

EXPLOSION ON U.S. DREADNOUGHT TAKES TOLL OF FORTY-FOUR LIVES

Disaster Occurs During Naval Practice Off California—Between Ten and Twenty Injured and Burned.

A despatch from San Pedro, Cal., says:—Three officers and forty-one men of the battleship Mississippi were swept to death, at 11:45 a.m. on Thursday, on the San Clemente fleet drill grounds, off this port, when a shell in one of the 14-inch guns, turret No. 2, exploded prematurely, according to semi-official information given out from the United States steamship Mexico, flagship of the Division Four, of the fleet.

Nearly a score of men were injured by the flare-back that carried the terrific charge through the breach of the gun instead of out through the muzzle.

The gun crew were preparing to fire as one unit the great sea fighter's powerful broadside, when a sailor called for the electricity to be turned on for the charge.

The switch was thrown on to ignite the shell before the breech was locked, and in another moment the interior of the turret was littered with dead and dying.

Ensign D. Smith from the U.S.S. New Mexico was the first man to enter the turret No. 2 following the explosion.

Upon entering the turret, Ensign Smith took with him an air hose, which immediately caused flames from the burning debris to shoot forth. After flooding the turret with water, Ensign Smith was able to enter. All the men were dead at that time, their faces swelled and puffed almost beyond recognition by the intense heat.

Identification marks on the clothing, however, was still discernable. Three-quarters of an hour lapsed after the fire in turret No. 2 was observed from the quartermaster's deck before entrance into the red-hot chamber containing the charred bodies of the entombed men could be made by Ensign Smith.

Had the turret, which was revolving at the time the explosion on the battleship Mississippi occurred, remained in the position in which it was at the time of the explosion, the hang fire from the left gun would have gone into the centre of the City of San Pedro, witnesses aboard the ship said. When the gunner's hand guiding the controls was wrenched away by the explosion, the guns kept revolving and stopped as they pointed directly aft.

CANADA STILL RETAINS MUCH ALIEN PROPERTY

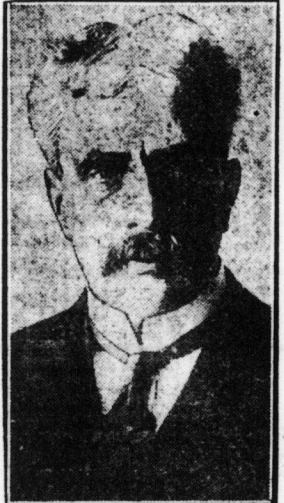
Custodian Has Paid Claims of Over Four Million Dollars.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—Alien property worth \$9,782,232 is still in the hands of the Canadian custodian, who has paid out claims totalling \$4,727,000 to date. Figures dealing with alien property were tabled in the House of Commons on an order for return. It is shown that Canada received in cash from Germany, Austria-Hungary, and other alien countries, \$5,216,000. On account of indebtedness to enemy nationals, Canadian citizens paid into the custodian \$3,207,000. In securities, real estate, uncollected property, and other sources, \$5,897,451 was realized.

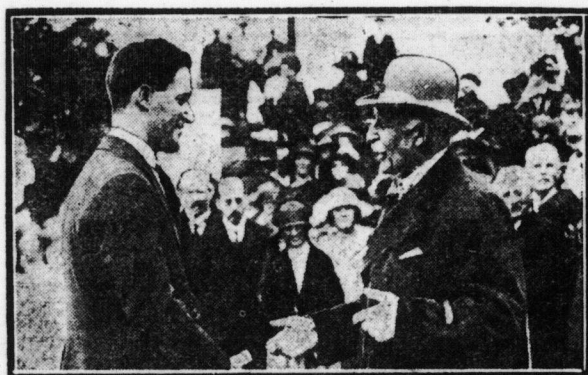
Disbursements out of the fund are divided into four heads. To Canadian creditors, 250 in number, \$709,500 was paid; to 61 Canadian claimants a total of \$1,592,000; cash releases to 950 people totalling \$1,151,000, and \$1,273,248 was paid to the central clearing office for enemy property.

Of the amount still in the hands of the custodian \$3,687,786 is in cash and \$200,000 is invested in treasury

notes, \$5,460,811 is in securities and \$433,635 represents value of property.



A recent portrait of Sir Robert Borden, whose name was mentioned in connection with the Irish Boundary Commission.



