



SCORE MEET DEATH IN FACTORY BLAST

Even Hundred Hurt When Explosion Wrecks Plant.

FLAMES ADD TO CATASTROPHE

Douglas Starch Works, Cedar Rapids, Is Obliterated.

PROPERTY LOSS \$3,000,000

Of 100 Men and Boys on Night Shift, Only 14 Escape as Walls Crash to Earth.

CEDAR RAPIDS, Ia., May 22.—A score of persons were killed and 100 injured by an explosion at the Douglas starch works tonight. Of the 100 men and boys who had just gone to work in the night shift only 14 escaped injury or death.

The entire plant was burned by resultant fire, which was confined to the Douglas starch works. The loss is \$3,000,000.

The cause of the explosion is unknown. Fifteen bodies were removed from the building within half an hour. Many employees were in the works at the time of the explosion. Scores were buried beneath the wreckage and are being removed to hospitals.

Persons on the streets and about the works were injured by flying wreckage and broken glass. Windows in the business district were blown in and many people in the buildings were cut by flying glass.

The shock was felt all over Cedar Rapids and for miles around. Fire followed the blast and consumed the shattered plant, though the entire department was called out.

Firemen rescued victims. Firemen extricated dead and wounded from the debris hastily to avoid incineration. The injured were rushed to hospitals and homes as rapidly as volunteers with automobiles could be mustered.

So severe was the explosion that persons a mile away were thrown from chairs. The cause of the accident is thought to have been due to either a defective boiler or spontaneous combustion.

Many of the hundreds of employees were in or near the factory buildings when the blast covered the ground for blocks with wreckage. Some were buried in the shattered remains, while others were hit by flying remnants.

Flames block rescue. With the fire raging, cries were heard coming from the drying room of the plant, but firemen were unable to cut their way in, and it was believed that the death toll would grow. Several discharged overseas soldiers aided in the rescue work.

Additional explosions from the oil rooms scattered the burning wreckage, and firemen were hard pressed to prevent the spreading of the flames to nearby industries.

Men covered with starch were taken from the ruins by their comrades, and many thrilling rescues were made. Some of the victims were stark mad and did not know what had happened.

Blast breaks mines. Water mains were cut by the force of the explosion, making the work of the firemen harder because of the lack of water.

An engineer who was blown out of the building said he believed his boiler had exploded. General Manager Lenders would advance no theory as to the cause.

Every window in the central part of the city was broken. Chimneys caved in on families at the supper table and guests in the dining rooms of hotels were thrown from their chairs. The front of the city hall and the Y. M. C. A. building were shattered. Ticket sellers in moving-picture theaters were injured by falling glass.

Red Cross Gives Aid. The Red Cross established first-aid stations near the wrecked plant for the injured as they were brought from it. J. D. Boorman of Chicago was blown through the window of a hotel and suffered cuts and bruises.

Frank Sodomani was taken out of the plant alive. His legs were blown off. He begged in crowd to kill him.

C. C. Craft, member of the fire department, was seriously injured.

SCHOOL DIRECTOR TARGET Bend Citizens Start Move to Recall Carl A. Johnson.

BEND, Or., May 22.—(Special)—As the result of the failure of the Bend school board to re-elect a number of the present teachers for next year, a petition was circulated here today seeking the recall of Carl A. Johnson, school director and prominent Bend lumberman. A. B. Hicks is mentioned as recall candidate.

Allegations of incompetency, inefficiency, allowing outside influences to dominate his actions as a member of the board, and unwillingness to respond to the wishes of school patrons, are the chief charges set forth in the petition.

ALIEN RADICALS KEY TO WINNIPEG STRIKE

Foreign Firebrands Go, or General Clean-Up Begins.

DOMINION AUTHORITIES WILL TAKE A HAND IN SITUATION, IS UTMATUM SENT LEADERS.

Winnipeg, Man., May 22.—The question of permanent industrial peace in Winnipeg, evolving from the present general strike of local labor unions, rested tonight on the future status of radical enemy aliens.

Leading citizens of Winnipeg, including Mayor Charles F. Gray and members of the common council, today joined with provincial and federal authorities in informing union labor workers that either the alien agitators in the union ranks must be ousted or every force of law and order will be concentrated to rid the dominion of this element.

Tomorrow morning, in the council chamber of the city hall, representatives of every phase of dominion provincial and municipal activity affected by the general strike will discuss the situation. The chief purpose of the meeting, Mayor Gray said, is to clear the air of the menace of radical propaganda and possible misunderstandings which with Winnipeg at their strategic breeding grounds were threatening to involve the whole dominion.

Morning and evening editions were issued by the Winnipeg Free Press, the first newspaper in the city to publish since the general strike got under way. Various officials who today participated in the movement to restore industrial tranquility, said they were hopeful that the meeting tomorrow would result in suspension of the general strike.

