

**JOHN FREDERICK BROWN of Boston** tells a United Press man in Paris how a "Jack Johnson" shell put hi mout of business in the Champagne. Page 7.

# The Seattle Star

The Only Paper in Seattle That Dares to Print the News :

VOLUME 18. SEATTLE, WASH., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1915. ONE CENT ON TRAINS AND NEWS STANDS.

**NIGHT EDITION**

Weather Forecast—Unsettled  
High 53. Low 38  
11:00 a. m., 13.5 ft. 3:16 a. m., 2.8 ft.

## SEE GERMAN PLOT IN \$1,000,000 FIRE HERE COTTON FOR ALLIES STORED IN BURNED PIER

### POLICE HOLD MAN

After careful check of the damage done by an incendiary fire, which practically destroyed Pier 14, Thursday night, and ruined the greater portion of valuable merchandise stored inside, A. F. Haines, local manager for Dodwell & Co., who operate the pier, Friday estimated the loss at well over \$1,000,000.

The Star was told Friday in reliable water front sources that 6,000 bales of cotton, valued at about \$300,000, destined for Russia, were burned when Pier No. 14 was destroyed.

Cotton is essential in the manufacture of explosives.

Says Only 500 Bales Dodwell & Co., Limited, a great English shipping firm with branches in all parts of the world, which operated the dock, denied that its local manager that any such amount of cotton was on the pier.

He placed the amount at "about 500 bales."

E. Wilmann, longshoreman, arrested after the fire because of an alleged conversation with another longshoreman in a water front saloon, in which he is said to have predicted the fire, was examined behind closed doors Friday by Chief of Police Lanz, Captain Stewart, and Fire Marshal Harry W. Bringham.

Bringham says he is convinced the fire was of incendiary origin. The same dock caught fire twice last Tuesday, in a manner not explained.

Longshoreman is Held Captain Stewart said, after the examination of Wilmann, that the longshoreman told a clear, straightforward story up to the point where he had the alleged talk with the other longshoreman, R. B. Bradshaw.

He remembered being in the saloon, he said, but he could not remember if he met Bradshaw, and he could not recall what he talked about in the saloon.

Wilmann's story did not satisfy the police and the fire marshal, and he is held on an open charge.

Meanwhile his record in Vancouver, B. C., where he lived before coming to Seattle recently, will be looked into.

Dodwell & Co., representing the Blue Funnel line, made a deal with the port commission Friday for the use, hereafter, of the commission's dock at Smith's cove.

The total value of merchandise stored in the pier, according to Manager Haines, was more than \$2,000,000.

Damage to the pier itself, a small matter, comparatively, he estimated at about \$200,000, partially covered by insurance. The pier is owned by Alsworth & Dunn, who lease to Dodwell & Co.

THE RAINIER SCHOOL, one of the 39 frame school buildings in Seattle without fire escapes. It occupies the block between King and Weller sts., and 23d and 24th aves. S. Below is a picture of one of the two winding wooden stairways leading from the second to the first floor in the new Washington school. These wooden stairways, called "interior fire escapes" by the school board, are depended upon to safeguard lives of pupils in local schools. The school which burned at Peabody, Mass., had them, too.



### AMERICAN TROOPS IN A BATTLE

BROWNSVILLE, Tex., Oct. 29.—A small detachment of the Twenty-eighth Infantry, which arrived last week, was twice attacked between midnight and daylight today.

One American soldier was wounded in this baptism of fire, but the Mexicans, who caught between two fires in their second attack, suffered no casualties.

The American was wounded during the first attack at the Capote ranch, north of Hidalgo.

Signal rockets were sent up to attract aid, and after 20 minutes' firing, the Mexicans fled back across the river.

Meantime, a troop of cavalry arrived from Hidalgo. The Mexicans, after two hours, came back to the American side, and resumed their attack.

The cavalry, however, drove around their flank and attacked from the rear, while more reinforcements came up to help in dispersing the raiders.

### HEAR CARRANZA HAS BEEN SLAIN

SAN ANTONIO, Tex., Oct. 28.—Local telephone companies today received a report that Gen. Carranza had been assassinated. The story was unconfirmed.

### JOHN W. CONSIDINE TELLS COURT HE IS FLAT BROKE

John W. Considine, noted theatrical manager and supposed millionaire, by his own sworn admission, in superior court here Friday, is broke.

### MAY ASK SPAIN TO SETTLE WAR

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 29.—Whether America or Spain—President Wilson or King Alfonso—will mediate in the European war, was the absorbing question among officials today as a result of renewed interest in the question of peace.

"The war is being fought in the capitals of Europe," a cabinet member said. "Developments there look as tho the war is about over."

Many authorities believed that Spain, rather than the United States, will be the mediator when Europe is ready to lay down arms.

### 21 TINY BODIES LIE IN MORGUE

PEABODY, Mass., Oct. 29.—The dim light in Peabody's gloomy morgue shone today on a ghastly sight—the half-burned, twisted corpses of 19 children, victims of the holocaust in St. John's parochial school yesterday.

Two other little bodies lay in the St. Thomas hospital morgue, victims of burns and shock in the pupils' mad flight for safety.

