

# Abbeville Press and Banner

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## THEATER CRASH KILLS OVER 100

**BODIES OF ONE HUNDRED AND SEVEN THUS FAR REMOVED—NUMBER OF OTHERS SERIOUSLY INJURED. MANY SENT TO HOSPITALS**

Washington, Jan. 29.—The toll of dead in the Knickerbocker reached 107 tonight when a final canvass was made of the city hospitals and all of the several emergency medical stations which had been established to care for the victims. This was said to include everybody thus far recovered from the ruins. The list of injured totaled 134 tonight and of these 14 were recorded as having sustained serious hurts.

Of those in hospitals some sustained injuries in many cases of such character that the victims, if they recover, will be maimed for life.

Ninety-two of the victims had been identified when the force of volunteer workers, 24 hours after the disaster, approached the end of their long search of the debris.

Nine additional bodies of those who had succumbed to injuries after rescue lay in city hospitals.

The large majority of the victims, both killed and injured, were residents of the city, although many came recently from other places. Exploration of the ruins went on unchecked after dark but those in charge believe few additional bodies would be found. Without regard to their own risk soldiers, marines, sailors, police, firemen and citizen volunteers had fought their way beneath the wreckage over practically the whole floor space of the auditorium.

The exact number on the theater when the steel and concrete span of the roof buckled and fell under its three foot load of snow probably will never be known. The stories of perhaps a hundred who got out uninjured have been reported. The more than 300 in the audience was roaring in laughter at a filmed comedy when the roof fell on them like a blanket, carrying down the front of the wide balcony in its path.

Normally the theater has every seat filled at that hour and nearly 2,000 persons was its capacity. The same unprecedented snowfall which brought death to the venturesome few kept the many at home. Street car traffic had been abandoned and streets and sidewalks were all but impassable with drift.

There has been no time as yet for official inquiry as to the cause of the disaster. The ruins themselves disclose, however, that the entire mass of steel held concrete that formed the roof had come down. The crash swept the supports out from under the balcony apparently, and this hinged down at an angle of 45 degrees, adding to the tangled mass of wreckage on the floor below.

The building stands in an acute angled corner of Eighteenth street and Columbia road, northwest, the heart of the most favored residence section of the city. The narrow niche of the stage on which the screen was hung was backed into the corner angle, while to the left from the stage the line of the auditorium wall runs in a straight line for some 200 feet down Eighteenth street. To the right, the wall follows the slow curve of Columbia road for about the same distance and at the far end, paralleling the stage front, the back wall completes the auditorium proper, also about 200 feet in length.

Moscow, Jan. 28.—Nicolai Lenine, bolshevik premier has been appointed head of the soviet delegation to the Genoa economic conference.

## SHIPPING BOARD MAY REPAIR SHIP

**HOUSE REFUSES TO HALT LEVIATHAN PROGRAM—AN ATTEMPT TO ATTACH AMENDMENT OFFICES' APPROPRIATION BILL DEFEATED.**

Washington, Jan. 28.—The house refused today to attach to the independent offices appropriation bill an amendment which would have prohibited the shipping board from proceeding with the reconditioning of the Leviathan without obtaining an appropriation from congress for the purpose.

Representative Graham (Republican) of Illinois offered the amendment which would have placed a \$1,000,000 limit on the amount the shipping board could expend for repairs on any one ship without congressional authority. Refitting of the Leviathan, it was said, probably would cost at least \$8,000,000.

The Graham proposal was rejected by a vive voce vote after the house had adopted an amendment offered by Representative Dallinger (Republican) of Massachusetts which would give navy yards the right to submit estimates for the repair of shipping board vessels.

On a point of order by Representative Byrnes (Democrat) of South Carolina a provision continuing for another fiscal year the authority of the board to retain for its own use \$55,000,000 derived from the sale of its property was eliminated from the bill.

