

WARREN FIRED

Weather
Tonight and Thursday,
fair; gentle westerly
winds.
Temperature Last 24 Hours
Maximum, 57. Minimum, 46.
Today noon, 52.

The Seattle Star

7TH LATE EDITION

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AS IT SEEMS TO ME
DANA SLEETH

OCCASIONALLY, these wonderful mornings, I shake myself out of bed soon after sun-up and expand on the front porch, in conscious pride that I'm the first man up in the neighborhood, and about that time along comes the paper boy, finishing his morning's work, and my pride subsides.

We get accustomed to marvels, to unnatural miracles, to strange spectacles. So we get accustomed to having our paper on our front porch by 6 each morning. And yet, what could be more unnatural than for a boy to crawl out of bed hours before daylight, and start out with a heavy bundle of papers, tramping thru the snow, and hail, and mud, every day in the year, and always leaving each paper just where the householder wants it?

When a healthy boy, with the boy's love of sleep, and play, and a boy's hatred of routine and detail, chooses such a job and sticks to it, that boy has done a wonderful thing.

INDEED, we do not give the boys in general credit for the success of the entire newspaper business.

The street boys are a lot more important than even a press foreman; and, of course, they are considerably more useful than half a dozen editors.

For, while papers have been published without editors, and have managed to get by for considerable periods without foremen, there was never a city daily that survived without newsboys and carrier boys.

I bet not how clever your paper is, mighty few folks will walk a block out of the way to knock on the editor's door and hang in their pennies.

If we can get a paper on any street corner, if we can get it thrust under our front door, well and good; we'll read it, and we'll quietly pay for it. But without that delivery service, newspapers would not travel far.

THE most important personage in a newspaper office, after the newsboys, is the advertising man; next comes the cashier, who pays your honorarium; next the various mechanical geniuses; next the janitor, who keeps the place clean; next the competent and smiling young ladies who write out formulas for making love run smooth, and taking ink spots out of silk. And away down, at the tag end of the procession, you will see a little runt with horn glasses, and a limp in his left leg, and an atmosphere of discontent; he'll be one of the various editors, and should he vanish for a week, nobody about the shop would know it except the cashier.

The public has a strange idea of newspapers. It imagines that the editors write the editorials, that the reporters are the mainstay of the establishment, and that everybody stays awake nights, worrying if there is going to be enough "news" to fill out the paper next day.

No newspaper ever worries about news, and if you want to get a working idea of the relative value of "news" and business, you take a spring poem up to the editor and note his response; and then you take a want ad to the ad man who happens to be running the plant that day, and observe his "welcome, and you'll observe the really the boss, the right important lad about the works.

MODERN newspapers maintain fellows like myself, who write things, just as a theatre maintains gill chairs in the ever-vacant boxes. They are part of the scenery; the public expects them; no plant is considered complete without them, but so far as being of real, vital importance, newspapers require writers about as much as a cat needs nine tails.

But the lords of 'em all, the cock-of-the-walk, the cheery, all-wise and philanthropic man of the display ad branch, has to bow the humble knee to the ychlin who sells on the street and the lad who gets up before dawn to tote his little bundle, for the boys are the court of last resort; they are the final link in the chain, and the prettiest transient display ad, taken at double prices, and running for a week without change of copy, is of less importance than the good will and the cheerful endeavor of this army of lads, who, night after night, and morning after morning, uphold on their young shoulders the weight of one of the chief businesses of the nation.

And, at that, I don't know of another job where a boy can always make a dollar every day in a year's school or a meal at home.

HOORAY

GENERAL REDUCTIONS of prices on merchandise, especially clothing, were reported today thruout the country.

Merchants in many large cities have cut prices from 20 to 50 per cent. Newspapers in New York were filled with advertisements of "sales."

Reasons given for the reductions were:

A "slow" spring season, with the public doing little purchasing and leaving merchants with stocked up shelves.

The "tight" condition of the money market.

Banks were reported calling in loans, forcing merchants who had borrowed money to purchase goods, to unload in order to meet their notes.

Congestion of freight shipments, due to lack of cars, the "rump" railroad strike, and preventing proper distribution of merchandise.

The food market, according to today's reports, had not been generally influenced by the downward movement. However, grocers in some sections predicted a slight decline might be expected soon, due to the general economic conditions.

The congested freight situation was given as the reason for food prices remaining up.

The price-cutting movement has hit the Middle West, all large cities, with the exception of Detroit and Cleveland, reporting slashing of prices.

REDUCTION NOW ON IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO, May 19.—High prices have reached their peak and present price slashing, fast becoming general thruout the country, will spread, merchants and business men here predicted today.

