

**HUNS MAY SIGN
TREATY TODAY****Official Advises Received at
Washington—Feeling of Relief at State Department.**

Paris, June 23.—The signing of the peace treaty is not likely to take place before Thursday, possibly not until Friday. This announcement was made by Premier Clemenceau and Secretary Dutasta.

Washington, June 23.—Official information that the German delegates at Versailles had been instructed by their government to sign the peace treaty was received late today by the state and war departments. It was said none of the dispatches indicated the time at which the actual signing was expected to take place.

News that the German delegation had been instructed to sign was received by officials here with profound relief and satisfaction. Reports of violent dissensions among the various German elements and of powerful influences working to compass the rejection of the treaty, even at the cost of an entente military occupation of Germany has caused apprehension in some quarters that even at the last moment the negotiations might fail. However, the state department's advice from the American peace delegation in Paris consistently had indicated a final acceptance of the terms by the defeated enemy, so when the first press reports came announcing the unqualified acceptance of the convention by the Weimar government the expressions of official opinion were rather of satisfaction than of surprise.

Berlin, June 23.—General Maercker, who commands the forces guarding Weimar, made a pessimistic statement at a meeting of various parties today regarding the signing of the treaty, according to a Weimar dispatch.

The assembly met at noon and Premier Bauer asked for confirmation of the assembly's decision as the allied and associated powers had rejected Germany's reservations. The assembly, declared, notwithstanding the opposition, vote of the German national party, the People's party and a section of the Centrists that the government was still empowered to sign the treaty.

Brest, June 23.—The U. S. S. George Washington, which will carry President Wilson back to the United States, received orders today to be ready to sail Thursday morning. The work of loading the transport began this evening.

**DIAL WELL POSTED
ON WATERPOWER****S. C. Junior Senator Shows Thorough
Knowledge on Development of Waterpower.**

Washington, June 22.—Senator Dial has struck his trade. When the question of developing the waterpower of the Potomac river at Washington was being considered in the senate, Senator Dial took the floor and convinced other senators that he was thoroughly familiar with this matter and that he knew water power in all of its details.

The South Carolina senator is a member of the district committee now investigating this question with a view to utilization, and from the information which he gave the senate, it is evident that in the near future he will be of great benefit to water power interests in South Carolina by looking after the development of this matter.

Senator Dial wants first hand, correct information furnished the government so that it may be told just what our water power is, how it is being used and developed, and the possibilities in this line here in the various sections of the country. It is his opinion, based on years of careful study and from practical experience, that there is a great amount of horsepower undeveloped in the United States which may at small expense be put to practical use and it is along this line that he will soon devote much of his energy.

Nothing that could be done for upper South Carolina at this time could be of more importance—especially to Greenville, Spartanburg and other counties with much undeveloped horsepower than correct information as to what can be done and on undeveloped possibilities.

**LEAGUE OPPONENTS
ABANDON TEST VOTE****Will Come Up at Ratification—
Republications Postpone Fight.**

Senator Lodge Gives Reason as a Desire to Give Undivided Attention to Appropriation Bills. To Get Behind Root's Proposal That Covenant be Ratified with Reservations.

Washington, June 22.—Senate leaders opposing the league of nations abandoned today their plan to try for a test vote in the immediate future on the Knox resolution, and turned their attention to crystallizing sentiment behind Elihu Root's proposal that the league covenant be ratified with reservations.

The decision was taken as a forecast that the league fight would remain in a quiescent state during the coming week and probably until the treaty is submitted for ratification about two weeks hence.

There may be some debate on the subject and possibly an attempt to get action on a substitute for the Knox measure, but in the main the opposition efforts seem certain from now on the final ratification fight itself.

Statement by Lodge.

Republican leader Lodge in a statement tonight announcing that the Knox resolution would not be called up tomorrow said that the decision had been prompted by a desire to give undivided senate attention to pressing appropriation bills. Other league opponents are known to feel also that action now would be inappropriate since the resolution, introduced two weeks ago by Senator Knox (Republican of Pennsylvania) was designed principally to request a provision in the peace treaty by which the senate could ratify the document and still reserve judgement on the league.

"I am very strongly in favor of the Knox resolution," said Senator Lodge in his statement. "I think the league and the peace with Germany ought not to be interlocked. We ought to be able to ratify the peace with Germany at once and then give the proper discussion to the covenant of the league of nations which involves the entire future of the country."

