



\$2,000,000 FIRE IN POTTSVILLE WIPES OUT BUSINESS BLOCK

Blaze Started in Rear of Woolworth Store and Spread Rapidly

WATER SUPPLY WAS POOR

Twenty Stores, Theater, Banks and Post Office Fuel For Flames

Pottsville, Pa., Dec. 17.—A \$2,000,000 fire wiped out one entire business block in the heart of the business district of Pottsville early this morning and at 8 o'clock it was burning fiercely after communicating to a second block, but at 9:30 o'clock it was under control.

From Centre to Second and from Norwegian to Mahantongo is a mass of red embers and smoking ruins or with the flames shooting skyward from the buildings yet unconsumed. Twenty-store buildings, including the Pennsylvania National Bank and the Academy of Music, one of Pottsville's leading playhouses, are among the buildings destroyed. The post office was afire, but was not badly damaged.

The fire started in the rear of the Woolworth five and ten cent store, communicated on both sides to the Britton Hoffman furniture store and the City Department Store, owned by a New York-Cleveland syndicate, part of the second floor of which was occupied by law offices. The other buildings destroyed were: W. S. Cowen, druggist; C. W. Mortimer, men's furnisher; E. A. Fisher, jewelry; Harry Schablen, pool and billiards; H. Lamer & Co., millinery; R. J. Mills, automobile supplies; T. F. Brennan, residence; Mrs. E. E. Rabeman, residence; P. Reif, tailor and residence; Guy W. Mortimer, residence; E. A. Goodall, medical institute; G. T. Burd, fire insurance; George Wiederhold, shoe store, and five brick and five stone completely but not yet occupied.

Valuables in Safe The Pennsylvania Bank building was occupied by lawyers and other offices on the second floor and on the third floor by the Masonic lodge. The bank's valuables were all locked up in a fireproof vault and are believed to be safe. The Union Safe Deposit Bank's new fireproof building on the corner was little damaged and opened for business while the fire raged around it. This bank building and a grocery store at another corner and a brick restaurant next to the bank were the only buildings left standing in the entire block.

Inability to secure a sufficient water supply in the early stages of the fire is given as a cause for the rapid spread of the conflagration. The electric power was shut off and the trolley lines, electric lights and electric power are all dead.

All but one of the buildings were of brick, the frame one being a small residence in Second street. The fire is located in one of Pottsville's principal business blocks and the merchants all had big stocks of holiday goods, which adds greatly to their loss, as this extra stock was not covered by insurance. It was the worst fire in Pottsville's history.

The fire burned itself out about 9:30 o'clock.

Bundle Water Meter in Carpet or Burlap, Bowman Advises Public

Property owners throughout the city are cautioned by Commissioner H. F. Bowman, superintendent of public safety, against the danger of freezing water meters during the extreme cold weather and he suggests a safeguard in the shape of burlap or carpet wrappings. Especial attention should be given to the mechanisms that are located close to an open window or coal hole, he says.

Nearly 400 meters were practically put out of service last year because of "freeze-ups." The cost of repairing, varying from \$2.25 to \$4.75 per meter, must be borne by the property owner, although the water department makes no charge for replacing damaged parts other than the labor involved. The necessary sections of the meters are replaced by the department exactly as cost.

THE WEATHER

For Harrisburg and vicinity: Fair, continued cold to-night and Friday; lowest temperature to-night about 12 degrees. For Eastern Pennsylvania: Fair to-night and Friday, not much change in temperature; moderate to fresh winds.

General Conditions Under the influence of an area of high barometric pressure that covers nearly all the eastern half of the country, with its center over the Lower Ohio Valley, fair weather has prevailed east of the Mississippi river during the last twenty-four hours, except on the west coast of Florida, where more rain has fallen, and along the northern and eastern borders of the Great Lakes, where light to moderately heavy snows have occurred.

POUND FOR THE POOR, TABERNACLE SLOGAN

Food and Clothing For Needy Will Be Collected at Stough Meeting Tonight

MUCH DIRE DISTRESS HERE

Evangelist Gets Scores of Appeals From Suffering; 80 More Hit the Trail

"A Pound For the Poor," is the slogan for the special night of rejoicing this evening at the tabernacle, when every one who attends the service is expected to bring a donation of a pound of some dry grocery, or article that can be distributed among the poor of the city and neighboring towns. Clothing will also be acceptable, and orders for more bulky supplies such as a ton of coal, a sack of flour, a bushel of potatoes or a barrel of apples will be welcomed, and the material will be called for during the week as necessary demands.