During hearings before the appropriations subcommittee which framed the measure Chairman Lasker estimated that during the current fiscal year the shipping board would derive about \$25,000,000 from this source and asked that the extension be granted so the remaining \$30,000,000 could be obtained as the liquidation process continues. Mr. Byrnes held that the continuing provision was a legislative section which had no place in an appropriation bill.

When the house adjourned late today it had before it an amendment by Mr. Byrnes limiting to \$400,000 the amount the shipping board could spend on publicity and advertising during the coming fiscal year. Budget estimates call for an expenditure of about \$900,000.

During debate on various amendments, the shipping board was commended by Chairman Madden of the appropriations committee who declared it was functioning satisfactorily and would in the very near future be able to make a creditable showing in its operations.

The bill, which in addition to funds for the shipping board, carries approximately \$377,000,000 for the veterans bureau, probably will come to a vote in the house today.

### IN POLICE COURT

**Four Defendants Hear Charges and Sentence.**

O. Harrison, A. Prather and P. Richie, negroes were before the mayor this morning on a charge of gambling. They were fined \$5 or 10 days each.

George Crawford, negro man, was the leader in a disturbance Saturday afternoon when the police fired several shots in the air to make him stop, after he had been arrested on a charge of carrying a "concealed" weapon. George was noticed standing by a telephone post near the Catholic church with a 38 calibre pistol swinging to a belt buckled on the outside of his coat. He was arrested and the pistol confiscated, whereupon he ran. The officers fired several times but Crawford did not hear the command to halt and he was not captured until this morning. He was fined \$50 or 30 days.

Ten British monarchs have used the king's state barge, now 230 years old.

## RAILROADS MUST GIVE BACK HALF

**GOVERNMENT CLAIMS ALL ABOVE 6 PER CENT MADE UPON VALUE OF PROPERTY USED IN TRANSPORTATION FROM SEPT. 1, 1920 TO JAN. 1, 1921.**

Washington, Jan. 29.—Railroads which earned more than six per cent upon the value of their property used in transportation during the period from September 1, 1920 to January 1, 1921, are required under an order issued today by the Interstate Commerce Commission to turn half of the excess so earned over the government.

The order as issued by the commission makes effective sections of the transportation act of 1920 and prescribes rules for the application of those sections.

Railroads during the four months period specified in the order are understood to have earned a considerable amount in excess of the six per cent limitation prescribed by congress but the valuation not having been given out for the individual lines the amounts cannot yet be calculated. The transportation act in addition to providing that until March 1, 1922, rates should be made by the interstate commerce commission sufficient to give the railroads at least 5 1-2 per cent on their properties provided for the recovery by the government of half of all the amount earned by any road over 6 per cent.

The commission in fixing the rates found a tentative value for railroad property by groups throughout the United States but did not segregate this to individual roads.

General increases were granted in rates in 1920 and during the last four months of the year while traffic volumes were large railroad earnings were reported in excess of the six per cent clause but for all of the months of 1921 and so far in 1922 the returns have not indicated that any sums could be collected by the government under the law.

The statute also provided that in case excess earnings were received by the government the money should be paid into a special fund for the purpose of lending to railroads and repaying advances made by the government to railroads.

## SCHOOLS TO CLOSE AFTER 8 MONTHS

Due to a shortage of funds it is practically certain that the Abbeville schools will not be able to run longer than eight months this session, according to the trustees. Although every effort will be made to continue the session, it seems unlikely that the term can be run its regular period. Indeed, members of the board say, it will not be possible for the school to continue eight months unless some money is borrowed.

The collection of taxes for last year does not enter into the problem at all, it is said, since the schools will face a deficit at the end of eight months, even should all the taxes due be paid in promptly. Besides the deficit that is likely to be incurred this session, the board owes a considerable amount under the head of past indebtedness, and the further pledging of future taxes is not considered advisable at this time. While the trustees will find it difficult to meet the payment of current expenses for the full eight months, they are planning to continue the schools for that length of time so a considerable item of state aid money will not be lost.

