

# EXPLOSION SHAKES UP SOUTH CHICAGO

## Big Blast Destroys Armour Grain Elevator.

### FLAMES FINISH HAVOC

#### Structure, One of Largest of Kind in World, Was Erected at Cost of Ten Millions.

Chicago.—An explosion of grain dust rocked the southern section of Chicago early Saturday night, wrecked one of the world's largest grain elevators and broke every window within a mile.

Of the nine watchmen trapped in the structure by the blast, one is known to be dead and four are missing.

The elevator, which consisted of steel and concrete towers, was located in the southern outskirts of the city on the banks of the Calumet river. It was built at a cost of more than \$10,000,000 and was operated by the Armour Grain company.

The explosion was due, it was said by officials, to a fire that started in a chute. The blaze set fire to the dust-filled air and the resulting blast rent asunder the big tower, releasing thousands of bushels of grain.

So great was the force of the explosion that it hurled great concrete blocks hundreds of feet and derailed a freight train standing on a near-by track.

The few men in the elevator are thought to have been trapped by the flood of blazing grain.

Up to a late hour only one body had been removed. Four others are known to have escaped.

Heavy damage was caused in nearby towns by the explosion. Windows were shattered in Hammond, Whiting and East Chicago. The property loss at Whiting, according to merchants, will reach \$100,000.

Normally about 2,000,000 bushels of grain are stored in the elevator, but at the time of the blast there was only about 500,000 bushels. This was destroyed by the fire that followed the explosion.

The explosion occurred just after 150 employes had quit for the day. According to one eye witness, there were three separate explosions, the last being the most severe. The explosions tore the top off the elevator.

Early estimates put the property loss at \$6,000,000.

### Nation in 30 Months Needs \$17,000,000,000

Pittsburg, Pa.—Something like \$17,000,000,000 must be provided by the federal government within 30 months to meet its running expenses and refunding operations, Secretary Weeks declared here Saturday night in an address before the Pittsburg chamber of commerce.

"This," he said, "is a greater task than was ever undertaken by any nation in time of peace and there is no one who does not view the prospect with more or less alarm. It is the height of folly to undertake new commitments if they can be avoided."

The secretary discussed economy in government operations, recognition of federal activities in Washington, taxation and the tariff. He urged repeal of the excess profits tax, declaring that with falling prices it was not an effective tax. He said there were innumerable instances where concerns which made large profits in 1919, paying a tax on these profits, lost so much during 1920 that on January 1, 1921, their resources were less than January 1, 1919.

### Many Are Hurt in Fire.

Emporia, Kan.—Three persons were unaccounted for following a fire which destroyed the Hotel Whittely Sunday. Several persons were burned severely and others suffered injuries when they fell from upper stories.

Jack Fisher, a wrestler fell three stories when a rope burned in two, but was uninjured. Ed Warner, Fisher's manager, jumped three stories and landed uninjured on the wrestler's back.

The damage was estimated at \$100,000.

### Rotary Probes Relief.

Indianapolis, Ind.—A survey of conditions surrounding the care of disabled world war veterans has been started by 800 Rotary clubs, according to a letter received at the American Legion's national headquarters from C. H. Perry, secretary of the Rotary Clubs' association.

The purpose, says the letter, is "to prove whether American Legion reports are based on hysteria or upon facts."

## INDUSTRIAL UNITY IS URGED

### Government Controlled Production of Goods Would Benefit Public.

Washington, D. C.—Encouragement by the government of permanent, intimate combinations or associations in industry, under federal supervision, was recommended in the final report of the war industries board, just completed by B. M. Baruch, chairman.

The report holds that great public benefit in the way of prices and abundance of goods, resulting from economies in production and distribution during the war, and that the government policy of enforced isolation and costly competition is not conducive to the general welfare.

Pointing out that the same power born of association that makes for potential benefit also may make for potential injustices, the report recommends that there be created a government agency, which shall supervise such associations.

The report recommends that purely as a civic measure legislation be adopted permitting the continued functioning of the industrial group represented by the war service committees and the related associations of manufacturers whose establishment was forced by the war exigency.

