

DAY FOR GERMANY TO SIGN DRAWS NEAR

No Indications of Material Modification of Treaty on Part of Allied Commissioners. Treaty Must Be Signed or Rejected. Sentiment in German Circles Seems Opposed to Signing.

(Associated Press, Tuesday.)

As the day for the Germans to give answer to the peace demands of the allied and associated governments approaches—and the German plenipotentiaries have announced that they will ask no further extension of time beyond Thursday, the limit set by the allies—there apparently has been no change in the sentiment of German government circles that the treaty should not be signed.

"Should I, under pressure from our own misled countrymen, sign this sentence of death" an utterance attributed to Count von Brockdorff-Rantzau, head of the German peace delegation, in reply to a question as to whether the demands of the Independent Socialists that the compact should be duly sealed, sums up generally the state of mind supposed to exist in the higher walks of German political life.

Meanwhile, allied commissions are preparing to hand to Austria and Bulgaria the treaties that are to be drawn up for them. The Austrians who have been for some time at St. Germain, are chafing under the delay in being called before the peace congress. The delay is declared to be mainly due to the settlement of conditions regarding reparations.

Dr. Renner, head of the Austrian delegation has appealed to Premier Clemenceau, president of the peace conference, urging the hastening of the presentation of the peace treaty, declaring that the delay is creating a "regrettable strain" on Austria financially.

The belief is expressed in Paris that the allied and associated powers will exempt the new States formed from parts of the former dual monarchy from any payments on account of reparation or public property taken over by them. The council of four is now engaged in thoroughly going into the situation of these new States.

Anti-Bolshevik factions in Russia headed by Admiral Kolchak and General Denekine are to receive conditional recognition by the council of four, according to a report in circulation in Paris. The condition is said to be that the governments of these leaders are to convoke and accept the verdict of a genuine constituent assembly, which is to determine the future form of government of Russia.

Such action by the council of four would enable the allies to assist in the struggle against soviet rule in Russia by furnishing Kolchak and Denekine with arms, munitions, money and food on a larger scale than previously. No troops would be furnished the anti-Bolshevik leaders, according to the report.

Berlin, May 26.—Count von Brockdorff-Rantzau, head of the German peace delegation in an interview with the Versailles correspondent of Vow-aerts said he went to Versailles with the firm intention of defending what remained for the welfare and happiness of the German people, but that even this remnant has been destroyed by the peace treaty. The count said it was a question therefore, whether it could not be better saved by refusing to sign than by submitting as was desired by the Independent Socialists.

The chairman of the German delegation said he would certainly fight to the last in order to try to improve the lot of the working people by negotiation but that the delegates would be sinning against the interests of the working people if they signed conditions which signified only "perpetual famine and unemployment."

"Should I, under pressure from our own misled countrymen, sign this sentence of death" asked Count von Brockdorff-Rantzau.

Questioned as to whether he feared the demonstrations of the Independent Socialists would be successful, he said they would be unsuccessful in the sense of moving him to abandon his resolve not to sign what he believed would be tantamount to the destruction of the nation. Referring to Herr Haas' statement that peace must be signed and that the coming revolution would make it a scrap of paper, he said: "When I came to Versailles I had the firm hope that the time of

COLLEGE COMMENCEMENT BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY

Sunday, June 1st, will usher in the 1918-19 commencement season at the Presbyterian College of South Carolin.

The exercises will open at 11 a. m. in the First Presbyterian church at which time the baccalaureate discourse will be delivered by Dr. H. Tucker Graham, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Florence.

In the evening the annual sermon before the Y. M. C. A. will be preached by Rev. J. P. Marion, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Sumter.

Monday evening the Declaimers Contest will be held in the college auditorium at which time six young men will compete for first honor and the gold medal offered. Tuesday evening the Orators' Contest will be held at which time six young men will also speak.

The commencement exercises proper come Wednesday morning at 10:30. The literary address will be delivered by Dr. R. H. Bennett of Emory University, Ga. This will be followed by the usual graduating exercises, delivery of diplomas, medals, announcements, etc.

Dr. D. M. Douglas, president of the college, extends a cordial invitation to the public to attend all the exercises.

ATTENDED GRAND LODGE.

