commerce Says.

By the Associated Press. Hamburg, Dec. 26.—Germany's foreign trade relations suffered disastrously during 1920, the Hamburg Chamber of Commerce says in its annual report. Without revision of the Versailles treaty, the chamber says, it will be impossible for Germany to reach her normal economic and political condition.

There are some signs of the beginning of a better state of conditions in the apparent increased inclination to work and the desire for the better productive results.

"There is a further movement toward improvement of German economic conditions in the overstocking of foreign markets with food and raw stuffs."

The report advises against foreign credits by the Germans "unless stipulations for paying back the loans are clearly prepared."

In Line for Business. It is believed by the chamber that the United States is in a remarkable position for the development of its world trade and it thinks that the Hamburg American line has placed Germany in a position to obtain a share of the expanding business.

German commerce with the South American countries is reported virtually halted. Mexico's policy of official control of foreign trade is claimed responsible for part of the slump in German business there, which has largely been taken over by the United States. The effect of the American blacklist on German goods is seen in the neutral countries of South America, where, according to the report, German firms are finding it almost impossible to get business. Prices which have affected trade, particularly in Colombia. Germans had filled large orders in Colombia, but it is now reported German business there has been shut down. Trade with Guatemala has suffered, as has Venezuela and Dutch West Indies, trade has not greatly suffered. Rather active business has been opened with Ecuador and Peru, but there is little commerce with Chile.

Exports Growing. Export of German iron and hardware to Argentina is developing while Argentine shipments to Germany are restricted to food. German steamers are sailing direct to Argentina and Uruguay.

The United States, adds the report, has improved its trade with Brazil to the detriment of British and German trade. Home industries in Brazil, protected by high tariffs are growing.

Important coffee contracts have been closed with Brazil.

Concerning China the report says "One cannot speak of the reopening of regular business." Export of German machinery to Japan is growing.

The report regrets destruction of German business in the Philippines by the "forcible expropriation of German property."

It expects the American government will not give this priority.

Four Men Escape From Iowa Prison During Program

Search by Poses Fails to Locate Prisoners Who Lowered Themselves From Window by Rope.

Fort Madison, Ia., Dec. 26.—James O. Keele, James Lane, James Cullen and Harry Smith, four members of a gang committed to the state prison here from Lemars, escaped this morning during Christmas ceremonies. Poses searched for the men all day.

Langdon and Courroy, two more members of the gang did not get away, and are still at Fort Madison. The men had been gone about 30 minutes before the escape was discovered. They got out by means of a rope furnished by a member of the dining room force.

Because of a heavy snow storm, the fugitives are not thought to have covered much ground.

James O'Keefe and Harry Smith, two of the convicts who escaped from Iowa prison at Fort Madison, Ia., today were members of a band of four bank robbers who looted a bank at Westfield, Ia., a little town near here a year ago. They were captured by Sioux City police while trying to get into St. Charles, Mo., their loot and taken to the Lemars jail. While in jail four robbers shot their way to liberty, killing the son of Sheriff Maxwell. They were recaptured by a posse a few days later, entered a plea of guilty of murder and all four were given life sentences.

Dance Halls Menace to Girls. Says Club Head

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 26.—Suggesting a minimum age law for girls attending Detroit dance halls, Miss Virginia Mab Murray, head of the Travellers' Aid society, New York City, told Police Commissioner Inches these establishments were a menace to the morals of the city.

The report says the commission was the result of visits to dance halls made Thursday and Friday nights by Miss Murray, Miss Josephine Davis, Detroit policeman, and a patrolman.

Miss Murray said mere children were found dancing with men whom they did not know. Others were found waiting outside for men to "pick them up" and pay their way in. Commissioner Inches said that at present there practically is no police supervision of dance halls.

Boy, 16, Is Youngest Lifer

Wheeling, W. Va., Dec. 26.—Samuel Blevins, 16, of Little Rock, Ark., pleaded guilty in criminal court to the murder of F. C. Grandstaff, a railroad car inspector. He received a life sentence and is the youngest prisoner ever given such a sentence in West Virginia.

Sharp Slump Reported In Moonshine Liquor Market in Carolinas

Chicago Tribune-Omaha Bee Leased Wire. Greenville, S. C., Dec. 26.—Moonshine liquor, common and preferred, has dropped from \$15 to \$5 per quart, with very little demand. The current depression and scarcity of money have rapidly lowered the high cost of liquor. The market in the Carolinas, center of the moonshine industry, is glutted with corn and rye in abundance.

