

# INCREASE IN ASSESSMENTS ORDERED

## British Trans-Atlantic Fliers Forced Down In Mid-Ocean

### CAPT. COURTNEY AND COMPANIONS CALL FOR HELP

Five Steamships Rush To Aid Of Stranded Fliers 500 Miles West Of Azores

NO IMMEDIATE DANGER ACCORDING TO REPORT

**BULLETIN**  
Aboard S. S. Columbus, via Chatham, Mass., radio station.—Aug. 2. (5 p. m.)—The S. S. Winewaska rescued Captain Frank C. Courtney and three other members of his seaplane, the Whale, late this afternoon, according to a wireless message from the Winewaska intercepted by the S. S. Columbus. The seaplane was sighted by the Winewaska at latitude 42.27 north and longitude 39.05 west, having drifted a considerable distance from the spot 500 miles west of the Azores where it had fallen into the Atlantic ocean this morning on its flight from the Azores to Halifax.

New York, Aug. 2.—(INS)—The following radiogram was received this afternoon from the radio Marine corporation wireless station at Chatham, Mass.

"Informed that steamship President Hayes is on position given by Courtney plane and is now in search for it."

New York, August 2.—(INS)—A fleet of at least five trans-Atlantic steamships are rushing today to the aid of Captain Frank T. Courtney and his three companions, whose seaplane was forced down into the ocean approximately 500 miles west of the Azores while attempting a 1,800 mile flight from Horta to Newfoundland.

The rescue fleet includes: the President Hayes, Minnewaska, Columbus, Cedric and Celtic.

The liner Franconia notified British wireless stations that Courtney and his fliers were in no immediate danger and that the Celtic and Cedric were going to their assistance.

Capt. Courtney accompanied by E. R. Hosmer Montreal banker, Fred Perce, mechanic, and E. W. Gilmour, radio operator, left Horta today at 1:35 a.m., EST., after waiting there for more than a month since their flight from Lisbon on June 13. They intended to fly to Newfoundland and then down the coast to New York, completing the first westward crossing of the Atlantic with a stop in the Azores.

### SPANISH FLIERS FORCED TO LAND

### Franco And Companions Forced Down At La Rabida By Engine Trouble

Port of Huelva, Spain, August 2.—(U.P.)—Riding the surf at the Little Port of La Rabida, where Christopher Columbus started on the voyage that resulted in discovery of America, the damaged seaplane Numancia waited today to start on a more modern method to reach that same America.

The plane, piloted by Commandant Ramon Franco, was forced to land at La Rabida yesterday morning after having started from Cadiz on the first part of an around the world flight.

Engine trouble developing in the first hour of the flight from Cadiz—A flight that was to have its first terminus at Horta, Azores—was believed responsible for the forced landing at La Rabida.

Franco and his companions—Captain Ramon Franco, Captain Emilio Gallarza and mechanic Pablo Rada—remained on the beach after landing. They indicated they desired to start again for the Azores as soon as was possible.

The Numancia—a four motored Dorand-Wal plane—had difficulty in taking off with its heavy load yesterday, but once in the air it seemed to be functioning perfectly.

The craft carried a radio and expected to report regular programs enroute to the Azores and then to Newfoundland. But the reports were not forthcoming.

### Mrs. Coolidge Unveils Memorial



Photo shows Mrs. Calvin Coolidge unveiling a memorial tablet as part of the dedication ceremonies in honor of William Colvill, leader of the famous First Minnesota Volunteers and a Gettysburg hero, at Cannon Falls, Minn. Twenty thousand persons were there to pay respects to the heretofore missing Colvill and to the Coolidges.

### SEN. WATSON TO VISIT DECATUR

### Indiana's Senior U. S. Senator To Be Here On Tuesday Of Old Home Week

Senator James E. Watson, senior United States senator from Indiana, has accepted an invitation extended him by the Old Home Week committee, to be present on "Lumberlost Day" which will be observed in connection with Old Home Week, as a tribute to the late Gene Stratton Porter, former Adams county author. Senator Watson's letter of acceptance is as follows:

United States Senate  
Committee on Interstate Commerce  
July 30, 1928.  
Secretary "Old Home Week",  
Decatur, Indiana.

My Dear Quinn: Answering yours of recent date, permit me to say that I shall be pleased to be present on the occasion to which you invite me, September 11th, and shall consider it a privilege to do so.

"To making many books there is no end," but some live on for generations because of their true worth. And those given to our country by Mrs. Gene Stratton-Porter have woven into them that quality of literature that will always appeal to students of language, intermingled with that love of nature that always will appeal to those who see things in this life in their right relations and in their true proportions.

