

EARLY MORNING FIRE IN SACRAMENTO DOES \$250,000 IN DAMAGE

Four Firemen Overcome by Exploding Ammonia Tank; One in Serious Condition.

Sacramento, Dec. 21.—(U. P.)—Fire that broke out at 8 a. m. in one of the main business blocks of the city was under control at 8 o'clock today, after doing damage to the amount of \$250,000. Four firemen were overcome and one of them is in a serious condition, as the result of the explosion of an ammonia tank in the basement of the Columbia grocery, where the fire started. Several other firemen were cut and injured.

The building to which the flames were confined by desperate work on the part of the firemen was in the center of the block bounded by 7 and 9, Seventh and Eighth streets. It was the principal building of the block, having a hotel, two grocery stores, a meat market and bakery. Fifty roomers in the hotel escaped safely, but many of them had on only their night clothes. They were taken to nearby rooming houses. Three roomers took a chance on being trapped when they stopped to gather up their belongings. Firemen hurried them out.

U. S. URGES PEACE TALK SHOWDOWN

Washington, Dec. 21.—(U. P.)—The situation might become intolerable. We have prospered by the war, but our rights have been invaded. Lansing emphasized positively that the German peace proposal and the Lloyd-George speech had nothing to do with the dispatch of the Wilson note except possibly to delay sending it.

On this point he authorized a quotation as follows: "No nation has been sounded on this matter and we did not know in advance what Lloyd-George would say. And there was no consideration of German overtures or the speech of Lloyd-George in connection with the formation of this note."

"The only thing the German overtures did was possibly to delay the note a few days. It was finally decided to send this until Monday. (The note was sent Monday night and Tuesday morning.) The difficulty that faced the president was that the note might be construed as a movement for peace, and in aid of the German overtures. He specifically denies that that was a factor in the communication itself."

Previous to authorizing the note, Lansing had talked more freely than usual and in the same tenor. U. S. May Turn Scale. It had been suggested to him that the United States really was in no position to stop the war unless the belligerents themselves desired to end it.

To this he hinted that if the United States were to enter the war it would turn the scale decidedly, and he emphasized that there was a feeling of danger that the country would be drawn in. He had also said that there was in the administration's mind no purpose to suggest peace in any way.

On the contrary, he explained that what had been generally interpreted as a desire to learn the peace terms of both sides was in reality an effort to ascertain "what would satisfy the belligerents as to ending the war," but with the viewpoint of rendering the position of neutrals less intolerable.

Lansing's whole talk emphasized the idea that "we will have to do something" if American rights are further invaded and if both sides continue in fractions of international law which involve American lives, property and rights.

Daly Must Pay \$30.05. Iver Eide was given a judgment for \$30.25 against City Commissioner W. H. Daly, in district court yesterday afternoon, for damages done to Eide's automobile when Commissioner Daly's machine bumped into it.

The accident occurred June 7 at Sixth and Washington streets. Commissioner Daly contended he should have been given the right of way according to traffic regulations. He said he had purchased his automobile a short time before and was taking lessons in driving it.

Attorney Bradley Ewers represented Eide. When writing or calling on advertisers, please mention The Journal. (Adv.)

Soldier Dying From Policeman's Bullet

San Francisco, Dec. 21.—(P. N. S.)—Private Jesse T. Barnfield, company 10, coast artillery, lies dying at the Letterman general hospital at the Presidio, while Albert Knight, a special policeman, is being held for investigation with a possible charge of murder hanging over him.

BRITISH CENSORS ARE ATTACKED BY LONDON CHRONICLE EDITORIAL

Action In Delaying Cabling of Lloyd-George's Speech on Tuesday Is Criticized.

London, Dec. 21.—(I. N. S.)—The Chronicle today joined the Times in attacking the British censor. Under the caption, "Censoring Lloyd-George's Speech," the Chronicle says: "Long reports of Lloyd-George's great speech in the house of commons on Tuesday were cabled to America. The speech had to be censored at the press bureau before it could be sent to the cable office. This is obviously unnecessary and vexatious and it casts suspicion on accredited reports, besides causing a great deal of delay."

CHILDREN OF BAKER BRAVE SNOW STORM FOR CHRISTMAS TREE

Baker, Or., Dec. 21.—Several hundred school children, braving a hard snowstorm, marched to the municipal Christmas tree Wednesday. They dedicated the tree and formally opened the Christmas season. Christmas carols and patriotic songs were sung, after which from a balcony on the fourth floor of the hotel overlooking the scene, myriads of small balloons, to which gifts were attached, were sent down to the children by Santa Claus. Christmas shopping halted temporarily, the shoppers taking part in the exercises and applauding the youngsters' efforts.