### Loss Is Shown in Census of Middle-West Prisons

Chicago.—Prison population of the middle and southwestern United States has decreased 12.4 per cent in the past six years, according to reports collected by the Associated Press from state penitentiaries in 16 states. The decrease amounted to 2729 prisoners. The total penitentiary population of the 16 states in 1914 was 21,947, in 1920 19,218. Date of the comparative figures was for the most part December 1 of each year.

Falling off in the prison population of the section is equivalent to more than the combined prisoners of Iowa, Kansas, Wisconsin and North and South Dakota in 1914.

Decrease, however, was shown not to be uniform throughout the territory. Six states had the reverse to show, reporting an increase, while one presented exactly the same figures. The decrease came from nine states.

### Lumber Rate to Pittsburg Cut.

Washington, D. C.—The railroads operating west of Chicago have voluntarily reduced the rates on lumber from the Pacific coast as far east as Pittsburg. The reduction amounts to about \$2 a thousand feet and it is thought will aid materially to broaden the buying markets of the consumers affected. This reduction does not apply to the seaboard territory east of Pittsburg because the eastern lines have refused to concur in any reductions on the long-haul rates.

### 15 Slain in Ambush.

Cork.—Seven soldiers and one policeman were killed and several wounded and seven members of the attacking party were killed in the ambush of military and police near Kinsale Saturday, according to the latest reports received here. The fatalities to the crown forces were caused by the blowing up of a bridge when three lorries were crossing it. Twenty Sinn Feiners were captured, of whom seven were wounded, and the military took a large quantity of ammunition.

### Gas Caused Stampede.

The Pas, Man.—The reported discovery of a flow of gas in the foothills near the Pasqua river, Saskatchewan, 100 miles west of The Pas, has resulted in a miniature stampede to that district. A dozen small syndicates have been formed and large blocks of land taken up. The district is not easy of access, and is little known. Indians visit it with superstitious discretion, although for many years they have gathered there for use in cementing their birch bark canoes.

### State to Buy Old Shop.

Nashville, Tenn.—A bill appropriating \$15,000 for the purchase and preservation of the little building in Greenville, Tenn., which Andrew Johnson, 17th president, used as a tailor shop before his entrance into politics, passed the senate Thursday and now goes to the governor. The picture of this dilapidated little building has adorned Tennessee histories for years but the commonwealth has been slow to take steps to preserve it.

### Clara Hamon Baptized.

Ardmore, Okla. — Clara Smith Hamon, acquitted of a charge of murder in connection with the death of Jake L. Hamon, Sunday was baptized in the First Christian church by Dr. C. S. Brooks, its pastor. Mr. G. J. James of Los Angeles, a sister of Mrs. Hamon, also was baptized. Accompanied by her family, Mrs. Hamon attended the morning service, after which she approached the pastor and asked for the baptismal service.

## STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

Prineville.—John L. Karnopp of Portland has been in the city the past week making arrangements for the new bank which under the articles of incorporation will be known as the Bank of Prineville.

Eugene.—The entire \$11,000 estate of Mrs. Della J. Garlinger, who died here March 13, was bequeathed to the permanent endowment fund of Willamette university at Salem. The will was admitted to probate Friday.

Klamath Falls.—Seaforth Queen III, owned by S. A. Hempe of Union, Or., brought the top price for cows, \$675, at the second annual farm bureau Short-horn sale Friday afternoon. Oliver Martin of Merrill was the purchaser.

Newport.—A neglected industry of offering unlimited possibilities in Lincoln county is the growing of goats for mohair. The burned area covering hundreds of square miles, being well watered and covered with ferns, grass and salal, is just waiting for a man with a flock of goats.

Salem.—Night police officers late Sunday discovered 25 transients huddled in a box car attached to a south-bound Southern Pacific train. To prevent the men alighting here the officers closed and locked the door of the car and ordered the trainmen to carry the travelers out of the city.

