



The Indianapolis Times

Generally fair tonight and Sunday; slightly colder tonight with lowest temperature about 5; rising temperature Sunday afternoon.

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FEAR 170 DEAD IN EXPLOSION OF GAS TANK

German Industrial City Is
Left in Ruins; 1,000
Are Injured.

BLAST FELT 150 MILES

Buildings Are Crushed Like
Cardboard, Bodies Hurled
Hundreds of Feet.

NEUNKIRCHEN, Germany, Feb. 11.—The industrial section of Neunkirchen was in ruins today after the explosion of a gas tank that crushed buildings like cardboard, obliterated an iron works and a benzol plant, hurled bodies and debris through the air for hundreds of feet, and was felt 150 miles away.

Police, firemen, soldiers, and volunteers rescue workers had recovered fifty bodies from the ruins early today. Police estimated that the death toll would reach at least 170, with 1,000 injured. Two hundred and eighty survivors were taken to hospitals in serious condition.

Seven persons were killed by the stones, pieces of steel, wood, glass, and miscellaneous parts of buildings hurled over the town. The top of the gas tank was found half a mile away on a railroad track. The top was about 150 feet in diameter.

Supplies Are Commandered

The blast left remaining only the chassis of a street car, which was passing the iron works and Benzol plant when the explosion happened. The tank supplied the entire district with gas.

An adjacent settlement of workmen's houses was flattened, trapping women and children.

A second explosion followed the first blast.

Emergency hospitals and first aid stations were set up after the regular hospitals were filled. Medical supplies were commandered and urgent appeals sent to nearby cities for doctors and nurses.

Many Flew for Miles

Many residents of the district fled for several miles into the country.

Five hundred men were known to have been working in various plants near the gas tank. Police estimated that most of today would be required to make an accurate check of the dead.

"I saw ten houses knocked flat simultaneously by the explosion," an injured survivor told the United Press. "In one street, every house was wrecked. Inhabitants of all parts of the city fled from their homes, believing at first that a serious earthquake had followed recent minor earth shocks here."

"Many women and children were trampled in the stampede. Thousands of windows were shattered and chimney pots tumbled into the streets. I saw doctors performing operations in the streets, and priests administering the last sacrament to the dying."

Blast Felt 150 Miles

Buildings wrecked included the railroad station, part of a hospital, a telephone exchange, and a theater which was unoccupied.

The first explosion was felt at Cologne, Basle, and other cities within a range of 150 miles. The second occurred an hour later, when fire spread to a gasoline station. Police reserves were forced to fight back a crowd from the danger zone as members of families of workmen, mostly women and children, rushed to the scene.

While doctors and nurses worked frantically amid great confusion, the clergy did its best to calm the population.

Fragments of heavy freight cars were found seven miles from Neunkirchen.

The cause of the blast was not determined, but it was believed that a minor explosion at the benzol plant started a fire which spread to gas pipes and finally ignited the gas tank. Unconfirmed reports laid the explosion to sabotage.

Greasome Scene Described

"Immediately after the explosion there was a dead silence," one survivor said, "then people began running about mad with fear. Many who came from the direction of the benzol plant muttered and stammered in utter panic."

"When I got to where the iron works had been, I found nothing but ruins and bodies. Terrible cries and groans came from the debris. Then I saw a stream of blazing liquid appear from the site of the benzol plant, and soon fire appeared in all parts of the ruins."

Members of a rescue party reported that an injured woman died in their arms after they forced their way through the debris of her home. The woman was able to murmur only, "Eight of us, drinking coffee," before she died. Seven other members of her family were believed buried in the ruins.

Passengers on a street car blown to pieces were so mutilated that it was impossible to determine how many people had been on the car.

Windup Day

The last puzzle in the Jigsaw Crossword contest appears on Page 9 today. On Monday, The Times will resume publication of its regular daily crossword.

You still can enter the Jigsaw race for cash prizes. Call The Times crossword department for a "dodger" containing Puzzles 1 to 15, get back numbers containing the other puzzles, and start now on your solution.

HELP SNARE KIDNAPERS



\$1.50 TAX LAW HELD MENACE TO EDUCATION

Connersville Bond Issue Is
Defended as Necessary
for Child Welfare.

PASSES HOUSE, 51-29

Slated as Special Order of
Business in Senate
Tuesday.

