

DOLL, QUAKING, CRIED TO KING FOR HELP

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MIGHTY THRUST OF GERMANS FAILS TO BREAK PIAVE LINES

POLICE SERGEANT ADMITS HE CARRIED .32 CALIBRE GUN; MOTIVE FOR KILLING

Graves, Colored Waiter in Keystone Club, Swears at Coroner's Hearing That After Asking for Seeley Baby Doll Beseched King to Come to His Protection.

The outstanding features of the investigation by Coroner John J. Phelan of the revolver battle in which Norris Pannill was killed by a bullet at the sessions of his hearing held last night and resumed this morning at 11 o'clock follow:

1—Baby Doll weeping and at bay, fearing that the police would handle him roughly if he surrendered called for the 1st district Republican leader "Bill" Seeley and then asked that King be sent for. This is the first time mention of King's name has been made by any witness in the case.

2—Police Sergeant Burns contradicting the belief that it was a policeman who killed Pannill admitted having a .32 calibre gun the night of the riot but asserts he did not use it in the street and asserted no policeman discharged his revolver anywhere except inside the Keystone club.

3—The Coroner's efforts to establish a motive for the murder of Pannill showed that Baby Doll and the victim of the riot had quarreled several weeks ago, when Pannill, a Southerner, openly voiced his disgust of seeing drunken white women dancing with negroes after midnight in Doll's protected cabaret and Doll offended, ejected Pannill.

4—Saturday night Pannill according to a friend of his won \$450 in a dice game at the resort. He left a \$450 winner and Baby Doll referred to Pannill as a "Piker." Pannill returned after midnight to disprove the allegation and gamble his winnings. It is said he staked \$450 on one hand of dice and won. When taken to the hospital Pannill had \$1 on his person.

Police Sergeant James Burns admitted just before Coroner Phelan adjourned hearing for the noon recess, at one o'clock today, that he was armed with a .32 calibre revolver when rioting broke out at "Baby Doll" Thomas' Water street resort, early Sunday morning.

He denied, however, that a bullet from his gun was the one that killed Morris Pannill, of 203 Golden Hill street, and declared that neither he nor any other police officer had done any shooting in the street at the time Pannill claimed to have been wounded.

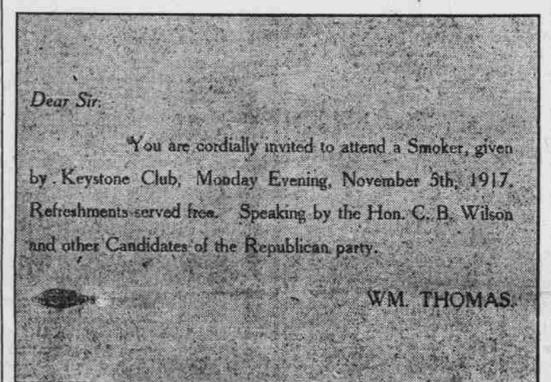
"Sergeant," asked the coroner, "how many shots did you fire up to the time that this man who is now dead was struck?"

Burns replied that he had shot three times, in the hallway.

"Do you think, then, that any bullet from your gun might have killed this man?" continued the coroner.

"No, sir," replied the sergeant, emphatically, "neither I nor any other policeman killed him, for I know for a certainty that not a policeman fired into the street until four or five minutes after Pannill had run out of the club."

Mayor Invited Guest of Doll



The above is a facsimile of a postal card found this morning in the debris which litters Baby Doll's bullet ridden den of iniquity in Water street. A dozen or more of these cards were scattered about the place.

When asked, "Has the administration given protection to Baby Doll Thomas?" by a reporter today, Mayor Clifford B. Wilson at first refused to make any reply, but later said:—

"Certainly not. Baby Doll nor anyone else has never been protected."

Asked if he knew the place existed he replied:—

"I couldn't tell you the exact location of it."

PLENTY OF COAL, BUT NEGLIGENCE OF CITY HOLDS UP DELIVERIES

Refusal of the city administration to make an attempt to clear the streets of snow, has resulted in the shutting off the coal supply to needy families by the Bridgeport branch of the United States Fuel Administration. Dealers have reported the streets to be almost impassable and refuse to allow their carts to attempt to plow through them. As a result not a single half ton order was given at the fuel committee's office today and more than 200 persons were turned away.

Although there is a plentiful supply of hard coal on hand, little relief is afforded the domestic situation, because of condition of the streets. Not only are the side streets clogged with slush and mud, but some of the most central streets, according to the complaints of dealers who declare that their large powerful motor trucks become disabled within the city limits.

The chairman declared that practically all the coal now coming is being shipped by water and that no considerable amount is going over the rails. "The factory situation," said

Simon, "is getting along well. The larger factories have comfortable supplies, but not in as great quantities as they desire."

The mayor's only reply was, "That would have to go to Major General Burpee." When asked if he would present this suggestion to the major general, Wilson said, "Why don't you do it?" speaking to the reporter. The mayor refused to comment on the condition of the city's streets.

