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# News Tribune

WEATHER  
FAIR TO-DAY. CLOUDY AND  
WARMER TO-MORROW.  
Yesterday's Temperature:  
High, 36; Low, 21.  
Full report on Page 13.

Vol. LXXIV... No. 24,917. [Copyright, 1915, By The Tribune Association.] THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1915. PRICE ONE CENT In City of New York, Newark, Jersey City and Hoboken ELSEWHERE TWO CENTS.

## TELLS HOW HER 3 BABIES DIED IN MINERS' STRIKE

### Mrs. Petrucci Describes Horrors of "Black Hole" to the Federal Board.

## WOMEN SHOT DOWN BY STATE MILITIA

### Mrs. Dominiski Testifies That Soldiers Set Fire to Camp Tents.

## SOLDIERS INSULTED THEM. THEY DECLARE

### Colorado Victims' Tales of Massacre Make Deep Impression at Industrial Hearing.

Just one tearful moment did Mrs. Mary Petrucci have yesterday, while testifying before the Federal Industrial Commission in the Metropolitan Building. That was when she described how she had lost her three children in the "battle of Ludlow" out in Colorado.

For the rest of the time she was on the stand, dry-eyed, but with an occasional ball, she told of the death of two women and eight children in that town's "Black Hole" last April.

Both Mrs. Petrucci and Mrs. Margaret Dominiski, who preceded her, pictured the hardships they had to endure in the mining districts. They were brought to New York by the United Mine Workers of America to relate their stories for the first time, following the refusal of Colorado executives to allow the Ludlow "incident" to be included in the Commission's records last May.

"I never saw a church in any of the coal camps," said Mrs. Dominiski, "except at Trinidad. There were no halls where people might meet, but there were always plenty of saloons. We had to trade in the company stores, although the prices of provisions were higher than in the nearby towns."

Not Allowed to Buy Outside.  
"But we weren't allowed to buy outside. Whenever I got a chance, I did, but if I'd ever been found out, my husband would have been discharged."

Mrs. Petrucci's tale of the difficulties at Hastings was similar. She lived there in one of the company's houses, and there were no church facilities at all, she said.

"When we were living in the tent colony at Ludlow we had a better time than at the camps, and I liked it better."

The largest crowd of the week was in the assembly hall when Mrs. Petrucci was called to the stand. She mounted the steps leading to the platform quickly, and sat down at the small table. Still in mourning for her three children, who were smothered to death in the "Black Hole," she had on a long, black coat and a black silk handkerchief at her neck. She wore no hat.

Answering the first few questions, Mrs. Petrucci showed apparent nervousness. She toyed with her handkerchief and placed her little finger in the corner of her mouth as she told Commissioner Walsh that she had been born in Hastings, Col.

She left that town, she explained, at the age of thirteen and was married three years later. She is now twenty-four years old. In a clear, sympathetic voice, a brief description of her early life followed. This she brought down to the time when her husband went out with the strikers at Ludlow, and the family removed to the colony.

"In Ramsey, where you say you were living until September, 1913, did you have any unpleasant experiences with the militia?" she was asked.

"Oh, yes," she replied. "We had to move so we would not be insulted by them."

She then told of the events of April 19 of last year, when the Greeks in the colony were celebrating their Easter.

In the "Black Hole."  
"What time did you leave your tent on the following day, April 20?" was the next question.

## TAFT IS LOAD FOR LIFT

### Ex-President Reducing, He Says, But—Safety First.

Professor William Howard Taft says he weighs sixty-five pounds less than when he was President. But his form does not show it, even when compared with the life-size portrait of himself, made when he was more corpulent, beneath which he stood while speaking to the City Athletic Club last night.

Neither does Theodore A. Peyster, chairman of the entertainment committee last night, believe Mr. Taft is greatly reduced in weight. When the former President entered the elevator at the club the chairman excitedly waved back the persons who attempted to mount on the same trip. "Don't too many of you heavyweights get in this car," said Mr. Peyster, "wait for the next."

