

TERRIFIC TORNADO SWEEPS DISTRICT NEAR WIMBLETON AND GREAT DAMAGE IS DONE

SIX PEOPLE SERIOUSLY INJURED AND PROPERTY DAMAGE TO THE EXTENT OF \$300,000, IS THE RESULT OF FURIOUS WIND STORM IN EASTERN SECTION OF NORTH DAKOTA.

MRS. CARL MORTENSON MAY DIE FROM INJURIES RECEIVED

MEMBERS OF MORTENSON FAMILY NEAR WIMBLETON ARE WORST SUFFERERS FROM THE DEVASTATING WIND STORM; HOME IS COMPLETELY DESTROYED AND OTHER DAMAGE DONE NEARBY.

Fargo, N. D., May 25.—Six people were seriously injured and property damage, estimated at \$300,000, was done in and around Wimbleton in a terrific tornado that hit the district about 5 o'clock this morning, while an added hundred thousand dollar's damage was done in other sections. Wire connection with Wimbleton, restored tonight, brought the story of the terrific tornado.

The Injured Mrs. Carl Mortenson, skull fractured and shoulder dislocated. May die.

Carl Mortenson, crushed and bruised, but will recover.

Hazel Mortenson, leg fractured. Audrey Mortenson, bruises and cut. James Vendler, skull fractured.

Dr. W. B. Wanner, shoulder dislocated and bruised.

The complete destruction of the Wimbleton opera house and the partial destruction of other business buildings, coupled with the raising of about forty big barns in the district surrounding the city, indicated the fierceness of the early morning tornado. Members of the Mortenson family residing five miles from Wimbleton were injured when their home was completely destroyed by the tornado. Rescue parties brought the victims to Wimbleton and they were taken to Valley City aboard a special Soo Line train that had been sent out of Enderlin with relief parties.

The fact that the local doctor was himself injured hindered relief work. Dr. Wanner being hurt while returning from a night call, his buggy being overturned by the wind two miles from town. Vendler was injured when a cook car in which he was sleeping was thrown over.

Storm damage also is reported at Page, Amentia, Ayre, Erie, Arsville, Hunter, Rogers, Leal and several intermediate points, the storm crossing the Red River at Georgetown and spending itself on the Minnesota side with little additional damage. In the North Dakota district several hundred barns were raised and other damage done.

Etter Garage Lveled The Etter garage in Wimbleton, in which twenty-five automobiles were housed, was leveled and all the machines badly damaged. One elevator was badly damaged. The Frank Pick residence was unroofed and partially demolished, the family escaping by taking refuge in the cellar. The glass taken out and the flood of the water and hail carried before the high wind caused heavy damage. Many small buildings and barns were razed.

Page was another center of the fierce storm. The opera house was unroofed, the roof being carried two hundred feet. The light plant was unroofed and partially demolished, the exhaust pipe being driven three feet through the wall of a residence nearby. The opera house roof was dropped onto the front of a butcher shop and bowling alley, completely wrecking them. The Catholic church was moved six feet off its foundation and left standing without damaging the interior. All telephone poles on the \$25,000.

Around Ayre over thirty barns were leveled and many small buildings were damaged. Nobody was injured. At Arsville the wind had terrific force, wrecking small buildings, tearing chimneys off houses, wrecking store fronts, and causing about \$2,000 damage. A hundred telephone poles between Arsville and Hillsboro were down. Around Hunter many big farm barns were wrecked and some livestock killed. Wild reports about Amentia being leveled are without foundation. That place suffered some damage, being confined almost entirely, however, to small buildings, barns and elevator. The Chaffee farm was damaged somewhat by small buildings being overturned, but the loss is nominal. The storm district seems to run from a point northwest of Wimbleton and thence in an easterly direction to the Red River, the storm spending its force in Clay county.

Storm Crosses to Minnesota. After crossing the Red river into Minnesota, near Georgetown, Minn., the storm spent itself and little damage was done.

Rain Storm at Center. A heavy rain storm was experienced at Center late Wednesday evening and early yesterday morning, accompanied by strong winds.

(Continued on Page Three)

CONFESSES TO MURDER OF YOUNG GIRL

Paul Verhoige, Alias Armstrong, Admits Choking Miss Holden to Death.

ENRAGED BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO BREAK DATE

Startling Facts Told by Self-Confessed Murderer at Aurora, Ill.

Aurora, Ill., May 25.—Paul Verhoige, alias Armstrong, a 19-year-old youth of this city, was held on a charge of murdering Wendelin Holden, the 15-year-old daughter of Mrs. Anna Holden Collins, a rooming house keeper, today.