A suggestion has been heard that the patrons of the high school might be willing to supplement regular school funds so that this department can be continued for the maximum

## ATLANTIC STATES SWEEP BY STORM

**SNOW FALLS FOR MORE THAN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS, CAUSING SUSPENSION OF PRACTICALLY ALL BUSINESS AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.**

Washington, Jan. 29.—More than 24 hours of continuous snow had last night covered the middle Atlantic section with Washington as a center to a depth of a foot to nearly 30 inches; caused the suspension of practically all business and social activity, disrupted transportation and shut most of the population in their homes.

The storm, which weather bureau officials after looking up their records said, was one of the most severe in history and extended in depth of snowfall only by the long remembered blizzard of February, 1899, was moving slowly yesterday up the coast from its position during the day off Virginia.

Reports to the weather bureau showed that the Carolinas, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware and District of Columbia were bearing the brunt of the storm and receiving the heaviest snow fall. Virginia cities accustomed to only an inch or so of snow and then of rare occurrence, were buried in many cases to the depth of a foot while northern portions of the Carolinas still were blanketed with a fall that began Thursday.

Washington, however, appeared to be the center of the heavy fall, the weather bureau measurements taken late in the day showing the depth to be closely approaching two and a half feet and the record fall of three feet established in 1899. All records for 24 hours' fall had been broken at 6 o'clock, the hour at which the storm struck Washington yesterday.

The national capital with its heavy and constantly increasing blanket was virtually paralyzed as to activities of all kinds in much the same manner as in 1909 when a lighter fall, but accompanied by rain and sleet forced abandonment of elaborate plans for the inauguration of President Taft.

The snowfall in Washington practically halted governmental activities and had its effect in an international way of causing the cancellation of two scheduled armament conference meetings.

## ANOTHER STILL CAPTURED TODAY

Deputy Sheriffs Prince and Ferguson and Special Agent Wright early this morning captured a 35 gallon copper still and arrested three men who were said to be operating it, the plant being located on the land of J. A. Gilliam, on Little River, Turkey Hill. The officers arrived on the scene, a canebroke on the very bank of the river, about day-break, having left town about 4 o'clock this morning. The liquid in the still was at the boiling point when the officers arrived, and in a few minutes the "cap" would have been applied and the moonshine started trickling out in a sparkling stream.

Three of the four men, two whites and two negroes, were captured, one of the white men, whose name is unknown, escaping. Dan Cade and Butler Gray are the negroes and Harry Landis the white man held in jail by Sheriff McLane. Landis also made a run, or rather a swim, for liberty, jump period. The trustees realize that to curtail the work of the high school would affect credit rating as well as upset grade advancement. It is also believed that a private arrangement will be made to continue the mill school.

## CHOOSE SUCCESSOR TO POPE BENEDICT

**POSSIBILITY OF AN AMERICAN BEING CHOSEN—ITALIAN MEMBERS SACRED COLLEGE MAFFI'S BOOM HAS DECLINED**

Rome, Jan. 28.—With the body of the late Pope Benedict laid away beneath the flagstones of St. Peter's the interest of the Sacred College the vatican household turned today to the election of his successor. A conclave has been called for February 2 to choose the new pontiff.

The question of a rapprochement between the church and the Italian government enters into the election. A thorough canvass of opinion in the vatican shows that the peace treaty, or those advocating closer relations with the government, are virtually deadlocked with the irreconcilables or those opposing a rapprochement in the number of votes each faction can muster. A two-thirds majority is necessary for election.

Twenty-nine cardinals, headed by Cardinal Gasparri, the camerlengo or acting head of the church, are known to favor continuance of Benedict's policy, which was understood to have been directed toward a resumption of relation with the Quirinal; twenty members of the Sacred College are thought to be just as strongly opposed, while nine are classified as neutral.

The attitude of the American cardinals—O'Connell, of Boston, and Dougherty of Philadelphia—is unknown at the vatican, but the opinion is expressed that, unless a compromise is reached, never has there been such an opportunity for a foreign cardinal to be elected pope. The majority enjoyed by the Italian members of the Sacred college is so evenly divided that vatican officials admit all depends upon the attitude of the foreign cardinals.

