

FLAMES THREATEN BUSINESS BLOCK

M'CRAY AND M'CLURE MEET BEFORE G. O. P. COMMITTEE SESSION

Conference of Governor-Elect and Anderson Representative Believed to Do With House Speakership.

WEIGHTY TOPICS BEFORE STATE BODY

Reports that the speakership contest of the House of Representatives was being settled today followed a long conference at the Claypool Hotel between Governor-elect Warren T. McCray and Representative John F. McClure of Anderson, reported to be the McCray candidate for the gavel.

The conference preceded the meeting of the Republican State committee at the Hotel Sevier where legislative affairs, among other things, were discussed. It was considered imminent, also, that Edward C. Tamm, Anderson's former candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor and one of Mr. McClure's most active backers, also was in the city.

It is understood that the "circulation of reports that Governor-elect McCray has, or is about to, decree that Mr. McClure shall be the Speaker of the House" has caused considerable embarrassment to both. It is probable that any activities of the incoming Governor in the future will be so arranged as not to appear significant so far as the speakership race is concerned.

LAWRENCE LYONS
BOSTON, Dec. 29.—Mr. McClure is being boosted by Lawrence Lyons who was Mr. McCray's campaign manager. He also is said to have the good will of various public utilities which are looking on him favorably because of his record as a member of the railroad commission and of the public service commission.

McCray is expected to meet the legislative visiting committee either this afternoon or tomorrow and to go over the requests of various State departments and institutions and to scan the proposed appropriations.

McCray's proposed permanent registration bill was discussed at the meeting of the State committee which opened shortly before noon. The present registration law, which requires voters to register before each election, has caused a great deal of inconvenience and expense to political committees and to officials entrusted with the administration of the law.

The committee set Saturday, Jan. 15, at 1:30 p. m., as the time for the meetings of precinct committees and the organization of city committees preparatory to the campaigns for the election of mayors.

The finances of the State organization are said to be running low and the question (Continued on Page Two.)

STREET THUGS FIGURE IN TWO GUN HOLD-UPS

One Victim Says Bandit Slipped on Ice, Giving Him Escape Chance.

MANY ROBBERIES LISTED

Two men were held up and four burglars were reported to the police early today.

Samuel Newhouse of Lawrence, Ind., was held up and robbed at 2 o'clock this morning. He told the police he was robbed of \$70.

Newhouse told the police he had been drinking and that he went to a restaurant at 631 Massachusetts avenue and net a man from whom he purchased some "white mule" whisky, and that the man followed him to Alabama and New York streets, where he knocked Newhouse down and robbed him.

A burglar broke through the back door of the residence of Emma Burton, at 114 Brook street, sometime last night, and after ransacking the house, took money ranging between \$300 and \$400 and a revolver, valued at \$5.

After a successful visit to Thomas Barrage's grocery store, 3403 West Michigan street, at 3 o'clock this morning, Barrage said the thieves obtained \$41.20.

Wilbur O. Blanford, 302 Harvard Place, reported that thieves had gained entrance to his home by prying up a window. They stole an overcoat with a fur collar (Continued on Page Ten.)

REPORT CITES BENEFITS

Increased Appropriations Are Sought to Complete Road Work Under Construction.

INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS

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"When did you prepare this?" exclaimed Judge Walter Pritchard in surprise.

"I wrote part of it before (Continued on Page Two.)

HIGHWAY BOARD TO ASK SOLONS FOR NEW FUNDS

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Writes 'Defense' for Beating Wife; Gives It to Judge

Theory of Home Life Filling 8 Large Pages Doesn't Save Him Fine.

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SAYS AUTOS ON TRACKS DELAY CAR SERVICE

Street Railway Superintendent Asks Machines Be Parked Flat to Curb.

REQUEST CONFERENCE

Following a suggestion of James P. Tretton, superintendent of the Indianapolis Street Railway Company, that the running time of street cars on practically all of the north lines could be increased one mile per hour during the evening rush hour, the Indianapolis street railway has eliminated in Illinois, Ohio and Pennsylvania streets and Massachusetts avenue, the board of public works announced today that it will request the board of public safety and Mr. Thelton to attend a conference at which the problem will be discussed.

"With the present appropriation," the report states, "the State Highway Commission will be able to contract each year for about 120 miles of hard-surface road and to maintain the present system with the present appropriation the report states. The increased appropriation is also asked because in order that the State of Indiana may receive her full allotment of money for highway construction, the State highway commission has contracts for the construction of new highways between Jan. 1 and June 30 to the amount of \$5,000,000."

This, the commission has planned to do, the report states, and this would take up all available funds of the commission for new construction work and may force the commission short for maintenance work.

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"Lloyd George's policy in Ireland has hardened and strengthened the Sinn Fein," he declared.

Following the two addresses, the congress unanimously adopted a resolution demanding immediate inquiry into reprisals in Ireland with severe punishment of those found guilty.

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"Put it on," yelled the delegates.

