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CRAZED RUSSIANS SLAY AMERICANS

Relief Drivers Are Killed; Horses Seized for Food.

VICTIMS' CLOTHES STRIPPED

Death Rate Continues Unabated in Ufa District.

COLD ADDS TO SUFFERING

Hospitals Crowded With Patients Ill From Eating Poisons in Desperate Impoverishment.

PARIS, Apr. 13.—(By the Associated Press.)—A number of American drivers of relief wagons in Russia have been killed in the streets by the famished populace who seized the horses for food, according to reports received today by American relief organizations in Paris from the Ufa, Bashkir and Tolyatalai famine districts. Two drivers for the American relief administration were killed this week, the reports said.

Several other employees of the relief administration, fearing their lives, have quit their posts, the reports added. The danger has become so great that it is no longer safe to venture into the streets. People are being killed every day, it was said, and the natives, maddened from starvation, strip the clothes from the bodies of their victims.

CHITA FORCES DRIVEN OUT

Japanese Take Possession of Neutral Zone.

TOKIO, April 13.—(By the Associated Press.)—Japanese troops have driven the Chita government forces out of the neutral zone between them and the Vladivostok government troops, says a dispatch received in Tokyo today from Vladivostok.

500 FAMILIES HOMELESS

Suburb of Norfolk, Va., Has Million-Dollar Blaze.

NORFOLK, Va., April 13.—Berkeley, a suburb of Norfolk, was swept by fire today which destroyed more than 100 houses, covering an area of one mile in length and averaging from two to four blocks in width. Five hundred families are estimated to have been made homeless and the damage will run to nearly a million dollars.

SPEED OFFICERS ACCUSED

Violating Corvallis Ordinance.

CORVALLIS, Or., April 13.—(Special.)—State Traffic Officers Brown, Haden and Bloom were brought into Judge Conner's court here this morning charged with violating the traffic ordinance.

HIGHWAY BONDS ADVANCE

Big Deal Closed in Illinois Shows Market Trend.

SEATTLE STUDENT OUSTED

Robert E. Turner Is Expelled From Hamilton for Bootlegging.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., April 13.—Robert E. Turner of Seattle, Wash., 23, a Hamilton senior, has been expelled from college after his secret arraignment last night at Utica on a charge of bootlegging.

GALE AND SNOWFALL SWEEP OREGON COAST

COLUMBIA AND GRAYS HARBOR REGIONS HIT BY STORM.

Upper Hood River Valley Covered by White Blanket, Reaching Into Washington State.

ASTORIA, Or., April 13.—(Special.)—For a few hours this morning there was a strong southerly gale along the Oregon coast and at noon North Head reported a 50-mile wind from the south, but inside the harbor the breeze was light. At 4 o'clock this afternoon North Head reported the wind outside had shifted to the west and dropped to a 26-mile rate.

Locally there was a cold rain mixed with flakes of snow during the morning hours, while on the higher levels along both sides of the river there was a steady fall of snow.

This afternoon the weather cleared and the barometer, which had dropped to 29.50, began to ascend slowly.

ABERDEEN, Wash., April 13.—(Special.)—With snow falling steadily and the mercury down to 49 degrees, Grays harbor today experienced a touch of winter. The snow fell in large flakes in the morning, melting as it came, but later in the day the flakes were smaller and remained on the ground on the higher levels of the town and in the country.

MARSHFIELD, Or., April 13.—(Special.)—A heavy storm prevailed all day and the velocity of the wind off this coast was a gale. Frost was reported in many places this morning. The storm set in about 10 o'clock.

HOOD RIVER, Or., April 13.—(Special.)—A snow as intense as any the past winter prevailed throughout the day in the upper valley. While the flakes melted rapidly, the blanket tonight south of Parkdale was two inches deep, with the fall unabated. Snow prevailed far down in the Oak Grove district and orchard sections of Skamania and Klickitat counties.

Washington, are again under a new blanket.

