Old 97

After reading some News Letters and editorials about the Wreck of Old 97, a Charlotte man dug into his papers, came up with a picture of the famous wreck. You'll find the picture, and an interesting yarn by Tom Fesperman on Page 5-A of today's edition.

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★ ★ ★ ★ *Final*

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39 DIE IN NEWFOUNDLAND CRASH

Truman Calls For Industrial Peace, Higher Production

Appeal Made To Business, Labor And Consumers

Steelman Report Comment Made

By MARVIN L. ARROWSMITH

WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Truman today called on business, labor and consumers to do their "utmost to keep industrial peace" and to "maintain production."

He said in a news conference statement that the reconversion record thus far "adds up to a splendid achievement."

STRUGGLE LIES AHEAD

"But," he added, "we must not pause to congratulate ourselves. A difficult struggle lies before us.

"We must do our utmost to keep industrial peace, to maintain production at present levels where it is high, and to spur it to higher levels where it is lagging."

Mr. Truman said he hopes that every businessman, worker, farmer and consumer will take this to heart from Mr. Steelman's report: "An all-out emphasis on production of finished goods and on preventing a further increase in prices is the task immediately before us."

He singled out the latter expression of opinion from the quarterly report of Reconversion Director John R. Steelman. The Chief Executive's statement was made in connection with the report.

Steelman cautioned that a further rapid price rise might lead to "an early and severe" economic collapse with serious economic and social consequences.

Steelman also spoke out bluntly against any general round of "large" wage increases at this time, asserting they would only benefit special groups at the expense of other workers.

A reporter noted that the Steelman report warned of the danger of an economic collapse and asked Mr. Truman whether the Government had any plans to try to prevent this. Mr. Truman replied that everything possible is being done to fight inflation.

He said he saw no necessity for any new price control legislation, particularly, he added, the kind of legislation that we probably would get."

DECLINE IN REAL WAGES

A newsman also called attention to the decline in real wages reported in the Steelman statement and asked the President whether he was concerned about this. He said he is—that is one of the things we are fighting to avoid.

Steelman saw both great promise and danger in the outlook for the national economy, setting forth two problems which he said confronts the nation.

For the long range, to "maintain our economy at full production and full employment."

In the meantime, to "prevent runaway inflation."

"If prices keep on rising and precipitate a wage-price spiral, business and agriculture will find themselves priced out of the market and into a depression," Steelman asserted in his quarterly report to President Truman and Congress.

He added that if on the other hand "we can successfully retard the rise in prices, the backlog of

See TRUMAN ASKS on page 6A

No Immediate Danger

Byrnes Warns Of Activities Which Might Start War

PARIS — (AP) — Secretary of State James F. Byrnes declared today that the difficulty facing the world's peacemakers was that, "while no nation wants war, nations may pursue policies or courses of action which lead to war."

Secretary Byrnes hailed the recent statement of Soviet Prime Minister Stalin that there was no immediate danger of new armed conflict, but he said that "nations may seek political and economic advantages which they cannot obtain without war."

"That is why, if we wish to avoid war, we must decry not only war but the things which lead to war," he said in an address to the American Luncheon Club here.

MUST BE WATCHFUL

"Just because war is not now imminent, we must take the greatest care not to plant the seeds of a future war. We must seek less to defend our actions in the eyes of those who already agree with us and more to defend our actions in the eyes of those who do not agree with us. But our defense must be the defense of justice and freedom, the defense of the political and economic rights not of a few privileged men or nations but all men and all nations."

Byrnes said the "conflict of viewpoints among the Allies" was serious, but, echoing Stalin, he said there was no immediate danger of war.

"After every great war which has been won by the combined efforts of many nations, there has been a conflict among the Allies in the making of peace," Byrnes said in his prepared address. "It would be folly to deny the seriousness of the conflict in viewpoints among the Allies after this war.

CAN'T BE IGNORED

"To ignore that conflict or minimize its seriousness will not solve

See BYRNES WARNS on page 6A

Great Disappearing Act

Nation In Second Meatless Month

By WILLIAM FERRIS

CHICAGO — (AP) — The great disappearing hog and cattle act, a colossal presentation now featured in all livestock markets, rolled into its second breath-taking month today before a nationwide audience watching with baffled eyes and meatless digestive tracts.

