

Idle Men Blamed for Disaster

Officials of Plant Near Chicago Wrecked by Dynamite Lay Responsibility on Union Workers.

Fear Future Trouble

Chicago, Feb. 26.—Plotters caused the \$1,000,000 dynamite explosion which shook Chicago and its suburbs Friday.

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Accidental explosion of the 30 tons of dynamite was impossible, according to Mr. Perbolmer. The explosive was stored in a remote, heavily barred, solid magazine. It contained little gelatin and must, therefore, have been set off deliberately.

The assistant marshal was indignant over the fact that the magazine containing enough to rock the whole city was not guarded.

The men who set off the explosive were able to do so without much difficulty, he said, because no watchmen were near the place.

"This is not the Consumers company's fault," he said, "since the law does not demand such precautions, but the law should be changed."

The tremendous blast was felt through an area 20 miles square, and the damage was so widespread that it probably never can be reckoned definitely in dollars and cents.

Thousands of windows were broken; stock was damaged in hundreds of stores and factories; scores of buildings were severely shaken; railroads were obstructed, and if sleep is worth anything at all, Chicago is out about 6,000,000 hours of it.

By miraculous luck, no lives were lost in the explosion. A theater audience was panic stricken, a Chicago-bound train just missed the downpour of tons of rock and dirt, and many houses came near collapsing when their sleeping occupants, but no one was killed.

Policeman Shot. Indeed, the most serious personal injury reported was only indirectly due to the explosion. Policeman Michael Forgan of Argo was shot through the head and perhaps fatally wounded by bandits who tried to get past him into the Summit State bank, a little after midnight.

The window of the bank had been shattered and Forgan was keeping an eye on the place. The bandits drove up in an automobile and blazed away at him. He fell, but the robbers evidently were frightened by their own work, for they fled without trying to enter the bank.

Farmer Owners to Take Over Wolbach Department Store. Wolbach, Feb. 26.—(Special.)—A deal has been closed in which H. C. High disposed of his department store in this city to Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Greer, former owners of the business.

Cow Kicks Over Lantern. Barn and Contents Burn. Wolbach, Feb. 26.—(Special.)—A cow kicking over a lighted lantern was the cause of Hans Schrum, a farmer residing between Wolbach and Brayton, losing his barn by fire.

Lancaster Grand Jury Dismissed by Judge. Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 26.—The grand jury for Lancaster county, called a month ago at the suggestion of Attorney General Davis, was discharged by District Judge Frederick Shepherd late Saturday after it had handed in 12 new indictments.

Bad Weather Promised For Wedding of Princess

Unfavorable Forecast Fails to Lessen Interest in Marriage of British Royalty, Scheduled for Tuesday—Thousands of Visitors Flock to London and Lodgings Already at Premium.

London, Feb. 26.—The air ministry's weather forecast of dull, rainy weather for the first few days has failed to lessen popular enthusiasm over Tuesday's great event—the wedding of Princess Mary to Viscount Lascelles in Westminster Abbey.

It is fairly certain that a combination of one of London's worst fog and a torrential downpour would not prevent multitudes from lining the route which is to be traversed by the state carriages bearing the bride-elect and King George and Queen Mary to the Abbey.

Against the vagaries of the weather waterproof shelters have been provided for the several stands in front of Buckingham palace, whence the procession will start, and about the west door of the Abbey. Should the skies be of modish "Mary blue," the state processions, which are to be part of the elaborate wedding ceremony and the beautiful gowns of the wedding guests will afford the populace a spectacle of surpassing elegance.

The carefully selected toilettes of the more than 1,000 women guests will make of the event a gorgeous show of gowns, jewels and other fineries.

Hotels All Crowded. The hotels and restaurants are crowded and tonight it was more difficult to find lodgings, even in the humblest of establishments than at any time since the coronation of King George. The west end restaurants and clubs have labored in their endeavors to cope with the avalanche of patrons, the numbers of which are being increased hourly by excursionists from all parts of the kingdom and continent.

Clue in Taylor Mystery Leads to San Francisco

Telephone Call by Actress Latest Lead in Film Murder—Looking for Man in Case.

By EDWARD DOHERTY. Omaha Bee Local Wire. Los Angeles, Feb. 26.—The latest clue to the murderer of William Desmond Taylor, moving picture director, slain in his home February 1, led to San Francisco, and a woman, an actress.

On the night of February 1, this woman phoned to some one in San Francisco, saying: "I'm in trouble; come down and help me."

The woman is one of those who have been questioned about the slaying of Taylor. She declared she had heard of the slaying on Thursday morning, after the body had been found.

Yet her conversation of the night before would indicate that she did not know about the murder, and further, that she feared she might be implicated.