HOME CRUSHED; 2 KILLED

Man and Wife at Seattle Victims; Two Sons Leap From Window.

SEATTLE, Wash., April 13.—Charles H. Habenstreit and his wife were killed tonight in a fire which destroyed their home, which stood at the foot of a cliff on the outskirts of the city, was buried under a landslide.

Seepage of water was said to have caused the loosening of the earth. The family, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Habenstreit and their two sons, Carl and George, 16 and 13 years of age, were seated at the table eating dinner when the avalanches descended upon them. The boys heard the roar of the descending slide and leaped through a window before the catastrophe occurred. A rescue party rushed to the scene and dug its way to the victims, both of whom were dead when found.

300 FAMILIES HOMELESS

Suburb of Norfolk, Va., Has Million-Dollar Blaze.

NORFOLK, Va., April 13.—Berkeley, a suburb of Norfolk, was swept by fire today which destroyed more than 100 houses, covering an area of one mile in length and averaging from two to four blocks in width. Five hundred families are estimated to have been made homeless and the damage will run to nearly a million dollars.

The blaze originated in the Tunis lumber mills on the southern branch of the Elizabeth river and three steamers in the river were burned, catching fire from sparks.

The fire quickly spread to the north, sparks being carried 100 yards or more. Most of the houses along the path were negro homes of wooden construction.

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JOHN M'CORMACK BATTLES FOR LIFE

World-Famous Tenor Has Throat Affliction.

BREATHING IS DIFFICULT

Septic Infection Nearly Chokes Victim.

SPECIALISTS GIVE AID

Contracts Canceled—Condition Not Revealed to Public During First Part of Illness.

NEW YORK, April 13.—John McCormack, world-famous tenor, tonight was reported by physicians to be battling for his life in his Park-avenue home, where he is suffering from a severe affliction of the throat.

His physicians announced that while they believed the crisis was passed last night, the singer was not out of danger.

"There will be danger as long as the septic condition exists in Mr. McCormack's throat," an attending physician said.

Mr. McCormack was taken seriously ill last Saturday. Removed to his home, he was found to be suffering from a combination of throat afflictions due to a general infection of the throat, causing blood poisoning.

Singer's Throat Swollen. On Monday, according to the physicians, the singer's throat had so swollen that he was threatened with death by choking. He suffered a similar attack Tuesday night, the physicians said, and was seriously ill all day yesterday, his condition coming to a crisis last night.

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NEW YORK, April 13.—(Special.)—The Irish tenor, John McCormack, has had more serious illness than the public announcements have indicated. It was last Sunday when his Hippodrome contract was canceled. He was repeatedly on the point of surfacing on Tuesday night, and again yesterday, his concert manager, D. E. McSweeney, admitted today.

Two throat specialists, Doctors Cornelius G. Coakley and Norman Smith, and McCormack's own physician, Dr. Alfred C. DuPont, have worked over him and it is only now that he is considered out of immediate danger. The diagnosis made by Dr. DuPont is "tonsillitis which developed into a septic throat and oedema of the uvula, almost to the extinction of breathing."

First Homelessness Appears.

The first homelessness appeared after a concert in Chicago on April 2 and McCormack's physician induced him to cancel a concert scheduled for April 5 in Detroit and return to New York.

ORCHESTRA TO PLAY FOR RADIO TONIGHT

PRIZE COLLEGE ORATION ALSO TO BE SENT OUT.

Portland Hotel Musicians and M. R. Good of Oregon Agricultural School to Be Featured.

In order to hear the full program of six selections by George Olsen's Portland hotel orchestra and in addition the oration of Mervin R. Good of Oregon Agricultural college, which won for him the state intercollegiate oratorical contest, in the hour of time allotted to the Oregonian for the radio programme tonight, radio fans will be asked by the outset of the concert to stand by constantly, as the announcements will be brief and the different selections will be run off in rapid sequence.