W. H. Simpson attended the Grand Lodge meeting, Knights of Pythias, held this week in Columbia. W. P. Jacobs, the other delegate, could not attend on account of the illness and death of his grandfather, Capt. T. J. Duckett.

scraps of paper had finally passed and that a new age would begin in which only treaties would be signed which would be respected by both sides. I have not abandoned the hope of attaining healthy international morality. A mere scrap of paper will never bear my signature."

Paris, May 26.—The council of four of the peace conference has decided conditionally to recognize the anti-Bolshevik governments of Admiral Kolchak and General Denekine, according to Reuter's Agency here.

The policy adopted, it is added, will enable the allies to recognize and assist any force in Russia co-operating in the struggle against soviet rule because such recognition will be in force only until such time as the constituent assembly decides upon the permanent form of government. The regional governments will then expire automatically.

The allies will not furnish Admiral Kolchak and Gen. Denekine with troops but will supply them with arms, munitions, money and food on a larger scale than hitherto. It is stipulated there will be no interference with races of non Russian states recently erected from old Russian territory.

Washington, May 26.—Official advices reached Washington today that a full understanding had been reached by the council of four at Paris by which the United States will keep all the German ships seized in American ports when this country entered the war.

Paris, May 26.—The German counter proposals to the allied peace terms will be ready tomorrow night, according to a statement in French peace conference circles tonight and Count von Brockdorff-Rantzau will present them Wednesday.

It was also announced tonight that the council of four had ratified the decision of the economic council to maintain the blockade against Germany until a regular government based on free and popular mandate is set up.

Paris, May 26.—The supreme economic council announced today that the allied and associated governments had decided to lift the blockade of Hungary as soon as a stable government is established there.

GEORGE H. DAVIDSON DEAD.

The news Sunday afternoon of the death of Mr. George H. Davidson, one of the oldest citizens in the county and the oldest resident of Clinton, came unexpected and as a great sorrow to many throughout this community where he was so well known. He was visiting his daughter, Mrs. J. C. McMillan at Renno, at the time of his death, and had only been sick a few days.

The funeral service was held Monday afternoon, being conducted by Dr. Dudley Jones, and interment followed in the Presbyterian cemetery.

Mr. Davidson was in his 95th year. He was a brave, faithful soldier of the Confederacy and he returned home after the war to meet with the same patience and fortitude the changed conditions that war had brought. He lived the life of an upright citizen and the news of the death of this venerable man will be received with sincere regret by his wide circle of friends and relatives who mourn his loss.

The deceased is survived by three daughters, Mrs. T. R. Owens of this city, Mrs. J. C. McMillan and Mrs. B. F. Copeland at Renno; three sons, Messrs. L. H., G. B. and G. R. Davidson, all of this place, as well as a wide family connection.

CLINTON HIGH SCHOOL COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

The commencement exercises of the Clinton High School are to be held this evening, Thursday, May 29th, at nine o'clock in the school auditorium. A very interesting program has been arranged by the members of the class and they extend a cordial invitation to their friends and the public in general to be present this evening. The following program has been announced:

- Chorus—"The Call of Summer"
- Prayer.
- Song—"Home Again."
- Salutatory—Beth Blakely.
- Class History—Gladys Adair.
- Class Will—Marie Adair.
- Class Poem—Mable Simpson.
- Prophecy—Emily Phillips
- Valedictory—Collette Griffin.
- Chorus—"Blóssom Time"
- Awarding of medals, diplomas and announcements by the Superintendent.
- Class Song.

RAINS RUINED COTTON CROP.

Necessary to Replant a Large Part of South Carolina Crop Says Wannamaker.

Columbia, S. C., May 26.—J. S. Wannamaker, president of the American Cotton Association, today issued a statement declaring that the excess rains of the past ten days have practically ruined the South Carolina cotton crop and had seriously hurt it in other States.

"In South Carolina it is going to be necessary to replant a very great portion of the crop," said Mr. Wannamaker. "Much of the crop in this State is rotting and grass is taking the remainder of it. In other States the condition is the same to a greater or lesser extent. I have information to the effect that hundreds of acres are being abandoned.

Mr. Wannamaker also declared that "not only Russia but practically all of the European countries that consume cotton are in communication, and have been in communication for quite some time with the export corporation promoters.

"It has leaked out," said Mr. Wannamaker "that these manufacturers are now quietly buying cotton on the exchanges, and as they have had an understanding with the Export Corporation that credit will be arranged for, they have secured the actual spot cotton. They have decided not to delay buying cotton."