One Chicago department store joined the price-cutting movement today, offering men's suits, formerly selling from \$45 to \$60, for from \$20 to \$35.

Food brokerage houses today predicted food prices will fall soon.

"They are surely on the downward trend," said T. O. Weiss, a commission merchant. Weiss says the cause of the tumbling of prices is due to belief that the situation is fast returning to normal.

Experts here saw possibilities of a break in food prices in the decline in yesterday's grain market. Some grains yesterday lost 6 and 7 cents.

Veal and lamb have been lowered two cents a pound wholesale within the week, dealers declared. Imports from Argentina and New Zealand meats caused the fall, they said.

"Some dealers here today blamed the fall in prices on the uncertainty of the present situation."

Portland Stores Are Pessimistic

PORTLAND, Ore., May 19.—Department store managers, wholesalers and men's furnishing goods dealers today expressed the unanimous opinion that prices here will probably drop sometime—but not this year, in any event.

Stocks for the fall trade have been and are being bought at increases over present prices, according to the merchants.

Thinks Price Cut Is Not Permanent

LINCOLN, Neb., May 19.—Although practically all leading department stores here are offering some lines of goods at cut prices, merchants declare permanent reductions are not yet in sight.

J. E. Miller, mayor of Lincoln and head of a large department store, declared the present agitation if continued, will smash the smaller retailers.

"There can be no reduction of retail prices until the primary market has been reached," he said. "It takes a brave man to predict what will happen."

Walla Walla Stores Make Reductions

WALLA WALLA, May 19.—Price reductions of 20 to 50 per cent in women's ready-to-wear apparel have been announced by several large dry goods stores here. Special sales are being advertised.

Silk-Wear Prices Cut in Spokane

SPOKANE, May 19.—Silk "undies" tumbled 20 per cent in price in several local shops today. "Special sales" were given as the reason for the cut.

SIX-BIT HAIRCUTS DIDN'T TAKE WELL IN SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO, May 19.—Prospects for the "six bit" haircut on the Pacific coast have received a rude jolt in the experience of San Francisco barbers.

Following the announcement that this luxury would cost 75c hereafter, local male citizens apparently determined to enter the long-haired class for the barbershops were practically deserted.

A few entered a "beat the barber" campaign and had their heads shaved.

Following two days of idle scissors, many shops passed out the word that the "four bit" haircut has come back to stay.

But the boss barbers' association is still trying to put over the 50 per cent raise.

ATTACKS GIRL; FEAR LYNCHING

10-Year-Old Child Assaulted at Ronald Station

Posses of armed deputy sheriffs and infuriated citizens of Ronald station were combing the woods north of the city Wednesday for an unidentified dark-skinned stranger, who seized a 10-year-old girl, livid at the station, about 9:30 o'clock this morning and viciously attacked her.

Bloodhounds from the county stockade were taken to the spot where the stranger was last seen and put on the track Wednesday afternoon.

The girl is at her home in a serious condition.

The man attacked the girl as she was walking along a road near the station. Clapping his hand over her mouth, he dragged her into the brush.

Her screams for aid aroused men working near the station. They arrived just as the man dodged into the woods. He is of medium stature, dark skinned, and wore blue overalls, black hat and checkered socks, according to their description of him.

Sheriff John Sturgeson was notified and two carloads of deputies were dispatched.

Residents of the station, which is located on the North Trunk road five miles north of the city limits, were aroused to high pitch by the stranger's vicious assault.

Deputies are under orders to bring the man direct to the county jail should he be caught, for fear some of the excited Ronaldites might attempt violence on him.

Deputies Matt Sturwich and William Sears carefully searched the woods all the way to Lake Forest park, while Deputies Campbell, Lee, Merrill, Ramage and Scoones made an effort to locate the man on the opposite side of the station.

MINISTERS USE "COFFIN NAILS"

CHICAGO, May 19.—A war on "coffin nails" has been declared by the Rev. Robert W. Gammon, who says ministers are becoming "fiends."

Big Reduction in Used Cars

There has not been the expected demand for used cars this spring.

Therefore, many dealers in Seattle are way overstocked and are now quoting prices much lower than ever before. Many are listed on Classified Page Today.

PRICES NOW ON THE WAY DOWN

Reductions by Many Stores Indicate New Change

WASHINGTON, May 19.—The public is on strike against high prices, and there is a definite downward trend in commodities thruout the country, according to advisers here today.

The people are acting together, government economic experts believe.

People have delayed purchasing their summer outfits and in consequence merchants have been left with large stocks on hand.

Prices on Toboggan, Say Merchants East

NEW YORK, May 19.—Prices are on the toboggan, leading merchants and business men here believed today.