The aim of the occasion is to secure a large donation of supplies that are easily distributed and are not perishable, and the idea of each person bringing a pound of some common necessity was determined on as being the most practicable and easily managed plan of arranging a public charity. The goods will be placed at the disposal of the Associated Charities of Pottsville.

[Continued on Page 7]

FINAL PRUNING OF BUDGET ORDINANCE

City Commissioners Meet in Executive Session For Purpose This Afternoon

City Council met this afternoon in executive session to consider the final necessary pruning and paring of the 1915 budget ordinance so that the 1915 budget measure may be in shape for consideration at Tuesday's regular meeting. Whether or not any more special sessions will be necessary will be determined after to-day's meeting.

The budget, as it now stands, calls for something less than \$560,000. It is said, and by figuring on this basis of expenditure, the Commissioners believe that half a mill can be lopped from the present tax rate of nine and a half mills.

From the original budget City Commissioner H. F. Bowman, superintendent of public safety, cut \$3,600 appropriated for the department of food inspection. This item, he pointed out, was unnecessary in the general budget, and the food inspection department, said Commissioner Bowman, "it only makes the total look so much larger and the money really isn't needed. The income tax department licenses can be used for no other purpose than maintenance of the department and we've more than enough."

In addition to this \$2,200 was pared out of the original sum asked. A thousand wanted by Mayor Royal for an automobile runabout for the city sealer of weights and measures was refused, and \$1,200 was lopped from Mr. Bowman's estimate for an assistant plumbing inspector.

Mayor Royal said to-day that the Commissioners "might be able to skin through on a nine mill basis," but he added that he believed if this is done now, it will be necessary to put it back again next year. There is \$18,000, the Mayor said, set aside for the sinking fund of the city improvement loan. This had been provided for, according to the long established precedent a year ago, so enough is now being held in the sinking fund for that purpose for next year, he said. The 1915 budget, however, will have to include this sum again, he concluded.

TURKS DEMORIALIZED AFTER BATTLE WITH RUSS FORCES Petrograd, via London, Dec. 17, 8:23 a. m.—A communication issued by the Russian staff in the Caucasus says: "The Turks considerably reinforced from Bagdad and by a new formation, assumed the offensive in the Euphrates valley and the Van region, which resulted in a number of engagements of secondary importance. In these battles the Russians were invariably victorious, with the result that the Turkish forces are demoralized and in some cases have lost their effectiveness."

MASONIC TEMPLE IS AGAIN NEARLY BURNED

Early Morning Blaze Guts Lodge Rooms and Destroys Records and Paraphernalia

ORIGIN COMPLETE MYSTERY

Three Floors Are Damaged; Loss \$8,000; the Second Fire Within Six Weeks

Fire in the Masonic Temple early this morning again threatened the destruction of the building. Starting in a kitchen on the sixth floor, the flames spread to cloak and restrooms on the seventh floor and burned through to the fifth floor. The kitchen was gutted, the blue lodge room was burned out; a portion of the red room was damaged; books and papers in the secretary's room were destroyed, and the lodge paraphernalia, including fifty to seventy-five Knights Templar uniforms, was burned. The total loss is estimated at between \$8,000 and \$10,000. It is partially covered by insurance.

This was the second fire within six weeks at the Masonic Temple. On November 21 fire started in a wallpaper store on the first floor, spread to the second floor, and caused damage amounting to \$4,000. The flames to-day were discovered by a pedestrian about 5:50 this morning. An alarm was sent in from Box 231, Third and State streets, by William E. Machlin, the custodian.

[Continued on Page 7]

BANK ROBBER MAY BE FRANK J. HOHL

Two Cincinnati Banks Relieved of Cash by Man Who Escaped in Auto

Cincinnati, Ohio, Dec. 17.—An unidentified automobile bandit entered the West End branch of the Provident Savings Bank and Trust Company at Eighth and Freeman avenues, in the heart of the West End business district, here to-day, fired two shots at the cashier, gathered together about \$8,000, jumped into a waiting automobile and slowly backed to the door. He then jumped into a machine that had been placed in front of the bank and, driving the car himself, sped away. Hughes in the meantime had obtained his own revolver and fired at the fleeing man. None of the shots, either of the bandit or Hughes, apparently, took effect. The police responded to the call in an automobile and soon picked up the car.

