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Vol. 12. No. 52

Leavenworth, Wash., Friday, December 31, 1915

State Library Olympia Wash

\$1.50 Per Year



HAPPY



NEW



YEAR

DISASTROUS FIRE LAST SUNDAY NIGHT

Three Store Buildings, Including Post-office, Entirely Destroyed—Echo Building Not Damaged

Sunday night last, between 10:30 and 11 o'clock fire was discovered in the basement of the building occupied by the postoffice, adjoining the Echo office, on the corner of Eighth and Commercial streets. From a statement made by Tommy Davis the night of the fire it is believed it originated from the furnace. He says he was in the postoffice earlier in the night and filled the furnace with coal and closed the door, and he says he believes it exploded.

Some delay was occasioned in getting the water on the building because of the immense amount of snow on the ground, about four feet in depth. There was no way of getting into the basement from the front and the firemen went to the rear and tried to enter the basement from that point. Dense volumes of smoke poured out, in truth so dense and thick that not the slightest evidence of fire or blaze could be seen. The entrance is so made that it is impossible to direct water into the basement without getting on the inside and this was found impossible. In trying to get inside and direct the water to the front of the basement, where the fire was supposed to be Henry Craig, one of the men manning the nozzle was overcome with smoke and had to be taken to the hospital where he shortly after revived with no bad effects. After this no effort was made to enter the building.

In an effort to get to the fire from the front a hole was chopped out under the show windows, but in this only a narrow opening between the floor and sidewalk, about eight inches wide, could be made and it was impossible to get to the fire with water from this point. This however gave the fire a draft and in less than five minutes after the hole was made in the front the fire broke out in the rear with a tremendous roar. Two streams were promptly directed against the fire, which soon made an opening in the rear so that water could be poured into the inside. By this time the fire had gained such headway in the basement, which was separated from an adjoining basement under the Palace store by a wooden partition, and another wooden partition separated it from the basement under the Leavenworth Furniture Co.'s store, that it was impossible to make any headway against it. While an effort at entrance to the postoffice basement was being made, the fire spread to the two adjoining basements, all of which were divided by board partitions. From the time that the fire issued from the rear of the postoffice basement no effort was made to save the building, as it was doomed. Three streams of water were thrown into the building for six hours without having any perceptible effect on the progress of the fire. It looked as if the water added fuel to the fire and made it burn fiercer, so intense was the heat. Nothing was saved from any of the occupied stores or the post-office. In the latter was a lot of Christmas letters and packages, undelivered, and the previous day's accumulation of outgoing mail.

The postoffice adjoined the Echo building, which at no time was considered in danger. A substantial concrete and brick wall separated it from the other buildings, and the damage is

confined to what was caused by water and will probably be less than \$25.

The other building, erected in 1913 by the Leavenworth Building & Loan Association, fronted 95 feet on Commercial street and was 75 feet deep. It was divided into three rooms. The one occupied by the postoffice was 22 feet wide; the adjoining room was the same width and was occupied by Mr. S. A. Murray, owner of the Palace Store, with a stock of dry goods and women's wear. Adjoining that was the Leavenworth Furniture Co., Messrs. A. G. McCoy and O. B. Hayes, proprietors. They occupied a frontage of 50 feet. The outer walls of the building were brick, but the partitions between the furniture store, the Palace and the postoffice were all made of wood, and made the fire impossible of control, as the partitions added to the fire.

The wooden warehouse of K. & V. B. Hardware Co., across the alley from the building occupied by the Leavenworth Furniture Co. was saved with little effort and was never considered in much danger. The loss of the Furniture Co. is approximately \$5,000, with insurance amounting to \$3,500. Mr. Murray, of the Palace Store, says he has \$7,500 insurance and says his net loss is \$8,000, which would make his stock value \$15,500. The loss on the postoffice fixtures is \$2,300 with \$1,500 insurance. The value of the government property amounted to some \$1500. The loss of the building is estimated at \$6,000, with \$5,500 insurance. Whether it will be rebuilt has not yet been decided on.

While this was not by any means the largest fire the town has had in the past twelve years it was one of the worst to combat that has ever occurred here, on account of the difficulty of getting to the fire. There was an abundance of water and the pressure was never less than 80 pounds, and the volunteers worked bravely and hard to save the building. It was very difficult to get into the basement and the dense smoke only added to the trouble.

All the blanks and fixtures intended for the new postoffice at Winton were in the Leavenworth postoffice the night of the fire and were destroyed. This will delay the opening of the Winton office until a new outfit can be ordered.

After the fire a number of Christmas packages were recovered. All of them were saturated and some of the packages had the address destroyed, while other packages and letters appeared to be uninjured and were delivered. An enormous lot of mail and postoffice blanks, mail pouches and other things belonging to the postoffice was recovered in a more or less damaged condition. The contents of the two safes in the post office was found wet but otherwise undamaged except the stamps which were useless. The contents of the safes in the Palace store and the furniture store were also found in good condition.