Cutting prices from 15 to 30 per cent on all lines of general merchandise by many stores is the "indicator" of the break, they agreed.

New York newspapers today carried many advertisements announcing drastic cuts in prices.

"When buying is dull, there is a gradual slackening of public buying and tight money conditions, in the opinion of financial leaders. They pointed to the huge sales of Liberty bonds on the New York exchange yesterday as an indication of the money market conditions."

The total sales of all classes of Liberty bonds were \$7,358,500.

Because of difficulty in obtaining loans from banks war bonds were being sold in order to provide money for conducting business.

Members of the National Association of Manufacturers, here for their annual convention, expressed the belief that the price of high prices was reached.

The drop in prices was attributed to "dull buying" by Joseph Appel, of Wanamakers, the first store here to announce a drastic price cut.

"When buying is dull, there is a surplus of materials, and a surplus of materials is certain to make for a reduction in prices," he said.

Garment manufacturers agreed with this statement, saying that a survey of the garment market would show only minimum purchases.

The cloth market in New York reported the trading exceptionally quiet.

The slump has not hit the food market yet, according to statements of grocers today, but they indicated that they expected a slight decline.

Frisco Stores Cut 10 to 50 Per Cent

SAN FRANCISCO, May 19.—Half a dozen large retail cloth and boot stores today announced price reductions ranging from 10 to 50 per cent. One department store, in announcing price slashes in all articles of apparel, advertised for 100 extra clerks in anticipation of a rush of business.

Men's Collars in Price Cut Column

DES MOINES, Iowa, May 19.—Men's collars are the only articles that have wilted in price in Des Moines in the last 10 days. Standard makers of soft and starched collars are now selling for 21 cents. They formerly sold for 35 cents.

Prices Slashed in Four Ohio Cities

CLEVELAND, Ohio, May 19.—Clothing, shoe and general stores in four Ohio cities have joined the price cutting procession.

SEARING, CHIEF OF POLICE



"I think my ideas coincide with those of Mayor Caldwell," said Capt. W. H. Searing, Seattle's new chief of police, today. "My policy will be the same as it has been during the time I have been patrolman, sergeant and captain. I have no statement to make concerning my plans for the future."

Searing was born May 18, 1877. He celebrated his 43rd birthday anniversary yesterday.

Entering the police department here on March 12, 1900, he was made a sergeant June 16, eight years later. On April 18, 1911, he was raised to the rank of captain.

In 1914, while present Inspector Bannick was chief, Searing was reduced again to a sergeant, but was reinstated the same year. When Bannick resigned as chief on March 17, 1914, Searing was acting chief for half a day. The new chief lives at 2412 Dearborn st.

"Bluebeard's Here," Says Prison Wireless

SAN QUENTIN, Cal., May 19.—James P. Watson, the modern "Bluebeard," slayer of nine of his many wives, sat in a cell at the prison here today secure in the belief that he was unknown to the hundreds of criminals surrounding him.

He had been informed that inmates of the prison are not allowed to read the newspapers.

His great fear of personal injury was apparently assuaged. He has been in constant fear that fellow prisoners would molest him.

But despite the strict precautions, many of the prisoners already know of Bluebeard's history of crime. It is true that California newspapers are not allowed in the prison, but newspapers from other states have free entry, and Bluebeard's career has been read and re-read in the prison by men he has outdone in savagery.

Thru the strange phenomenon frequently noted in such instances, the gray coated men within the prison walls had whispered the arrival of Bluebeard soon after he was brought in, although how they obtained the news is a mystery.

Tomorrow Bluebeard will go thru the ordeal of a very thorough physical examination.

If he is to escape hard labor he must demonstrate before the keen eyes of Dr. Leo L. Stanley that he is physically incapacitated. He will be stripped and no subterfuge will be allowed. All reports have it that Bluebeard is a physical wreck as a result of his attempt at suicide and the fear that grips him.

Bluebeard's examination tomorrow will be more thorough-going than is usual. The great public interest attached to the case will cause Dr. Stanley to overlook nothing in his attempt to give the case correct handling.

The mental examination will be casual. The mentality of a prisoner is not considered of prime importance. It is his ability to do hard labor that counts in a life imprisonment case.

No Pretty Clothes; Girl Chooses Death

CHICAGO, May 19.—Ruth Kelsa, 18 years old, had no pretty clothes to wear. It was always last year's "made overs" for Ruth. Yesterday she chose death.

It's Cheaper to Sit Up All Night

PARIS, May 19.—Some of the leading dressmakers are making a specialty of women's night attire made of such costly stuffs and material that they are almost as expensive as evening gowns.

