

ESTABLISHED 1870

NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1928.—THIRTY-TWO PAGES

PRICE THREE CENTS

EXPLOSION OF LARGE STILL ROCKS 3-TENEMENT HOUSE, CAUSING \$1,000 FIRE LOSS

Blast Shatters Windows, Blowing Glass Across Street and Setting Fire to Interior of Building at 2 o'Clock This Morning.

Policemen Hear Roar and Hurry to High Street Structure to Assist Dwellers—Man Making Own Christmas Liquor.

Accompanied by a roar that was heard a mile away, a "still" of 20 gallon capacity exploded on a gas range in the kitchen of the second floor tenement of a three family house at 2612 1/2 High street about 3 o'clock this morning, blowing out the glass in practically every window of the five rooms and setting fire to the interior of the house, the flames bursting through one window on the north side and scorching the neighbors. Chief W. J. Noble of the fire department estimated the damage to the building and furniture at \$1,000.

Policemen Hear Explosion
Salvatore Dizia, his wife and two daughters, aged 3 and 1-1/2 years, and Mrs. Dizia's mother occupy the tenement and were asleep when the explosion occurred. Officers Otis Hopkins and Thomas Lee were at the corner of Broad and Grove streets and heard the report, which sounded like the explosion of a giant firecracker magnified a thousand times. They went to High street, where they met Officer George Collins and Daniel Cosgrove, and at the same time the air was pierced by a woman's scream and a cry of "Fire." Officer Hopkins saw two girls running down the street and heard them give the alarm, and he and Officer Collins hurried to the house while Officer Cosgrove rang Box 33, summoning the fire department. It was 2:15 o'clock when the call registered, and the recall was sounded at 3:05.

Glass Blown Across Street
Arriving at the house, the policemen found glass from the windows in large and small pieces scattered about the road, in the yard, and as far away as the gutter on the opposite side of the street. Some of the window frames had been blown out by the concussion, and the cur-

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LONDON GAS MAINS BLOW UP ONCE MORE

Total of 17 Injured During 20 Hour Period of Action

London, Dec. 21 (UP)—Additional explosions of gas mains in the west end and central London today did further damage on dangerous the foundations of buildings in the district today. Seventeen persons, including seven who were gassed, were injured in the explosions which began yesterday and continued intermittently for 20 hours after the first main burst. An explosion of an electric dynamo on which repairmen were working in a manhole caused the first main to explode.

At 10 p. m. yesterday, officials announced that all mains had been sealed, but another of the storage tanks beneath the streets burst into flames at 2:30 a. m. today. It was feared that other tanks or mains might explode. The flames from the explosions shot 50 feet into the air at times and firemen laid hose and wheeled large quantities of sand into the area as a precautionary measure.

Throughout the night the district—one of the busiest traffic and business centers of the city—was paralyzed. For more than a mile the streets were shattered or bulged as though there had been an earthquake.

Storekeepers and those living in the district who had been ordered to evacuate when it was seen that buildings might collapse, mingled throughout the night with hundreds of persons who came to view the havoc. Workmen with gas mains made every effort to stop the flow of gas which leaked from the mains and threatened to explode if it came in contact with any light.

GEORGE G. RICE GOES TO ATLANTA

One of America's Most Noted Crooks Gets Four Years

SWINDLES NET MILLIONS

Started "Tipping Bureau" on Horse Races That Cleared \$3,000,000 for Him Before Being Closed by Government Agents.

New York, Dec. 21 (UP)—George Graham Rice, who made millions by outsmarting the race track and stock market suckers, had it imposed on him for the fourth time today that he could not outsmart the forces of law and order. Convicted of using the mails to defraud investors in Idaho copper stock, whose value he had ballooned by the agency of his pseudo financial sheet, the Wall Street Iconoclast, he was sentenced to four years in Atlanta penitentiary and fined \$5,000.

