

PRESIDENT WILSON BACK FROM FRANCE

Says Just Peace Will Save World Unnecessary Bloodshed If Safeguarded.

New York, July 8.—Escorted by a fleet of warships the transport George Washington, bringing President Wilson home from France, passed quarantine and moved on to New York harbor at 1:30 p. m. today.

As the transport passed Fort Hancock the guns boomed a Presidential salute, echoed ten minutes later by Fort Wadsworth. The shrill whistles of harbor craft took up the din.

The President and Mrs. Wilson stood on the bridge of the George Washington as the vessel steamed up the harbor to her pier at Hoboken, conveyed by destroyers and welcoming craft of all descriptions. The rails of the transport were lined with returning soldiers cheering and waving their caps.

The battleship Pennsylvania, bearing five members of the President's cabinet—Daniel Baker, Lane, Glass and Wilson—led the way, followed by the Oklahoma with the George Washington at her stern.

The George Washington had a clear way up the harbor. Police and navy patrol boats preceded the transport and her escort, sending out of their path excursion craft, ferries and barges.

The George Washington turned in to her pier at 2:50 p. m., while the warships in her escort fired a presidential salute.

The George Washington docked at 3:10 p. m.

The George Washington was reported eight miles southeast of Ambrose Lightship at 9:55 a. m. She was being led by two destroyers and one battleship and followed by two destroyers.

The George Washington and her convoy passed Ambrose Lightship at noon, led by the battleship Pennsylvania with Secretary Daniels and a party of other government officials. As the George Washington and the escorting fleet of destroyers passed Sandy Hook the President's salute was fired by the guns on shore.

Samuel Compers, president of the American Federation of Labor, headed a delegation of twenty-five prominent labor leaders from Central and South American countries who went down the bay on a city ferry boat to aid in welcoming the President.

The South American labor leaders are in this city attending a conference of the Pan-American Federation of Labor which opened yesterday.

Another ferry boat carried 1,000 residents of Staten Island and a large number of relatives and friends of the soldiers returning on the George Washington.

New York, July 8.—Four dreadnaughts and 36 destroyers from the Atlantic fleet formed the escort that met the United States naval transport George Washington, with President Wilson aboard, 30 miles east of Sandy Hook early today. The Presidential salute from those vessels was the first of the many welcoming ceremonies awaiting the President on his arrival here this afternoon.

In the harbor were 45 warships, headed by the flagship Pennsylvania with Admiral B. Wilson aboard, assigned to join the out-harbor escort. Vice President Marshall and members of the cabinet were assigned to the Pennsylvania, while the city's official welcoming party, headed by Mayor Hylan and Governor Smith, were passengers aboard the municipal steamers Patrol and Correction.

To Speak Thursday.

On board the U. S. S. George Washington, July 8.—The president's message, to be delivered to congress on Thursday, is complete. The message will take about 20 minutes to read and contains 5,000 words devoted to the peace treaty and protocols and the work of the peace conference.

It is understood these peace conference subjects are dealt with on board general lines without taking up the large questions of the treaty in detail, as this probably will come later when the foreign relations committee of congress examines the details. The president also will have an opportunity to go over these matters with members of the committee. In this examination of the terms he will

B. H. BOYD HEADS COMMERCIAL CLUB

At the monthly meeting and luncheon of the Commercial Club held Tuesday evening, the resignation of President Geo. M. Wright was accepted and Vice-President B. H. Boyd was elected as his successor. Mr. J. F. Jacobs was elected Vice-President succeeding Mr. Boyd, and Mr. R. H. Hatton was elected a member of the board of directors to fill the vacancy made by Mr. Wright's resignation.

The resignation of President Wright, due to his having recently formed business connections which necessitated his moving to Laurens, was accepted with extreme regret by the members of the club. As he goes elsewhere the best wishes of the entire membership, as well as the community in general, will follow him. As an evidence of the high esteem in which Mr. Wright is held, President B. H. Boyd presented him with a beautiful silver pitcher in behalf of the club.

MAN CONFESSES HE MURDERED FIANCEE

Harry S. New Walks Into Police Headquarters and Says He Killed Young Woman. Mother Says He is Son of Senator New.

Los Angeles, July 5.—Harry S. New, of Glendale, Calif., walked into police headquarters early today, informed detectives that there was a dead woman in his automobile and he desired to give himself up as a murderer. He then led the officers to a car outside the station, where the body of Frieda J. Lesser, 21 years old, was found.

New, according to a statement of the police, said he had quarreled with the young woman at Topogana Canyon, several miles from the city, when she refused to marry him, and had shot her.

