

DESTRUCTION OF LINER LACONIA WAS THE OVERT ACT; CONGRESS HESITATES TO GIVE PRESIDENT WILSON POWER

20 KILLED IN WRECK ON P. R. R.

Freight Train Hit Express as it Was Standing At Station

DENSE FOG AT TIME

Passenger Coaches Were Telescoped by the Ter- rific Impact.

(By Associated Press)
ALTOONA, Pa., Feb. 27.—At least 20 persons were killed when the east bound Mercantile express on the Pennsylvania railroad was run into shortly after midnight by a fast freight train at the station at Mt. Union, 43 miles east of here. Several others were injured.

The express train had stopped to discharge passengers at Mt. Union and members of the crew were testing air-brakes when, without warning, the heavy freight crashed into the passenger train from the rear. A dense fog prevailed.

As the freight engine, backed by a heavy train, plowed into the passenger train the rear coach of the latter telescoped and the second passenger coach which was split asunder by the terrific impact.

The freight engine was literally welded to the passenger car.

None of the passenger coaches left the track but six of the freight cars, coal laden, were hurled down a 40-foot embankment.

Following is a list of identified dead:

Chester A. Minds, 25 years old, and wife, aged 28, Ramsey, Pa.

Chester A. Minds, Jr., their infant son, two weeks old.

Miss Maud Minds, aged 28, Conifer New York, sister of Mr. Minds.

M. A. Casisch, Conifer, New York, a brother-in-law of Mr. Minds.

Miss A. Segur Dellinger, Cleveland, O., sister of Mrs. Minds.

Richard Owens 7, Dorothy Owens 6, Jean Owens 4, nephew and nieces of Mr. Minds.

Charles LeVine, New York.

P. E. Pollard, New York.

Milton Hynes, New York.

N. Bright, colored porter.

J. S. Kelley, Brooklyn.

H. A. Roefler, Prattville, Wis.

L. M. Montgomery, salesman, Bloomington, Ill.

P. R. Fanning, Michigan.

All of those killed were in the car Bellwood which was telescoped and crushed to pieces.

An official of the Pennsylvania railroad here said the list of dead will exceed 20 as 14 bodies have been recovered and at least six are known to be dead in the wreck.

At this time the railroad company is inclined to place the blame for the wreck on the engineer of the freight, A. T. Cook, of Harrisburg, who had a leg crushed. It was his duty, said an official, to get off his engine, walk ahead and look at a signal in case of fog rather than run past it.

Chester A. Minds, who with family was killed, was a coal operator in the Clearfield region of Pennsylvania. He was traveling to Utica, New York, to attend the funeral of his wife's father.

Minds was football star on the University of Pennsylvania team.

WHISKEY BUYERS GET INTO TROUBLE

Their Stories Show Colored Bootleggers Are Still Operating.

"I had a little cold last night and I thought I would come to town to get some whiskey, take a little before going to bed and wake up this morning without the cold."

The goods were purchased by Cris Eppert, glass blower, who lives out Virginia avenue way, many many blocks from the whiskey stores in town. He told the mayor this morning that he went into the colored joint back of a negro barbershop on Jackson street, asked for one small one and got a large. He paid \$1.50 and is now in the county jail awaiting Prosecuting Attorney Haggerty's pleasure.

Whiskey sometimes can be bought in this city by the drink. Andy Bodol, of Independence, arrived for the first time in his life in Fairmont at 12:30 p. m. yesterday. At five o'clock he was seated in Daisy Shelton's colored joint on Water street quaffing draughts of rat poison. He paid for his drinks as he got them, getting about one-half pint for 75 cents. Not long after his arrival at the Shelton rathskellar he was seen roaming the streets sans hat, coat and shoes and though it was not apparent he was also short \$15 which he had pinned in his shirt pocket and seven simoons which he had in his pants pocket. He told the mayor "I know when I went in the place, but damn remember coming out, all I know is that when I came to I was wet lika hell."

Truth is Bodol, drenched to the skin, was dangerously near the river where he easily could have rolled and probably had been picked up at Point Marion today, but the old adage "The devil takes care of his own" worked in his case, so he says. The cops took Bodol to the Shelton joint but the women there claim they know nothing whatever of Bodol or his troubles. Bodol went to jail as a witness against Daisy Shelton in a selling case. The fire boys gave him a pair of good shoes, an overcoat and a cap.

Monk Jackson, colored, also told he bought whiskey in Fairmont but refused to say where. He was arrested drunk and when questioned concerning the place of purchase forgot everything except that he paid \$1.50 for one pint of the goods. Jackson awaits the third degree in the Buckley bar room.