It was on Sept. 3, the day after Labor Day, that the curtain went up on this unparalleled spectacle of the magnitude and—as show livestock pens, jammed the week before, empty, except for a few dried-up cows and emaciated pigs.

Since then the act has been repeated daily to an utterly unappreciative clientele, and Agriculture Department statistics for September showed receipts at record lows.

A minor feature of the performance, somewhat overlooked in the concentration on the all-star shortage, is the fact that beef cows today, in a market controlled by price ceilings, are selling at higher prices than they were in the free markets of July and August.

L. M. Wyatt, head of the local livestock branch of the Agriculture Department, said good cows brought $14.00-$15.50 late last August and $15.25-$17.25 now, while medium grades had advanced from $11.75-$14.00 to $12.50-$15.25. Beef cows are a major part of the present small arrivals.

How anyone could buy livestock at higher prices, and sell meat at lower prices, and still make a profit, was an incidental item of bewilderment to traders.

With the second month of the performance starting, most critics were predicting it would be taken off the boards. But they couldn't agree on when.

President Truman predicted "in the near future" although he added the shortage may grow worse this Winter, but Decontrol Board Chairman Thompson said it would be "some time"; Deputy OPA Administrator Bragg gave it "two to four weeks", but Reconversion Director Steelman forecast the shortage "will become worse this Winter."

Less Meat In Prospect

WASHINGTON —(AP)— President Truman agreed with Reconversion Director John R. Steelman today that the meat shortage may grow worse this Winter.

The President said there is no conflict between a report released today by Steelman and his own views expressed to a news conference last week.

The President, asked at today's news conference if there was a discrepancy, said he had conceded that there will be meat shortages ahead even though he looked for improvement soon but that there will be no meat famine.

That, the President said, does not imply a difference between the two views.

SURVEY MADE

Told that Steelman said the meat shortage would grow worse this Winter, the President said he was having a "survey made and that Steelman may be correct.

The President was told that Chairman Spence, Democrat, Kentucky, of the House Banking Committee indicated after a White House call this week that the Administration contemplates definite action on the meat situation.

Mr. Truman replied that every department of the Government concerned with meat supplies is studying the matter constantly, keeping its fingers on the situation.

He said he wanted to make it clear that he had not told his news conference last week there wouldn't be a meat shortage. He said "he made a distinction between a shortage and a famine.

Novelty Leather Prices Going Up

WASHINGTON.—(AP)— Prices of novelty leather products, including handbags, are on the way up. OPA boosted ceilings for three more imported leathers.

Similar to those allowed recently on other leather imports in an effort to meet heavy demands in this country, today's increases are: 35 per cent on leather retained from East Indian goatskin; 34 per cent for chamois leather produced from raw sheep or lamb skins; and about 25 per cent for skivers, which are the grain side of split sheepskins used in producing chamois.

OPA said these supply about seven and one-half per cent of all leather consumption in this country.

Ministers Of Big Four In Meeting

Remaining Issues Are Taken Up

PARIS —(AP)— A French source said the four power Foreign Ministers would meet tonight for a co-ordinated assault on remaining issues in the peace treaties with Axis satellites.

American officials disclosed British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin conferred for more than an hour this afternoon with Secretary of State James F. Byrnes at the American delegation hotel.

Some backstage move to solve the Trieste issue on the Big Four level was indicated in the series of top rank meeting yesterday and Tuesday. American sources said Byrnes had been seeking to call another session.

U. S. REBUFFED

The United States was rebuffed, 7 to 5, by a conference commission today in an attempt to slash $100,000,000 from Hungarian reparations to Russia and two other Slav countries, after a Soviet delegate assailed the proposal as an "unfriendly act."

U. S. State Department Representative Willard Thorp, who said he presented the amendment in an attempt to save Hungary's economy from collapse, also sought to cut $100,000,000 from the reparations to be paid by Finland.

The American defeat quickly followed a Western nation victory in the long and bitter fight over Trieste in the Italian Political and Territorial Commission.

