

Starch Factory Blows Up

Cause of Accident Not Determined.—Twenty or More Persons Killed

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, May 22.—A score of persons were killed and a hundred injured in an explosion at the Douglas Starch Works tonight.

The number of dead could not be estimated for some time by firemen, who began to extract dead and wounded from the debris hastily to avoid incinerating.

So severe was the explosion that persons were thrown from chairs a mile away. The cause of the accident could not be determined, but is thought to have been due to either a defective boiler or spontaneous combustion.

The blast blew in windows many blocks from the Douglas plant, and persons within office buildings suffered from the shattered glass.

With the fire raging cries were heard coming from the drying room of the plant, but firemen were unable to cut their way in, and it was believed that the death toll would grow. Several discharged overseas soldiers aided in the rescue work.

Explosions from the oil rooms scattered the burning wreckage and firemen were hard pressed to prevent the spreading of the flames to nearby industries.

Men covered with starch were taken from the ruins by their comrades and many thrilling rescues were made. Some of the victims were stark mad and did not know what had happened. One workman, his head covered with his own blood, insisted that he was not hurt and that his rescuers should allow him to go back into the fire where it was warm.

Water mains were cut by the force of the explosion, making the work of firemen harder because of the lack of water.

An engineer, who was blown out of the building, said he believed his boiler had exploded.

General Manager Lenders, who arrived at the plant a few minutes after the explosion, would advance no theory as to the cause. Every window in the central part of the city was broken. Chimneys caved in on families at the supper table and guests in the dining rooms of hotels were thrown from their chairs. A Chicago traveling man dining at the Magnus Hotel had his nose cut almost off by broken glass. The front of the city hall and Y. M. C. A. building were shattered. Ticket sellers in moving picture theatres were injured by falling glass.

The Red Cross established first aid stations near the wrecked plant and did all that was possible for the injured as they were brought from the wrecked plant.

Frank Sodomani was taken out of the plant alive. His legs were blown off. He begged the crowd to kill him.

When Will He Return?

Speculation as to Date of President Wilson's Departure From France

Brest, May 24.—President Wilson's ship, the George Washington, is not expected to sail before June 1st. Officials refused to say whether they have received orders from the president.

Six transports have sailed with sixteen thousand troops including the last contingents of the 89th Division.

Steamship Burned

Bay Line Ship Virginia a Total Loss

Norfolk, May 24.—The steamer Virginia of the old Bay Line from Baltimore to Norfolk was burned to the water's edge off Smith Point, Chesapeake Bay, early this morning. The survivors were picked up by the other vessels.

The steamer Virginia carried one hundred and fifty passengers and a general cargo. The survivors reached here this morning on other steamers. It is believed that three negro firemen perished.

Face Murder Charge

Three Negroes in Laurens Jail Accused of Serious Crime

Laurens, May 23.—Sheriff Reid has made two other arrests in connection with the murder of Wash Reeder at Clinton last Saturday night. Charley Ferguson and Arch Pettis, negroes, being jailed after further investigation of the affair. It is stated officially that Ferguson has admitted his connection with the killing of Reeder and in making his statement implicated Pettis, who was arrested at Newberry, and Sam Rice, who was held under suspicion from the time of the discovery of the body in the sewer Sunday evening. All parties are negroes. Reeder worked in a cafe and after being paid off Saturday night he was struck down with a bludgeon, robbed and his body concealed in a sewer opening.

Returns From Spa

German Delegates Kept Busy Running Between Spa and Versailles

Paris, May 24 (Havas).—Count von Brockdorff-Rantzau, head of the German mission, and his colleagues conferred yesterday at Spa with German leaders, and later left for Versailles.

Methodist Fund Growing

Best Proportionate Record is Achieved by Florence on Face of Returns

Columbia, May 22.—The Methodist centenary missionary fund yesterday showed an increase of \$70,478.70 in the South Carolina conference, according to reports received by Mr. Leland Moore yesterday. Florence district is leading both in amount and in percentage of contributions.

One interesting feature of the campaign is the number of individuals who have contributed. A large percentage of the membership in the State has contributed, according to reports from all sections.

The Bennettsville church, though, has one large contribution. The allotment for the church was between \$15,000 and \$20,000 and already \$98,000 has been subscribed. Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Kirkwood contributing \$60,000 of that amount.

The campaign will not close until Sunday, and to the last the effort will be made to carry the conference as far over the top as possible. The reports yesterday were as follows:

Table with 3 columns: District, Reported, Total. Rows include Charleston, Sumter, Oangeburg, Marion, Florence, Kingstree.