Many Reservations For B. M. A. Dinner

A record pace was set yesterday for acceptances to the dinner of the Business Men's Association Thursday night but 25 reservations being left in the hands of Trevel Nutter, secretary last evening.

Frank Jewel Raymond who will at that dinner deliver his lecture that earned for him the name of "The Billy Sunday of Business" has made such a hit in the towns where he has been that he has compiled a book of newspaper comments on his speeches which have been printed on the first pages of big American dailies. "What they say on the First Page About Raymond" is its title, its pages being filled with complimentary and unsolicited clippings.

FAIRMONT ATE BREAKFAST BY CANDLE LIGHT

Storm Tore Down High Tension Feed Wires This Morning.

Factories Started Late

Was Eight O'clock or After Before They Got Power.

An early morning storm broke and tore down the high tension wires feeding the lighting system of the city at Eugemont about five o'clock this morning. Immediately forces of Traction company electricians were routed from their beds and set to work repairing the damage.

Although the men worked with all possible dispatch, the lines were not up until nearly eight o'clock. As a result the citizens of Fairmont were forced to dress and eat in the dark, or grope about with lamps and candles. In manufacturing establishments, newspaper offices, etc., where electric power is relied upon, work was delayed from an hour to an hour and a half.

The lines which were dismantled were only those which supply the lighting systems of the city. The important power lines were uninjured, permitting the operation on schedule of street cars and down the river mines.

GET-TOGETHER SPIRIT SHOWING AT CHARLESTON

Special Session May Not Last Long After Ail.

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Feb. 27.—Members of the finance committee in both House of Delegates and State Senate held meetings yesterday for the purpose of considering carefully the items appearing in the general appropriation bills originating in the respective houses before the regular 1917 session of the Legislature adjourns Friday night, a few hours before the beginning of an extraordinary session at which nothing material has been accomplished.

A disposition is shown on the part of the delegates to concede points of merit contained in the Senate bill and the Senate committee has evidenced a similar attitude toward some contents of the bill arising in the House. It is the belief of those in touch with the situation that perhaps a compromise will be effected soon after the House reconvenes. While there is a difference of over \$600,000 in the total appropriations provided in the two bills, it is pointed out that if the senators agree to certain salary reductions the House will agree to pare down some of the accounts provided for the erection of buildings in a number of Democratic counties.

As soon as the House goes into session tonight a communication from Adj. Gen. Bond will be submitted. This communication has already been presented to the members of the Senate, in part as follows:

"Some differences of opinion apparently exist as to the appropriations needed for the National Guard for the coming two years. Based on fixed expenses by the new regulations of the War Department, the following figures are a close estimate of what will be needed for each of the fiscal years 1918 and 1919:

"Army rents, \$16,680; state pay for encampment, \$28,000; uniform allowance, \$3,450; clerical allowance, \$9,280; salaries and allowances, \$5,000; expenses, inspection and instruction, \$3,990, all of which are fixed by the regulations; care of equipment, \$316; laundry, \$1,000; miscellaneous, including telegraph, courts, boards, freight, etc., \$2,500. The last three items are estimated on last year's expenses."

City Hall Notes

Maxine, the plutocratic coughing machine of the fire department, was given a little coughlin exercise yesterday when Speedo Howard Woodward, of the department took it out on the streets. Maxine is the new speed racer built at the fire department by Woodward who has entered the car in the annual Madison street hill climb to be held next winter. Maxine goes like a Stutz racer and makes something like 300 an hour—wheel revolutions, of course.

The city of Fairmont has announced its intention of turning over its Ford auto to the United States government in case of war with Germany. This meets with the approval of all concerned excepting David Dean who owns the car. He himself wishes the government to take it so that it can be used by our forces when they wish to escape from the enemy.

His Suit Case Bank Bad as Other Kind

WHILE NICK CRAVIS WAS AWAY HIS PAL STOLE HIS SAVINGS.

It was a regular spring day yesterday and Nick Cravis' boarding pal, name being temporarily withheld, did not care to go to work. He was sadly afflicted with what is known as spring fever or hookworm. However, Nick's pal got \$200 for his day off. He got it out of Nick's suitcase. Nick wanted to make all the money he could and he worked yesterday. He worked in the Grant Town mine. His pal when working was also a miner. The county officers are searching for the thief.

Nick told the officers he did not care to put his money in a bank, as he lost \$500 in the Citizens Dollar Savings blowup, and he took chances on a suitcase, which he now claims is still safer than a bank, for the bank got him for \$300 more than the pal did.

Nick is assisting in the search. The reason given for withholding the pal's name is that it is absolutely unpronounceable.

LUSITANIA CASE ALL OVER AGAIN SAY U. S. OFFICIALS

President Will Leave the Matter Up to Congress For Time Being.