Horse Plunges Through Window. Baker, Or., Dec. 21.—Floyd Miller, aged 7, riding a horse which ran away, dashed through a big plate glass window on a busy corner Wednesday. The horse was badly cut, but the boy, falling off as the crash came, escaped unhurt. The street was crowded, people scattering when the horse plunged around a corner and across the sidewalk. No one was hurt. A big window, valued at \$200 was completely wrecked, but is insured.

School Janitor Held. Baker, Or., Dec. 21.—A. D. Beasley, high school janitor, who fired five charges of fine shot into a crowd of high school boys who were disturbing a party of school teachers at the high school Tuesday, says he fired merely to frighten the boys, who attempted to capture him when he appeared to drive them away. None of the boys was badly hurt and public opinion is, they got less than they deserved. The school board held a special meeting and voted to uphold the janitor. The authorities will take the matter no further.

Fund to Fight Crickets Asked. Washington, Dec. 21.—(U. P.)—Senator Pol Dexter today asked that \$5000 be appropriated to fight crickets in Washington state.

CARRANZA SOLDIERS DESERT MURGUIA TO JOIN GONZALES' MEN

Three Hundred Escape From Chihuahua City to Juarez; Others Cross Into U. S.

El Paso, Texas, Dec. 21.—(I. N. S.)—Three hundred Carranza soldiers who refused to fight under General Murguia at Chihuahua City escaped on a train and reached Juarez early today. They immediately joined the command of General Gonzales, commander of the Juarez garrison, who has defied Murguia in the latter's efforts to depose him. Murguia started a force northward to pursue the deserters but afterward recalled them, fearing attack by roving bands of Villistas. Some of the officers and musicians that followed the band that accompanied the fleeing Carranzistas crossed to El Paso and declared they will not return to Mexico. They reported that General Murguia was preparing to send a strong force to Juarez to attack Carranza if he does not relinquish his command.

NEUTRALS WILL BACK PRESIDENT WILSON'S REQUEST FOR TERMS

(Continued From Page One.) Today, scarcely recovered from the startling development of his sending a peace note to all countries, awaited with anxiety the first response from belligerent nations to the president's suggestion for peace definitions.

The president's action came out of a clear sky. Assured of Favorable Response. The president has made it clear many times that he would make no such move unless he were assured of its definitely accomplishing its purpose.

Determination to launch his pronouncement was reached suddenly, although he had contemplated such action for several weeks. The change in the announced policy of this government to merely act as messenger for the belligerent powers remained an enigma today, but it is assumed the president received assurances such as "entering wedge" proposal would not be received in an unfriendly spirit by any of the belligerents.

In diplomatic circles the president's move was discussed today with mixed feelings. There was outspoken optimism at the German embassy. Language Draws Comment. Comment was made on the "studied language" of the note, and it was pointed out that the president's view on future guarantees squared with those of Lloyd-George.

WASHINGTON IS MORE HOPEFUL THAN IT HAS BEEN SINCE WAR BEGAN

By John Edwin Nevin.

Washington, Dec. 21.—(I. N. S.)—The world scales today were trembling in the balance. They moved slightly toward the side of peace. Whether the weight of President Wilson's frank appeal will swing them sufficiently to insure the ending of Europe's dreadful holocaust only time will tell. But here in the national capital there was a spirit of hopefulness that has been utterly absent since August, 1914. And this hopefulness permeated official and diplomatic circles alike.

South America in Line.

Buenos Aires, Dec. 21.—(U. P.)—Argentina is certain to support President Wilson's plea for peace. The warm approval, expressed by members of the government here, was coupled with the prediction that the whole continent would be a unit in its support of such a step.

European Neutrals Move.

Berlin, Dec. 21.—(I. N. S.)—Sweden, Norway, Switzerland and Denmark have joined hands in a movement which they hope will result in bringing the world war to an end. They are eager to get the support of Holland.

This information comes from Deputy Schaper of the Dutch parliament, who recently made the announcement of the peace movement in an address.

Many View Bodies Of Tragedy Victims

Funeral services for Miss White were held this afternoon and interment was made in the City View cemetery.

Salem, Or., Dec. 21.—Fully 1000 persons thronged Coroner Clough's morgue yesterday afternoon to view the bodies of Miss Myrtle White and Thomas W. Cummings, principals in the tragedy here Tuesday when Miss White shot and instantly killed Cummings in a room in the Marion hotel.

Convicts Get Holiday Parole.

Much More Valuable.