We have recently received a complete stock of Chiffonettes, Wardrobes, China Closets, Buffets and Hall Racks. B. M. & E. H. WILKES & CO.

THE JUBILEE DAY.

All plans are now perfected for the big Jubilee and Home-Welcoming celebration of June 7th. The committees looking after the various details have about completed their work and with favorable weather the largest crowd that has ever gathered in Clinton is expected.

The big feature will be the parade. It will be headed by a magnificent float of the Commercial Club. Chairman Geo. H. Ellis of the parade committee, states that fifty business houses have promised floats and that a large number of agricultural exhibits are also expected from the farmers of this section. He is making a special appeal for the entry of at least fifty pleasure cars in the line of march. The marshals, judges, order of march, and all details of the parade will be given in next week's paper.

The 34 piece military band from Camp-Jackson promises to be a big drawing card for the day. Dr. D. W. Daniel, the orator of the day, is a forceful speaker and will be greeted with a large crowd.

Everything points to a big celebration and a record-breaking crowd.

CONGRESS ASKED FOR GREAT FUND

Railways Need More Than One Billion Dollars For Operating Losses.

Washington, May 24.—To finance the railroads for the remainder of this year and to pay the government's operating loss for 16 months up to this month, an appropriation of \$1,200,000,000 was asked of congress today by Director General Hines. More may be sought later if the government continues to lose heavily in operation.

The \$1,200,000,000 in addition to the \$500,000,000 appropriated by the last congress, and includes the \$750,000,000 which failed of appropriation when the session ended in a filibuster.

Out of this appropriation which congress will be asked to expedite, railroads will be paid the sums due them months ago as standard compensation, and for which they have accepted the railroad administration's certificates of indebtedness. On security of these certificates they have borrowed from banks and the war finance corporation to meet their current corporate obligations in recent months. This temporary system of financing will be eliminated as soon as congress provides funds.

Approximately \$486,000,000 represents the government's loss in operating the railroads from January 1, 1918, when private control ended, and May 1 last. This is the difference between the sums for which the government is obliged to pay the roads on contracts and the net actual operating income from operations. The balance, or about \$1,214,000,000 of the \$1,700,000,000 now appropriated or sought, represents working capital to be paid to the government eventually.

This was explained by Mr. Hines in his request for the appropriation submitted to congress through Secretary Class.

The deficit last year was \$236,154,490 and in the first four months this year, the government's loss was about \$250,000,000. These, said Mr. Hines, "are clearly losses due to the war and ought to be treated as such. By reason of the after the war factors tending to important changes in the situation the estimate herewith submitted does not attempt to forecast results beyond the first four months of this calendar year."

METHODISTS REACH GOAL.

Local Methodists "go over the top" on Centenary. The congregation of Broad Street Methodist Church is receiving congratulations from their friends on their success in over-subscribing their quota in the Centenary Campaign of Methodist Missions.

The following officials made the canvass: B. H. Boyd, W. M. McMillan, H. D. Henry, R. J. Copeland, Jr., P. B. Adair, W. A. Galloway, W. H. Simpson, L. A. Barrow, L. F. McSwain, George Watts Copeland, R. P. Adair, Jr., E. G. Fuller, J. D. Bell, J. W. Milam.

CAPT. T. J. DUCKETT ANSWERS DEATH'S CALL

The city was saddened Tuesday morning by the announcement of the death of Capt. Thos. J. Duckett one of Clinton's oldest and most highly esteemed citizens. His death did not come unexpected, however, for he had been in a critical condition at the Clinton Hospital for the past two weeks and little hope was held out for his recovery.

The funeral service was held Tuesday afternoon at six o'clock in the Baptist church and was conducted by his pastor, Rev. Edward Long.

Capt. Duckett was 78 years old and one of the best known citizens in the county. He served through the Confederate war and was one of the most faithful and gallant soldiers in his company as his comrades all testify. He loved the cause for which he fought and took delight in attending the annual reunions of the Southern heroes. He was commander of the R. S. Owens Camp. He served his county for eight years as sheriff and made a fearless officer. He was a gentleman of the old South, gentle and kindly to all the world and greatly beloved in his family circle. He was a lifelong member of the Baptist church and was interested in all its activities. As father, husband and friend, he was beloved and his death brings sorrow throughout the community where he lived a long and useful and honored life.