Major Edward C. Shannon, Battalion Commander of Fourth Regiment, N. G. P.

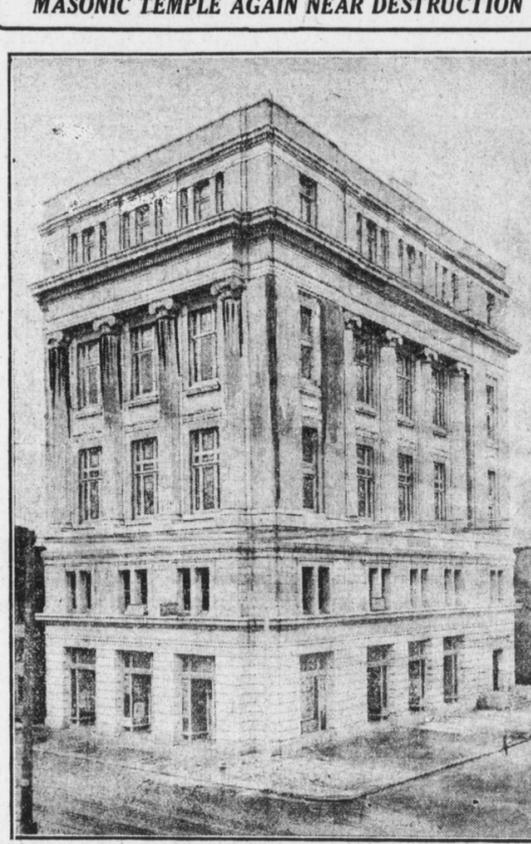


Columbia, Pa., Dec. 17.—Major Edward C. Shannon has just been re-elected to that office in the Fourth Regiment of the National Guard of Pennsylvania. Major Shannon is a popular officer and a man of fine military bearing. He is also custodian of the State armory at this place and is one of Columbia's most highly esteemed citizens.

Major Shannon enlisted in the Guard in 1889 as a private in Company C, Fourth Regiment, and was soon promoted to corporal and then to sergeant. He was elected lieutenant and then later captain. During the Spanish-American War he was captain of the company. He was in Porto Rico with the regiment and after the war he was elected a major when a reorganization was effected. He has several times represented the State Guard at the National Guard Association meetings.

FOUR VESSELS SUNK BY MINES; BRITISH FEAR ANOTHER RAID

MASONIC TEMPLE AGAIN NEAR DESTRUCTION



Photograph of the Masonic Temple building, showing damage from fire.

WOMEN AND CHILDREN KILLED BY SHELLS

First Warning of Attack on Scarborough Was Made at 5:30 Yesterday Morning

Scarborough, via London, Dec. 17, 8:15 a. m.—"The Queen of English watering places" has recovered to-day from the unexpected bombardment and the feeling is one of bitter anger at the town's helplessness under the guns of the German squadron. The first warning sound of distant firing, which attracted little attention except from the military authorities, came at 5:30 in the morning. At 8 o'clock three German warships, which the majority of witnesses agree were one battle cruiser and two lighter cruisers, loomed out of a heavy fog so close underneath the cliffs that they were seen to be firing.

National Guard Is Now Being Organized to Protect Metropolis

London, Dec. 17, 3:25 a. m.—In view of the possibilities of an invasion London is now to have a defense corps under a title hitherto not used in this country, "the national guard." The morning papers contain the following notice displayed in large type in the advertising columns: "It is felt by a large section of the community that some steps should be taken in the city of London to meet the possibility of an invasion."

AUSTRIANS REPORT CAPTURE OF 31,000 RUSSIAN SOLDIERS

Berlin, Dec. 17, by wireless to Sayville.—A statement given out to-day by the German official press bureau says: "The Austrian general staff reports that 31,000 Russians have been taken prisoners in West Galicia."