"I should like to bring the Knox resolution to a vote at once, but after consultation with Senator Knox this afternoon, I have come to the conclusion that in the present situation of the appropriation bills, and especially the army bill now before the senate, we ought not to press the Knox resolution at this moment because it will lead to debate and nothing should be allowed to interfere with the passage of the appropriation bills before July 1. We propose to pass them before that date and shall sit day and night if necessary to do it."

"I am more willing to accept this postponement because the resolution is growing stronger daily and the absolute necessity of amending the league if it is to be made safe for the United States and for the cause of peace has just been freshly demonstrated in Senator Root's letter with extraordinary force."

**WHO OWNS THESE?
GOVERNMENT ASKS****Six Smith & Wesson Revolvers Shipped
to South Carolina in November, 1917.**

The United States Government is interested in learning the present ownership of the following revolvers: Smith & Wesson, 32 calibre, nickel, 3 1-4 inch barrel, No. 238005. Smith & Wesson, 32 calibre, nickel, 3 1-4 inch barrel, No. 235473. Smith & Wesson, 32 calibre, nickel, 3 1-4 inch barrel, No. 234778. Smith & Wesson, 32 calibre, blue steel, 4 1-4 inch barrel, No. 264183. Smith & Wesson, 32 calibre, blue steel, 4 1-4 inch barrel, No. 264677. Smith & Wesson, 32 calibre, blue steel, 4 1-4 inch barrel, No. 264232.

Appreciating the valuable aid which can be rendered by the newspapers in obtaining this information, the government appeals to the residents of this section, through this publication, for assistance in this matter.

These revolvers were shipped from Philadelphia, Pa., to South Carolina in November, 1917, since which time some, or all, of same have probably changed hands.

All owners of revolvers are asked

**GERMANS VOTE TO
SIGN THE TREATY**

Note of Acceptance Maintains That Peace Conditions Constitute a "Peace of Violence". Italian Delegates have been Authorized to Sign the Treaty, Removing Cause for Un easiness.

Weimar, June 23.—The national assembly this afternoon voted to sign the peace terms unconditionally, the government having succeeded in overcoming the opposition of those who insisted on two conditions.

Will Sign Unconditionally.

Paris, June 23.—The German government at Weimar has formally communicated its willingness to sign the peace terms unconditionally. It was announced by the French foreign office this afternoon.

The signing of the peace treaty is not likely to take place before Thursday, possibly not until Friday. This announcement was made tonight by Premier Clemenceau and Secretary Deusta.

The Italian delegates at present in Paris have been authorized to sign the treaty on behalf of Italy. This announcement removed one question which it was feared might delay the signing.

The German note accepting the allied peace conditions without reservation made only one typewritten page. Paul Deusta, secretary general of the peace conference, had the note translated as soon as he received it and sent copies of the translation to Premier Clemenceau, Premier Lloyd George and President Wilson.

In declaring its intention to accept and sign the peace terms, the government of the German republic has sent the following note to M. Clemenceau, president of the peace conference, through Dr. Haniel von Halmhausen:

"The minister of foreign affairs has instructed me to communicate to your excellency the following:

"It appears to the government of the German republic, in consternation at the last communication of the allied and associated governments, that these governments have decided to wrest from Germany by force acceptance of the peace conditions, even those which, without presenting any material significance, aim at divesting the German people of their honor.

"No act of violence can touch the honor of the German people. The German people, after frightful suffering in these last years, have no means of defending themselves by external action.

"Yielding to superior force, and without renouncing in the meantime, its own view of the unheard of injustice of the peace conditions the government of the German republic declares that it is ready to accept and sign the peace conditions imposed.

"Please accept, Mr. President, assurances of my high consideration. (Signed) "Von Hackel."

The request for additional time pleaded that the change in the government and the generally disturbed conditions made it difficult to complete the arrangements.

The communication from the Germans was received at 3 o'clock this morning. At 9 o'clock President Wilson and Premier Clemenceau with Premier Lloyd George at the latter's house met for consideration of the note. The character of this communication was not disclosed, however, until some time later in the morning when announcement was made that the German request had been rejected.

The decision to refuse the request was reached after a discussion lasting less than an hour.

Misses Evie Lewis, Poole, Collette Griffin and Messrs. J. P. and Bob Harper spent Sunday in Greenville.

Miss Belle Leake is visiting friends in Greenville.

Miss Marion Leake is visiting relatives in Florida.

to examine same carefully and if they own, or have knowledge of the ownership of any of these weapons to report by telegraph, Government rate collect, to Major Norman MacLeod, 140 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

No suspicion can possibly attach to the present owner of any one of these revolvers, but it is through the tracing of these firearms that the Government hopes to obtain information in a matter of the gravest importance.

