

**GYPSIES ORDERED
TO ABANDON CITY**

**"Kings" Confer as to Place
of Operation After Next
Wednesday**

JOE EPHRON OVERLOOKED

**Facts About "Joe" Ephron;
"King" of Canadian Gypsies**

OPERATES fortune-telling parlor at 3937 Lancaster avenue. Police say Ephron is worth \$60,000, of which \$25,000 is on deposit in a Chicago National Bank.

Paid \$6500 for a gypsy bride for his fourteen-year-old son.

When gypsy bride was stolen Ephron paid \$1000 ransom to get her back for his son.

Has option on thousands of horses he is trying to sell to Canadian Government to be used on European battlefields.

Ephron's parlor, which he rents for \$25 a month, is opposite Thirty-ninth street and Lancaster avenue police station, in charge of Lieutenant Savage.

Captain Kenny failed to raid Ephron's place when wholesale arrests were made Friday night of gypsy fortune tellers.

Detective "Charley" Lee, of the vice squad, and a corps of detectives are serving notices upon the gypsy fortune tellers that they must leave the city by next Wednesday. The respective "kings," representing the Brazilian, Hungarian, Serbian and Russian tribes, are conferring today at various fortune-telling parlors to decide just where they will go.

Husbands of the gypsies under arrest say they will remain here until the charges against their wives have been disposed of. Others say they must remain here because they have paid their rent from two to three months in advance.

A careful survey of the zone where the fortune-telling "parlors" are operating disclosed today that one very important "parlor" was overlooked. It may have been an accident. As information for the police—this "parlor" is at 2937 Lancaster avenue. It is just opposite the Thirty-ninth street and Lancaster avenue police station. This station is commanded by Lieutenant Savage. The "parlor" is operated by Joe Ephron, who at the Detective Bureau is known as the "king" of the Canadian faction of the gypsy fortune-tellers now in Philadelphia.

Ephron's wife was busy reading palms last Saturday afternoon. Mothers, fair maidens and youths visited the place. Not only was Mrs. Ephron kept busy, but her daughter-in-law, who is sixteen years old, assisted.

PURCHASED \$6000 WIFE FOR SON

This daughter-in-law was purchased as a wife by Ephron for his fourteen-year-old son, several months ago. This price paid by Ephron for the bride was \$6000. He admits this just as calmly as he admits that he owns a 1910 automobile. The car was bought by Ephron a few days ago at a Broad and Callowhill streets automobile place. Ephron has been here only two months.

The home of the Ephron family which has seven children, many cousins, many friends is in a store at the Lancaster avenue address. The place is rented for \$25 a month. Ephron admits being a rich man, but laughs heartily and says "No, No, I no king" when asked whether he is the "king" of the Canadian gypsy faction.

Fortune telling is an art according to Ephron. He says his wife is talented in that profession. He denies that any person was ever robbed in his place. As for the leaving of jewelry and money with his wife by innocent persons, Ephron says that is a part of the business.

"But anybody who leaves anything with my wife can get it back," said Ephron, "they leave it behind so that the devil won't get it. If you have your fortune told in my place, you can get it back here, you can do so and you can get it back should you care to come."

A WANDERER, BUT WORTH \$25,000

Detectives Freund and Beckman, who know Ephron and who helped him to recover his sixteen-year-old daughter-in-law when she was kidnaped by \$25 a month, say that Ephron is the recognized head of the Canadian faction of the gypsy fortune tellers here. The police say he displayed to them a banking book on him. It had \$25,000 on deposit in a Chicago bank. Ephron is also interested in purchasing horses for the Canadian Government. Ephron and some of the men who live with him were among those who crowded a Central station when the eighteen women were arraigned there last Saturday.

"I don't have other plans," said Ephron when a reporter asked on him "I am a very poor man, and have little money—only I did buy an automobile for \$200. But all the American people have automobiles, so that is nothing to brag about." Ephron said he was born in Serbia. He said he came to this country when a lad. In Canada he married. On the honeymoon he discovered that his wife possessed talent—so he the kind of talent he sought to develop her into a good fortune teller. He said that since then he and his family have been traveling around the country. But Ephron said he is a copper-smith.

ARMY AND NAVY BOYS BEST

The Rev. Robert O. Boyle Pays Tribute to First Pennsylvania

The men in the army and navy are the best boys in the world, according to the Rev. Robert O. Boyle, pastor of St. John's Reformed Church, Fortieth and Spring Garden streets. At the regular weekly meeting of the Ministerial Association of the Reformed Church held today at Fifteenth and Race streets, the Rev. Mr. Boyle narrated his experiences as chaplain of the First Pennsylvania Regiment while along the Mexican border. He said the army and navy has changed during the last twenty-five years. They are the best boys in the land. During the five months I was on the border I distributed more than 600 khaki-colored Bibles.