Mr. Good will begin his oration a few minutes after 8 o'clock, as soon as J. W. Weed, operator, "clears the air." The subject of the address, which recently won the highest collegiate oratorical honors in Oregon is "Our Brother by the Baltic Sea."

Good is a graduate of Gresham high school, '18. He was president of the student body there in his senior year and business manager of the high school annual. He is majoring in business administration at the college in the school of commerce.

Last fall Good started a course in public speaking under Professor C. E. Mitchell, head of the public-speaking department at the college. Entirely without previous experience beyond presiding at meetings, Good improved until at the end of the term he won a \$5 prize offered by Professor Mitchell in a contest.

Immediately after the oration is finished the orchestra will begin its first selection. The six selections to be played are: "Stealing" (Sullivan); "Canadian Capers" (Cohn); "Angel Child" (Daisy); "O Dry Those Tears," a trombone solo by J. A. Jessup; "You Won't Be Sorry" (Burnett); and a fox trot adapted from "Walze Tryst" (Sibelius), arranged by E. Vincent Kliffert.

"Angel Child," the third number of the programme, is to be played by request. It is thought likely that by playing the selections in rapid sequence enough time will be left for a seventh selection, and this will be any that is requested by 6 o'clock tonight. Arrangements have been made with George Olsen to have his Portland hotel orchestra play a series of Friday night radio concerts, and as many requests will be played as there is time for at any concert.

These requests may be made directly to the Oregonian's radio department. This afternoon at 4 o'clock Miss Mary Elizabeth Godwin will give the last of the music memory course series.

A special Easter programme has been arranged for Sunday night from 7 to 8 o'clock. Rev. William Wallace Youngson, superintendent of the Portland district of the Methodist Episcopal church, will give a sermon, and Mrs. Goldie Peterson Wessler, soprano soloist, will sing three or four songs with piano accompaniment.

Exciting Election Looms

Prospects of Featureless Race in Linn County Dispelled.

ALBANY, Or., April 13.—(Special.)—The prospect of a featureless election for the only two county offices to be filled in Linn county this year, a county commissioner for a full term of four years and a county commissioner for a term of two years to fill a vacancy, has gone glimmering the last two days with the appearance of several candidates as the limit of the time for filing nominating petitions approaches.

Four candidates have filed in the last two days and two more are in prospect.

Sicily Bank Lost Increased.

CATANIA, Sicily, April 13.—There has as yet been no solution of the robbery last Monday night of the Banco di Sicilia. A careful count of the money remaining in the safe has shown the amount stolen was nearly 11,000,000 lire. The first reports were that 9,000,000 lire were missing.

BANQUET "MESSAGE" DENIED BY WILSON

TUMULTY IS DECLARED NOT AUTHORIZED TO SPEAK.

Ex-Secretary Says He Regrets Misunderstanding Arising With ex-President.

NEW YORK, April 13.—The New York Times tonight made public a letter from Woodrow Wilson denying that he had sent or authorized anyone to convey a message to the Jefferson-day dinner here last Saturday night. A message read at the dinner by Mrs. Montgomery Hare, chairman of the woman's dinner committee, and attributed to the ex-president, said: "Say to the democrats of New York that I am ready to support any man who stands for the salvation of America, and the salvation of America is justice to all classes."

Thomas E. Rush, chairman of the dinner committee, said that when he learned last Thursday that Joseph P. Tumulty, ex-secretary to the president, was to attend the dinner, he called him on the telephone and asked him to bring a message from ex-President Wilson if possible. The message read at the dinner was given to him by Mr. Tumulty on his arrival, Mr. Rush said.

When doubt as to the authenticity of the message first arose Mr. Tumulty made an explanation in Washington in which he said:

"The message read at the banquet came merely in a casual conversation with me at Mr. Wilson's home on Friday last, when he remarked that he would support any candidate who stood for justice for all. There was nothing unusual in this and it was not significant in any way from a political standpoint. He sent no telegram. He simply gave a casual message to me in a casual manner. It had nothing to do with any individual or any particular political situation."