While visiting St. John's School, Ealing, London, the Duke of Connaught presented a certificate of recommendation to P. C. Blake, an old school boy.

COOLIDGE PRESIDENT DAWES VICE-PRESIDENT

Republicans Choose Candidates for Big Political Campaign.

A despatch from Marietta, O., says:—Brig-Gen. Charles G. Dawes has accepted the nomination for the Vice-Presidency.

"I accept the nomination by the Republican party for the Vice-Presidency," he said in a formal statement when informed of his nomination. "I deeply appreciate the honor conferred."

A despatch from Convention Hall, Cleveland, says:—Charles G. Dawes of Illinois was nominated for the Vice-Presidency by the Republican National Convention, after it once had nominated Frank O. Lowden, former Governor of Illinois, and he had refused to accept the place.

In a brief and spectacular fight, in which William M. Butler, President Coolidge's campaign manager, had said to Senator Reed of Pennsylvania, "It must be Hoover," and Sen. Reed had replied, "It can't be done, it must be Dawes," the Dawes supporters marshalled their forces and put the General across for the nomination.

Earlier in the day Mr. Butler's forces had passed the word that the Administration men desired the nomination of Theodore E. Burton of Ohio, and in the voting which followed the supporters of Frank O. Lowden of Illinois ran away with the nomination for their man, only to have him decline it. The nomination of Dawes came as the climax to one of the most spectacular scenes in Republican party history, in which the convention, once having nominated a candidate,

was obliged to undo its work and find another.

Calvin Coolidge was nominated for the Presidency on the first ballot taken in the Republican National Convention.

He received 1,065 of the 1,109 votes. Robt. Marion La Follette got 34—28 of the 29 from Wisconsin and 6 of the 13 from North Dakota—and Hiram Johnson got 10 of the 13 votes from South Dakota.

As usual, the galleries received every mention of La Follette's name, and the report of the votes cast for him, with jeers and hisses, but they had only laughter for the name of Hiram Johnson.

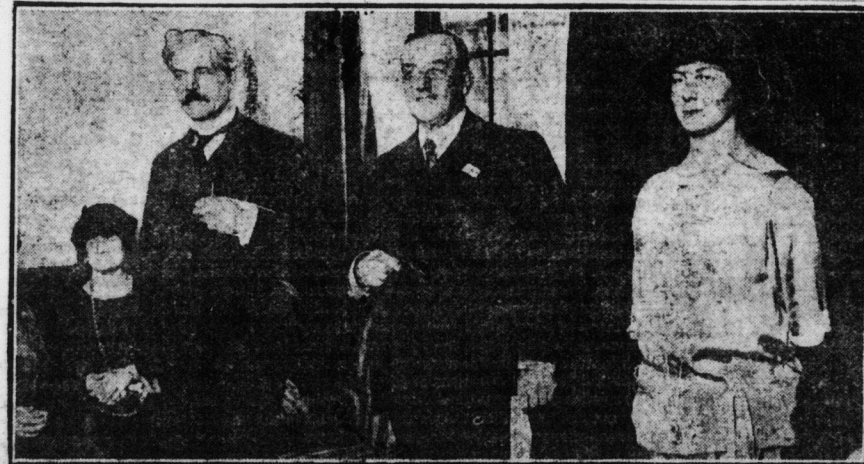


Photo shows Premier MacDonald, the home secretary and Miss Isabel MacDonald at the opening of the new Parliamentary Labor Club at Tufon Street, Westminster.



Calvin Coolidge, Republican Candidate for President of United States.



Brig-Gen. Chas. G. Dawes, Republican Candidate for Vice-President of United States.

GASTON DOUMERGUE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

Descendant of Old Calvinistic Family Succeeds Millerand as Head of State—Premiership Accepted by Edouard Herriot.

A despatch from Paris says:—Gaston Doumergue, President of the Senate, Protestant and moderate radical, was elected President of the Republic by the National Assembly at Versailles on Friday.

He defeated Paul Painleve, a candidate of the Left bloc and president of the Chamber of Deputies, by 615 to 309. The solid Left phalanx, led by Edouard Herriot, for the radical Socialists, and by Leon Blum for the Socialists, did not even poll the full 360 votes it expected from the Chamber for Painleve.

Voting in secret, a portion of Herriot's forces broke away and voted for Doumergue with all the Senate, both Left and Right, and that portion of the Chamber which is not "pure Republican."