**WILSON TO STUMP
FOR THE LEAGUE**

President Plans to Tour America on Return from France in Order to Acquaint People with World Covenant.

Washington, June 16.—President Wilson, facing a divided senate, has decided to carry his fight for ratification of the league of nations covenant directly to the people in a country-wide speaking tour. He expects to begin the trip as soon as he returns from Paris.

The President's decision was revealed here today coincident with receipt of a message in which he declined to give the senate, in advance of signing, the official text of the peace treaty, requested in a resolution adopted over vigorous opposition of the league supporters.

Neither development caused great surprise here, but each served to emphasize the president's position and to provide further subject matter for the debate which begins tomorrow on Senator Knox's resolution to put the senate on record against accepting the league covenant along with the peace treaty.

A tentative itinerary for the speaking trip has been completed by Secretary Tumulty but it will not be made public until Mr. Wilson finally has approved it. It is expected, however, that the tour will carry him into the far west and will occupy many days. It was said he probably would devote most attention to western states where league opposition has gained the greatest headway. The date the trip is to begin still hinges upon developments at Versailles but as nearly as officials can predict Mr. Wilson will reach Washington about July 1st, will lay the treaty formally before the senate and then, possibly on Independence Day, will begin a swing around the cycle that will eclipse in extent and spirit all his previous direct appeals to the people.

There have been suggestions that while he is making the tour the senate might be forced into recess and senators opposing ratification sent to the country to answer him, but it was said at the capitol there was little likelihood of such a course. It is regarded as certain, however, that opposition speakers will follow the president's special train, through the doubtful states.

Opposition senators generally, however, declined today from making any comment on the executive's plan of campaign. The message declining to send the treaty text also was received in silence when it was read to the senate but Senator Johnson, republican, of California, who introduced the resolution making the request, is expected to make the president's action the subject of a senate speech within the next few days.

T. DUCK LEAKE DEAD.

The news Saturday morning of the death of Mr. T. Duck Leake, one of the oldest citizens of the town, came as a great sorrow to many throughout this community where he was so well known. His death did not come unexpectedly as he has been in bad health for several months. He was 70 years old.

The funeral service was held Sunday morning at eleven o'clock at Duncan's Creek Church and was conducted by the pastor, Dr. W. S. Bean. Immediately after the funeral service the interment took place in the Duncan's Creek cemetery.

Mr. Leake was a Confederate soldier and his death will be felt by all his comrades and by everyone who knew him.

The deceased is survived by five sons: John and Ross Leake of Goldville; Joe and Tom Leake of this city, and Sam Leake of Union; and one daughter, Mrs. Janie Nabors of this city.

Miss Annie Whitmire has gone to Cross Keys to spend her vacation with her family.

Miss Nell Hunter is visiting friends in Gray Court.

Mr. Hugh Simpson spent Sunday in Union.

Miss Ruth Belle Davidson is at home again after being away several weeks.

**GERMAN SAILORS
WIPE OUT FLEET****Plot Carefully Arranged by
Officers and Crews—Composed of Germans.**

Sink Number of Vessels at Scapa Flow. Careful Plans Made. Officers and Crews Now Under Arrest on British Vessels. Some Meek Death.

London, June 21.—The German officers and sailors forming the complements of the German ships interned at Scapa Flow sank most of their fleet today. All the big ships, the battleships and battle cruisers, excepting the Baden, and numerous smaller craft were sunk, while others went ashore in a half sunken condition.

Eighteen destroyers were beached by tugs; four are still afloat, while the remainder went under.

The wholesale sinking of the German ships, which were surrendered under the terms of the armistice, was carefully arranged by officers and crews. All explosives had been removed and therefore, the only means of destroying the fleet was by opening the sea cocks. The ships went down slowly with the German flag, which the crews had hoisted, showing at the mastsheads.

The crews, composed entirely of Germans, under the terms of the armistice, which did not permit of British guards aboard, took to the boats when the vessels began to settle. While making for the shore the boats were challenged and called upon to surrender. Some of them ignored the summons and were fired upon, a few casualties resulting.

This stroke apparently was an entire surprise, and the first news reached London through a correspondent who was informed by farmers in the neighborhood that they had seen the German ships sinking with their flag aloft.

The admiralty at first denied the report, but later confirmed it and issued an official statement. The German officers and crews have been made prisoners.

None of the officials tonight would offer an opinion as to how they are to be dealt with.