## FROM BABY SAYRE, \$10

### President's Grandson on Belgian Relief Fund List.

Lancaster, Penn., Feb. 3.—The "New Era," the local recipient of the Belgian relief fund, to-day received a check of \$10 for the fund from Miss Blanche Nevin, the sculptress.

An accompanying letter credits \$10 each to Miss Nevin and sister, Miss Alice Nevin, also of Lancaster, and the remaining \$10 to Master Francis Sayre, grandson of President Wilson. The baby's father, Francis B. Sayre, is a nephew of the Misses Nevin.

## WHEAT REACHES NEW HIGH PRICE

### Sensational Rumors Result in Extraordinary Fluctuations.

Chicago, Feb. 3.—Wheat shot down more than 8 cents on the Board of Trade to-day, bounded back 10 cents to a new high price record and then closed at 6 cents lower than yesterday's closing price.

Not since the Patten corner have Chicago brokers seen such excitement in the pit as marked trading while wheat was taking its sensational course. Seizing on a rumor that Russia would soon be able to export its wheat, men circulated it and exaggerated it until no two men had the same story or knew the reason for their own wild actions.

A federal inquiry, it is believed, is likely to follow the flurry. Several million bushels of wheat were sold, yet there are only 265,000 bushels in Chicago that are deliverable on contract.

Longs rushed to sell when it was discovered that the usual number of buying orders was not in evidence. In buying orders was started that four-fifths in the Dardanelles had capitulated to the Allies. Many, thinking that the reduction of these four-fifths meant a clear road for the exportation of wheat from Russia, hurried selling orders into the pit. The price dropped to \$1.56 1/2.

Then some one remembered that not even the reduction of the Dardanelles fort made it possible for Russia to export wheat, and the reaction set in. The longs, anxious to recover, bought feverishly, running the price up to \$1.66 in ten minutes when some of the big houses withdrew their support, the market closing at \$1.59 1/2.

In the midst of the general agitation bakers raised the price of four-cent loaves to five cents and eight-cent loaves to ten cents.

## MISS BURKE UNDER KNIFE

### Actress Operated Upon for Stomach Trouble.

Miss Billie Burke, the actress, was operated upon at 6 o'clock last night in the private sanatorium of Mrs. Anderson, 203 West 70th st. Miss Burke, who in private life is Miss Florenz Ziegfeld, Jr., was stricken with stomach trouble in Boston on Tuesday night during a performance of "Jerry" at the Hollis Street Theatre.

Mr. Ziegfeld and Miss Burke's physician, Dr. Bissell, went to Boston on Tuesday night and returned yesterday with Miss Burke. Dr. Bissell advised an immediate operation.

Mr. Ziegfeld said last night that Miss Burke's condition was excellent and that she would resume her tour in about ten days.

## KILLED BY WOMAN'S AXE

### Struck by Blade Flying Off Handle Held by Daughter.

James E. Dirgin, sixty-nine, of Closter, near Sparkville, was struck in the head and killed yesterday by the blade that flew off the handle of an axe his daughter was wielding.

Dirgin was visiting his daughter, Mrs. Cora Enright, at Ellensburg. While he stood watching her chop up a barrel the axe head flew against his forehead with such force that his skull was fractured.

## SEEKS LAW'S AID

### TO CURB PRICE FIXING OF FLOUR

### Commissioner Dillon Asks Attorney General for Remedy in Crisis.

## HOLDS CONFERENCE WITH BAKERS HERE

### Advance Sure to Follow if New Move Fails to Succeed.

In a final effort to avoid increasing the price of bread, John J. Dillon, State Commissioner of Markets, sent a telegram to Attorney General Woodbury yesterday. He wants to know if any legal restraint can be put upon flour dealers who fix prices in accordance with the speculative jumps taken by wheat.

Should this remedy fail, the bakers see nothing to do but advance bread prices. The action taken by Commissioner Dillon yesterday followed a lengthy conference with Hugo Fredericks, president of the Wholesale Bakers' Association, and other representative bakers. It was a pessimistic gathering. Many of the bakers have been selling their product at a loss for weeks.