Delegates of Russia and the five Slav states had bombarded deadly all through the night against a French compromise proposal for establishment of a new Free State of Trieste to be governed by the United Nations Security Council, but went down to defeat, 14 to 6.

In a series of 25 votes taken on the 700 words of the French compromise on Trieste, the 20-nation Italian Political and Territorial Commission split consistently as delegates—goaded by Commission Chairman Lief Egeland of South Africa—hacked away steadily at the task before them in a session lasting from 9:30 last night until almost dawn.

The approved statute for the Government of the new internationalized area around the vital Adriatic port, the boundaries of which were approved earlier by the Commission, provides in general:

A. The United Nations Security Council would guarantee basic human rights and the maintenance of order in assuring the integrity of the new Free State.

B. The zone would be demilitarized, with no armed forces present except at the direction and command of the Security Council.

C. The Governor of the Free State would be appointed by the Security Council after consultation with Yugoslavia and Italy, and, as the Council's representative, he would supervise the Administration of the area, with power to propose legislation and veto it.

D. The Governor would be responsible for maintaining order, would conduct foreign relations, appoint the judiciary after consultation with the Zone Council, would have power to remove judges and would have authority to declare a state of siege.

In The Holy Land

Arabs Ask Creation Of Independent State

LONDON — (AP) — Arab delegates to the London Palestine Conference have asked for creation of an independent, democratic state in the Holy Land by Dec. 31, 1948. Details of the plan were released today, 24 hours after the inconclusive session was recessed until Dec. 16 to allow delegates to attend other international conferences, including the United Nations General Assembly session in New York.

The Arabs urged that during the intervening transitional period a provisional government be set up, to be made up of seven Arabs and three Jewish ministers of Palestinian nationality.

"Unless and until legislation provides otherwise," the plan specified, "Jewish immigration into Palestine should be entirely prohibited and the existing land transfer restrictions should remain unchanged."

"The Constitution should provide that any change in the above two matters can only be affected by law requiring the consent of the Arabs in Palestine as expressed by a majority of the Arab members of the legislative Assembly."

The Constitution envisioned by the Arabs also would provide guarantees for the sanctity of the holy places, covering inviolability, maintenance, freedom of access and freedom of worship in accordance with the status quo."

Britain announced she would "consider" the Arab proposals, which called for a treaty of alliance between Palestine and Britain and definition of future relations. The Arab plan urged establishment of an interim government "by nomination and consultation" in which all legislative and executive authority would be vested. During the transitory period the Palestine High Commissioner would retain veto powers.

China Reds Drive Ahead

PEIPING—(AP)—The Communists' fierce new offensive on the Peiping-Hankow railroad reached within four miles of this city today but a spokesman said the Government was undeterred in its North China campaign and should capture Kalgan within three days.

The Reds' Hopeh Province offensive, now in its fourth day, was a retaliatory blow designed to draw Government troops from the assault on Kalgan, Communist military base in Chahar Province.

Military sources saw the Communist offensive as a vital threat against both Peiping and Tientsin.

Fifty thousand Communists under famed Gen. Ho Lung are attacking a 90 mile stretch of the Peiping-Hankow line between Chohsien and Tinghaien.

The Government's central news agency circulated an unconfirmed report that 100,000 Communists under Gen. Liu Po-Cheng were preparing to attack Anyang on the railroad in Northern Honan Province.

TWELVE-INCH SNOWFALL HITS NEW YORK STATE—Fallen limbs from snow-laden trees disrupt traffic after a twelve-inch snowfall at Malone, N. Y. The storm swept across northern New York State near the Canadian border yesterday with near-blizzard fury, playing havoc with electric power and communication facilities and forcing schools to close. (AP Wirephoto).

'National Scandal' Charged

House Will Probe Missouri Primary

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The House Campaign Expenditures Committee announced today it is sending two special agents to investigate the Missouri Democratic primary campaign in which Enos Axtell defeated Representative Slaughter for renomination. Axtell was supported by President Truman.