Since yesterday, when aggressive opposition to the isolation programme by the strike leaders was being reported in various branches of commercial and public service. Nearly all the stores in the business district were open today and many made deliveries, telephone service was partly restored by volunteer operators, restaurants and other places of business displayed placards announcing they would open tomorrow, and leading employers reported clerks who had been on strike had applied for reinstatement.

Word has been received here that 30,000 workers at Calgary, Alta., are voting on a general sympathy strike; but should the Winnipeg trouble be adjusted, no strike order would be issued even should the vote favor it.

COW IS NURSE TO LAMBS

Oak Grove Orchardist Utilizes Bessy to Save Sheep Crop.

HOOD RIVER, Or., May 22.—(Special)—Herman Fregge and W. R. Hoover, Oak Grove orchardists, find sheep-raising a profitable sideline. The former, with ten ewes, has 16 fine lambs. Mr. Fregge has 23 ewes, and his lambs for the season number 30.

"I am going to save all of my ewe lambs, about half of my increase of the season," says Mr. Fregge, "and increase my herd. Last year I sold my dressed lambs for an average of \$18 each."

"One of the mothers of twin lambs in Mr. Fregge's flock was unable to nurse them. The owner, however, had a fresh cow at the time, and he taught the little sheep to take nourishment from the cow. The lambs are now regular boarders at the cow lot, and the foster-mother seems as fond of them as though they were her own offspring."

GIRL, 15, TAKES HUSBAND

Marriage Takes Place After Acquaintance of Four Days.

TACOMA, Wash., May 22.—(Special)—Robert E. McLin, age 21, and Vada Poole, age 15, were married yesterday in Seattle, after evading the girl's parents in Tacoma. The couple have known each other but four days. They became acquainted when McLin came to the girl's home to repair electrical fixtures.

When the girl left home she wrote a note to her mother. "I am going on my honeymoon trip," she said, and signed it "Mrs. R. E. McLin." She gave her age as 19 at the marriage license bureau and her appearance bore out her statement.

FIRE LOSSES ON INCREASE

Underwriters Report Largest Payments Since San Francisco Fire.

NEW YORK, May 22.—Fire losses aggregating \$230,000,000, the greatest in any year except 1906, when the San Francisco earthquake and conflagration occurred, were reported for 1918 to the national board of fire underwriters here today.

The year also showed progress in bringing to bar persons responsible for incendiary fires, according to a committee report which announced 411 convictions had been obtained in 42 states. Of these cases, it was stated, 172 were attempts to defraud the insurer, while 156 were attributed to pyromania or other forms of insanity.

HUN SIGNATURE IS FIRST, SAY ALLIES

Commissions, Until That Is Given, Impossible.

RANTZAU PLEA TURNED DOWN

Prisoners of War to Get No Special Consideration.

POWERS AIM AT JUSTICE

Assurance Given That Teutons Will Be Treated Fairly and All Property Rights Respected.

PARIS, May 22.—The following correspondence between the allied peace delegates and the German peace delegates is made public today:

"Prisoners of war. Letters from Count von Brockdorff-Rantzau to M. Clemenceau: 'German Peace Delegation, Versailles, May 10, 1919.—Sir: The German delegation has noted with satisfaction that the draft treaty handed to it recognizes the principle that the repatriation of German prisoners of war and German interned civilians is to be effected with the greatest possible rapidity.'

"It is in accordance with the opinion of the German peace delegation that the task of settling the details of the execution of that repatriation should be entrusted to a special commission. Direct conversations between the commissioners of nearly all of the belligerent states in regard to prisoners have been shown to be the best means of solving the difficulties, and it ought to be all the easier at the present moment to clear up by early discussion in a commission any divergencies of view or doubts in regard to certain points.

"The German peace delegation, bearing in mind the difference of jurisdiction in the various countries concerned, is of the opinion, for instance, that it is indispensable for prisoners of war and interned civilians who have been detained for offenses other than those against discipline to be repatriated unconditionally. Germany recognized this same principle as regarding prisoners of war and interned civilians of the allied and associated powers detained in Germany.

"Certain Alleviations Sought. 'In the view of the German peace delegation certain alleviations should be a matter of course and for reasons of equity, be agreed to in favor of prisoners of war and interned civilians for the period which will elapse until their final departure.

"The German peace delegation has, however, been compelled to note that the arrangements contemplated are favorable only to the allied and associated powers.

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BAN ON ALL TALK WITH GERMANS TO BE LIFTED

Gates Are Not to Be Thrown Open for Formal Debate.

MERCHANT MARINE PLANS DISCUSSED

Operation of Ships to Be Decided Upon.

HURLEY OUTLINES 3 NEEDS

Maintenance of U. S. Ocean Mail Service One Essential.

WIRELESS CONTROL URGED

Government Versus Private Ownership Principal Topic at Conference in Washington.

