

PEACE CONFERENCE IS NOW UNDER WAY

First Session Was Held Saturday Afternoon at Three O'clock in Paris.

CLEMENCEAU PRESIDENT

President Wilson Delivers Address at Congress Destined to Be Most Historic Incident in World's History.

Paris, Jan. 20.—The peace conference, destined to be historic, and on which the eyes of the world are now centered, was opened Saturday afternoon in the great Salle de La Paix. The proceedings, which were confined to the election of George Clemenceau, the French premier, as permanent chairman of the conference, an address of welcome by the president of the French republic, Raymond Poincare, and speeches by President Wilson, Premier Lloyd George and Baron Sonnino, were characterized by expressions of lasting friendship and the apparent determination of the representatives of the various nations to come to an amicable understanding with respect to the problems to be decided by the conference.

When President Poincare spoke, the entire assembly stood, and the fact that, according to custom, no applause greeted his utterance gave greater solemnity to the scene.

M. Clemenceau's acceptance of the presidency of the congress was both a feeling expression of personal gratitude and a definite outline of the great questions immediately ahead. Three of these larger general subjects he defined as responsibility for crimes during the war and international labor legislation. The league of nations, he declared, was at the head of the program for the next full session.

"Our ambition is a great and noble one," said M. Clemenceau. "We wish to avoid a repetition of the catastrophe which bathed the world in blood. If the league of nations is to be practical we must all remain united. Let us carry out our program quickly and in an effective manner."

Referring to the authors of the war, he said he had consulted two eminent jurists on the penal responsibility of the former German emperor, and each delegate would receive a copy of that report.

In all 72 seats were provided for the opening session of the peace conference. On the outer side of the great horseshoe were arranged the Japanese, the British and colonial delegates and the seat of the fifth British delegate. A chair for the fifth American delegate also was reserved immediately to the right of the table of honor.

The Italian, Belgian, Brazilian, Cuban, Haitian, Peruvian, Portuguese, Serbian, Czechoslovakian and Uruguayan delegates sat in the order named. Across the left wing of the table sat the Siamese, Rumanian, Polish, Liberian, Hedjaz, Guatemalan, Ecuadorian, Chinese and Bolivian delegations.

President Wilson Speaks. Following is the address of President Wilson at the opening session of the conference:

"Mr. Chairman: It gives me great pleasure to propose as permanent chairman of the conference Mr. Clemenceau, the president of the council.

"I would do this as a matter of custom. I would do this as a tribute to the French public. But I wish to do it as something more than that. I wish to do it as a tribute to the man.

"France deserves the precedence not only because we are meeting at her capital and because she has undergone some of the most flagrant suffering of the war, but also because beautiful capital has so often been the center of conferences of this sort, on which the fortunes of large parts of the world turned.

"It is a very delightful thought that the history of the world, which has so often centered here, will now be crowned by the achievements of this conference—because there is a sense in which this is the supreme conference of the history of man

Bids Too High.
Dispatches sent out from Washington say that the lowest bid on the Lancaster postoffice was \$52,950 and that only \$50,000 has been appropriated for the construction of the building and the site. Consequently, it will be necessary to get an additional appropriation before the work can be begun. Congressman Stevenson says he is taking immediate steps to get the amount increased to \$75,000 and as this proposition has the backing of the supervision architect he is sure the increased authorization will be made. This authorization was made before the war and owing to the increase in the price of material and labor it is found the work cannot be done with the amount appropriated. There are about fifty similar projects that are being held up in the same way for the same reason, but it is the policy of the government to carry out the various plans by increasing the appropriations for each to meet the existing conditions.

Mrs. Beall Goes to Charlotte.
Mrs. Beall, who for several months was telegraph operator here, has resigned her position to accept a similar one at Charlotte. Mrs. Beall made many friends during her stay here who will regret to hear of her departure.

Miss Murchison Entertains.
Miss Lewis Murchison charmingly entertained the Christian Endeavor society Friday evening at her spacious home on Main street. After a series of games the hostess served light refreshments.

Motorists to Organize.
A meeting of the Lancaster county automobile association will be held in the court house tomorrow (Wednesday), night at 7:30 o'clock. At this meeting the association will be formally organized, and every owner of a motor car in Lancaster county and others interested in good roads are invited to attend. Secretary C. W. Coffel, of the South Carolina state automobile association, and Dr. F. A. Henley, field agent, will be present and will make addresses. This meeting is by no means confined to members or those who have pledged to become members and every one interested in better roads in South Carolina should attend.