Although little hope was expressed that the makeshift would be successful, it was decided that nothing must be overlooked in the effort to keep five-cent bread. The telegram is as follows:

"The bakers of this state are working under great embarrassment in their commendable effort to avoid the impending increase in the price of bread. Will you advise this department if legal means exist to restrain flour dealers from advancing prices to the speculative wheat level?"

Bakers Willing to Wait.  
The conference was held in Commissioner Dillon's office, at 71 West 23d st. No limit was set by the bakers as to the time they will wait for an answer. Most of them feel, however, that it must be short.

"The price of flour is apparently of more present concern to the people of the tenement houses than the price of bread. A careful inquiry yesterday among many of the 'corner groceries' and bakers of the lower East Side showed that the price of bread—such as the humble housewife for her not advanced materially during the last three months. The 'small bag' of flour, however, which is as indispensable to the humble housewife for her consumption as the barrel is to the kitchen of the wealthy, is getting almost beyond her reach. The price on the 'small bag' has gone up two or three cents within the last few days. It is likely to keep on going as the price on the barrel nears the \$8 mark.

All notions to the contrary, the East Side woman is particular about her flour, and she will not buy it unless she can purchase a cheap grade to suit her meagre household expenditures or go without any. And she is concerned, and berates the grocer when she comes to buy, while they explain to her to blame. A scene like the following occurred in several groceries visited yesterday:

Three poorly clad but discerning housewives, with shabby-coated heads and rosy cheeks not the kind of cheeks usually credited to the tenement-visited neighborhood grocery store and bakeshop to buy flour, among other things. The clerk wrapped in newspapers three "small bags" of a well known high grade, the kind "they always call for," he said afterward. The women put the exact change, which they had been accustomed to pay on the counter.

Up Two Cents a Bag.  
The clerk explained that the price had gone up and he demanded two cents more on each bag. A surprised and excited conference ensued. The clerk offered a cheap grade at the old price. The women returned two bags and split the third into three parts, each taking her small portion of about three or four cups.

These housewives will purchase bread. They paid four cents a pound for the rye bread, which is the standard kind on the East Side. That is one cent more than they paid three or four months ago, but the raise came soon after the European war began, and has remained at that price ever since. In a dozen other bakeries the same price prevailed. Only one was found where a "nickel a pound" was charged, and there were comparatively few customers in the place.

The standard small loaf of rye bread, such as is sold on the East Side, weighs two pounds and three-quarters and sells for seven cents. It used to weigh two pounds and two-thirds and a half before the European war began, but was reduced in size when the price a pound increased a cent. Some unscrupulous bakers now attempt to sell the lighter loaf at the rate of four for the old loaf, charging at the rate of four cents a pound. No such major were found yesterday among the ones called upon. It is unlikely that they thrive for any length of time, for observations indicate that the average East Side housewife buys her bread by the pound, monthly a pound at a time, and insists upon seeing it weighed.

Little Call for White Bread.  
There were plenty of the regulation size "white bread" loaves at five cents, such as you might buy at any bakery in any part of the city, but apparently little demand for them. The East Side bakers seemed little concerned whether the price on white loaves advanced or not. What few they sold they would sell at a loss if necessary, or else take them out of stock entirely. Rolls and biscuits were selling at the usual price, 8 or 12 cents a dozen, depending on the grade.

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## WILSON SEEKS TO AID SMALL BUSINESS MEN

### Tells U. S. Chamber of Commerce He Wants Co-operative System.

### WOULD HELP THEM IN FOREIGN TRADE

## Bryan's Plea for Ship Purchase Bill Raises Cry of "No! No!"

### Washington, Feb. 3.—President Wilson talked for forty-five minutes to-night to more than one thousand members of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and their friends on the benefits of common counsel and of the great good of an organization of that kind could accomplish, but he never mentioned the ship purchase bill. His audience was disappointed that he did not touch on this subject, because it is one of the questions uppermost in the minds of many business men.

The President told the delegates that he was in favor of some change in the anti-trust laws that would provide for co-operation in the search for trade in foreign markets. He explained that there was a difference between co-operation and combination, and that frequently the latter was used for the benefit of the few. If, however, a change in the law could be made which would give every one, both great and small, an opportunity in the foreign market, he was for it.

