

WAR MUNITIONS BLOW UP

\$25,000,000 Loss In New York Explosion and Fire.

WAREHOUSES BURN

Three Dead and Many Injured By Shock That Shakes Five States —Washington Gets Tip of Impending Danger.

New York—Property loss estimated at \$25,000,000 was caused early Sunday by a series of terrific explosions of ammunition awaiting shipment to the entente allies and stored on Black Tom Island, a small strip of land jutting into New York Bay off Jersey City.

The loss of life cannot be determined definitely until there has been opportunity to check up the workmen employed on the island and on boats moored nearby.

Three are known to be dead and at least five more are missing. Scores of persons were injured, some of them probably mortally.

The detonations, which were felt in five states, began with a continuous rapid fire of small shells, the blowing up of great quantities of dynamite, trinitrotoluene and other high explosives, followed by the bursting of thousands of shrapnel shells, which literally showered the surrounding country and waters for many miles around.

Fire started soon after the first great crash, which spread death and desolation in its wake, destroyed 13 of the huge warehouses of the National Storage company on Black Tom Island and six other warehouses in which were stored merchandise valued at between \$12,000,000 and \$15,000,000. The flames, shooting into the clouds, were reflected against New York's "skyscraper" of towering office buildings, which only a few minutes before were shaken to their foundations as by an earthquake. Miles of streets in Manhattan alone were strewn with broken glass and shattered signs.

The cause of the disaster has not been determined. Officials of the National Storage company and the Lehigh Valley railroad, which also suffered heavily through loss of property, declared, however, that reports to them showed a fire started shortly after 1 o'clock Sunday morning on a barge belonging to an independent towing company that had been moored alongside a dock used by the railroad company to transfer ammunition shipments from trains to vessels in the harbor.

The barge, it was said was there without authority of either the railroad or the storage company. The officials refused to disclose the name of the independent towing company, saying they were investigating "to ascertain whether the barge purposely had been set on fire as the result of a plot."

Advance Tip Given.

Washington, D. C.—The government Secret Service was notified three days ago that several enemies of England had been employed by German agents to precipitate just such an explosion of ammunition as took place in New York harbor. The informant said that the men were Irishmen, probably members of the Sinn Fein.

What steps were taken to guard against the catastrophe is not known. In any event, they were futile. The Secret Service now is running down its clues in the hope that it will enable the apprehension of the criminals if it should turn out the tragedy was caused by human agency.

The information came from a source which in the past has proved absolutely reliable. It failed to disclose the names of the men in the plot and it is not certain they can be obtained. However, it is understood the source is to be "tipped" again, in the hope that some further details may be secured which will aid in the arrest of the men involved.

Petrograd Fire Reported.

Berlin — Reports of a great conflagration at Petrograd, in which a bridge across the river Neva, 12 large steamers, including several trans-Atlantic liners, and the Putiloff gun works and other establishments were destroyed, are printed in the Lokal Anzeiger. The newspaper adds: "The police suspect that the conflagration was the work of anarchists, who planned to burn all public buildings being used for military purposes."

HUNDREDS OF CHILDREN DIE IN MONTREAL FROM INTENSE HEAT

Chicago—The present heat wave, which envelops all of the country excepting the Pacific Coast, is proving especially severe in Eastern Canada, where the people are unused to torridity. Dispatches say that more than 250 children perished in Montreal the past week from heat. The temperature there Tuesday was 93—the highest point reported in five years. In Quebec 23 children have been killed by the heat since Sunday. Toronto also reports unusual heat, which has continued for nearly a week, resulting in deaths and prostrations.

Conditions in Montreal especially, are most unusual. Ordinarily that city is positively cold when the States are baking and sweltering, and hay fever sufferers have hailed Montreal as the one spot they could count on for relief. Now conditions are almost reversed, as Montreal is seven degrees hotter than Chicago.

Oregon Dry Law Seriously Hurt by Circuit Court Decision

Portland — Restrictions as to the amount of liquor which persons in Oregon may receive from outside the state every four weeks are in danger of being swept aside.