DRUGGIST UNDER BAIL

Clerk Accused of Mistaking Poison for Lotion in Child's Death

A drug clerk, who, the police say, mistook a poison for a healing lotion to mix in a prescription, which, according to Deputy Coroner Schultz, caused the death of a four-year-old baby in the Howard hospital, was held in \$1000 bail for court today by Deputy Coroner Paul, sitting as a committing magistrate.

The clerk, Maurice Stein, twenty-two years old, of 2565 South Marshall street, was held in a drug store at Broad and Chestnut streets in a case of a child's death.

AMATEUR PLAYERS REHEARSE AT KENESETH ISRAEL ALUMNI BUILDING



**FOOD PARADE CALLED
OFF ON COMPROMISE**

**Women's Protective League Wins
Places on Mayor's Commission**

During a lengthy conference with some representatives of the Women's Protective League and various other bodies, Mayor Smith today agreed to appoint three of their number to the food commission organized last week by the "Planning" committee. The first meeting of which will be held at City Hall tomorrow afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. The new members will make a total of forty-two in the commission.

As a result of the conference, the plans for a general parade of foodstuffs on City Hall by at least 15,000 persons were called off "for the time being" according to one of the committee, who said that crowds had been waiting at various meeting places to start the parade today in honor of the Mayor had proved hostile.

The full title of the committee is "Labor Conference for Anti-Highway-Blockading and for the Homeless." The Women's Protective League, and Joseph P. Cohen, a member of the Pennsylvania Union, representing labor interests.

Other members of the committee today were Mrs. Becky Burstein, Mrs. J. Danesky, Mrs. C. Goldberg, of the Women's League; Charles Stahl, member of the Socialist party and of the "Planning" committee; Mrs. Helen Weinstein and Morris Katsky, of the Workmen's Circle. The members claimed they represent about 1,000,000 of Philadelphia's population.

All nine members of the committee joined in the plea to the Mayor. They suggested that the city use the powers it already possesses more effectively, to relieve the food situation and to ask the State Legislature for further money.

The chairman of the committee today said that he is being swamped with telegrams from men in all parts of the country offering to sell food commodities. He promised the commission to secure the advice of City Solicitor Cohen to learn the full extent of the powers of the food commission to act immediately.

**JAPANESE NEWSPAPER
ASSAULTS UNITED STATES**

**Angry That Mikado's Subjects Here
Should Be Treated "Worse
Than Negroes"**

TOKYO, March 5.—Bitter attack on the United States for American discrimination against the Japanese was the most significant part of the editorial content here today on the German plot to align Mexico and Japan with Germany against the United States.

The attack was by the newspaper *Dejima*. It said the Revolution of the United States, illustrated the weakness of American diplomacy toward Germany, and containing criticism along this line, added: "The United States of America today treats the Japanese worse than negroes, and it is the Government to take the opportunity to open negotiations to correct this unfair attitude on the part of America."

Except for this comment from the *Dejima*, the tone of the Japanese press here generally unopposed over the German "plot." The Tokyo newspaper *Nichi Nichi* was the only one in addition to the *Mai-Nichi* which commented editorially on the matter at all. The *Nichi Nichi* could not be heard uttering the "ingenuity" of the Germans in this connection.

BUSINESS MEN HERE AID U. S.

**Five Philadelphians Help Pass on
\$15,000,000 Supply Bids**

Five prominent Philadelphia business men will serve as an advisory board for the Government in passing on bids for more than \$15,000,000 worth of war supplies. The bids, which will be opened today by Colonel George H. Penrose, commandant of the Schuylkill Arsenal, are for clothing, hardware and supplies of many descriptions. The members of the advisory board, which is the first of its kind in the history of the United States, are Howard Cummings, president of the John B. Stetson Company; A. C. Dinkley, president of the Midvale Steel Company; L. H. Kinnard, of the Bell Telephone Company; Calvin M. Smyth, of the Young Smith, Field Company, and Ely K. Dreyfus, president of the A. B. Kirschbaum Company.