M. Herriot will take the premiership from President Doumergue which he refused from President Millerand, although it will not be the triumph anticipated if M. Painleve had won.

M. Doumergue is the descendant of an old Calvinist family of Nimes

and is the first Protestant President France has had. He is anti-Vatican and classed with the Left, although he has otherwise little in common with the Chamber majority.

He has had thirty years' service in the Chamber and the Senate, and is an old office holder. He has been a member of six different Cabinets and has held eight different portfolios. He was Premier when the radicals carried the country just before the war and resigned because he favored the three-year military service law, in opposition to which the radicals had just won the election.

Since the war he has opposed resumption of relations with the Vatican, but later, as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Upper House, he supported Premier Poincare's foreign policy.

There has not been a military demonstration since the war such as that which accompanied the election. All the roads around Versailles were filled with soldiers because of a threatened demonstration by Communists, which did not materialize.

RUSSIANS ALARMED BY OUTBREAK OF PLAGUE

Bubonic and Lung Diseases Spread by Rodents Destroying Vast Crop Areas.

A despatch from Moscow says:—Outbreaks of the bubonic plague and its variant, the lung plague, occurring year after year in the steppe region east of the Volga, and the appearance of the plague in Black Sea ports and the Don Valley of the Ukraine, are causing alarm in Russian medical circles.

The extension of the plague area is due to the spread of field mice and the rodents known as susliks, which are destroying crops on millions of acres of the best farming land in Russia.

A micro-biological institute has been opened at Saratoff to study means of combating the plague and to train personnel for medical expeditions being rushed to infected areas.

One of the greatest difficulties in the warfare is the question of transportation, as the regions affected are usually without roads and railroads and hours are precious in preventing the spread of the outbreak. The introduction of the airplane has gone a long way toward solving this problem.

The plague appeared early this year in four steppe provinces—Astrakhan, Uralisk, Bukhara and the Kalmyk district. There were 473 cases, of which 484 were fatal, before the disease was got under control. Since then it has broken out anew in the Amu Darya region. A congress of bacteriologists and epidemiologists at Kiev late in April, after listening to a report of Prof. Zabotny on the penetration of the bubonic plague in the Ukraine, decided that it was necessary to establish a station at Odessa.

MANY CANADIANS RETURNING FROM U.S.

Statistics Show 9,000 Have Come Back in Past Two Months.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—Evidence that many Canadians are returning from the United States, is shown by statistics now being compiled by the Dept. of Immigration and Colonization, the total for the last two months being nearly 9,000.

It was not until towards the end of last March that the immigration officials began to make an accurate check on the number of Canadians who were coming back after being in the United States for six months or longer. In April returns from 148 out of the 171 points along the international boundary at which there are Canadian immigration inspectors, showed that 4,084 Canadian citizens returned to their own country. In May the number from 129 ports was 4,839, with 420 ports still to be heard from. The figures above quoted do not include Canadians who have been in the United States for a shorter period than six months.

British Trade Shows Signs of Brisk Revival

Favorable signs all along the line have renewed confidence and promise better business, says a cable from London. The British Industries fair at the Empire Exhibition at Wembley are in full swing. The budget removes the corporation profits tax and leaves the income and death duties unchanged. The continued high exchange value of the franc reduces Continental competition. Resumption of work in the mines and shipyards and increased bank clearings and relative firmness of prices are other favorable factors.

SHOT DOWN BY CHIEF OF BAND \$3,000,000 ROBBER CONFESSES

Man Near Death and Others Implicated in Chicago Train Robbery Arrested—One of Accused Identified by Mail Clerks.

Chicago, June 15.—An anonymous telephone message to the police early to-day began clearing up the \$3,000,000 mail robbery perpetrated Thursday night on the North Side.

J. H. Wayne, with several bullets in his body, was identified in the County Hospital by two mail clerks as one of the bandits who held up the mail and express train of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad.

Wayne, with three other men and a woman, was arrested earlier in an apartment on the North Side.

A confession was obtained, it was stated by Chief of Detectives Hughes and Capt. Schoemaker, who started for the place where the loot, money and bonds was said to be buried.

The confession is said to have been made by Wayne, who was at the point of death when the announcement was made.

The telephone tip sent the police

to the North Side address, a house occupied by Walter McComb.