10 AMERICANS KILLED

No Extra Session Will be Called If It Can Be Avoided.

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 27.—Official dispatches confirming reports of the death of Americans on the Laconia, torpedoed without warning, established the case as "the overt act."

The situation, however, was unchanged from when the President left it yesterday when he asked Congress for authority to deal with the submarine peril. President Wilson and State department officials took the position that no further step would be taken until Congress has had an opportunity to act on the President's request.

The view prevails that the sinking of the Laconia should hasten action by Congress.

The first step of the government, it is indicated, will be to furnish American ships with guns and gunners for defensive purposes and insure them in the government war risk bureau.

On the basis of the official report the sinking of the Laconia is regarded as another Lusitania case in principle, even though fewer lives were lost.

President Wilson, it was said today, is opposed to calling an extra session of Congress unless absolutely necessary.

Word had been conveyed to him that the Republicans may filibuster in an effort to force an extra session but he is hopeful that this intention will not be carried out.

Ten Americans Lost Lives on Laconia

(By Associated Press)
LONDON, Feb. 27.—Eight American negroes, members of the crew of the Laconia, died of exposure according to Central news dispatch from Queenstown.

United States Counsel Frost at Queenstown has telegraphed American embassy here that Mrs. Hoy and her daughter, passengers on the Laconia, died of exposure and that their bodies were buried at sea. Consul Frost's message read:

"Mrs. Mary Hoy and Miss Elizabeth Hoy, passengers on Laconia, died from exposure. Their bodies buried at sea."

As far as the embassy knows these two were the only Americans lost on Laconia.

The embassy said the list of American passenger survivors is as follows: E. P. Gibbons, Chicago Tribune; Mrs. S. E. Harris, wife of Colonel Harris, U. S. A.; A. T. Kirby, New York, and Rev. Joseph Wareing, Baltimore.

A later telegram from Consul Frost gave the total number of persons landed from the Laconia as 281 out of 294 on board.

Of the 13 lost, five were drowned and eight died from exposure and were buried at sea.

Six persons are in hospitals at Queenstown, the telegram said. Their condition is not serious.

OFFICERS CHOSEN FOR THE HOSPITAL

Stockholders Held Meeting at Temporary Quarters Yesterday.

BRITISH ALMOST AT GATES OF BAPAUME

No Indication Yet Where Retreating Germans Will Stand.

A board of directors was named at a meeting of the stockholders of Cook hospital held yesterday afternoon at the temporary hospital quarters.

The board named is as follows: J. M. Hartley, R. M. Hite, Carl Riggs, Frank B. Pryor, Z. F. Davis, Simon D. Goodman, J. C. Miller, E. B. Moore, W. A. Husted, J. F. Shafferman, J. M. Jacobs, Frank C. Haymond, W. J. Wiegell, R. A. Watts, H. J. Ross, O. S. McKinney, A. Brooks Fleming, Jr., and Rev. H. G. Stoetzer.

The board of directors organized by naming the following officers: President, J. M. Hartley; first vice president, J. M. Jacobs; second vice president, R. M. Hite; treasurer, Z. F. Davis; secretary, M. R. Prantz.

The members present inspected the repairs now being made to the hospital made necessary by the fire which damaged the building recently. The work is progressing slowly at this time, owing to the fact that the work is somewhat retarded by the failure of the Otis Elevator company, of Pittsburgh, to complete the work on the elevator which was put out of commission by the fire.

Sister of Mrs. Wilson Dies After Operation

ROANOKE, Va., Feb. 27.—Mrs. Matthew Maury, sister of Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, died here yesterday afternoon after an operation for peritonitis.

EVERYBODY INTERESTED IN THE GOLDEN FESTIVAL

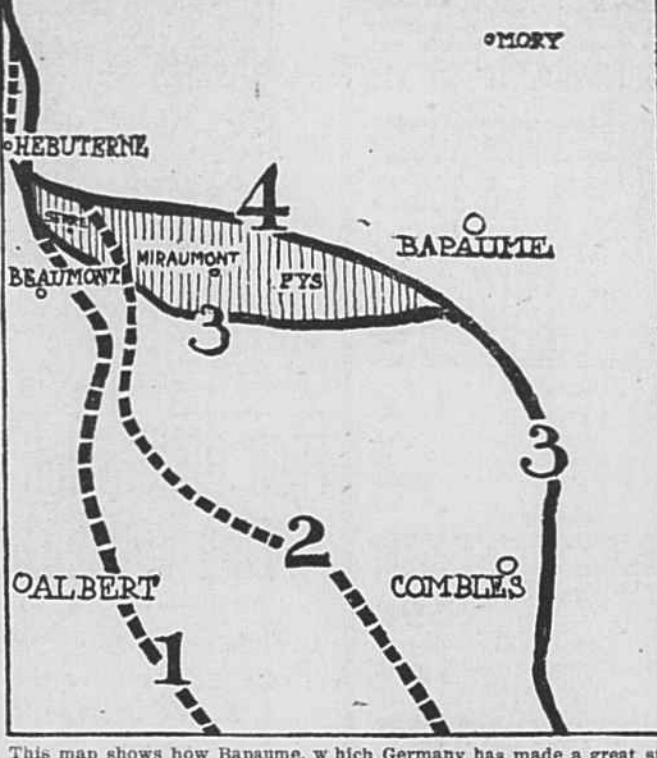
Subscriptions Are The Things That Count the Candidates Have Found Out and They Are Hustling.