Mr. Wilson received a great ovation from the delegates as he entered the hall, but this was exceeded when, in his speech, he said: "When the time comes that peace is as handsome as war, then there will be no war. I am happy to say that the United States has moved a little nearer that goal."

The President also brought a laugh when he said that if enough laws talked one would be sure to get the truth, because the things they had left unsaid would represent what the truth was. He said this was somewhat true of his experience about Mexico, where "vivid imagination and many special interests depicted things as they wish them to be."

Move for Ship Bill.  
Whether or not President Wilson was aware that a majority of the delegates to the convention are not in favor of the shipping bill, some of the President's friends in the chamber were busy during the day preparing to put up a hot fight against the adoption of any report or recommendation hostile to the measure.

The leader in this fight, which promises to be a hot one to-morrow, is William L. Saunders, of Plainfield, N. J., who was a delegate to the Baltimore convention. Mr. Saunders and several delegates held a conference this afternoon and decided to make a vigorous protest against the adoption of any report against the shipping bill until the entire question had been submitted to a referendum vote of all the members of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States.

One reference in President Wilson's speech was taken by some as possibly a hint to the Democratic Senators who have refused to support the shipping bill. This was when he said that a man should hold his particular opinion provisionally. To accentuate this Mr. Wilson told of a committee of fourteen had a programme which he considered the precise thing to do, and was prepared to fight for it. The discussions ran on for six months, the President said, and finally a report was made to which every one agreed. Each member of the committee had in that time learned a lot more about the subject than he had thought possible.

"The point is," said the President, "that when we have this common counsel, then the legislative processes of this government will be infinitely illuminated."

Spaces for Thinking.  
Several of the President's listeners, however, declined to see in this any reference to the ship purchase bill, because only a few seconds before he had said:

"There are thinking spaces in this country, and some of the thinking is very solid thinking indeed—the thinking of the sort of men that we all love best, who think for themselves, who do not see things as they are told to see them, but look at them and see them for themselves, and if they are not white, plainly say that they are black—men with eyes and with a courage back of those eyes to tell what they see."

The President asked the proposed change in the anti-trust laws, which he said he did not think they were prepared to give right away, because they would have to make some rather extended inquiries before they were ready to give it.

"What I am thinking of is competition in foreign markets as between the merchants of different nations," said Mr. Wilson. "I speak of the subject with a certain degree of hesitation, because the thing furthest from my thought is taking advantage of nations now disabled from playing a full part in that competition, and seeking sudden selfish advantage because they are for the time being disabled. Pray believe me that we ought to eliminate all that thought from our minds and consider this matter as if we and the other nations of the world were in the normal circumstances of commerce."

"There is a normal circumstance of commerce," said Mr. Wilson. "There is a normal circumstance of commerce."

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## WERNER VAN HORN, WHO SAYS THE DESTRUCTION OF THE C. P. R. R. BRIDGE WAS PLANNED IN GERMANY.



## TRAVIS WINS AID AGAINST TAX BILL

### Whitman Facing Fight with Legislature Over Reform Measure.

## GOVERNOR SAYS HE WILL NOT ALTER IT

### County Chairmen Said To Be with Controller to Save His Patronage.

Albany, Feb. 3.—Governor Whitman is facing a fight with the Legislature as the result of his efforts to further his tax reform measure. State Controller Travis, who will suffer a considerable loss of patronage if the bill becomes law, is quietly directing the fight. He has succeeded in whipping into line a number of Republican Senators and Assemblymen, who are under orders from their county chairmen to defeat the bill. Some friends of the Governor regard the situation as serious; others believe it will simmer down before the bill comes up for final passage.

But legislators who are backing Controller Travis, some of whom are of the reactionary or "old guard" type, declared to-night that they would not support the bill in the Senate. It would take only nine Republican votes to do this, provided the Democrats, who number seventeen, voted solidly against the bill, as they undoubtedly will.

That he received more moral support is evident from the attitude of some of the legislators. Some admit that they will have to fight the bill, but they will not alter it because it takes jobs away from the Controller's department.

