

The Weather

Prediction: Showers, cooler
Maximum yesterday...76
Minimum today...43

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

Weather Year Ago

Maximum...60
Minimum...34
Precipitation...24

Daily—Eighteenth Year.
Weekly—Fifty-Third Year.

MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, MAY 10, 1923

NO. 42

OIL GUSHER EXPLODES, 16 WORKERS DIE

Frightful Tragedy Enacted in Texas Oil Field When Lake of Oil Bursts Into Flames—Fire Visible for 50 Miles—Rescue Work Is Found Difficult.

MEXIA, Texas, May 10.—Sixteen were killed in the fire at the Hughes-McKee oil well, according to information received at the headquarters here of the company owning the well today.

It was said at the company office that the death might be greater, but the list of 16 was believed to be authentic.

C. D. Davis of Mexia said the loss to the owners of the well is estimated at \$100,000.

CORSICANA, Texas, May 10.—(By Associated Press.) Thirteen identified bodies and three skeletons smoldering in a lake of fire 300 feet across was the known toll of death from the explosion yesterday of the gusher of the J. K. Hughes Development company.

The fire, still burning fiercely today, was visible for fifty miles, reports here said. The smoke extended eleven miles.

When the blast came, sixteen, it is known, of the fifty odd men in the two crews and a connecting gang, were sucked in by the sheet of flame. About 500 people, watching the work of the drilling crews, gave accounts of the flareup. Some of the workmen were hurled flat on the ground; other tried to creep away from the spread of the fire.

J. K. Hughes, head of the development company said: "Some of the crew which was relieving the day crew at the well had just come from Mexia a few hours before. Other members of this and a roll-about crew working near the well, were reported missing in the general confusion, and the personnel list makes it impossible to ascertain just how many are dead, missing and unaccounted for."

The groups venturing every now and then near the pool of yellowish liquid fire are not without a few women, drawn close with stricken faces, peering wide-eyed, only to retreat with covered faces and exclamations of horror.

First aid work here is hindered from the crowded traffic on the little more than cow trail serving as an automobile road for the rescuing parties.

SOVIET DELEGATE IS ASSASSINATED

LAUSANNE, May 10.—(By the Associated Press.)—M. Vorosky, the Russian soviet delegate to the Lausanne peace conference, was assassinated tonight, allegedly by members of the Swiss fascists.

PARIS—Herr Schlogetter has been convicted of sabotage and sentenced to death by a French court martial sitting at Dueseldorf, according to a Havas dispatch.

SHIP WRECKED ON UMATILLA REEF BREAKING UP; CREW FINALLY RESCUED

SEATTLE, May 10.—Rescued by the tug Humaconna of Seattle, twenty-six survivors of the doomed freighter Lake Gebhart, caught yesterday on jagged rocks near Umatilla reef were bound today for Seattle. Three men were left aboard the Lake Gebhart, which, according to wireless advices from the scene, will be a total loss.

Captain Gus Swanson, master, F. A. Wickdahl, chief engineer, and a seaman remained aboard the Lake Gebhart to aid in any further efforts made to save the vessel. Rescue craft were standing by ready to take off the men if the risk became too great.

Ex-President Oregon Bank Pleads Guilty To Three Indictments

TILLAMOOK, Ore., May 10.—Frank A. Rowe, former president of the Nehalem Valley bank of Wheeler, Ore., pleaded guilty in court here yesterday to three indictments, charging him with embezzlement of funds from the bank, which was closed eighteen months ago by order of the state bank examiner.

Rowe was arrested in Portland where he has been recently operating in the bond business.

WAR ORDER IN ENGLAND STIRS LABOR PROTEST

LONDON, May 10.—(By the Associated Press.)—The executive of the British parliamentary labor party today sent a telegram to the Russia soviet government, alluding to the dispatch of the British warship Harebell to the Murman coast and begging the soviet to refrain from any action tending to precipitate a resort to force pending further negotiations on the British ultimatum.

LONDON, May 10.—(By the Associated Press.)—The British warship Harebell, has been ordered to the Murman coast to prevent further soviet interference with British vessels outside the three-mile limit and to use force if necessary in performing this mission, the house of commons was informed today by the under secretary for foreign affairs, Ronald McNeill.

The under secretary said the government understood that another English trawler, the Lord Astor, has been captured by a Russian gunboat while fishing ten miles off the Murman coast. The British agent in Moscow, he added, had been instructed to enter a strong protest and demand the release of the Lord Astor's crew. The agent was also instructed to demand the immediate unconditional release of the vessel and the repatriation of the crew.

