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PLUCKING BOARD FACES HARD TASK

ARMY OFFICERS MUST BE RETIRED.—OFFICERS GREATLY CONCERNED OVER PROBABLE EFFECT WHOLESAL "SEPARATION" MAY HAVE.

Washington, July 25.—The board of general officers appointed to undertake the most wholesale "plucking" job ever initiated among the regular army organization will enter at once upon the duties to which it has been assigned. The first meeting will be held tomorrow with Maj. Gen. Joseph T. Dickman, retired, presiding as president. It was to have begun operations towards the elimination or demotion of some 2,500 officers today but was held up by the absence of one member.

Members of the board, which is representative of all arms of the service, were greatly concerned in their preliminary discussions today over the probable effect upon the morale of the army of the suspended sentence now hanging over the head of practically every officer in the service, with the exception of General Pershing and a baker's dozen of second lieutenants now in the army.

Congress, in directing that the officers' corps be reduced by January 1 to 12,000 did not include the general officers of the army in fixing the number to be retained in each grade. The war department, in preparing instructions for the "plucking board," did include the general officers in so far as retirement of any of the major or brigadier generals for physical disability would create vacancies and permit the appointment of colonels to general officer rank, reducing the number of surplus colonels to that extent.

There appeared also to be much concern among board members as to the view army officers might take of the board's action in recommending any officer for honorable discharge. Preliminary investigation indicates that probably more than 1,700 officers now on the rolls must be "separated" from the active service in this way. The board, it is understood, will seek by every means to impress upon the army upon the general public the view that discharge under these conditions in no way reflects upon the character of the service a discharged officer has rendered and that in a majority of the cases at least, the army would much prefer to retain these officers' services.

Board members are understood to feel that there is little prospect of finding many officers now on the rolls who merit discharge. The army recently cleaned house in this regard on its own motion and the suggestion of General Pershing to congress that the strength of the corps be fixed at 13,500 was based upon the efforts then in progress to get rid of unsuitable officers in the way congress previously had provided through efficiency ratings and the "Class B" ratings.

B. O. WILLIAMS HERE.

Mr. B. O. Williams of Clemson College who is in charge of the boys' work for South Carolina, is in the city today assisting Mrs. Gibbons the Home Demonstration Agent, with arrangements for the short course at Due West, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

GEO. GAMBRELL TAKES CHARGE

George C. Gambrell of Greenwood, formerly connected with the Internal Revenue Department, took charge of the Adair Department Stores in Abbeville yesterday, and is looking for his old friends to come in and do business with him in his new line. Mr. and Mrs. Gambrell expect to move over from Greenwood in a few days and will be at the home of Mr. J. M. Gambrell until they can get located.

REBELS RETREATING WITH GREAT SPEED

INTO GALTEE AND KNOCK MEAL DOWN MOUNTAINS—IT IS THOUGHT WILL COMPEL IRREGULARS TO MAKE STAND, PERHAPS THE LAST.

London, July 25.—Unconfirmed reports received in London today said the Irish irregular forces were retreating with all speed into the Galtee and Knock Meal Down mountains, harassed by free state troops, who are pressing them hard and preventing them from concentrating.

A Waterford dispatch to the Daily News says the irregulars have burned the barracks at Colmel and Tipperary, long held as garrison, and it is believed that the national army forces have occupied both these places. This however, is not claimed in any official report.

The Express correspondent says it is believed the pressure being exerted by the national troops upon both flanks of the republicans will compel them to make a stand, perhaps their last, in these mountains, some of the other correspondents, however, doubt whether they will be able to make a stand anywhere, although they do not draw the conclusion that an early end of resistance can be expected. They believe the republicans will continue guerilla operations in the wildest parts of the mountains. The possibility that the relating irregulars may yet reach Cork and make a last desperate stand there is still entertained in some quarters. The various views, however, obviously and largely speculative, since none of them can be verified except by the general turn of events.

Gain Fresh Victory.

Dublin, July 25.—National army troops have gained a fresh victory in west Ireland by capturing Ballyheunis, county Mayo, from the republican irregulars, it was announced today.

