

# CONSPIRATORS GET HEAVY SENTENCES

## FLOOD WATERS BRING DISASTER IN OLD COUNTRY

Between 500 And 1,000 Lives Lost; England, Germany, Belgium Affected

London, Dec. 30.—(United Press)—Flood waters and a raging channel gale brought disaster or discomfort to a large area of the continent and England today.

While the transylvanian floods, designated as the worst in 30 years, had taken an estimated total of 500 to 1,000 lives as towns were swamped in a 200,000 acre region, reports from Germany, Holland and Belgium told of flood damage and continued rising of rivers swollen by early thaws. Here, the Thames was rising, flooding some low lying streets of London, while farther north, valleys were under water.

A violent gale was stirring through the channel disorganizing shipping. The Belgian steamer, Countess de Flandre, bound from Genoa for Antwerp, was wrecked that she was ashore near Beachy Head and in danger.

But the worst of the situation was in Transylvania, where many villages were literally buried under the torrents. One village was reported so submerged that only the top of the church tower was visible. Two rivers were 20 feet above normal. Part of the route of the Orient express was said to have been ruined by the water.

Martial law has been laid upon the flood regions and able-bodied men have been drafted by the Roumanian government to assist in building dams.

Pitiful scenes are reported from the region as thousands crush into over-packed trains, wagons and trucks to get to safer regions, sometimes leaving their possessions scattered by the roadsides.

Klausenberg, a city of sixty thousand, is reported one foot under water with the rise continuing. Above the calamity of the devastation, rises the possibility of international complications later, for it is claimed that the Rumanians opened the slice gates to rivers leading into Hungary.

Cologne reports that the Rhine is rising about an inch an hour and that the low flying districts are already flooded. Rowboats have been mobilized. The Moselle also is swollen. From Coblenz came word that the Rhine there was beginning to fall somewhat.

Mannheim and Duisberg, Germany.

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## TO PRESENT PLAY THURSDAY NIGHT

Van Wert, O., Young People To Give Production At Evangelical Church

A group of about 25 young people of the Van Wert, Ohio, Evangelical church, have been engaged to give a missionary play, at the local Evangelical church, Thursday evening, December 31, at 8 o'clock. The title of the play is "The Pill Box."

The play, which the Van Wert young people have rendered in their own church to an enthusiastic audience, has a strong appeal to the moral and missionary sense and is intensely interesting. The general public is invited. There will be a free will offering taken. The local Evangelical League of Christian Endeavor is sponsoring the service.

Following the play the local League will hold a reception to the visiting young people. Following the social hour, there will be a brief devotional half hour service, as the New Year is ushered in, conducted by the pastors, the Rev. C. Coverstone, of Van Wert, and the Rev. R. W. Loose, of the local church.

## Retired Navy Officer Dies

Youngstown, Ohio, Dec. 30.—Rear Admiral Giles Bates Harbor, U. S. N., retired, died here during the night following a brief illness.

## Colonel Coolidge Reported "Very Comfortable" Today

Plymouth, Vt., Dec. 30.—(United Press)—Colonel John C. Coolidge, father of the president, today was reported "very comfortable," following another restful night. Mrs. May Johnson, the colonel's nurse, said there had been no recurrences of heart block. The paralysis, with which the colonel is suffering, affecting both legs, has shown no development, according to Mrs. Johnson.

## JURY GETS CASE THIS AFTERNOON

Trial Of Case Of Harmon Vs. Teeple Completed In Circuit Court

The trial of the case of Oliver J. Harmon and others vs. William G. Teeple and others, snit on a note, was completed in circuit court shortly after noon today and the jury retired for deliberation on a verdict at 2:15 o'clock.

Judgment for \$5,000, the face value of the note, together with the interest from 1920 and attorney fees, was demanded in the complaint. The note was executed while Mr. Teeple was cashier of the Bank of Wren, at Wren, Ohio. The trial opened Monday morning. Judge Sumner Kenner of Huntington, acted as special judge in the trial.

## MASTER MIND BEING SOUGHT

Believe One Individual Engineered Deception Of Consolidated Firm

Chicago, Dec. 30.—K. P. Aldrich, postal inspector of Chicago, left here today for Indianapolis to begin investigation of the Indiana angle of the bankruptcy of the Consolidated Realty and Theater corporation.

It was said here that postal inspectors are hopeful of finding information which will lead them to a master mind which is believed to have engineered the affairs which is alleged to have fleeced 11,000 people of more than \$4,000,000.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—Belief that a master mind engineered the deception connected with the bankruptcy of the Consolidated Realty and Theaters Corporation was expressed today by postal inspectors investigating the case. An arrest may come soon, they said.