Mr. McNeill's statement evoked loud cheers from the ministerial benches and cries from the laborites of "more war."

George Lansbury, labor member for Poplar addressing the ministerialists, shouted "why don't you send a fleet to New York? You are a lot of cowards—You are afraid of America!"

BELGIUM HIT HARD BY POSTAL STRIKE

ANTWERP, May 10.—(By the Associated Press.)—This city was almost completely isolated today by the strike of the postal, telegraph and telephone employees and the railroad men which has tied up commerce and is apparently assuming grave proportions.

The transportation of coal and coke was stopped by the walkout and the steamship Zealand was forced to abandon her sailing for New York.

EXPECT ALL HOSTAGES TO BE RESCUED

Messages From Prisoners in Chinese Bandits' Camp Tell Friends Not to Worry—China Orders Troops to Cease Attacks So Foreigners May Be Saved.

WASHINGTON, May 10.—The attack by Chinese troops on the bandits who captured Americans and other foreigners and wrecked the Peking express in Shantung has been ordered stopped by the Peking government.

State department advices today from the American legation at Peking said the Peking authorities had ordered the Chinese troops to "desist from attacks against bandits," and adopt "pacific means" which would insure the liberation of the prisoners without injury.

PORTLAND, Ore., May 10.—The Oregonian last night received a cablegram from Miss Lillian Auld, Eugene girl reported captured by Chinese bandits, saying that she had not been captured. Miss Auld said that she was in Peking.

PEKING, May 10.—Majors Roland Pinger and Robert Allen, U. S., who were captured by Chinese bandits last Sunday, are still held but their sons, Ronald, Jr., and Robert, Jr., have been released, according to official information.

Major Pinger has not been wounded, it is announced.

Having a Fine Time. SHANGHAI, May 10.—(By the Associated Press.)—All the foreign captives held by the Suichow bandits are well, "having a wonderful time," and expect to be released soon, according to written messages received from four of them by relief workers near Lincheng, which were relayed here today.

The telegram received in Shanghai came to Henry Gensburger from his son, Victor, who is at Taochwang with relief parties who are seeking to aid the captives, among whom is Victor's brother, Emil.

Replying to messages sent into the bandit stronghold by the relief workers, came four written replies from as many prisoners. Emil Gensburger, Fred Elias, Edward Elias and Theodore Saphire, saying that all were well and having a wonderful time. They declared they expected to be released soon and admonished their friends not to worry.

The relief workers' message to Shanghai stated that they were encamped two hours' march from the brigands' lair. In the party seeking to obtain the release of the captives are Lloyd Lehrbas, who was captured by bandits near Suichow, but who escaped in a few hours and brought to the outside the first story of the affair, and Carl Crow, representing the American chamber of commerce of Shanghai and the American Red Cross. Both these organizations are sending supplies into the hills back of Lincheng for the captives.

Boys Are Released

Success in the negotiations to ransom the foreigners held captive by Chinese bandits in the mountain fastness of Shantung was indicated today (Thursday) when a dispatch from Peking announced the release of Roland Pinger, Jr., and Robert Allen, Jr., sons of Majors Pinger and Allen, U. S. A.

The officers were still held at latest official advices this afternoon.

A private message from Taochwang received in Shanghai by the Asia Development company, reported that all but one of the foreign captives had been released. The one still held was said to be Chevalier Musso, an Italian attorney of Shanghai. A previous report had said that the brigands were holding Musso for \$1,000,000 and that he was critically ill. The bandits were believed to hold Musso as their most "valuable" prisoner.

Advises received in Tsinanfu indicated that at least two women were released today.

Before the dispatches reporting the surrender of the captives began coming in the outlook was gloomy. Early in the day it was learned in Shanghai that J. B. Powell, an American newspaper man, one of the prisoners, had contrived to have smuggled out "dire consequences" unless the troops surrounding the bandit strongholds were withdrawn.

Latest reports from Peking indicated that at least two women were among the captives—Mrs. Sanderson, an American, and Miss E. F. Fleming, English.

Previous statements that Mrs. I. A. Seaton of Berkeley, Cal., and her niece, Miss Lillian Auld of Eugene, Ore., were held, were dispelled today when it was learned in Peking that they were not aboard the Shanghai.

LADY SMITH ASKED DAD. HE NO'D! SO SHE WILL NOT BECOME A MOVIE STAR



You won't see LADY ELEANOR SMITH in the movies unless her father, LORD BIRKENHEAD, changes his mind.