Totals \$70,478.70 \$1,258,908.95. The allotments and percentages for the conference is as follows:

Table with 3 columns: District, Allotment, PC. Rows include Charleston, Sumter, Orangeburg, Marion, Florence, Kingstree.

Beer Production Will Continue

Federal Judge Grants Injunction in New York

New York, May 23.—Uninterrupted production of "war beer" until the courts have passed upon the claims of the United States Brewers' Association that the beverage containing 2-3 per cent. alcohol is nonintoxicating was assured today when Federal Judge Mayer granted an injunction restraining government interference with its manufacture.

The court declared that his decision had been influenced by President Wilson's message to congress recommending repeal of the war time prohibition act in so far as it relates to beer and wines, and by Federal Judge Hand's ruling last week that the law placed a ban on the manufacture only of liquors that were, in fact, intoxicating. Judge Mayer said he would sign the injunction Monday.

Although United States District Attorney Caffey, represent the government, opposed granting an injunction, Judge Mayer said he believed such action would contribute to a fair settlement of the questions raised by the brewers under the emergency prohibition act. The injunction, a temporary one, would be effective, the court said, pending review by the circuit court of appeals, or, if the government should decide to let it stand, until the brewers' suit permanently to enjoin prosecutions for manufacture of the 2-3 per cent brew, could be tried in the district court.

District Attorney Caffey pointed out that if possible a decision on appeal should be obtained before July 1, when prohibition of the sale of intoxicants becomes effective, unless congress follows the suggestion of the president for repeal or amendment of the law.

The injunction granted was in the suit of the Jacob Ruppert Brewing Company and is intended as a test case.

Washington, May 23.—Since federal authorities have not interfered with production of beer containing 2-3 per cent. alcohol officials here said tonight that determination of the New York federal district court to issue an injunction against interference would not have any immediate practical effect in the controversy over the legality of the brewing of the beverage. The government has contended that beer containing one-half of 1 per cent or more of alcohol was forbidden but has not taken active steps to stop brewing. Brewers have been warned that if the court eventually hold the brewing of this beer illegal they will be liable to prosecution.

Ohio Dry To-night

End of License Year Will Be Celebrated with John Barley-corn Parties

Columbus, May 24.—Although constitutional prohibition does not become effective in Ohio until Tuesday, the State becomes, practically dry at midnight tonight, the end of the license year. Farewell parties for John Barley corn will be given tonight in practically every wet center.

The Bravest American

Sergeant York of Tennessee Winner of Highest American and French War Honors

Washington, May 24.—Sergeant Alvin C. York, of Pail Mall, Tenn., wearing the congressional medal of honor and the French war cross, with palm, called on Secretary of War Baker today, being introduced by Congressman Hull, of Tennessee. "You are a brave man. I congratulate you," said Secretary Baker. After leaving the war department Sergt. York visited the White House, meeting Secretary Tumulty.

Trucks For State Roads

Highway Engineer Makes Apportionment

Columbia, May 22.—J. Roy Pennell, State highway engineer, was advised from Washington yesterday afternoon that the first allotment of trucks to be used in building federal aided permanent highways in South Carolina were ready for shipment. In this initial lot there are 79 trucks of the following capacity and make: Two ton International and 11 three ton Gramm-Bernsteins, Atlanta; 14 three ton Aviation, Baltimore, and 52 two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis. Immediately upon receipt of the telegram, Captain Pennell made the distribution among the counties, where federal aid is being met for permanent highways, and instructed the department of agriculture where to have the trucks shipped at once. The trucks should be delivered immediately. The highway department has received assurance that 296 trucks to help in highway construction in this State are to be made available as soon as possible. Nine counties do not receive any of the present shipment of trucks, as some of these counties have made no provision to meet federal aid. Several others are not yet ready for the trucks. The counties not included in the first allotment are: Abbeville, Anderson, Barnwell, Berkeley, Clarendon, Darlington, Dorchester, Jasper and Marlboro. The following is the distribution:

- Aiken—Two three ton Gramm-Bernstein, Atlanta.
Allendale—Three three ton Gramm-Bernstein, Atlanta.
Bamberg—Two three ton heavy Aviation trucks, Baltimore.
Beaufort—One two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Calhoun—Two two ton International trucks, Atlanta.
Charleston—Two two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Cherokee—Three two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Chester—Two three ton Gramm-Bernstein trucks, Atlanta.
Chesterfield—Two three ton Gramm-Bernstein trucks, Atlanta.
Colleton—One two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Dillon—Two two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Edgefield—Three two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Fairfield—One two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Florence—Two three ton heavy Aviation trucks, Baltimore.
Georgetown—Two two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Greenville—Three two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Greenwood—Two three ton heavy Aviation truck, Baltimore.
Hampton—Three two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Horry—Three two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Kershaw—One two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Lancaster—Three two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Laurens—Three two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Lee—Two two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Lexington—Three two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
McCormick—Two two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Marion—Two three heavy Aviation trucks, Baltimore.
Newberry—Two two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Oconee—Two two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Orangeburg—Two two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Pickens—Two two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Richland—Two two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Saluda—Two two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Spartanburg—Two two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Sumter—Three three ton heavy Aviation trucks, Baltimore.
Union—Two two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
Williamsburg—One two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.
York—Two two ton Nash quadruple drive, Indianapolis.