The statement which was issued by the admiralty, says:

"According to the latest reports from Scapa Flow all the interned battleships and battle cruisers have been sunk except the battleship Baden, which is still afloat. Five light cruisers have been sunk but three have been beached. Eighteen destroyers were beached by local tugs. Four destroyers have sunk.

"A German admiral and most of the Germans from the ships are now in custody aboard British ships. Some boats from the ships refused to stop when ordered and were fired on. A small number of Germans were killed or wounded.

"In accordance with the terms of the armistice the German ships were interned with skeleton crews as caretakers and without British guards aboard."

When the German high seas fleet surrendered last November and was taken to Scapa Flow it comprised nine battleships, five battle cruisers, seven light cruisers and 50 destroyers. As far as is known, all the ships are still in Scapa Flow.

The battleships at Scapa Flow are the Kaiser, Kaiserin, Woenig Albert, Bayern, Markgraf, Kronprinz Wilhelm, Prinz Regent Luitpold, Grosser Kurfuerst and the Friedrich der Grosse, about 25,000 tons each. The battle cruisers were the Seydlitz, Hindenburg, Moltke, Von Der Tann and Oeuingler.

Thurso, Scotland, June 21.—The hoisting of a red flag at noon was the signal for the crews to scuttle the German warships at Scapa Flow. The crews took to the boats and rowed toward the shore. The guard ships fired at the Germans, who jumped overboard and swam ashore, where they were rounded up.

Mr. T. W. Copeland and Mr. Irby Hipp spent Friday in Columbia.

Sterling Pitts and Rabitt Shealy spent the week-end in Spartanburg.

The McMillans, Galloways, Finneys and Miss Ethel Russel spent Sunday at Glenn Springs.

**NEGROES GET
HEAVY SENTENCE****Four Negroes Who Killed
Wash Reeder All Get
Life Sentence.**

The four negroes, Allen Williams, Cleve Garlington, Sam Rice and Charlie Ferguson, who were held on the charge of killing Wash Reeder, a returned negro soldier, here about a month ago, were found guilty of murder, with recommendation to mercy, in the Court of General Sessions at Laurens last week. Life sentences were given the negroes by the presiding judge, Frank B. Gary, of Abbeville. Charlie Ferguson had made an alleged confession of the crime, implicating the other negroes, and he was used as the principal witness for the State. He was permitted to enter a plea of guilty as to himself and the court directed that a verdict similar to the others be returned in his case. After beating Reeder to death with clubs and rocks the negroes concealed the body in an open sewer, where it was discovered the next day.

**GREENVILLE MAN SHOTS
HIS OWN MOTHER-IN-LAW****Then Resists Arrest and is Shot by
Posse, But Not Seriously Hurt.**

Greenville, June 18.—Hugh Bramlett, a white man about 35 years old, created a sensation in the western section of the city early tonight when he drove up in an automobile to the home of his mother-in-law, wife and sister-in-law, at 718 Pendleton street, ran up into the house and shot his mother-in-law twice with a pistol, then returned to his car and drove off at a furious rate down the Augusta road.

A posse of officers and citizens at once started out to find Bramlett and finally captured him several miles from the city. Bramlett put up a stiff fight and it was necessary to shoot him. He was brought to the jail and given medical attention. It is not believed that he is seriously injured.

Bramlett does not live with his wife, and bad feeling has existed between him and his mother-in-law and sister-in-law for some time. Only a few weeks ago he was arrested by the city police upon complaint of the three women, who declared that Bramlett had entered the house armed with a shotgun and revolver and had threatened to kill them all, but that they had disarmed him. When the police got to the house on that occasion they found the man being held at bay in one of the rooms by the women.

**MORE MONEY FOR
POSTOFFICE BUILDING**

The sundry civil appropriation bill reported to the House last Friday, contained an item of \$39,500 for the completion of the postoffice building at Clinton. This additional increase brings the appropriation up to \$89,000, and bids for contracts for labor and material have already been called for by the government.

BIDS CALLED FOR.

The chairman of the Board of Regents of the State Training School for Feeble-Minded has called for bids for the construction of two dormitory buildings to be erected for Clinton's new institution. All bids are to be filed before noon, July 10th, 1919. As soon as the contractors are selected work will commence immediately on the construction of the new building.

FIRST COTTON BLOOMS.

The first cotton blooms of the season were brought to the Chronicle office yesterday by H. P. Culbertson and H. Moore, who are working on the Poole place with Walter B. Young.