

FARIST MILLS WILL BE REBUILT AT ONCE; LOSS IS PLACED AT \$350,000

Investigation of Peculiar Circumstances Attending Conflagration Fails To Reveal Cause—Plant Not Working On War Orders, Declare Officials—Injured Firemen Are Recovering.

Officials of the Farist Steel Co., owners of the big rolling mills at the foot of East Main street which were partially destroyed by fire last night estimate their damage to property at \$350,000 exclusive of loss on thousands of dollars worth of contracts that will be delayed.

Following a conference of insurance adjusters this morning it is shown that three out of four large buildings are totally destroyed, a fourth was partly burned, and five small buildings including the spring department and offices escaped. Buildings in the vicinity were slightly damaged by the intense heat.

The Farist Steel Company officials announced that an attempt will be made to rebuild at once, though it is expected that several months will elapse before the five furnaces, which are entirely ruined, and the big rolling machines, can be replaced.

Two of the three firemen who were injured last night by falling walls are recovering. Daniel Killen, Jr., 2333 Seaview avenue, driver of No. 2 hose, in Bridgeport hospital, is suffering intensely from pain in the region of his right arm. An X-ray will be taken this afternoon to locate a possible fracture of the arm or collar bone.

Henry Ellinger, 695 William street, houseman of No. 2 Engine, who was taken to Bridgeport hospital with injury to the right arm, will soon recover.

Investigation is being made today by the fire department officials to ascertain the cause which is still shrouded in mystery. Experiments conducted at this morning at the location of Arthur Platt, of the fire department, has disclosed that when the auxiliary line from the spring shop to the main line box was reconstructed it was in working order. This experiment tends to show that the circuit was disturbed last night by either being cut, broken or burned.

Other suspicious features of the fire pointing towards a combustible gas in connection with the fire, is the rapid advance of the fire from its point of inception, the intense heat that preceded the firemen getting near the buildings and the manner in which walls fell outward instead of inward.

Absolute denial was made this morning by all officials of the Farist Steel Co. that they were manufacturing or had in the past manufactured either directly or indirectly any material for war purposes. They were at a loss to conceive the cause of the fire, as their watchman has reported that he passed through the building in which it started just three minutes before he noticed that the whole structure was ablaze.

Chief Johnson said today: "Among the peculiarities of this fire is that it started in the most of the big rolling mill while the night watchman persists that it started first in the 'tool room' which was in another section of the plant. We must take his word for it."

"Officials and others in the Farist Steel Works declare that no heat or combustible material was anywhere near the suspected spot of origin for many days.

Speaking of criticism of the department being late in fighting the fire, Chief Johnson said today: "The trouble came through the failure of an auxiliary box to work. When the man came to the box upon the call of an outsider, we wanted to send in a second alarm. The night watchman told us that he had just rung in an alarm from the factory. We did not see any necessity of ringing in another. In a few minutes, however, when apparatus did not respond we took the matter in our own hands and sent in a second alarm from a box which was called other companies by telephone."

The fire was discovered at 10:40 by Watchman John Farrell, living at 373 Catherine street, as he was going his rounds and all this time the big alarm bell employed in the capacity for the last 25 years. As Farrell entered the mill opposite the office of the company he found the interior of the wooden building a mass of flames. He ran to the private alarm box of the company and opening the door of the box he pulled down the lever.

Farrell ran to the gate of the factory yards and anxiously awaited the arrival of the fire apparatus for fully 10 minutes, he said. He then ran back to the private alarm box and to his astonishment he found that the wires had been broken from the weight of heavy timbers falling inside the first rolling mill.

Farrell says he then ran to the gate on East Main street and here he struck a snag. He was unable to open the large swinging gate and by this time Victor Pace, watchman as the plant for the last 16 years, came to his assistance. They had a difficult time of it opening the big swinging gate and in rolling mill No. 1, it had now extended to rolling mills 2 and 3. A man named Crowley, working on one of the nearby oyster boats, was passing at the rolling mills. He saw the fire and ran to East Main street and Stratford avenue, where he turned in an alarm from box 631.

On the first alarm Engine companies 2 and 6, Chemical No. 1 and Truck Co. No. 2 responded. On the second alarm Engine Companies 3 and 4 responded. Chief Daniel E. Johnson, upon his arrival, saw at a glance that it was necessary to turn in a second alarm and he did so at box 631.