The Free State triumphs in the capture of Limerick was swiftly followed by successes in the surrounding districts. A number of minor positions in this area have been added to the list of Free State victories, according to today's official bulletin.

The total number of casualties in the Limerick fighting has not been accurately estimated, although it is known that at least fifteen of the national troops were killed and 87 wounded. It is generally believed that at least thirty of the irregulars lost their lives. The total number of casualties suffered by Free State forces during the capture of Waterford was nine killed and nineteen wounded.

SENATE REMOVES COTTON BAGGING FROM FREE LIST

Washington, July 25.—By a vote of 31 to 17, the senate today approved a committee amendment removing cotton bagging from the tariff free list and making it dutiable at rates varying from 6-10 3-10 cents. Two democrats Broussard of Louisiana and Kendrick of Wyoming, voted for the amendment, and one republican, Borah of Idaho, voted against it.

Previously the senate had rejected 35 to 18, an amendment by senator Robinson, democrat, Arkansas, to reduce the rates to 1-10 to 1-20 respectively. Senator Borah supported that amendment and senators Broussard and Kendrick and Ransden, democrats, Louisiana voted against it.

DR. HAYDEN TO LECTURE.

Dr. A. H. Hayden, M. D. Epidemiologist of the State Board of Health will lecture Thursday afternoon at Due West on Health and Typhoid Fever. The lecture will begin at 5 o'clock and last until 6. The public is invited to attend this lecture.

CIVIL SERVICE WITHOUT BIAS

REPORT MADE BY SPECIAL COMMITTEE—MISTAKES MADE ERRORS OF JUDGMENT AND NOT DUE TO WRONG INTENT. MONTHS OF STUDY.

Washington, July 25.—After spending nearly three months in an investigation of the subject a special committee submitted a report to the senate today declaring without foundation charges that the federal civil service commission had been biased by political influence in its examination and certification of postmaster applicants.

The report said that while there were mistakes made in the certification of candidates for the many places, the investigation it made "would indicate that the mistakes were surprisingly few and that such as may have been are due to errors of judgment and not to any wrong intent.

"Judged alone by the cases presented," the report went on, "this committee believes that the work of the commission was ably and conscientiously performed and that political influences have not been used, or if sought to be used, had had no effect in examinations conducted under the supervision of the commission or in the making or altering of grades. It believes also that the acts of congress and executive orders giving preference to former service men in appointment to office under civil service rules have been observed by its examiners."

Further in absolving the commission of blame, the report said, it was believed that many of the controversies as to postmaster appointments had arisen out of the rule requiring the names of the three highest eligibles for appointment to be certified by the commission to the appointing power.

It added that there remained a grave question whether there would not have been less complaint had that rule been abrogated and the name of only the highest eligible submitted.

DEATH OF A LITTLE GIRL.

Blanche, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. B. New of the city, died about 4 o'clock Tuesday morning, July 25th, 1922 at the home of her parents on Maple street. She was a little over three years old and had been sick only a short time.

Funeral services were held this morning at 11 o'clock by Rev. Watson Sorrow and interment was at Melrose Cemetery. She is survived by the following brothers and sisters: M. B. New, Floyd C. New, Albert H. New, Margie L. New, and Lula May New, all of whom live in Abbeville. Blanche was a sweet and attractive child and will be greatly missed.

CAESAR'S HEAD PARTY.

A party of Abbeville folk leave next Monday for a two week's jaunt at Caesar's Head. This is a famous resort and has a peculiar lure for one who has ever watched the shadows fall over the "dark corner", or the thin white ribbon of smoke wind up from mountain recesses. The party from Abbeville will be composed of Mr. and Mrs. Townsend Smith, Mrs. Bill Speed and little Elizabeth, Mr. and Mrs. Claud Wilkinson, Mrs. Otto Bristow, Ralph Syfan, Jim Coleman and Robert H. Coleman.

WILLIAM GRAYDON SICK

William M. Graydon, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Graydon of Columbia, is reported very sick at the Baptist Hospital in Columbia. He had an acute attack of appendicitis last Sunday, but is considered improved today.