What the Fire Victims Will Do

Mr. O. S. Sampson, head of the Investment Co., successor to the Building & Loan Co., and the principal stockholder says the burned block will be rebuilt as soon as arrangement can be made after an adjustment with the insurance companies is had.

Mr. A. G. McCoy, of the furniture Co., says he does not yet know if his company will resume business and will determine after the fire loss is adjusted.

Mr. S. A. Murray, proprietor of the Palace Store, says he will not know what he will do until after he has an adjustment with the insurance companies.

SENATOR JONES ON PREPAREDNESS

Submits Different Propositions and Wants Voters to Write Him Expressions of Opinion

To Each Individual in the State of Washington:

I earnestly ask that every man and woman will read carefully the questions below and after carefully considering them from every angle, sit down and write me his or her views thereon. I have frankly stated my personal views but, as the representative of our people, I desire in a matter of this kind to reflect their views as nearly as I can ascertain what they are; and it is to get this information that I am submitting these inquiries:

First—Do we need a larger standing army than we now have for purely peace purposes and domestic duties? I think not.

Second—Whatever may be the final outcome of the present war in Europe, do you think that any of the countries involved will want to go to war with us at once or very soon after it comes to a close? I do not think so?

Third—If you think any country now involved will desire to go immediately or very soon into war with us, kindly say why you think so.

Fourth—Do you think it most probable that there will be at least several years of general peace when the war closes? I do.

If we are likely to be attacked by a strong power, do you think that an increase in our standing army by 40,000 men will enable us to make an effective defense? I do not.

Sixth—If we should prepare now to meet an attack by a strong power in the near future, don't you think we should make adequate and prompt preparations by organizing a standing army of 250,000 or 500,000 men, as urged by the war experts? I do.

Seventh—If trouble is to come soon, should we take four or five years to pre-

pare to meet it, either in military or naval preparations? I think not.

Eighth—If early trouble is not probable, would it not be wiser to wait until the war closes and determine our policies by the conditions then existing? I do.

Ninth—Don't you think the wisest preparedness now would be the construction of interstate highways along our coast lines, so that in case of the landing of a hostile force we could mobilize quickly our defense where needed? I think so.

Tenth—We are excited over preparedness. There is a disposition to rush immediately into some scheme or plan for increasing our military and naval power, regardless of the cost, and without waiting to see what the conditions may be that will confront us at the close of this war. If we conduct ourselves in a neutral way, none of the countries engaged in it will want to get into a controversy with us. Conditions resulting from the final treaty of peace may make the future actions of nations in regard to military armaments entirely different from what they are now. Because of the very great importance of this subject and of what increased military and naval armaments mean in the way of increased taxes. I am anxious to know the individual views of as many of our people as I can secure on the questions submitted. To me it looks like we are unduly excited and that the wise course to take would be to give our attention to preparing to meet the commercial contest that we are sure to face, and when war closes determine our military and naval policy upon conditions then existing among the great nations of the world?

Most respectfully,
W. L. Jones.
Washington, D. C.

To the senator's first question, which he answers in the negative, we submit a qualified answer. In the event of a German victory we think the need of a larger standing army is quite probable to preserve peace and order. In that event it is highly probable that Germany would attack Canada. Also in that event it is possible we might have trouble in repressing the German element in this country, who if they did not take up arms against this government, which is unlikely, would cause international trouble in the violation of our neutrality with other nations.

To the second question, the likelihood of war with any of the European nations immediately following the close of the present war, we think it scarcely likely, but quite possible in the event of German victory. Therefore it is necessary as a measure of precaution to be prepared for any eventuality.

To the third question, our reply is that in the event of German victory, nothing is sure.

To the fourth question we have to say: We think it highly probable that the close of the big war will be followed by turbulent times all over Europe; war on a lesser scale and violent revolutions.

To the fifth—Unqualifiedly, no! A half million would come nearer to what we need. A million would insure protection.

With the sixth proposition we can readily agree.

To the seventh we have but one an-

swer. Prompt and adequate preparation, on a scale limited to our ability.

Eighth—We do not think preparation should wait on the conclusion of the present struggle. Prompt preparation is a form of insurance we can afford. The immediate future is too full of danger. No man can foresee and tell just what will happen.

Improvement of our highways, which relates to the ninth proposition, is important and ought not to be overlooked. But the best highways, without a trained army, would afford no protection.

To the last paragraph of Senator Jones' ten propositions we have to say—On principle we are opposed to war, and dare hope that some day it may be abolished by agreement between the leading nations of the world. Civilization in Europe has reached a higher plane of moral and ethical development than may be claimed for the western hemisphere, but even there a solemn agreement is only a scrap of paper. Until the moral element behind the government—Lincoln's plain people—is in favor of keeping agreements made by the government, force is the only reliable remedy on which we can rely to preserve our national integrity. To wait until the close of the war to determine what should be done in the way of preparedness might be fatal. In view of the stake would it be prudent to take the risk? We think not.

600 shopmen go to work at full time in the "Milwaukee" yards at Tacoma.

"Club Stories"

A new book published by the Washington State Federation of Women's Clubs will soon be on the library shelves and will be found interesting reading for the women.

