

## 17 PERISH IN FLAMES; LOSS HEAVY

Nine Asphyxiated Miners Taken From Ohio Shaft—Five Firemen Sacrifice Lives Performing Their Duty.

## THREE CHILDREN ARE VICTIMS OF MATCHES

Million Dollar Pennsylvania Blaze Burns Out Fifty Business Firms—Hotel Guests Flee as Building Wall Collapses.

Fire caused seventeen deaths and exacted colossal property damage throughout the Nation today. Nine asphyxiated miners were taken from a mine at Bellaire, Ohio, after a blaze. Four firemen were killed fighting a Wayneburg (Pa.) hotel fire. Another was crushed battling a Baltimore grain warehouse catastrophe. Three Buffalo (N. Y.) children were victims of a fire started by their matches.

## NINE MINERS KILLED

Sixty-Eight Escape Blaze in Ohio Mine.

BELLAIRE, Ohio, Dec. 23.—With nine of their comrades asphyxiated, all of the miners endangered when they broke out in the Webb Coal Company's Cambria mine near here shortly after midnight were accounted for today.

Sixty-eight miners escaped unscathed. They owe their lives to the heroism of their foreman, Jacob Schramm.

Schramm, controlling his panic-stricken men with an iron hand, led them to safety through an unused entrance, a mile from the main shaft, when the fire occurred.

A short circuit, caused when a boulder fell on an electric conduit, started the blaze.

Flames and dense clouds of smoke quickly penetrated the arteries of the mine, extinguishing the lights and trapping the panic-stricken miners.

Fire apparatus could not be sent to the mine from Bellaire or surrounding villages due to the impassable roads.

## FOUR FIREMEN KILLED

Million-Dollar Blaze Burns Out Fifty Business Firms.

WAYNEBURG, Pa., Dec. 23.—A wall collapsed during a fire at the Downey House today, killing four firemen and seriously injuring two others.

The fire started in a restaurant on the ground floor of the Downey House, spread to the Grossman department store and then jumped across the street to the first Presbyterian church.

Fifty business concerns in the Downey House and Grossman building were burned out.

Damage was estimated at a million dollars.

## THREE CHILDREN DIE

Toys Play With Matches, Start Fire and Suffocate.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 23.—A triple funeral for three children who were suffocated by smoke from a fire they started while playing with matches was planned today. The children, Gertrude Weis, 6, Joseph Weis, 5, and Rene Weis, 3, were left alone by their mother while she went Christmas shopping. Firemen found them sprawled on a floor, dead, in a smoke-filled room.

## FIREMAN IS CRUSHED

100,000-Bushel Baltimore Grain Warehouse Destroyed.

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 23.—Fire Captain Harry Jones was killed today and five other firemen were hurt when fire destroyed the 100,000-bushel E. Steen & Bros. grain warehouse. A fall in the wall crushed Jones and injured his companions.

## TANGLES WITH TRAIN

Motorist Faces Drunkenness Charge After Accident.

Newton Green, 1165 W. Twenty-Seventh St., was charged with drunkenness and operating an automobile while under the influence of liquor today.

He drove his auto into a Belt train at S. Harding St., and the Big Four Railroad. He was out about the

## PARENTS SCARED AS JIMMY HUNTS SANTA

Police Notified When Lad Wanders From Home to Find St. Nick.

"Jimmy" Hampton, 6, of 123 N. Noble St., is waiting for Santa Claus at home today. Tuesday, Jimmy started out on a private search for the old fellow, which lasted for three hours, and resulted in a "lost" alarm being sent in to the police by the frantic parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Hampton.

"I couldn't find Santa," Jimmy admitted, sadly, "but I almost did. I saw his snow."

If Jimmy's father hadn't taken him window shopping the other day, and if a woolly dog hadn't "nippily flopped" entrancingly Jimmy wouldn't have thought of the Santa expedition.

Grown folks only say, "wait, wait," these days, so Jimmy took the matter in hand and started out "on his own" to find Santa and tell him about the nice dog with the round glass eyes. Jimmy was in such haste he didn't even stop for his hat.

The boy returned on foot, and alone. "Oh, I just went every place," he explained, "only Santa wasn't there."

Dispatch Says No Houses Are Left Standing—Storms Grip Japan.

HONOLULU, Dec. 23.—A Tokio dispatch to the Hawaii Hochi Shu today reported that the island of Yap has been devastated by a series of tidal waves, believed to have been caused by earthquakes under the ocean.

"The entire island has been laid waste, with not one house remaining standing," the advice stated.