COTTON ACREAGE AND FERTILIZER

REPORTS GATHERED BY GOVERNMENT—NORTH CAROLINA WELL IN LEAD WITH OTHER STATES FAR BEHIND—FIGURES ARE GIVEN.

Washington, July 25.—Commercial fertilizers was used on about 33 per cent. of the cotton acreage this year or on about 11,500,000 acres, according to reports gathered by the United States department of agriculture. On these acres, 249 pounds of fertilizer were applied per acre on the average and the total fertilizer used was about 1,429,000 tons with an average value of \$29.49 per ton, a total value of \$42,121,000 and an average value of \$3.69 per acre.

North Carolina led all states in the application of commercial fertilizer to cotton production, having used 410 pounds per acre. North Carolina was followed closely by Virginia, with 400 pounds per crop acre, but the other states are far below, South Carolina having used 230 pounds per acre, Georgia 218 pounds, Alabama 210 pounds, Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee each 200 pounds. Other states used still less. Little commercial fertilizer is used west of the Mississippi river.

North Carolina also used commercial fertilizer on the highest percentage of cotton crop acre—95 per cent. In Virginia, it was used on 95 per cent. of the cotton crop area, in South Carolina on 88 per cent., in Georgia on 83 per cent., in Florida on 80 per cent., in Alabama on 78 per cent., in Mississippi on 30 per cent., in Tennessee 25 per cent., in Louisiana on 20 per cent. Arkansas on 15 per cent. and in Texas only on 20 per cent.

The cost of fertilizer per acre of cotton using it, North Carolina again led with an average of \$6.35. In Virginia the average per acre was \$6.19, in South Carolina \$4.12, in Georgia \$3.23, in Arkansas \$3.02, in Mississippi 2.95, in Alabama \$2.92 in Louisiana \$2.85, in Texas \$2.68, in Florida \$2.65 and in Tennessee \$2.05

Comparisons can not be made with former years because this was the first year this inquiry has been made in its present form.

WASHINGTON BOYS.

Andrew White and his friend, Mr. Brown, are here from Washington, D. C. and will spend their vacation at the home of Mrs. L. W. White.

Andrew White has finished his law course and is employed in the legal department of the government and is making his way along the road to success.

Mr. Brown is from Missouri and has come South to be "shown" just how hot it is and if it is an actual fact that the prettiest girls in the world live in Abbeville.

GETS THIRTY DAYS.

Abbeville County does not tolerate rough stuff. Magistrate McComb sent Curtis Perrin to the chain gang Tuesday for thirty days for carrying a small revolver fastened to his belt. Curtis Perrin is a negro and worked with the Bowen and Hill road gang on the Hodges road. He came to this part of the country several years ago with Hagenback & Wallace's circus. In thirty days he will realize this is not Texas, and William S. Hart wouldn't stand a ghost of a chance in this town.

LEAVING FOR CALIFORNIA.

Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Brown leave tomorrow for Los Angeles, California, to attend a meeting of the Knights of Pythias. Mr. Brown is the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal of the order and the trip will be a fine one. They will be gone for over two weeks, and will visit many places of interest while out West.

UNDERWOOD DENIES FRAUD OR COLLUSION

IN DEFENSE OF CHEMICAL FOUNDATION—SAYS GERMAN INTERESTS ARE SUPPORTING ADMINISTRATION IN HOPES OF RESTITUTION.

Washington, July 25.—The Chemical Foundation and its president, Francis P. Garvan, former alien property custodian, who are being proceeded against by the government for the return of German chemical patents, were defended in the senate today by Senator Underwood, of Alabama, democratic leader, who criticized President Harding and the administration for the action taken against them.

Denying that there was fraud, collusion or conspiracy in the acquisition of the German patents by the Chemical Foundation, Senator Underwood also commended the record of A. Mitchell Palmer, former attorney general and former alien property custodian, in dealing with enemy alien property. German interests Senator Underwood said, were supporting the administration's course against the Chemical Foundation in the hope, he said, of securing restitution of property and also damage claims for its use.

Senator Underwood's statements were made during an address in support of his recent bill to create an American commission to press American damage claims against Germany and Austria, using enemy alien property, Senator Underwood said that the \$250,000 paid by the Chemical Foundation in securing rights to the 5,000 German chemical patents was "adequate" when the government's right to use the patents was considered.