One prominent Republican Senator said to-night: "The bill will be defeated unless it is amended. Under no circumstances can it pass if it means the taking away of some of the powers of the Controller. Mr. Travis has recognized the existing organization throughout the state in the matter of appointments. This cannot be said of the Governor. So you see where the Governor will get off time and again."

The Governor said time and again that he would not alter the bill in any material form. He takes the position that it represents the best thought in tax assessing and collecting, and that he will have to fight for the bill, as Governor Hughes did for the racetrack bill and the Public Service Commission act, he will fight.

## VILLA AS A DICTATOR

### Proclaims Himself in Charge of Mexican Presidency.

El Paso, Feb. 3.—Francisco Villa has proclaimed himself in charge of the Presidency of Mexico. This was announced in a telegram from General Villa received to-night by his agents here.

Villa appointed three ministers to take charge of the civil government.

## SUED BY MORGAN ESTATE

### Accounting Asked of J. A. Ownbey, Financier's Partner.

## SWISS WILL FIGHT IF FOOD IS STOPPED

### Geneva, Feb. 3.—The new Swiss Minister to Italy, M. de Planta, has announced to Rome newspapers that Switzerland is ready to fight for her food, neutrality or no. M. de Planta said:

"Our national organization is essentially defensive, and the neutrality we have always observed cannot be broken except in three cases: (1) Violation of this neutrality by a third party; (2) an attempt on our territorial integrity; (3) a menace to starve us by preventing food from reaching us across our frontiers."

This is the first time a Swiss in his official capacity has stated that Switzerland would consider the stoppage of food supplies a casus belli. The Swiss papers strongly uphold M. de Planta.

## RUSSIANS PRESS INTO HUNGARY ON 100-MILE FRONT

### Great Army Assumes Offensive South of Carpathian Passes.

## HINDENBURG'S LINE IN GRAVE PERIL

### Germans, Repulsed Before Warsaw, Crowded Back North of Vistula.

### TROOPS OF CZAR GAIN ON BZURA

### Reoccupy Positions Captured by Invaders in Dash for the Polish Capital.

Petrograd, Feb. 3.—With the successful Russian advance on the Hungarian side of the Carpathians behind the sources of the San River, the period of elaborate reconnaissances is over and the southern army has taken the offensive along the entire hundred-mile front, from below Dukla Pass to the east of the Beskid Mountains. The Austrians have lost hope and are yielding important positions and are scarcely any show of resistance.

The Russian column which crossed the broad main ridge east of Yastisk seized a battery of six guns, with ammunition intact, besides two bomb-throwing mortars and a quantity of machine guns before the Austrian forces could bring them into action. Detachments of Germans are among the prisoners taken during the advance both in the Ussok region and the Eastern Beskids. The only visible counter demonstration from the Austrian side is increased activity in artillery fire south of the Pilica along the line of the Durajec River, but all sectional attempts at an offensive there are destroyed in a few hours.

Field Marshal von Hindenburg seems to realize that the campaign of 1915 is beginning very badly for his strategy. His personal quarters are established at Lenka, about twenty miles north of Lodz. He is living in a hotel and Prince Joachim of Prussia occupies a neighboring house. Their supplies are brought from Kalisz, on the frontier. Their position is becoming insecure through the determined Russian advance north of the Vistula.

The Germans are now pressed further back in that region than they have been at any time since the beginning of the present invasion from Thorn at the beginning of December. They still keep an unsteady hold on Lipno, twenty miles from the Prussian frontier, and their four corps, which recently were introduced between the Vistula and Mlawa, are all drawing northward as a consequence of the continued westward pressure from the Russian army moving to the north of the Mazurian lakes.

As von Hindenburg abhors inaction he has been driven to repeat his disastrous frontal attacks on the line of the Russians' entrenched positions westward of the Rawa. General von Mackensen again turned the full blast of his heavy and light artillery, and his best infantry upon Bolimow Monday and yesterday with even less success than on Sunday. The Russians, desperate bayonet fighting, repulsed the southern section of the front intrenchment, which the Germans held Sunday night. The fight for the farm south of Gumin continued throughout Monday and recommenced at daylight yesterday.

