

## PRESIDENT WILSON'S FIGHTING BLOOD UP, THROWS DOWN GAUNTLET TO ANTI-LEAGUERS

### Great Audience Hears President Speak of League and American Ideals.

Boston, Feb. 24.—President Wilson will fight at home as he has fought abroad for a league of nations. Returning from France, he had been on American soil not more than three hours today before he threw down the gauntlet to those who distrust the proposed concert of governments based, he said, on the American ideals which had won the war for justice and humanity.

An America, confining to her own territories her conception and purpose to make free, he said, would have to keep her honor "for those narrow, selfish, provincial purposes which seem so dear to some minds that have no sweep beyond their nearest horizon."

Before a responsive audience that filled the biggest auditorium in the city, the President pictured the Old World fighting with stubborn desperation, and expecting in the end nothing better for the peoples than they had known for centuries. He pictured the American nation entering the lists with a new purpose—the freedom of mankind. The Old World had caught the vision, and any treaty of peace drawn otherwise than in the new spirit, would be nothing more, he asserted, than a "modern scrap of paper," and the present peace, unless guaranteed by the United States forces of the civilized world, could not stand a generation.

Bending over the speaker's table, his face set in tense lines and, his right hand clenched, the President exclaimed, "Any man who thinks that America will take part in giving the world any such rebuff and disappointment as that does not know America. I invite him to test the sentiment of the nation."

Interrupted by applause, the President halted and then evoked the greatest demonstration of the afternoon when he added that he would accept no sweeter challenge than the issue of the American purpose in the war. "I have fighting blood in me," he said with apparent feeling, and it is sometimes a delight to let it have scope, but if it is a challenge on this occasion, it will be an indulgence."

At another point in his address, the President said that if the great hope of the world for a league of nations was disappointed he would wish "for my part never to have had America play any part whatever in this attempt to emancipate the world. I have no more doubt of the verdict of America in this matter than I have doubt of the blood that is in me."

New England gave the President a rousing welcome home. This city probably has never seen a greater crowd than gathered at every point of vantage along the route from Commonwealth Pier, to which the naval cutter Ossipee brought down his party from the steamer George Washington, through the downtown districts and around two sides of Boston Common to the Copley-Plaza Hotel, where a stop was made for luncheon.

At every turn, the President was cheered. Hat in hand, he stood in his motor car throughout the two miles of the parade except in one block between Washington and Tremont streets where, because of the narrow way, spectators were not allowed to congregate.

The National Army, the Navy, the State Guard and the City police in lines on either side of the route formed a guard of honor for the entire distance of the drive. So effective were the arrangements that not an unpleasant incident occurred.

Opposite the state house, in front of which a group of wounded soldiers greeted the President, a handful of suffragists claiming to represent the National Woman's Party, took their stand for a demonstration which they had announced. Before the parade reached them, they were told by the police to move on. Refusing, they were arrested for loitering and locked up. Later at the hotel, the President received a committee from the Massachusetts Woman's Suffrage Association, a non-militant organization and asked its members to convey to the state body his warm regards and sympathy.

President Wilson was accompanied

### NEGRO CONFESSES

#### TO ROBBERING VAULT

Court House Janitor Admits Breaking Into Vault of Richland Treasurer. More Than \$12,500 of Stolen Money Recovered.

Columbia, Feb. 24.—Odell Thompson, negro janitor at the Richland county court house confessed late this afternoon to robbing the vault in the office of the county treasurer here yesterday when something like eighteen or more thousand dollars were stolen.

Thompson has been janitor at the court house about twenty-five years. He says he was assisted by another negro helper, Henry Park, who is also under arrest.

The authorities immediately recovered more than \$12,500. Of this amount \$10,485 was found in packages under the steps of the court house here, then \$2,000 was found in the basement of the home of J. Frost Walker, clerk of court of Richland county where Thompson had placed it, Thompson also being janitor at Mr. Walker's house.

Park has thus far not divulged where he put his part of the money. After punching a hole through a brick wall four feet in thickness, robbers gained entrance into the vault of the treasurer's office at the Richland County court house some time between Saturday afternoon at seven o'clock and seven o'clock this morning and procured between fifteen and eighteen thousand dollars in cash.

The brick vault is in the office and how the robbers gained entrance or made exit cannot be determined as the one door to the office was locked this morning and the iron barred windows had not been tampered with.

The aperture through the wall through which the robber crawled into the vault was slowly battered with a heavy nail puller, made from an old buggy axle. The hole thus drilled through the brick, mellow with years, was nearly two feet square.

The manner in which the robbery was executed would indicate that the party or parties were well acquainted with the arrangement of the packages of money and interior structure of the vault. The opening was driven through the wall at a place so as to miss entirely any obstruction on the inside. Also the robbers brought to the office in the equipment a fish pole, with a loop on the end, with which to drag out the packages of bills which were piled in the vault. The bills were made up in \$500 packages, and there were between thirty and forty of these packages.

