

FIRST it was fear of the cold weather in Kansas—now it is the flu.

# The Topeka Free Press

WEATHER forecast for Kansas: Fair and colder tonight; unsettled and much colder Saturday.

POSTSCRIPT

TOPEKA, KANSAS, FRIDAY EVENING, JANUARY 21, 1916—TWELVE PAGES

THIS EDITION 2 CENTS

## BIG FLOOD SWEEPS 5 FEET DEEP ON CITIES

Thousands Driven From Homes in Des Plaines Valley.

Worst Freshet Since 1902 In gulfs Joliet, Ill.

CHICAGO PARTLY INUNDED

Torrential Rain Reaps Heavy Property Loss.

Fire Department Pumps Try to Save Stores.

Joliet, Ill., Jan. 21.—The worst flood since 1902 inundated Joliet today. Water ran five feet deep in the streets. Nearly a thousand persons were driven from their homes.

Rockdale, a manufacturing town, reported six feet of water on the level and business suspended.

The whole valley of the Des Plaines river is inundated.

The principal danger spot in Joliet was in the district known as Brooklyn, in the southeast section of the city which is traversed by Hickory creek, a tributary of the Des Plaines river. There the water was six feet deep and a swift exodus of the inhabitants began at daybreak in boats and improvised rafts but many sought safety in upper rooms.

Rescue Sick Boy.

After vigorous efforts, a physician aided by firemen and police, reached last night in the town of Smith whose young son was suffering from pneumonia. The house was surrounded by rushing water and several times the rescuers were carried past the door.

In the business section, little damage was done aside from flooded basements. Except for a policeman and a fireman was put on flood duty and scores of volunteers aided in the rescue work.

Water rose six feet at Wilmington and much damage was done there and throughout the adjoining country. At Lockport, a small town, water overflowed their banks and inundated a score of cities and villages. No loss of life was reported, but the property damage was estimated at several hundred thousand dollars.

All through the valley of the Des Plaines the water spread far over the lowlands, reaching its height in neighborhood of Joliet, where a large section of the city was inundated, and several villages flooded with five feet of water.

At Oak Park, a Chicago suburb, the situation was benefited by firemen and policemen and help was sent from Chicago.

Aurora and Elgin on the Fox river (Continued on Page 2)

## PUT ONE OVER?

John Bull Financiers in Shrewd Move to Control.

Consequently English Sterling Is Higher Than for a Year.

New York, Jan. 21.—England has put a damper on American hopes of maintaining its leadership in the world of finance, international bankers admitted today. Confronted with the steady rise in the rate of sterling exchange, which recently touched the highest point since 1915, Wall street financiers believed the Bank of England has "put one over" on the United States.

After setting a half billion dollars of American money through the Anglo-French loan, Great Britain has begun pouring American securities into Wall street. The street had been given to understand when the British government ordered mobilization of American securities, that there would be no sudden unloading on the American market. It is a fact, however, that the country has been compelled to absorb about twenty million dollars' worth of securities a week, unloaded here by English banks.

The stiffening of the sterling exchange rate in the street is the surest sign that England is pulling back to her dominating position in world finance. Sterling was quoted today at \$4.75, after having dropped as low as \$4.50.

## STARTS FIRE WITH OIL; MOTHER AND THREE DIE

Chattanooga, Tenn., Jan. 21.—Mrs. Mallis, wife of a farmer residing near Little Station, Ga., and three small children are dead and an 18-year-old daughter fatally burned as a result of an explosion of a gas case containing a home.

The daughter was attempting to start a fire in her kitchen stove late yesterday. The daughter had attempted to save her mother and sisters.

## Awful Cigaret! Fires Gown and Rugs at Party

New York, Jan. 21.—A spark from a cigarette at a reception here last night ignited the gown worn by Mrs. Albin Marsh, 40 years old, wife of a broker, and caused injuries from which she may die.

Three of the men guests who went to her aid were burned painfully. As Mrs. Marsh ran through the throng, a spark from her dress set fire to rugs and draperies and the damage was estimated at \$7,000.

## CHILTON TO COME

West Virginia Senator Guest Democratic Banquet.

It Will Be Held in Topeka Auditorium February 22.

BOOST FOR PRESIDENT WILSON

Administration Policies Will Be Explained to the Faithful.

Five Kansans Will Have Places on the Program.

William E. Chilton, United States senator from West Virginia, will be the guest of honor of Kansas Democrats at their annual banquet in Topeka, February 22. That was the announcement made in Topeka this afternoon by officers of the banquet committee.