Johnson slipped the mask across his face. With his face thus grotesquely covered, he declared:

"This is the official mask manufactured by the thousands here in England under (Continued on Page Two.)

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BRITISH LABOR TAKES RAP AT IRISH POLICY

Premier's Course Described as

'Word of Bully Backed by Force.'

EARLY INQUIRY SOUGHT

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Premier Lloyd George's course in Ireland was described before 800 delegates to the National Labor Congress here today as "the word of a bully backed by physical force."

The delegates, representing 6,000,000 workers, heard the black and tan police denounced as the "nearest approach to a white guard ever seen in Great Britain" with a warning that they would be used later in a class war the military against the working class.

A. G. Cameron, presiding over the convention, declared the Sinn Fein is "no terrorist organization but is representative of 80 per cent of the Irish population."

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LIEBER ART STORE SUFFERS \$175,000 DAMAGE FROM FIRE

Ten Streams of Water Played on Blaze in Fourth Floor of West Washington Street Building.

CAUSE NOT DETERMINED BY POLICE

Fire that started in the third floor of the H. Lieber Company art store, 24 West Washington street, at 6 o'clock this morning caused damage estimated at \$175,000. The loss is covered by insurance, officials say.

The building, which is a four-story brick structure, is owned by Mrs. John C. S. Harrison.

The flames had gained much headway before being discovered. The first alarm was sent in at 5:50 o'clock and two minutes later Battalion Fire Chief J. H. O'Brien sent in a second alarm.

The cause of the fire has not been determined.

Great clouds of smoke were pouring from the windows of the third and fourth floors at both the Washington street front and the Court street end of the building.

As the firemen placed an extension ladder reaching the windows of the fourth floor, they dragged up hose lines. The water tower was raised and a heavy stream of water was sent through the fourth floor windows.

The flames at that instant broke through the roof and dashed high way across Washington street. They drove the firemen on the ladder down for a few minutes, but as the stream from the water tower played the firemen were enabled to go back to the top of the ladder under its screen. By this time ten lines of hose poured water into the upper floor of the building.

Members of the salvage corps forced their way into the first floor and covered up stock on that floor and on the second floor. The nature of the merchandise in the building is such that it was as badly damaged by water as by fire.

DAMAGE TO BE HEAVY.

Carl D. H. Hirsch, treasurer of the company, stated that the loss from fire and damage to the stock probably would reach about \$150,000. He stated that the company held a lease on the building and that he could not estimate the damage to the building, which he said would be heavy.

The other officers of the company are Otto R. Lieber, president; Robert Lieber, vice president, and Herman P. Lieber, secretary.

While the fire has caused a heavy loss, the company is in a position to continue (Continued on Page Ten.)



The completeness of the destruction of the store of the H. Lieber Company is shown by the above picture of the empty shell of the structure. The fire in its early stages blazed so fiercely that firemen were compelled to leave the ladders and depend on a water tower. Adjoining buildings were saved by heavy fire walls.

GROCER HELD UP AS CROWD PASSES STORE

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., Dec. 29.—While robbers were passing the grocery of J. H. Chin a robber walked into the store and held him up at the point of a revolver last night.

The bandit rifled the cash drawer of the day's receipts, then calmly walked out and was lost in the crowd of pedestrians.

FAKE U. S. STAMPS FOUND ON LIQUOR

MUSKEGON, Mich., Dec. 29.—Government officials here today were searching for counterfeiters who made seals and stamps found on illicit liquor in the home of R. W. Berg, four miles from here. The stamps were pronounced an excellent duplication of the Government.

The amount of liquor, stills and other apparatus was confiscated in Berg's home. Mrs. Berg is held under \$1,500 bail and police are looking for Berg.

SENATOR SUFFERS RELAPSE; IMPROVES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29.—Senator Chamberlain of Oregon, who is ill at the Emergency Hospital here, suffered a slight relapse last night but was some what improved today, his physicians said. A second operation will be necessary, but his physicians are not yet decided whether the Senator is sufficiently strong to undergo the operation.

(Continued on Page Two.)

SAYS POET QUILTS FIUME

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New York Police Believe They Have Perpetrators of Robberies.

NEW YORK, Dec. 29.—Harry Wolfe was charged 15 cents for a shave. The court agreed it was "an outrage" and suspended sentence on him for punching the boughblack in the nose.

The Jugo-Slav Garrison commander offered to dislodge the legions from the Isle of St. Marks, but the offer was refused.

MILAN, Dec. 29.—Firing was suspended at Flume last night, according to word received from that city early today.

The Duke of Abruzzi of Italy's royal family has arrived at Abuzzia to attend to bring about a peaceful settlement between d'Annunzio and the Italian government forces, said a dispatch from Abuzzia today. It was at Abuzzia that the mayor of Flume met General Ferraro of the blocking army on Tuesday and asked for a truce. There were high hopes at that time that a cessation of hostilities could be brought about.

The people of Flume are suffering keenly from lack of food.

LONDON, Dec. 29.—Four hundred men have been killed in fighting at Fl