Sections of the Oregon dry law regulating the importation of liquor and alcohol into the state are nullified, in the opinion of District Attorney Evans, if the decision of Circuit Judge Morrow Tuesday in overruling the demurrer to the complaint of Wadhams & Co., against the San Francisco & Portland Steamship company remains in force or is upheld by higher courts on an appeal.

"Two thirds of the Prohibition law is wiped out by this decision," said Mr. Evans. "The state is not a party to the suit and any appeal from the ruling must be made by the steamship company."

Judge Morrow's decision holds that the provision of the dry law limiting the right of importing large quantities of alcohol to wholesale druggists is in direct violation of the interstate commerce clause of the United States constitution. Any manufacturer, genuinely in need of alcohol in wholesale quantities, may import as much alcohol as he desires for manufacturing purposes, maintains the jurist.

Possession of alcohol by the manufacturer not being unconstitutional, it is unconstitutional to prohibit him from importing it ruled Judge Morrow.

"That being the case, it follows that as the possession of intoxicants is not unlawful for the individual, no matter what the quantity, the restriction of the amount received by him to two quarts of whiskey and 24 quarts of beer a month must be unconstitutional also," said the attorney.

Ten Die in Cleveland Tunnel.

Cleveland—Federal officials investigating the waterworks disaster which cost 22 lives late Tuesday ordered all attempts to reach the bodies of 12 men imprisoned in the tunnel abandoned until Wednesday.

This action was taken because tests of the gas through which the rescuers had to pass showed that it was highly explosive and the officials feared a second explosion. An attempt will be made to pump out the gas so that the work of recovering the bodies may progress.

All hope that any of the 12 men trapped in the tunnel are alive has been abandoned. Ten bodies, those of members of the two rescue parties which tried to reach the doomed men but themselves succumbed to the deadly gas, are in the morgue.

Students Will Be Released.

Washington, D. C.—All National Guard organizations composed of college students will be mustered out of the Federal service in time for them to proceed with their school work at the Fall term.

It was announced at the War department Wednesday that the policy of the government would be to disband organizations completely as units of the National Guard and to seek the reorganization of the college men into branches of the officers' reserve corps.

Poles Thank Americans.

The Hague, via London—The Polish bureau Wednesday informed the Associated Press that the Polish delegates to the Congress of Nationalities at Lausanne, Switzerland, have sent a cablegram to President Wilson, thanking the American Nation for the action begun to succor the economic misery in Poland. Hope is expressed that the "sacred watchword of liberty and independence for Poland will find a ready echo in America."

WORLD'S DOINGS OF CURRENT WEEK

Brief Resume of General News From All Around the Earth.

UNIVERSAL HAPPENINGS IN A NUTSHELL

Live News Items of All Nations and Pacific Northwest Condensed for Our Busy Readers.

During July 28 and 29, the Russians captured 32,000 Germans.

The supreme lodge of Knights of Pythias is in session at Portland.

One hundred and eighty-four persons lose their lives in the forest fire in Ontario.

German aircraft make a raid on the English coast, dropping bombs at several points.

Winston Churchill, former first lord of the British admiralty, declares England was saved by her navy.

The German submarine Deutschland, preparing to leave American waters, fears an "accident" in Chesapeake bay.

Francis Joseph, emperor of Austria, contracted a severe cold while inspecting troops and is confined to his bed.

Mrs. Sarah Barr, one of the oldest white women in California died Tuesday at Monrovia, near Los Angeles, aged 102.

The heat wave that has enveloped Chicago and the Middle West, was broken Monday by a stiff breeze from the North.

England positively refuses to permit medicines for American Red Cross societies to pass the allies' lines into Germany or Austria.

The committee on industrial preparedness of the naval consulting board has completed a survey of the resources in case of war.

The U. S. court at Norfolk, Va., has rendered a decision which gives back to English owners the prize ship Appam, captured by the Germans.

The failure of the Pope's appeals to the warring nations for peace was admitted by the Pontiff in addressing a delegation of the youth of Rome.

