

The Weather

Prediction: Generally fair
Maximum yesterday.....72.1
Minimum today.....37.2

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

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

MEDFORD, OREGON, FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1923

Weather Year Ago

Maximum.....73
Minimum.....48

NO. 49

73 DIE IN SCHOOL FIRE AND PANIC

Oil Lamp Explodes at Graduation Exercises, Camden, S. C., and Entire Families Are Trampled to Death—Stairway Collapses, and Many Leap for Life.

CAMDEN, S. C., May 18.—(By the Associated Press.)—Tragedy, stalking in the wake of comedy, today had turned Kershaw county into a county of mourning.

As the aftermath of a commencement play of the Cleveland school, eight miles from here, seventy-three persons, including whole families, are dead, two persons are missing and dozens are injured.

As the play reached its climax, an oil lamp on the stage overturned and exploded. In an instant the stage was a mass of flames. Panic seized the audience of 300 parents, brothers, sisters and relatives of the graduating class, who were there to honor the youngsters that had crowded the little auditorium.

There was a concerted rush for the single exit that led to a narrow wooden stairway. The weight of the mass was too much for the steps and they collapsed, hurling scores in a tangled mass, numbers being crushed to death.

In a breath, it seemed to persons who escaped, the entire building was wrapped in flames. And within an hour the building was little more than a heap of smoldering ashes, the funeral pyre of more than three and a half score of Kershaw county citizens.

Nearly every home in Kershaw county was affected by the disaster. Many Camden people had gone to witness the play and some of these are numbered among the victims. Five injured are in the hospital here; but all are too badly hurt to talk about it.

The Cleveland school is located in the center of a fertile section, but sparsely populated. The road leading to the scene is little more than a one-way path, along the edge of a plowed field. This morning hundreds of automobiles and buggies were passing to and fro, marking the route to the scene where the tragedy occurred.

In the panic which followed the explosion, little effort apparently was made to fight the flames, which quickly communicated to the dry timber of the little frame school building. Mothers with children in their arms were trampled under foot. Young and old fought alike for exit.

When the stairway collapsed many were injured on the jagged timbers and others were pinned down by the weight of bodies above them. Those who had made their way out of the building turned at once to aid the victims, but they found little opportunity to do so, the only exit, except windows, being cut off.

Many ran to the windows and leaped out. Many of these sustained broken limbs and some were reported as seriously injured.

In the meantime, without means of stemming the blaze, those who had escaped or who were attracted to the scene could only stand by and see the flames complete their work of destruction, helpless to aid. The more seriously injured were rushed to hospitals at nearby places or taken to their homes. Many of the victims, suffering from burns and broken limbs, were brought to a local hospital.

The fire was caused by the overturning of an oil lamp on the stage during the commencement exercises which were being witnessed by a crowd that jammed the room. A panic followed. The school building, a two-story frame building, containing three school rooms, burned rapidly and before outside aid could be summoned nothing remained but to collect the dead and give medical care to the injured. All available doctors were called from Camden and other nearby towns.

The death list reads like a roster of the families of the community. Family after family were virtually wiped out in almost every instance where parents are listed as dead, from one to four children perished.

Among the dead is County Coroner G. L. Dixon and his young daughter. In an incredibly short time the flimsy structure was a mass of flames when a lamp turned over and from many gatherings of neighborhood friends and relatives the hall was converted into a place of death. A narrow wooden stairway, the only means of egress from the second floor, was quickly jammed with a panic-stricken struggling mass of humanity, according to reports.

Women, men and children fought to force their way out and many went to their death under the crush.

Seeing the hopelessness of their position a number of persons jumped from the windows suffering broken bones and other injuries.

Several mothers buried their children into eager hands below.

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King Tut's Curse Rester On Gould, Death Follows Visit

NICE, May 18.—(By the Associated Press.)—Friends of George J. Gould, the American financier who died at Cap Martin Wednesday declared today his fatal illness originated in a cold caught in the valley of the Kings of Egypt, which he visited after the discovery of Tut-enkhamun's tomb. The cold persisted, pneumonia followed and with a complication of heart disease, caused his death.

MEXICAN BOMB EXPLOSION NEAR YANKEE CONSUL

Two Outrages On U. S. Premises in Month—Try to Blow Up Attorney—First Incident Kept Secret—Reds Blamed for Incidents—No Arrests.

MEXICO CITY, May 18.—(By the Associated Press.)—Two bomb explosions on United States government premises in Mexico City have occurred this month, the first at the American embassy on May 4, and the second today in the building housing the American consulate general. The fact is that the first explosion did not become known until after the bombing of the consulate building today. Neither bomb did material damage.

