

BELMONT PARK IS SWEEPED BY FIRE

Fireblasts Blamed for Blaze That Causes \$500,000 Damage at Race Track.

BUILDINGS OIL SOAKED

Opening of United Hunts Season, Set for May 12, May Be Postponed.

Infernal fire broke out yesterday morning at the grand stand, the Jockey Club house, the stand of the United Hunts Club and the railroad terminal at the Belmont Park race track. The loss is expected to be at least \$500,000. New York detectives, the authorities of Nassau county and the Pinkerton Agency are working to find the men who planted throughout the structures of the track bottles of kerosene, gasoline and explosive acid.

Under the grand stand and in the jockey house were soaked with oil. Kerosene was found on unburned timbers. Reciprocating holding acids were behind locked doors at places where they would aid the spread of the fire. The flooring of the railroad terminal was saturated. So completely was the work done and so quickly did the blaze spread that many points that no doubt is felt that at least six men applied the torch.

German Agents Suspected.

Early reports were that the fire was the work of a German spy who expected the park to be turned into a concentration camp or a training ground for aviators. Officials of the Westchester Race Association said they had no information of any such purpose. They had made plans for the opening of the United Hunts season on May 12 and the formal inauguration of the local racing season on May 28. The hunt meeting will be postponed, but the Westchester Association is hopeful of having temporary stands built before the end of May.

The Belmont Park race track was built at a cost of more than \$2,000,000. Its grand stand, with foundation of steel and concrete, had accommodations for 15,000 persons; its field stand was built for half as many. It was opened in 1905 just before racing was abolished by Gov. Hughes. Afterward it staged the most spectacular aviation meet in the history of the world. In 1913, when racing was restored, it regained its old popularity.

For several weeks workmen have been making the track ready for the spring activities. Three hundred horses were quartered in the stables near Belmont. Minor repairs were being made in the wooden construction of the stands and the jockey house. Opportunity for the destructive enterprise was easy because of these circumstances.

Five Circumstances.

Fire was discovered at 4 o'clock in the lower floor of the grand stand, where the old betting ring had been situated, by James Maloney, a watchman. As he ran to a telephone to give the alarm, his associate, Frank Cuernier, found four other fires. Herman Pels, the superintendent of the grounds, after calling for all the apparatus in Queens, manned with the watchmen the fire reels that form part of the internal fire protective system.

The engines from Belmont's volunteer organization, under Chief Philip Hoffman, were first on the grounds. They attached their lines to the stand piping, but the pressure was low and they could not combat the flames effectively. Across Hempstead Plains rushed engines from Jamaica, Elmhurst, Queens, Hollis, Garden City and Floral Park. They took up a position on the turnpike and in the middle of the inside field, but, although the water pressure was higher, the distance to the fires made their efforts ineffectual.

August Belmont, who had been called from his home near by on the first alarm, telephoned to New York's Fire Department and several city companies from Queens Borough arrived on the scene. Deputy Chief Lally, in command, saw that the stands were doomed, so he turned his attention to saving the main clubhouse, the field stand and the stables.

Horses Saved From Flames.

The horses were led out to the turnpike where a score or more of engines were waiting. The thick smoke at this time covered the country for a mile around and hid the sun. Many of the horses became restive and a stampede was threatened until they were turned out to graze in nearby fields. At 5 o'clock the flames were under control. After the stands had been wetted down and the jockey house had been reduced practically to ruins, the investigators under Fire Marshal Thomas Brophy began their investigation. They came upon beer bottles filled with oil, huge wads of soaked waste and smoldering rags. Some of these had been planted in lockers.

"There is absolutely no doubt," said Chief Hoffman, "that this blaze was one deliberately and carefully set. Bottles of kerosene were scattered about the grand stand and in the jockey club house. There were also bottles of acid. Some of these have been recovered and turned over to Sheriff Seaman."