Your efforts to memorialize her work and worth, her genius and achievements are most commendable and should receive the sincere support and the genuine cooperation of all those people of our State interested in keeping Indiana to the front in all matters pertaining to literature.

I thank you for the privilege afforded me and shall consider myself fortunate to avail myself of this opportunity.

Very sincerely,  
James E. Watson

**Gov. Jackson Visits Pokagon State Park**

Indianapolis, August 2.—(U.P.)—Governor Ed Jackson was to leave here today for Pokagon State Park, Lake James. He is to attend the celebration of the opening of state road No. 29 between Lagrange and the Steuben County line.

Later he is to rejoin his family at Dunes state park. On August 15 the Governor is scheduled to review Indiana National Guard troops in training at Camp Knox.

### Attendance At Epworth League Institute Is Large

Warsaw, Ind., August 2.—(U.P.)—A new attendance record was expected today at the annual Epworth League Institute at Webster Lake. Six northern Indiana Methodist conference districts are sponsoring the meeting.

Forty-six classes are being conducted under the leadership of Dr. W. T. Arnold, dean of the Institute.

### County Jail Is Empty First Time For Months; Sheriff Is Lonesome

Sheriff Harl "Spot" Hollingsworth and family found life lonely around the Adams county jail this afternoon. For the first time since many months ago, the county jail is now empty—that is, it was empty when this story was written.

The jail became empty about 10 o'clock this morning, when the sheriff of Lake county removed Robert Lee Wheatley and his wife, Gladys Wheatley, from the local jail to the Lake county bastille.

The local jail has been occupied by a large number of prisoners during the last several months. During the month of July, the prisoners' board bill was more than \$81. The county pays the sheriff twenty cents per meal per prisoner.

### ANOTHER LETTER SENT TO SHERIFF

### Mysterious Writer Sends Second Letter Offering Details About Murder

Huntington, Ind., Aug. 2.—(INS)—Another letter from the mysterious writer who signs himself "George C. Claudson," and who claims to know the details of the strange murder of Mrs. Pearl Ballard, 31, of Muskegon, Mich., whose battered body was found near Roanoke, Ind., July 17, was received today by Sheriff Garl Rudicel.

The letter was written from the Keenan Hotel at Fort Wayne, Ind. The writer asserted that Mrs. Ballard died on the road between Fort Wayne and Roanoke, declared "Mickey" Alfee, suspect in the case, was innocent and offered to surrender if assured of fair play. An answer through the Cleveland, Ohio, Plain Dealer was requested.

**Another Received July 25**  
This was the second letter the mysterious "Claudson" has written to Sheriff Rudicel. The first reached the sheriff July 25 from the Statler Hotel in Cleveland.

In the letter today, the writer said he had been in Huntington to give himself up, but had decided he would get a better deal at the hands of Cleveland police.

Sheriff Rudicel said in his answer to the first letter that the writer would be given fair play and every chance to prove his innocence, was his only reply to today's communication. The sheriff expressed the belief that the letters either were the work of Alfee himself or of some crank. The sheriff forwarded the envelope in which today's letter came to Fort Wayne police, to compare with the writing on the Keenan Hotel register.

### TOLL OF BLAST MOUNTS TO NINE

### Others Burned In Explosion At Lawrenceville, Ill., Likely To Die

Vincennes, Ind., August 2.—(INS)—The death toll of the Indian refining company's still explosion at Lawrenceville, Ill., west of here rose to nine today, with the deaths of seven more of 51 injured men. Physicians feared that at least ten more of the injured would die.

The still exploded during a fire at the plant with a deafening roar and showered more than 150 fire fighters with burning oil. The men that were most seriously hurt inhaled the flames.

Thirty-six of the injured were rushed to the Good Samaritan hospital here while fifteen received treatment in Lawrenceville.

The dead were: Jack Freese 47, C. F. Cadey, 34, Louis Hensley, 50, Arlington Jackson, 21, W. E. Hinton 56, Harry Johnson, 38, John Fitch 19 Clyde Moore 22, Lee Lynch 49.

Indescribable confusion and horror followed the blast. Men with flaming clothes ran in all directions. Some jumped in mud puddles, others rolled in sand.

Then those who escaped the awful concussion and liquid flames ran down the human torches as they tore off their flaming garments.

Ambulances were called from all neighboring cities.

"It was like a great ball of fire that rolled on and on," said G. W. Hornbuckle, one of the men who escaped injury except for scorched hands, describing the explosion. "It lasted just a minute, then I saw men, clothes a-fire, running."