Testimony at the inquest was brief. Sore Because She Broke Date "I killed her. I choked her to death," he testified.

"I had a date with her," he said, "but she wanted to break it to go with another fellow. Her mother was across the river looking after a bit of property she had there, and I called on Gwen to ask her to come with me.

"She laughed at me. Laughed! Laughed! and before I knew it my hands were around her throat. I wanted to choke that laugh off her face. She became unconscious, but still breathed. I waited a while, and by and by she quit breathing. Then I thought I would commit suicide.

Tries Chloroform "I went to a doctor and asked him how much chloroform it would take to kill a dog. He said four ounces, and I got a prescription for that much. Then I went back to the house and put it in a cup.

"I tasted it. It tasted sweet. Then I got cold feet and left the house. I went to a saloon and took a beer, to wash out the taste of the poison. Then I went and watched some men fishing. After that home."

David B., the boy's father, was a witness. He said he came from Belgium eleven years ago. He regarded his son as a rover.

"When Paul came home, he said, 'Well, that Holden girl is dead,'" testified the elder Holden.

The murder occurred yesterday. The body was found late at night, and news became public today.

Gwendolyn was a daughter of Mrs. Collins by a former marriage.

TESTIFY IN WIRE TAPPING SCANDAL

Roman Catholic Clergymen On Stand and Deny Mayor Mitchell's Charges.

New York, May 25.—Roman Catholic clergymen whose telephone wires were tapped during the investigation of charitable institutions took the witness stand today before the legislative committee, and denied the charges of Mayor Mitchell, that they were involved in a conspiracy to discredit the city administration through attacks upon the Department of Charities.

They made the counter allegation that the Mayor played a prominent part in a conspiracy designed to discredit the administration of Catholic Orphanages. The priests asserted that after discovering that their telephones had been tapped, they deliberately planned to trap the Mayor by prearranged conversations, and that they were successful in their purpose.

While admitting certain parts of the overheard conversations, which were read yesterday by Mr. Mitchell, the witnesses protested that his account of these talks, in the main, were inaccurate. They contended that the language used was not theirs.

ENTIRE FAMILY IS LOST

Thief River Falls, Minn., May 25.—P. J. Michels, his wife and their 7-year-old daughter have disappeared, and all efforts to locate them have been fruitless. Mr. Michels was an employe in the dispatcher's office of the Soo Line here, and on May 7 secured a week's leave.

He was last seen starting for the Red Lake agency, in a launch, with his family. When he did not return, inquiries were made and it was found that he had not reached his destination, and a systematic search was instituted. Sheriff Larbee, who believes the family drowned, left today for Neptune, on Red lake, to search for the missing lake.

BRAGDON CASE IS SERIOUS

Minneapolis, Minn., May 25.—Preparation of a perjury indictment in the county attorney's office today indicated that the grand jury investigating the charges growing out of the Joseph W. Bragdon trial was about to return a bill against one of the witnesses in the case.

The testimony heard by the jurors included the story of the state's new "mystery girl" witness, that one of the girls in the Bragdon case said after the first trial that her testimony for the defense was a "pack of lies." It also included the story of Frank Roland, that he had been paid a total of \$200 by Bragdon and by agents for the defense.

WAITE TAKES STAND ON HIS OWN BEHALF

New York Dentist Tells Some Startling Secrets in Effort to Save Himself.

ATTEMPT TO PROVE HE WAS INSANE

Prisoner's Story Is Shocking; Stole From Early Childhood.

New York, N. Y., May 25.—Dr. Arthur Warren Waite calmly recounted on the witness stand tonight in an effort to save himself from conviction for the murder of his father-in-law, John P. Peck, by showing he was of unsound mind, how he attempted to cause the death of Miss Katherine Peck, the wealthy aunt of his wife, and his own benefactor, by feeding her disease germs. He also told of trying to kill his wife's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John E. Peck, in the same way, before resorting to poison as a more effective means. He testified in addition regarding his relations with Mrs. Margaret Horton, his "study" companion.

Puts Germs in Food Waite said he put ground glass in a can of marmalade, and gave it to Miss Katherine Peck prior to his marriage. He also put disease germs in a can of fish and gave that to her. Afterwards, he frequently gave various germs, including typhoid, while he was studying bacteriology.

He tried to produce the germs himself, he said, but his cultures failed and he purchased them. He was able to buy germs of diphtheria, pneumonia, influenza and other diseases.

"What did you want of the germs," he was asked.

"I wanted to give them to certain people," he said.

The trouble with the germs, Waite said, was that they were not virulent enough. He began to take an interest in bacteriology long before his marriage, he explained. After he had given germs to Miss Peck for a while he became discouraged because of his lack of success. He put germs in her food, but he denied that he gave her arsenic.