This statement by Mr. Tumulty appeared in the Times under the headline: "Doubt is cast on Wilson's message to the Cox dinner."

In his letter Mr. Wilson said: "I write to say there need be no doubt about the matter. I did not send any message whatever to that dinner nor authorize anyone to convey a message."

When informed of Mr. Wilson's letter by a Times representative in Washington tonight, Mr. Tumulty gave out this statement: "If Mr. Wilson says the message was unauthorized then I can only say I deeply regret the misunderstanding which has arisen between us. I certainly would not have given the message if I had not believed it to be authorized."

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INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

- The Weather.** YESTERDAY'S—Highest temperature, 44 degrees; lowest, 39; rain. TODAY'S—Rain; southerly winds.
- Famine-maddened Russians kill American benefactors.** Page 1.
- Lonely life in Pacific six times submerged.** Page 2.
- "Big Four" to present united front against soviet.** Page 2.
- National.** America's foreign trade shows large gain. Page 3.
- Democrats attack new tariff rates.** Page 2.
- Railroads financially crippled when turned back to owners.** Page 8.
- Party leaders at Seattle meet.** Page 10.
- Contest in Indiana.** Page 4.
- Domestic.** Only liquor charge now faces Arbuckle. Page 3.
- Semaphore put in jail when bond is withdrawn.** Page 11.
- John McMack near death.** Page 1.
- New York avails Shiffers' secrets.** Page 16.
- Pacific Northwest.** Many candidates tie for primaries. Page 6.
- McMinnville school flooded by vandals.** Page 1.
- Seattle primary campaign is quiet.** Page 5.
- \$2,500,000 in road jobs to be awarded.** Page 1.
- Eight Boring buildings destroyed by fire.** Page 1.
- Gale and snow sweep Oregon coast.** Page 1.
- Sports.** One hundred and fifty-five will compete Eugene relay carnival. Page 15.
- Pacific Coast league results.** At Salt Lake 8, Portland 11; at Los Angeles 5, Vernon 1; at Oakland 3, San Francisco 2; at Burlington 1, Seattle 2.
- Card is completed for Tuesday fights.** Page 12.
- Sixty schools entered in Columbia indoor meet.** Page 14.
- Yanks turn tables on Washington.** Page 14.
- Commercial and Marine.** Wool buyers in Yakima, starts in small way. Page 25.
- Murry in Chicago wheat market on heavy volume.** Page 15.
- Portland market less active but firm.** Page 25.
- Stockmen in Idaho hard hit since war.** Page 25.
- Pat liberty bonds are market puzzle.** Page 16.
- Property owners ask for fill in Guild's lake section.** Page 17.
- Port to provide acreage storage.** Page 17.
- New York market starts up again.** Page 24.
- Orator inquiry for road noted.** Page 24.
- Portland and vicinity.** Charter modelers organize for work. Page 24.
- Charges are filed against fire chief.** Page 18.
- Inferior Chinese walnuts declared to be poisonous in Oregon.** Page 15.
- Big lumber plant assured for Burns.** Page 9.
- Today is last day for candidates to file.** Page 1.
- Orchestra to play for radio tonight.** Page 1.
- Ex-Chief Forester Graves against isolation of forest service.** Page 1.
- Weather report, daily and forecast.** Page 24.
- \$478,849 distributed by chest in 1921.** Page 1.
- Hard exercise had after middle age.** Page 8.
- Disaster hardships not associated, says Rishington Anderson.** Page 16.

PEOPLE WON'T BELIEVE IT UNLESS THEY SEE IT.

BACK IN OREGON AT THIS SEASON THE SMELT ARE RUNNING IN THE SANDY RIVER—MILLIONS OF THEM—PEOPLE GO OUT WITH NETS TIED TO THE END OF A POLE AND COME BACK WITH SACKS FULL OF EM—YOU CAN SCOOP EM UP WITH YOUR HAT—BUY A SACK FULL FOR TWO BITS—GOOD EATING TOO—

THA'S GOOD ONE

PORTLAND ORE.