NOTICE TO GOLDEN FESTIVAL CANDIDATES
Owing to so many new nominations being received and so many thousands of votes for the different members of the Golden Festival it has been a physical impossibility to get a revised list of votes ready in time for this issue of The West Virginian. However, a corrected list will appear in tomorrow's paper, showing corrections up to tonight. After tomorrow, the corrected list will appear three times each week, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

To the careful observation of the people who have been watching the Great Golden Festival of The West Virginia increase in magnitude from day to day the list shows many surprising things. In the first place it shows that the entire public not only in the city of Fairmont, but all over the country is interested in this Great Festival of Golden Awards. It shows that the friends of the different contestants are working just as earnestly for the success of their friends as are the candidates themselves.

As the Golden Festival increases from day to day these friends will no

GREATEST SINGLE DAY'S GAIN IN TWO YEARS BRINGS BRITISH NEAR BAPAUME



USE OF NAVY ONLY FAVORED BY SOME REPRESENTATIVES

Democrats Join Republican Opposition in Senate Foreign Committee.

NO GUNS OR MUNITIONS

No Formal Action Yet Tak- en at Either End of Capitol.

(By Associated Press)
WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—While details of the death of ten Americans in the unwarmed destruction of the Laconia began coming in today, the opposition in Congress to giving President Wilson broad authority to deal with the submarine menace began taking definite form and showed considerable strength.

At the White House it was made known authoritatively that the destruction of the Laconia was a clear cut and ruthless violation of American rights and life; a demonstration of what might be expected in the future of sufficient force to hurry Congress into clothing the President with full authority to meet the peril.

Nevertheless the House foreign affairs committee debating the Flood bill which has the backing of the President, decided the broad powers to be conferred by the use of the phrase "other instrumentalities" should be modified, and that the President should be limited to using the "naval forces of the United States, including the naval militia."

In the Senate foreign relations committee Republicans voted solidly against giving the President blanket authority, and it was reported that they drew support from three Democrats, Senators Stone, Hitchcock and O'Gorman.

No formal action was taken in either committee, and while the House committee was in adjournment until 4 o'clock this afternoon Chairman Flood took to the White House proposed amendments including one to prohibit arming of ships carrying munitions or contraband and the other to limit the President's authority.

Administration officials considered the attitude of Congress in the face of the Laconia case a sufficient importance to discuss sending an official report on the sinking of the Americans to Congress in some official way.

GAS JUST AS HOT WITH GASOLINE OUT

Government Tests Show just How Good Local Sup- ply Is.

After months of operation, government tests have established the fact that the gas used in the City of Fairmont loses nothing, or practically nothing, as a result of having had the gasoline extracted from it at the station of the Gas company on Dunkard Mill run.

Measured with Junker calorimeters, which are 99 1/2% accurate, tests made by the Bureau of Mines, private gas companies and experimental stations in the southern part of the state, showed a decrease of but one-third of one per cent in the heating value of the gas after it had been vent through a gasoline station. Tests of gas made in the northern part of the state by the same reputable authorities, resulted in the same returns being arrived at. The tests in each case were based on runs of a week and were taken under uniform conditions.

Since the start of the gasoline plant, the gas from the Fairmont mains has been subjected to a government test and is found to contain 1187 B. T. U's. or British thermal units. This heating value is far in excess of that found in the gas in the majority of nearby cities.

TRIPLE SLAYER SENTENCED

HUNTINGTON, W. Va., Feb. 27.—Harvey T. Terry, confessed triple slayer, pleaded guilty in criminal court and was sentenced to life imprisonment in the state penitentiary by Judge J. W. Taylor. Terry had admitted shooting to death with an automatic pistol on January 20 his wife, Mrs. Lillian Terry; her mother, Mrs. Victoria Black, and his wife's cousin, Mrs. Lulu Sparlock.