That there is intense suffering among thousands of families is shown by the heavy demand upon coal dealers, also at the fuel committee's office. When the office opened this morning there were approximately 75 persons waiting and within a few minutes the line had increased greatly.

All were turned back, however, being told that no orders would be given except to those who would furnish their own deliveries.

"These prices allow a fair profit for the dealers and the bags should contain full weight. Any infringements should be reported to this committee."

Hun Plot Bared In Argentine

Buenos Aires Joins With Washington in Disclosing Further Evidence of Intrigues by Count Luxberg.

Washington, Dec. 19—Some two score more of telegrams which passed between Count von Luxburg, German minister to Argentina, and the German foreign office will be made public today by the state department by agreement with the Argentine government, which also will publish them simultaneously in Buenos Aires. Exposure of Count von Luxburg's "sink without trace" telegram by Secretary Lansing was what caused a rupture of diplomatic relations between Argentina and Germany.

Disclosure of more of the sensational Luxburg telegrams, the state department expected to lay bare more evidence of the diplomat's duplicity. This comes at an interesting time, especially as it is done by agreement with the Argentine government.

How the Argentine people will regard further exposure of German intrigue is regarded here as now more interesting than the effect on Latin America and the neutrality conference to be held in Buenos Aires.

While public sentiment for entering the war on the side of the United States and the Allies has been spreading through all Latin America, the conspicuous examples of inaction have been the governments of Mexico and Argentina.

The sudden visit of Ambassador Cabrera, of Mexico, to a so-called neutrality conference in Buenos Aires excited much speculation. Whether there can be any connection between the new Luxburg exposures and the relations between Mexico and Argentine excites much interest.

CAPT. DAVE JACK VETERAN POLICE OFFICER IS DEAD

"Captain Dave" Jack, retired police officer and fireman, is dead. The aged veteran, after having served the city of Bridgeport for more than forty years, succumbed to ailments incident to old age, this morning, and passed away at seven o'clock in his rooms on the top floor of the police building.

The ex-policeman was for more than thirty years driver of the police ambulance, and was well known throughout the city. He became a member of the police department upon quitting old Engine Company No. 5, which he joined in 1865, as driver.

Previously, he had been a member of the Excelsior Engine Company, a volunteer fire organization, and in his day was recognized as one of the best firemen ever to have fought a blaze.

He was born in Canada, and came to Bridgeport when a young man, finding employment as a blacksmith's helper with the firm of Hincks & Johnson, whose shop was at the corner of Cannon and Broad streets.

At that time he gained distinction as the strongest man in Bridgeport, and his great feats of strength were the common talk of the community.

U. S. LABORATORY BURNS. Muscatine, Ia., Dec. 20—Fire of unknown origin last night caused \$60,000 damage to the Laboratory of the United States biological station in Fairport, Iowa. The work of the station embraces the artificial propagation of fresh water mussel shells used in the manufacture of pearl buttons.

Lang Airs Financial Troubles

Asks Receivership For Bridgeport Shoe Co. After Partnership Has Been Dissolved—Claim Assets Endangered.

Financial difficulties of Joseph Lang recently mentioned in connection with the Prudential Outfitting Co. of New York, which is now in the hands of a receiver came to light again in the Superior Court with the application for a receiver for the Bridgeport Shoe Co., of which Lang is a large stockholder.

The application for the receivership is signed by Lang and two other partners. It is rumored that Lang's connection with certain financial sharks has brought about his financial troubles. Endorsement of notes which would have seemed to have borne rich results had they been "taken care of," are also believed to have contributed to Lang's present embarrassment.

Attorney James A. Marr has been appointed by Judge Howard J. Curtis of the Superior Court as temporary receiver for the Bridgeport Shoe Co., which has a store in this city. Bond in \$25,000 has been filed, and a hearing for confirmation as permanent receiver assigned for 10 o'clock, December 23.

Application for the receivership was brought through Banks & Nicholson by Joseph Lang, one of the partners of the company, but he is joined in the application by the other two, Max Elprin and Albert Hotz, all of this city.

In his application Lang recites that the company was a partnership which has been dissolved, but that the partners cannot agree upon the distribution of the assets of the concern, and that owing to attachments the assets are in danger of dissipation and being wasted.

Assets of about \$25,000, mostly in stock in trade, are claimed, and a receivership is desired to wind up the affairs of the partnership.

WIFE MISSING; HUSBAND FEARS EVIL INFLUENCE

Fearing that she may have been either coerced into leaving him, or forcibly abducted, Michael Pistelli, of 358 Grand street, complained to Detective Captain Edward Cronan, today, of the disappearance of his wife.

Pistelli told the authorities that there was a bad gang of men—"black-handers," he called them—living near his home, and he believes that it was their evil influence which robbed him of his wife. The woman disappeared yesterday, and with her Pistelli found missing his gold watch and chain, a diamond ring, and \$45 in cash.

