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No Other Town in the World the Size of Grants Pass Has a Paper With Full Leased Wire Telegraph Service.

BOMB CAUSE LOS ANGELES FIRE LOSS

Plant of the Llewellyn Iron Company Is Destroyed By Blaze Supposed To Have Been of Incendiary Origin

Los Angeles, Dec. 16.—Fire, said by the police and fire department to have been of incendiary origin, early this morning practically destroyed the plant of the Llewellyn iron works, causing \$500,000 damage to the plant.

The plant of the Lacey Manufacturing company, nearby, to which the flames later spread, was damaged to the extent of \$20,000.

Two explosions preceded the fire, according to the employees and 50 men barely escaped from the burning building, so rapidly did the flames spread.

The Llewellyn plant was partially wrecked by a bomb explosion in 1910.

The Llewellyn plant employed 500 men. It manufactured steel girders and other steel fabrications. The buildings were all frame structures, and the machinery of the plant is believed to be nearly all destroyed.

Investigators today learned that the fire started in the office of the plant and spread with great rapidity to all parts of the plant. In one instant, and before the fire department arrived, the entire plant of the company was in flames, cutting off for a few minutes the escape of 50 men employed in the machine shop.

Deadly electric wires broke around these men and for a time it was feared they would not be saved.

The bomb which caused the explosion in the plant in 1910 was placed but a short distance from where the first flames were observed this morning. W. O. Williams, night watchman at the plant, who turned in the alarm, informed the police that he heard two distinct explosions in different parts of the plant.

Robert Lacey, a mechanic in the machine shop, also heard the explosions and told Chief of Police Butler he was confident they were caused by bombs. Lacey asserted he first saw the flames in the office and at once turned in an alarm.

Two alarms were sent in, but for some reason there was delay in getting apparatus to the scene and for a short time one engine worked alone.

Dynamite was not used in the explosions preceding the burning of the plant, says Malcolm McLaren, dynamite expert, who is making an investigation. He believes acid bombs were used.

David Caplan, convicted of manslaughter in connection with the Los Angeles Times dynamiting just 12 hours before the Llewellyn explosion, declared no associates of his were in any way connected with the explosion, which some ascribe to a demonstration against Caplan's conviction. He declares any such move would cause irreparable injury.

Today the boilers of the ruined plant were found to be intact. This disposes of the theory that the fire started from a boiler explosion.

"We have positively established the fact that the fire at the Llewellyn iron works started in the pattern room and was incendiary. We think that gasoline was spread about the plant, judging by the rapidity with which the flames spread. We do not think that either dynamite or glycerine was used," said Fire Chief Ely.

Deputy District Attorney Wolimine is working with the police in their efforts to ascertain the ones responsible for the explosion.

In 1910, shortly after the Los Angeles Times building was destroyed,

ADVISE AGAINST FLAT REFUSAL OF GERMANY'S OFFER

Washington, Dec. 16.—The British embassy has advised the foreign office not to return a flat refusal to the German peace terms, for the sake of neutral opinion, it was learned today. Because of the close understanding between the allied embassies here, it is believed the French and Russian embassies have taken the same action.

Allied officials admitted the necessity of avoiding playing into Germany's hands by an unqualified refusal. It is believed probable if the advice of diplomats here is taken, that the allied governments will decline at least in general any peace terms they may have in mind.

European neutral diplomats said the decision of President Wilson to take no action at this time will mean that their governments will follow suit.

MUNITIONS FOR VILLA FROM U. S.

El Paso, Dec. 16.—Wholesale arrests of Americans and Mexicans here and at other points along the border accused of breach of the neutrality laws is fomenting or aiding the revolutionary activities of different Mexican factions are planned by United States secret service agents. Members of various revolutionary juntas are now under surveillance by this government's agents, but action is held in abeyance pending ratification of the American-Mexican mediation protocol.

One of the clauses of the protocol provides for the deportation of undesirable aliens engaged in revolutionary activities. The secret service men have been directing their attention, since the capture of Chihuahua City by Villistas, to the source of part of the ammunition supply used by Villa which was not captured from Mexican government forces.

Positive evidence has been obtained that Villa obtained 28,000 cartridges the night before the fall of the northern capital.

Federal authorities here believe these came from the American side of the border. That Villa is disposing his troops for another important movement was indicated in all reports to United States authorities here today. An employee of the Babicora ranch, arriving here, stated that a band of Villistas, who has been holding the town of Bacahiva during the past month, has consolidated with the Acosta band guarding the wounded at Guerrero.

Damaged field pieces and machine guns captured on Santa Rosa hill in the attack upon Chihuahua City are being repaired at the machine shops of the Mexican Northwestern railway.

A large body of Villistas has swung around Chihuahua City to the south, cutting communication north of Santa Rosalia and the bandits are holding the latter town.

Many varying reports of bitter jealousy between General Murguia and General Ozuna and other Carranzistas commanders are reaching the border. At the Mexican consulate here, Mexican officials state they have no information on this point.

A bomb was exploded in an attempt to destroy the Llewellyn plant. The place was partly damaged.