WASHINGTON, May 22.—Operation of the government-built merchant marine in peace was discussed from many angles today by representatives of national labor, agricultural and industrial organizations called into conference by the shipping board.

"We have different points of view," Chairman Hurley told the gathering. "The shipper wants reasonable freight rates. The carrier wants reasonable earnings. These two objectives are not inconsistent. Efficient operation can achieve them both. Arrangements must be made whereby each section of the country will have every opportunity to establish through steamship lines in connection with its railroads so that every community may receive first-class service."

National Needs Outlined. Three great national needs of the merchant fleet were outlined by Mr. Hurley as follows: 1. Maintenance of an American ocean mail service capable of covering the world. He said this would necessitate changing the law to permit compensating ocean carriers on a business basis, "bringing it down from the realm of impracticability and making it apply to the sea-going units which we actually possess."

2. Establishment of a centrally controlled wireless telegraph service for promoting safety of life and property at sea and for giving American shipping and shipping interests the advantage of constant commercial information. Mr. Hurley said this service would be under control of the navy.

3. Adequate provision for training officers so that American ships always would go to sea in charge of American citizens.

Labor Yet Undecided. James O'Connell, representing the American Federation of Labor, declared the laboring man wanted to know which would give him the best working conditions, government or private ownership of merchant marine. He said the federation had not directly endorsed government ownership of ocean transportation lines, but that "some

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SAFE CONDUCT NOW DOUBTFUL

Behavior of Delegates White in Erin Given as Cause.

PEACE CONGRESS YET GOAL

Letter from Walsh, Dunne and Ryan Sent to Wilson Takes Issue With Word of Colonel House.

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Large crowds later held protest meetings and other demonstrations, which added to the general confusion in the town.

An official expression of regret has been issued in Berlin that the people of Mannheim "appear to have lost their heads."

BERLIN, May 21.—(By the Associated Press).—The majority socialists held a demonstration of protest against the peace terms in the Wilhelmplatz today. A large crowd, in contrast with earlier meetings, received the speeches of leaders in frigid silence.

Chancellor Scheidemann said he hoped in the interest of humanity to attain a peace by understanding on the basis of the German counter proposals. While the German delegates at Versailles were working for this understanding, he added, it was the task of the government to raise its voice on behalf of the conciliation, not the alienation, of peoples. A peace of conciliation only was possible if Germany is included as an equal in the league of nations.

The league, he declared, was a necessity, but the government was against the spirit of its present form which made the Germans the slaves of other nations. He concluded by calling for cheers for the league.

Herr Mueller, for the independent socialists, said the socialists of all countries must regard peace as impossible under the present treaty.

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SIR WALTER RALEIGH!



OREGON GETS 88 TRUCKS

Army Vehicles Allocated to State for Road Construction.

SALEM, Or., May 22.—(Special)—Notice was received by the state highway commission today from the United States department of agriculture that 88 army trucks, used during the war, are being loaned to Oregon for use in road work, the only stipulation being that they be used in building state-aided roads, including forest and post-roads.

The trucks have a total value of about \$220,000. They are now in Chicago awaiting delivery to Oregon.

FOREST FIRES ARE BURNING

Minnesota Settlers in No Immediate Danger—Rain Expected.

ELY, Minn., May 22.—Forest fires are burning in remote sections, some 30 miles from here, mostly to the south, but immediate danger to settlers is not feared. The forest ranger forces are continually fighting the fires and seem to have the situation fairly well in hand. The fires in the section 30 miles distant have been exhausted.

Rain was expected soon to extinguish fires and help farmers.

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- Sports. Pacific Coast results—At San Francisco, Portland 9, San Francisco 9; at Salt Lake, Salt Lake 11, Oakland 8; at Sacramento, Sacramento 4, Vernon 2; at Los Angeles, Los Angeles 3, Seattle 3. Page 16. School teams eager for annual classic. Page 17. Entries in grammar school meet exceed 1000. Page 17.
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FORSAKEN TOT IDENTIFIED

Mother and Grandmother Said to Have Confessed.

SALEM, Or., May 22.—(Special)—Identification of the 2-year-old baby girl found on the porch of the B. C. Miles residence nearly three weeks ago as the daughter of a 29-year-old girl of Jefferson, Or., has been made by Sheriff Needham and Chief of Police Varney.

The girl, June Armstrong, and her mother, Mrs. J. W. Armstrong, have both confessed they abandoned the child. They said they did so in the hope that the baby would find a good home.

The baby is in the custody of the juvenile court, while the girl and her mother are held under bonds for circuit court action.

EXCHANGE SEATS \$85,000

Highest Price Paid Since 1910 When \$94,000 Recorded.

NEW YORK, May 22.—Two New York stock exchange seats were sold for \$85,000 each, the highest price since 1910, when a seat brought \$94,000.