Assurances that Senator Chilton would come to Kansas in February were received this afternoon from Senator W. H. Chapman, one of the members of the banquet committee believes Senator Chilton will prove a star attraction at their dinner this year and plans will be made for the entertainment of more than 1,000 visitors at the party feast. The banquet will this year be held in the auditorium.

A complete program for the Democratic banquet will probably be announced next week. Five Kansas speakers will be accorded places on the program. Their speaking time will be limited that Senator Chilton may conclude his speech in time for (Continued on Page 2)

## MAKE TWO TRIPS

President Wilson Now Plans Second Jaunt in West.

Will Start First One With Pittsburg Speech Jan. 29.

Washington, Jan. 21.—St. Joe, Mo., probably will be eliminated from the president's itinerary because of railroad schedules.

Washington, Jan. 21.—President Wilson formally will open his fight for reelection by addressing a speech in Pittsburg, January 29. This has been decided upon by the president, whose itinerary for the first tour has been prepared and an address of defense program before the country virtually had been completed today.

The president plans to leave here a week from today, and address in Pittsburg, the itinerary calls for speeches at Cleveland, Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City, St. Joe, Des Moines and Denver.

Plans for the president's second tour, to begin about February 15, are under consideration. He probably will return through the south, making stops at Birmingham and other cities.

## LABORATORY IN RUINS

Wrecked by Explosion; Seven Chemists Had Narrow Escapes.

Washington, Jan. 21.—Workmen were busy today removing debris from the bureau of chemistry's carbonyl laboratory, wrecked yesterday by an explosion which was heard several blocks away.

The accident caused a near panic among the chemists and their employees. Seven chemists had narrow escapes. The cause of the explosion which occurred in a heating oven, had not been determined today. Both ends of the oven were blown off by the explosion, which threw 25 pounds each, being thrown with great force, one through a window and the other through a wooden wall. All the windows in the room were shattered.

Damage to the laboratory which is used for making sugar tests, is placed at \$1,000.

## BOMB FOR BIG BRIDGE

Man Had One in Suit Case to Blow Up Brooklyn Bridge.

New York, Jan. 21.—The police announced today that with the arrest last night of Michele Gravano while carrying a suit case containing a bomb, they believed they had thwarted a plan to blow up the Brooklyn bridge or municipal building.

Gravano was arrested after he had been trailed from the archway of the municipal building to the bridge promenade and today, engineers and firemen, after an examination of the bomb, announced that it was constructed so as to explode with tremendous force.

Cumberland Church Dynamited.

Cumberland, Md., Jan. 21.—The new church being erected by the congregation of the Church of the Latter Day Saints at Buckvalley, Fulton county, Pa., was blown up by dynamite early today.

## 18 BANDITS SHOT

Villa's Adherents Executed Today at Chihuahua.

Gen. Villa's Capture Is Both Denied and Affirmed.

TERROR REIGN AT TORREON

Uprising Against Carranzistas—Many Are Slain.

No Quarter by Either Side—Bodies Lie in Streets.

El Paso, Jan. 21.—Eighteen Villa's bandits were executed at Chihuahua City, Mexico, today.

The details of the execution were not given. It is believed the men were publicly shot.

Mexican Consul Garcia, in El Paso, today denied the capture of Villa, but confirmed the report of Carranzistas that he had been captured.

El Paso, Jan. 21.—Francisco Villa, whose reign of banditry is supposed to have been ended by Carranza's capture of him, may not be a Carranza prisoner after all.

Following Mexican Consul Garcia's announcement that "the Mexican Robin Hood" was being brought to justice, today a letter from Francisco Villa, a former member of the United States marshal's office, in which the writer offered to surrender if guaranteed immunity from prosecution, was received here.

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## 18,207 Belgian Houses Burned

By Kaiser's Men

Paris, Jan. 21.—A dispatch from Havre says a report has just been received by the Belgian government giving the number of houses in the various provinces of Belgium, which the Kaiser's men were burned by the Germans.

The following figures are given: Erabant, 5,821; Liège, 2,703; Antwerp, 3,806; Malines, 1,742; Namur, 2,232; Namur, 1,710; Philippeville, 1,301; Huy, 255; Verwilt, 381; Waremme, 18; Turhout, 40. Total, 18,207. The figures for Flanders are not yet obtainable.

## POSTSCRIPT LETTER FROM SPY

Fears England Will Execute Him as a Traitor.