## House Near Geneva Is Damaged By Fire Tuesday

The dwelling house on a farm a short distance northwest of Geneva, belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Claude Nind, of Bluffton, and occupied by Elzio Swigert, was slightly damaged by fire early Tuesday morning. The clothing in a clothes press caught fire from some unknown origin. The clothing was ruined and a small hole was burned in the floor, before the fire was extinguished.

## Three Masses To Be Said Here On New Year's Day

Masses on New Year's Day at St. Mary's Catholic church in this city will be held at 5, 7:30 and 9:45 a. m. will be held at 5, 7:30 and 9:45 a. m. will be held at 5, 7:30 and 9:45 a. m. will be held at 5, 7:30 and 9:45 a. m.

## Moonshine Liquor Is Blamed For Suicide

Indiana Harbor, Ind., Dec. 30.—Excessive use of moonshine liquor was given today as the cause of the suicide of Joe Wisner, 55, father of seven small children.

## PURDUE MAN TO MAKE ADDRESS

Dr. G. M. Frier To Speak At "Five Acre-Ton Litter" Banquet Monday

The services of Dr. G. M. Frier, of the Department of Exhibits, at Purdue University, have been assured for the "Five Acre-Ton Litter Banquet" to be held at the Decatur Industrial Association rooms next Monday evening. One of Dr. Frier's interesting lectures will conclude what promises to be a very lively program, which no farmer would want to miss. W. T. Rupert, better known as "Bill," who is serving on the program committee, estimates the program will last about two hours, following the dinner, which begins at 6 o'clock. Fully 100 farmers are expected, from all parts of the county.

Tickets have been distributed to the following farmers: Carl E. Amstutz, W. H. Patterson, John W. Blakey, W. A. Wherry, Andrew Fueling, W. T. Rupert, W. W. Hawkins, Fred Blum, Leonard Sprunger, and Henry Coyne. Farmers desiring tickets are asked to purchase same of the farmer living nearest him who has them for sale. They may also be obtained at the county agent's office in Decatur. Tickets should be purchased by Friday, in order that the proper number of reservations may be made.

It is reported several farmers are already exercising their hog calling ability in order that they may make a creditable showing in the try-out to be held in connection with the banquet. At least one contestant is desired from each township, although there is no limit as to the number of entries. The winner will receive a free trip to the Agricultural Conference, at Lafayette, beginning January 11.

## MASONS INSTALL NEW OFFICIALS

Blue Lodge, Chapter And Eastern Stars Hold Joint Installation

About 200 Masons, Eastern Stars, members of the Chapter and their families and friends gathered at the Masonic hall last night for the public installation of the Eastern Star and Blue Lodge. The [Eastern Star] installation was held at 7:30 o'clock and was in charge of Mrs. Ferguson, of Fort Wayne, an officer of the Grand Lodge. Mrs. Ferguson was conducted to the Worthy Matron's station by Mrs. J. R. Blair, conductress-elect, where she presided during the ceremony. R. D. Myers acted as installing marshal for both organizations.

Mrs. H. B. Heller, who was recently re-elected Worthy Matron of the local chapter and Eastern Stars, received the charge from the Grand Officer and the rest of the officers, recently elected, were installed at their respective stations in a beautiful and fitting manner. At the close of the ceremony, Mrs. Ferguson gave a short talk, reviewing the history of the Eastern Star lodge. Mrs. R. D. Myers, secretary of the Decatur lodge, represented the lodge in presenting the installing officer with a bouquet of roses.

O. L. Vance acted as installing officer for the Blue lodge. After giving the charge to all officers, Mr. Vance installed John Dickerson as Worshipful Master of the local Masonic organization. After the other officers were installed at their respective stations, Mr. Dickerson, who was recently re-elected Master, gave a short address reviewing the year's work in the lodge.

After the installation ceremonies, everyone present repaired to the dining room where a lunch, consisting of sandwiches, coffee, ice-cream and wafers, was served by John S. Peterson. A Charles Burd and H. T. Vail. A social hour was held after the lunch, during which time cards and dancing were enjoyed.

## TO PRINT FRIDAY

The Decatur Daily Democrat will be published on Friday, New Year's Day. A noon edition will be issued and delivery in the city will be made as soon as the papers are printed. Grocery and food advertising will be published in this edition, together with other lines of advertising, and the papers will be delivered on the rural routes on Saturday, as customary. Advertisers are kindly asked to get a copy of their advertisements in the hands of the printer as soon as possible.

## FIFTY-THREE TO BE PROSECUTED

Indianapolis Liquor Law Violators To Be Tried In County Criminal Court

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 30.—Prosecutor Remy of Marion county prepared to press charges of liquor law violations against fifty-three persons taken in the dry cleanup by federal, county and city authorities yesterday.

While the raids resulted in seventy-three arrests, sixteen persons were released after being questioned and two others were held only on vagrancy charges.