Chairman Priest, Democrat, Tennessee, told newsmen the investigation is being made in response to a complaint by Jerome Walsh, third candidate in the race, who contends that excessive expenditures there had "the makings of a national scandal."

Priest made public a telegram from Walsh to House Speaker Rayburn, Democrat, Texas, in which the former declared:

"The primary election campaigns waged by Roger Slaughter and Enos Axtell are brazenly in defiance of the moral limitation on the amount of money a candidate is entitled to spend to elect himself to office.

"There exists in this district the makings of a national scandal.

CHARGES BUYING ATTEMPT

"Heavy expenditures were to be expected in view of the immense national interest, but the present bare-face attempt to buy outright the voters' right of franchise is an invasion of the American concept of free elections.

"I cannot believe that in view of the Congressional tradition against the outright purchase of a seat by a candidate that the House can see its way clear to seating either of these two candidates.

"Immense amounts are being spent by both Slaughter and Axtell in the precinct among the rank and file of organization voters.

"Slaughter has plastered the town with more billboards than the Coca-Cola Co."

U. S. To Be In The Black

WASHINGTON — (AP) — President Truman predicted today that the Government will finish the current fiscal year in the black—that is with more income than outgo.

Discussing a treasury report showing that the Government was out of the red in current operations for the first time in years, Mr. Truman was asked if there was any hope of finishing the fiscal year in the black.

He said there is not only hope, but that the Government is going to do it.

Told that the last estimate anticipated a deficit of $1,900,000,000, the President said the Administration is cutting down expenses by $2,100,000,000.

Bulletin

EBBETTS FIELD, BROOKLYN.—(AP)—Long triples by Ev Dusak and Pitcher Murry Dickson and Marty Marion's outfield fly in the second inning gave St. Louis a 2-1 edge over Brooklyn today after four innings of their second play off game for the National League pennant.

Greeks Surround Leftist Force

ATHENS.—(AP)—Press dispatches from Northern Greece today reported that Greek troops had surrounded a force of 200 to 300 Leftists at Naoussa, 25 miles south of the Yugoslav border, after the band had raided and burned part of the town.

The advices said the Leftists, armed with machineguns and mortars, had attacked Naoussa early yesterday morning and that approximately 200 casualties had resulted in the ensuing battle. About 700 residents of the town were said to have assisted the attackers.

The Leftists were reported to have cut telegraph lines, wrecked the power station and gendarmerie barracks and burned up to 60 houses.

Hull Remains In Critical State

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Cordell Hull's condition continues to be "most critical," the Navy reported today.

A 9 A. M. bulletin from Bethesda, Md., Naval Hospital, where the former Secretary of State suffered a stroke Monday said:

"Mr. Hull had a very poor night. His condition continues to be most critical."

Women And Tots Aboard

NEW YORK —(AP)— Nine of the twelve women aboard the American Overseas Airlines plane that crashed today in Newfoundland were en route to join their husbands in Europe, and five of them were accompanied by children.

Most of the husbands are stationed overseas with the armed services.

Mrs. Richard Van Houten, 21, of Yonkers, N. Y., was en route to see Lt. Van Houten. He never had seen his six-month-old daughter, Janet, who was traveling with her mother.

GEORGIANS ABOARD

Mrs. Helen Kent Downing, 26, of Thomson, Ga., had her two children, Laurie, four years old, and Barbara, twenty months, with her to join their husband and father, Frank Schmidt, a technical adviser for the Army in Germany. Schmidt had been home a month ago to arrange for his family to join him.

Other women en route to meet their husbands were:

Mrs. Virginia E. Bellanger, 21, of Kingston, N. J., whose husband, Frederick, is with the Army in Berlin; Mrs. Alda B. Stabler, of Bellwood, Pa., whose husband, Army Lt. James Stabler, is in Anspach, Germany;

Mrs. Ethel Agnes Miessler, 47, whose husband, Erwin G. Miessler, is an American Red Cross accountant at Bad Wildingen, near Frankfort; Mrs. Vera Himes, 47, of Arlington, Va., whose husband, Dr. Norman E. Himes, is an Army instructor in Germany.