There they found McComb, his wife, Wayne and a man who said he was Paul Wade of Tulsa, Okla. In Wayne's pockets the police found \$1,000 bills and in Wade's possession were new \$500 bills.

While the police were at McComb's a man who gave the name of J. Mahoney knocked at the door and was arrested.

James H. Watson, another early caller at the McComb flat, was arrested. In his pockets were found twenty one-thousand-dollar bills. These are said to have been identified to-day by serial numbers. Mrs. Catherine McComb, wife of the lessee of the flat, gave the police valuable information.

In the flat were found names, letters, incriminating articles and documents. Wayne and Wade were hiding under a bed. Wayne had been shot twice in the head and had gunshot wounds in the arms and chest.

King George Displays Excellent Horsemanship

A despatch from Aldershot, Eng., says:—The excellent horsemanship of King George got him out of a tight place and saved him from a possible serious mishap. As the King was leaving the parade grounds on his charger, after reviewing the troops, the horse became frightened at the cheering crowd. The animal "bucked" and nearly collided with a horse ridden by the Duke of Connaught, beside the Queen's carriage.

The King made a second attempt to force his horse to accompany the procession, but the animal, terrified, plunged until its royal rider was forced to turn back and ride home along a quiet route.

You can't travel far on a lame

excuse.

Gypsy Moths Menace the Forests of Quebec

A despatch from Quebec says:—While elation is felt over the fact that forest fires this year have affected an area set at only 33 acres by an official report received from Forest Rangers, another danger is threatening the National domain. The Forest Protection Service without delay has taken means to meet and try to prevent invasion of the southern forests of the province by a fly known as the gypsy moth.

In the last five years the gypsy moth has been playing havoc with the forests of the United States, first in the southern sections and in the last two years toward the northern sections causing losses which are set at hundreds of millions of dollars in value by experts.



Photo shows the gallop past of the 17th Lancers when the one-armed general, Sir Walter Congreve, V.S., reviewed the 3rd division at Salisbury Plain.

The Week's Markets

TORONTO.

Man. wheat—No. 1 North, \$1.17; No. 3 North, \$1.104.

Man. oats—No. 3 CW, 44c; No. 1 feed, 41c.

Man. barley—Nominal. All the above, c.i.f., bay ports. Ont. barley—65 to 70c.

American corn—No. 2 yellow, 95c. Ont. corn—No. 2, \$1.40 to \$1.45.

Man. flour—No. 2, \$1.40 to \$1.45.

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rolls, 17 to 18c; cottage rolls, 18 to 20c; breakfast bacon, 21 to 25c; special brand breakfast bacon, 28 to 30c; backs, boneless, 27 to 30c.

Cured meats—Long clear bacon, 50 to 70 lbs., \$18.50; 70 to 90 lbs., \$18; 90 lbs. and up, \$17; lightweight rolls, in barrels, \$37; heavyweight rolls, \$32.

Lard—Pure tallow, 14 1/2 to 15 1/2; tubs, 15 to 15 1/2; pails, 15 1/2 to 16; prints, 18 to 18 1/2; shortening, tierces, 14 to 14 1/2; tubs, 14 1/2 to 15; pails, 15 to 15 1/2; prints, 16 1/2 to 17c.

Export steers, choice, \$7.75 to \$8; do, good, \$7.50 to \$7.75; export heifers, \$7.25 to \$7.50; baby heaves, \$7.50 to \$8; butcher steers, choice, \$7 to \$7.75; do, good, \$6.25 to \$6.75; do, med., \$5.75 to \$6; do, com., \$4.75 to \$5; butcher heifers, choice, \$6.75 to \$7.50; do, med., \$5.25 to \$6; do, com., \$4.75 to \$5; butcher cows, choice, \$5.25 to \$6.25; do, med., \$3.50 to \$4.50; butcher bulls, \$4.50 to \$5.25; bolognas, \$2.50 to \$3.50; canners and cutters, \$1.50 to \$2.50; feeding steers, choice, \$6 to \$6.75; do, fair, \$4 to \$5; stockers, choice, \$5 to \$5.25; do, fair, \$4 to \$4.25; milkers, springers, choice, \$7 to \$8; do, fair, \$4.50 to \$6; calves, choice, \$9 to \$10.50; do, med., \$7 to \$7.75; do, com., \$4.50 to \$5.50; lambs, choice ewes, \$10.50 to \$18; do, bucks, \$15 to \$16.50; do, culls, \$12 to \$15; spring lambs, per lb., 15 to 18c; sheep, light ewes, \$5.50 to \$7.50; do, culls, \$3.50 to \$4.50; hogs, fed and watered, \$8 to \$8.25; do, f.o.b., \$7.50 to \$7.75; do, country points, \$7.25 to \$7.50; do, select, \$8.50 to \$8.85; do, off cars, long haul, \$8.40 to \$8.65.

