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FIGHTING IN BELFAST CONTINUES THIS AFTERNOON AND DEATH TOLL IS HIGH

Orders Break Out Again at Three o'Clock This Afternoon In Stanhope Street Area—British Troops to Be Sent From South Ireland Immediately.

Home to House Fighting. BELFAST, Feb. 15.—House fighting in the suburbs continued fiercely this afternoon. The death toll is now 27. The British military evacuation of many innocent citizens, are succeeding in quelling the disturbances temporarily.

Peace Is Near. LONDON, Feb. 15.—Hope of a peaceful settlement in the Irish crisis seemed near following the announcement by Winston Churchill that he and Michael Collins had effected the release of the fifteen Sinn Féin prisoners in a raid into Ulster. The British military evacuation of Ireland will be resumed tonight.

Disorders Break Out Again. BELFAST, Feb. 15.—Disorders broke out at 3 o'clock this afternoon when shooting began in the Stanhope street area near Victoria bridge. The military opened fire. There were 25 deaths from disorders yesterday. Arrangement for evacuation of British troops from Ireland was resumed today.

Called All Yesterday. LONDON, Feb. 14.—(By the Associated Press)—Shooting continued in Belfast today. Four men were killed and many were wounded. The total casualties since Sunday up to tonight were 22 men killed and more than 60 wounded. The wounded list does not include the cases of many persons injured from minor injuries.

Political Sphere. The political sphere this afternoon was an an

ouncement by Michael Collins, head of the provisional government in Ireland, to Winston Spencer Churchill, the British secretary for the colonies, that Mr. Collins was in a position immediately to obtain release of a number of the kidnapped Ulsterites.

Collins Leaves Dublin. Mr. Collins started from Dublin for London tonight in order to consult with the British government on the situation.

The general convention of the Sinn Féin has been set for February 21 and it is considered in political circles here that a majority vote in favor of the treaty between Ireland and Great Britain will result. Lord Birkenhead, high chancellor, referred in the house of lords tonight to the Irish situation in similar terms to those Mr. Churchill used in recent speeches in the house of commons with regard to the necessity of making allowances because of the restricted powers possessed by the provisional government.

Support Is Advocated. Alluding to Michael Collins' apprehensions of an attempt by extremists to wreck the treaty by methods of violence, Lord Birkenhead declared it was the plain duty of the British government and the obvious dictates of policy, that they should support those men in Ireland who, under almost inconceivable difficulties, were making a courageous attempt to carry out the treaty.

With reference to the suspension of the evacuation of British troops the lord high chancellor said the government considered in the present situation of extreme tension that continuance of evacuation would not now be justified.

Further Discussion Is Hope. Declaring that he still hoped the discussion between Sir James Craig, the Ulster premier, and Michael Collins would be renewed, he said: "We should be deceiving ourselves if we remained blind to the fact that in the next few weeks we are going through the most grave and critical period probably in living memory. I am still of the opinion that if the men in the two countries who are of good intention and desirous to see the treaty succeed will cooperate there is still great prospect that we may be so fortunate."

"The one hope at the moment is that under any provocation and disappointments we should keep cool heads and quiet tongues."

Parallel Seen in Slaying of Taylor And Elwell, Who Lived in Similar Way



Noted Writer Finds Both Men Had Women Admirers—Assassin's Fury Tempted.

By MARGERY REX, International News Service Staff Correspondent. NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—It is easy for the enigma of a man who lives secretly to murder him unseen. In mysterious manner two men who ate the secret bread of pleasure and drank sweet stolen waters have died by the fury of assassins still unknown.

The career of William Desmond Taylor, slain movie director, in life and death paralleled that of "Jim" Elwell, so strangely shot down in his New York home two years ago. Each lived alone and alone each was attacked. From both Taylor and Elwell, in their last moments, someone fled.

Men who shun daylight are apt to make themselves tempting targets for marksmen in the dark. Taylor's leave-taking of life was just as mysterious as his inexplicable departure in 1918 from his wife and child and just as unaccountable as his later change of name, for the dead man was known originally as William Cunningham Deans-Tanner.