Issue has been formed as to whether welfare of children or retention of the state's \$1.50 tax limit law shall prevail.

This is the declaration of supporters of a bill which would permit issuance of up to \$100,000 in bonds by the city of Connersville to pay expenses of operating its schools for the term to open in September.

The bill, passed in the house of representatives, 51 to 29, will be a special order of business in the senate at 2 Monday afternoon. The decision Friday followed debate precipitated when foes of the legislation sought indefinite postponement.

Speaks for Children

The senate committee on education presented the bill with a split report, the majority favoring killing the bill and the minority urging its passage.

Senator Walter S. Chambers (Dem., Newcastle), was the chief spokesman for the bill.

"The sole issue," he said, "is whether school children in Connersville are going to get an education or have a year taken out of their lives which never can be replaced."

Charge that "a certain Fayette county bank would like to get hold of that bond issue" was made by Senator Thos. W. Druley (Dem., Boston) in opposing the bill.

Another opponent of the measure Senator Chester A. Perkins (Dem., South Bend) expressed fear that its passage would be the beginning of the end of the \$1.50 tax law, which law he asserted was "an expression of the will of the people."

The petition will be presented to Governor Paul V. McNutt with the claim that many students could not visit their homes if the bill is passed.

Representative Martin J. Downey (Dem., Hammond) introduced the bill Monday. Maximum punishment of a \$50 fine and thirty days in jail for soliciting rides on a highway is provided.

Stormy Scene Results

Although defending the \$1.50 law, Senator Anderson Ketchum, Greensburg, Democratic floor leader, asked:

"Are we not charged with the responsibility of keeping children in school?"

The bill caused a stormy scene before its passage in the house, Speaker Earl Crawford having turned the gavel over to Edward H. Stein, Bloomfield, majority floor leader, so he could take the floor in defense of the measure.

It was stated in the senate that the Fayette county tax adjustment board, to keep within the \$1.50 limit, had set a tax rate which would provide only enough money to permit operation of Connersville schools for six weeks, beginning in September.

Superior Judge William A. Pickens handed down the decree Friday, holding the 1929 garnishee law unconstitutional and invalid.

This ruling with those of two other superior judges who have cited the law's unconstitutionality, during the last year, is expected to halve hundreds of suits in garnishment.

However, Superior Judge Russell J. Ryan and Clarence E. Weil did not issue decrees. They held the law invalid in overruling demurrers in cases involving it.

Pickens ruled in favor of Frank Hodge, laborer, employed by the Link Belt Company, who sued for injunction to prevent Schloss Brothers' Investment Company from levying on 10 per cent of his wages.

Heads of the company, who still "remember November," directors of the Columbia Club decided Friday at their annual meeting.

Proposal to permit Democrats to become members of the G. O. P. was strongly voted down.

Directors re-elected John C. Ruckelshaus as president for 1933. Other officers named are Fred C. Gardner, vice-president; Frank A. Butler, treasurer, and E. Park Akin, secretary.

Gardner was elected president of the Columbia Realty Company with Ruckelshaus, vice-president; Butler, treasurer, and Akin, secretary.

COLUMBIA CLUB VOTE BARS DEMOCRATS

Stronghold of G. O. P.
Stands Firm for Principles.

There will remain one haven in the city where Republicans may find sanctuary from gloating Democrats who still "remember November," directors of the Indianapolis Athletic Club Friday. Joseph E. Reagan was re-elected to the board. Annual report of Manager T. M. Overley was given.

After the election of Frank Hodge, laborer, employed by the Link Belt Company from levying on 10 per cent of his wages.

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CONGRESS TODAY

By United Press
SENATE

Continues debate on war department appropriation bill.

Judiciary subcommittee resumes hearings on Black five-day week bill.

Agriculture committee resumes consideration of domestic allotment bill.

Banking subcommittee continues study of farm credit legislation.

HOUSE

Considers minor legislation.

Appropriations committee considers district of Columbia supply bill.

The girl said the fork "just slipped" when she placed the handle down and the prongs pointing upward. She said she suffered no pain.

Fork-Eater

Girl, 18, Is Operated On
for Removal of Table
Implement.

