

SNOW COVERS ORANGE GROVES OF CALIFORNIA

Citrus Belt Mantled in White for the Second Time in Eight Years— Turns to Rain in Many Places— Little Damage to Fruit, as Thermometer Did Not Drop Below 30.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 30.—Dawn today revealed at many points in the southern California citrus fruit district the remarkable spectacle of orange trees mantled with snow. It was a scene which had not been witnessed in many years, but temperatures did not range below 32 degrees, and the orange crops suffered no damage.

The snow fell in Hollywood, a suburb of Los Angeles, although it rained in the city itself. It also fell in San Bernardino, Riverside, Altadena, a foothill suburb of Pasadena, Rialto, Bloomington and other places in the heart of the citrus region, but melted rapidly under the influence of a steady rain. The valleys stretching eastward in Riverside and San Bernardino counties were blanketed, however, almost as heavily as the mountains usually are at this time of year.

Valleys Are White From the foothills edging Pasadena to the San Jacinto mountains, 25 miles east of Riverside, the heights shone white, while Perris valley, from the Box Springs grade, five miles outside Riverside, to San Jacinto, lay under two to three inches of snow. About Hollywood the mountain canyons were filled with whirling white flakes. In San Bernardino about two inches of snow fell, but it did not last long. Bloomington and Rialto, nearby, got about the same amount.

Rain was falling before noon throughout the region.

On Oranges and Lemons RIVERSIDE, Cal., Dec. 30.—Three inches of snow fell early today at Rialto and Bloomington. Perris, 17 miles southeast, reported seven and a half inches of snow on the ground. At El Senor, south of Perris, the snow was five and one-half inches deep. Corona reported three inches on the heights just above the lemon groves.

Eucalyptus trees serving as windbreaks in the Perris region, are said to have suffered considerable damage.

Hemet and San Jacinto were cut off from communication early today, as also were Banning and Beaumont.

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HEAVY FIGHTING IN VOSGES REGION STILL CONTINUES

BERLIN, Dec. 30, by wireless.—Heavy fighting continues in the Vosges. Announcement is made by the war office that positions near Hartmans-Weilerkopf have been reconquered by the Germans. A British surprise attack near Lille failed.

The text of the statement follows: "British attempts during the night of December 29 to enter our positions northwest of Lille by surprise failed.

"The Germans reconquered positions near Hartmans-Weilerkopf.

"On the whole front artillery and aeroplanes were active. The enemy's air craft attacked the towns and railroad stations of Wervick and Menin (Belgium). No military damage was inflicted, but seven civilians were wounded and one child was killed. A British aeroplane was shot down in a fight northeast of Cambrai.

"Eastern front: Russian detachments advancing south of Schlok (near the Gulf of Riga) and on General Von Linsingen's force were repulsed. General Von Bethmer's Austro-Hungarian troops repulsed an attack of strong Russian forces against the bridgehead at Burkanov, on the Stripa (in east Galicia). The enemy suffered heavy losses, in addition to losing 900 prisoners."

AUSTRIANS LOSE TWO WARSHIPS IN THE ADRIATIC

Destroyers Sunk Off Cattaro in Battle With Naval Forces of Allies— Attempted Bombardment of Durazzo—Balance of Austrian Squadron Chased to Naval Base.

PARIS, Dec. 30.—Two Austrian torpedo-boat destroyers have been sunk as a result of an encounter with sea forces of the allies at a point outside of Cattaro, in the Adriatic.

The purpose of the Austrian ships was to bombard Durazzo. An allied squadron went to meet them with the result above set forth. In addition the remainder of the Austrian squadron was pursued by the warships of the allies and compelled to flee toward the Austrian base.