FIFTEEN SCHOOL BOYS KILLED

London, Dec. 17, 1:35 P. M.—A majority of the victims at Hartlepool were women and children. Fifteen school boys were killed by a single shell, only one boy in a group escaping. Ten persons were killed by the collapse of a building in which they had taken shelter. One shell damaged a building 1/2 miles from shore.

OCCUPY GERMAN TRENCHES

Paris, Dec. 17, 2:58 P. M.—The French war office gave out an official statement this afternoon as follows: "Between the sea and the Lys we have occupied several German trenches at the point of the bayonet, consolidated our positions at Lombartzyde and St. Georges, and organized the territory taken from the enemy to the west of Ghelvelt."

74 DEAD AND 115 INJURED AS RESULT OF COAST ATTACK

Mines Strwn in Wake of Fleeing German Cruisers Cause Destruction of Steamers; Germany's Plan For Operation Against Russians Is Gradually Unfolding; Petrograd Claims Defeat of Turks

SOUTH SHIELDS, ENGLAND, DEC. 17, VIA LONDON, 2:45 P. M.—FOUR STEAMERS, ONE BELIEVED TO BE A PASSENGER SHIP, WERE SUNK BY MINES IN THE NORTH SEA OFF FLAMBOROUGH HEAD LAST NIGHT.

ONLY ONE OF THESE VESSELS HAS SO FAR BEEN IDENTIFIED. THIS IS THE STEAMER ELTERWATER, TWELVE OF HER CREW WERE SAVED BUT SEVEN LOST THEIR LIVES. THE CASUALTIES ON THE OTHER SHIPS HAVE NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED, BUT IT IS REPORTED THAT THE CREW AND PASSENGERS OF THE PASSENGER VESSEL WERE SEEN TAKING TO THEIR BOATS. THE ADMIRALTY HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ALL TRAFFIC BETWEEN FLAMBOROUGH HEAD AND NEW CASTLE HAS BEEN STOPPED INDEFINITELY.

Flamborough Head is about twenty miles down the coast from Scarborough, one of the points bombarded yesterday by the German cruisers. These hostile ships were reported to have left mines in their wake as they steamed away from the British coast.

The area from Flamborough Head to New Castle, in which all traffic has been stopped, embraces the entire field in which the German raiders operated.

Seventy-four killed. Seventy-four persons were killed and

One of the greatest victories of the [Continued on Page 12]

Washington, Dec. 17.—Rear Admiral Fiske expressed himself as being in favor of more submarines at to-day's hearing before the House Naval Committee on the needs of sea defense. He said an adequate number of British submarines would have prevented the raid on English coast towns yesterday.

Clidwell, Dec. 17.—After a pistol duel here with German raiders, the bandit who robbed two local banks this morning, was captured late this afternoon, but not until both he and one of the officers had been injured. Both men have been removed to a hospital. The bandit's identity has not yet been established.

London, Dec. 17, 4:45 P. M.—A dispatch from Rome, says: "A Trieste official has announced the blowing up by a mine and the sinking of the Austrian training ship Beethoven with the loss of the crew and all the cadets on board."

Washington, Dec. 17.—Colonel Goethals informed the War Department to-day that excepting reports of misuse of wireless he knew of no violation of neutrality at the Panama Canal zone.

CITY OF PUEBLA EVACUATED

Washington, Dec. 17.—The city of Puebla, in the State of that name, has evacuated by Carranza forces and now is held by Zapatistas. A report to the State Department to-day says Carranza troops burned the railroad station before departing.

GERMANS UNDER ARREST

London, Dec. 17, 3:25 P. M.—All naturalized Germans in the spart of Sunderland, a short distance north of the English coast towns which were bombarded by the Germans yesterday, were arrested over night, according to a dispatch published by the Exchange Telegraph Company.

WILDWOOD SKATING POPULAR

500 Visit Lake First Night of the Season; Cold to Continue. Nearly five hundred took advantage of the season's first skating on Wildwood yesterday after announcement was made by the Park Commission that more than five inches of ice covered the lake.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Harry Lincoln Yinger and Buehll Fillmore, York. Clyde Chester Woods, Boiling Springs, and Florence Bear Black, Carlisle. Charles T. Schillot, Philadelphia, and Anna H. Stull, Lewistown. George C. Sellers and Martha Siders, city. Rolla E. Lehman, York Springs, and Daisy E. Moody, Dillsburg. The damage was slight.