"We didn't understand each other," said New, according to Detective Sgt. D. A. Davidson, "and so I shot her, and here I am. There she is too," he added, as he glanced at the dead girl.

New, 30 years of age, told the officers, according to their statement of his story, that he was engaged to Miss Lesser. He said he urged her to marry him, and when she refused he shot her.

He said he had borrowed the automobile from his mother, Mrs. Lulu M. Burger, of Glendale, and had driven with the girl to Venice, then through Hollywood, and finally up the Topogana Canyon road, where their quarrel, culminated in the shooting. He told the officers, they said, that for three hours afterwards he drove around town, trying to make up his mind to surrender.

New is of slight build. He showed no evidence of excitement and officers said he had not been drinking.

have the cooperation of a number of specialists now returning with the presidential party, who have dealt with the detailed branches such as those concerning reparations, territorial readjustments and economic questions.

The weather is hot and humid, the sea is smooth and the sky cloudy. The president will talk this afternoon over the wireless telephone with officials at Washington. The wireless telephone has been working during the night and this morning with the naval radio station of New Brunswick, N. J. Despite unfavorable static conditions, the voices of those ashore were heard distinctly here and conversations were carried on successfully. By means of mechanical relay at New Brunswick, connection will be established between the president's study on board ship and the White House.

President Wilson's speech, to be delivered at Carnegie Hall in New York city tomorrow afternoon will not be prepared in advance. He will speak extemporaneously and confine himself to an acknowledgment of the greeting given him and his satisfaction at being home again. Questions relating to the peace treaty and the work of the peace conference will be reserved for the discussion until the president first makes his report to congress.

P. M. Pitts, Jr., David Copeland and Wm. McMillan of Renno left Monday for Arkansas to accept positions packing peaches.

SHERIFF RECTOR SLAIN LAST FRIDAY

Homicide Result of Long-Standing Grudge. Gosnell Shot Four Times. Greenville, July 6.—That Sheriff Rector was shot three times by Jake Gosnell in Briscoe's garage on West Court-street shortly after noon Friday following an exchange of words in which Rector cursed Gosnell was the statement made by W. Bunyan Keller, former deputy sheriff and jailor, at the inquest held yesterday morning in the county courthouse to ascertain the manner in which Sheriff Rector came to his death. Mr. Keller was the only witness examined at the inquest, and so far as is known, was one of two eyewitnesses to the shooting, the other being Mrs. Jake Gosnell, wife of the man who is held for the death of the Greenville county sheriff.

After hearing the evidence of Mr. Keller, the jury of inquest lost no time in rendering the following verdict:

"We, the jury, find that Hendrix Rector came to his death by gunshot wounds at the hands of Jake Gosnell."

The members of the jury were Leg Cosby, W. P. Vaughn, Avery Vaughn, J. L. Ivester, W. O. Carnes and Sam J. Snow. They had been drawn as jurors Friday afternoon and had viewed the body of Sheriff Rector at the undertaking establishment of Ramseur, McAfee & Co., then so that it could be removed to the Rector home on the outskirts of the city.

The courtroom was packed to the doors with standing room not available for a part of the crowd that tried to gain entrance. The inquest had been set for 11 o'clock and the arrival of that hour found a large and eager throng awaiting the opening of the courthouse, which had been closed for the day out of respect for the dead sheriff, but which was opened long enough to hold the inquest, because another place anything like large enough could not be secured. When the front door was opened the crowd poured in until the courtroom was filled to overflowing and a considerable number congregated in the lobby outside. Immediately after the inquest the crowd left the building and it was again closed and remained so the balance of the day.

Mr. Keller, upon being sworn, was questioned first by Solicitor Martin and went forward without hesitation with the story of the shooting as he saw it. Only the few people who were near the witness chair could hear what he said, as the solicitor sat but a few feet away, and because of hoarseness asked questions in a subdued voice. The people in the middle of the courtroom, near the door and in the gallery caught but little of what was said.

The witness began by saying he knew Sheriff Rector and saw the shooting at Briscoe's garage Friday. He said he, Jake Gosnell, Gosnell's wife and two mechanics were in the garage when Rector came in from the street through the door used by automobiles in coming in and going out; that Rector spoke to Gosnell, saying "Good morning, Jake;" that Gosnell did not speak, but that he (Keller) said "Good morning, sheriff," whereupon Rector replied, "Fine Bunyan, how are you." He said Gosnell failed to return Rector's greeting and Rector said: "G—d— you, I don't care whether you speak or not. I thought I would show you I would speak to you." Then, said the witness, Gosnell got up from a kneeling position beside his car, which was being repaired, and said: "I don't want to speak to you or have anything to do with you." Then, the witness testified, Gosnell started to kneel back down, and Rector walked a short distance past him and said: "You dirty ———, I don't care whether you speak or not," stopping and turning his body slightly toward Gosnell as he spoke. At this point, said the witness, Gosnell drew his pistol and fired four times, Rector going down at the first report. All the shots, he declared, were fired in rapid succession and Rector's head seemed to drop to the floor faster than the rest of the body, with the result that he fell, the side of his face being first to hit the floor.