The Russians in central Poland are withstanding these monotonous positional onslaughts with unflinching steadiness, in the knowledge that their armies in the north and south have definitely grasped the initiative from their enemies, and are forcing the campaigns in East Prussia and Hungary into a situation which must mean the final ruin of the second invasion of Poland.

Austrians Meet Repulse.  
Following is the latest official bulletin issued by the Russian General Staff on the progress of the fighting: "The engagements in the region of Mlawa have continued favorable to our troops."

"On the left bank of the Vistula the battle on the roads from Bolimow proceeded on February 1 with considerable intensity. A large number of heavy and light batteries participated energetically in the engagement. "The German attack on the morning of February 2 north of Borjimow was repulsed with great losses for the enemy. A violent combat was begun south of the village of Gomin, where we recaptured advanced trenches which we lost January 31. The possession of a small farm still is undecided.

"South of the Pilica, near Douznaies, the enemy increased the intensity of his bombardment, continuing night and day, but attempts of the enemy's troops to make progress were without success. "In the Carpathians the conflict continued January 31 and February 1. Our forces advanced, fighting, along the broad front at Dukla Pass, as far as the lower San, having crossed the principal ridge of the mountain range in the region of Jaslika and Meso Labonow, where we took a battery of six cannon, two mortars, a number of rapid firers and numerous prisoners. An offensive movement undertaken by the enemy southeast of Ussok Pass was repulsed with enormous losses.

"News relative to the transportation of German troops to the Carpathian front finds confirmation in the fact that on February 2, southeast of Beskid Pass, we destroyed a battery of the 224th German Regiment, consisting of



Cross marks the spot where the bridge was damaged.

## MADE IN GERMANY IS VAN HORN'S DEFENCE

### Dynamiter of Canadian Bridge Says Plot Was Hatched in Fatherland—Appeals to von Bernstorff—State Department Waits on Legal Procedure.

Washington, Feb. 3.—Ambassador Spring-Rice late to-day conveyed to the State Department Great Britain's request for the extradition of Werner Van Horn, the self-confessed dynamiter, who yesterday tried to destroy the international railway bridge at St. Croix, N. B. The request for extradition was sent to the British Embassy from Ottawa.

At the State Department it was said there seemed nothing out of the ordinary in the situation which Van Horn had created, and that in due course following an investigation by a United States commissioner to be designated by the Department of Justice, he would be turned over to the Canadian authorities in the same manner as any other alleged criminal charged with an offense of extraditable character.

The State Department is not disposed to give much weight to the claim advanced by Van Horn that his act was a military or political offense and that therefore under the existing treaty with Great Britain he is not extraditable. Such efforts as have thus far been made by the State Department to discover if this claim is tenable have failed to disclose any ground for it, although officials say the entire case must await the decision of the investigating commissioner.

That any international complications can grow out of the act is not expected, and the State Department is earnest in its assertion that the fact of Van Horn's being a German subject will not help him either way. The ambassador called personally at the department and presented a brief note to Secretary Bryan based on a communication from the Canadian Minister of Justice at Ottawa informing that Van Horn was wanted on the charge of attempting to destroy human life through the willful and unlawful destruction of the St. Croix River bridge.

Secretary Bryan referred the communication to the solicitor of the department for examination as to its form. If the application is found to be regular Van Horn will be ordered before a United States commissioner nearest to Vancoboro, where he is now under detention, and the Canadian authorities will be allowed the privilege of appearing by counsel and making out a prima facie case sufficient to justify the demand for the surrender of the prisoner.

Van Horn already has indicated his purpose of fighting extradition. In a telegram to-day he appealed to the German Ambassador to look after his interests, declaring he was a German subject and "did not put foot on Canadian soil."

The last statement was taken here to indicate a purpose on the part of the prisoner to make the technical point that though he was on the bridge, he did not actually stand on Canadian soil. As the divisional line of boundary between the United States and Canada follows the middle line of the St. Croix River, and the piers of the bridge rest on Canadian soil at the end where Van Horn is said to have placed his charge of dynamite,