Grave fear is felt for the Carolines, believed to have been in the path of the tidal wave.

The same dispatch stated that Japan is in the grip of severe storms raging with cyclonic fury. Villages have been wrecked and railways and shipping are feeling the effects of the elements.

The wind has taken a heavy toll of lives, it was reported.

Agents Kill Twenty-Five Bootleggers and Bootleggers Kill Seven Agents.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The prohibition war claimed thirty-two lives in the fiscal year ended June 30, official figures disclosed today.

## USE DISCRETION, SAYS ANDREWS

'Economical' Purchase of Evidence Ordered.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Andrews today warned prohibition officers that "ridiculous and extravagant use of funds in securing evidence" would mean immediate dismissal from the Federal dry enforcement service.

Yesterday the House defeated an amendment that would have eliminated appropriation of money for buying evidence.

Citing the Mayflower Hotel case here, which has occasioned storms of protest from the floors of Congress, Andrews laid down the law that henceforth money must be used "intelligently and economically."

Two agents spent \$1,500 in a month at the hotel in seeking evidence through expensive dinners and extensive purchases of liquors, but the two employees arrested were acquitted.

## GAS FUMES ARE FATAL

Woman Overcome Month Ago Dies at Frankfurt.

FRANKFURT, Ind., Dec. 23.—Gas fumes inhaled more than four weeks ago today were blamed for the death of Mrs. Aletha Wilds, 84. The woman has been in serious condition since she was found overcome by fumes from a coal stove at her home.

## Fails to Attend Church, Jailed

SOUTH BEND, Ind., Dec. 23.—Failure to attend church services today cost Donald Blackburn, 24, convicted forger, his liberty.

Judge C. E. Pattee of the St. Joseph Circuit Court revoked a suspended sentence and ordered Blackburn taken to prison to serve a two to four-year term when he learned the man was not attending church.

## 'OGDEN FOR CONGRESS'

Corporation Counsel "Nominated" at Legal Department Luncheon.

James M. Ogden, corporation counsel, today was unofficially "nominated" for Congress at the Columbia Club by William Bosson, city attorney.

Bosson expressed appreciation of his service with Ogden at a luncheon of the city legal department and said hundreds of good citizens would favor Ogden's nomination.

Ogden smiled, but declined to say whether he would enter the race. Republicans also have urged Ogden to run for Superior Court Three Judge.



Jimmy Hampton

## Youth in Santa Role Burned

ANDERSON, Ind., Dec. 23.—Oris McLaughlin, 15, today lies suffering from burns sustained while he was playing Santa Claus at a school celebration near here.

The cotton trimmings of the lad's costume became ignited from a candle on a Christmas tree and before the blaze could be extinguished his suit had been burned from his body.

Meantime two youthful daylight bandits early today held up two Kroger groceries, 1705 and 3748 E. Michigan St., two miles apart, and escaped with \$130.60.

W. E. Moloy, 37, of 815 N. Keystone Ave., manager at 1705 E. Michigan St., told Lieutenant Helm and emergency squad that he was carrying out Christmas trees when the two men walked in. One stopped his exit by pressing a gun against his stomach and ordering him to drop the trees and turn around. He was marched into the rear room. One of the bandits, about 20, took \$25 from the register and handed it to the

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## NEW MARK SET AT POSTOFFICE

1,654,747 Pieces of Mail Handled Tuesday.

The Indianapolis postoffice handled 1,654,747 pieces of outgoing mail on Tuesday, the largest number ever to pass through this office in one day. Postmaster Robert H. Bryson said today.

No tabulation is kept of incoming mail, but it is estimated at about 655,000 pieces, making the total 2,000,000. The outgoing mail included 1,065,876 letters and 539,000 packages.

Parcel post stations will be open from 6 a. m. until 6 p. m. Thursday and the main office will close at 10 p. m. Only special delivery letters will be delivered from midnight Dec. 24 to midnight Dec. 25.

## WOMEN CAUSE MEN'S ARREST

Two Charged With Being Fugitives From Chicago.

M. L. Rankin, 22, and John Kelly, 22, both of Chicago, are held at city prison today charged with being fugitives from Chicago, where it is said they stole fur coats.

Kelly was arrested in the courtroom where it is said he was waiting for Miss Edna Wink, charged with petit larceny, who was being tried before Judge Pro Tem. Vinson Manifold. Her case was continued.