Quick Demobilization

More Than Sixty Per Cent of Army Has Been Returned to Civil Life

Washington, May 21.—Revised plans for the return of overseas forces provide for the sailing of all troops except the regular divisions by June the 12th. General March announced that more than sixty per cent of the army has been returned to civil life.

Cuban Molasses Wasted

Apparatus Invented To Use It As Fuel

Havana, April 25.—Great quantities of molasses are wasted by the sugar mills of Cuba. Attempts have been made to utilize this waste product as fuel for the boilers of the sugar mills and now, a Cuban inventor claims he has invented an apparatus which will permit the use of the molasses as fuel without choking the furnaces.

All the sugar mills produce more molasses than can be marketed and it is asserted, twice the amount needed to furnish fuel for steam power.

Riots in Bilbao

Striking Spanish Workmen Engage Bloody Fights

Paris, May 24.—Severe rioting occurred Friday at Bilbao, Spain, where thirteen thousand factory workers are striking, according to a Madrid wireless message. Fire broke out during the rioting causing heavy loss.

Cleaning Up Constantinople

Allies Trying to Make Ancient Metropolis Into Modern City

Constantinople, April (15 By Mail)—Constantinople is being cleaned up by the allies and soon it will be like a Western European city. The regeneration of Turkey is commencing with a general sanitary campaign in which the American Red Cross Commission to the Balkans has been asked to aid.

"American sanitary engineers of the Goethals type are badly needed out here," declared an American physician. "Sewage systems must be installed throughout the Near East in hundreds of towns. Constantinople must be cleaned up till it looks like a Swiss housewife's kitchen. Mosquito netting by the millions of baies must be brought over. Local doctors do not believe in the screening of sick beds or of hospital windows. They must go to school again in their profession. Swamps and unhealthy valleys must be drained. The people must be driven out of the filthy centers of disease into the open country where the sun can get at them and where they can engage in healthy farm work.

"Sometimes," said the Red Cross doctor, "I feel an irresistible desire to gather ten thousand of these unfortunate wretches together, strip them of their crazy-quilt bundles of vermin-infested rags, force them all into a vast petroleum pool, then into a great tank of clean water. I would give them one and all a pair of American shoes, a pair of overalls and a sweater.

"The roads over which we are trying to get our automobiles, filled with Red Cross supplies for the underfed central Serbia, are quite impassable. From Saloniki to Belgrade the roads are lined with tens of thousands of skeletons and rotting carcasses of animals. Soldiers' graves, thinly screened with earth, skirt the highways. No wonder there are dozens of cases of typhus in every city in Serbia.

"What the Near East needs is several divisions of American plumbers, railroad men, sanitary engineers, doctors, nurses, white wings, building contractors, druggists and prescription clerks, farming machine salesmen, experienced cootie mill operators, army bakers and coat and pants salesmen with East Side experience. The first boatload to leave Toulon or New York should contain the plumbers, declared the physician.

Irish Shut Out

Were Denied Hearing at Peace Conference

Paris, May 24.—Representatives of American Irish societies elave today, having failed to secure the assent of British authorities for a hearing for Prof. Devalera and other representatives of the Irish republic.

Final Entertainment of the 1919 Chautauqua

The closing night at the Redpath Chautauqua was a real joy night. Alton Packard, the humorist and cartoonist, was the chief attraction. Mr. Packard kept the Sumter people laughing for two hours. Mr. Packard is an artist with a gift of humor and a keen insight into humorous nature. His humor has a rare quality of being supremely humorous and may be best described as genial. Equally attractive was the Metropolitan Quartet in their grand concert. The personnel:

Miss Hazel Silver, soprano; Mr. Walter Peterson, tenor; Miss Esther Muenstermann, contralto; Mr. Curtis W. Johns, bass; Miss Laura Clendennen, pianist.