The treasurer is P. B. Spigner, whose term of office expires the first of next July, when the office will be turned over to Mose H. Mobley.

### OLD SOLDIERS MEET.

The members of R. S. Owens Camp, met Saturday afternoon to organize for the coming year. The following officers were named:

- Capt. T. J. Duckett, Commander.
- R. P. Adair, 2nd Com.
- J. W. C. Bell, 3rd Com.
- R. J. Copeland, Sr., Secty. Pro-Tem.
- R. Z. Wright, Secty. and Treas.
- W. D. Watts, Adj.
- J. L. Simpson, Chaplain.

The camp has a membership of twenty, and fourteen were present Saturday for the meeting which is always enjoyed. Mr. B. M. Copeland, of Nashville, Ark., who fought through the war with several members of the camp, was present as a visitor and was given a cordial welcome by his old comrades.

in the parade and later to Mechanics Hall, where he spoke before 8,000 persons, by Mrs. Wilson. He appeared physically fit for what he described as the approaching strenuous attempt to transact business for a little while in America.

The sea voyage seemed to have given him a rest. He appeared to enjoy the day and in taking farewell of Mayor Andrew J. Peters, the official host, said that he had immensely enjoyed the brief stay here. So occupied was Mr. Wilson with the program prepared for him, that all off-

### ENJOY OYSTER SUPPER.

The members of the Clinton Automobile Association, together with a number of visiting friends, enjoyed a delightful oyster supper last Friday night at the Clinton Hotel. Mr. Geo. M. Wright, president of the club, presided as master of ceremonies and the invocation was offered by the Rev. Edward Long.

At the conclusion of the feast, the secretary of the South Carolina Association, Mr. Hawkins, of Greenville, was introduced and made a very interesting and enthusiastic talk of the association and its purposes, and the growing sentiment in favor of better highways. He was followed by several local citizens and visitors from Laurens who spoke enthusiastically of the work that will be undertaken by the two clubs.

A Constitution for the new organization, as prepared by the president, was read and unanimously adopted. It called for the election of a board of directors composed of six and the following members were elected to serve for the ensuing year: Messrs. W. C. Bailey, E. W. Ferguson, Geo. H. Ellis, R. G. Harper, L. A. Barrow and Jas. R. Copeland.

The evening was a most pleasant one and was immensely enjoyed by all the good roads enthusiasts present.

### SPRING TERM OF COURT CONVENES MARCH 10TH

Laurens, S. C., Feb. 26 (Special)—The spring term of general sessions court for Laurens will be convened the second Monday in March, Judge Geo. E. Prince, of Anderson, will preside. For the reason that the courts of last summer and fall were cut short for various reasons, the docket that will face the coming session will be unusually heavy. There are six or seven murder cases to be heard, besides a large number of more or less minor character.

Monday the jury commissioners met and drew twelve grand jurors who will serve during the year with the six holdover members, and the petit venire for the approaching term.

The grand jurors for the year are as follows: S. M. Wilkes, Laurens; J. J. Brownlee, Waterloo; T. Mac Roper, Laurens; T. F. Babb, Sullivan; Robt. M. Hill, Cross Hill; D. S. Hill, Dials; E. H. South, Dials; J. B. Cook, Youngs; J. R. Taylor, Youngs; E. V. Golding, Waterloo; E. D. Chaney, Scuffletown; Arthur M. Cox, Dials; H. J. Nabors, Hunter; W. C. Mahon, Dials; A. C. Nash, Dials; Joe R. Adair, Jacks; Geo. M. Davis, Hunter; R. O. Childress, Laurens.

### Petit Jury.

Laurens—W. E. Hawkins, J. Willie Henderson, E. Q. Leak, J. D. Sexton, Youngs—R. L. Cooper, W. M. Hunter, W. C. Crow, J. L. Smith, A. S. Riddle, H. O. Bane.

Dials—S. C. Woods, D. D. Brownlee, J. E. Farrow, M. B. Satterveld, A. M. Owens.

Sullivan—Jesse A. Wood, Robt. E. Taylor, J. R. Crawford, J. W. Bagwell.

Waterloo—W. W. Cooper, Levin L. Madden, J. K. Daniel, W. F. Bolt.

Cross Hill—W. E. Griffin, Edd. F. Workman, J. C. Chandler.

Hunter—C. O. Glenn, W. L. Teague, I. H. S. Hipp, Guy L. Copeland, W. D. Copeland, D. M. Williams.

Jack's—A. J. Hollingsworth, John M. Copeland.

Scuffletown—R. J. Donnon, E. W. Donnon.

### Card of Thanks.

We desire in lieu of the many kindnesses and the numerous expressions of sympathy from so many of our friends to extend this card of thanks and very high appreciation. Our heavy burdens are made lighter by your thoughtfulness of us.