Rankin, taken at a downtown hotel, is said to have frequented Apt. 40, at 1530 N. Illinois St., the same address given by Mrs. Catherine Moore, 20, who pleaded guilty in city court Tuesday to petit larceny. She said she stole her 2-year-old baby could have Christmas presents.

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## JUDGE ASKS POOLROOMS BE BONDED

Forfeiture of Big Sum Would Be Penalty for Allowing Minors to Congregate in Plan Suggested to City by Collins.

## AROUSED BY STORIES OF ACCUSED YOUTHS

More Bandit Toll Taken as Two Kroger Stores Are Held Up in Daylight Crime and Robbed of \$130—One Victim Struck.

A high bond for all proprietors of Indianapolis poolrooms, to be forfeited when guilty of law violations, especially when minors congregate in their places, was one of the cures for the juvenile crime wave that Criminal Judge James A. Collins suggested today to the incoming city administration.

Judge Collins condemned poolrooms when four youths appeared before him charged with auto banditry and robbery.

"I pass this out as a hint to the new administration that the city council pass an ordinance fixing license fee for operation of poolrooms so high that the men who operate them will feel some duty toward law enforcement."

Poolrooms now pay annually \$1 fee and \$5 for each table.

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## PHILADELPHIA 'FIRES' BUTLER

Ex-Marine Not Wanted as a 'Retired Officer.'

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23.—Accepting Gen. Smedley D. Butler's ultimatum yesterday that he would have to "fire" him as director of Public Safety, Mayor Kendrick today formally notified him of his dismissal.

Butler, having been directed to turn over his office as director of public safety to Assistant Director George W. Elliott by the mayor in a letter last night, appeared at his office to find the mayor's formal dismissal awaiting him.

Yesterday, Butler, loaned to the city for the job by the Marines in 1924, resigned the Marines and reported to Kendrick he would continue at the post. Kendrick announced Philadelphia did not want him as a "retired officer."

Kendrick previously had carried his fight to President Coolidge to get Butler's leave extended so that he could continue as safety director.

## MUSIC AT SUNNYSIDE

Late Music and Christmas Numbers Are Played.

The ten piece orchestra of the Colonial Theater, made the patients of Sunnyside Sanatorium, forget that they ever had an ill, today. The orchestra visited the sanatorium, and made a lively program of late music, rendered Christmas numbers for the patients.

## FREE CHRISTMAS DINNER

Needy Persons to Be Served at Place of God Mission.

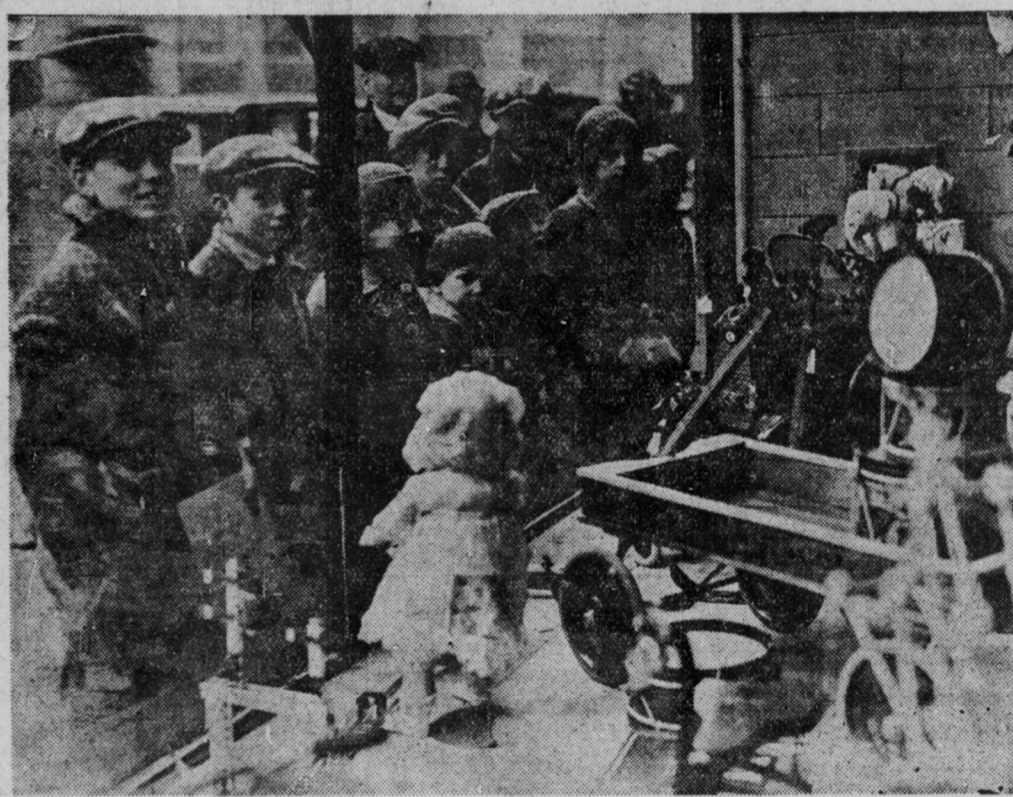
A free Christmas dinner will be served to all needy persons at the Place of God Army Rescue Mission, 609 E. Washington St., it was announced today. Ira Ramsey of the rescue mission is making arrangements for the dinner.