Who Was Slayer? Who could have arranged Taylor's clandestine rendezvous with death? Suspicion goes over the list of possibilities. There is, for instance, Edward P. Fonda, the dead man's valet, who robbed his master and whom, one of the feminine stars says, Taylor vowed to kill at sight. And there are the men who are interested in the women Taylor knew. Will one of the brilliant stars of that glamorous world, whose little-known are Cooper-Hewitts, shoot down to earth and be obliterated in the tragedy? Like his prototype Elwell, Taylor was recorded by the opposite sex, but

careed for none constantly. In fact, it is said he was indifferent to love. Interesting, traveled, well-read, a brilliant talker and a discreet confidant, Taylor held the friendship of many women. Whether or not his relations with them were sentimental cannot be determined at this time. But why did he disappear in 1918 from a beautiful wife and daughter, from a host of friends and a gay social circle?

Rover by Nature. Rover by nature, William Deans-Tanner came to New York from Dublin in the late nineties. Movies were unknown to them, and the young Irishman did not dream of the magic lantern which would create a life of splendor for him and for thousands of others.

He was interested in antiques and subjects of art. He entered into that business near Thirtieth street and Fifth avenue at a period when this neighborhood held many small shops with fascinating wares when the Holland House was flourishing and fine old homes and old-fashioned apartment houses had not been superseded by business.

"Florodora" was then in her first fling. Among the pretty girls of that first cast was Ethel May Harrison. They met and married in 1901. Clubs, restaurants, theaters and gay parties drew this restless individual, who because of his additions to a life of pleasure did not cause serious worry to his family when he disappeared in 1918 for what his friends thought would be a short time.

Waved Good-bye to Wife. At the Vanderbilt supper table that year Taylor waved good-bye to his wife. Later sent to their apartment in the Colonial hotel for his clothes, but remained unaccounted for until the movie began to flash across around the world. In this way his friends knew that Taylor was Tanner and not dead by any means. His wife meantime had divorced

him and married Edward Robins, restaurateur, now proprietor of Delmonico's. Tanner, become Taylor, tired of the old life, found new outlet for his whims and roving disposition in the adventures that he directed for the films.

Taylor's associates were men and women whom the screen brought before all of us. We know their mannerisms, their charms and their features as well as those of our own relatives. Mabel Normand was his "pal." Claire Windsor was a friend. Ness Gerber was once engaged to the man, but they decided in a perfectly friendly way not to marry. He admired pretty Mary Miles Minter, famous long ago as "The Littlest Rebel."

Lived Like Elwell. Taylor lived like Elwell did, alone, and his servants went away at night. While this mode of life encourages intrigue not possible in a more open existence, it makes the occupant of a lonely house liable to attack. Blackmailer or murderer could easily gain access to his intended victim.

And, like the slain whist expert, Taylor received young women callers freely at his home. He had received a visit from one of them on the very night of his death. Women's garments were found in his home as in Elwell's.

The killing of Joseph Elwell is still a mystery. Whether his slayer was a burglar or an angry or jealous man or scoundrel has never been discovered.

Both men had grumpy attractive faces. Taylor's photographs show penetrating and suspicious glance, tight-set lips, a knifed brow. Elwell resembled a less tight expression, more good-humored idle contentment. His admirers decided that look spurred on tentative acquaintances to dispel his impersonal quality. Who killed Taylor-Tanner? Star or servant or jealous rival?

PROGRAM COMPLETED FOR ENTERTAINMENT OREGON RETAIL MERCHANTS CONVENTION

More Rooms Needed to House Visiting Delegates and Canvass Will Be Made This Week—Menu For Tuesday Night Banquet Is a Humdinger.

All is in readiness for the 18th annual convention of the Oregon Retail Merchants Association to be held in Roseburg on February 20, 21 and 22. The committees of the Roseburg Merchants association reported last night and the program for the three days' entertainment was completed in detail. From the time the merchants arrive in Roseburg on next Monday morning, there will be something done and the local merchants are determined to make their stay here a pleasure and prove to them that they made no mistake in selecting this city for their annual convention.

Although the program is complete, the housing of the visiting delegates is now the baffling question. Not nearly enough rooms have been listed for the delegates and the committee in charge of that work last night reported that a canvass must be made at once. The merchants decided to issue an appeal to the local people asking them to list available rooms either with the chamber of commerce or W. J. Weaver at the Umpqua hotel. It is absolutely necessary that this matter be settled at once and Mr. Heinline, secretary of the association, was instructed to devote an entire day to phone calls of Roseburg residents.

The Douglas County Concert Band last night voted at their meeting to donate their services to the local merchants' association and will be on hand Monday morning in complete uniform to meet the train and escort the visitors to the Elks' hall for registration. This action of the band is deeply appreciated by the merchants.