\$2,500,000 ROAD JOBS TO BE GIVEN

Commission to Meet in Portland Today.

BRIDGE WORK IS INCLUDED

Contract Awards Expected to Set Record.

PROJECTS ARE LISTED

Chairman Booth Says Competition This Year by Contractors Will Be Demanded.

SALTEM, Or., April 13.—(Special.)—Contracts for the construction of approximately 200 miles of road and more than a dozen bridges at an estimated cost of \$2,500,000 will be awarded at a meeting of the state highway commission to be held in Portland tomorrow and Saturday.

R. A. Booth, chairman of the commission, was in Salem today checking over the proposed contracts and assembling information to be used at the meeting. He said the meeting probably would break all records of the commission with relation to the number of contracts to be considered, the mileage and the amount of money involved.

In addition to a large number of county judges from practically every section of Oregon, the meeting will be attended by representatives of the Roosevelt Highway association. These men will urge the highway commission not to divert any part of the \$2,500,000 appropriated by the state for the construction of the Roosevelt highway to other uses.

When the money was voted for the Roosevelt Highway Highway association, the state highway commission recently intimated that the money voted by the state for the improvement of public roads might be used for other purposes.

Following is a complete list of the projects for which bids will be considered at the meeting of the highway commission to be held in Portland Friday and Saturday:

- Baker County.** Old Oregon highway, Clatskanie section, unit No. 1, 14.2 miles of grading and surfacing; unit No. 2, 12.7 miles of grading and surfacing.
- Benton and Lincoln Counties.** Corvallis-Newport highway, Bidgett-Toledo section, unit No. 1, 17.3 miles of grading and surfacing; unit No. 2, 6.8 miles of grading and surfacing.
- Deschutes County.** McKenzie highway, Clatskanie Falls to Sisters section, 15.5 miles of grading and surfacing.
- Douglas County.** Pacific highway, Cannonville-Galesville section, 11.1 miles of paving.
- Gilliam County.** John Day highway, Arlington-Shutler section, 7.1 miles of grading and surfacing.
- Lane County.** McKenzie highway, power plant and Shell rock section, 2.1 miles of grading and surfacing.
- Linn County.** Pacific highway, approaches to McVehel overcrossing, 0.4 mile of surfacing.
- Umatilla County.** Umatilla section, 13.5 miles of grading and surfacing.
- Yamhill County.** West Side highway, McMinnville-Amity section, 5 miles of paving.
- Grant County.** Old Oregon trail, Baker-Nelson section, three small concrete bridges and one steel span.
- Old Oregon trail, Baker-Nelson section,** overcrossing of O. W. R. R. & N. tracks, near Unity.
- Deschutes County.** Bend-Sisters highway, near Sisters; two culverts and two timber spans.
- Linn County.** Pacific highway, Albany-Tangent section, two concrete spans.
- Polk County.** McMinnville-Tillamook highway, 5 miles west of Williamson; one bridge of alternate wood or steel construction.
- Umatilla County.** Oregon-Washington highway, near Pilot rock; two bridges.
- Yamhill County.** McMinnville-Tillamook highway, McMinnville-Sheridan section; one bridge over Deer creek.
- Grant County.** West Side highway, west city limits of Amity; one bridge.
- Cos and Douglas Counties.** Coos Bay-Roseburg highway, Myrtle Point-Camas valley section, unit No. 1, 17.3 miles of rock surfacing; unit No. 2, 17.1 miles of rock surfacing.
- Grant County.** John Day highway, Cummins creek-Valades ranch section, 14.7 miles of grading.
- Josephine County.** Pacific highway, Seaman mountain section, 7.5 miles of paving.
- Lane County.** Willamette valley Florence highway, Golden-Biaschi section, 12.6 miles of surfacing.
- Linn County.** Pacific highway, Albany-Tangent section, 7.3 miles of paving.
- Umatilla County.** Oregon-Washington highway, Pilot Rock-Vinson canyon section, 10.7 miles of surfacing.
- Wasco County.** Dalles-California highway, The Dalles-Dufur section, 15.2 miles of grading and surfacing.