H. M. Blakely and Sisters.

cial business brought to his attention was deferred until he was aboard the special train which drew out of the South Station at 4:30 this afternoon for Washington. The \$6,000,000,000 revenue bill was among the documents which he received from Secretary Tamm, and upon which he had not acted when he left the city.

### TROOPS MAY COME HOME BY GERMANY

Proposal to Transport Several Hundred Thousand Americans has been Made. Possible to Bring 400,000 by Route.

Berlin, Thursday, Feb. 20.—A proposal to transport several hundred thousand men of the American Expeditionary Forces to the United States by way of Germany, placing them on board ships at Bremen and Hamburg, has been submitted to the American authorities. According to the present American arrangements, however, the first of the American units to be repatriated in German steamers will embark from the Netherlands, but it is said here American army headquarters is inclined to consider favorably the use of the route through Germany for some of the later embarkations, owing to the convenient transportation facilities and the adequate dockage and other arrangements of the North German ports.

The proposal, which was submitted by the directors of the North German Lloyd Line, with the approval of the German government, provided that a fleet of big liners with a normal carrying capacity of 50,000 passengers should be assigned to this service and the troops transported from their present stations over the direct trunk lines to Bremen and Hamburg. Over these lines, according to General Groener, now in charge of the German railways, a speedy movement would be practical.

The steamers would be capable of making eight round trips in a year, making it possible to return 400,000 men by this route in that period. As American experts commented, however, if the ships were loaded in accordance with the present American military practice instead of under the German pre-war regulations, they would carry at least twice that number, or 100,000 the trip.

The steamship company directors in a memorandum to General Pershing pointed out that the plan they proposed would relieve the over-taxed French railways and ports of a part of the burden of the homeward movement of the American army and provide a distinctly quicker route. They urged as also against the present arrangements for embarkation in Holland, the Dutch railways were not well able to cope with heavy troop traffic and that no buildings were available to house the men during the inevitable delays before boarding steamers, while on the other hand Hamburg and Bremen had ample barrack facilities. The company proposed the utilization of such steamers as were employed to carry back to the American troops for the transportation on the return of the supplies promised Germany.

The company was informed in reply that the American government was already committed to the scheme for embarkation by way of Holland and that corollary arrangements had been made for moving the first food shipments into Germany by way of Holland and the Rhine, but that the German proposals would be submitted to President Wilson and it was probable that advantages would be taken of them in subsequent troop movements.

### CLINTON'S CHAUTAUQUA A BIG ONE.

The five day chautauqua to be held here in May, promises to be a big success. Community Chautauquas are now being held all over the United States, serving more than 400 towns and cities. The chautauqua here will be held in one of their large auditorium tents with a seating capacity of 1,800 people. The program of music, entertainment and educational lectures is sure to be enthusiastically received.

The enterprising men and women in Clinton who have been the means of getting the Community Chautauqua for this spring are to be complimented on their good judgment. The nation's best entertainers will be heard and the program which will be announced a little later in The Chronicle will rank among the best of chautauquas.

New line of Bed Room Furniture in Old Ivory and Brown Mahogany now on display.

Special values in Hall Racks just arrived.

S. M. & E. H. WILKES & CO.

## COUNTY BEING ORGANIZED TO URGE REDUCTION OF COTTON ACREAGE

Laurens, S. C., Feb. 26 (Special)—

The committee appointed to organize this county for cotton holding and reduction held an informal meeting in the office of W. L. Gray, chairman, Monday morning and as a result of a discussion it was decided to call the farmers together Friday morning at 11 o'clock to lay the matter before them for their own decision. Chairman Gray, pursuant to that decision, has issued a call for that meeting. All of the farmers and business men of the county are requested to be present at that time to take part in the deliberations and organizations.

The committee took the position that, as it was composed almost entirely of those not actually engaged in the raising of cotton, that it was not incumbent upon them to regulate the farming methods of those who are actually engaged in the business but it thought that this was a matter entirely to be left to the discretion of the farmers themselves. The committee, however, accepted it as a duty to give what assistance it could to the organization of the farmers if they wanted to organize and offered its assistance in perfecting the organization. For that reason whatever action is to be taken in this county in regard to the cotton holding movement is to be left to the farmers, while the committee will act as a bureau through which the pledges may be sent. Until further notice, those who desire to sign the pledge printed in today's paper, may send them to Mr. W. L. Gray, chairman of the committee.

### Laurens County Committee.

The committee appointed for this county is as follows:

- W. L. Gray, chairman; Allison Lee, James H. Sullivan, W. L. Taylor, B. Y. Culbertson, Laurens; H. V. Workman, J. D. Bell, J. F. Jacobs, Wilson W. Harris, Clinton; J. C. Smith, Waterloo; Dr. J. H. Miller, Cross Hill.