LONDON—When a movie magnate thrust a contract in front of Lady Eleanor Smith she, like a dutiful daughter, asked dad. He said no. And, being nothing less than Lord Birkenhead, lord chancellor of the British Empire, he had his way. Lady Smith is an ambassadoric 22-year-old. She has considerable talent for the stage.

LOCAL JEWELRY STORE ROBBED, LOSS IS \$2,500

A mysterious robbery, wherein the John W. Johnson jewelry store was robbed of diamond rings valued at \$2,500, was perpetrated some time Wednesday night between the hours of 10 o'clock and morning. The thief left not a clue, and was an expert safe manipulator.

The eight rings were part of a window display, and at ten o'clock Johnson put them in the safe and locked the door with the combination. When he opened the safe this morning, the diamond rings alone of all the valuables at hand were missing.

How the thief gained entrance to the store is puzzling. Nothing was disturbed, and the only theory advanced is that a pass key was used—a lock generally supposed to be invulnerable.

As soon as the loss was discovered, the police and sheriff's office were notified, and Deputy Forencook took photos of the fingerprints on the safe.

The diamond theft is partially covered by insurance.

BASEBALL SCORES

Table with columns for American League and National League scores, listing teams like Cleveland, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Detroit.

DETROIT, May 10.—Washington at Detroit postponed; cold.

VERNON NEARLY DESTROYED BY GASOLINE FIRE

LOS ANGELES, May 10.—All men reported missing when fire destroyed the plant of the Gorham plant at noon had been accounted for at 1:30 p. m. It was announced by firemen. Two were injured and taken to the Los Angeles receiving hospital. The fire was declared to be under control at this time. The firemen said it was caused by a spark from an electric torch used for sealing cans of gasoline.

LOS ANGELES, May 10.—One man was burned to death and several were reported missing when fire swept through the plant of the Gorham Engineering company, an oil concern at 28th street and Santa Fe avenue in the city of Vernon, adjoining Los Angeles today.

Several other employees of the company were reported missing as firemen of Los Angeles and Vernon battled to confine the flames to the Gorham plant which covers a large tract in a thickly built up factory district. The damage was reported to be around \$150,000 at 12:45 o'clock when firemen said they believed they were getting the blaze under control.

Fred Carvis, 22, who lost his life, was overcome by smoke while working in a shed near where the fire broke out. Three other workmen tried to rescue him, but were driven back by the flames. When the wind turned the blaze away Carvis, charred body was recovered. A series of explosions which were heard for several miles occurred, as the fire reached the drums of gasoline.

The entire plant of the Gorham company was destroyed and the flames spread to the adjoining plant of the Pacific American Petroleum company where six 50,000-gallon tanks containing petroleum and by-products, including gasoline, were destroyed.

The change in the wind was said by firemen to have prevented a more disastrous spread.

The cause of the fire had not been determined.

Declare Big Dividend.

NEW YORK, May 10.—Directors of the American Locomotive company today declared a quarterly dividend of \$2.50 a share on common stock, an increase of \$1 per quarter, and recommended putting the stock on a no-par basis, and issuing two shares for every \$100 share now outstanding.

Baptists for Prohibition Enforcement Against Church Evangelists

YAKIMA, Wash., May 10.—Resolutions pledging the convention to co-operation to the prohibition cause and voicing approval of the employment of traveling evangelists were passed by the North Idaho and East Washington convention of Baptists at their closing session today. The Baptists are pledged to resent all gibes and stunts regarding the prohibition law and to aid all law enforcement officers. Use of traveling evangelists was deplored because of the fact that they take from the field funds which should remain at home and because they frequently leave an unsettled condition.

PRESIDENT TO VISIT PORTLAND AT LATER DATE

WASHINGTON, May 10.—Conferences held by President Harding with some of his advisers within the past 24 hours have resulted in a rearrangement of the executive's tentative speaking engagements on his western trip.

The re-arranged list provides for addresses at St. Louis, Kansas City, Mo.; Hutchinson, Kas.; Denver, Salt Lake City, Boise, Idaho, Helena, Mont., and Seattle, Wash., and three addresses in California, probably one each at San Francisco, Los Angeles and San Diego.

The program, as it now stands, contemplates that all of the addresses except those in California and probably one at Portland, Ore., shall be made by the president on his trip to the coast.

Arrangements for the return after his visit to Alaska have not been determined upon.

The arrangements so far made were gone over by the president at a White House conference last night attended by Postmaster General New, Secretary Hoover, John T. Adams, chairman of the republican national committee; Senator Curran of Kansas, the republican whip of the senate; Assistant Secretary Roosevelt of the navy and Will H. Hays, former national republican chairman.