7 BORING BUILDINGS DESTROYED BY FIRE

WIND SAVES WHOLE TOWN FROM BEING LOST.

Incidents, Without Water Mains or Other Means to Fight Blaze, Merely Look On.

GRESHAM, Or., April 13.—(Special.)—Seven buildings along the east side of the main street of Boring, a small town, five miles from here, were destroyed by fire tonight when flames, originating in the pool hall and fanned by a strong southwest wind, swept away that structure and leaping to other buildings successively destroyed a barber shop, shoe shop, restaurant, dance hall, livery barn and small garage.

A movie show in the upstairs of the pool hall was in progress at the time of the fire. No one was injured in the rush for the exit.

All the while the residents looked on, practically helpless, for there was no water mains nor any apparatus with which to fight the fire and the flames were beyond the possibility of control by hand extinguishers by the time they were discovered. The fire apparatus was called from Gresham, but the roads were too bad for the wagon to negotiate the run.

Instead, five auto loads of firefighters from Gresham hurried to Boring and with the residents of that place formed bucket brigades, and buildings somewhat distant from the conflagration but in danger of flying embers were watered down.

Good fortune cheated the wind out of making the whole town of Boring a prey to the flames, for the fire, being on the east side of the street, was fanned away from the west side.

The fire was discovered about 9:15 o'clock and was then rapidly eating its way through the frame buildings.

All the buildings burned were of frame construction, and it was estimated that their total loss was in the neighborhood of \$10,000 or \$12,000. No estimates on the loss of personal property or of stocks were available at a late hour tonight.

Two trucks in the garage were lost. Several other cars were stored in the building, but were run out to safety. The trucks were owned by the Boring Truck company. This same company conducted the garage.

The shoe shop was owned by Van Dolin, and the building housing the pool hall and movie theater by Ed Waller.

Only partial insurance was carried. It was said, and in many instances there was no insurance.

OREGON HIGHWAY FAVORED

Roosevelt Road Considered One of Primary Importance.

THE OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, D. C., April 13.—The Roosevelt Memorial highway in Oregon is being considered as a road of primary importance, the chief of the bureau of public roads told Representative Hawley today.

The matter is now being investigated by engineers of the bureau at Portland and San Francisco, it was said.

CLOSE ASSOCIATION SHOWS

"This shows the close association between forestry and agriculture. A large percentage of the land in farms all over the country is unutilized and suited only for forestation. The farmer who owns 240 acres, for instance, probably has 100 acres of unutilized land. If he is thrifty and foresighted this will be in growing timber and, if he is not, it will most likely be in scrub.

"In the latter case the result does not end in the individual owner's pocketbook but in the pocketbook of the community on which he depends and which depends on him for its sustenance. Forests provide work and revenue and, generally, when the forests are gone other industries do not spring up in time to take their place.

"Not many years in the future the entire nation will look to the west for its lumber. Even now 50 per cent of the lumber in the eastern markets is Douglas fir because of the rapid depletion of the southern pine and the corresponding increase in price. The south is doing practically nothing in the line of reforestation and now there are 30,000,000 acres of waste land below the Mason and Dixon line. In 15 or 20 years the big mills in the south will have vanished.

Reforestation is important. "Lumber then will be high priced and this will inflict hardship on the farmers in the east, middle west and south unless something is done to forest service." Page 1.

MARRIED LIFE SERIAL BEGINS.

The comedies and tragedies of the every day life of a typical young married couple are pictured realistically by Mabel Herbert Uner in her series of short stories, which start in The Oregonian Sunday. She calls her stories "The Married Life of Helen and Warren." They are written in delightfully humorous vein and will appear in The Oregonian every Sunday.