The boom for Cardinal Maffi, archbishop of Pisa, who was mentioned as favored by the government, appears to be in the decline, while Cardinal Gasparri and Cardinal Archbishop Merry del Val, respectively, leaders of the peace party and the irreconcilables, are acknowledged by their supporters to have little chance of being elected.

The candidate of the Gasparri party is Cardinal Ratti, of Milan, while Merry del Val's faction, after voting for their leaders on the first ballot as a test of strength, it is understood will switch to Cardinal Laurenti, the newest created member of the Sacred College stationed in Rome. Laurenti presided for many years over the Roman Catholic world missions, and is well known to all the foreign cardinals.

Cardinal Van Rossum, of Holland is most prominently mentioned as a neutral candidate, should a deadlock be reached in the conclave. He is 67 years of age and was raised to the purple by Pius X in 1910.

For the first time in history women will be permitted to be present in the quarters occupied by the conclave. They are Sisters of Mercy, who will preside over the destinies of the cardinals' kitchens which heretofore have been supervised by monks.

### WELL AGAIN.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Thomson, Jr. will be glad to know their son, Goode 3rd, has entirely recovered from his recent illness.

ing into the cold water of the river: he saw across but the range of the officers was too good on the other side and he swam back and was brought in with the outfit.

## LABOR LEADERS IN FARM CONFERENCE

**SEEM TO BE IN CHARGE OF SESSION.—KANSAS DELEGATE WOULD ADJUST PRICES FARM PRODUCTS UPWARD AND NOT THROW ANY BODY DOWN.**

Washington, Jan. 28.—Union labor won a victory in the national agricultural conference today when that body by a vote of 83 to 64 struck out of a committee report a recommendation for repeal of the Adamson eight hour law.

The conference also struck out the committee report recommendation for repeal of the commonly-termed guaranty clause of the transportation act which fixes six per cent as a proper return for railroads.

This action was taken after a bitter debate in which Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor denounced a resolution introduced by W. H. Stackhouse, president of the National Implement and Vehicle association calling for reduction of miners and railway union labor wages and also the committee report on repeal of the Adamson law. Mr. Gompers warned the farmers that after they had become thoroughly organized they might in the future face a similar fight by interests which he said now were making a drive on union labor.

The sentiment of the conference as voiced by several speakers seemed to be that the whole matter of transportation including wages paid to union labor and the railway question generally had better be left to congress and not passed on by the conference. Several of the delegates joined with Mr. Gompers in denouncing the proposals as an attempt to drive a wedge between labor and the farmers.

The labor leader asserted the farmers were "good boys now" and were "allowing the bankers, implement manufacturers" and their like "to play monkey shines with you."

"But go on and organize," he told the farmers, "and you will face the criticism as labor has done. The interests will drive you as they have driven labor."

W. C. Lansdon, of the Kansas Farmers' Union, opposing the resolution, said the farmers of his state did not want to take advantage of labor in readjusting matters.

"Let's adjust the prices of farm products upward," he said, "and not throw anybody down. Millions of men are living in industrial slavery in this country. Instead of asking that credits be readjusted to lift these people, you are trying to pull down labor to their conditions."

Gifford Pinchot, of Pennsylvania, opposed the conference going on record of the transportation issue.

Recommendation for the appointment of a federal commission to formulate a national land policy including all questions of reclamation and irrigation were adopted today by the national agricultural conference.

The conference also went on record as opposed to the opening of any more land for farming purposes until normal economic conditions are restored.

### TELLEGEN COMING

Former Assistant of Bernhardt To Visit Abbeville

Lou Tellegen, one of the best known and admired actors on stage and screen today, will visit Abbeville Thursday night, February 9, according to Manager Verchot of the Opera House. Tellegen, who came to this country with Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, will appear in "Blind Youth," a comedy drama that is to furnish the actor an excellent opportunity for the display of his remarkable talent. The same actor appeared in Columbia, the critic of The State making favorable comment on his work and on that part of the supporting cast.