This morning's outrage occurred at 2:35 o'clock when a bomb was exploded at the side door of the consulate general, damaging the door and destroying the windows on the lower floor, but causing no casualties. The consular offices themselves were not affected, the damage occurring to the furniture and windows of the office in the consulate building occupied by a Mexican attorney.

The first explosion, it was learned, occurred at 3 o'clock on the morning of May 4, in the garden of the embassy building near the terrace, a fragment from the infernal machine clipping a chunk off the embassy building.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—(By the Associated Press.)—The bomb which exploded on the premises of the American embassy in Mexico City May 4 was hurled into the embassy from the garden about 3 o'clock in the morning and its explosion was so weak that it did no damage whatever, according to the brief report of the incident transmitted to the state department. The department was still awaiting late today a report as to the bombing of the Mexico City consulate.

No arrests have been reported. The missile was hurled into the embassy garden at the time of radical demonstrations in the streets of the city, in the course of which the demonstrators protested against the recognition conferences between the American and Mexican governments. It is assumed here that the outrage was the act of some radical fanatic.

LAREDO, Texas, May 18.—The bomb explosion in Mexico City early today occurred in the office of Licienda (Attorney) Castillo in the same building in which is housed the American consulate, according to a telegram here from the Mexican foreign relations department to Consul Verquez.

Little damage was done.

BRITISH PREMIER MAY QUIT POST

PARIS, May 18.—(By the Associated Press.)—The health of Andrew Bonar Law, according to information derived from persons in close relation with the British prime minister, is so seriously affected that his retirement appears to be only a matter of weeks, or even days.

The longest period mentioned for him to remain in office is a month, to afford time for the re-arrangement of the cabinet.

Nothing precise is indicated as to why the premier must retire, except that a malady of the throat prevents his talking, while he cannot endure without becoming fatigued.

Nevertheless he is able to walk on the streets and dine at a restaurant outside his hotel.

Principals in Leighton Mount Murder Inquiry



Standing in the center is Roscoe C. Fitch, a classmate of young Leighton Mount, Northwestern university freshman whose death is being investigated by the state grand jury. Fitch asserts he saw Mount at two in the morning of the class fight in which Mount is believed to have met his death. At the left is Asst. States Attorney William McLaughlin; at the right is Coroner Wolff. Seated are Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Mount, parents of the slain student. Insert, his sweetheart, Miss Doris Fuchs.

CHICAGO, May 18.—Charles "Chuck" Palmer, star football player and senior at Northwestern university after being held part of the time in a cell which he referred to as a dungeon since 1 a. m. yesterday in connection with the state's attorney's investigation of the disappearance of Leighton Mount, a freshman, after a class rush in September, 1921, was freed on his own recognizance today by Chief Justice McKipley.

The football player was taken into custody yesterday after Mrs. Violet Bachman, who before her marriage was friendly with the athlete, had said he had told her shortly after Mount disappeared that Mount was safe and that he knew all about the Mount case.

Palmer denied the story told by Mrs. Bachman and told the state's attorney's assistants he knew nothing about the Mount case.

At the police station Palmer said he was placed in solitary confinement despite protests that no warrant had been issued for his arrest and no charges lodged against him.

NEW MODERATOR OF PRESBYTER'S DITCHES BRYAN

"Peerless One" Not Named On Important Committee Per Custom—Agitation of Evolution Question Thought Reason.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 18.—(By the Associated Press.)—Presbyterians of the United States of America completed the organization of their 135th general assembly today with the appointment of J. Spencer Chapman of Philadelphia, as vice moderator and the naming of standing committees.

Dr. Charles Wishart, the newly elected moderator, caused the distinct surprise when, contrary to the usual practice, he failed to name his nearest rival, William J. Bryan, as chairman of the important committee on bills and overtures, the steering committee of the convention. Instead Dr. Wishart selected the Rev. Hugh K. Walker of Los Angeles for the chairmanship and relegated Mr. Bryan to the leadership of the less important committee on home missions.

Dr. Walker's committee will pass on the overture from the Philadelphia Presbytery on the preachings of Harry Emerson Fosdick. Mr. Bryan, as a leader of the fundamentalists, is an active opponent of the liberalism of Dr. Fosdick.

Dr. Clarence MacArthur of Philadelphia, who brought the Fosdick overture to the assembly was placed far down in the list of committee chairmen, heading the committee on freedmen.

Although the new moderator did not refer directly to the Fosdick case yesterday, he declared that unity was the aim of the assembly and his committee assignments today indicated an organization which will subordinate the more conservative views of the fundamentalists and also Mr. Bryan's opinions on such scientific subjects as evolution, in the interest of a harmonious church.

OLD DOC COOK SAYS HE IS INNOCENT

FORT WORTH, Texas, May 18.—Dr. Frederick A. Cook, under federal indictment with twenty-nine other persons in connection with the operations of the Revere Oil company, pleaded not guilty yesterday when arraigned in that case.