This information was contained in an official announcement of the French marine department given out today, which reads: "An Austrian naval division, having come out from Cattaro for the purpose of bombarding Durazzo, certain squadrons of the allies went to sea to give battle. The Austrian torpedo-boat destroyer Lika encountered a mine and was blown up. The destroyer Triglav of the same type was destroyed by fire from the ships of the allies. The remaining warships of the enemy were pursued and fled in the direction of their base."

There have been several previous encounters of lesser importance than the one now reported in connection with the Austrian attempts to interrupt transportation of Italian troops to Albania and of supplies for the Serbian forces which have retreated to that country. Several supply ships have been sunk by Austrian warships. The destroyers Lika and Triglav were sister ships built in 1913. They were 266 feet long, of 787 tons displacement. Each was armed with two 3.9-inch guns, six 11-pounders and two torpedo tubes.

SALVATION ARMY HEADQUARTERS AT BUTTE DYNAMITED

BUTTE, Mont., Dec. 30.—The headquarters of the local branch of the Salvation Army, located in a downtown building owned by the army, was damaged early today by an explosion of dynamite. The explosive blew out the entire store front of the building and shattered glass in a hotel and a number of stores across the street.

Large boxes of Christmas toys and other materials given the army by department stores for the Christmas celebration to be held tomorrow night were blown into the street. A part of the debris gathered from the car tracks in the middle of Broadway was the Christmas tree which had been fully decorated in preparation for the good time to be given the destitute children of the city tomorrow.

Adjutant L. A. Reno, in charge of the work here, had no theory today as to why dynamite should be exploded in the army's building. The police have no clue, although a report is being run down that the dynamiting was done as a blind to facilitate the robbery of the barroom in the hotel across the street. The hotel management declares that no attempt was made to rob the barroom.

REVOLUTION IN WESTERN CHINA

SHANGHAI, China, Dec. 30.—A telegram from Cheng-Tu, capital of the province of Sze-Chuen, says there are indications that a rising in western China is being planned, secret preparation being made for the revolt. The opinion is expressed in the dispatch, however, that the chances for the success of the movement are small.

RUSSIAN DRIVE DEVELOPS INTO BIG OFFENSIVE

Petrograd Silent, But Official Austrian Reports Indicate Important Battle Under Way in Bukovina—Germans Make Futile Attack at Lake Babbit and Russians Threaten.

LONDON, Dec. 30.—Although Petrograd remains silent on the subject, the public is inclined to believe the Russians are undertaking a great offensive in Bukovina, near the Bessarabian border.

Official Austrian reports telling of attacks by dense masses of Russian troops indicate that an important battle is under way.

The fighting centers at a point near Toporeutz, a small town just within the border of northern Bukovina, but a simultaneous attack is being made along an extended front, reaching from the Pruth to a position north of the Dniester, about forty miles. The latest advices state that the Russian assault is being continued, accompanied by an equally heavy bombardment.

Delicate Situation Unofficial reports from the extreme northern portion of the eastern front state that the Germans have made a serious but futile attack in the region of Lake Babbit, while the Russians, west of Lake Kanger, are threatening Mitau. These attacks create a delicate situation as a successful advance by either would endanger considerable forces of the defeated opponent.

Along the western front, except for mining and aerial engagements on the British lines, the main fighting seems to be confined to the Vosges, where, in the region of Hartmans-Weilerkopf, the French claim to have made a successful advance. Berlin officially minimizes this success, but does not deny it wholly.

Macedonian Front Nothing has happened to change the Macedonian position, but it is generally believed that any advance into Greek territory must be made by the Bulgarians, the opinion being that the Austro-Germans cannot spare enough troops for a serious attempt against Saloniki.

Domestic tension in England over the compulsory question has been greatly relieved. Speculation continues concerning the method which is to be adopted to reach eligible unmarried men, a majority agreeing that the Derby plan of attestation will be extended for this purpose.