The deceased is survived by his wife; one son, B. Duckett; and the following daughters: Mrs. Narnie Young, Mrs. J. F. Jacobs, Miss Clara Duckett; all of this city; Mrs. J. B. Townsend of Anderson, and Mrs. Jones of Petersburg, Va.

SUNDAY SCHOOL DAY.

Sunday School Day, formerly called Children's Day, was appropriately observed at Broad Street Methodist Church on Sunday, May 18, with songs and recitations. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers and pot plants. The program was instructive and interesting. About eight hundred people were present to witness one of the best programs ever carried out on a similar occasion in the history of the church.

ROCK BRIDGE PICNIC.

The teachers of the Rock Bridge school have announced a big picnic for Saturday, May 31st, in connection with the school closing. Several prominent speakers have been invited and a program filled with interest is promised all who attend, not mentioning the many good things to eat that are always in evidence when the Rock Bridge folks undertake such an event.

A MONTH'S ABSENCE.

Rev. Henry Stokes has been granted a month's leave of absence from his pulpit. He will spend the time chiefly in Chicago and Columbus, Ohio, the latter city being the place of the joint celebration of the Centenary of Methodist Missions.

All the church services will go on as usual. The following visitors will fill the pulpit in the absence of the pastor:

- June 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29, Rev. D. M. Douglas;
- June 15, 22, 29, Rev. W. Way, of Jacksonville;
- June 22, morning, Rev. J. C. Roper;
- June 29, morning, Rev. A. L. Gunter, of Edgefield.

The hours of worship unaccounted for in this statement are taken up by community interests to which all the churches will give way.

GOVERNMENT CALLS FOR PUBLIC BIDS

Wants Bids for Labor and Material for Clinton's New Postoffice Building.

Elsewhere in today's paper will be found two small advertisements from the government, calling for proposals for labor and material for the construction of the U. S. Post Office building at Clinton. Sealed bids will be opened in the supervising architect's office at Washington, on June 18th.

This announcement will be received with considerable interest throughout the city. An appropriation of \$55,000 for the purchase of a site and erecting the building was made three years ago. Of this amount, \$5,500 was paid for the site which was selected just above the A. R. P. Church, leaving \$49,500 for the building. Several months ago Secretary Glass recommended an additional appropriation of \$37,500 but so far as The Chronicle is informed this additional amount was not appropriated since Congress adjourned without passing the complete appropriation bill. If this increase is granted, the city will have \$87,000 for its government building. When Clinton will get its public building, The Chronicle will not venture an opinion.

CLINTON MAKES GOOD RECORD

On last Friday the Laurens County High School Athletic and Declamation Association held its annual contests in Laurens. In the track meet Clinton and Laurens ran neck and neck till the end of the meet, it taking the last event to give Laurens the victory by one point. The final score was Laurens 43, Clinton 42 and Shiloh 14. The trophy cup offered by Fleming Brothers, of Laurens, will be held one year by the Laurens high school.

In the recitation contest Miss Elizabeth Douglas of Clinton, came first with Laurens second. The medal won by Miss Douglas is given by Mr. J. F. Jacobs, of Clinton.

First place in the boys' declamation contest was won by Mr. W. H. Wolf of Shiloh high school. Mr. Joak Davis of Clinton won second place.

The results of these contests show that our schools are at the front and are doing good work. It will be remembered, in this connection, that Miss Douglas won first place in the State contest in Columbia this spring.

PUBLIC INSTALLATION.

The William Plumer Jacobs Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, recently organized, held public installation and institution ceremonies Thursday evening in the Thornwell Memorial Church. All of the grand officers were present and in charge of the exercises which were attended by a large audience.

This chapter was organized a few months ago and has made remarkable growth. The officers elected to head the new chapter are: L. D. McCrary, high priest; M. B. Hipp, king; W. P. Jacobs, scribe; J. T. Young, treasurer; J. K. Hatton, secretary; Rev. Henry Stokes, chaplain; L. H. Rounds, captain of the host; B. B. Mills, principle sojourner; J. I. Coleman, Royal Arch captain; F. Kellers, master of the third veil; L. A. Barrow, master of the second veil; S. C. Hays, master of the first veil; L. R. Stone, sentinel.