TREATMENT OF JAPS IS ONLY THORN

Sole Obstacle to Friendly Relations With U. S. Says Mikado Aide in Speech—Immigration Problem Vexes, But Capable of Solution—Outlook Held Bright.

NEW YORK, May 18.—The treatment of Japanese in this country, in the opinion of Masanoo Hanhara, the Japanese ambassador is the only thing that is apt to disturb the friendly relations existing between the United States and Japan.

Addressing the Japan society here, the ambassador declared that the "happy result" of the Washington arms conference was the "removal from our mutual international relations of the two countries of the 'suspect' which had disturbed them."

He added however, that the American attitude toward the Japanese immigrant, was the one question, "in the whole bright outlook," which "vexes the minds of both people."

"The question is simply one of elementary principle in international intercourse, that is to say of discrimination or no discrimination based on color or nationality."

"Now it is clear to me that America wants to be just and that she is friendly to Japan. On the other hand Japan has no desire to send to your country such of her people as you do not desire. So, with no conflict of great interests between us and with no cause on either side for distrust or suspicion, but with evident desire and every reason on both sides for a mutually beneficial friendship, I confess that I cannot see why our common intelligence and collective wisdom should fail to find the right solution, fair and satisfying to all of us, to a problem which is apparently difficult but really simple."

"With this question settled, there will be nothing for years to come to mar the happy relations."

BASEBALL SCORES

National.
At New York.....R. H. E.
Cincinnati.....7 10 0
New York.....0 5 1
Laque and Hargrave; Bentley, Jonnard and Snyder.

At Brooklyn.....R. H. E.
St. Louis.....3 7 1
Brooklyn.....1 5 0
Shorrel and Clemons; Vance and Deberry.

At Boston.....R. H. E.
Pittsburgh.....R. H. E.
Pittsburgh.....4 10 0
Boston.....3 9 2
Adams, Kuns and Gooch, Schmidt; Fillingim and O'Neill.

American.
At Cleveland.....R. H. E.
Philadelphia.....4 7 0
Cleveland.....1 2 1
Harris and Perkins; Shaute, Morton and Myatt.

At Detroit.....R. H. E.
Boston.....6 13 1
Detroit.....2 8 0
Ehmke and Pleinich; Daus and Bassler.

At Philadelphia.....R. H. E.
Chicago.....10 18 2
Philadelphia.....7 10 3
Aldridge, Steuland, Keen and Hartnett; Head, Wintner, Weinert, Hubbell and Henline.

At Chicago.....R. H. E.
Washington.....8 7 5
Chicago.....14 19 1
Batteries: Morrill, Russell, Zahnizer, Brillhart, Hollingsworth and Gharriy, Ruel; Cvangros, T. Blankenship and Schalk.

OPERATIONS FILM TRUST RECITED HELD FOR MURDER OF HIRED MAN

NEW YORK, May 18.—Robert Lieber, president of the Universal Film corporation testified today before the federal trade commission investigating charges that the Famous Players-Lasky corporation and its subsidiary constitute a trust, that when he owned a theater in Indianapolis the accused refused him pictures because he declined to contract for 52 Paramount films a year.

SEATTLE, May 18.—Complaint was filed in superior court here today charging Adolph B. Boos, Mercer Island rancher, with first degree murder for the slaying of Joseph Smith, a former employee, on Mercer Island, May 12.

Boos asserted that Smith was killed by the discharge of a shotgun during a scuffle after Smith had attacked him. According to officers, Boos told several varying stories of the shooting.

Plenty of Gold to Keep 'Tiger Woman' From Prison, Claim

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras, May 17.—Police officials assert that they have intercepted correspondence from the woman held as "hammer murderess," to persons of unknown identity offering large sums of money if they should assist the prisoner in escaping from all here. As a result, the authorities have doubled their vigilance and have decided that the woman may have no visitors. The police also say they have information that two persons have left Mexico for Honduras with the object of assisting the prisoner to escape.

KRUPP OFFICIAL GETS NEW TRIAL, OTHERS UPHELD

Death Sentence On Prussian Officer and Prison Terms to Krupp Directors Confirmed—Go to Cells While Appeals Await French Orders.

DUESSELDORF, May 18.—The court granted a re-trial to Herr Mueller, member of the factory council of the Krupp works, who was convicted at the same time as the Krupp directors and was sentenced to six months in jail.

The demand for the re-trial of Dr. Krupp von Bohlen and the other Krupp directors was based on eleven counts, the principal one being the argument that the court at Weissenhof tried them as incompetent as the occupation of the Ruhr was illegal, under the treaty of Versailles.