Yorston Convicted
Walter C. Yorston of Boise, Idaho, president of the Idaho Copper corporation, who was convicted with Rice, was sentenced to nine months in Westchester county penitentiary. The Wall Street Iconoclast was fined \$10,000 and sentence of the Idaho Copper corporation, was suspended for five years. Dr. Walter Harvey Weed, geologist, was acquitted by the jury that convicted Rice and Yorston.

Rice started his career of crime like any paltry crook, with a minor larceny that sent him to Elmira at age of 20 and for his own father's sake he signed to George Graham Rice, who was sentenced to four years in Atlanta penitentiary and fined \$5,000.

Up to that time he had used his own name, Jacob Simon Herzog, but it had become somewhat smirched with the passing years, and so when he entered a showery in a competition he signed to George Graham Rice. He won the prize and he kept the name as a talisman of good luck. Jacob Simon Herzog, the cheap crook, was wiped from the boards and George Graham Rice, as plausible a soft soap artist as the game he knew, took up his iniquitous career.

Under his new name he got a job on a race track sheet and in this capacity he received one day—a day on which his total resources added up to just \$12—a red hot tip that the last century smash, Silver Coin was going to sprout wings and lead the field at New Orleans.

Now Jacob Simon Herzog would have reacted to this by betting his \$12. But George Graham Rice was beginning to use what he referred to as his brains. He had something quite different. He bought advertising space in a newspaper with

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ATLANTIC OBJECTIONS WITHDRAWN TODAY

Oregonian Stands Good Chance of Confirmation to Interstate Commerce Commission.

Washington, Dec. 21 (UP)—Objections to the confirmation of Clyde B. Atchison of Oregon as a member of the interstate commerce commission were withdrawn today and his appointment was expected to be approved by the senate interstate commerce committee.

Senator Wheeler, democrat, Montana, who was instrumental in delaying a vote in the committee on Atchison's nomination, announced today that his complaints had been satisfactorily answered by the commission's testimony.

The Montana senator had felt that Atchison had held up valuation of telephone companies for an unreasonable time. Atchison asserted that the budget bureau's efforts to carry out President Coolidge's economy program were largely responsible for the delay.

HOOVER REACHES RIO DE JANEIRO

Lands in Midst of Great Popular Demonstration

SHOWERED BY CONFETTI

Rides Through Three Miles of Streets With President of Brazil—Thousands View Cars From Windows or Line Sidewalks.

Rio Janeiro, Brazil, Dec. 21 (UP)—President-elect Hoover, beginning the last of his good will visits to Latin-American countries on his present tour, landed at Rio Janeiro this afternoon in the midst of a great popular demonstration. Mr. Hoover and President Washington Luis of Brazil rode by automobile at the head of a long procession of official cars through three miles of showers of confetti thrown by thousands of spectators who filled the windows in every building on the beautiful Avenida Rio Branco from the pier to the Guanabara palace.

Flags Flying
United States and Brazilian flags flew from almost every window adding to the brilliant color of the scene. Thousands along the route cheered and applauded while airplanes soared overhead. An escort of lancers in brilliant uniforms rode beside the Hoover car and President-elect Hoover bowed repeatedly in response to one of the greatest demonstrations he has received anywhere on his South American trip.

Rio Janeiro outdid itself in giving a colorful and enthusiastic welcome to the American president-elect. For several hours before the landing of the Hoover party, an aerial escort of airplanes sailed over the U. S. flag while there was an almost constant succession of salutes of 21 guns from the shore batteries and Brazilian naval vessels as the Utah entered the harbor. Similar to N. Y.

Then upon landing, Mr. Hoover found himself in the midst of a reception suggested by New York's Broadway converted into a tropical setting with welcoming confetti and ticker tape.

Under a blazing sub-equatorial sun, with tropical palms, foliage and flowers waving along the Avenida Rio Branco—Rio Janeiro's Broadway—thousands of cheering people lined the sidewalks of the wide, tree-lined avenue, showering confetti and serpentine upon him.

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NO SALARY GRANTS FOR TEACHERS' M. S.