The afternoon program was as follows:

- 1. Carmina—Quartette.
2. Loch Lomond.
3. Going to Press.
Soprano Solo—"A Birthday"—Cowan—Miss Hazel Silver.
Encore—"The Americans Come"—Fay Foster.
Solo by Mr. Curtis Johns—"Macaulah"—McMurray.
Quartettes—"Red, Red Rose"—Lester; "The Verry Dance."
Tenor Solo—"The Star"—Rodgers; "Jean"—Sprose—Mr. Peterson.
Contralto Solo—"What's in the Air Today."
Encore—"Three Little Chestnuts."—Miss Muenstermann.
"Voices of the Woods"—Rubinstein.
"Quartette from Rigoletto."
Piano Solo—Chophi's Revolutionary Etude—Miss Clendennen.

The chautauqua was a success in every way and the people of Sumter thoroughly enjoyed the week. Never before has the attendance been as large and never before have we received such favorable comment. The management was requested by the government to put on certain subjects this year, such as the government ownership of railroads, etc. Next year the program will include two or more plays and promises to be even bigger and finer than the one this year. The sale of season tickets amounted to more than ever before, being 1,029 adult, 197 high school and 194 children's tickets. The Sumter Y. M. C. A. realized a fair sum, and desires to thank the people for their support in making the 1919 Chautauqua a success.

To Plant Memorial Trees

Washington, May 22.—At the commencement on June 16, old Georgetown University will plant and dedicate sixty trees in honor of her graduates who gave their lives in the world war. The trees will be marked by the American Forestry Association and registered on the national honor roll being compiled by the association.

As each tree is placed and the marker with the name put around the tree a hero's name will be called out and while a Georgetown aviator circles above.

Irmo Safe Cracked

Yeggmen Rob Lorick Company Of Money and Valuable Papers

Irmo, May 23.—Lorick Company's store was entered last night by forcing the front door and the safe was blown open. Evidently two explosions were necessary to get into the safe, the outer door first being blown off. A considerable sum of money, all notes and mortgages of recent date, books of all recent accounts and other valuable papers were taken.

A shop hammer, a small pipe wrench, a piece of pipe about 15 inches long, a small chisel, a screw driver and a pick were left near the safe.

Several persons were awakened by the explosions, but paid no attention to the reports. The work evidently was that of persons who have had some experience at safe cracking and some who must have been well acquainted with the contents of the safe, as all of the old books and notes were not moved from their places in the safe.

Korea Criticises Japan

Japan Was a Nation of Naked Savages When Koreans Were Civilized

Seoul, Korea, April 4 (Correspondence of The Associated Press)—Unification of the Japanese and Korean races is impossible, asserts the Organizing Committee of the independence movement in Korea in a statement which it has issued setting forth the grievances of the Korean people against the Japanese.

The two chief reasons for Korea's effort to obtain emancipation from Japanese rule are set forth by the committee as follows:

"Korea is much the older of the two nations for it has a history of organized government extending over a period of 4,300 years. During a part of that time Korea sent tribute to the court of China, but this was nothing more than an outward expression of the relation between the Imperial families of the two nations. Korea was ever the sole possession of our Korean race and was never under the 'ual control of any foreign nation or government.

"The Japanese nation is an entirely distinct race from the Korean. She is an island people and her nakedness of body and mind could be covered by the civilization she received from Korea and from China during the centuries of the past. Her customs, her literature, her very clothing came to her through Korea. Of late years she has added to these the face-powder of a Western civilization; thus she becomes the whited sepulchre of the East. She gives no evidence of moral force, her actions toward our nation has proven her to be the embodiment of cruelty. The evidence is complete that the unification of the Japanese and Korean races is an impossibility."

What are described as "five conspicuous injustices on the part of Japan toward Korea" are summarized in the statement. The committee asserts that although Korea aided Japan in the war against Russia, "the dog has bitten the hand of him who fed it." It is alleged that Japan has broken her promise to pay honor to the formerly Imperial family of Korea; that it is impossible for a Korean to obtain fair treatment in the courts when opposed to the Japanese; that liberty of speech does not exist and that the Japanese arrested thirty-three men who signed the manifesto of independence on March 1 last.

Modern Farming in Classic Lands

American Experts At Work in Island of Crete

Crete, April 10.—American scientific agriculturists are now completing a survey of the soil possibilities of Crete in the same thorough fashion in which they surveyed the Greek mainland. American farming machinery and up-to-date methods are needed and arrangements have been made to educate farmers of Greece and Crete so that they can increase their yield of crops. Major C. G. Hopkins, of the Illinois Agricultural Department, and Lieutenant G. J. Bouyoucos, a native Greek educated in America and a former instructor at Michigan Agricultural College, are in charge of the American Red Cross agricultural survey of Greece and Crete.