"This report said Mr. Underwood," effectually disposes of the charge that there was a fraudulent conspiracy on the part of those in the alien property custodian's office who erected the chemical foundation and sold these patents to it. The charge has been repeatedly made that Mr. Garvan as alien property custodian sold these patents to himself as president of the chemical foundation. The entire plan devised and perfected before Mr. Garvan became alien property custodian or had any thought of being appointed to that office. The entire plan was devised and perfected while Mr. Palmer was alien property custodian."

J. T. CHEATHAM, SR.

HAS OPERATION ON HAND

Word was received in Abbeville this morning from Columbia that Mr. J. T. Cheatham, Sr., had been operated on for some trouble on one of his hands, and his son, Robert Cheatham, has gone down to be with him. His many friends over the county will be sorry to hear that he continues to be bothered with this trouble.

Reap Rich Harvest in Coal.

Chicago, July 25.—The price of coal in large quantities in Chicago has jumped from \$5.15 a ton to \$11.65 and \$13 since the miners went on strike, while in small quantities the cost has increased from \$5.25 and \$6 to \$15.25 and \$18, according to figures given out today by a large industrial concern which ranks among the largest users of coal in the middle west.

It was estimated by the concern that there now are only 40,000 tons of anthracite coal in Chicago.

WELL AGAIN.

John Klugh, who has been the victim of a prolonged spell of fever this summer, is well again and was about his accustomed work at Barksdale's Saturday. Sunday he went over to Union and will spend some time with his uncle, J. T. Bradley. Mr. Bradley, David Bradley and John made the trip through the country.

BUSINESS MAY SOON SUSPEND

UNLESS SETTLEMENT IS REACHED—STEEL PLANTS TO CLOSE ON WHOLESAL SCALE.— WASHINGTON MAINTAINS SILENCE ON RAIL SITUATION.

Washington, July 25.—The Railroad Labor board remains the only agency through which the government can and will deal with the railroad strike situation, though President Harding is continuing to hold himself in contact with all actions which the board takes in the matter, it was said today at the white house.

The administration in the railroad strike as in the coal controversy, it was asserted, intends to proceed in fairness to the interests involved and with the determination to maintain the dignity and majesty of the United States government. In accordance with this policy it believes that all labor controversies should be placed before the labor board, the sole authority under the acts of congress.

Chicago, July 25.—The railway strike combined with the coal strike, was being brought home to the public today through the announcement of leaders in several industries that unless a speedy settlement was reached closing of the plants with resulting unemployment, rationing of fuel and food supplies, and a crippling of public utilities service would result.

Steel plants, especially in the east will be closed on a wholesale scale if present conditions continue until August, according to the head of a large steel corporation. Industrial coal was said to be unobtainable at any price in New York. In Chicago increases of from \$5.25 to \$15.25 in coal prices were announced. A shortage of coal cars in bituminous fields has caused an appreciable decline in production.

Official Washington still maintained silence on the rail situation but it was confidently expected that President Harding would begin action to end the shopmen strike during the week.

Hopes for immediate peace were centered in the meeting today of officials of the Baltimore and Ohio with representatives of the strikers. Success in settling differences on that road probably would mean that other roads would adopt a similar course, it is understood.

Further spread of the walkout was considered unlikely since the announcement that the 10,000 members of the station agents union would remain at work.

Existing embargoes on freight have caused a shortage of commodities in several cities and lack of transportation has reduced the supply in a few lines.

COTTON MARKET.

Cotton sold on the local market today at 22 cents. Futures closed:

Oct.	21.20
Dec.	21.08
Jan.	20.94
March	20.89

Futures closed yesterday:

Oct.	21.40
Dec.	21.39
Jan.	21.23
March	21.18

LANDS IN JAIL FOR STEALING

Clarence Prince is in jail for stealing a bale of cotton from Asa Hall, Jr. He was captured yesterday in Anderson County by Deputies Ferguson and Prince.

BASEBALL

Thursday and Friday
Abbeville Vs. Greenwood
Games start at 4:30
Stores Closed.
Prices - - 50 and 25 cents.