Mrs. Pistelli is young and quite good looking. She worked in one of the local factories. She has a scar on the chin, and may easily be identified by her peculiar voice, which was affected by an illness suffered during infancy.

A peculiar co-incidence in connection with the disappearance occurred in the police court, this morning, when John Ardone, who lived with the Pistellis, was arraigned for carrying concealed weapons, and fined \$50 and costs. Ardone told the court that he carried the weapon for protection, being afraid of the "bad gang."

DRAFT HEADQUARTERS. Draft board for local Division No. 13, including Fairfield and Stratford, with some of the smaller towns of the county, has taken quarters in the county building in the room used as a coroner's and commissioner's court room.

SEVEN DAY EFFORT ON PART OF HUN TO SMASH THROUGH LINES AROUND MONTE SOLAROLO SALIENT IS DEFEATED---SUFFERING BIG LOSSES ATTACKERS QUIT

Rome, Dec. 18 (Delayed)—Repulse by the Italian and French forces of a mighty thrust by the enemy on the Monte Solarolo salient is announced in an official statement today. Cut up by the heavy return fire of the Allied batteries the infantry forces of the Teutons were forced to give up the attack. The official statement follows:

"Yesterday, the seventh day of the battle between the Brenta and the Piave, the enemy concentrated his efforts almost exclusively on the Monte Solarolo salient. At 11 o'clock in the morning after several hours of the most violent fire extending from the Col Dell Orso to Porte di Salton, columns of infantry from the northeast and the north were launched against our position.

"The former, which advanced from the southeastern slope of Monte Spinucci, was caught by our artillery and a most effective and concentrated fire from French batteries. It was forced to stop and give up the attack before getting in contact with our lines.

"The latter, consisting of a whole division of German troops preceded by assault detachments, made a direct and decided thrust against Monte Solarolo and the northern slopes at the head of the Calcino valley. Our troops put up a most stubborn resistance and the enemy, after a desperate struggle, being badly cut up by our fire and worn out by our counter attacks, was obliged to suspend action and return to his own lines. We captured prisoners and some machine guns.

"In the Col Della Beretta region a thrust on the part of enemy infantry was crushed promptly by our fire. On the remainder of the front the fighting activity was very moderate."

HUN PEACE FEELERS

Petrograd, Wednesday, Dec. 19—According to press reports, Russia has been informed by the Central powers that they intend to make peace proposals to the Allies.

This report is published in the Evening Post, which says the representatives of the Central powers, at the first preliminary peace conference with the Russians, held yesterday, announced their governments intended on principle to put the question of peace before all the powers, and that they had asked their allies to do likewise. Russia was requested to take similar steps. It is said that the Russians are trying by all means to sound the Allies.

The representatives of the Central powers informed the Russians that they were ready to discuss peace preliminaries but desired to know the result of Russia's efforts to induce the Allies to join in the negotiations before proceeding with them. They said this point of view might be changed, however, and that they might be willing to discuss peace with Russia alone. The Germans were of the opinion that the Russian armistice might influence the other fronts.

The first conference was devoted merely to a discussion of who would participate in the negotiations.

BASSICK LOSES CASE AGAINST EXPLOSIVES CO. LLOYD-GEORGE SEES FAILURE OF SUBMARINE

Contracts with the Aetna Explosives Co., under which Herbert F. John of New York, and Edgar W. Bassick of 1001 Fairfield avenue, president of the Burns-Bassick division of the Bassick company and president of the Bridgeport Savings bank, sought to recover \$4,000,000 in commissions, were decided as invalid by Judge Mayer in the federal district court, New York, yesterday.

Other contracts found were passed on favorably, with the result that John and Bassick are entitled to sums less than \$1,000,000.

The main ground for the decision as to the void contracts is that the amount of commissions agreed to be paid was so large as to be out of proportion to the services rendered.

Bassick was involved in a munition scandal last spring, which resulted in the dismissal of the Canadian minister of munitions.

Secret Service agents searched many homes at Newport, R. I., when reports were received by the government that sugar was being hoarded by the wealthy.

London, Dec. 20—Speaking in the house of commons today, David Lloyd-George, the British premier, said that the margin of losses at sea was narrowing. The sinkings by submarines, he declared, were decreasing, while ship building was increasing.

The premier said the sinking of submarines was increasing. Although the merchant tonnage was down by 20 per cent, he added, the loss had been only 6 per cent of imports over that of last year.

Regarding the military situation, Mr. Lloyd-George said it was idle to pretend that the hopes formed had been realized. This disappointment he attributed to the Russian collapse.

The Germans, the premier said, had had only success that was due to surprise and this was now engaging inquiry. The Germans, he said, had lost 100,000 prisoners, valuable positions and hundreds of guns.

THE WEATHER. For Bridgeport and vicinity: Cloudy tonight; Friday light rain.