### Governor's Proclamation.

The proclamation of Gov. Cooper, under which the steps are being taken to organize this state along with the other Southern States, is as follows:

Whereas, an extraordinary situation exists in the cotton growing States, due to the low price cotton is bringing, which situation threatens dire financial distress and suffering to these States, because the existing market prices do not allow any margin of profit to the producers of cotton; and

Whereas, this situation is caused by the fact that the available supply of raw cotton is in excess of the demand, which condition will continue if the 1919 crop should be a large one; and Whereas, the only plausible solution for the situation that presents itself is a reduction of the 1919 cotton crop;

Now, therefore, I, Robert A. Cooper, governor of South Carolina, do declare Saturday, February 28, 1919, to be Cotton Acreage Reduction Day, and do call upon the cotton planters of South Carolina to pledge themselves upon that day to reduce the acreage ordinarily planted in cotton by one-third, and to curtail the use of commercial fertilizers.

Cotton growers today have on hand more than one-third of the 1918 crop, which they cannot sell at prevailing prices without sustaining a great loss. It is a matter of common knowledge that the ratio of supply to demand determines prices, and should the supply of raw cotton, already too large, be greatly augmented by a large crop in 1919, the result would be tremendously disastrous to the individuals of the South, to the States, and to the South at large. The prudent merchant who is overstocked with a line of wares does not procure more of those wares before he has sold that which he has on hand, and has paid for. Southern cotton growers must operate on this same principle. Unity of purpose and concert of action will save us from calamity, and give to us our just share of the prosperity which other sections of the nation are enjoying.

Therefore, as governor of South Carolina, and as one to whom the happiness of this State is of first import, I call upon the farmers to assemble in each county of the State on Cotton Acreage Reduction Day, to discuss and agree upon plans for the holding of present cotton on hand, for the proper protection of this cotton from

depredations of weather and for the curtailment of the 1919 crop so that it will not exceed two-thirds of the average yield. I call upon the farmers to sign the cotton reduction pledges which will be presented to them on that day, and to create a public sentiment which will not permit individuals to violate the reduction program. Unless this be done we may expect poverty while others enjoy wealth.

During the world war our people responded nobly to every call of patriotism. This movement to prevent the financial collapse of the South should appeal to the patriotism of every citizen, and no one should desire a personal gain to the injury of the whole people. I, therefore, most earnestly urge that the bankers, merchants, business and professional men, cooperate with the farmer in this movement, and that the farmers cooperate with each other.

### COTTON EXPORT

#### EMBARGO CUT OUT

Amendment to Remove Embargoes is Written Into Sundry Civil Bill.

Washington, Feb. 24.—Representatives from the cotton raising states were successful in their effort tonight to write an amendment into the sundry civil bill, designed to remove all embargoes, placed by the War Trade Board against cotton exports shipments. The amendment, however, is not effective until after June 30. The bill, including the amendment, now goes to the senate.

Although designed primarily to affect cotton shipments, the amendment applies to all American goods exported to foreign countries. The amendment, prepared at a Southern conference of representatives, was offered in the house by Representative Bland of Georgia and afterward amended on motion of Representative Steagall of Alabama, so that cottonseed and peanut oil also would not be subject to embargo.

The amendment was offered while the house, in committee of the whole, was considering an item of the sundry bill reappropriating for the war trade board the unexpected balance of appropriations granted last year for continuing its operation. Continuance of the agency for a part of the next fiscal year may be necessary, it was said by members of the appropriation committee, who framed the sundry bill. Funds, it was added, also would be necessary for the agency to settle its accounts.

The reappropriation item was approved after adoption of the Bland amendment which directs that no part of the appropriation bill would be available unless all embargoes are lifted.

### DUNCAN'S CREEK AND ROCKBRIDGE CHURCHES.

By order of the Presbytery of South Carolina, services will be held at these churches next Sunday and the Sunday after. The object is to prepare for the extension work of the church for the year beginning April 1. The members of the church, and particularly the officers, are urged to be present. Dr. A. E. Spencer is assigned to Duncan's Creek Church at 11 A. M. Sunday, March 2, and Rev. M. G. Woodworth to Rockbridge Church at 11 A. M. On Sunday, March 9, services will be held at Duncan's Creek at 3 P. M. by Rev. W. S. Bean, and Mr. Jack H. Davis will present the cause of the campaign; and at Rockbridge at 11 o'clock, Dr. Bean is to preach. On March 16, services at Rockbridge at 11 A. M. by Dr. Bean, assisted by some of the committee. Please bear in mind these very important meetings, as the churches must be reported to the Spring meeting of Presbytery.

W. S. Bean.

John Lyles, of the U. S. Navy, was discharged also and was in town for a few days but returned to Charleston to accept work with the government.