The subsequent apprehension and trial of James B. and John J. McNamara provided a series of sensations in labor circles and caused the imprisonment of most of the higher officials of the ironworkers' union. The McNamara brothers confessed to the Times and Llewellyn explosions, and are now serving terms in San Quentin.

ANGLERS PUT SEINE UNDER THE BAN

Close-Mesh Nets Held Detriment to Trout, and Data Will Be Collected and Presented to the Legislature

The fishermen of the Grants Pass district, both those who angle for sport and those who fish commercially, are in favor of the absolute prohibition of the use of the set net or the seine in the waters of the Rogue. This sentiment was pronounced at the meeting of the Josephine County Game and Fish Protective association, held in the Commercial club rooms, Friday evening.

The meeting had been called upon the initiative of members of the association, but members of the local fishermen's union, composed of the commercial fishermen, were also invited. Wilford Allen was chosen chairman, and Jos. Wharton secretary. After much discussion, a resolution was unanimously adopted asking that the use of the seine and set net be prohibited anywhere in the river, and that drift nets having not less than 8 1/2 inch mesh be permitted from April 1st to August 1st for the taking of salmon. The fall fishing for silverside salmon at the mouth of the river was not opposed, though netting upon the upper river during the fall came under the ban, being desired by neither the angler nor the commercial fisherman.

The testimony of the anglers present was that the fly fishing during the past season had been much better than in years when the river was absolutely closed, and that by prohibiting seines and set nets the steelheads and other trout could ascend the stream unmolested. Inadequate fishways at the Golden Drift and Ray-Gold dams was one of the reasons ascribed to a lack of fish higher up the stream, and Senator Smith stated that the state fish commission had promised that proper fishways would be built.

Every angler testified to the betterment of fly fishing for steelheads when the salmon were taken from the stream by netting, and there was complete harmony between the two schools of fishermen in the conclusions arrived at.

To prepare data setting forth the facts in the case for presentation to the members of the legislature the appointment of a committee from those present at the meeting was authorized. The committee named is composed of Messrs. M. J. Anderson, Geo. Dickinson, Frank C. Bramwell,

(Continued on Page 8)

MAY SETTLE CASE OUT OF COURTS

Chicago, Dec. 16.—Hale Holden, president of the Burlington railroad who was chairman of the committee of executives which met President Wilson and the railroad brotherhood officials in Washington last summer, said today that conferences have been held between the employes and railroad officials looking to a settlement of the eight-hour day dispute without the provision of the Adamson law. He said the meetings had been informal and that thus far no suggestion of an ultimate adjustment had been received.

W. G. Lee, of the trainmen's brotherhood, yesterday hinted that a settlement with the railroads out of court might be reached.

BIG GAIN BY FRENCH AT VERDUN

Twelve Square Miles of Territory Is Wrested From the Germans, and 7500 Teuton Prisoners Are Taken

Paris, Dec. 16.—France's answer to Germany's peace terms is—

Wresting of more than twelve square miles of territory from the enemy. Capture of more than 7,500 Germans. Gain of several German trenches, the villages of Vacheraville and Louvemont, the farms of Chambrettes and the fortifications of Hardomont and Dezonvaux.

The answer was another one of General Nivelle's sudden "pushes" in the Verdun sector. The newly created commander of French armies in the north and northeast opened his attack yesterday and within a few hours had again swept away from the enemy territory which it had taken months of sanguinary fighting to obtain. It was another stroke such as Nivelle, then commanding the Verdun sector, executed when he pulled Fort Douaumont from the Germans.

Berlin, via Sayville, Dec. 16.—The French have succeeded in pushing back German forces from some of their most advanced positions in the Verdun district, it was announced in today's statement. The Teutonic troops it was said, had gone into prepared second line defenses.

The same statement reported a successful new thrust by the Germans against British troops around Ypres.

The war office located the scene of the French "push" and the new German second line positions around Taloiride and the heights north of Louvemont and Chambrettes and south of Bezonvaux. (These positions are all northwest of Douaumont.)

The German thrust at the British lines occurred southeast of Zillebeke. The Berlin statement details the advance to the second line of enemy trenches, the garrison of which fled.

THE WAR AT A GLANCE

Berlin—Admissions confirmed the extent of France's thrust north of Verdun, stating that German troops had gone back to prepared second-line positions. Further details from Paris said the victory was achieved by four French troop divisions directed against at least five whole German divisions. This would seem to mean that the French had won, despite a preponderance of at least twenty thousand men in favor of their enemy. The figures also give an indication of the magnitude of the struggle—180,000 men apparently being involved on both sides.

Berlin claimed a successful thrust at British positions southeast of Zillebeke (in the Ypres sector) whereby British troops retreated to second line positions.

The Teutonic advance in Roumania apparently continued. Sofia reported occupancy of Peresti—probably Fetesti—west of Cernavoda.

Berlin said the Ninth German army had reached the road from Buzeu to Rimnicu—and now have possession of all of eastern Wallachia, with advances being made north of Jalomitza.

The Russian statement admitted capture of part of a Russian position in the Carpathians by the Germans after bitter fighting; but claimed repulse of other German scout attacks.