A. R. Harris, deputy federal prohibition administrator for Indiana, decided after a conference with Remy to have the cases tried in the Marion county criminal court instead of filing federal charges against the alleged law violators.

Operating in eight flying squadrons, the 38 federal dry agents, deputy sheriffs of Marion county and city policemen who joined in the raids began the roundup of booze suspects early Tuesday morning and by mid-afternoon had taken practically all of the persons wanted.

Little liquor was found in the places raided. Evidence on which the raids were made had been obtained by federal dry agents during weeks of quiet investigation which preceded the raids.

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 30.—(United Press)—Twelve men and women of foreign birth among fifty-three persons charged with liquor law violations following cleanup raids here yesterday were confronted today with the possibility of being denied citizenship in the United States.

## One Arm Wolfe To Appeal Under State Pauper Law

Muncie, Ind., Dec. 30.—(United Press)—An appeal to the supreme court under the state pauper law was granted Charles "One Arm" Wolfe, convicted murderer of Ben and Mary Hance, betrayers of Gerald Chapman, by Judge Clarence Berth, today.

## Bovae Funeral To Be Held On Thursday

Funeral services for Grover A. Bovae, of this city, who died suddenly at Fort Wayne Monday, will be held from the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Leona Brown, in Fort Wayne, at 12 o'clock noon, Thursday and from the South Wayne United Brethren church in that city at 12:30 o'clock. The Rev. M. K. Richardson will officiate. Burial will be made in the Woodlawn cemetery at Auburn. Mr. Bovae was a motorman on the Decatur-Fort Wayne interurban line. He resided just east of this city on the cement road. His death was due to apoplexy. His wife and one daughter survive.

## Weather

Mostly fair tonight and Thursday, but some cloudiness. No decided change in temperature.

## FARMERS FAIL TO FORM PLAN

Iowa Demands Creation Of Federal Corporation To Handle Surplus

By Irwin E. Femrite (U. P. Staff Correspondent) Des Moines, Iowa, Dec. 30.—(United Press)—The all-Iowa agricultural marketing conference called for the purpose of prescribing a remedy for the farmers' financial ills, was pledged today to a program which calls for the creation of a federal corporation to handle surplus products.

While a specific plan was not adopted, a resolution declares that "competent and decisive action is absolutely essential on the part of congress in the enactment of laws that will place agriculture on a parity with other industries."

Nothing else will suffice to meet the present agricultural emergency, says the resolution.

Copies were sent to President Coolidge and every member of congress. Failure of the parley to outline a specific plan for farm relief was anticipated in many quarters. Directors of the Iowa farmers' union in a circulated statement warned conferees to keep "hands off" the farmer's affairs.

Many leaders believe that had an attempt been made to force endorsement of a single farm aid plan it would have been the signal for a pitched battle. This prediction was partly borne out when Senators Cummins and Brookhart exchanged sharp remarks.

Brookhart was booed while on the platform because he spoke longer than his allotted time.

Governor John Hammill was delegated to name a general committee of not more than fifty members empowered to call an all-corn area conference within 30 days, of representatives from the eleven corn belt states.

Formation of two credit banks it

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## MAY START NEW MAIL SERVICE

Plan for Sending Mail South From Fort Wayne On Bus Is Approved

A plan to send morning mail from Fort Wayne south to Decatur, Monroe, Berne, Geneva, Bryant and Portland via the morning bus is likely to be adopted soon, according to word received here. Mail service has been hampered considerably since the morning trains were taken off the G. R. & I. division of the Pennsylvania railroad several months ago.

Assistant Superintendent of Railway Mail Service McChesney, of Cleveland, Ohio, who made an inspection in the above named cities and towns, recently, has sent in a report favorable to the plan suggested above.

Mr. McChesney would recommend to the post-office department, it is believed, that all the mail for the above named post offices be shipped via the bus, which passes through Decatur about 8 a. m. daily. It is thought that the post office department will offer no objection to the plan.

While there is no possible way to get better mail facilities from the south, it is believed that much of the mail could be taken through to Fort Wayne and sifted through with the mail from the north, it taking less time to take the mail to Fort Wayne and distribute it with the mail from the north than it would to let the mail lay over at some central point south and bring it up on the afternoon trains.

## Kansas City Bank Robbed

Kansas City, Mo., Dec. 30.—(United Press)—The Argyle State Bank, in the downtown district here, was robbed of \$20,000 by five bandits here today, according to early reports. The bandits escaped in an automobile.

## Fire Damages Jewish Temple In Evansville

Evansville, Ind., Dec. 30.—(United Press)—Six fire companies battled in a heavy snowfall here today to prevent complete destruction of the Washington Avenue Jewish Temple.