The front door of the clubhouse was being wetted with kerosene when we reached the fire. The smell was very pronounced and the door was still wet as was the floor underneath it. When my men started to fight the flames they were driven back by the frequent explosions of the bottles of acid and oil. The men had to be called out of this danger zone when the bottles exploded the flames were thrown in every direction. The fire in the railroad terminal was under the platform at first and there must have been oil there, too, from the way the flames spread."

Offers Reward of \$2,500.

Fire Marshal Brophy and Allen Pinkerton coincided in this view. August Belmont made an offer of a reward of \$2,500 for the arrest of those responsible for the fire. Mr. Belmont made the following statement:

"I do not care to suggest any theory as to the motive. At the moment it is pure conjecture, but there is no question about its incendiary origin as the fire was set in eight or ten different places in calculated distances.

"The field stand was saved. The grand stand is so seriously damaged that it is impossible to say whether it could serve with temporary repairs for the spring meeting. The clubhouse is that it can, and if so, it will be made to.

"The clubhouse is practically undamaged, the fire there having been checked. There will be no trouble in providing a temporary structure for the jockey house. The stand of the United Hunts course cannot be replaced except by subscription, the insurance being altogether insufficient to reconstruct it.

"As soon as the architect's report can be made a definite statement will be given out, probably on Monday."

Corona Extension opens April 21.

The Public Service Commission announced yesterday that the new Corona electrical extension from the Queensboro Bridge Plaza, Long Island City, to Alberts avenue, Corona, will be opened in operation on the afternoon of April 21. The extension will be 1.5 miles long and will cost \$1,000,000.

AGREEMENT NEAR IN WAR FINANCE PLAN

Washington Officials and Bankers Here Decide on Bond Issue.

WILL BE CONVERTIBLE

System Adopted by British and French Governments to Be Followed.

The initial bond offering by the United States Government to finance the war against the German Empire will amount to between \$750,000,000 and \$1,000,000,000 and will follow closely in terms those which were outlined in THE SUN recently, according to information received yesterday by important Wall Street banking houses, whose representatives have visited Washington or have been in conference in this city with officials of the Administration.

While the Government is busy floating a loan on its own account it is probable that the first aid to the Allies will be made by private banking interests in the form of a \$175,000,000 credit to stabilize sterling exchange operations. That transaction is now in course of negotiation with the British Treasury Department, and it is probable that J. P. Morgan & Co., fiscal agents for the British and French Governments, will officially announce the completion of the arrangements to-morrow or Tuesday.

Officials in Conference.

Conferences relative to the Government bond issue have been going on daily in the financial district between

the large banking institutions and the conclusions reached have been transmitted to Washington for consideration. In addition to this, Comptroller of the Currency Williams, Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo and Paul M. Warburg, governor of the Federal Reserve Board, have been in this city gathering material relative to Government financing.

These conferences have been effective in adjusting the wide differences in views between officials of the Administration and the financial district regarding the best way to raise money to finance the war. The views of the Administration and the bankers have finally simmered down to the following, which probably will be the terms which the Secretary of the Treasury will recommend to the Congress for approval:

A long term bond, twenty years maturity, bearing interest at the rate of 3 1/2 per cent, with a clause making the bond convertible into any future loan for the present war which may have to be made at a higher rate of interest.

The idea of issuing short term notes to finance the war is understood to have been definitely put aside by the Government on the advice of bankers on account of the possibility of causing serious inflation. The bankers pointed out that short term notes have always been looked upon as a bank investment, and that it would be unwise in war time to float any loan which might lead the banks up with short term securities.

Similar to Loans Abroad.

As the bonds will be convertible into future loans of higher interest rate, the loan will be similar to those which have been floated by Great Britain and France during the war. Those Governments have been able to raise billions in this way. The convertible feature has proved the most effective measure yet taken in bringing out money held for loans bearing interest at higher rate. In order that the bonds may be widely distributed they probably will be issued in amounts of \$1 and possibly lower.

Distribution of the loan will be made by the mobilization of the most important investment houses in the country, which have been placed at the disposal of the Government without charge. As many as five or six thousand firms are included. Many of these have already

begun campaigns for the purpose of stimulating interest in Government bonds.