DEMURRER TO CHARGES OF VIOLATION OF THE SAFETY APPLIANCE ACT

Before appointing Searing, the mayor sent a communication to Warren rescinding Warren's order suspending Lieut. Collier, head of the former dry squad, for 30 days in addition to a 10-days' suspension previously ordered by the retiring chief.

The mayor ordered that Collier be reinstated and that Tom McGill, a patrolman, be suspended 10 days for using bad language in addressing a superior officer.

McGill, according to the mayor, told Lieutenant Collier:

"Who in hell are you, to sign for any car in the police department?"

This language, the mayor said, seemed entirely unwarranted, inasmuch as it had long been the custom of Lieutenant Collier, in addition to his other dry squad duties, to sign for automobiles used by his squad.

NOTIFIES CHIEF BY LETTER

Two hours after Warren received a second communication from the mayor, officially informing him that his duties as chief were terminated. The letter said, in part:

"I have been endeavoring during my two months in office to determine whether I should appoint you or someone else as chief of police, and I have concluded that it is for the best interests of the city that I

SEARING MADE POLICE CHIEF BY CALDWELL

Says Term Expired March 15, and Department Head Has Been on Trial Since

Police Captain W. H. Searing was appointed chief of police today by Mayor Caldwell, succeeding Joel F. Warren. The appointment took effect immediately.

The mayor explained that Warren's term of office terminated, under provisions of the city charter, on March 15, the day he, the mayor, took office. He said he had allowed Warren to remain since that time to try him out.

Because he felt Warren had not been co-operating with him, and because he has implicit confidence in the ability of Captain Searing to head the police department, the mayor said he has asked Searing to take over the office.

The subject was first broached to Searing, the mayor said, 48 hours ago. The captain hesitated at first, but came to his office this morning and accepted the position.

"I am now thru being chief of police myself," said Mayor Caldwell.

During the time that he has been "trying Warren out," the mayor said, he had hired special investigators to make a survey of vice conditions here.

SAYS VICE FLOURISHES, BUT CLEARS WARREN

From reports of these investigators, he said, he was aware that a red-light district exists in a territory surrounding 12th ave. and Jackson st., where women openly solicit men from windows, and where gambling and other vices flourish.

Caldwell said he was satisfied that money is being paid as "protection" for these resorts, but he did not imply that Warren was profiting by any such transactions, or even was aware that money was being paid. Warren's honesty was apparently unquestioned.

The mayor said he would not attempt to dictate to Chief Searing the policy the latter should follow in his new office.

TO TURN REPORTS OVER TO SEARING

"I have some mighty interesting information," he said, "in my special investigators' reports, which I shall turn over to the new chief. He can make use of them as he sees fit."

Regarding a recent raid on an alleged gambling resort at 421 Olive st., the mayor said he had been compelled to conduct the raid himself, after Warren had been asked for a report on conditions there, and had given the joint a "whitewash."

The new chief, the mayor said, will be at liberty to make any changes he deems necessary in the personnel of any of the special squads, such as the dry squad, in which Warren recently made sweeping changes, and for which action Warren has been under fire for several days.

RESCINDS ORDER SUSPENDING COLLIER

Asked for a report explaining why he removed the former dry squad, Warren is said to have failed to tender a statement for the mayor's consideration. A few hours before his successor was appointed, Warren said his report on the dry squad would be forthcoming today.

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91st Division Vets Organize Tonight

Ninety-first division veterans, who fought in the Argonne under the slogan of "Powder River—Let 'er Buck" will assemble at Roosevelt hall, 1313 1/2 Third ave. Wednesday night to form a permanent organization.

Visiting Knights Serenade Warren

Ex-Chief of Police Joel F. Warren was serenaded Wednesday morning by the visiting Portland band of the Dramatic Order of the Knights of Klonskron.

"That's a fine band," observed the chief, after he had invited the lodge-masters to visit the jail.

Pay \$21,236 to Gravel Two Miles

Contract to grade and gravel two miles of the Kent-Black Diamond road has been awarded to E. J. Macquaid, 159 Howe st., by county commissioners. The bid was \$21,236 and no competitors submitted offers.

German "Guilty" Ordered in Court

BERLIN, May 18.—(Night)—The attorney general has summoned the accused German war "guilty" named in the recent allied note to appear in court in Leipzig between June 1 and June 20, the Tageblatt said tonight.

English School Refuses Hun Gun

LONDON, Eng., May 19.—Managers at Bletchley Infants' school have refused the offer of a German gun to be placed on the lawn.

Spring Tourist Rush Is Now On

NEW YORK, May 19.—The spring tourist rush to Europe is now on. In one day 5,600 passengers left on five liners.