By United Press

ST. PAUL, Minn., Feb. 11.—Margaret Santell, 18, underwent an operation at Mayo hospital Friday for removal from her stomach a seven-inch table fork which she had swallowed accidentally.

The girl said the fork "just slipped" when she placed the handle down and the prongs pointing upward. She said she suffered no pain.

Nine Coasting Sites Are Barricaded for Children

Nine protected coasting places in the city were provided by the police accident prevention bureau today, and an announcement was made that the sites will be barricaded against motor traffic until the snow disappears.

Hilly thoroughfares were closed in Garfield, Brookside and Ellenger parks; Capitol avenue at Fifty-second street; Thirty-sixth street, from Elmira to the canal;

In closing the streets, police called attention to the city ordinance prohibiting coasting in any but authorized sections. Skating on Fall creek also is prohibited by ordinance.

Too 'Perfect'

Girl's Walk in Zero
Weather to Attend
School Costly.

By United Press

VLICKSBURG, Mich., Feb. 11.—Katherine Needham, 16, braved temperatures and walked four miles to school Friday, just to keep her attendance record perfect.

She was taken in a serious condition to Franklin Memorial hospital, where attachés said her body was frostbitten from the hips to her toes.

Connersville Bond Issue Is
Defended as Necessary
for Child Welfare.

BULLETIN

Hilton Crouch, ex-convict, was released today in municipal court after being held two days as a suspect in the machine gun slaying of Sergeant Lester E. Jones Tuesday. Release was recommended by Chief Mike Morrissey.

As Mrs. Boyd, the victim's daughter, narrated the incidents which led to the death, the countryside waited apprehensively for the promised "resurrection" of the dead woman.

John Mills, cult leader and one of her sons, who is accused of the actual killing, predicted that his 72-year-old mother would arise from the dead today, "born anew without sin."

Eight Held in Killing

Meanwhile, in the county jail, the eight members of the family who were arrested at the height of their ceremonial, were somewhat quieted and, for the most part, had ceased their chanting and wailing. Mills muttered his strange gibberish occasionally.

Mrs. Boyd said she and her husband and her mother were at home in their cabin Tuesday.

"We got up about 11 o'clock," she said, "and ate breakfast. It wasn't long before I heard shouting down the creek, and I looked out the window.

John Mills was coming up the hill, holding a stick in front of him. His eye were shut, and he had a Bible in his other hand.

Smites Flock With Stick

"Alongside of him was Ballard Mills (a nephew of Mrs. Mills) and he was carrying another stick, and holding it just like John."

"They came on stumbling up the road, and I could see they were walking with their eyes shut because they stumbled over the rocks and bushes."

"Behind John and Ballard were their wives and Fred Mills and his wife and about thirty-five or forty kids. When I saw them I was scared. I knew something was going to happen."

"After they got in the house, they started praying and shouting and John went around smiting people with the stick to see if they were worthy."

Instructed by Lord

"After a while, John said he had been instructed by the Lord to kill six virgins, and they all began to look around to see who they would pick for the virgins. Some of the kids got scared, and ran out of the house."

"After they chanted a while, John said he was going to drive the devils out of our mother. She was in the other room, and had a sick headache."

"John brought her out, and she sat down on the altar. Then John told her to lay down on the altar, and she started waving his hands and praying. The others were yelling in the tongue."

"Then, all of a sudden, John grabbed her throat, and started to choke her."

Too Weak to Escape

"He got his knee in her chest, and choked her with one hand and beat her with the other."

"She tried to get away but she was too weak."

After Mrs. Mills had been killed, preparations were being made to burn her body as a sacrifice to God when authorities, notified of the chanting by neighbors, broke in the cabin door.

John Mills is charged with the murder of his mother while the other eight members of the mountain family are held as accomplices.

Under the Garner proposal, which is much more far-reaching than that added to the bill in the senate, Mr. Roosevelt would have authority to reduce all appropriations by 10 per cent within standards set by congress.

Under some interpretations of this provision, he could cut salaries at 10 per cent, reduce air mail contracts and slice allowances provided by law for veterans.

The senate economy program already empowers him to consolidate, curtail or even abolish independent bureaus and agencies.

During the Friday afternoon session the senate passed the administration's highway commission rip-off bill and one to reduce from two to one year the residence period required for filing a divorce suit.

Bill increasing to \$1,000 the present \$600 exemption