## Woman in Mule-Laden Auto

WHEN deputy sheriffs stopped a speeding automobile east of Indianapolis on the National Rd. early today they thought they had a couple of men speeders. However, it soon was discovered that one of the occupants was a woman attired in breeches, boots, coat and cap.

Further investigation disclosed five gallons of white mule whisky in the machine. As a result Sam Burnett and Mary White were charged with speeding, transporting liquor, blind tiger, conspiracy to commit a felony and improper licenses. Arrests were made by Deputies Ragan, Brown, Bell and Koffel.

## OUTSIDE, LOOKING IN!



Two Days Left in Which to Play Santa to Needy Folks.

"Ooh! Lookit that little steam engine!"

"Gosh, fellers, ain't that a darby train?"

"C'mere Jim! See 'at red coaster wagon? See it?"

Second hand thrills these! A whole wonderful Christmas—viewed from the outside looking in, and never from the inside looking out! That's pretty tough on normal youngsters who have heard about Santa Claus from year to year as a kindly fellow; who hasn't always time enough to visit everybody, and who keep hoping year after year that Santa Claus won't be too busy to look them over. The stores are full of tads like these, examining the bright playthings in the toy department with delighted eyes, and standing, wishing, wishing, wishing.

Today and Thursday, The Times will print the last of the long list of descriptions of needy families who wouldn't have any Christmas if Times readers had not come forward to bring it to them. There's still a substantial list to choose from—and

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## IN FLORIDA, IT'S 24 ABOVE ZERO

Heavy Citrus Damage Tomorrow Predicted.

TAMPA, Fla., Dec. 23.—A killing frost which may cause thousands of dollars' damage to gardens and citrus groves is predicted for this vicinity tomorrow morning.

The thermometer registered 41 degrees in Tampa at 7:40 a. m. today, but because of the wind and overhanging clouds there was very little frost. At Jacksonville the mercury registered 30 and at Pensacola 24 degrees above zero.

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## FIREMEN WILL SPREAD CHEER

Fund Collected—Chief Asks for Coal.

Firemen collected \$1,497.67 to use in spreading Christmas cheer, Chief John J. O'Brien said today. He estimated 500 baskets of food will be distributed to needy families.

O'Brien asked coal be contributed. "We have distributed a lot of coal, but considerable more is needed," he said.

About 56,000 packages of candy, oranges and apples will be given children at the municipal party at Cadle Tabernacle Christmas eve.

## BOUND OVER TO JURY

Automobile Driver Is Charged With Failure to Stop.

On a charge of failure to stop after an accident, Frank Shrift, 21, of 822 Wexford St., was bound over to the Marion County grand jury under \$1,000 bond today in city court. An assault and battery charge was continued.

An automobile driven by Shrift is said to have struck and injured Sebastian Hilgert, 70, of 120 E. Minnesota St., Oct. 16. It is alleged that Shrift did not stop, and left town for three weeks, after the accident.

## FRIGID WAVE LIFTS; WARMER SPELL DUE

Indianapolis Christmas Weather Still Problematical—Low Mark During Night 11 Above.

Just what sort of a Christmas Indianapolis will have is problematical. The United States Weather Bureau said today after the mercury had dropped during the night to 11 degrees above, for the lowest temperature of the season. The temperature rose after that hour to 15 at 7 a. m., 14 degrees below normal.

Warmer weather is predicted for tonight with the lowest temperature somewhat below freezing. There probably will be some snow during the night, it was said.

Today's low temperature was lower than that of last year, when 22 was recorded. The low mark for Dec. 23, was in 1872, when the mercury skidded down to 6 below. Christmas day last year also was frigid, with a temperature of 4 below.

Indications point to a white Christmas, but the snow may be melted by a warm sun today or Thursday, even though the temperature is below freezing, J. H. Arrington, meteorologist, said.