A panoramic view, such as was given (Continued on Page 2.)

REMINGTON CO. AN STRIKERS AT ODDS OVER PAY

Statements Conflict and Workers Say They'll Wait Until Approached.

WILL PREFER CHARGE AGAINST POLICEMAN

Complain of Guards, Superintendent, and Condition of Floor In Room.

Drop forgers and die sinkers who went on strike yesterday at the plant of the Remington Arms & Ammunition Co. announced this morning that no overtures will be made to the company; that the men will wait three weeks, and then unless their grievances are adjusted, all will leave the city for other jobs, which they say are waiting for them.

Members of the Drop Forgers' union began preparations today for preferring charges against a policeman in the employ of the city of Bridgeport. It is asserted he used unlawful force and insulting language in assisting to discharge a Remington employe.

A meeting of the strikers was held this morning at 119 Wall street, Bartenders' union hall. A statement given out there said that all the men in the drop forging room of the Remington plant drive out, that all the die sinkers have quit and that the bayonet straighteners were locked out of the plant for more than an hour today. It was estimated 250 have quit. On the other hand, an official statement from the company says that half the men in the department involved, are out.

Complaint is made against the guards of the Remington shop, against the policeman, against Superintendent Ellingham and others.

The grievances of the men concern working conditions and spoiled work. They protest that they have to pay for bayonets that are spoiled. They say they are willing to pay for them, provided they may then become the owners. They said this morning that the recent losing their piece work wage on spoiled work, and then buying the material, and not receiving it. A suggestion was made to Superintendent Ellingham, they say, that he be allowed to cart the material away after buying it, but this was refused.

"We have to throw those bayonets in the scrap," the company officials said today in a statement. "The material costs money and we can't afford to have the men spoil such great quantities."

The company's position on this matter, as stated today is: "These men are able to earn from \$14 to \$16 a day, and in the desire to increase their earnings, they work hurriedly. We cannot accept carelessly treated bayonets, because the inspectors reject them. Then they go into the scrap."

"Several weeks ago we called a halt. We told the men that this couldn't go on—so great quantities were being spoiled. We told them we'd be willing to wipe the slate clean, but from then on they would have to pay for their work they spoiled. Later we said we'd divide the loss, they pay half for the material and the company the other half. They objected, and wanted to go on turning out defective bayonets and having the company pay for the material spoiled."

"On the wage matter, we guaranteed them a day and a quarter pay. Thus, if things were slack, and they had reached the minimum figure they would get a day and a quarter. This is the only thing that the strikers make that they work sometimes all day for nothing is untrue."

"Regarding the assertion that the company is advertising 75 cents an hour, and then not paying it, we are misleading. We advertise that we'll pay as high as 70 cents an hour. There are die sinkers and die sinkers, just as there are painters and painters. An artist and fence painter vary in skill."

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MISSISSIPPI OUT OF BANKS; FLOODS MAROON REFUGEES

Thousand of Negroes, Shut in Mills, Face Dangers of Starvation.

New Orleans, La., Feb. 17—Flood waters from the crevasse in the Mississippi river at Buck Ridge early today are near the town of St. Joseph. The water is taking a southward course after having filled Lake Bruin, seven miles below Newellton.

Hundreds of recruits have joined the rescuing parties and organized efforts are being made to take the marooned persons to places of safety. Scarcity of boats makes this work difficult. The food situation is expected to present a problem at Newellton. There are several thousand negro refugees housed in mills and cotton gins around that town and few if any brought more than enough food to last through a day.

During the night the refugee camps at Natchez and Vidalia gained new members. The food situation at Natchez, owing to arrival yesterday of a steamer loaded with supplies, was regarded today as satisfactory for the present at least.

Early morning reports showed that 500 workers at New Roads, below the mouth of the Red river, were holding their own against the river's attack on the levee there. While it is stated there is still danger of a break, the chances for the levees holding are much brighter than last night.

U. S. ACCEPTS GERMANY'S PROPOSAL ON LUSITANIA; WANTS LINERS PROTECTED

WILLIAMS MUST HANG; JUDGE CURTIS REFUSES MOTION FOR NEW TRIAL

Isaac N. Williams, the Bridgeport man who was convicted of the murder of Hubert B. Case, former county commissioner, lost his fight today to escape the gallows.