**RAIN, SNOW AND SLEET
MAKE STREETS A MESS**

**Highways Transformed Into
Canals of Slush and More
Is Threatened**

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**FIRE-FIGHTERS GAME, BUT AUDUBON'S
MUD WAS JUST A BIT TOO MUCH**

**E. H. Barch's Bungalow Burns While Plucky Lads, Stuck
on Highway, Rave in Impotence—Haddon Heights
Boys Also Blocked on the Way**

If it were not for the mud on the Audubon road and the great distance of the firehouse from the home of E. H. Barch, the latter's house might still be in existence. The Haddon Heights road is also slightly flooded, and the exertion of walking in the heavy snow probably hastened the attack.

An unidentified woman was found dead in an alley, seventeenth and Nantuxet streets. Her death is believed to have been caused by exposure. The woman, who was about forty years old, was well dressed in black. Nothing was found on the body which would identify her. The body was discovered by Mrs. Sarah Stanley, of 520 South Seventeenth street.

As a result of the storm slushy wires snapped, telegraph and long-distance telephone service today, but the absence of wires prevented serious breaks in the telephone wires.

When men of all stations congratulated the officers over weather conditions that were ideal compared with those of March 5, the day after President Taft's inaugural when wires were down throughout the city. The rain was much forecast at the time, and the eighth anniversary of that event, familiarly known as the "blank-out" day. The Bell and Keystone telephone companies reported a "slight trouble" with the above normal, this morning. All of this was out of town, where the wires are exposed. The Western Union, Postal and Philadelphia and Reading telegraph lines were not affected. No electric power to overcome the resistance caused by the damp, cold weather.

**CAME HERE TO DIE IN 1837.
SHE'S NOW 101 YEARS OLD**

**Mrs. Elizabeth Browne Calls Wilson
"Wonderful Man"—Doesn't Like
Women's Clothes of 1917**

During the spring of 1837, a devoted husband brought his young wife from Pittsburgh to Philadelphia so she might die in the city of her birth. Tomorrow the same woman will celebrate her hundred and thirtieth birthday. She is Mrs. Elizabeth Browne, of 1016 North Twentieth street.

While once a visit eight years ago, Mrs. Browne became dangerously ill, and her husband, who had been brought to Philadelphia, died. She reached this city she made rapid recoveries.

Mrs. Browne was born and lived many years before railroad, telegraph and telephone services were inaugurated. At that time there were no newspapers and no militant suffragists. Mrs. Browne has pronounced views on public questions in which she takes great interest.

In her opinion President Wilson is "a wonderful man" and she induces virtually all his actions. Mrs. Browne calls the woman's clothes of 1917 "abominable, being neither high enough at the top nor low enough at the bottom."

Although Mrs. Browne has been forced to discontinue attending services at the Zion Episcopal Church, her mind is keen and her excellent remains unimpaired. Physicians say she may have several more birthdays uneventfully.

Rich Tennessee Oil Lands Found

LANCASTER, Pa., March 5.—Vast stretches of land near Marksville, Tenn., owned by prominent Lancaster citizens, are expected to produce great quantities of oil. It was learned today after Representative A. B. Hess returned from a trip to the territory. He is financially interested in the land. There are more than 20,000 acres, holding valuable hard wood, and oil has been struck lately on land bordering the tract on all sides. Virtually the entire stretch is owned by Lancaster persons.

Lawyer Argues Resurrection

Before the Presbyterian Ministerial Association this week, the Rev. William W. MacGreer, an attorney of West Chester, Pa., undertook to strictly legal language to prove that the Christ really lived. He said that the resurrection is the only way to speak to the average man in the new about the matter. Show him the truth of the resurrection in language that he knows.

Col. Walter Katt Dies at 86

NEW YORK, March 5.—Colonel Walter Katt, from 1877 to 1880 the engineer in charge of the building of this city's elevated railways died here yesterday. He was eighty-six years old. He supervised the construction of Eads bridge across the Mississippi. In 1857 he was State engineer of Canada in Pennsylvania. He was born in London, England.

Stranded Ship Floated

NEW YORK, March 5.—After going ashore near Barnegat late last night, the steamship *Commo* was floated this morning and came into port under its own power. The ship was undamaged.

CITY NEWS IN BRIEF

I. W. W. speakers addressed a mass-meeting of sugar strikers at the Labor Union. The addresses were made by J. J. Weir, who said that "all is going well with the strike and the relief will soon be beginning for terms."

They are Harry Adams, four years old, of 22 Fogarty avenue; Edward Wilson, thirty-two years old, of 121 Boyers court, and Florence Brock, twenty-two years old, of 728 Sycamore street.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD Chapter, Women's Division for National Preparedness will hold an all-day meeting tomorrow at the P. R. R. Y. M. C. A. This will include a parade and a quilting party. The proceeds will be used to pay for material to be used in making Red Cross equipment for base hospitals.