Detective Sergeant Herman Cline was sent to San Francisco by District Attorney Thomas Lee Woolwine.

It is declared that the authorities already have checked up on this end of the wire, got all the information they could about the woman, her relations with Taylor, where she was on the night of the murder, and what she has done since then.

Looking for Man. Cline, it is said, intends to find the man who came to her aid and question him. Out of this questioning may come an arrest and eventually the solution of the murder.

The actress in question is said to be the one who was enslaved by the narcotic peddlers of Hollywood, and whom Taylor tried to protect.

16 Held at Gun Point by Bandits

Police Near Criminals Operate in Unprecedented Numbers—Eleven Robberies.

Woman Lost Life Savings

Bandits, prowlers and burglars carried on their work relentlessly Saturday night, nine holdups and robberies being reported to police within two hours, starting at 8:30 o'clock.

The police, reinforced by the entire detective bureau, and a fleet of automobiles, manned by citizen-police, were helpless. Automobile loads of police officers, armed with sawed-off shotguns, sped from one crime scene to another.

Sixteen persons at the J. Rosen grocery, Twenty-eighth and Davenport streets, were lined up against the wall by four armed men and relieved of valuables and money.

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Cashier Ordered Back. Two of the bandits, failing to open the cash register, called for the cashier, Pauline Ziegman, to come upstairs from her place of refuge in the cellar to open the register. She hesitated, being afraid.

Club Man With Pistol. J. E. Fitzsimmons, 2785 Capitol avenue, a customer, was struck over the head with the butt of a revolver in the hand of one of the armed crew when he did not hurry fast enough to the cellar. Fitzsimmons walked into the store while it was being robbed.

John F. Duchern, 407 Lincoln boulevard, was relieved of \$8 and a watch, and Philip Helgren, 2773 Davenport street, lost \$9 and a watch.

It is the belief that three different gangs of bandits worked last night. Three groceries and one drug store were robbed.

Victims Locked in Ice Box. At the Newman grocery, 1337 Park avenue, Mr. and Mrs. Julius Newman, and J. W. Vogel were held up and robbed by two men. The bandits obtained \$126 from the cash register. The three were locked in the ice box by the bandits.

The two men, unmasked, walked into the store and joined in a conversation with the Newmans and Vogel. Suddenly one of them stuck a revolver to the head of Newman and demanded they march to the rear of the store.

Rob Proprietor's Wife. Following are other robberies and holdups reported: Benis Park drug store, Thirty-third and Cumby streets, two men walked into this store while two others guarded outside. Mrs. R. L. Tinkham, wife of the proprietor, was in the front part of the store. Her husband was in the rear. He saw them hold up his wife, and became

Texas and Pacific and M. P. to Consolidate. Dallas, Tex., Feb. 26.—The Texas and Pacific and Missouri Pacific railroads are to be consolidated, it was announced by John L. Lancaster, president and receiver of the Texas and Pacific. The statement was made during a brief stop in Dallas of a special train carrying officials of both lines on an inspection tour of the Texas and Pacific system.

Mr. Lancaster said the merger had been in contemplation for several years and declared his belief that it "would make one of the strongest railroad systems in the country. The officials are going over the line in an effort to formulate plans for consolidation, satisfactory to both roads, it was announced.

New G. A. R. Post to Install Officers at Meeting March 4. Lincoln, Feb. 26.—(Special.)—The three G. A. R. posts in Omaha will be consolidated into one with a membership of 147, Assistant Adjutant General Harmon Brown announced today. The name of the new post will be "The Old Guard Post No. 7."

Nebraska Wheat Growers' Body to Be Reorganized. Holdrege, Neb.—Reorganization of the Nebraska Wheat Growers' association in Nebraska will be conducted by Bruce Lamson, organizer of Washington state, it was decided at a meeting here of the state committee of the association. Mr. Lamson already has outlined the plans and will begin work at once.

Burwell Wins Labor Debate From Ord by Two to One. Ord, Neb., Feb. 26.—(Special.)—In a debate held at Burwell between Burwell and Ord, the former won by a two to one vote. The question was: Resolved, That the movement of organized labor for the closed shop should receive the support of public opinion. Burwell upheld the affirmative and Ord the negative.

Gage Deputy Sheriff Files for County Clerk Nomination. Beatrice, Neb., Feb. 26.—(Special.)—Clarence Hiatt, deputy sheriff, yesterday filed for the republican nomination for county clerk. James Poole of Odell filed as a republican candidate for supervisor of the seventh district.

Held for Forgery. York, Neb., Feb. 26.—(Special.)—H. Fitzpatrick, charged with forging two checks on merchants in David City, was arrested here by Chief of Police Neil Olson, on an order from Sheriff West of Butler county. Sheriff West took Fitzpatrick to David City.