The death sentence upon Albert Schlegel, the former Prussian officer convicted of espionage and sabotage and accused of being a chief of what the French call the "murder gang" was confirmed by the revision court. This was the first death sentence pronounced since the occupation of the Ruhr. Schlegel's counsel will try to bring his case before the court of cassation.

The sentence passed upon Dr. Krupp von Bohlen, head of the Krupp works, confirmed today by the revision court was fifteen years in jail and a fine of 100,000,000 marks. Directors Hartwig and Oesterlen received identical sentences and Director Bruhn was sentenced to ten years imprisonment and 100,000,000 marks fine. Superintendent Gross of the apprentice department of the Krupp works, was given a ten year term. The trouble at Krupp plant on March 31, which led to the shooting by the French resulted in the death of fourteen workers.

DUESSELDORF, May 18.—(By Associated Press.) The sentences imposed by the recent court martial upon Dr. Krupp von Bohlen and the other Krupp directors tried for instigating opposition to the French at the Krupp plant at the time of the shooting on March 31 were confirmed today by the court of revision. The convicted men will be transferred to prisons in France while their counsel appeals to the court of cassation.

NATIONS OF TODAY HAVE LOST HOPE

MONTREAL, N. C., May 18.—"The tragedy of nations today is that they have lost their hope," Dr. Robert Speer, president of the federal council of the Church of Christ in America, and secretary of the foreign missions committee of the northern Presbyterian church told the general assembly of the southern Presbyterian church today.

Herbert Burton, 15 years old, companion of Smith on the occasion, charged with highway robbery with violence, was sentenced to serve six years in the penitentiary.

TUESDAY LAST DAY OF GRACE FOR CAPTIVES

Chinese Bandits Release Man to Bring Word Americans and British Will Be Shot Unless Troops Withdrawn—German Priest Describes Visit to Stronghold.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—Minister Schurman reported to the state department today that negotiations for release of the foreigners held by Chinese bandits appeared to be in progress between the bandit leaders and representatives of the Chinese government and that the prisoners might be released within two or three days.

SHANGHAI, May 18.—(By Associated Press.) American and British captives of the Shantung bandits will be shot next Tuesday if the Chinese troops are not withdrawn, according to the final ultimatum of the bandits, brought from the mountain stronghold today by Marcel Olivier Berube, a Frenchman, one of the prisoners who was released for the purpose.

SHANGHAI, May 18.—(By Associated Press.) Lloyd Lehrbas, an American newspaperman who was on the Shanghai-Peking express train wrecked by bandits near Suhow twelve days ago, but escaped before the foreign captives were taken into the Shantung hills, has arrived in Shanghai from Tsao Chwang with the prediction that unless there are unforeseen developments the prisoners will be released in ten days or two weeks.

He quoted Marcel Olivier Berube, the French captive, who was in Tsao Chwang on a brief "parole" from the bandit stronghold, as saying: "I am satisfied that on the slightest suspicious move on our part or by the Chinese troops, the bandits will kill one or two of us and send out the bodies."

Lehrbas intends to return to Tsao Chwang shortly. Negotiations with the Chinese bandits are proceeding he said, with everything possible being done.

Communications to the foreign hostages still can be forwarded from Tsao Chwang to the new and more remote camp of the bandits, Lehrbas added.

Regarding the censorship he explained that delays in the transmission of telegrams from Tsao Chwang was due chiefly to the single wire, manned by a lone operator 65 years old, who had to handle floods of official messages, principally to and from Peking.

SHANGHAI, May 18.—(By Associated Press.) Another letter from Rev. William Leners, the aged German priest of Lincheng, was delivered to the Associated Press here today and describes his second trip into the stronghold of the Shantung bandits. For the second time within a few days he interviewed the bandit chieftain but did not succeed in obtaining the liberation of any of the foreign captives.

Starting from Tsao Chwang Tuesday Father Leners was accompanied by Dr. H. Martens and Father Buis, a Dutch missionary. They travelled 13 hours.

Father Leners relates that the bandits refused him permission to see the prisoners.

"I begged to see Chevalier Musso, who is sick, offering the Catholic mission's guarantee. I begged for permission to take Musso out. Refusing, they said Musso was ten miles away," he wrote.

"The bandits gave me a letter on dirty paper purporting to account for their movements. Then they offered us a sixteen year old Chinese girl captive from Shanghai. We decided to refuse, still asking for Musso. The girl was taken away and we were warned to leave by three o'clock."

"The leader accompanied us for a short distance, charging bad faith in regard to the troops, but he shook hands with me as he left."

"I advise you to print in large letters that there is no hope of the prisoners being released in a short time. Who thinks otherwise is ignorant of the ways of mountain outlaws."

"We returned to Tsao Chwang at eight o'clock the same night."

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