Strangers in the town who may want the privilege of the library can be depositing one dollar get any book on the shelves. The money to be refunded on return of the book.

School Troubles in Dist. No. 22

Something that might be likened to a tempest in a teapot prevails in the Brender school district in Chumstick valley. Recently Mr. Fruchtnicht, one of the patrons, went to Wenatchee and endeavored to have the district divided so that he could send his children to the Leavenworth school and receive the benefit of ninth grade instruction, an effort to have the ninth grade taught in the Chumstick school having failed. A member of the Leavenworth school board tells The Echo that at the bottom of the controversy there is considerable spite which is not confined to one person. Recently at the request of one of the patrons a representative of the state school superintendent came here to straighten out the trouble and decided that the control of the school district affairs rested entirely with the local board.

Christmas Exercises at School

Under the direction of Miss Kenfield, of one of the primary grades, and Miss Danby, of the high school, the primary department staged a very creditable Christmas program, including a two-act play, "A Visit from Santa Claus." Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus were impersonated by Craig Booth and Lucille Guest. Others participating were Kenneth Pearson, Hazel Hanson, Pauline Eresch, Margaret Sylvester, Mary and Bernard O'Rourke, Viola Kettle, Blanford Marley, Earl Tarlton, Julius Johnson, Edward Hatch, George Hathaway, Charles Howerton, Jack Hartman, Virgie Mick, Augusta Freund, Marie Brender, Bertha Hanson and Marie Frank.

To Correct a Report

This is to correct the report that had gained currency to the effect that at last Tuesday night's council meeting a motion was made to suspend the constitution of the United States for ten days. No such motion was made or presented, but a petition was presented asking the council to allow the saloons to remain open all night Wednesday and Thursday nights of this week. Mayor Woodrow told the council that it was impossible to repeal or make an ordinance of non-effect for the benefit of the saloon men at this time.

Cashmere Has Christmas Fire

On Christmas morning about 3:30 a fire in the Palm cafe, Cashmere, called out the fire department. The fire was confined to the building in which it originated, from defective wiring, it is claimed. Ray Moore, proprietor of the cafe, had a loss of some \$1200 on fixtures and stock, with insurance of \$500. Loss on the building was estimated at \$1500.

BURMEISTER-BAXTER

Fred Burmeister and Miss Thelma Baxter, both of Blewett, Wash., were united in marriage in this city at 1 o'clock today at the Presbyterian manse, Rev. J. A. Laurie officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Burmeister will make their home in Leavenworth.—Wenatchee World, Dec. 24.

WHAT'LL SALOON MEN DO AFTER JANUARY 1?

Two Will Go Away, Two Have Not Decided, and Two Will Remain and Go Into Other Business

Just what effect the dry law will have on business among the live questions, and what the men who have followed the occupation of keeping saloons will do, is another question that is often asked. What the general effect of the law which goes into effect tonight at 12 o'clock will have on the affairs of the state is a mooted question, and so far as this paper is concerned, no fixed conclusion has been reached. That it will disturb the relations and require time to adjust matters to the new condition, no one doubts. That it will work a hardship on those who have in one way or another been dependent on the occupation—in breweries, distilleries, wholesale houses and the retail dispensaries, there is no doubt. They will all have to look for new and different work. That it will also work a financial hardship on all those who have conducted saloons and breweries goes without saying. Those who have labored under the delusion that the money which, under the old conditions was spent for booze, will not be spent under the new, or that it will take wings and fly away, have another thing coming. The money that was spent here for the cup that cheers will remain here, at least so much of it as is not sent to other states for booze, and will be spent or deposited in the banks and find its way into circulation.

Under the belief that our readers will be interested in what the six men will do who have followed the occupation of retailing liquors in Leavenworth, we made an investigation with the following result:

Mr. J. E. Tholin, of the Opera Bar, the oldest saloon in town, intends to take a trip to Montana shortly after the first of the year. If he does not find something to his liking there he intends going to Alaska, where he spent a number of years and has always had a hankering for since.

Mr. T. J. Burke, perhaps the next oldest saloon man in the town, says he has not fully made up his mind what he will do. He has under consideration going to California.

Mr. S. E. Ritchie says he intends to make a trip to Mexico as soon as he can close up his affairs, and thinks he can get off by the 10th of January. Al Pesch, who has been in his employ as bartender, will accompany him.

Mr. J. B. Violette says his business affairs will keep him here, but he has not definitely made up his mind what he will do.

Mr. W. C. Roach says he will remain here and has under consideration going into some kind of business, but has not yet fully made up his mind. However, his plans will mature shortly after the first of the year.

Mr. F. H. Hutchings says he has his plans all made and will remain in the poolroom business. He already has a poolroom in connection with his saloon and intends to occupy two rooms in the Overland Hotel building with a soft drink, candy and cigar stand, and also several other lines of wares.

Mayor-elect Day auctioned off the remnant of Mr. Hutchings' stock of liquors Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Several suitcases full of bargains were carried away from the saloon.

There will be at least four storerooms vacant as a result of the new law going (Concluded on last page)