Fugitive Will Surrender if Immunity Is Guaranteed.

New York, Jan. 21.—Capt. William M. Coffey, chief of the local bureau of investigation of the department of justice, today received a letter from Ignatius T. Lince, confessed German spy, who had been a United States marshal last Saturday in which the writer offered to surrender if guaranteed immunity from prosecution, was received here.

The details of the execution were not given. It is believed the men were publicly shot.

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## OPENS WITH BANG!

Row Right Away at State Educational Council.

Some One Mentioned County Superintendent Elections.

ALL TO TOPEKA WITH IDEAS

Delegates Plan for Betterment of Conditions in Kansas.

One Superintendent Would Have Grade Limit Here.

Hardly had the third annual meeting of the State Educational Council opened at 10 o'clock this morning in representative hall than someone mentioned county superintendent. Pop!

And a delegate jumped up and in a flourish of oratory outlined the alleged evils growing out of the popular election of county superintendents and the state superintendent.

The argument was on and until noon suggestions for a betterment of the system of choosing county superintendents were the order of the day.

Arthur J. Meltzer, superintendent of schools in Wyandotte county, proposed that county superintendents be chosen at the annual district school meetings when the taxpayers and others interested meet in school houses.

Wants Popular Choice.

Lewis Christensen, the 309-pound county superintendent from Hays City, sprang to his feet and declared himself an opponent of the plan to keep the entire tax paying body from selecting its representative in educational work.

Miss Harriet Daniels, of Wichita, outlined the danger of appointing officers whom the public may know nothing about.

Delegates began filling into representative hall to attend the meeting in session here today and tomorrow as early as 8:30 o'clock. It was noticeable that the female delegates, about (Continued on Page 2)

## CORONATION OFF

Revolution in China Delays New Emperor's Plans.

Hopes to Restore Peace Before Accepting Crown.

Peking, Jan. 21.—The coronation of Yuan Shi Kai as emperor of China has been postponed indefinitely. The reason given is the uprising in southern China.

The foreign officers notified the various legations today that the Chinese government had decided that the coronation would take place early in February, but that Yuan Shi Kai had issued an order canceling the arrangements in view of the disturbance in Yuan province. No intimation was given when the enthronement will take place.

runer of Albania, who declared war on Austria, has arrived at Scutari and will join the retreating montenegrins.

## LAST MINUTE NEWS.

Parsons Heads Drainage Congress.

Cairo, Jan. 21.—George Parsons, former mayor of Cairo and president of the National Drainage Congress, Memphis was selected as the 1917 meeting place.

World Bar Improper Films.

Washington, Jan. 21.—Further shipment of improper motion picture films would be made a penal offense by a bill introduced today by Representative Towner. Motion picture in arrests, which oppose the pending censorship, endorse the Towner bill.

Oldest Civil War "Vet" Dies.

Elgin, Jan. 21.—Alonso A. Jones, 95 years old, a veteran of the civil war, said by his friends to have been the oldest member of the Grand Army of the Republic in this country, died at his home here today.

Clinton Hard Hit.

Clinton, Jan. 21.—Flood waters, the result of a 24 hour rain, converted the creek in this vicinity into raging torrents, flooded lowlands and completely surrounded the town of Charlotte in this county.

Deficiency Bill Passes House.

Washington, Jan. 21.—The further urgent deficiency bill carrying appropriations of approximately \$12,500,000 passed the house today without roll call.

Teddy Will Not Trail Bryan.

New York, Jan. 21.—Colonel Roosevelt has no intention of trailing William Taft in Bryan's trail. President Wilson when the president makes his preparedness stumping tour, the colonel's secretary made this announcement today. He denied reports that the colonel would swamp Bryan's pacific arguments every time Bryan attacked the president's plan for more soldiers and equipment.

## Chickens—Yes, But Without Short Skirts

Milwaukee, Wis., Jan. 21.—Chickens, all powdered and primed and garbed in their finest feathers, but lacking fur, short skirts, high boots and other such apparel, gathered here today for the opening of the annual show of the Nona County association. Several thousand birds, representing 136 varieties, will be on exhibition at the auditorium all week.

## ONLY 4 CAPTURED

Escaped Convicts Break in Depot; Secure Firearms.

Searchers Ordered to Shoot Notorious Ones on Sight.

Little Rock, Ark., Jan. 21.—Convicts who escaped from the state penitentiary at Cummins, 65 miles from here, Wednesday night, last night broke into the depot at Moscow, Ark., 15 miles from Cummins, and it was said by farm guards, secured arms and munitions shipped to a hardware store at that place. Advice from Cummins this morning were that a complete check of the station's contents revealed that a number of weapons had been taken.