Imports of branded goods have contributed considerably to the decline in the price of domestic moonshine. A good many moonshine factories are reported to be closing down and there are some prospects that liquor will be \$1 a quart by January 1.

Verily it's a Merry Christmas here.

Man Arrested As Firebug by State Officers

Seven Blazes Are Reported to Pennsylvania Authorities In the Vicinity of Brownsville.

Brownsville, Pa., Dec. 26.—Seven fires, believed to have been the work of incendiaries, who have terrorized this section for three months, were reported to the authorities here today.

The fires were started late last night or early today in three residences, two school houses, a church and a barn located in this city, at Albany Hill and at Brazzelle, Jefferson township.

One arrest in connection with the many fires throughout the Westmoreland-Fayette-Washington district was reported by the state police at Uniontown tonight. They said that they had arrested Albert Smith of Fairhope, and would hold him for further investigation. After questioning the prisoner the state police said they thought that through his arrest many of the fires would be explained.

In the seven fires reported today, one residence, that of Harvey Elliott, at Albany Hill, was destroyed. The other fires damaged the South Brownsville school house and the Brownsville Episcopal church in Brownsville, the Heimann farm house, the James Shearer farm house and a barn owned by James Clark at Albany Hill, and the Brazzelle public school at Brazzelle, Jefferson township.

Soon after reports of the fires were received, the Fayette detail of state police assisted by county officers started investigations. Armed patrols were busy throughout this region tonight and the entire district was on the alert, looking for suspects in connection with the fires.

Hardings Spend Quiet Christmas

President-Elect and Wife Entertain Newspaper Correspondents at Dinner.

Marion, O., Dec. 26.—President elect and Mrs. Harding celebrated Christmas by opening hundreds of Christmas presents received from all parts of the country and by entertaining newspaper correspondents at dinner.

It was the first Christmas Senator and Mrs. Harding had spent in their Marion home in five years.

No political conferences were held today and the special devices to rest and the celebration of the holiday. The presents received by the senator ranged from cigars to Georgia possums.

Little Betty Sparkes, 6, and her sister, Dorothy, 3, daughters of one of the newspaper correspondents, were the special guests of the president-elect and about them Senator Harding's Christmas celebration centered.

The two little girls occupied a place of honor at the senator's side at dinner and later posed for moving pictures with the president-elect. The newspaper correspondents and the youngsters spent most of the day at the Harding home.

Late in the afternoon Senator Harding made several calls on old family friends.

Night Flying Between England and Continent Is Assured Fact Soon

London, Dec. 26.—Night flying between England and the continent will be an assured fact in the near future, according to Major General Sir Evelyn Baring, controller of civil aviation. Experiments already successfully carried out and rapid progress now going on in perfecting night landing devices, forecast the day when regular night cross-channel passenger service will be an integral part of the aerial transport system.

Experimental lighthouses at Croydon, one of the chief London aerial terminals for the London-Paris services, have been a success and additional ones are being installed as rapidly as possible along the route. Powerful searchlights will also be used to assist pilots in landing. The new aeroplanes owned by the London and Paris business men will be classed as air commuters, being able to return to their homes in either city in a few hours after their day's work.

Royal Mounted Police Turn Back Rush of Prospectors

Edmonton, Alta., Dec. 26.—Enforcing the grub-stake ordinance of the old Yukon gold stampede Royal Northwest Mounted police are turning back prospectors heading for the Mackenzie mountains. With winter closing in, hundreds of adventurers have set out with pack-trains and dog sleds for the new oil fields at Fort Norman to stake claims before the expected rush starts in the spring. The police are overhauling these argonauts on the trails of the north and are forbidding all to continue the foolhardy journey who are not physically fit to withstand the rigors of an Arctic winter or who are not adequately provisioned.

Many German Families Are Settling at Doorn

London, Dec. 26.—According to a report received here from Amsterdam the residents of Doorn, where the ex-kaiser is living, are in a state of uneasiness owing to the constantly increasing crowd of Germans who are settling down there.

It is declared that a great number of members of the German aristocracy are buying up old Dutch manors, and Doorn is called in the Dutch satirical papers "a branch office of Potsdam."

Advance Newberry Case

Washington, Dec. 26.—The supreme court has advanced to January 3 arguments in the case of Senator Truman Newberry of Michigan, and others convicted of violation of the corrupt practices act.