The credit to the Allies, which will be made by private bankers, will be effected through the purchase of \$175,000,000 of Canadian Pacific securities which have been mobilized by the British Treasury Department. These securities were formerly owned by British investors, by whom the Government called for the mobilization of all foreign owned securities they were turned over to the Treasury in payment for British Treasury notes, which were subsequently converted into British long term bonds.

These securities will be purchased outright from the British Treasury by a syndicate of American bankers headed by the Morgan firm, which will raise them in dollars, and offer them to American investors. They will run for twenty or thirty years, and will be secured by debenture stock of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, which is the most important railway system in Canada.

VETERANS ANXIOUS TO SERVE.

Spanish War Association at Work to Enlist Brigade.

A brigade of American war veterans now in civil life is the promise held out by Stuart Simmons, past commander in chief of the United Spanish War Veterans.

Mr. Simmons said yesterday that so many soldiers and sailors who saw service in the Spanish war, the Philippine insurrection and the Chinese campaign have asked him within the last two weeks to supervise a movement in this city to organize them for service that they would be unwise in war time to float any loan which might lead the banks up with short term securities.

"The need of the hour is trained men," he said. "The Government is calling 1,000,000 men to the colors. It is the duty of the veterans to give the full measure of their experience to the nation in this crisis. I appeal to my comrades, to all honorably discharged soldiers and sailors, to former National guardsmen and to young men who wish to serve with the veterans to forward me their names and addresses at once."

Mr. Simmons can be reached at the office of the United Spanish War Veterans, 198 Broadway.

STERN BROTHERS

42nd and 43rd Sts., West of Fifth Ave.

A Purchase of Women's Nainsook Underwear

Will be offered Monday and Tuesday, at most substantial price concessions:

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|---------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Night Gowns, - | at 89c. | 1.15 to 2.85 |
| Envelope Chemises, - | " 98c. | 1.35 to 2.90 |
| Combinations, - | " 1.00, | 1.39 to 2.95 |
| Corset Covers, - | " 50c. | 68c to 1.75 |
| Drawers, - | " 48c. | 75c to 1.35 |
| Cambric Top Petticoats, - | " 95c. | 1.45 to 2.75 |
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| Featherweight Satin Night Gowns, tailored or lace trimmed, | at \$3.95 |
| Featherweight Satin Envelope Chemises, to match gowns, | at \$2.90 |
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| Philippine Hand-made Night Gowns, hand-embroidered models, | \$1.85 & 2.75 |
| Philippine Hand-made Envelope Chemises, daintily hand-embroidered, | \$1.90 & 2.85 |

Women's New Model Blouses for Spring

There are dressy models for wear with elaborate suits, tailored models for more conservative tastes and the sport models of indescribable charm for all outdoor occasions. *Second Floor*

- New Styles of Georgette Crepe with novel high collars and jabots, at \$8.90
- Women's Crepe de Chine Shirts with tucked and frilled bosoms, at \$7.90
- These are Exceptional Values:

Most Attractive Blouses

Of superior quality crepe de Chine, Georgette crepe and voiles, in very smart effects, \$2.75 and 4.95

Excellent Petticoat Values

On the Main Floor Tables at \$4.95

Pretty as well as serviceable are these models of superior Taffeta, Crepe de Chine, Tub Satin and All Jersey, in the favored colorings.

Women's Summer Negligees

A Timely Offering on Second Floor \$3.75 to 7.50

Most attractive group of models made of crepe de Chine and flowered mulls, in rich seasonable colorings.

Boys' Washable Suits

An offering of a special purchase, on the Third Floor, at \$2.35

Imported Reqs, Galateas and Renfrew Devonshire Suitings; 2 1/2 to 10 years. Value \$3.50

A Spring Glove Sale

On the Main Floor at \$1.25 pr.

Women's Biarritz Slip-on Gloves in white; also Glace Lambskin Walking Gloves, one-clasp, Paris point embroidery or three-row heavy embroidery; in black, tan or white.