CAMDEN COUNTY Medical Society will hold its monthly meeting tomorrow night. Dr. H. H. Grace will open a discussion on "Diabetes Mellitus." Other speakers are Dr. Thomas K. Lewis, Lynn Manafey, Edward C. Pechin and F. William Shaffer.

PROPOSERS OF THE MOVEMENT to have a normal school in Camden County will have a chance to advance their arguments before the Appropriations Committee of the Assembly tomorrow at 10:30 o'clock at Trenton. The hearing has been arranged by Assemblyman Charles A. Walvoert.

WHITMAN PARK Improvement Association has adopted a series of resolutions calling on the Mayor and members of City Council to do all in their power looking to the reduction to the high cost of living.

BATTERY B, FIELD ARTILLERY, numbering 140 men with 100 horses, under the command of Captain Samuel G. Barnard, left last night to attend the inauguration at Washington. One hundred Democrats left in the afternoon to attend the inauguration.

WILLARD STREET, a flagman employed by the Reading Railway, while shoveling snow at the Atlantic avenue crossing, was struck by a train and received a fracture of the skull. He was taken to the West Jersey Homeopathic Hospital.

\$500,000 HOTEL FOR WORKERS

Bethlehem Steel Officials Inspect Sites at Somers Point, N. J.

SOMERS POINT, N. J., March 5.—It has been learned on good authority that officials of the Bethlehem Steel Company were here a few days ago inspecting sites along the water front to construct a \$500,000 hotel.

The company is desirous, according to information, of obtaining a site that will be close to its gun proving grounds, so its employees and guests can be housed without sending them to Atlantic City. If a site is found here it is expected the company will construct a large wharf and run a boat daily to and from the proving grounds to carry the workers.

Liner Chicago Safe at Bordeaux

NEW YORK, March 5.—The French Line steamship *Chicago*, which sailed from port February 19 with 141 passengers, ninety of whom were Americans, has arrived safely at Bordeaux after passing through the German submarine zone.

WHERE PERSONS WERE KILLED

**BELIEF IN SHIRK'S
SUICIDE GROWS**

**Theory That Lebanon
Banker Was Murdered
Losing Supporters**

WIDOW CLINGS TO IT

**Truth Hinges on Proof That Bul-
let in Brain Did Not Cause
Instant Death**

By a Staff Correspondent

LEBANON, Pa., March 5.—The only way by which the death of Howard C. Shirk, Lebanon National Bank president, and recovery of his run-down condition, could be determined as a murder is to establish absolutely that a man cannot live for a moment with a bullet in his brain.

Unless that is true it is almost certain the lawyer killed himself.

Shirk's widow is now the only person who clings steadfastly to the murder theory.

The teller of the dead man's bank, Walter Maritz, is said today to have identified the revolver which was found by the body as having belonged to the bank. He would not admit or deny it when questioned, but referred the question to E. S. Becker, vice president.

Shirk was willing to discuss any feature but that. "We will pass that over," he said.

District Attorney Adams knew who owned the revolver, but would not tell, so Shirk's widow and not the authorities has possession of the weapon. The reverse naturally would be the case if a murder investigation was being made.

Just why every one is so anxious to concede the ownership of the weapon cannot be determined.

It seems that the only reason the murder theory was listened to by county officials was respect for Mrs. Shirk's opinion and her husband's condition, only a year ago and has not been well since.

The shooting took place on a landing of the third floor of his office building. It is in full sight of any one who enters the building and would hardly be chosen for a murder.

Miss Lutz, a stenographer on the second floor, who was greeted on the stairs by Shirk, heard a sound like a shot and the noise of a falling object, except the noise of the car and worked downward to the base of the brain. The doctors say the first wound would have made it impossible to cock the gun and shoot again. But A. J. Allen, who was in the room, said the dead man's weapon said it was easy to cock, provided a man had any strength at all, and would take hardly a moment. It was very old style, made in 1872 by Hopkins & Allen, Norwich, Conn., and of .41 caliber.

Mr. Allen, while not saying so outright, does not believe Mr. Shirk was murdered. He says absolutely that he was not murdered by a former Lebanon business man, who was shot in the street by the police and District Attorney Adams has said that if this suspect is eliminated, there is no reason to subscribe to the murder theory any longer.

It can be learned there was no financial or domestic reason for Mr. Shirk's despondency, only ill health due to overwork.

It is likely there will be a formal inquest, as the official cause of the death was due to suicide, and thus end the speculation which has been the chief topic of conversation all day.