The following menu has been arranged for the big banquet at the Elks hall on Tuesday evening: Waiters: celery; pickles; jelly; Port of Umpqua Oyster Cocktail; Umpqua Valley cream tomato soup; Dash Douglas county whipped cream.

Umpqua river baked salmon; Douglas county chips; Umpqua valley cherry and nut salad; whipped cream dressing; Douglas county roast turkey; dressing; Umpqua valley tart leucanberry ice; Douglas county creamed potatoes; broccolini a la Douglas.

"Pride of Douglas" piping-hot biscuits. Umpqua valley prune whip; Roseburg home-made cakes. Royal Club coffee; salted nuts; cigars.

The program for the three days will be as follows: Monday, A. M. Registration of delegates, (Elks hall.) Call to order, 10:30 a. m., A. A. Wilder, chairman. Invocation, Rev. C. H. Hilton. Address of welcome, Mayor W. S. Hamilton. Address of welcome on behalf of merchants of Roseburg, J. H. Booth. Response to address of welcome, H. H. Hayes, Portland. Introduction and address, President A. C. Marsters. Secretary's report. Treasurer's report. Committee on credentials.

Monday P. M., 2 o'clock. Committees: Nomination committee. Auditing committee. Resolution committee. Ways and means committee. Trade relations committee. Address, "Organization," L. L. Thompson, Marshfield. Address, Dr. J. W. Hindley, Spokane, Washington. Address, T. Johnston Stewart, Seattle, Washington.

Monday, 6:30 P. M. Entertainment of Oregon Boosters club at Umpqua hotel. Tuesday, 9:30 A. M. Report of Credentials committee. Report of auditing committee. Report of resolution committee. Report of trade relations committee.

Address on "Credits," Mr. Lethy, credit man, Blumauer-Frank, Portland. Address, Prof. J. R. Whitaker, University of Oregon. Tuesday Afternoon, 2 o'clock. Auto sight-seeing trip. All cars starting from Elks Temple.

Tuesday Night, 8 o'clock. Toast master, Dr. A. C. Seely, Roseburg. Address of welcome, Judge J. W. (Continued on page six.)

Most Value of Dollar And Find Crop Markets, Urged For Farm Relief

By WARREN W. WHEATON, International News Service Staff Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Make Uncle Sam's dollar worth one hundred old-time American cents, create a market for farm products and the supply and demand, long askew, will again become workable and agriculture will find a firm foundation. That program forms the best solution of the agrarian ills of the country, the consensus of farmers' views count for anything. Farmers throughout the United States are talking of bursting surplus and products. The excess in foodstuffs held, however, is due to the fact that there is no market demand, officials at the United States department of agriculture asserted today.

There is no real over-production. The trouble is that there is under-consumption, they say. Claim is made by them that there is not enough wheat today to provide for normal consumption. In the fifty years following the civil war, according to best statistics available, the United States farmer increased cotton production five times, wheat production four times and corn three times. This increase happened while the population of the country only increased two and three-fourths

"No wonder," says Dr. E. D. Ball, director of scientific work of the agricultural department, "that when the secretary of agriculture states that the United States produced twenty-five per cent of the wheat, sixty per cent of the cotton and seventy-five per cent of the corn of the world, one-sixth of its population, the nation should feel it was on a foundation and its future prosperity assured."

The peak of agricultural production per capita of population was reached in 1893. Agricultural production almost kept pace with population increase for some little time after that date, but in the last decade it has fallen and even more rapidly fallen. "Probably this can be more concretely shown by the definite statement that the cotton production has fallen in a decade from 14,969,000 bales to 12,500,000 bales. Corn production reached its peak a decade ago and has remained stationary ever since. The 1920 average was 104,000,000 bushels, the same as it was in 1916. Wheat production no doubt would have advanced if it had not been for the fact of the great war drive and remarkable advance in the selling price of this cash crop. The combination, however, only forced it up temporarily, and it has now fallen almost to pre-war average."

Dr. Ball declares that the larger area of fertile lands in the country has been taken up and that the increase in farm area in the future will be very slow. Production costs will be higher, he predicts. Statisticians in the department of agriculture have estimated that the population of the United States will be more than 220,000,000 at the close of the present century. They have placed the probable time in which the United States will begin to import staple foods at from fifteen to thirty years. America today, they declare, is a food-importing nation, measured in dollars.