Vital Statistics.
Records in the office of the registrar of vital statistics for the town of Lancaster and Gills Creek township show the following:
Lancaster—1918, births 63; deaths 55; 1917, births 83; deaths 44; 1916, births 83; deaths 53.
Gills Creek—1918, births 180; deaths 158; 1917, births 196; deaths 124; 1916, births 181; deaths 135.

kind.
"More nations are represented here than were ever represented before. The fortunes of the peoples are involved. A great war is ended which seemed about to bring a universal cataclysm. The danger is passed. A victory has been won for mankind, and it is delightful that we should be able to record these great results in this place.
"But it is more delightful to honor or France because we can honor her in the person of so distinguished a servant. We have all felt in our participation in the struggles of this war the fine steadfastness which characterized the leadership of the French in the hands of M. Clemenceau. We have learned to admire him, and those of us who have been associated with him have acquired a genuine affection for him.
"Moreover, those of us who have been in these recent days in constant consultation with him know how warmly his purpose is set toward the goal of achievement to which all our faces are turned. He feels as we feel, as I have no doubt everybody in this room feels, that we are trusted to do a great thing, to do it in the highest spirit of friendship and accommodation, and to do it as promptly as possible in order that the hearts of men may have fear lifted from them and that they may return to those purposes of life which will bring them happiness and contentment and prosperity.
"Knowing this brotherhood of heart in these great matters, it affords me a personal pleasure to propose that M. Clemenceau shall be the permanent chairman of the conference."

CARLIN JUDGESHIP BILL PASSES SENATE

Authorizes President to Bring About Retirement of Superannuated Jurists.

SALARIES ARE INCREASED

District Judges Are to Receive \$7,500 and Circuit Judges \$8,500 Representing Increase of \$1,500 in Each Case.

Washington, Jan. 20.—The so-called Carlin judgeship bill, increasing the salaries of federal judges of the district and circuit courts, but authorizing the President to bring about virtual retirement of superannuated jurists who cling to their robes despite advancing age, was passed by the senate.

As amended by the senate the bill fixes a specific salary of \$7,500 for district judges and \$8,500 for circuit judges, which sums represent an increase per annum of \$1,500 in each case.

The house bill proposed these salaries, but an additional compensation for judges living in thickly populated districts. The senate struck out the population basis for salaries and sets a definite rate. Differences between the senate and house are such that they may be readily adjusted in conference between the two bodies.

The judgeship bill, which was passed by the house several weeks ago, is now practically certain to become a law at this session of congress. It was piloted through the senate by Senator Hoke Smith, of Georgia, who made the favorable report for the judiciary committee, of which Senator Overman is acting chairman.

Close Vote in Senate.
The judgeship bill primarily was intended to displace approximately a dozen superannuated judges who have not retired after reaching age of retirement. After providing increased salaries as a compensation feature, the bill provides that the President in his discretion may appoint an additional judge in any district where it is believed the volume of work justifies such action. In event of this the newly appointed judge becomes senior judge and the old judge is junior and performs only such work as may be assigned to him. Meanwhile the old judge may continue to serve in a limited capacity, or may retire at the increased salary.

The senate passed the house bill with comparatively minor amendments by a vote of 37 to 32. Opposition was mainly voiced by Senator Williams, of Mississippi, and Senator Trammell, of Florida, who declared that since the government had drawn the line on economy and refused even to increase the salaries of low paid employes in the departments at Washington, federal judges should be content to struggle along at their old salaries during the reconstruction period.

GOVERNOR COOPER IS IN FAVOR OF GOOD ROADS

In Inaugural Address, He Comes Out Strongly for Better Highways in South Carolina.

(Special Correspondence.)
Columbia, S. C., Jan. 21.—In his inaugural address here today, Governor Robert A. Cooper came out very strongly in favor of better roads.

"There is a general demand and a real necessity for improved transportation facilities," declared the new governor. "We must have better public highways. Whether you decide to build roads by direct state appropriation, by bond issue of the state or various counties, whatever method you may see fit to adopt it means the expenditure of more money. The people of the state want better roads and better schools, and are willing to pay the necessary costs, but as you increase the amount of your tax the inequality already existing becomes more burdensome, and the dissatisfaction with our present system becomes more intensified."

BILL TO ENFORCE CHILD EDUCATION

Mr. Hamblin, of Union, Introduces Measure for Compulsory Attendance.