Two Slain In Hollywood

HOLLYWOOD — (AP) — Two men were shot to death early today in a luxurious new Hollywood apartment in the climax of what Detective Lt. Harry Hansen said was a long-standing gangland feud.

Riddled with bullets were Benny (The Meatball) Gamson, 39, Hollywood, and George Levinson, 43, of Beverly Hills and Chicago.

The killer escaped.

Two West Los Angeles officers, William Friedman and Edward Hyde, cruising in their radio car, saw Gamson run screaming from the apartment house. They reached Gamson's side as he fell dead on the sidewalk. They rushed inside and found Levinson's body.

Both Gamson and Levinson were arrested and questioned last May after the killing of Pauley Gibbons, slain on the street by bullets fired from a passing car, but both later were released. Gamson was shot at in September, 1941, by the occupants of a black limousine, Hansen recalled.

All Aboard Killed When Blazing Ship Takes Plunge

Worst Commercial Air Accident

STEPHENVILLE, NFLD. —(AP)—An American Airlines plane bearing 39 persons from New York to Berlin, crashed in flames early today in rugged hills ten miles from Harmon Field, near here, and a search party which reached the scene reported there was "no survivors."

The rescue party had ploughed through miles of woods and underbrush to reach the fire-scarred wreckage of the big Skymaster.

HELICOPTER LEAVES

A United States Coast Guard helicopter plane left Gander Airport early this afternoon for the scene of the disaster. Gander Field is 225 miles east of Stephenville.

At New York, the Coast Guard said a brief message telling of the worst commercial airplane accident in history was received at 1:50 P. M. (EST). It said helicopters were en route to Stephenville, to take aboard Coast Guard and Army officials to the scene.

SIX CHILDREN ABOARD

Six of the passengers on the ill-fated plane were children, accompanying their mothers who were en route to Europe to join their husbands. There were twelve women aboard.

As an Air France transport captain who flew over the wreckage two hours after the crash said on arrival at New York that the plane burned completely and there was no sign of life nearby.

The four engine DC-4 Skymaster was en route from New York to Berlin and plunged into the side of a rocky hill ten minutes after it left Stephenville at 2:28 A. M. (EST). It left New York yesterday at 10:55 A. M.

WRECK CIRCLED

The Air France captain Jacques Charmoz, said he was at Harmon Field when the crash occurred.

"I could see the glow of the explosion before I took off," he said, "after the takeoff, we circled the wreck. Then the plane hit the side of a hill quite high up and was still smoking.

"The light was poor and I could not identify any part of the plane. I saw a burnt spot on the hillside. It is a fairly wooded hill. I could see a path cut through the trees. The plane probably went straight into the hill."

Earlier reports to the Coast Guard indicated the plane hit one-half mile up the side of the hill and 100 feet from the top of the slope, which is covered with rocks and scrub trees.

Capt. Charmoz said the 42 persons in his plane, twelve of them women, caught a glimpse of the wreckage.

Another description of the wreckage was given by Robert Albee of Forest Hills, N. Y., Navigator on the French plane.

"Our plane circled the wreck at 1,500 feet," Albee related. "I could not see the actual fire, but the whole plane was smouldering. The fire had died down quite a bit, but there still was a glow."

The navigator said PBY's were landing four to five miles from the wreckage.

More Newsprint Outlook Gloomy

WASHINGTON — (AP) — R. M. Fowler, president of the Newsprint Association of Canada, said today the outlook is gloomy for any increase in shipments of Canadian newsprint to this country.

In a testimony submitted to a House Interstate subcommittee, Fowler reported that "at present operations are already at 90 per cent of capacity, it is therefore unwise to anticipate any improvement in the present production rate."

WEATHER

Continued fair and slightly warmer this afternoon, tonight and tomorrow.

Temperatures at 8:30 today — 72
High and low last 24 hours — 76-54
Sunset today — 6:15
Sunrise tomorrow — 6:45

GROCERY DAY

For weekend grocery shopping wise Charlotte housewives shop the food pages of The Charlotte News. These regular food pages appear Thursday every week with the weekend food values of the best food stores in town. Make Thursday's food pages your habit in

The Charlotte News