The still which exploded was one of a group. The still next to it had caught fire. Every witness said it appeared that the bottom of this still dropped out spilling flaming oil over an acre or so of ground. The fire whistle was blowing and all available employees were mobilized to fight the fire.

### WHEATLEY AND WIFE ARE TAKEN TO LAKE COUNTY

### Couple Held Here For Bank Robbery Now Face Conspiracy Charge

### CHARGED WITH TAKING AUTO USED IN HOLDUP

Robert Lee Wheatley and his wife, Gladys Wheatley, of Hammond Indiana who have been held in the Adams county jail here for several weeks on a charge of bank robbery, in connection with the holdup and robbery of the Linn Grove bank, today were released by Sheriff Harl Hollingsworth to Lake county authorities, who held warrants for their arrest on a charge of conspiracy with intent to commit a felony.

The conspiracy charge resulted from an alleged confession by Wheatley and his wife that they stole the Peerless coupe automobile, which was used in the robbery of the Linn Grove bank, at Hammond. Authorities have been unable to connect the Wheatleys with the actual robbery of the bank.

**Bond Fixed at \$1,000**  
Sheriff Ben Strong and a deputy of Crown Point, and Detective Beasley, of Hammond, came to Decatur this morning after the Wheatleys. They started on their return trip with their prisoners about 10 o'clock.

The bond of Wheatley and his wife has been fixed at \$1,000 each. It is believed that they will be able to furnish bond for their release soon after reaching the Lake county jail. They have been held here through default of \$25,000 bond each.

**Arrested At Hammond**  
The Wheatleys were arrested at Hammond several weeks ago, at the time that Charles Makley, Eddie Meadows and Mrs. Edith Markley were taken into custody. Makley was sentenced here to serve from 10 to 21 years in the state prison at Michigan City, after he confessed to taking part in the holdup and robbery of the Linn Grove bank. Mrs. Markley was released after authorities were unable to uncover evidence against her. Meadows pleaded not guilty to the charge of bank robbery here, and later was turned over to authorities at Lafayette, Indiana who wanted him in connection with the robbery of a bank there and the murder of Police Captain

### REVIVE REQUEST FOR NEW DEPOT

### Movement To Obtain New Nickel Plate Station Here Started Again

The movement to secure a new passenger station and freight depot for the Nickel Plate railroad in this city has been revived by S. E. Shamp, local agent for the road. Local citizens and civic organizations are co-operating with Mr. Shamp in urging the officials of the railroad to erect a new building here.

The old Nickel Plate station here has long been an eye sore to the community and years ago efforts were made to obtain a new building, but without avail. Officials of the company are said to be looking with favor upon the request at this time.

### TWO WOMEN HURT IN AUTO ACCIDENT

### Two Cars Collide Northeast Of Berne This Morning; One Car Wrecked

Berne, August 2.—(Special)—Mrs. Melba Dro, of Berne, and Mrs. Ice, of Newcastle, sustained injuries about 6:30 o'clock this morning, in an automobile collision which occurred one mile east and five miles north of here. The Ford sedan in which the two women were riding, with Mrs. Dro driving, collided with a car driven by Mr. Rice residing east of Monroe.

The Dro car turned over twice and was a complete wreck. Mrs. Dro had cuts on her left arm and shoulder which required ten stitches to close. Mrs. Ice was badly bruised. Mr. Rice escaped with bruises and a few minor cuts, but his car was damaged. The two women were enroute to Bucyrus and Fremont, Ohio, for a visit.

### Suffers Stroke



**WILLIAM S. VARE**  
International Illustrated News  
Atlantic City, N.J., Aug. 2.—(U.P.)—United States Senator-elect William S. Vane, of Pennsylvania, suffered a stroke of apoplexy today at Ventnor, near here. His condition is said to be serious.

### PROBLEM IS DIFFICULT ONE

### Few Persons, So Far, Have Solved Problem That Occurs In "Inheritance"

Only a few persons, so far, have successfully worked out the problem that occurs in the "Inheritance," the home talent play to be presented in the Catholic school auditorium, August 5 and 8.

It must be the heat, for surely the problem of "a penny for the first day and thereafter doubled every day for 30 days is not so difficult."

"Toph" (Herman Myers) is promised a salary as above stated, but at the end of 30 days he makes a blunder and is discharged.

He then presents his bill which was far too great for Dr. Lathan (Fred Schurger) to pay even though the Doctor has just inherited a vast sum of money. What was the bill?