The interior of the building was virtually ruined. Early estimates place the damage at \$50,000. A \$15,000 pipe organ was ruined.

The blaze was believed to have been started by defective electric wires.

## PLAN FOR ENDING STRIKE IN VIEW

Negotiators Have Settlement In Mind; Long Discussion Is Necessary

New York, Dec. 30.—(United Press)—A composite plan for settlement of the anthracite coal strike, embodying the most satisfactory features of the 98 plans submitted, was looked upon today as the chief hope for ending the coal strike, which has kept the mines idle since September 1.

It was learned by the United Press, from a source which is in close touch with progress of negotiations, that the negotiators have a settlement in mind.

It was predicted, however, that only long discussions could evolve such a plan.

## TEMPERATURE MOVES UPWARD

Sub-zero Weather Is Slowly Giving Way To More Moderate Atmosphere

Slowly, the winter sun is managing to move the mercury upward and the sub-zero weather, of a few days ago, has given way to the more moderate winter atmosphere and today the thermometer on the Peoples Loan and Trust Company building held around the 20 degree above zero mark.

Colder weather was in evidence early this morning, but the mercury was not below zero at the coldest.

Rivers, ponds and quarries in this locality remain frozen, but only a few of the younger people have taken advantage of the skating weather. The snow, which has fallen at intervals the last several days, is disappearing. Streets and sidewalks remain slippery, but no disastrous accidents have occurred.

Weather predictions are to the effect that the present temperature will remain for some time, varying, however, to the extent of several degrees.

No great amount of suffering has been reported the last few days, but previous to that time coal shortages and extreme cold weather took a heavy toll in deaths and sickness in the middle-west.

The sun threw bright rays in Decatur most of the morning, and a great part of the afternoon, forcing the thermometer upward several degrees.

## South Bend Lawyer May Seek Senatorial Seat

Indianapolis, Ind., Dec. 30.—(United Press)—A. G. Graham, South Bend attorney, was in conference with republican leaders here today over the coming primary race.

Graham is being boomed by friends at South Bend to make the race for the short term senatorial seat now held by Arthur Robinson of Indianapolis.

No definite announcement as to whether he will make the race will be forthcoming from Graham for some time, he said.

## DEFENDANTS IN DANIEL LIQUOR CASE SENTENCED

Five Principals Imprisoned For Two Years And Fined \$5,000 Each

ALL PLAN TO APPEAL TO HIGHER COURT

(United Press Service) Indianapolis, Dec. 30.—Heavy sentences were imposed by Judge Baltzell in federal court today on the principals in the Jack Daniel booze conspiracy case.

The defendants have been convicted of conspiracy to violate the national dry laws in the theft of hundreds of gallons of whiskey from the Jack Daniel distillery at St. Louis. Five of the defendants were imprisoned for two years and fined \$5,000.

The maximum under the law is two years and a \$10,000 fine.

The five were: Arnold Helmrich, former collector of internal revenue at St. Louis; Nat Goldstein, wealthy St. Louis broker; Michael Whelan, of St. Louis, one of the owners of a distillery; Morris Mullin, of Cincinnati, and Harry Levin, of St. Louis.

A new trial was granted Michael Kinney, state senator, of St. Louis, and he was released on \$5,000 bond, pending trial.

All of the 20 persons sentenced served notice of appeal to the U. S. circuit court at Chicago.

Sentences of the defendants ranged from the 2 years given the ring leaders to 4 months for the minor defendants.

The evidence in the governments prosecution of the ring showed that 890 barrels in the distillery had been drained of whiskey and water substituted.

## Two Bandits Rob Grocery Store Owner and Customers

Richmond, Ind., Dec. 30.—No trace had been found today of the two unmasked bandits who fled east on the National Road after holding up a grocery store and robbing the owner and customers of \$450.

## GLOBE TROTTER AUTOMOBILE HERE

Buick Car, That Made Trip Around World Alone, Visits This City

A Buick touring car which has just completed a trip around the world, visited Decatur for a few hours today. The car circled the world entirely alone, without a permanent driver or mechanic and made the trip in less time than that consumed by the round-the-world fliers. The car was passed from the hands of one Buick dealer to the next entirely around the world and some 250 drivers handled the car before it returned to New York. Its official starting point.

The car covering approximately 20,000 miles on land and about the same distance on water and did not need a single replacement of parts or any repairs during the trip. The car visited approximately eighteen countries and signatures of the various Buick agents in each place visited were made on a paper carried in the car. The car is now visiting every Buick dealer in the United States.

## Court House Offices To Be Closed Thursday P. M.

All offices in the county court house will be closed all afternoon Thursday, while the officials are making out their quarterly report. Persons having business to transact at any of the offices tomorrow are asked to call before noon or delay it until the following day.