

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 munition 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 "skyline" 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 treachery 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.

Not Liable to Foreign Duty.

Washington, D. C.—Mooted questions about the status of state troops called for the Mexican emergency are decided in an opinion given Secretary Baker by Brigadier General Crowder. General Crowder holds that the state soldiers are not subject to duty outside of the United States unless and until they are formally drafted by order of the President; that they are under control of the Federal government and not of their respective state governors, and that they are entitled to the same pensions and privileges as regulars.

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 Putloff 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 bay 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, gunsmith 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.

Swedes Chase Russians.

Berlin—An attack on German merchant vessels by Russian destroyers, alleged to have taken place within Swedish territorial waters, is reported in a statement which says: "Two Russian destroyers attacked four German merchant steamers at the entrance to the Port of Lulea, within Swedish waters. The Swedish torpedo boat Virgo steamed toward them and the Russian craft fled, pursued by the Virgo, which had made ready for action. The Swedish government has protested against this breach of neutrality."

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.

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

Senator Borah, of Idaho, has been selected as Western manager of the Republican campaign.

Mercury climbs to 100 in Chicago, Thursday the hottest day in five years. Thirty-one babies die as a result.

John F. Gillies, defaulter of Washington Industrial Insurance funds, who escaped jail at Olympia, July 8, has been captured in Florida.

Eight persons are arrested in San Francisco, as parties to the placing of the bomb on the street which exploded during the preparedness parade, killing eight people and injuring 40.

Warning is issued to the public by the department of Agriculture to look with extreme suspicion upon any preparation put on the market and offered for sale as being effective for the treatment of infantile paralysis.

Secretary of the Interior Lane has appointed ex-Governor West, of Oregon, an assistant attorney of the department of the Interior to represent the government in the adjustment of Oregon & California land grant taxes.

Evangelist "Billy" Sunday will make the opening speech for the anti-saloon league in Portland, which plans to make Oregon "absolutely" dry. Sunday is reported to have refused an offer of \$150,000 to appear in the movies.

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, 2334 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.

British hammer desperately at German third line, but make little progress.

The body of the late Yuan Shi Kai was carried in state and laid away with his ancestors.

Six British trawlers were sunk by German submarines off the English coast on July 17, says a German admiralty statement.

Under the menace of a heavy Russian assault the Austrians in the Carpathians, in the region of Bukovina, southeast of Tatarowa, have withdrawn toward the main ridge of the Carpathians. This was officially announced by the Austrian war office.

One of the oldest, if not the oldest, man on the Pacific Coast died at Pendleton, Or., when Ayoushakastagom, the veteran Cayuse Indian, passed on to the happy hunting grounds. He was reputed to be 120 years old, and his memory dated back to events which happened during the war of 1812.

Men who conceived the idea of submarine merchant ships are said to have made \$3,000,000 out of it.

The Dutch steamship Maas has been sunk near the North Hinder light as the result of striking a mine. Ten members of the vessel's crew were drowned.

Sergius Saxonoff, minister of foreign affairs of Russia, has resigned. He is succeeded by Boris Vladimirovitch Stormer, the premier, who has taken over the office.

Chicago witnessed the hottest weather so far this year when the thermometer reached 93 at 11 a. m. Monday. There were several prostrations but none was serious.

June records for postal savings in New York City were eclipsed last month when a net gain of more than \$3,800,000 was rolled up, quadrupling the net increase for June, 1915.

Negotiations between the United States and Denmark for the purchase of the Danish West Indies are understood to have reached a stage where definite developments may come soon.

Here is Some of the Army the American Boys May Find



Carranza's soldiers have trained many of their women to shoot, and this photograph shows three young women who have been taking revolver lessons for months. Maybe if Carranza is hard pressed—and he is very likely to be if the National Guardmen cross the border—some of these girls will face American troops.

Cheesemakers Need Larger Supply of Rennets

Oregon Agricultural College, Corvallis—Cheesemakers are experiencing difficulties in their manufacture of cheese by reason of the shortage of the rennet supply. This supply has formerly come from European countries and has been almost entirely shut off. The American manufacturers of rennet extract have thus been forced to rely on the home supply of raw material, calves' stomachs, and a great many of these are wasted in the American system of handling slaughtered animals. In an effort to overcome the deficiency successful experiments have been made in the use of scale pupin by the Dairy department of the Oregon Agricultural college, and at the same time dairymen have been urged to seek cooperation with the local slaughterhouses to have the calves' stomachs sent to the manufacturers of rennet extract. Directions for preparing the stomachs for these shipments are as follows:

The rennet stomach, which is the fourth stomach or abomasum of the calf, is the stomach which often contains milk curd. It is obtained from calves that have not yet lived on any other diet than milk. It is removed by cutting it where it joins on to the next stomach (the book) and cleaned by squeezing out the contents. The thick muscular part of the neck, which is not over two or three inches in length, is then cut off and the stomach split open so that it will lie flat. Do not wash the inside of the stomach with water, but the fat from the outside should be peeled off. The rennet is stretched well and salted heavily on both sides immediately, and left a day or two to drain in a cool, dark place away from flies. Plenty of salt should be left on both sides. For shipping they are packed in tubs or boxes. When the rennet turns pink in spots, it is a sign that decomposition is taking place. When thoroughly dried, they will keep indefinitely. When only a few are secured each week, it is a good practice, after salting and draining, to hang them up in the air to dry.