Famous Plays Discarded

Berlin, April 15.—The actors of the municipal theater at Dortmund compelled the management to remove Schiller's "Maid of Orleans" and Kleist's "Prince of Homburg" from the theater's repertoire, on the ground that "the nonconformity of the e plays with the spirit of the age is an insult for modern theater-goers and further because actors cannot be called upon to play roles whose intellectual content is in opposition with the actor's own views."

England's Housing Problem

London, April 22.—In many districts, and particularly in Yorkshire where the dearth of houses is acute, the practice of paying "key money" is growing. So keen are prospective tenants to get into a house directly it is vacant that as much as \$50 to \$100 is offered to the occupier for the key, this transaction generally carrying with it the understanding that the landlord will accept the succeeding tenant.

Dirigible Balloon Establishes Record

Brought to Stop on Top of Hotel to Drop Two Passengers

Cleveland, May 23.—For the first time in the history of flying in America a vehicle of the air was brought to a convenient stop in the heart of a large city when a dirigible balloon landed on the top of a prominent hotel here this evening to permit two of its five passengers to alight. The 160 foot dirigible, the A-4, landed on a specially constructed platform thirty by thirty feet. The landing was made after many attempts.

The balloon, piloted by James Shade, made the trip from Winstoot Lake, naval air station near Akron, approximately 35 miles in a little more than one hour despite the fact that it faced a still wind.

Ralph H. Upson, world's champion balloonist, winner of the last international balloon race, which was held at Paris in 1913, and Maj. C. H. Maranville, flying instructor at the training station, were among the passengers.

Bolsheviks on The Run

Campaign Against Petrograd Meets With Initial Success

London, May 23.—The operations of non-Bolshevik forces against Petrograd are having great and rapid success, according to various reports received here from Helsingfors. The correspondent of The Daily Mail at the Finnish capital says that the Bolshevik resistance seems to be broken and that they have lost several thousand prisoners and 30 guns. A great number of machine guns and five armored trains also were captured.

A North Russian corps cooperating with the Estonians successfully attacked the Bolshevik position at the Gatchina railway station (35 miles south of Petrograd). Thousands of Bolshevik soldiers in the Gatchina area and in the coast region west of Petrograd who surrendered with their arms and ammunition the correspondent adds subsequently joined in the attack on their former comrades.

It is reported in Helsingfors from Petrograd that the Bolsheviks are prepared to defend the city and that all the workmen have been armed. The defenders are said to number 300,000.

The Bolsheviks have begun the evacuation of Moscow, according to reports brought from Petrograd to Copenhagen by travelers and forwarded by the Exchange Telegraph Company. Typhus is raging in Moscow and the situation there is considered desperate.

The railroad lines between a number of places in central Russia have been dismantled, the report says, in order to improve the main line service out of Moscow.

London, May 23.—On the Murmansk front in north Russia allied forces have captured Medvyeyagora, at the northwestern end of Lake Onega, after a series of actions in which the Bolshevik rear guard suffered severely, a statement issued by the British war office tonight says.

The rapid retreat of the Bolsheviks, it is added, prevented them from seriously damaging the port works. The allies have occupied the heights surrounding the town.

The Mongolian Revolt

Japanese Deny Charge That They are Implicated in Movement

Tokio, April 15 (Correspondence of The Associated Press)—The Japanese government has issued a denial of reports that Japanese are implicated in the Mongolian independence movement. The statement characterizes as a "gross canard" the charge that Japanese military officers are taking conjoint action with Colonel Semenoff and declares that from what Japanese military authorities have ascertained that Colonel Semenoff, the Cossack leader, emphatically denied all connection with the independence movement.

Two leaders of the Mongolian Independence Party arrived in Tokio in the latter part of April to inaugurate a movement for the political independence of Mongolia and Manchuria and to unite those two Chinese provinces in one State.

Another Resolution Introduced Today

Washington, May 23.—A resolution declaring it sense of senate that the covenant of the League of Nations be separated from the peace treaty when it is submitted for ratification, was introduced in the senate today by Senator Sherman, Republican, from Illinois.

Chinese Delegates To Sign Peace Treaty

Paris, May 23.—The Chinese delegates to the peace conference, it is understood, have decided to sign the peace treaty, with reservations relative to Kiao Chau and Shan Tung.

Washington, May 24.—Chairman Fordney, of the ways and means committee, announced in the house today that committee hearings would be held soon with the view of a complete revision of the tariff, prior to which the committee would consider the repeal of various consumption taxes.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, May 23.—The death list at the fire and explosion yesterday of the Douglas starch plant here numbered ten today. Fourteen are listed as seriously injured and many fatally.