The itinerary still was said to be subject to change, but for the most part it was expected to stand. The president was said to have fixed June 20 as the date on which he will leave Washington.

After the visit to Salt Lake City, the executive, according to the itinerary, will go to Yellowstone Park, where he will spend two days before resuming the trip, with the next speaking engagement at Boise. He expects to sail for Alaska from Seattle, and on returning will land at Portland.

The trip down the Pacific to San Diego then would be made by train. Plans for the return trip are to be worked out in a few days. The president conferred again today on the matter with Secretary Roosevelt.

ISSUE FRAUD ORDER AGAINST DR. COOK

WASHINGTON, May 10.—A fraud order designed to curtail the oil stock promotion activities of Dr. Frederick A. Cook of north pole fame, was issued by the postoffice department.

The order is the third of its kind to be authorized in the department's war on wildcat oil projects in the southwest. It directs that all mail addressed to Dr. Cook as an official of any of the oil companies in which he is interested be returned to the sender.

GERALDINE FARRAR DENIED REQUEST TO FREE GIRL'S NAME IN DIVORCE

NEW YORK, May 10.—The appellate division of the supreme court today denied Geraldine Farrar permission to strike from the records of her divorce suit against Lou Tellegen all allusions to Miss Stella Larrimore, 19 year old actress, named as one of several co-respondents.

DR. WILLING DEFEATED IN FIFTH ROUND

Portland Crack Golfer Finally Put Out in British Tournament After a Gallant Fight—Ouimet and Grant Only American Players Left in Play for Championship.

DAEL, England, May 10.—(By the Associated Press.)—Two Americans remained in the running for the British amateur golf championship at the completion of the fifth round this afternoon. They are Francis Ouimet of Boston, and Douglas Grant, American born, but for some years a resident of London.

Douglas Grant, American resident of London, defeated D. E. B. Souly of Port Marnock, four and two.

Francis Ouimet of Boston defeated C. Bretherton of Hansworth by one hole.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 10.—Douglas Grant, the American resident of London, who is playing in the British amateur golf championship at Deal, was born in San Francisco. His father, John D. Grant, resides here.

Douglas Grant learned his golf here and held many championships, among them the Pacific Northwest and the California state, the latter being won four years ago. Grant married the daughter of a member of parliament and has lived in England for ten years.

Dr. Willing Defeated. DEAL, England, May 10.—(By the Associated Press.)—Roger Wethered, the Oxford star, defeated Dr. O. F. Willing, Portland, Ore., in the fifth round of the British amateur championship here today two up and one to play.

Poor putting resulted in Dr. Willing's defeat by Wethered. While he was down as they started home, the doctor had several opportunities on the way in to make a short putt for the hole but missed nearly all of them. The cards: Wethered, out...4 3 5 2 5 5 4 5—38 Willing, out...3 4 6 3 5 4 4 4—39 Wethered, in...5 5 6 4 3 4 4 5 Willing, in...5 5 6 4 2 5 6 5

DEAL, May 10.—(By the Associated Press.)—Dr. O. F. Willing of Portland, Ore., today won his match in the fourth round of the British Amateur golf tournament, defeating R. W. Crummock of Lancashire two and one.

Francis Ouimet of Boston defeated John F. Neville of San Francisco two up.

George V. Rotan of Houston, Texas, was defeated by W. L. Hope of Turnbury, three and two.

Douglas Grant, American resident of England, defeated Dr. H. D. Gillis of Noking, four and three.

The wind seemed to bother Dr. Willing going out against Crummock, and his game was not up to his standard although he won, two and one. They started the homeward route but the Oregonian forged ahead on the twelfth and retained the advantage to the end, finishing strong with a row of fours. The cards: Willing, out...4 4 5 4 5 5 3 7—42 Crummock, out...6 4 5 3 7 4 6 4 5—43 Willing, in...4 5 5 6 3 4 4 4 Crummock, in...5 4 6 6 4 6 4 4

Add to California Park. WASHINGTON, May 10.—An addition of 562 acres has been made to Pinnacles National monument reserve in California under proclamation signed by President Harding.

WILMINGTON, Del.—"Whoever discards the virgin birth of Jesus Christ must first discard the prophets and the whole testimony of the new testament," the Rev. Thomas A. King said last night.

ings which were held up when Miss Larrimore announced she would seek a jury trial to clear her name. Miss Larrimore's right to seek a trial stands as recognized last week by the appellate division. Tellegen, who has not contested the singer's suit so far, expressed his indignation when the young actress' name was brought into the case and announced that he would do his best to clear her name.