How to Put the Bootlegger Out of Business



"Dry" Act Denounced by A. F. of L.

Executive Council Appeals to People to Demand Amendment for Restoration of Beer and Light Wines.

Charge Crime Increase

By GRAFTON WILCOX. Omaha Bee Local Wire. Washington, Feb. 26.—Denouncing the Volstead prohibition enforcement act as "a moral fiasco" and a "dangerous breeder of discontent and contempt for law," the executive council of the American Federation of Labor appealed to the people of the country to demand its amendment to the extent of restoring the lawful use of beer and light wines.

The labor leaders' appeal is a direct effort to make "light wine and beer" a political issue in the forthcoming congressional campaign, its conclusion being as follows: "We urge that all citizens in every walk of life demand from their representatives and senators in Washington immediate relief from the unwarranted restriction contained in the Volstead act; and we likewise suggest to the citizenship of our country the wisdom and advisability of bearing in mind the attitude toward this issue of office holders and aspirants to office in coming elections in order that there may be restored to the people the lawful use of wholesome beer and light wines, which, under the provisions of the 18th amendment, can and should be rightfully declared as non-intoxicating beverages."

Report on Conditions. The declaration of the executive council was reached after deliberations here today in which reports from labor unions throughout the country, statistics of prohibition enforcement, crime and industrial unrest had been given consideration.

Signatories to the declaration, assuming to speak for organized labor of the United States, assert that they are seeking no violation of the prohibition amendment to the constitution, but that they are convinced the Volstead act is an improper interpretation of the amendment, "a drastic and unreasonable interpretation" which has destructive effect in all directions.

Results of Investigation. "Before this decision was reached," reads the appeal, "the executive council of the American Federation of Labor had caused to be made an exhaustive investigation of the effects of the Volstead act. It was shown by this investigation that there had been:

"1. A general disregard of the law among all classes of people including those who made the law. "2. Creation of thousands of moonshiners among both country and city dwellers. "3. The creation of an army of bootleggers.

"4. An amazing increase in the traffic in poisons and deadly concoctions and drugs. "5. An increased rate of insanity, blindness and crime among the users of these concoctions and drugs. "6. Increase in unemployment due to loss of employment by workers in 45 industries directly or indirectly connected with the manufacture of liquor.

"7. Increase in taxes to city, state and national governments amounting to approximately \$1,000,000,000 a year. "8. Having in mind these results of the extreme interpretation of the prohibition amendment contained in the Volstead act, as well as the enormous expense of the attempt to enforce that unenforceable legislation, it is our conclusion that the act is an improper interpretation of the prohibition amendment, that it is a social and moral failure, and that it is a dangerous breeder of discontent and of contempt for law.

"Something of the economic effect of the Volstead law may be seen by considering the fact that in 1918, according to government statistics, \$110,000,000 worth of farm products were consumed by breweries and that the transportation of these products to the market and thence to the consumer necessitated the use of 133,666 railroad cars. In addition to this, breweries in operation in 1918 consumed 50,000 carloads of coal. It must be obvious that the total economic effect of the destruction of this industry is tremendous.

"We do not protest against the 18th amendment to the constitution, which now is a part of the fundamental law of the land. We do not protest against the principle established by the 18th amendment. It is our contention that the 18th amendment, under a reasonable and proper legislative interpretation, would be beneficial to our country and would have the support of the great majority of our people.

"The 18th amendment, however, under the present drastic and unreasonable legislative interpretation, has a destructive and deteriorating effect and influence in every direction.

Lincoln Girl Killed Under Atou Driven by Kearney Man. Lincoln, Feb. 26.—Struck by an automobile driven by Arthur B. Preble, Kearney, Neb., Elizabeth Noldis, 19, was almost instantly killed in the business district of Lincoln this evening. Preble was taken to the police station, but after witnesses of the accident had testified that Miss Noldis had apparently slipped on the pavement and fell in front of the car, he was released.

Former State Bar Head Would Lay Big Tax on Wealth

Speaking at Grand Island, C. G. Ryan Proposes Confiscation of Sums Over \$500,000.

Grand Island, Neb., Feb. 26.—(Special.)—The Chamber of Commerce monthly dinner for February was the largest and best attended and most successful in several years. Each member was to invite a farmer friend as a guest and, as a result, between 300 and 400 filled the floor space of the auditorium at a fine banquet served by the Grand Island Hospital association.

R. B. Howell of Omaha, was originally planned as the speaker for the occasion, but owing to his illness, former Mayor C. G. Ryan of this city, who has given the subject of taxation particular study during the past year, addressed the audience on the question of "Taxation."