TELL TEUTON'S PEACE TERMS AT CONFERENCE

Washington, Dec. 16.—Germany stands ready to give the allies a full statement of terms in a peace conference.

This statement was made officially today by German Ambassador von Bernstorff, following a short conference with Secretary of State Lansing today.

Bernstorff said he does not know officially what terms these are.

At the same time, Germany is also ready to disarmament creation of a league to guarantee permanent peace and kindred subjects that would arise from any peace negotiations.

The envoy's visit to the state department was brief. He sought official word confirming this country's intention not to supplement Germany's peace proposals at this time.

While Bernstorff refused to talk about the government's plan it is known that the German authorities are not discouraged in any way by the fact that the American government will not make any peace suggestions. On the contrary they believe the president "has left the door open to act later," and hence are encouraged by this fact.

ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBIT INTERESTS

The Fifth annual exhibit of the society of Arts and Crafts was held yesterday afternoon and evening at the Guild hall. The room was made attractive with a formal decoration of small cedar trees, while clusters of pepper berries sent from California were used effectively on the lights.

The display of crafts was unusually interesting as new departments were introduced. Mrs. Klocker and Mrs. Demaray showed numerous pieces of pottery, consisting of vases, pitchers and candle holders, all modeled from Josephine county clay.

In the basketry department a number of new materials were used. Mrs. Bywater showed a very practical and unusual looking tea wagon with a frame of bamboo, the trays fashioned from matting. Mrs. Macduff furnished an interesting piece of work woven from pine needles, Mrs. Eaton, a handsome window book of willow, grown locally, and Mrs. Clevenger showed an electric lamp stand woven from matting which was a most attractive and finished piece of work.

In the ceramic department, Mrs. Megargle's china in dainty shades of enamel was particularly worthy of notice. Hand woven rugs and cushion cover in gleaming design and color combinations were exhibited, among these an evenly braided rug, a good specimen of that type of work by Miss Benedict.

The only specimen of book binding, a most exquisite piece, was covered with hand woven linen, the design worked in cross stitch, while dainty water colored leaves decorated the pages.

The display of oil paintings from the work of Rev. Wire attracted a great deal of attention, and won many compliments for the skill of the artist. They were largely of landscapes, many of them from local subjects.

Tea was served from prettily arranged tables by Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Bywater and Mrs. Livingston.

Mrs. F. J. Hahn, of Medford, the president of the Arts and Crafts league of that city and Mrs. Brown, of Spokane, the chairman of the Arts and Crafts department of the State Federation of Women's clubs of Washington, were guests of Mrs. G. S. Eaton, president of the local society.

PEACE TERMS REJECTED BY SLAVS

President of the Russian Duma Says That the Time to Talk Peace Is When Enemy Has Been Beaten

London, Dec. 16.—Styling Germany as a "worn out felon, seeking, not a lasting peace, but a temporary armistice," M. Rodzianke, president of the Russian duma, strongly supported Minister of Foreign Affairs Paikovsky's speech rejecting Germany's peace terms, Petrograd despatches stated today.

Addressing the duma, he said: "The enemy claims to be the conqueror. We cannot trust our adversary. He is a worn out felon, seeking not a lasting peace, but temporary truce, in order to recuperate before a fresh onslaught and violence. It is ever well to agree to negotiate only when the enemy is decisively beaten."

RUTH LAW TO CARRY PASSENGERS THROUGH AIR

New York, Dec. 16.—Ruth Law announced today she had accepted the offer of Glen Curtiss of the Curtiss Aeroplane company of Buffalo, to construct an aeroplane for her, designed for cross-country flights with passengers. Miss Law expects to begin tests of the new machine within the month and will then begin cross-country flights with passengers.

SUBMARINE H-3 IS STILL IN BREAKERS

Eureka, Cal., Dec. 16.—With the huge breakers of Humboldt bay slowly but surely, pushing the stranded United States submarine H-3 closer toward the shore, naval men admitted that unless a line is immediately made fast to the ill-fated vessel, she may break up on the shore.

The submarine is holding its own remarkably well, salvaging officers stated today.

The craft rode the surf through the night and although washed appreciably nearer shore appeared to be withstanding the pounding of the breakers. Early today men from the coast guard cutter McCulloch began the task of getting a hawser to the submarine in an effort to tow the vessel a short distance out, or, at least, stay its progress toward shore until the naval salvage vessel Arapahoe arrives to take charge of the rescue work.

Providing the hull is intact, there seems to be little doubt that the vessel can be pulled into deep water. If the hull is leaky and has shipped water, however, the task will be greatly complicated, naval men admitted.

By wading out within 20 feet of the H-3 and then swimming, coast guards got a ten-inch line aboard the craft. The McCulloch will pull on this line at high tide this evening, in an effort to take the submarine off. Before that time it is hoped to board the diver, let out the chlorine gas and empty the tanks.

The sea was calm at noon and the vessel was riding easy.

BULGARIAN TROOPS OCCUPY PERESTI

Sofia, Dec. 16.—Occupation of Peresti was announced in the Bulgarian official statement today.