Man. flour—No. 2, \$1.40 to \$1.45.

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Natural Resources Bulletin.

The Natural Resources Intelligence Service of the Department of the Interior at Ottawa says:

Many of our most serious forest fires can be directly traced to the carelessness of berry-picking parties. The season will shortly be at hand when berry-picking will be popular. Fires will be used to prepare the party lunches, and these are the most active fire menaces at this season. The camp fire should be avoided if possible, but if necessary care should be taken that a clear spot be selected, and that all leaves, branches and other inflammable material be cleared away from the spot to prevent the fire spreading. Before leaving every precaution must be taken that the fire is extinguished. If water is not available earth should be thrown on the fire to assure that the wind will not fan the fire into action and scatter embers into dry material.

Carelessness with smoking material, cigarettes, pipe ashes, etc., causes fires to start. It is not necessary to have a large fire for ordinary camp purposes. A small fire is more easily controlled, and more readily extinguished.

Nature has provided the berry bushes, and the berries, and a little care on the part of the berry-pickers will preserve the bushes for future crops, as well as obviate the danger of fire running into the forest growth and causing enormous destruction.

Rewarded for Trusting Betrayed Member of Parliament

Does it pay in these materialistic times to play the "Good Samaritan"? There is a London coffee house still keeper who is of the opinion that it does. A few weeks ago, in the early hours of the morning, a well-dressed man ordered a cup of coffee and a sandwich at his stall, only to find later that he had no money to pay the check.

The proprietor not only gave him a second cup of coffee on trust, but also advanced him sixpence for his fare home. The generous act was rewarded the following day by an invitation to dinner at the House of Commons. The "broke" stranger turned out to be J. Toole, M.P. for South Salford. He had been kept late in the House of Commons and chose this means of showing his gratitude to the man who had befriended him.

"Dining Car," Scene of Armistice Signing, Going to Pieces

A certain "wagon-restaurant," wherein a part of history—the armistice—was once inscribed, is now reposing in the court of the "Invalides," says a Paris despatch. It is going to pieces so fast that nobody, not even Marshal Foch, could at first recognize it. The roof on which the rains and sun of five years have beaten has great holes in it, the wheels have gone askew and the interior, with its tables and chairs and lamps, is unrecognizable for the dust.

The plenipotentiaries who five years ago recorded for all time the fact that the Germans had been beaten in the World War, would to-day find no need for paper and ink to sign the terms of an armistice; it could be more simply done in those layers of dust. The few sightseers who have had the hardihood to climb into the car have proved that in their usual manner by scrawling names all over the inside, and even the outside, where the words "Dining Car" still remain visible as a reminder of the armistice car's once humble identity, an identity which was perhaps not as humble as it is now.

There has been some protest over the government's allowing the "wagon restaurant" gradually to crumble away as it is now doing. Action may be taken by the authorities as a result of newspaper publicity.

Sunny Days in London Bring Crime Decrease

The fact that the sun has been making quite a show in England is held as the true cause of the decrease in crime lately. Since the opening of the last sessions at the Old Bailey there have been only twenty-five cases (they have been open three weeks), against more than a hundred in the same time at previous sessions.

A prominent London specialist is convinced that the lack of sunshine has a marked effect on certain phases of crime, and that sun-starved persons are more prone to morbidity than peoples of sunnier climes. Sun-starvation, says this medical man, produces nerve starvation and lowers the national vitality. Suicides increase in certain months probably because dull, dreary days produce depression.

It may be possible, says this specialist, that a combination of good housing and sufficient sun will one day banish serious crime from the world. He does not, however, pretend to have any plan for the forcing of the sun to shine when it won't, and it generally won't in England.

British Naval Squadron on Way to Vancouver

A despatch from Honolulu says:—The British naval squadron, headed by the battle cruiser Hood, which has been visiting here for the last week, steamed out of Honolulu on Thursday and headed for Vancouver B.C.