During a quarrel between two employees of the Union Meat company at Portland, one man was knocked into a vat of boiling water and cooked alive.

Striking employees of the three large packing houses in East St. Louis have voted to accept the concessions made by the employers and to return to work Tuesday. About 4500 men are involved.

Henry Edward Duke, a barister and Unionist member of Parliament for Exeter, was appointed to be the new chief secretary of Ireland in succession to Augustine Birrell. The new chief secretary will have a seat in the British cabinet.

Nineteen days with the thermometer averaging 93 degrees was the record of the hot spell in Chicago. The highest temperature was 102; the lowest 61. A total of 325 deaths occurred, including 176 babies; 2600 prostrations were reported, and 890 horses dropped dead in the streets.

An aviator at San Diego, Cal., sends wireless messages at ten-minute intervals during a flight.

Mathematicians at Aberdeen, Wash., have figured out that by shaving yourself three times a week for 50 years, providing you take the money saved from barbers and place it at compound interest, a fortune of \$11,100 will have been accumulated.

B. F. Finn, 93 years old, of the McKenzie River region, Lane county, Oregon, claiming to have been the original of Mark Twain's character, "Huckleberry" Finn, has lost his case in court for the cancellation of a deed conveying the old Finn place.

The severity of the fighting since the beginning of the present offensive on the Western front is indicated by the list of casualties among officers, issued by the London war office, showing for the first three weeks of July 1108 killed, 2834 wounded and 491 missing.

Nearly \$700,000,000 for national defense in the fiscal year 1917 is the aggregate of proposed appropriations in the senate with passage of the army appropriation bill carrying in round numbers \$314,000,000. This grand total for preparedness still is subject to revision, however.

AMERICANISM DEMANDED

Charles E. Hughes' Acceptance Speech Sets Forth Campaign Issues and Asserts American Rights.

Charles E. Hughes outlined in his speech of acceptance in New York, Monday night, the issues upon which he will conduct his campaign for the presidency.

Mr. Hughes assailed the administration for the course it has pursued with reference to Mexico, maintenance of American rights during the European war, preparedness and other great questions of the day. He declared for a new policy of "firmness and consistency" toward Mexico, for "the unflinching maintenance of all American rights on land and sea," and for adequate National defense; adequate protection on both our Western and Eastern coasts.

"We denounce all plots and conspiracies in the interest of any foreign nation," said Mr. Hughes. "Utterly intolerable is the use of our soil for alien intrigues. Every American must unreservedly condemn them and support every effort for their suppression."

The nominee assailed the administration for its "direction of diplomatic intercourse" from the beginning, declaring that where there should have been conspicuous strength and expertness there had been weakness and inexperience. He cited Santo Domingo as an instance where appointments had gone to "deserving Democrats" and to the failure to continue Ambassador Herrick at his post in Paris after the war had started as "a lamentable sacrifice of international repute."

"I indorse the declaration in the platform in favor of woman suffrage," Mr. Hughes declared, and he added: "Opposition may delay, but in my judgment cannot defeat, this movement. I favor the vote for women."

One-fourth of the speech was devoted to Mexico. Step after step taken by the administration with reference to Mexico was assailed, from the days of Huerta to the note sent the de facto government by the State department June 20 last, part of which was quoted in the speech. The seizure of Vera Cruz, the nominee said, was "war, of course."

"Later we retired from Vera Cruz," he continued, "giving up this noble warfare. Recently the naked truth was admitted by a Cabinet officer. We are now informed that we did not go to Vera Cruz to force Huerta to salute the flag. We are told that we went there to 'show Mexico that we were in earnest in our demand that Huerta must go.'"

"America," Mr. Hughes continued, "has no policy of aggression toward Mexico, no desire for any part of her territory, but wishes her to have peace, stability and prosperity."

"The conduct of the administration has created difficulties we shall have to surmount," he said. "We demand from Mexico the protection of the lives and property of our citizens and the security of our border from deprivations."