BAKER COLDEST SPOT IN OREGON WITH 8 BELOW

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 30.—A decided drop in temperature occurred throughout Oregon last night and today. At Baker, in Eastern Oregon, the mercury fell eighteen degrees, reaching a minimum of eight degrees below zero early today. At Roseburg twenty degrees above was recorded, twelve lower than yesterday, while at Portland it registered twenty-eight, a drop of four degrees. A rise in temperature is predicted for tonight.

SEATTLE, Wn., Dec. 30.—On the northwest coast the pressure is decreasing, indicating rain or snow tonight and Friday, and warmer weather with gentle to moderate southeast winds. The lowest temperature in Seattle and Tacoma last night was 25 degrees and minimum temperature of 28 is forecast for tonight.

SPOKANE, Wn., Dec. 30.—Temperatures near zero or below were recorded by government thermometers in Idaho, Montana and eastern Washington today. Kallispell and Mavre, Mont., reported ten degrees below zero. Idaho reported the lowest temperature as two above and in Spokane one above was registered at 9 o'clock.

Prince Albert, Sask., reported 29 degrees below zero.

AUSTRIA'S REPLY TO AMERICAN PROTEST GIVEN AMBASSADOR

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Ambassador Penfield at Vienna has received Austria's reply to the second American note regarding the sinking of the liner Ancona. An official announcement to that effect was made by Secretary Lansing today. Ambassador Penfield reported that the reply was about 3000 words and that considerable time would be necessary to place the communication in code in the embassy in Vienna. There was nothing in his dispatch to indicate the tenor of the reply. Officials of the state department believe the note would arrive some time before Saturday.

BREWERS LAUNCH DRY LAW FIGHT IN FEDERAL COURT

TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 30.—Attacking the prohibition measure, which becomes effective in Washington after January 1, 1916, the Seattle Brewing & Malting company of Seattle, through Attorneys Piles and Howe, filed suit in federal court in Tacoma today against W. V. Tanner, attorney general of the state, asking the court for a temporary restraining order prohibiting the attorney general from proceeding against the company for the manufacture, possession and shipment of beer out of the state pending the disposition of its action in the United States court.

The complaint sets forth the company has more than 15,000 barrels of beer, valued at more than \$50,000, which it complains, it cannot ship out of the state before January 16 because of the lack of facilities, and asks the court to restrain the attorney general from proceeding against the firm for each day of its failure to comply with the prohibition act, as it alleges the attorney general has threatened.

The complaint attacks not only the prohibition law, but also the direct legislation amendment to the state constitution and the federal Webb-Kenyon act, giving states the power to regulate liquor importations. It is alleged publications of the direct legislation amendment and the prohibition law were not sufficient. After attacking the Webb-Kenyon act as unconstitutional, the complaint sets forth that even if constitutional it does not apply in Washington, as this is not strictly "dry" territory, since the importation of liquor is possible.

ITALIANS OCCUPY DURAZZO, ALBANIA

GENEVA, Dec. 30, via Paris.—It is reported here on good authority that Italian troops have occupied the Albanian seaport of Durazzo.

The report apparently is corroborated by the fact that the German consul at Durazzo, the members of his staff and fifty other Germans passed through Bellinzona, Switzerland, yesterday on their way to Berlin.

Durazzo and Avlona are the principal Albanian ports. Avlona was occupied by the Italians several months ago before Italy entered the war.

EMPEROR WILLIAM'S NECK IS LANCED

LONDON, Dec. 30.—A dispatch from Zurich, Switzerland, to the Central News says: "Emperor William, who is suffering from a suppurating phlegmon in the neck, has been given some relief, his doctors having resorted to lancing."

AMERICANS TO SUBMIT DISPUTES TO ARBITRATION

Lansing Suggests to All Nations Comprising Pan-American Union to Join in Convention for Settling Boundary Disputes and Prohibit War Munition Shipments.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Secretary Lansing has suggested to all the nations, which with the United States, comprise the Pan-American union, that they join in a convention for the arbitration of all boundary line disputes and for the prohibition of shipments of war munitions to revolutionaries.

