

BLAST KILLING 4 LAID TO REVENGE

Man Who Suffered Love Defeat Is Jailed.

GIRL AND FATHER VICTIMS

South Bend, Wash., Dyker Blown to Bits.

DYNAMITE FOUND MISSING

suspect, Described as Radical Member of I. W. W., Is Only Survivor.

SOUTH BEND, Wash., Dec. 18.—(Special)—After an all-day hearing the coroner's jury late this afternoon brought in a verdict charging J. Fred Welch of Astoria and Iwaco with having caused the dynamite explosion which killed four persons aboard the dredger Beaver, on which Welch was working, Thursday night.

The dead are the manager and part owner, Frank Behnke, his daughter, Blanche, Adolph Jarvi and Eigel Christensen.

Welch was actuated by revenge because his attentions to Miss Blanche Behnke were not received, according to a dying statement attributed to Eigel Christensen, one of the four victims.

Accused Sees Bodies.

Welch was at the South Bend hospital all day yesterday, and this morning for the first time looked upon the ghastly bodies of the victims of the explosion. All are badly burned and their limbs are contorted, except the daughter, whose skull was fractured.

Witnesses said that Welch, after the explosion, exclaimed: "Oh, why did I do it?" Witnesses who brought the bodies of Christensen and Jarvi to South Bend late Thursday evening testified that Christensen, before dying, pointed to Welch and said: "He did the job and clubbed me in the water."

Victim Identifies Welch.

At the inquest Jesse Myers, A. L. Myers, Clark Stoddard and Bert Graves testified that Christensen identified Fred Welch as the man who struck him on the head after he was in the water, and that Welch threw three sticks of dynamite into the room where Behnke, Christensen and Jarvi were playing cards. Laura Anderson helped dress the wounds of Christensen and heard Welch say, she testified: "I wish I had never done it." Mrs. Bacon corroborated her statement and asserted that Christensen pointed to Welch and said: "There is the man who did it." According to Jesse Myers, Welch said when he came up on the burning dredger, referring to Christensen: "He tried to get away and I killed him with a club," and Christensen kept saying: "He even clubbed me after I was in the water." Peter Williamson testified that a box of dynamite in the toolhouse had been broken into that day and some sticks taken out. No dynamite was left on the dredger.

Man Clubbed, Testimony.

Bert Graves also heard Christensen say: "The crazy guy, he clubbed me in deep water." Clark Stoddard said Welch told him "he tried to get away, and I killed him with a club." Welch in his testimony said he was working on a hammock and was not playing cards as usual with the other three men and had gone to the lower deck for a drink of water and was at the rear by a woodpile when the explosion occurred.

He said he found himself in the water covered with driftwood and was trying to get out, Myers and

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HARDING HEARS REED, NEW-ON WORLD PEACE

INDIANAN FAVORS PLEDGES OF POWERS TO DISARM.

Missourian Has Little Faith in Plans to Abolish War; Dr. Butler Urges Trade Treaties.

MARION, O., Dec. 18.—President-elect Harding heard suggestions for his association of nations plan from widely divergent viewpoints today in conference with Senator Reed of Indiana, Senator Reed of Missouri and Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, president of Columbia university.

Each indicated that he thought Mr. Harding was following along hopeful lines, but each had his own idea of what should be the basis and form of any international agreement to promote peace.

Senator Reed, republican member of the foreign relations committee, was inclined to favor a disarmament agreement if one could be made. He indicated that he would not be adverse to taking such machinery of the Versailles league as might be found practicable, but told Mr. Harding that in his opinion a covenant mutually pledging the leading nations to reduce armaments would be vastly superior to any complicated international peace structure.

As a democrat who has made a bitter fight for flat rejection of the Versailles treaty, Senator Reed counseled the president-elect against acceptance of league membership on any basis and recommended modification of international law as the best hope of averting misunderstandings. To go into the league in the face of the people's verdict at the election, he declared, would be a breach of faith and a costly blunder. He evidenced little faith that wars could be abolished, but conceded a plan for more deliberate diplomatic parleys might prevent some of them.

Economic considerations were advanced by Dr. Butler as the determining factor of the international situation. He prophesied that in the end, trade and commercial ties would be found more binding and more practically useful than peace covenants, in rehabilitating civilization and guaranteeing its security. He suggested that Germany's burden of war indemnity be definitely fixed as appropriate and that markets be stabilized by establishing credits among consumers abroad.

Both Senator Reed and Dr. Butler indicated they considered the war referendum proposal impracticable, and Senator Reed reserved judgment regarding it.

FOOD PRICES DECREASE

November Decline in Portland 2 Per Cent, in Seattle 4 Per Cent.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—A further decrease of 2 1/2 per cent in retail food prices in November, as compared with October, was reported today by the department of labor's bureau of statistics.

The greatest decrease, 5 per cent, was shown in Memphis.

In Birmingham and Seattle the decrease was 4 per cent; in Butte, Dallas and Kansas City, 3 per cent; in Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, Omaha, Portland, Or., and Salt Lake City, 2 per cent; in New York, San Francisco and Washington 1 per cent.

LOLITA ARMOUR ENGAGED

J. J. Mitchell, Son of Wealthy Banker of Chicago, Is Fiancee.

CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—Announcement was made today by Mr. and Mrs. J. Ogden Armour of the engagement of their daughter, Miss Lolita Armour, to John J. Mitchell Jr.

Mr. Mitchell is the son of the chairman of the boards of directors of three of Chicago's largest banks.

FERRY STRIKE HALTED

San Francisco Water Service Not to Be Tied Up, Report.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 18.—A threatened strike of ferry workers on San Francisco bay was called off tonight. The strike had been called effective with the close of service tonight.