Lansing, Kan., Dec. 21.—(U. P.)—Fifteen Kansas convicts will be given a 10 day parole, "on their honor" to visit their homes during the holidays. The 15 convicts were to leave the prison today, officials said. Much More Valuable. From the Philadelphia Record, The Deutschland could hardly have given cargo space to jewels when it could bring dyes.

Memoranda from Milady's Notebook.

FRIDAY

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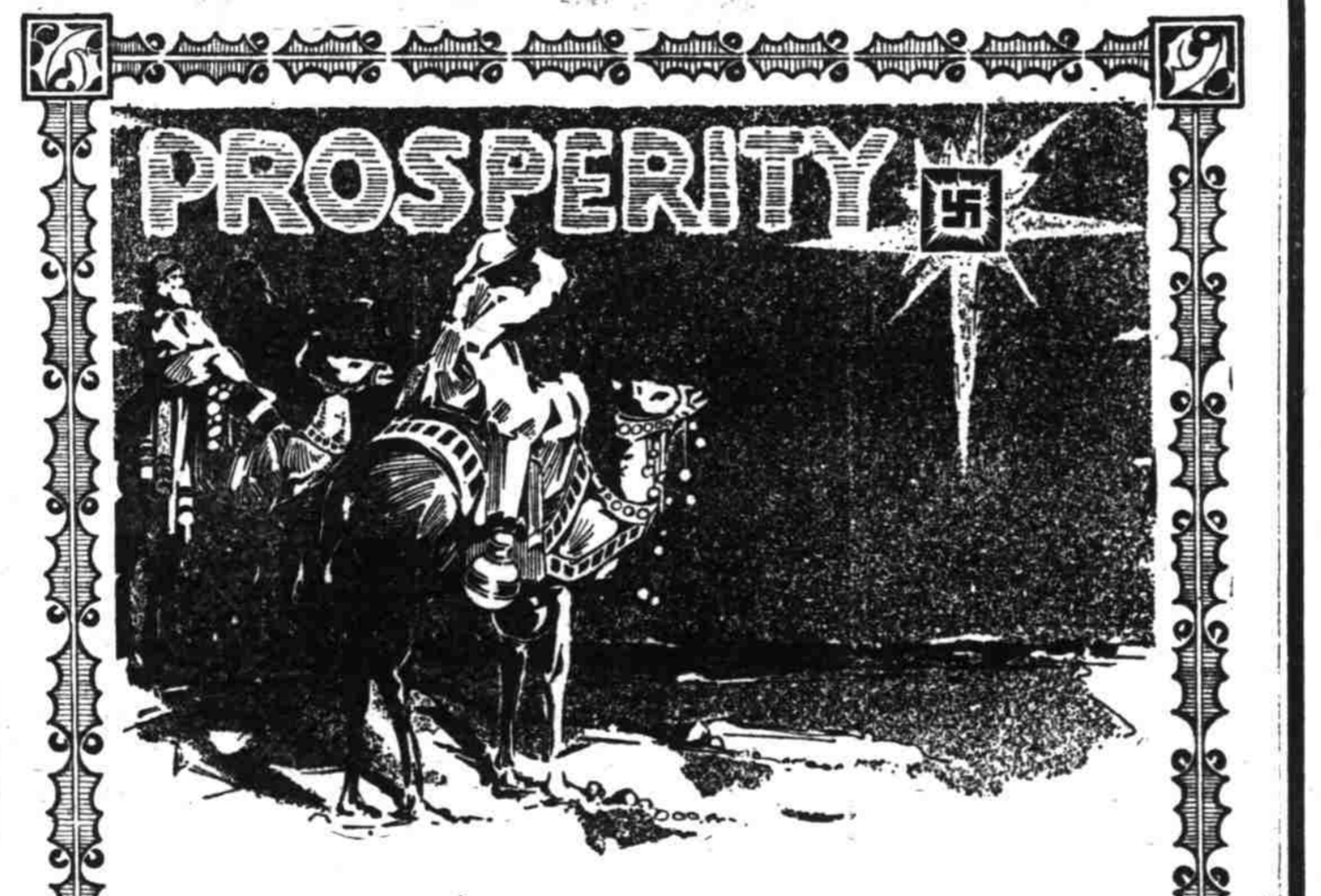
Men's Dress Shirts Crisp, new, fresh materials of rep, silk stripes, fine madras, etc. Best makes, only Arrows, Monarchs, No-Fade, Victor: Reg. \$1.00 Shirts . . . 75c Reg. \$1.50 Shirts . . . 1.15 Reg. \$2.00 Shirts . . . 1.35

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