Secretary Lansing's proposal which has the full support of President Wilson is being forwarded by the Latin-American ambassadors and ministers here to their home foreign offices for consideration. It is regarded as one of the steps in a wide plan, in which the Pan-American Scientific congress now in session here is a part, for preservation of peace on the western hemisphere and a closer union of all the Americas.

Negotiations Confidential The status of the negotiations and the details of Secretary Lansing's proposal are so far being held as confidential between the state department and the Latin-American chancelleries here.

Mr. Lansing today declined entirely to discuss it in any phase and the diplomats uniformly declared they could not discuss a matter which was in its preliminary stage and under consideration by their home foreign office.

It became known, however, that soon after Secretary Lansing delivered before the scientific congress, in which he advocated a Pan-American "one for all, and all for one," he began inviting the Latin-American representatives to the state department two at a time and outlined to them his proposal. At the same time, it is understood, the secretary's public declaration, which suggested that all the Pan-American states should, if necessary, constitute a united bulwark against any unjust invasion or aggression upon a neighbor, was discussed in some detail. It is understood the Latin-Americans uniformly expressed their apprehension of Mr. Lansing's statements.

To Unite Americas The technical form in which the new proposal was made was not disclosed today, but there are indications that it took the usual form of a memorandum to the diplomats and was in such official form as could be transmitted to their home governments as the basis for the action.

One of the first elements of the proposal, which has for one of its ultimate objects the well being of a thoroughly united America, is the preservation of peace on the American continent.

It is realized that the chief menace to such a peace are boundary disputes and revolutionary activity. It is pointed out that if all boundary disputes are removed to the realm of arbitration and all the Pan-American nations bind themselves to absolutely prohibit shipments of war munitions to any other than established governments, peace among the nations themselves would practically be assured and the attention of all the American nations could be devoted to what Secretary Lansing expressed in his speech as working out their destinies.

NEGRO CONFESSES STEALING A MILLION

WILMINGTON, Del., Dec. 30.—Albert Johnson, one of the two negroes under arrest charged with robbing a registered mail pouch containing one million dollars in securities Christmas eve, has confessed, according to the police.

Johnson and the other negro were mail wagon drivers. They delivered two pouches of mail to a railroad station and a third they took to their home and cut open, according to the police. Nearly all the securities were recovered.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF MINNESOTA DIES SUDDENLY

Governor Hammond Passes Away From Apoplexy While Inspecting Extensive Land Holdings in Louisiana—Will Be Succeeded by Lieutenant Governor Burnquist.

CLINTON, La., Dec. 30.—Governor Winfield Scott Hammond of Minnesota died suddenly in a hotel here early today from a stroke of apoplexy which physicians stated apparently had been superinduced by a recent attack of ptomaine poisoning. He died before physicians could arrive.

Governor Hammond, accompanied by his private secretary, J. A. Nowell, arrived here three days ago to inspect his extensive land and lumber interests in East Feliciana parish. He had not been well for several days, but did not consider his case seriously serious to consult a physician.

Succeeded by Burnquist Shortly after breakfast this morning Governor Hammond went into the washroom of his hotel and a moment later Mr. Nowell and others heard him groaning. Rushing in, they found the governor on the floor. He was carried to his room and physicians summoned, but he expired within a few minutes.

Lieutenant Governor J. A. A. Burnquist, who becomes governor of Minnesota as a result of the death of Governor Hammond at Clinton, La., was in bed with a bad cold today when he received the news of the governor's death.

Mr. Burnquist is a republican, having been re-elected lieutenant-governor after serving in that position during the administration of Former Governor A. O. Eberhardt.