The ashes of other victims are believed to be mingled with the debris inside the fire-swept halls of the school.

The firemen yesterday reported that 27 bodies had been recovered, a checking-up process today showed the total known casualties were 21.

Crepe decked doors, and silent groups of children complete the most pitiful tragedy ever known in Massachusetts.

## ARE SEATTLE'S CHILDREN SAFE IN OUR SCHOOLS?

By Fred L. Boalt

TWENTY-ONE children, ranging in age from 8 to 14, lost their lives in a school fire at Peabody, Mass., yesterday.

The newspaper accounts of the disaster do not make pleasant reading. There were no fire-escapes on the building, and the doors swung in! Some of the children were suffocated to death. Some were trampled to death. Some jumped from windows and were dashed to death. And some were burned to death.

It is possible that you read the accounts with composure. It may be that you felt sorry, in a detached, impersonal sort of way, for those children who were suffocated, trampled, dashed and burned to death, and for their fathers and mothers.

Peabody, Mass., is a long way from Seattle, Wash., and such a tragedy could not happen to your children. Your children are alive, thank God!

It could! It could happen to your children. We have in this state, it is true, a law requiring that school doors swing out, not in. But there are in Seattle 39 frame school buildings which have no fire-escapes.

"Still others ran to the windows. Bewildered, they jumped." I am quoting excerpts from the news dispatches.

"Many were injured in leaping. They did not stop to see where rescuing hands were outstretched."

"There were no fire-escapes. The children were trapped." "With cries on their lips and arms extended to parents, they literally roasted to death."



I WONDER what the fathers and mothers of those dead children in Peabody, Mass., thought and said when they read, several years ago, the newspaper accounts of the terrible Collinwood, O., school fire.

Did they comfort themselves, as we here are no doubt comforting ourselves, with the thought that the children who died were no kin of theirs and that such a thing couldn't happen in Peabody?

I saw that fire in Collinwood. That is, I reached that suburb of Cleveland an hour after the alarm, and I saw the school building as a roaring, white-hot furnace. The brick walls still stood, but that was all. I saw row on row of blankets on a warehouse floor nearby. Under each blanket were burned flesh and charred bones.

An hour before they had been healthy, happy little ones.

A FRIEND of mine, a newspaper man, had two bonny children. That morning their mother packed them off to school. I went with the father of those children to the warehouse, and together we peered at the grisly things beneath the blankets that had been boys and girls.

I do not know quite why he wanted to find his children. What difference did it make? They were dead. He said he would recognize the buttons on their clothes. He didn't find his children.

I'll never forget his haggard, chalk-white face. He dared not go home and tell his wife he could not find their dead. She a little while before had stood, with other agonized mothers, just outside those doors, which blunderers had built to swing in, and she had caught glimpses of her children's faces in that hellish press of trapped children, and she had seen her children die.

THERE is not any GREAT danger of a recurrence of the Peabody disaster in Seattle, but there is SOME danger. Our schools are not fire traps, not even the frame buildings, but they DO lack fire escapes. A fire such as occurred in Peabody, shutting off the use of stairways, WOULDNT occur in Seattle once in a lifetime—perhaps NEVER. But remember, it didn't happen often in Peabody, either.

THE Seattle school board takes a complacent view of fire-danger to the schools. The board points out that there are "interior fire-escapes." And so there are. And an "interior fire-escape" is nothing but an ordinary wooden stairway which would burn like tinder.

The board points out that there are frequent fire drills in the schools. And so there are. An excellent practice. But a fire drill in a building which isn't afire is quite different from a fire drill in a building filled with flame and blinding smoke.

The board points out that the law does not compel it to put fire-escapes on school buildings less than three stories high. And that is true. The board is quite within the law.

But I, who have a boy of 7, who attends a big wooden school with no escapes—I say "interior fire-escapes" are not enough. Fire drills are not enough. We do not want to economize at the risk of our children's lives.

If, after fire-escapes, there is any other device which might still further insure, in any degree, the safety of our children, why, we want that, too.

The board says it has taken every reasonable precaution. IT HAS NOT. A fire-escape is a reasonable precaution. And in a matter of such moment to me as the life or death of my boy, the law and economy may go hang, say I! I WOULD GO FARTHER THAN THE LAW.

## BOARD SAYS FIRE ESCAPES AREN'T NEEDED

While Seattle has some of the most up-to-date fireproof school buildings, it also has 43 wooden schoolhouses, and 35 of these have no outside fire escapes.

Members of the school board say there is no need for outside fire escapes, because all the schools are provided with plenty of "interior fire escapes."

The "interior fire escapes" are stairways—nothing, more or less, Every dwelling house in Seattle has some of these "interior fire escapes." In frame schoolhouses, the "interior fire escapes" are wooden stairways. In some of the brick buildings, the stairways are also wooden.

In some schools there are many stairways. In others there are not so many. In the Washington school, for instance, there are only two stairways from the second floor to the first.

### Everything

You will be likely to want to buy on Saturday will be found advertised in The Star today, and almost invariably at a money-saving price. The Star presents today a splendid assortment of ads from Seattle's leading and liveliest business institutions. Make up your Saturday shopping list from the ads and save a neat sum of money.