Subject Cannot Be Studied in Time for Budget Meeting

Requests of the New Britain Teachers' council that the school board allow teachers with M. S. degrees \$200 compensation over their annual salary will not be complied with in time for the budget of next year, according to Secretary Henry T. Burr of the school board, who declared today that it will be necessary to make long investigation before a decision is reached.

Mr. Burr was acting chairman of the salary committee when it met with a committee of the teachers' council this week. After a discussion in which the teachers' side of the question was heard no decision was reached pending an investigation into policies in other cities.

Mr. Burr feels that it will not be possible to have a report before the next meeting of the school board in January. This being the case, it is certain that the \$200 which would be given to the 10 teachers eligible will not be part of the budget which will be presented at that meeting.

UNGER CHANGES PLEA TO GUILTY OF CHARGE

On Trial As Agent of a Narcotics Syndicate Thought Financed by Rothstein.

New York, Dec. 21 (UP)—Joseph Unger, on trial as agent of an international narcotics syndicate believed to have been financed by Arnold Rothstein, slain gambler, changed his plea to guilty in federal court today.

Unger was indicted on four counts but on change of his plea two were merged and one was dropped. The remaining counts, possession of narcotics and conspiracy to violate the narcotic laws, carry maximum penalties of 10 and two years respectively. Sentence will be imposed on January 4.

Unger was taken from a train at Buffalo after two trucks for which he held the checks had been seized at Grand Central terminal and found to contain \$2,000,000 worth of narcotics. The federal agents made the seizure and arrest on information found in the business files of Rothstein.

New Britain Machine Co. Resumes Paying Common Stock Dividend

Commander Dead

First Since 1920 Declared at Special Meeting of Directors—Rate of \$1.50 Yearly Adopted

Directors of the New Britain Machine Co., at a special meeting yesterday voted to place the common stock of the company on a dividend basis, paying 37 1/2 cents a share, December 3, to stockholders of record on November 20.

This dividend, a quarterly payment, is the first on New Britain Machine common since 1920. It is planned to pay at the rate of \$1.50 a share for the year.

The post war period found this company with greatly enlarged manufacturing facilities and buildings, which had served in the production of anti-aircraft guns for the ordnance department of the United States army. Looking about for a new product, officials decided upon the manufacture of small tractors and for a few years, these machines were turned out and marketed. The response from the rural sections was not as expected and at about the time the tractor production reached its peak, the payment of dividends on common stock stopped. This was in 1920.

The New Britain Machine reorganization resulted in many changes in personnel, the election of Herbert H. Pease to the presidency, and a sweeping reduction in employment. Through a change in the financing plan, one-third of the preferred stock, representing about \$500,000 was recalled last July. No change was made in the common.

For several months, the concern has been rushed with business and now employs in addition to its regular working force, a night shift. Officers of the company are not apprehensive of a let-down in business for some time to come and speak optimistically of the future.

KING GEORGE PASSES ANOTHER GOOD NIGHT

Monarch Resting Comfortably in Long Process of Building Up Health

London, Dec. 21 (UP)—Lord Dawson of Penn held a brief consultation with Sir Stanley Hewett at Buckingham palace this afternoon. No further statement regarding King George's health was issued.

Today's bulletin from Buckingham palace on King George, one of the briefest yet issued, brought the satisfactory news that he had passed a restful night calculated to help building up his strength from the extreme exhaustion caused by his prolonged and grave illness.

The bulletin, taken in the light of yesterday's lengthy and guardedly optimistic report by the king's physicians, was felt to indicate that there was nothing appreciable to add to what the whole was considered a favorable situation.

This morning's bulletin read: "The king has had a restful night. There is no appreciable change to be noted." The view taken in palace circles, it was learned, coincided with the public impression from the bulletin that his majesty is continuing to gain slowly. His physicians, it was indicated, are satisfied with the course that events are taking. They are not expected to make any further statement on the king's case until the usual hour for the night bulletin.

While the physicians were attending his majesty in the sick chamber, the council of state appointed to act for the king during his illness, held a brief privy council in another part of the palace. All of the six counselors were present, the queen, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, Premier Baldwin, the archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Halifax, the lord high chancellor. It was understood the queen presided.