Justice will be done in the case of the murder theory from its beginning. Neither have most other Lebanon people.

Police Court Chronicle

And there's still another one who wants to cure the high cost of living.

This time it is William Queer, who, the police say, is not unlike his name. William has been keeping to his door, and has been handed out by various persons to fight the food game, and in his own language, "they're all up a tree."

Instead of skipping a meal or using the city streets for farm land, Queer believes in cutting out all the fancy stuff in the selling and distributing of food. His plan would throw thousands of salesmen, clerks and chauffeurs out of work and put a large crimp in the paper business.

William was so carried away with his thought that he insisted on impressing it upon dozens of householders in the neighborhood of Richmond and Bedford streets after getting them out of bed at an unearthly hour. His scheme briefly is to have a hundred persons in each neighborhood hire an autotruck once a week and haul the food for the community in one big load.

Unfortunately, Queer was in an uncertain condition as he attempted to unfold his suggestion, and in two or three cases he was assisted to the middle of the street without waste of words.

Policeman Chick Bartley, who used to be a baseball player, found William sitting in the street and brought him to the Belgrade and Clearfield streets station so he wouldn't catch cold.

"Tell it to the Judge," said the cop.

It was with much indignation that Queer told of his treatment by the people when he was really trying to help them to live.

"You can't blame them," the Judge asserted. "If any one gets me out of bed at 2 a. m. to tell me the best way to face the high cost of living I don't know what I'd do."

"Yes, I would have waited till a little later," agreed Queer.

Queer used to get your campaign mapped out on property in the city. "So I'll let you think out your plan where you will not be disturbed. You can rest at the House of Correction for the next four weeks."

Sugar Futures Are Firmer

NEW YORK, March 5.—The market for sugar futures developed a firm undertone at the start today, with leading commission houses and European interests on the buying side. The early trading was influenced by the firm market and by the rumors that the strike at the refiner's was showing improvement. Prices on the call showed advance of 3 to 5 points, with first transactions 4500 tons.

Aged Minister Dead

ALLENTOWN, Pa., March 5.—The Rev. A. B. Koulin, of Hellertown, fifth oldest pastor of the Reformed Church in the United States, for four decades pastor of a charge at and about Hellertown and father of the Phoebe Deaconess Home in this city, died last night. He was ordained in 1853, and served churches at Strasburg, Pa.,

**11 HEROES GIVE
LIVES FOR OTHERS**

**Coast Guards Drowned
Attempt to Reach
Stranded Vessel**

RESCUE BOATS CAPSIZED

**Crew of Cutter Yama
Bravely Go to Their Death
at Sea**

WASHINGTON, March 5.—Eleven lost their lives early today in an attempt to rescue the crew of the tanker *Yama* grounded on Winter Quarters Shoals, off Virginia coast. All were members of the crew of the coast guard cutter *Yama*.

Reports to the coast guard service received this afternoon indicated that the *Yama* was in a perilous position and crew in no danger. Four of the *Yama* men who went to the rescue of their leader when the first surfboat from the cutter containing nine men, capsized, and their wrecked craft ashore at Ocean View, this morning. All were reported in a serious condition.

Following the overturning of the rescue boat a second, containing two men, was sent out from the *Yama*. It sailed in the high seas and both its points were drowned.

The names of the missing men, as set out at coast guard headquarters here this afternoon, are:

E. H. Harris, gunner.
Robert Grady, Jr., second class.
M. Kanbar, quartermaster.
G. A. Garvin, seaman.
H. J. Garrison, D. Fulker, R. Simons, L. Austin and T. L. Midget, ordinary men.

A. Duggar, boy, first class.
W. R. Hogarth, boy, second class.
The last two were lost from the boat.

The survivors, who landed at Ocean View, were: Bosworth H. Fielder, Electrician; Grady, Jr., second class; McWhorter, second class; and Wynn, second class. None of the bodies of the drowned were recovered.

One Philadelphia was among the teen seamen of the coast guard cutter *Yama*, who perished in the night off Winter Quarters, Va., last night. Robert Grady, Jr., twenty-five years old, a son of a former city fireman, resided at 919 South Sixth street. The name of the dead seaman has not been learned.

**CLERGYMEN CRITICIZE
DAWDLER SENATE**

**Filibustering Tactics Condemned
by Protestant and Methodist Episcopal Meeting**

Criticism of the Senators who filibustered tactics at Washington during the peace neutrality bill was expressed today by the Protestant Episcopal and Methodist Episcopal churches. Resolutions were adopted by ministers of churches expressing