Baker.—Baker will place exhibits of its various minerals at the third International Mining convention to be held in Portland, April 5-9. It is planned to distribute at the convention a pamphlet, listing all mines and minerals of the county, as well as giving a complete history of the geographical development.

Salem.—The Pacific Spruce corporation, organized under the laws of Delaware, has made application to operate in Oregon. The capital stock is \$150,000. F. S. Scritsmier of Portland has been named attorney in fact. Oregon headquarters of the corporation will be in Portland. The purpose of the corporation is to operate a lumber mill in Lincoln county.

Prineville.—W. T. Smith, who last fall sold \$1600 worth of turkeys to the Portland markets, is planning on doubling that amount this year. Mr. Smith lives on one of the tracts under the Ochoco project and asserts that the essential things in raising turkeys are plenty of space and food, also that great care must be used in keeping young turks warm during the cold spring days.

Klamath Falls.—Klamath county's tax muddle is causing bond buyers to shy at purchasing county or city bonds, said Carl S. Kelly, vice-president of the Lumbermen Trust company of Portland, here recently. If the situation is not straightened out soon there will be no money to meet maturing interest on outstanding bonds. The first installment becomes delinquent April 5. So far no collections have been made.

Marshfield.—In line with the general trend in this county for better farm stock, C. C. Farr, county agent, has arranged with Oregon Agricultural college for a public sale of pure-bred beef cattle at Coquille on March 25. Professor Oliver of Oregon Agricultural college will accompany the carload, which is all from the college farm. The stock includes Herefords and Shorthorns, 12 bulls and six heifers, coming 2 years.

Salem.—Bids for \$1,000,000 of state highway bonds, the issuance of which was approved by the state board of control here recently, will be opened in Salem April 9, according to announcement. These bonds will mature in four years after issuance and sale and will draw 5 1/2 per cent interest. Money derived from the sale of these bonds will be matched by the federal government for the construction of post roads in Oregon.

Salem.—The so-called public service commission recall committee, through W. E. Richardson, secretary, has submitted to the secretary of state a sample petition, which it will be necessary to circulate throughout the state before actual proposal for recall of the commissioners can be placed on the ballot. Under the existing laws it will require 20,000 signatures of qualified voters before the question of recalling the public service body can be referred.

Salem.—There was one fatality due to industrial accidents in Oregon during the week ending March 17, according to a report prepared by the state industrial accident commission. The victim was Steven Baker, faller, of Hoskiss. Of the total of 397 accidents reported, 372 were subject to benefits under the workmen's compensation act, 24 were from firms and corporations that had rejected the law and one was from a public utility not subject to the provisions of the act.

# The Homesteader

By ROBERT J. C. STEAD

Author of "The Cow Puncher," Etc.

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"ALLAN."

Synopsis.—Dissatisfied because of the seemingly barren outlook of his position as a school teacher in Casadian town, John Harris determines to leave it, take up land in Manitoba and become a "homesteader." Mary, the girl whom he loves, declares she will accompany him. They are married and set out for the unknown country. Alec McCrae, pioneer settler and adviser of newcomers, proves an invaluable friend. Leaving his wife with the family of a fellow settler, Fred Arthur, Harris and McCrae journey over the prairie and select a homestead. Mary insists on accompanying him when he takes possession. They build a shack and put in a crop.

CHAPTER III—Continued.

It was not dreadfully cold, but the sky seemed only a vast turmoil of snow. Darkness came down very early, but at last Harris began to recognize familiar landmarks close by the trail, and just as night was settling in he drew into the partial shelter of the bench on the bank of the coulee. The horses pulled on their reins persistently for the stable, but Harris forced them up to the house. His loud shout was whipped away by the wind and strangled in a moment, so he climbed stiffly from the wagon and pulled with numb hands at the double thickness of carpet that did service for a door. He fancied he heard a sound, but could be sure of nothing; he called her name again and again, but could distinguish no answer. But at last the fastenings which help the carpet gave way, and he half walked, half fell, into the house.