Judge Howard J. Curtis, of Stratford, sitting in the superior court of Litchfield county in Winsted today, refused the motion of counsel for Williams and Rowe for a new trial. The motion was based upon new evidence. The state demurred to the motion, objecting to the character of the alleged evidence. The demurrer was sustained.

Williams lived with his wife, whom he met through a mail order matrimonial venture, at 67 Liberty street. He formerly lived with his brother, J. B. Williams, in Broad street. Rowe came from Poughkeepsie, N. Y. Williams was a Poughkeepsie man.

The crime for which they were sentenced to be hanged was the murder of Hubert B. Case, former county commissioner of Litchfield county, at the little village of Barkhamsted, on the night of Sept. 23, 1914. Williams was apprehended by State Policemen Rowe Wheeler and Hurley. His family attempted to establish an alibi for him, showing that he was in Poughkeepsie on the night of the murder. This later was disproved by Chief of Police McCabe of Poughkeepsie and the state police.

Throughout his trial Williams' wife made vain efforts to obtain his release and at all times expressed her confidence in his innocence. Williams attempted to take his own life in the Litchfield county jail, by gashing his wrist on a piece of glass. Jailer Todd discovered him before the hemorrhage became dangerous.

Williams' counsel here, Shapiro & Shapiro, have made two attempts to obtain a new trial for their client.

HARRIGAN AFTER ROWLAND; WANTS OFFICE PROBED

Alderman Will Call For Investigation of Building Commissioners' Work.

A resolution calling for an investigation of the office of the building commissioner and the conduct of the building inspector, Daniel M. Rowland, will be introduced by Alderman Daniel P. Harrigan at the next meeting of the common council.

This resolution will follow the failure of the building commissioner, his clerks or assistants to make courteous reply to complaints filed by citizens of Cannon street regarding the Keesego or old Citizens' building at the southwest corner of Main and Cannon streets.

The drain pipes on the extreme corner of the building on the Cannon street side, have been defective for years. In consequence they clog with ice and huge icicles hang from them, falling into the street to endanger the lives of pedestrians. At other times the water from the streets half frozen and making this part of the street almost impassable.

It is alleged by those who have made complaint to Building Inspector Rowland that he sharply rebuffed them, declaring that such matters were none of his business. Efforts to locate the building inspector either at his home or in his office today developed the fact that he had left the city and was not expected back until tomorrow. Whether he had gone on city business could not be learned from either his home or his office.

3,000 ON STRIKE AT BRASS CO.

ANARCHIST WHO POISONED SOUP SEEN IN BOSTON

Ansonia, Conn., Feb. 17—The striking laborers of the American Brass company here were joined this afternoon by the laborers in the wire and copper mills of the Ansonia Brass & Copper branch and all in the Coe Brass branch, making the total number now out 3,000.

When the wire mill laborers walked out at 1 o'clock they went in a body to the copper mill and clamored for the men there to quit. The copper mill men did this an hour later at 2 o'clock. The Coe Brass laborers went out at about the same time.

All the company's mills here are now closed down. The striking laborers so crippled the mills that all other men had to quit work. The laborers are mostly foreigners. They marched hilariously through the streets but no violence was attempted.

ICEMAN SUCCEUMS TO INJURIES FROM COLLISION

Injuries resulting from being hurled from an ice wagon he was driving when the latter was struck by a trolley car Jan. 25, caused the death of Michael Kondratowicz, age 45, of 36 Crescent avenue, is the belief ascertained by Medical Examiner S. M. Garlick. Kondratowicz died in St. Vincent's hospital yesterday from a fractured skull caused by falling onto a hard roadbed. Coroner John J. Phelan started a hearing on the case at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Acceptance of Agreement Relates Only to Lusitania Case Itself—Lansing Asks Assurances That Liners, Armed For Defense, Will Not Be Attacked Without Warning—New U-Boat Policy of Teutons May Cause Further Diplomatic Parley.

Washington, Feb. 17—Secretary Lansing today accepted as agreeable to the United States the latest German proposals finally disposing of the Lusitania case.

The acceptance of the agreement, however, relates only to the Lusitania case itself. Secretary Lansing has asked Count Von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, for assurances that Germany will not extend to liners, armed for defensive purposes only, its recently announced policy of sinking armed merchantmen without warning.