Tuesday night found the city's streets slippery, after traffic had packed down the snow that had blanketed the city the night before. Snow during the day added 5 inch to the total of 1.1 inches on the ground Tuesday morning.

Conditions have been changing rapidly, Arrington said. The north-west, which had zero temperatures Tuesday, today reported marks as high as 28 above. The south and eastern portions of the country, on the other hand, had much lower temperatures than the preceding day.

Few accidents were reported Tuesday, despite the ice-coated streets. Drivers downtown were ordered to observe the ten miles an hour speed limit in the mile square district.

Though the mercury dropped during the day, merchants reported large Christmas crowds. They prepared for the last-minute rush today and Thursday.

## BUS PERMIT GRANTED

Through Route to French Lick Allowed by Commission.

The public service commission today authorized the Blue Goose bus line to offer through transporta between Indianapolis and French Lick. The line formerly held certificates for routes from Indianapolis to Bedford and Mitchell to French Lick. The new order authorizes traffic between Bedford and Mitchell, but prohibits local stops between those two cities.

Nearly a month ago the coach company, through A. Smith Bowman, president, applied for three new lines. The cases will be heard in January. Date for the traction company's new petition has not been set.

## BORAH FAVORS PLAN

Congressional Leaders Back Coolidge Decision.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Congressional leaders are in agreement with President Coolidge's decision to accept the League of Nations invitation for American participation in the preliminary negotiations for a Geneva arms conference, it was made plain today by Senator Borah, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He discussed the matter after a conference with President Coolidge and Secretary of State Kellogg.

## REAL HOLIDAY ORDERED

The Courthouse will remain closed Saturday, the Marion County commissioners ruled today. Commissioners said that since Saturday is a half-holiday for county employees it would be useless for the offices to open.

## TIME EXTENSION GIVEN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The Interstate Commerce Commission today granted the Cambria and Indiana railroad an extension of time of one year beginning June 30, 1926, within which the road may commence proposed construction.

## WHEAT GOES SKYWARD IN WILD SPURT

Spirited Buying Follows Government Report Showing Substantial Crop Decrease—Many Suffer Heavy Losses.

## RIOTOUS SCENES ARE ENACTED AT SESSION

New Crop, December, Jumps 9 1-2 Cents Overnight—Oats and Provisions Follow Cereal Trend to Higher Levels.

CHICAGO, Dec. 23.—Amid the wildest demonstration that have taken place in the grain pits since war days, wheat prices advanced sharply today and the new May delivery sold at a level 8 cents above yesterday's market close.

Prices jumped as much as nine cents higher at the outside and then, after a slump due to profit-taking, went up again nearly as high.

New December wheat closed at \$1.73 1/4, a bushel, an advance of six cents. New May sold at \$1.51 1/4, up 3 cents, and July delivery closed at \$1.47 1/2, up 6 cents.

## Trade Record Broken

Corn and oats made substantial advances under the same bearish influence which was the government crop survey, indicating poor conditions.

Riotous scenes were enacted as shouting, screaming, gesticulating brokers fought to execute orders.

The volume of trading in the first fifteen minutes of the session was the largest in the history of the board.

Many traders, caught "short" of the market, were forced to take enormous losses in their efforts to cover their commitments.

## Wheat Rides Van

Wheat rode the van. December wheat, new crop, made an overnight gain of 9 1/2 cents, opening at \$1.76 a bushel.

Corn gathered strength from the leading cereal and was more than 4 cents higher. Strength in wheat centered mostly on December varieties.

In the wild opening, eastern wheat shorts competed with the west in a frantic effort to cover commitments.

Prices sagged at the end of the first hour, drops up to 4 1/2 cents being registered.

## RICH GIFTS BY RICHMAN FIRM

\$690,000 to Be Distributed Among 1,400 Employees.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Dec. 23.—As the 1,400 employees of the Richman Bros. Clothing Company factory today prepared to start on a two weeks' Christmas vacation with pay, announcement was made of the third annual distribution of the company's stock to employees, representing a gift of \$600,000. The pay roll for the fortnight vacation amounts to an additional \$90,000.

The stock valued on the market at \$180 a share will be sold for \$50 a share to all employees, excepting only those who own more than 100 shares.

The new stock offer affects 1,700 employees in the Cleveland and Lorain factories and in thirteen retail stores in Ohio and in Buffalo, Jamestown, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, Erie, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Lansing.

## FLAPPER FANNY SAYS

THE wife promises to obey, but the husband generally does.



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