Twenty-three convicts escaped. Only four have been captured. Because of fear that some of the more desperate members of the escaped band have given orders that Lee Blount, convicted of murder, "Blackie" Williams and Charles Owens, also murderers, be taken dead or alive. Guards were urged to shoot any of the three men upon the slightest evidence of their possessing weapons.

"Blackie" Williams was the most notorious of the gang that escaped. Rewards for him alone are said to total \$15,000 in a half dozen states. He was a member of the Frank-Miller-Williams-Latrasse gang and it is said he served a 12-year sentence for murder in Kansas.

## WILLARD ROBBERY

Postoffice and General Store Are Burglarized.

No Trace Has Been Discovered by the Officers.

Willard, Kan., Jan. 21.—Burglars last night broke into the Atkinson Mercantile company of this place and took \$1,000 in cash. The store was closed at 10 o'clock and a number of smaller articles. The invaders also took with them money and stamps that were kept in a till.

The sheriff's office at Topeka was notified this morning immediately after the robbery was discovered and deputy sheriffs are now working on the case.

Early this morning, the extent of the burglary was not known.

'WILL HIDE HIS FACE

The Sun Will Go Into Partial Eclipse Feb. 3.

Unheralded and unheeded, an eclipse of the moon will take place in the country during the wee small hours of Thursday morning. The moon entered the shadow at 1:55 o'clock and emerged at 3:25 o'clock. The eclipse was only partial. It was visible in all parts of the United States, South America, Europe and Asia.

A return engagement of the eclipse stunt will be staged here on Thursday, February 2, when the moon will be partially obscured for nearly two hours. The shadow will be seen at 2:15 o'clock in the morning and the eclipse will end at 1:05 o'clock. This is the first solar eclipse in this part of the world for nearly ten years. It will be total in some parts of South America.

On the night of July 14 another partial eclipse of the moon will be visible from the city. It will occur at 9 o'clock. It will be seen in the United States only.

CONVICT HURLS BRICK

Aim Was Good and Superintendent of Prison Has Broken Jaw.

Leavenworth, Jan. 21.—Supt. McNaughton of the federal prison brick plant is suffering with a broken nose and lower jaw sustained late yesterday when Heck Wallace, a big negro convict, hurled a brick in his face.

Ten Thousand Fathers and Sons Dine.

Cleveland, Jan. 21.—More than 10,000 fathers and sons are expected to sit down together at tables in a hundred Cleveland churches today for the biggest "father and son day" ever celebrated in this country. Invitations were sent to every father and son in the city. Fathers will bring the most sons will be the guests.

Two Inch Downpour General—Pittsburg Reports 3.40 Inches.

Atenison, Kan., Jan. 21.—Two inches of rain fell here last night and early today. Thunder and lightning accompanied the downpour. Rain and melting snow caused the Missouri river to rise three feet.

Ice in Kan. River.—A two-inch rain on melting snow which weather bureau officials said was equivalent to an additional three inch precipitation, sent the waters of Ice creek, a local stream, rushing into families to leave their homes. Ice in the freezing up last November, eight feet last night, is breaking up and threatening railway bridges.

Independence, Kan., Jan. 21.—A twenty-four hour rain turned a heavy layer of ice into water and today all streams near here are close to high water mark. The Verdigris river was rising rapidly today.

Pittsburg, Kan., Jan. 21.—Rain amounting to 3.40 inches fell here early today. Reports from over this section indicated the heavy fall was general. Cow creek here is rising rapidly but no extensive damage is expected.

Seward, Alaska, Jan. 21.—Water was running today in the main of the new system completed last year by the Alaska engineering commission at Anchorage, ending a winter shortage which began with the freezing up last November. During the shortage, merchants and householders paid a dollar a barrel for water taken from holes chipped in the ice on ship creek. Water peddlers reaped a harvest selling to housewives at 15 cents a bucket.

## MOB HANGS FIVE MEN ON SINGLE TREE LIMB FOR SLAYING SHERIFF

Negro Victims Taken From Georgia Jail by Ruse and Carried Away in Autos by Posse of Fifty.

OFFICERS KILLED MONTH AGO BY BLACKS' GANG

Lynchers Carry Out Carefully Laid Plot; Cut Phone Wires; String Up Quintette Along Main Traveled Road.

Albany, Ga., Jan. 2