Women's Modish Sweaters

An informal display on the Second Floor will be found to include an exquisite assortment of later styles in slip-on, coat and sleeveless effects, pinched waists, plaited backs and a number of very new and smart touches in belts, collars and cuffs.

Very Special for Monday:

Women's Sweaters made of Shetland, Fibre, Brushed Wool, Angora and novelty fabrics, at \$4.95, 5.95 and 9.75

Sweaters of extremely fine quality of fibre and pure silk, showing newest ideas in design and coloring, at \$14.50 to 29.50

Children's Spring Coats

Worth while savings in two to five year sizes, on Second Floor

Coats of Navy Serge, - at \$5.75
Silk lined, with hand-embroidered collar.

Children's Coats of black and white check or serge; flare model; silk lined,	at \$7.95
Children's Coats of wool velour or covert cloth; smart model; silk lined,	at \$9.50

Children's Taffeta Silk Coats
Several attractive models in rose and Copenhagen, at \$8.25 and 11.50

An Important Sale of Summer Dress Silks

On the Second Floor, will feature desirable weaves taken from regular stock, at *Much Below Customary Prices*

Printed Chiffons, Figured and Striped Taffetas, Printed Radium, Foulards, Striped and Figured Crepes, at \$1.50, 1.95 to 2.95

36 to 40 ins. wide; formerly \$2.25 to 4.75 yard

Chiffon Taffetas - at \$1.25 a yard
35 ins., in a complete range of street and evening shades, including white and black.

Georgette Crepe - at \$1.48 a yard
40 ins.; all light and dark colors, also white and black.

The Dress Goods Section Will Place on Sale

On the Main Floor

All Wool Costume Serge
54 inches wide, superior quality, medium weight, fine twill, in black and navy blue, at \$1.78 yd.

Also Several Thousand Yards of this season's Dress Fabrics and Coatings

Arranged in Skirt, Suit, Dress and Coat Lengths Plain and novelty weaves in Homespun, Tweeds, Gabardines, Tricotine, Velour, Burella, Mohairs, Silk and Wool Voiles and Poplins, Shepherd Checks, Plaids, Hairline and Sport Stripes, in desirable colorings, At 1/3 to 1/2 Less Than Regularly



Franklin Simon & Co.

A Store of Individual Shops
Fifth Avenue, 37th and 38th Streets

Showing Monday

A NEW AMERICAN FASHION

WOMEN'S CAPE-COAT SUITS

Exclusive Franklin Simon & Co. Models

Two distinctive models of tricotine with or without sleeves, button trimmed.

Both models have the long graceful military back cape, novelty silk lined, convertible draped collar, deep coat revers and sash ties; new model straight line skirts.

Special 55.00

Showing Monday

A NEW AMERICAN FASHION

WOMEN'S COAT-FRONT CAPES

Exclusive Franklin Simon & Co. Models

The new Coat-Front Cape is the smartest outer-wrap of the season.

Of navy or black men's wear serge of military persuasion with its row of bone buttons extending from the scarf-tie collar down the sleeveless slit sides; slip-through belt, inset tailored pockets, novelty striped silk lined.

Special 39.50

Showing Monday

A NEW AMERICAN FASHION

WOMEN'S SHIRTWAIST DRESSES

Exclusive Franklin Simon & Co. Models

The new shirtwaist dresses have the appearance and style of one-piece frocks, with the advantage of being a separate waist and skirt.

Of washable satin, silk crepe or men's wear silk shirtings, in white, black or navy; with clusters of pin tucks on the waist and wide tucks on the pleated skirt.

Special 29.50

WOMEN'S HAND-SEWED PUMPS

for Spring and Summer

Of the highest quality kidskin in white, gray, brown or ivory; patent or dull black, also of buckskin or suede in pearl, dark gray or white; hand turned soles, Louis XVI heels. 9.50

WOMEN'S KIDSKIN BOOTS

Laced Boots for Spring and Summer

Also of all pearl gray suede or patent or dull black kid with gray suede or soft white calf tops, light welted soles, Louis XVI heels. 12.00