In Europe, the rennets are usually blown up with air as bladders are. After being inflated and tied like a pig's bladder, they are dried in a place where there is sufficient circulation of air. They are blown as tightly as possible so as to make the walls thinner.

In order to give a place for tying a portion of the neck of the next stomach, "the book," as it is often called, is left on the rennet stomach. This of course, is cut off before shipping. In case the stomachs are blown, the fat is peeled off from the outside of the stomach, just as it is in the case of the salted rennet. When thoroughly dry, they are cut open, flattened out and tied up in bunches of from twenty-five to fifty. Blown rennets do not keep quite so well as salted rennets, especially in summer time. Two months ago the rennet manufacturers were paying twelve to thirteen cents each for rennets, but, no doubt, are now willing to pay a few more cents due to the scarcity.

Coniferous timber has been found to be better suited than any other for the production of ethyl alcohol.

There are 532 consumers of tannin in the United States, who use annually \$25,000 cords of hemlock bark, 200,000 cords of oak bark, and 200,000 cords of chestnut wood.

Experts of the Forest Service estimate that the fern products of the United States contain from 200 to 300 billion board feet of lumber and from one to one and a half billion cords of wood.

NEWS ITEMS Of Current Interest About Oregon

Sixteen Cities of State Have Over \$1,000,000 Deposits Each

Salem—Banks in 16 cities have 72.5 per cent of the banking capital and 70 per cent of the bank deposits of the state, according to figures compiled Wednesday by S. C. Sargent, state superintendent of banks. Portland alone has 48 per cent of the capital and 55 per cent of the deposits of Oregon.

Records of Superintendent Sargent also show 18 towns with total bank deposits of \$1,000,000 or more. These towns, in which are located 41 state and 33 national banks, with deposits totaling \$102,415,026.54, are: Portland, Salem, Pendleton, Astoria, Baker, Eugene, Albany, Medford, The Dalles, Oregon City, Roseburg, La Grande, Marshfield, McMinville, Corvallis and Klamath Falls.

All other towns in Oregon, in which are located 128 state and 51 national banks, have deposits totaling but \$26,946,492.75.

Deposits in Portland aggregate \$72,100,548.07. These are distributed among 18 state and eight national banks. Salem is next to Portland, its two state and two national institutions having total deposits of \$4,899,846.93. Bank deposits in other Oregon cities where the total is above \$1,000,000 are as follows: Pendleton, \$3,548,329.02; Astoria, \$3,418,498.98; Baker, \$2,885,045.07; Eugene, \$2,500,039.75; Albany, \$1,799,199.32; Medford, \$1,825,802.88; The Dalles, \$1,325,708.07; Oregon City, \$1,324,715.74; Roseburg, \$1,259,920.16; La Grande, \$1,190,288.16; Marshfield, \$1,180,787.80; McMinville, \$1,174,787.64; Corvallis, \$1,150,401.35; Klamath Falls, \$1,125,804.77.

St. Paul Firm Gets W. L. Pulliam.

Marshfield—W. L. Pulliam, a logging contractor who has been operating on the Columbia river for several seasons, soon will open a camp on South Coos river on the Merchant tract of 800 acres, and the operations will be under the supervision of the Thos. Irvine company, of St. Paul, which recently bought timber in this county for a sum estimated to be near half a million dollars. The camp will be located 20 miles from Marshfield and two miles from South Coos river, where logs will be dumped in tide-water. The operations are intended solely for delivery of logs to mills on Coos Bay and the company has no intention of operating any mills at present.

Indian Lands to Be Sold.

Klamath Falls—Sixty allotments, on the Klamath Indian reservation, north of here, belonging to estates of deceased Indians, are soon to be advertised and sold to the highest bidders, according to Engineer H. W. Hincks, of the Indian reclamation service. Much of the land is tillable and parts of it can be irrigated, Engineer Hincks said. Superintendent William B. Freer, of the Klamath reservation, has ordered surveys to be made of all the 60 allotments. Mr. Hincks said that already this season 655 acres of Indian lands on the Fort Creek project on the reservation, have been reclaimed to water by the Indians.

Gun to Warn Fishermen.

Astoria—Beginning with last Sunday, Colonel Ludlow, commanding officer at the fortifications about the mouth of the river, will have a gun fired at Fort Stevens and one at Fort Columbia at 6 o'clock Saturday and Sunday nights, as a notice to the fishermen.

This will be done in accordance with a request from the State Fisheries department and is intended to prevent anyone inadvertently violating the Sunday closing law. As another precaution, Deputy Fish Warden Larson has made arrangements to have a flag raised at those hours on Desdemona sands.

Cherry Crop Is Canned.

The Dalles—Libby, McNeill & Libby's cannery has put up 30,000 cases of cherries, finishing this week. The concern will commence canning apricots next week; and with this fruit and Bartlett pears expects to be in operation until October. The fruit is coming from North Yakima, Lewiston, Idaho, White Salmon, Underwood, Hood River, Mosier, and many other outside points, as well as large quantities in the section immediately surrounding The Dalles. Shipment is made entirely by rail.

Big Timber Body Offered.

Hood River—T. H. Sherrard, state forest supervisor, has advertised for bid 1000 acres containing 800,000,000 feet of Douglas fir, Western hemlock, Amabilis fir, Noble fir, Western red cedar and white pine timber in the Cascade National Forest. Under the terms of the sale a mill on the West Fork of Hood River with sufficient cutting capacity to handle the timber in the next 10 or 15 years, will be required.