BETWEEN AGES 8 TO 14

Exemptions Include Children Living More Than Two and One-half Miles from Any Public School.

Columbia, Jan. 20.—A bill providing for a system of statewide compulsory school attendance and machinery for the enforcement of the proposed law, has been introduced in the house of representatives by Representative Hamblin, of Union county.

Joint resolutions providing for a referendum on the question of a new constitutional convention in the general election of 1920 were introduced in the house by Representative Hamblin and Representative Mower, of Newberry county.

The Hamblin compulsory attendance bill provides for the attendance of every child in the state between the ages of eight and 14 years, at some school, either public, private or parochial for the full time that such school is in session, unless the bodily condition of the child prevents its attendance. The child's condition must be passed upon by a competent judge, designated by the board appointing the truant officer of that district.

The measure exempts children living more than two and one-half miles from any public, private, or parochial school, and any child under 12 years of age living more than two miles from such schools. The bill provides, however, that any child living within one mile of any regular route of a school wagon may not claim exemption.

Section four of the bill provides that any private or parochial school attended by a child between eight and 14 years of age shall be approved by the board appointing the truant officer for that district. Such a school, says the bill, "must give its instruction in the English language, and it must teach such subjects as are required in a similar public school in South Carolina."

Section five provides that the board of trustees of any school district embracing an incorporated town or city above 2,500 inhabitants shall appoint a truant officer for that district, whose duty it will be between July and August, of each year, to take a census of all the children of the district between the ages of eight and 14 years, to be filed with the board of trustees of the district. The salary of the truant officer shall be fixed by the board of trustees and he paid out of the school funds of the district. In all other districts other than enumerated in section five, it will be the duty of the county board of education to appoint as many truant officers as is necessary, their salaries to be paid out of the school funds of the districts served by them.

The bill provides, "that it shall be the further duty of each truant officer to receive from the superintendent or principal of any school within his district or territory, the name of every child between eight and 14 years of age absent from school, and to ascertain from the parent or guardian of such child, the reason for such absence. If such absence is due to other than providential cause or causes or to such cause or causes as would seriously endanger the health of the child, such parent or guardian must be notified to appear before the nearest magistrate, at a special time, to show why he or she would not be punished for his or her neglect.

"That all truant officers shall have the right to require a birth certificate or an affidavit as to the age of any child in his district or territory. They shall have the further right to visit any place of employment to ascertain if any child between eight and 14 years of age is employed. These officers shall keep a record of all notices served and cases prosecuted, and shall make a full report of them once a month to the board of trustees or the coun-

Death of Mrs. J. S. Blackmon.
Mrs. J. S. Blackmon died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Crenshaw, in Union county, N. C., Saturday. The remains were brought here Sunday and interred in the Douglas cemetery, Rev. Hugh R. Murchison and Rev. T. A. Dabney conducting the funeral services. Mrs. Blackmon had a large family connection in this county and was the mother of O. C. Blackmon, of this city. Other children surviving her are W. B. Blackmon, L. L. Blackmon, Rev. R. J. Blackmon, Mrs. R. L. Orr, Mrs. John C. Crenshaw, George F. Blackmon, E. C. Blackmon, Mrs. Eula Sims. She is also survived by her husband, John S. Blackmon.

Services Indispensable.
Second Lieutenant Boyd B. Horton, of this city, has been sent to Camp Funston, Kan., for continuation of service. Lieutenant Horton recently made application for discharge from the army but his application was denied on the ground that his services were indispensable. He is connected with the quartermaster's corps.

Names of Men Discharged.
The local Red Cross chapter is anxious to keep a record of all soldiers or sailors who have been discharged from the service. Will the persons who have been discharged please send their name, rank, company, branch of service, date of discharge, and home address to Miss Etta Skipper, Lancaster, S. C.

THE BOLSHEVIKI OFFER TO START PEACE NEGOTIATIONS
Copenhagen, Jan. 20.—Maxima Litvinoff, the former Bolsheviki ambassador at London has sent a note to President Wilson declaring that the Bolsheviki government of Russia is prepared to cease its world propaganda if the allies will agree to enter into peace negotiations with it, according to the Social Demokrat.

THREE NAVY AIRMEN KILLED IN ACCIDENT AT PENSACOLA
Pensacola, Fla., Jan. 20.—Three navy airmen were killed near here when a seaplane fell into Pensacola bay. They were Ensign A. D. Honeywell, of Geneva, N. Y., and John Wigmore, of Los Angeles, Cal., and James J. Gray, of Pittsburgh, Pa., student aviators. All the bodies were recovered.