"Did you administer any bacteria to Mrs. Peck?"

"Yes, soon after she arrived; I had been working on them for some time and had them all ready for her."

"How often did you give them to her?"

"Quite often. I put them in her food on the first day she came, and she grew ill almost immediately."

He gave Mrs. Peck millions of germs, he said.

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"Typhoid, pneumonia and others. I gave him a spray and put diphtheria and later pneumonia germs in it and had him spray his throat every time he went out. They had no effect, and I tried to make them stronger."

"I put water in the sheets of his bed so that he would catch cold, but he didn't. I also put a chemical compound in his room which would create a poisonous gas, but it failed to produce results. One night I turned on the gas, but the superintendent of the building came up and turned it off."

Gives Him Arsenic. "I gave him arsenic a few days before he was planning to go away. I got 90 grains, I think. I think it was three or four days before Mr. Peck died that I began to give him arsenic. I gave him a little at first and increased the dose until all of it was gone. I gave him the doses in his food. Once or twice, it was in egg-nog and once in rice pudding, and then once in hot milk."

Waite told of sleeping on the couch the night before his father-in-law died.

(Continued on page five)

FIGHTING NEAR VERDUN IS UNABATED

Germans Continue Unprecedented Bombardment Near Verdun.

ONE MORE GAIN IS MADE BY GERMANS

Heavy Artillery Duel in Progress Around Fort Douaumont.

The battle of Verdun continues unabated. On both sides of the Meuse river, northeast and northwest of the fortress, the Germans are keeping up their unprecedented bombardment and vicious infantry attack, while the French are replying to the fire almost shot for shot.

One more gain, however, has been made by the Germans. After recapturing Fort Douaumont and taking trenches south and southwest of the fort, the Germans to the west have occupied a section of French trenches after a series of attacks, in all of which they were repulsed with heavy casualties, except those where they penetrated the French line.

Artillery Duel. Around Douaumont, a heavy artillery duel is in progress. An attack against the Russians west of Dalin island gave them momentarily the possession of a Russian advance trench, a counter attack by the Russians dislodging the invaders.

Attack Repulsed. Any attempt by the Italians to advance against the Russians north of Olyka station, southeast of Lutsk, was repulsed by the Russians.

In the region southeast of Trent and across the border in Italy, Rome reports the repulse of Austrian attacks and throwing back of the attackers in disorder. In the Astico-Posina region, the Italians are replying effectively to the bombardment of the Austrians in the Asiago-Susana valley district, the situation is unchanged.

Turks Stop Russians. In connection with the fighting on the Persian front, according to Constantinople, the Turks have stopped the advance of the Russians in the region of Kasar-I-Shirin and also defeated Russian detachments at Sulamish, north of Kasar-I-Shirin.

King George has signed the military bill, under which all males between the ages of 18 and 41 years may be called to the colors.

David Lloyd-George, the British munitions minister, will attempt to bring harmony out of discord among the Irish factions.

The task is undertaken at the request of Premier Asquith and the Irish leaders have agreed to confer with Mr. Lloyd-George in an endeavor to reach the desired end.

ORPET'S PARENTS ARE SUBPOENAED

Parents of Marian Lambert Also Called as State Witnesses.

Waukegan, Ill., May 25.—Mr. and Mrs. E. O. Orpet, parents of Will H. Orpet, University of Wisconsin student, on trial for the murder of Marian Lambert, his former sweetheart, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lambert, parents of the dead girl, have been subpoenaed as witnesses, respectively, by the State and the defense. It was revealed at the trial today. About 200 persons have been subpoenaed as witnesses.

Progress in the selection of the jury fared no better today than it has during the earlier part of the week. Three jurors were excused on peremptory challenge by the defense and two by the state. One of them was Theodore W. Durst, president of the Security Savings bank of Waukegan, and another, J. F. Biddinger, former mayor of Waukegan.

Two More Jurymen. When court adjourned two additional men had been tentatively accepted. They are: E. J. Bock, former superintendent of the Chicago & Milwaukee Electric railroad, and Jas. O'Shea, a music dealer, both married.

Ten of the 20 peremptory challenges allowed each side have been used. Only four jurors have been sworn in.

MRS. MATTERS AND OTHERS NOT GUILTY

Chicago, May 25.—Mrs. Dolly Ledgerwood Matters and her co-defendants, charged with conspiracy to foist a spurious heir to the Matters estate, on the probate court of Cook county, were found not guilty today.