Mr. Ryan, formerly president of the Nebraska State Bar association, has become convinced that the individual income tax, equitably graduated, is the most scientific system of taxation, and that somewhere the limit taken by the state should be 100 per cent. The fixing of this limit, he admits, is a question for experts. His own conviction is that when an annual individual income reached \$500,000 the 100 per cent tax should be applied, and that, similarly, with inheritance taxes the 100 per cent limit should be on \$10,000,000 in money or property to any individual.

Says War Has Three Causes. Mr. Ryan bases this conviction largely on the fact that the history of the world has shown three main causes for destructive wars and the overturning of governments: Race, religion and caste. America has, so far, solved the race question better than any other nation. In America, it goes without saying that one's religion is his own. But there is a decided and obvious menace of an autocracy of wealth, he stated.

After the address the members and their guests were entertained by one of the local picture theaters, having first class vaudeville.

Subscribe for Lyceum Course at Benkelman. Benkelman, Neb., Feb. 26.—(Special.)—The Parent-Teacher association has subscribed for a lyceum course of five numbers to be given here next winter. The association is also raising funds to grade and improve the school playgrounds, though this work cannot be begun until after the new school building is erected.

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Wool Supplies Below Normal

Stocks Now Insufficient to Meet Demands, Agricultural Department Report Says.

Washington, Feb. 26.—Many of the wool importing countries of the world have regained normal prewar consuming bases and are converting raw stocks into finished goods at almost the prewar rate, the Department of Agriculture announced today.

The supply in the principal consuming countries "is less than has been recorded for some time," it was announced, "and is insufficient to meet present demand," their inability to obtain stocks being ascribed by the department to "the unsettled economic conditions throughout the world."

"In the United States," the department's statement said, "stocks are probably lighter than in a decade. Stocks of fine wool, for which consumers show a preference despite higher prices, are exceedingly light. The department pointed out that on a normal basis as indicated by the monthly rate of consumption."

"Stocks in Great Britain, France and Germany," the statement added, "are also estimated as lighter than at any time during the past 10 years and mills are running to capacity."

The department pointed out that as demand for wools increased after 1913, world production was not increased in the same proportion "and the present sheep population of the world is only about 90 per cent of the 1913 sheep population."

Production in the United States, exclusive of ulled wool, was said to have decreased from 250,000,000 pounds in 1919 to 224,000,000 pounds in 1921.

Texas Deputy Sheriff Arrested for Murder. Texarkana, Tex., Feb. 26.—Deputy Sheriff W. T. Jordan was arrested today, following his indictment for murder by the Bowie county grand jury in connection with the killing of P. Norman, who was found shot to death two and one-half miles from Texarkana, February 11.

Wrinkle, 95, was found in her home here yesterday with her head cut off. Nearby was the body of her son, 70, and unmarried, with the top of his head hacked away.

A second aged son, B. Wrinkle, also unmarried, was found wandering about the house. He was arrested. The killings apparently took place Friday night. When the neighbors entered the house today they found every piece of furniture in the house taken out and chopped up, and the debris piled on the bodies of the dead man and woman.

Berry Wrinkle has been confined in private hospitals on various occasions during the last few years. County officials said insanity proceedings would be filed against him.

Investigation of Road Building Starts Tuesday

Inquiry Into Charges of Extravagance in Highway Construction Will Open in Lincoln.

Lincoln, Feb. 26.—(Special.)—The road probe authorized by the legislature at its special session opens here Tuesday. The committee has been authorized to delve into all or any part of the state road and bridge and county road and bridge building program in operation in Nebraska since 1917 during which time \$17,500,000 has been expended by counties for road and bridge building, and \$8,000,000 by the state to meet federal aid.

Charges of extravagance in state road building and stories of big profits made by sub-contractors were scattered about the state as the political campaign loomed. The same charges filed by certain county officials against the state road program were tossed back by George Johnson, state engineer, who called for a "show down" which would take in an investigation of state and county road and bridge building.

Since the appointment of an investigation committee Attorney General Clarence A. Davis mailed questionnaires to county clerks asking what part of the various road funds were used for the different county road and bridge building programs. It is known that few clerks have been able to give the information desired although a law passed in 1917 called for keeping such records as the attorney general requested.

Members of the committee are Governor McKelvie, Attorney General Davis, State Auditor George Marsh, State Senators B. K. Bushee and M. F. Rickard, and State Representatives Charles Epperson and Fred Hoffmeister.

Woman and Son Are Murdered in Home

Burlington, Kan., Feb. 26.—Mrs. Jane Wrinkle, 95, was found in her home here yesterday with her head cut off. Nearby was the body of her son, 70, and unmarried, with the top of his head hacked away.

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The Weather

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