The lantern burned dimly, but it was not at the lantern he looked. In the farthest corner, scarcely visible in the feeble light, stood his wife, and at her shoulder was the gun, trained steadily upon him.

"Mary Mary, don't you know me?" he cried.

She dropped her weapon to the floor, where it went off, harmlessly burying its charge in the sod wall.

"Thank God, oh, thank God!" she exclaimed.

He threw off his wet overcoat and rushed to her side. But she sat silent on the bed, staring absently at the light flickering uncertainly in the wind from the open door.

He hastily rearranged the carpet, then, returning to her, he took her hands in his and rubbed them briskly. But she still stared vaguely at the light.

Suddenly a thought came to him. He rushed outside, to find that the horses, of their own accord, had taken shelter beside the stable. Here from the wagon he drew a little bundle and hurried back to the house.

She was sitting where he left her, shivering slightly and watching the play of the light as it flickered up and down the wall. He tore the package open and spread its contents before her.

At first she took no notice, but gradually her eyes found the outline of soft cloth and dainty feminine devices. With a great joy he watched the color returning as her set face relaxed.

But the doctor only mumbled "S no use," and fell heavily to sleep.

Throwing open his coat to get free motion for his arms, Harris in a moment wrapped the sleeping man in a couple of blankets from the bed, threw him over his shoulder, carried him down the rickety ladder, and deposited him, none too gently, in the sleigh. There was a mild cheer from the men about the stove over these heroic measures, and one of them thoughtfully threw the doctor's satchel into the sleigh. The next moment all were lost in the darkness.

Harris drove for an hour, watching the trail keenly in the whitish mist of the winter's night, and urging the horses to the limit of their exertions. He had almost forgotten his passenger when he felt a stir in the bottom

"Watche Doing, Harris?"

of the sleigh. Looking down closely he found the doctor trying to extricate a flask from one of his pockets. With a quick wrench he took it from him, and would have thrown it into the snow, but the thought struck him that it might be needed, and he put it into his own pocket.

The doctor struggled to his feet. "Say, Harris, you're friend o' mine, but don't take too many liberties, see? 'S no use tryin' without it. Jus' give me that bottle now, or I'll get out an' go home."

Harris was so pleased at the signs of returning coherence that he could have hugged the doctor, but he only said, "You've had enough for tonight. And you won't get out, because if you try to I'll knock you senseless in the bottom of the sleigh."

After that the doctor remained silent for some time. Then suddenly he demanded: "Shay, Harris, where you takin' me to, anyway?"

"I'm taking you to my home."

"Wha' for? You're all right, I guess . . ." Suddenly the doctor stood erect.

"Harris, is your wife sick?"

"That's why I came for you."

"Well, why the devil didn't you say so? Here, give me that whip. Harris, Harris, what did you waste time arguin' for?"

"I didn't waste much. The argument was mostly on your side."

"Harris," said the doctor, after a long silence, "you think I'm a fool. You're right. It isn't as though I didn't know. I know the road I'm going, and the end thereof. . . . And yet, in a pinch, I can pull myself together. I'm all right now. But it'll get me again as soon as this is over. . . . Any good I am, any good I do, is just a bit of salvage out of the wreck. The wreck—yes, it's a good word that—wreck."

Just as the dawn was breaking he knelt beside her. Her eyes were very large and quiet, and her face was white and still. But she raised one pale hand, and the thin fingers fondled in his hair. She drew his face very gently down, and big silent tears stood in his eyes.

"We will call him Allan," he said.

The changes of a quarter of a century.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Ornamental Thimbles.

At one time, apart from the shape, which is imperative, thimbles were decorated with all kinds of precious stones at the tip—and these were, of course, designated more for ornament than use, when it was the fashion, as Sheridan remarks, for fine ladies to play "at fine work," according to the Irish World. Ladies in our grandmothers' days, besides seeing to the household and personal linen, generally worked in delicate material in silks and satins, when a smaller thimble was brought into play and used with some of the witchery of the fan.



"Mary, Mary, Don't You Know Me?" He Cried.