COMMISSION TAKES PRELIMINARY STEPS TO CARRY OUT \$400,000 PAVING PROJECT FOR BISMARCK

COMMERCIAL CLUB PRESENTS PETITIONS EMBRACING MORE THAN FIFTY PER CENT. OF ALL INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY OWNERS AND SIXTY PER CENT. OF THE RESIDENT ONES.

COMMISSIONER BATTEY HEADS SPECIAL PAVING COMMITTEE

LOCAL BUSINESS ORGANIZATION, THROUGH ITS DIRECTORS, TO NAME AN ADVISORY BODY OF FROM FIVE TO SEVEN MEMBERS. MAYOR LUCAS URGES IMMEDIATE ACTION ON PROPOSITION.

Preliminary steps were taken by the City commission last evening toward the proposed \$400,000 paving project for the city of Bismarck. Petitions representing more than a majority of all property owners were filed with the City Commission by W. E. Lahr, chairman of the Commercial Club Paving committee, who, together with Carl Pederson and G. C. Wachter, compose the Paving committee of the club.

Mayor Lucas tendered the thanks of the City Commission to the club members for their interest in the matter. Secretary Price of the club was present and assisted in the presentation of the petitions.

Accompanying the petitions was a letter signed by Mr. Lahr which indicates the enthusiasm for paving in Bismarck and reflects the unanimity of the property owners for this much needed improvement.

CITY FATHERS MAY APPOINT THE INSPECTORS

Judge Nuessle's Opinion Analyzed by City Attorney McCurdy.

DISTRICT JUDGE SETS FORTH PROCEDURE

Although County Auditor Flaherty has published the names of the election inspectors named by the county commissioners, and Judge Nuessle has quashed the writ of mandamus directing him to recognize the inspectors appointed by the city commission, it now develops that this all transpired because the city commission did not proceed correctly in the first place.

It is now proposed to proceed in line with the ruling of Judge Nuessle, which is that the city commissioners must cast lots and the one decided upon in this manner will act as inspector in his precinct and name the other inspectors.

McCurdy's Report This was embodied last evening in a report given by City Attorney McCurdy upon Judge Nuessle's ruling. The impression at first was because the writ was quashed, this had the effect of confirming the county commissioners' appointments.

It now develops that the writ was quashed because the city commission did not proceed regularly in naming the inspectors.

May Name Inspectors The commission probably when they meet next Monday will name six inspectors in line with Judge Nuessle's ruling, and then it will be up to Flaherty to decide to which set of inspectors he will deliver the election supplies. Those contending that the city commission has the right declared last evening that further action would be taken if necessary to determine where the appointive power lay. Judge Nuessle while outlining the method of procedure has not yet formally passed upon the city commission's authority. It is also said that the publication of the county board's inspectors in the election notices does not prejudice any of the city's rights in the matter.

Accept Booster Pumps Another matter of importance passed upon by the commission last evening was the formal acceptance of the booster pumps. Several tests were made this week and the pumps met every requirement of the ordinance.

An ordinance requiring that all water and gas service pipes into buildings be lead was placed on its first reading.

City Engineer Atkinson was instructed to secure plans and specifications to make the pest house habitable. Conditions there are deplorable.

With regard to special assessments for public improvements, it may be stated that Fargo, with an assessed valuation less than 9-1-3

Little Opposition. The committee has encountered little active opposition to the paving project. A majority of those approached but who did not care to sign, expressed themselves as not opposed to the improvement. Less than a score of all the property owners in Bismarck who have been interviewed by the committee have declined to petition for the creation of the paving district; of these, not more than half a dozen have declared themselves opposed to the project in its general features, and all of the remainder have expressed a willingness to abide by the decision of the majority.

Decided Sentiment. The committee has found a very general and a very decided sentiment for immediate action. It is felt that there is no good reason why actual paving in the downtown district, at least, should not begin this year. The petitioners herewith represented pray that the preliminary work proceed with all possible dispatch. It is universally felt by the property owners and tax payers interested in this project that much of the beneficial effect which is expected from the improvement will be lost unless there is something definite in the way of accomplishment to show for the Capital City when the legislature convenes next winter.

In connection with the proposed improvement, the committee begs the liberty of calling attention to the fact that Bismarck is not now laboring under heavy tax burdens, as compared with other North Dakota cities of the same class and smaller. The 1915 tax levy for all purposes was 66.2 mills in Bismarck; in Valley City the levy was 66.9 mills; in Devils Lake, 74.5 mills; in Dickinson, 67.2 mills; in Minot, 74.3 mills, and in Mandan, 74.5 mills. Of the ten leading cities in North Dakota, only four enjoy a lower tax rate than Bismarck, and five pay higher taxes.

(Continued on page three)