ORGANIZED PLOT OF TERRORISM IS MADE PUBLIC

INDIANAPOLIS, Feb. 15.—"Organized plot of terrorism" designed to take his life if he presided over the wage convention of the mine workers now in session, was disclosed today by President John L. Lewis. Lewis started the convention by his charge during a debate over reinstatement of Alexander Hawk at "rump" strike leader in Kansas.

GEORGIA SENATOR CRITICISES TAFT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Senator Harris of Georgia, today berated Chief Justice Taft in his criticism of the speech of King of the supreme court members. Harris declared it was "outrageous" for Taft and Justice Clark, who yesterday made a speech on cancellation of the foreign debt, to attempt to influence public opinion on controversial questions when the people looked to the supreme court as one body where politics were barred.

Mrs. D. C. Humphrey left yesterday for a few weeks visit with relatives and friends in Albany.

SLICE FROM BUDGET MAY PAY BONUSES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Representative Mondell of Wyoming, house leader, said today that the republicans in the house will try to raise the budget and through various effects by the fiscal holiday. The republicans have practically decided to shun the plan of raising money through special taxes, sales tax, or bond issue, he said.

BLACKMAILERS AND GUNMEN IN TOILS OF THE OFFICERS

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 15.—Eight alleged blackmailers and professional gunmen are in the authorities' toils today and are being grilled by District Attorney Woolsey for want information they can furnish regarding the Taylor shooting. Mark Bennett was questioned early today. Has No Information. LOS ANGELES, Feb. 15.—Mark Bennett, director of Mabel Normand, was questioned by the police, but was unable to throw light on the Taylor murder. Bennett said he would be glad to aid the authorities in any way.

NINE MEN HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEATER DISASTER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Charges of revolutionary manslaughter were made today against nine men held responsible by the coroner's jury for the loss of 87 lives in the Knickerbocker theatre disaster on January 28th. They are held under \$5000 bail pending settlement of the grand jury next week.

CHARGE LUMBERMEN KEPT PRICES HIGH

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Lumber manufacturers of Idaho, western Montana and eastern Oregon "have organized and conducted the Western Lumber Manufacturers association for the preliminary purpose of agreeing on the price," the federal trade commission prepared today in submitting to congress the fourth of a series of reports on the lumber industry. They charged that the activities of the association were conspicuous with the steadily rising price level between 1915 and 1920, and that in a period of depression the members acted in concert to regulate production to maintain prices.

More Research Work and Better Crop News Asked To Give Farmers Relief

By WARREN W. WHEATON, International News Service Staff Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Until more extensive research work is undertaken and the American farmer is given the benefit of first-hand and immediate information of the rapidly changing European market conditions agricultural ills in the United States cannot hope to be entirely cured. Delegates from all over the country, who attended the conference on farm and allied industries, agreed at the suggestion of President Harding, were practically in unanimous sentiment on this phase of the many varied discussions of the needs of the farmer.

"Research work along all agricultural lines is a prime necessity of the farming industry," declared Representative Sidney Anderson, of Minnesota, chairman of the congressional committee on agricultural inquiry, who presided as permanent chairman at the farm conference. "To get the best results I believe it will be necessary to centralize all research work, and I don't know of any better agency than the national agricultural department. At the Capitol there are some who say this centralization is impracticable. Of course there must be experiment stations for research work in various parts of the country, but I think they should be under control of the agricultural department."

"The results of research work do not appear, in many instances, for several years and even longer before they can be commercially applied. But eventually some good is derived by the farmer through research efforts."

Much of the depression now experienced in the farming industry is attributable to lack of comprehensive knowledge of the needs of foreign markets, farmers agree. Over-production and no market to handle excess crops are held to be chargeable to this failure to gauge European food needs.

"Give us the market in this country, and we will be far on the way to solving our own troubles," is the gist of the plaints of many of the "dirt" farmers of the country. J. M. Anderson, of St. Paul, Minn., president of the Equity Co-operative Exchange, is responsible for the assertion that the main solution of the farmers' perplexities lies in proper financing of foreign countries, so that they may buy American farm products and thereby open up a market to relieve over-production. Urges Export Credit Plan. "I believe," he said, "that we should extend such credit to foreign countries as will enable them to take the surplus staple products off our hands at living prices to our producers and distribute them to the countries of Europe which are starving for want of them."