Governor a Year Winfield Scott Hammond, eighth governor of Minnesota, was inaugurated just about a year ago, following his election on the democratic ticket. Previously he had served several terms in the national house of representatives, being sent to Washington from the second Minnesota district. He was unmarried and was born November 16, 1863, at Southboro, Worcester county, Mass. He was educated at Dartmouth college, where he graduated with the class of 1884. He came to Minnesota as a young man, was admitted to the bar and began practice of law at St. James. He served as county attorney of Watonwan county nearly six years and as a member of the state board of normal school directors for nearly six years.

REPUBLICANS TO OPPOSE WILSON'S MEXICAN POLICY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Republicans of the senate foreign relations committee are preparing to renew their attack on President Wilson's Mexican policy when congress re-assembles by fighting confirmation of Henry Prather Fletcher's appointment as ambassador to Mexico.

Senator Borah, one of those who intends to lead the fight said today that the opposition was not to Mr. Fletcher himself, who is a republican and much esteemed, but to the appointment of an ambassador at a time when the republican senators contend, there is no government in all parts of Mexico. There also is some democratic opposition to Mr. Fletcher, but it is political.

The republicans are opposed to recognition of any other government in Mexico without reparation for the many American lives lost and the millions of dollars of property damaged in the revolutions.

Germany Recognizes Carranza BERLIN, Dec. 30, via London.—Germany has extended recognition to the de facto government of Mexico, headed by General Venustiano Carranza.

TAX LEVY FOR 1915 FIXED AT FOURTEEN MILLS

State and County Taxation Fixed by Court—Court With Assistance of Taxpayers' League—Budget Estimates Followed Closely, Saving Being Placed to Roads and Highways.

Table with 2 columns: Item, Amount. 1915 Tax Levy: Schools 2, High school and library .5, Pacific highway interest .9, fund .9, General county expense, including state 10.0, 14.

State and county taxes for 1915 were fixed at 14 mills at the meeting of the county court Thursday. The total levy remains as in the budget advertised, but curtailments made in some funds were placed to the road account, so that there is \$70,000 to be spent on county roads during the coming year, instead of the \$39,000 estimated in the budget. Even with this additional amount, the road fund is less this year than for many years, and only enough money for maintenance is provided.

Taxpayers Present The budget committee of the Jackson County Taxpayers' association, consisting of J. M. Keene, J. B. Ware, James Owens, E. Neidermeyer, Benton Bowers, F. V. Medynski and J. H. Carlin, were present along with many taxpayers and took up items of the budget with the court. The increase in road funds was unanimously approved, and investigation showed that many of the county expenditures were fixed by state laws and out of control of the county court.

A report by the taxpayers' committee recommends economy in the conduct of the poor farm, one janitor for the jail and courthouse, greater efficiency and economy in the fruit inspection, the abolition of the school supervisors and detailed estimates on road work, co-operation between various departments for economy and efficiency.

Outstanding Warrants The committee reported upon outstanding warrants as follows: Out when Judge Tou Velle took office \$563,000, Now outstanding (December 20, 1915) 435,000.

Reduction during past three years \$130,000.

"This is gratifying as far as it goes. The outstanding warrants are humiliating evidences of neglect or incompetence of certain former county courts, and the result of neglect on the part of the taxpayers in failing to keep in touch with the county court and the various departments of the county business."

OWNERS INDICTED FOR MANSLAUGHTER FOR FIRE DEATHS

NEW YORK, Dec. 30.—Edward I. Diamond, his wife, Celia Diamond, Samuel Parkin and Samuel Simon were indicted today on charges of first and second degree manslaughter growing out of the deaths of twelve persons in a fire which destroyed the five-story Diamond candy factory November 6.

Mrs. Diamond, as owner, and her husband, as agent of the building, were charged with failure to provide adequate fire protection. They pleaded not guilty and were held in \$10,000 bail each.

Parkin and Simon, proprietors of the Essex Shirt Company, which occupied the third and fourth floors, were charged with having maintained a locked trap door on the stairway, in this way causing a majority of the deaths. They also pleaded not guilty and were held in \$5000 bail each.