Others who attended the council meeting were Sir William Joynton-Hicks, home secretary; Walter Guinness, minister of agriculture; the Earl of Cromer, Lord Chamberlain, and Maurice Hankey, clerk of the council.

The proceedings lasted less than half an hour. The council transacted routine business and a number of questions arising out of the adjournment of (Continued on Page 20.)

MAN WHO FOUGHT POLICE IS IRRATIONAL AGAIN

Chief Hart Surprised to Learn Aloisio Had Returned to Work in Factory.

Paul Aloisio, aged 54, of 255 Washington street, who resisted four policemen in a spell of insanity over the loss of a quantity of wine, Wednesday morning on West Main street, was sent home from the Stanley Works, where he is employed, this morning. He resumed work in the factory yesterday after being released from police custody, but today he showed signs of being affected mentally although he did not become violent.

Chief W. C. Hart of the police department said today that he consented to Aloisio's release Wednesday with the understanding that his son was to take him to Hartford for attention and he was surprised to learn that he had returned to work.

Stores Open Tonight Until 9 o'Clock

New Britain merchants will keep the doors of their stores open tonight until 9 o'clock. The same schedule will be followed tomorrow. Monday night stores will close at 7 o'clock.

THINK LEVIATHAN ROBBE

Antwerp Woman Furnishes Clue Out of Revenge

DETAILS NOT REVEALED

Walter Ringer, Alias Long, Recently Stoker on Ship, Thought Responsible for Stealing Mail Worth \$500,000—Disappears.

Berlin, Dec. 21 (UP)—A revengeful woman, abandoned by her lover, told police a story that they believed today would lead to solution of the \$500,000 mail robbery aboard the U. S. liner Leviathan last June.

Amazing Plot
It revealed an amazing plot whereby a gang got aboard the Leviathan as members of her crew, and rifled the mail sacks while she was at sea.

The clue to the mystery, which occupied the attention of police in New York, Berlin, Antwerp and Vienna, as well as Scotland yard and the United States and German Federal postal inspection services, was furnished by a woman in Antwerp, Belgium.

Deserted by Lover
She said that for three years she had been the sweetheart of Walter Ringer, alias Long, recently a stoker on the Leviathan. He deserted her, she said, and she told the story in revenge.

Police did not reveal the details of the story, but on the strength of it they accused Ringer of being the leader of a gang which looted the Leviathan's mail while she was at sea and disposed of stolen bonds and securities in Europe.

Ringer, police said, bought a public house for sailors in Antwerp for 70,000 francs, part of the proceeds of the robbery, and apparently intended to retire to a life of ease. Before he could be taken into custody, he disappeared. Police here said Antwerp authorities let him get away on a technicality.

Heads Like Romance
The investigation was like an international detective romance. Berlin police and postal authorities cooperated with United States postal authorities and Captain Harold A. Cunningham of the Leviathan in the work. Detectives rode the Leviathan on her voyage and carried on a continual secret investigation of which the public has no hint.

Police of the United States, Ger-

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POLES WILL PRODUCE CHRISTMAS PAGEANTS

"Jaselska" to Be Given by Members of Dramatic Circles

Following the traditional customs of the Polish race in celebrating the birth of Christ, a custom dating back as far as the days when Christianity was brought to Poland in the 10th century, the ever-repeated scenes depicting the historic event will be reproduced by both Polish parishes during the Christmas season.

These plays known the world over to the Poles as "Jaselska", change in form from year to year, but the theme is always the same, the same characters appear and a decided spirit of joyfulness and rejoicing pervades the scenes. The plays depict the day previous to the coming of Jesus and takes place in one of the many houses of worship in Jerusalem. Another scene shows the palace of Herod, with the kings and other visitors from far off lands seeking information about the whereabouts of the newly born Child. The last and final scene takes place in the stable of the manger where Mary and Joseph are found at the side of the manger containing the little body of the King of Kings, with shepherds, angels, the Wise Men of the East and countless other visitors paying homage to Him. The "Jaselska" had their origin in Poland and the custom has been handed down from generation to generation, and taken to other countries, where a Polish community was established.