Safeguarding American rights abroad had not been accomplished by the administration, he said. There had been "brave words in a series of notes," but "what does it avail to use some of the strongest words known to diplomacy if ambassadors can receive the impression that the words are not to be taken seriously."

The nominee reiterated his declaration that had this government left no doubt that it meant to hold Germany "to strict accountability," there would have been no loss of life on the Lusitania.

Discussing preparedness Mr. Hughes said it was apparent that the United States was "shockingly unprepared."

"The administration has failed to discharge its responsibilities," Mr. Hughes continued. "Apparently it is now seeking to meet political exigencies by its naval program. But it has imposed upon the country an incompetent naval administration."

"We demand adequate protection on both our Western and Eastern coasts. We demand thoroughness and efficiency in both arms of the service. It seems to be plain that our regular army is too small. We are too great a country to require of our citizens who are engaged in peaceful vocations the sort of military service to which they are now called."

Of the present prosperity, Mr. Hughes said:

Mr. Hughes said it was plain that we must have protection, up-building policies. Other measures, too, should be applied, he said, notably the up-building of a merchant marine.

To make peace lasting and effective when the present war shall end, Mr. Hughes advocated the formation of an international tribunal to dispose of controversies of a justiciable sort, backed by the co-operation of the nations to prevent war before peaceful methods of adjustment end.

Mr. Hughes also declared for the "conservation of the just interests of labor," for conservation of natural resources and for a national budget.

"Our opponents promised economy, but they have shown a reckless extravagance. It is time we had fiscal reform."

Mr. Hughes closed with an indorsement of the Republican platform adopted by the national convention and a formal acceptance of the nomination. Senator Harding, in his notification speech said:

"Mr. Hughes: The committee here assembled, representing all of the United States and territories, chosen by the Republican National convention, which met in Chicago on last June 7, is directed by that convention formally to notify you of its action in selecting you as its nominee for the Presidency of the Republic."

"Speaking for the committee, it is my pleasure to say directly what was conveyed to you by telegraph, while the convention was yet in session—that you are unanimous choice of the Republican National convention for the party standard-bearer."

"That convention uttered the principles of a confident, determined reunited and enthusiastic Republican party, which turns to you, in highest respect and trust, as a nominee best typifying the party's purposes and the people's desires."

"Inasmuch as the unusual circumstance inspired an informal notice at the time of the convention's action and you then made an informal acceptance of the call to patriotic duty, which won the plaudits of our people, I shall not refer in detail to the actions of the convention or the declared principles to which the Republican party is committed. But it is fitting that I should speak the congratulations of this committee on your most extraordinary nomination."

"It has no parallel in the history of the Republican party. As the whole people have approvingly witnessed, you have been chosen for leadership by a convention which comprised the best thought, the highest intention and deepest consecration of a great and historic party, when you were not only an aspirant, but discouraged all endeavors in your behalf."

"Notwithstanding your holding aloof from all conferences and participation, that unfailing understanding which directs popular sentiment to highest victory called you to the service of the party and the nation. Your record of public service, your well known and courageous views on public questions when in executive position, your abiding devotion to Republicanism, your possession of a confidence which has united all believers in Republican policies under our party banner, your unalterable and abiding Americanism, your high personal character and well-known capacity—all these have fixed you in the American mind as the best exponent of Republican principles and the wisest leader to restore American prestige and efficient government."

"We bring you now the commission to that leadership. We bring it in full confidence that the people will gladly acclaim the Republican restoration under your trusted leadership. We bring it in the highest appreciation of that peace of right and justice which your unwavering Americanism will hold secure rather than endanger. We bring it in the strong belief that American material good fortune, under Republican industrial preparedness, will be the glad reflex of our own peace and the world's peace and be held permanent under Republican protection. We bring it in firm conviction that you, sir, will hold that platform promises constitute a sacred party covenant and the expressed will of the people at the polls must find response in capable and efficient administration."

"Aye, sir, we bring it believing you will add to our self-respect, confidence and good fortune at home and to that respect and good opinion abroad which meets our higher American aspirations."