May Mean Diplomatic Parley

The question of what constitutes defensive armament is to be determined later in a way not yet agreed upon. It is suggested that the United States may propose that guns mounted on the stern of ships and capable of being swung from 45 to 30 degrees in either direction might come within that class.

It was stated authoritatively that Germany, because of its unusual position, cannot and will not accept the suggestion of the United States as it now stands that liners carrying guns shall be immune from attack under previous assurances.

RUSSIANS TAKE 100,000 PRISONERS IN CAPTURE OF TURKISH FORTRESS

Petrograd, Feb. 17—The official Messenger estimates the Turkish Garrison at Erzerum, capture of which was announced yesterday, as 100,000 men. It is also estimated that 1,000 guns were captured.

It is said there were 467 guns in the outer forts, 374 in the central forts and 200 field guns at Erzerum.

Czar Is Congratulated.

Paris, Feb. 17—President Poincare telegraphed congratulations on the capture of Erzerum today to Emperor Nicholas and Grand Duke Nicholas, commander of the Russian forces on the Caucasian front.

BRITISH LOSSES HEAVY IN TURKEY CAMPAIGN

Constantinople, Feb. 17—The losses of one of the British expeditions in Mesopotamia in a battle with Turks near Bathia, west of Korna, amounting to 2,000 men and 100 camels, according to an official announcement given out by the Turkish war department under date of Feb. 16.

The statement also says that the Russians lost 50,000 men in killed in a three day battle on the Caucasian front.

ITALIAN ATTACKS CHECKED.

Vienna, Feb. 17—An Austrian official statement issued under date of Feb. 16 announces that the eighth attack by Italian outposts on the Austro-Hungarian positions on Javorac, was repulsed. The statement adds that the ground in front of the new Austrian positions in the Romolov district is covered with Italian dead.

ZEPPELIN IS INTERRED.

London, Feb. 17—Despatches from Rotterdam to the Star say that the report that a Zeppelin had been blown adrift during yesterday's storm and wrecked at Bloek, in Holland, and recommended continuance of the authorities is without foundation.

INSURGENTS OF G. O. P. LOOK TO LAVERY TO LEAD

Sixth District Republican Club Defection Takes Form In New Club.

A forerunner of a movement similar to the Young Men's movement some years ago and which seems likely to disrupt the Republican party here is evidenced in the fact that in the Sixth district already an effort is being made to organize another Republican club there. Lewis C. Miller of 2,925 North Main street and Deputy Jailer Patrick O'Brien are said to be back of the movement.

The row in this district dates from last fall when Alfred Knapp was elected president of the club, defeating Mr. O'Brien. Just previously the faction now in control of the club had insisted on the resignation of Charles Kingston as member of the Republican town committee. Mr. Kingston quit without a fight.

Some forty Republican voters of the district who claim that most of the members of the present district club have been registered on the Democratic primary list for years and who also claim that these men are taking advantage of their membership in the club to seek jobs from the Republican administration, have decided to form the new club.

Men who profess to be familiar with Republican politics are saying that the insurrection will spread all over Bridgeport and that Albert E. Lavery, backed by DeVer H. Warner, will lead this insurrection as he did years ago.

THE WEATHER

Probably fair tonight and Friday.

INTERNATIONAL SILVER CO. TO FIGHT STRIKERS

Directors Vote To Continue Present Policy in Meriden Troubles.

Meriden, Feb. 17—Fraser Hays, of Wallingford, for 41 years employed in factories which are now part of the International Silver company and in the treasury department since the incorporation of the company in 1898, was elected treasurer of the corporation by the directors at their meeting yesterday, according to an official announcement today.

Mr. Hays fills the vacancy which came with the death of George M. Curtis, long its treasurer.

The directors also "unanimously approved" the acts of its officers and executive committee in the strike and recommended continuance of the policy heretofore pursued.

French Soldiers, Held Prisoners, To Be Paid

Paris, Feb. 17—Under the terms of an order issued by the war office German officers, prisoners of war in France, are to receive each month pay equal to that of French officers on leave.

Similar treatment is to be accorded French officers who are prisoners in Germany.

SENATE TO VOTE ON TREATY.

Washington, Feb. 17—The Senate went into executive session again today on the Nicaraguan treaty with prospects of a vote on its ratification.