In Poland, the plays are usually staged in natural surroundings, usually in a stable of a village or town. The entire population gathers there on Christmas Eve and offers gifts and thanks, singing beautiful Christmas carols as they come to leave. The celebration usually lasts until dawn, when everyone goes to church. In the city, the "Jaselska" are held in a parish hall and the same spirit of good will prevails.

The custom was brought to this country, and wherever there is a Polish community, the play is given, with the same spirit and reverence.

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Kate Mevrick Out On Bail of \$10,000

London, Dec. 21 (UP)—Mrs. Kate Mevrick, known as the night club queen; Police Sergeant Goddard and Luigi Ribuffi, restaurant manager, today were admitted to bail of \$10,000 each. They are facing trial on charges of giving and receiving bribes in connection with the operation of night clubs and the sale of liquor out of hours. Mrs. Mevrick is also under charge of selling liquor without a license.

HOOVER'S PLURALITY OVER WITH 6,423,612 FIGURES OF ASSOCIATED PRESS SHOW

COOLIDGE SIGNS BOULDER DAM BILL

Act Provides for Flood Control on Colorado River

WILL ALSO MAKE POWER

Affixes Signature While Proponents of Measure Watch Him—Uses Three Pens to Sign Document, Then Gives Them Away.

Washington, Dec. 21 (UP)—President Coolidge today signed the Boulder Dam bill making effective the act providing for a reclamation, flood control and power project on the Colorado river.

The president affixed his signature before a gathering of proponents of the Swing-Johnson bill, who were brought to the executive office by Senator Johnson and Representative Swing, California, republicans, who for years had led the fight for enactment of the bill.

\$165,000,000 Bill
The measure provides that the government shall supply the \$165,000,000 estimated as necessary to construct a dam and accompanying works in Black Canyon. The money is to be repaid under an amortization plan from proceeds of the sale of power.

The signature of the president was the last official act required in providing federal authority for the construction, but either Utah or Arizona, or the seven Colorado river basin states must ratify the Colorado river compact or distribution of water before the act can become effective.

The bill calls for the harnessing of the Colorado river at the Black Canyon site by a dam nearly twice as high as any existing, to impound millions of acre feet of water which would be used to bring under cultivation wide expanses of arid southwestern lands. This dam would further provide electric power to miles of territory in several neighboring states.

24,000,000 Acres

The structure's reservoir would have an estimated capacity of 26,000,000 acre feet of water, and the power machinery on which this would be used is expected to develop approximately 1,000,000 horse power of electrical energy. Of this, 550,000 horsepower would be "firm power." Upon this basis, it has been estimated that the entire cost would be returned to the government with interest within 60 years.

Flood Control

After construction of the dam, the bill authorizes construction of modern flood control works around the rim of the Imperial Valley. Following this the bill stipulates construction of an all-American canal between the river and Imperial Valley, which would be wholly within the United States. At present, the valley is irrigated by

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NATHAN HALE JUNIOR HIGH TURNS IN \$110 FOR SEALS

North End Junior High Continues to Play Important Role in Annual Campaign.

After 10 days of inter-class competition the Nathan Hale Junior high school this afternoon closed its annual campaign for the sale of Christmas seals. Through the splendid spirit of the class workers and the generosity always displayed by its student body in charity appeals, the school was able to forward a check for \$110 to the local branch of the tuberculosis association.

For two successive years this school has led the New Britain schools in the seal sale, and in 1927 its contribution was the largest school collection in Connecticut.

Woman's Scream Routs Would-Be Bandits

Norwalk, Ala., Dec. 21 (UP)—A woman walked into the First National bank of Norwalk yesterday and upon glancing up saw several persons lined against the wall with their hands extended upward, and another group of three men pointing pistols at them. She screamed.