Herman Myers is well known as a great stage comedian. He is a sure hit in any show but when he plays the character of "Toph" in the inheritance he is unsurpassed.

The people who attend the "Inheritance" may think that they can't laugh, but when they see "Toph" they will find that their systems were just full of laughs, chuckles and even screams of merriment.

"Toph" will make one forget the hot weather, your income tax, bunions and what have you?

### Two Autos Collide On Monroe Street

Touring cars driven by Mrs. James Ivetch and John Dierkes, of this city, collided at about 10:30 o'clock this morning on West Monroe street, near the Thirteenth street intersection. Dierkes was driving east and Mrs. Ivetch was driving west. The cars were damaged to some extent, but neither of the occupants was injured. Dierkes had his car insured against accidents.

### Junior Band To Give Regular Concert Tonight

The following program will be given by the Junior Band, beginning at eight o'clock this evening on Liberty Way.

March, Booster Club—Beyer Overture, Fraternity—Mackie Waltz, Spanish—Fredman Lullaby, Wild Irish Rose—Olcott Overture—Bennett Serenade, Idle Fancy—Bennett Intermezzo, Fairyland—Beyer March, Call To Arms—Mackie Star Spangled Banner—Key.

### Carload Of New Oats Shipped From Berne

Berne, August 2.—(Special)—A carload of new oats, the first shipped out of Berne this season, left town Wednesday. The car contained 2,200 bushels. Local grain dealers are paying 32 cents per bushel for the oats.

### STATE TAX BOARD INCREASES VALUE HERE \$1,174,860

### Assessments On Improvements Boosted In All Taxing Unites In County

### SMALL INCREASE ON LANDS ORDERED

The state board of tax commissioners has ordered increases in the assessments on lands and improvements in the various taxing units of Adams county, totaling approximately \$1,174,860.

The increases ordered by the state board are:

- Berne—30 per cent on improvements, increase equal to \$229,570.
- Decatur—10 per cent on improvements, increase equal to \$274,370.
- Monroe, 10 per cent on improvements, increase equal to \$11,950.
- Geneva, 10 per cent on improvements, increase equal to \$23,740.
- All 12 townships, 4 per cent on lands, increase equal to \$523,840.
- All 12 townships, 4 per cent on improvements, increase equal to \$111,390.

### Ordered to Meet Aug. 7

The state board of tax commissioners ordered the Adams county board of review to meet in special session Tuesday, August 7, for the purpose of considering the increases and making the adjustments. The board will be called into special session, Martin Jaberger, county auditor, stated and action adopting the increases or rejecting the order will be taken at the meeting. Mr. Jaberger was ordered to notify the state board by August 13 of the action of the county board of review.

Mr. Jaberger got in touch with Mr. Brown, chairman of the state board, this morning and suggested that if the local county board of review was willing to abide by the state order, that the board be permitted to increase the improvements on farm lands 20 per cent and thus omit the 4 per cent increase on farm lands. This would eliminate about half of the work, Mr. Jaberger stated. Mr. Brown agreed to the change, providing the change increased the assessments about the same amount. Mr. Jaberger has figured out that the 20 per cent increase on farm improvements will yield about the same increase. The assessed value on farm lands is \$13,202,150. The 4 per cent increase would increase this \$523,840. The assessed valuation on farm improvements is \$3,393,040.

### Action Not Known

What action the local board of review will take in the matter is not known.

### SMITH AND PEEK HOLD CONFERENCE

### Nominee Would Discuss Farm Problem With Men of Both Parties If Elected

By Thomas L. Stokes  
(U. P. Staff Correspondent)

New York, Aug. 2.—(U.P.)—Such Republican leaders as former Governor Lowden of Illinois, as well as Democrats who have studied the farm problem, will be called in to discuss the agricultural situation with Governor Alfred E. Smith, if he is elected president. The Governor said today after a conference with George N. Peek, chairman of the corn belt committee.

### Another Pays Fine For Keeping A Slot Machine

Jess Rice, proprietor of the Rice hotel in this city, appeared in mayor's court last night and pleaded guilty to keeping a gambling device, commonly known as a slot machine in his place of business. He was fined \$25 and costs amounting to \$35, which he paid. Mr. Rice was one of seven persons arrested in Decatur for keeping a slot machine. Mayor George Krick, who heard the case, also ordered the slot machines destroyed and it will be the duty of Sheriff Harl Hollingsworth to destroy the devices when the ten day limit expires. It was stated that the money in the slot machines would be turned over to the owners of the machines or to those places from which the machines were taken. Sheriff Hollingsworth now has the machines.