No Lightening of Blockade.
London, Jan. 20.—The admiralty has no immediate intention of relaxing its strict blockade against Germany, the Central News says it learns.

GERMANS WILL NOT RECEIVE COUPLE OF ALLIED OFFICERS
Warsaw, Jan. 20.—The German have refused to receive at Bialystok, Lieut. Reginald Foster, a political agent of the American peace commission, and Colonel Wade, of the British army, who went to Lapy on the Polish frontier to confer with the commander of the German 10th army. It was their object to persuade the Germans to hold the frontier against the Bolsheviki.

ty board of education.

"That any parent, guardian or other person having charge of any child subject to the provisions of this act who willfully neglects or refuses to comply with these provisions shall, upon conviction before any magistrate, be fined not less than \$5 nor more than \$10 for each offense or imprisoned not less than two days nor more than five days for each offense. Such fines are to be used toward paying the salaries of the truant officer in the district or territory in which the fines are collected.

"That it shall be the duty of each teacher, principal or superintendent of any school to notify at once the truant officer of the absence of any child between the ages of eight and 14 years from school and that any teacher, principal, or superintendent willfully neglecting or refusing to report any absence to the truant officer shall have deducted from his or her salary for the current month \$5 for each offense."

The bill exempts children between the ages of 12 and 14 years, who can read and write, if they have a widowed or indigent mother or a crippled or indigent father. The board of trustees or the board of education shall be the judges. Free text books will be furnished the children of parents unable to pay for them, the expense to be defrayed out of the public school funds.

INFLUENZA TAKING HEAVY TOLL AGAIN

Disease is on Increase in Many Sections of State and Relief Steps are Taken.

MANY CASES IN LANCASTER

This County However Has No Widespread Epidemic as Was the Case Early Last Fall But Disease is Prevalent.

The influenza epidemic is again taking heavy toll in South Carolina and several counties are suffering terribly. Among those in the throes of the disease are Marlboro, McCormick, Oconee, Dorchester and Union, and these counties have taken steps to control it as far as possible.

Sheriff Hunter, of Lancaster, received a telegram Sunday from State Health Officer James A. Hayne asking for a report. He replied that the number of cases in Lancaster county is steadily increasing, the negroes being especially affected, and that there is much pneumonia in the county. This county has no epidemic, as the case early last fall, but there are many cases in the county and several in the city.

The reports from the sheriffs all over the state indicate that conditions are bad as a whole. Many towns have put on strict quarantines. All public places in Gaffney have been closed tight. Rock Hill closed the picture shows after the performance last night. The sheriff of Union reports that the influenza situation is serious and that conditions in various parts of the county are bad. The report from York was to the effect that there were more cases of influenza now than at any one time before. The Church Home Orphanage in York has 69 cases with some 40 or 50 of the inmates not yet affected.

Taft to Speak in Charlotte.
William Howard Taft, ex-president of the United States, will tour the country in behalf of the League to Enforce Peace to make league of nations speeches. He is scheduled to make the first of the speeches in New York February 1, and his itinerary includes Charlotte, but the date of his appearance at the "metropolis of Mecklenburg" has not been announced.

Samuel Starnes Dead.
Samuel Harper Starnes, aged 58, died at his home in the Lancaster mill village Friday afternoon after an illness of only a few days. Death was due to pneumonia. He is survived by his wife and several children. Interment took place Sunday afternoon at the Zion church cemetery.

COMPLAINT IN GERMANY OVER ARMISTICE TERMS

Chiefs of Departments Say Their Fulfillment Means the Organized Preparation of Starvation.

Berlin, Jan. 20.—Chiefs of departments in the German government, especially the ministers of commerce and of trade, protest against acceptance by the German delegates of the latest armistice conditions, the fulfillment of which, they declare, "means for Germany the organized preparation of starvation."

The minister of commerce and labor, according to the Tageblatt, declares that Germany will be unable to replace the agricultural machinery taken because Germany lacks necessary metals, coal and trained laborers. He says German agriculture will be crippled if the machines are delivered to the allies.

The Boersen Courier says that Food Minister Wurm declared he first learned of the conditions through the press and that he could not accept responsibility for the consequences. The Tageblatt asks in an editorial:

"Where are justice and humanity which were to dictate peace? We behold always force and only force and the German people, after such great physical sufferings, are delivered over to destruction."