A. B. Hope, president, who with Carl Hayes, cashier, emerged from captivity in the vault a few moments later, aided by officers, quickly congratulated the woman. She had saved \$15,000 in currency in the teller's cage which was within the grasp of the trio until they fled, fearing the woman's screams would summon police.

One Dead in Quake In Mindanao Province

Manila, Dec. 21 (UP)—Manila learned today that a violent earthquake shook the greater part of Mindanao province Wednesday night. One person was killed at Cotabato, provincial capital. Many houses collapsed and fire broke out, but it was quickly controlled. An undetermined number of persons were injured.

36,798,669 Total Votes Cast is Largest in Country's History—N. Y. Governor's Popular Vote 15,005,497 Higher Than Davis'.

President-Elect's Plurality Fails to Reach Figures of Coolidge's Victory in 1924 But He Carries Three More States

(Copyright 1928 by the Associated Press)

Washington, Dec. 21 (UP)—Herbert Hoover's plurality over Governor Smith in the November election was 6,423,612.

Figures gathered by the Associated Press from the election officials of the 48 states show these totals: Hoover 21,429,109, Smith 15,005,497. The total vote cast, the largest in the history of the United States, was 36,798,669.

The votes not accounted for in the Hoover and Smith columns went to minor parties.

Socialist Vote
"Norman Thomas, the socialist candidate, received the majority of these votes, polling 267,525. Foster, workers party candidate, got 48,228 and Reynolds, socialist-labor 21,181. Values, prohibitionist candidate, got almost as many as Reynolds, 20,101, and Webb, farmer-labor 6,317."

Mr. Hoover's plurality did not reach the figures recorded for President Coolidge in 1924, although the former secretary of commerce polled a much larger vote. In that year Mr. Coolidge received 15,725,818 votes, giving him a lead of 7,338,518 over John W. Davis, democratic nominee. The La Follette-Wheeler independent ticket, however, had 4,822,554 votes.

Carried 40 States

Hoover carried 40 states as against

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S-4 SINKING PROVES LITTLE OFFICER SAYS

Pad-Eyes Aid Salvage But Don't Facilitate Rescue Work

Submarine Base, New London, Dec. 21 (UP)—The navy's deliberate sinking and 49-hour raising of the salvaged submarine S-4 proved nothing with regard to minimizing chances of future submarine disasters, according to Lieutenant Commander Falmes H. Dunbar, director of the experiment.

He revealed this today in a discussion with the United Press correspondent of the successful lifting of the S-4 by means of "pad eyes" to which pontoon chain hooks were attached. These 92-pound loops of metal were built into the side of the reconstructed S-4 for experimental purposes.

"Pad eyes are merely aids to salvage," Dunbar said. "They are of little use in rescue attempts. "Had the S-4 been equipped with pad eyes when it was sunk last December at Provincetown there is no question the three months required for her raising could have been reduced, but the boat could not have been brought up soon enough to save any lives," he added.

The officer's statement was an evidence of the fatalistic attitude of the typical submarine man. "There will be other boats sunk," he said, "maybe in a year or two." Safety experiments have been postponed, the officers said, until January 3 when Simon Lake and Captain Sloan Denenhower will bring her rebuilt, 25 year old submarine Defender here from Bridgeport for trial. The Defender is constructed with a pressure compartment in its stubby bow from which it is claimed divers may operate through a trap door while the submarine hovers a few yards above the wreck.

Dunbar disclosed that the Defender tests probably will last a month and will be completed here. The Defender will not be taken south to Key West, Fla., where the navy will test the "lung" and escape hatch, other safety devices.

The Defender will first be taken to Great Salt Pond, Block Island, the harbor in which the S-4 tests took place, and will be given exhaustive trials in calm water. These will gradually be made more difficult. Dunbar said, being climaxed by the dramatic trial of the rotund little craft in a storm. The Defender will be taken out in a north-westerly gale to some spot where land offers no shelter from wind or wave and asked to demonstrate its claimed ability to work divers on the bottom regardless of surface weather.