CAPITAL JOY MAY YET BE EXPUNGED

Jubilance Over Inaugural Ball Premature

"KILLJOYS" REPORTED BUSY

Westerners Would Cut Out Vain Demonstration.

PROTEST SENT TO MARION

Plea Made at This Time Such Dis- play at Public Expense Would Be Unwise.

THE OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 18.—Washington, the home of high society, high living and sky-high prices, jubilant almost to the point of intoxication because of the promise to revive the inaugural ball, may be due for a terrific shock.

All of this local exhilaration would drop with the sound of shattering glass if inhabitants hereabouts knew of the message being communicated to President-elect Harding today at his home in Marion, O.

"Leave it to the west to take all the joy out of life," these Washington folk probably will remark if they ever learn the contents of the message carried to Mr. Harding by Senator New of Indiana, from some of his colleagues, mainly senators from the west.

Harding's Position Known.

The president-elect is likely to welcome the message, because it is well known that if he could have his way only the simplest ceremonies would mark the inaugural occasion. Senator New went to Marion to discuss various questions with Mr. Harding, but before leaving he was urged to advise the president-elect against approval of an inaugural ball as has been planned.

Republican senators who discussed the matter were Borah of Idaho, McNary of Oregon, Kenyon of Idaho and Spencer of Missouri. They conferred yesterday, after which they requested Senator Reed to write to Mr. Harding, but in their opinion an inaugural ball, in the face of the country's present financial status and the delicacy of the general economic situation, would be a monumental mistake.

Inaugural Ball Costly.

It was suggested that Senator New point out to the next president that the expense of an inaugural would not less than \$100,000, which would be paid out of the treasury; that with people already outburdened with taxes and clamoring for relief, the effect on the country of such a display at public expense would be unfavorable. It would be a case, the senators declared, where all of the people would be asked to foot the bill for a frolic for a very few at a time when the strictest economy should be practiced both in government and in private affairs.

Just what the result of this protest will be remains to be seen. Since the appointment a few days ago of Edward B. McLean, newspaper publisher, as chairman of the inaugural committee, plans have been going ahead for a program surpassing those of all former inaugurations, including the restoration of the ball, a custom which has been a dead letter in the ushering in of presidents for the last 12 years.

Shopkeepers Are Concerned.

Inaugural affairs are always great occasions in Washington. Society gets the peak of enjoyment out of such events, and the merchants, florists, modistes and taxi owners derive enough profits to warrant a vacation for the remainder of the year. Many

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MARINES EXONERATED OF MURDERS IN HAITI

ONLY 2 CRIMINAL HOMICIDES UNCOVERED BY COURT.

Findings Declare All Crimes Have Been Properly Punished, and Praise Corps' Work.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—(By the Associated Press.)—The naval court of inquiry which investigated the conduct of the marines in Haiti, reported to Secretary Daniels today that there "had been no proper grounds" for the statement by Brigadier-General George Barnett, formerly commandant of the marine corps, that the force had been guilty of "practically indiscriminate killing" of Haitians.

After a careful survey, the court, presided over by Rear-Admiral Henry T. Mayo, found General Barnett's charges were "ill-considered, regrettable and thoroughly unwarranted reflections" on the work of the marine corps in Haiti, adding that the corps had performed difficult, dangerous and delicate duty worthy of the highest commendation.

The marines virtually were given a clean bill by the court, which declined to recommend trial by court-martial of Freeman Lang of Los Angeles and Doras Williams of Birmingham, Ala., charged by native witnesses with the murder of Haitians. Indeed, the Lang and Williams cases were not mentioned.

In all "isolated" cases of unjustifiable conduct by marines the court found disciplinary action had been taken. The findings as made public were approved by Secretary Daniels and Major-General John A. LeJeune, commandant of the marine corps.

INTOXICATING CIDER IN HOME IS LAWFUL

PALMER RULES DRY ACT PRE- VENTS ONLY AS LAWFUL.

Prohibition Officer, According to Opinion, Without Authority, Houston Asks Verdict.

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The opinion is in conflict with the regulations of the bureau of internal revenue, which state home-made cider must be "non-intoxicating in fact, although not necessarily containing less than one-half of one per cent of alcohol."

Secretary Houston asked for an opinion as to whether the term "non-intoxicating cider and fruit juices" means non-intoxicating in fact or containing less than one-half of one per cent of alcohol. The phrase occurs in section 29 of the prohibition act, which permits manufacture of non-intoxicating cider for use in the home without a permit.

In answer the attorney-general held that the expression meant containing less than one-half of one per cent, but added:

"In view, however, of what I understand section 29 to mean, I am sure it would be misleading for me to content myself with this direct answer to your question."

Congress intended by section 29 to prohibit the sale, but not the manufacture, of intoxicating cider for use in the home, the opinion said. "Congress seems to have recognized

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Details of Trouble North of Coos Bay Lacking—Signals Picked Up by Guard.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 18.—The Svea, a wooden screw steamer of 418 tons, was reported anchored, apparently in distress, off Coos bay when darkness fell tonight. The Svea was en route from Coos bay to San Francisco with lumber.

The naval radio station at Yuerba Buena gave out the following message from the radio station at Marshfield, Or.:

"Coast guard reported steamer Svea appeared in distress shortly before darkness. She had lost deckload and apparently anchored 300 yards north of Coos bay in 16 feet of water. Unable to see vessel's lights now, due to the mist."

The message was received about 11 o'clock tonight.

The Svea was reported arriving at Coos bay December 15. She is listed as belonging to Wilson Bros. & Co. So far as known she carried no passengers. It was not known how many were in her crew. Her registered captain is K. Rosberg.

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