Keller testified that when Gosnell shot Rector had his right hand on his body, in front, and he thought either in his belt or hitched in his suspenders. He said also that Rector had a cigarette or cigar in his left hand when he entered the garage, and thought he had it still when he was shot. He estimated that Rector and Gosnell were about eight feet apart when the shooting occurred.

He did not think Rector had his right hand on his hip pocket when Gosnell fired, and had often seen him with that hand in his clothes. Upon being cross-examined by Attorney Dean, Keller said he saw a pistol in Rector's hip pocket as he fell; that in the fall the corner of his coat flew up, revealing the weapon. He would not say positively just where Rector's right hand was when the shooting by Gosnell began.

As a result of the verdict by the jury of inquest, Gosnell will be tried for murder.

YOUNG MAN'S LIFE COST OF BLUNDER

Keister Hair Fatally Wounded at Prosperity. Shot for Burglar. Prosperity, July 7.—Keister Hair, son of B. B. Hair, was shot and fatally wounded here last night by G. W. Kinard, who mistakenly took him for a burglar a party of which Kinard was a member was trying to capture. Hair and several young people were at the home of a friend opposite the store of Mr. Kinard when they noticed three men go behind Mr. Kinard's establishment and later heard them break into the store. Several men, including Mr. Kinard, who had been notified, surrounded the building to capture the burglars and when Mr. Hair came around the corner Mr. Kinard shot him with a shotgun, thinking him one of the burglars.

The load took effect in the abdomen, puncturing the intestines over 100 times. Young Hair was given first aid by local physicians and later rushed to a Columbia hospital for an operation. After stitching 93 punctures in the abdomen doctors at the Columbia Hospital saw there was no chance for the wounded man and gave up hope. He died about 10 o'clock this morning, a message to relatives stated. All efforts to save his life were made, but the intestines and stomach were literally torn to pieces, making it impossible to save him.

Mr. Hair was one of the most popular young men of the community and has many friends who are grieved at the accident. He was a member of the Eighty-first division and served in France. He only returned from foreign soil last week and had been at home just a few days. Mr. Kinard is a well known merchant here and is grief stricken over the accident.

Young Hair is survived by his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Hair, and a brother, at the University of Chicago. The remains were brought here this afternoon from Columbia and will be interred at Prosperity Cemetery tomorrow.

Two of the robbers, who were the cause of the shooting, escaped, but the third was captured after a scuffle. Sheriff Blease arrived on the scene shortly after the fatal affair and is searching for the other two men.

PERMANENT ARMY POLICY BE USED

Baker's Order Reducing Army to 233,000 Men by September to Cause Action. Army Re-Organization Bill Very Necessary.

Washington, July 5.—The question of a permanent military policy probably will be forced before the present session of congress by Secretary Baker's order reducing the army to 233,000 officers and men by September 30. Military experts here believe only speedy passage of the army re-organization bill will prevent demoralization of the military establishment.

Officers and men must be drawn from the line and from the regular staff personnel to provide the necessary overhead of the branches.

"A return to the status of 1908 was the prediction of one officer concerning the effects. In that year companies could muster only 35 men and regiments were frequently under the charge of one major and one captain. The general staff is already at work on some program which will come within authorized expenditures.

Plans for the organization of the air service and tank corps making to further press will have to go by the board, it was conceded. Services will be kept active through a headquarters organization with repairmen and guards at the various depots.

Primary troop requirements, which must be met include: Garrisons for the Philippines, Hawaii and the Pacific conservatively figured at 50,000 men; a guard for the southern border, now maintained at 30,000, a force of 8,000 on the Rhine, and, for the time being at least 8,000 men for Siberia.

These total 96,000 officers and men and do not take into consideration the hundreds of small garrisons needed.

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Upon being cross-examined by Attorney Dean, Keller said he saw a pistol in Rector's hip pocket as he fell; that in the fall the corner of his coat flew up, revealing the weapon. He would not say positively just where Rector's right hand was when the shooting by Gosnell began.

BOY SCOUTS ON CAMP.

Clinton Troop of Boy Scouts left Tuesday morning for Yarrowborough's Mill on their annual outing.

Friday, July 11, is "Home Folks' Day" at the camp. The families of the Scouts, the Troop Committee and invited friends are requested to go out for the Scout picnic. About that time the boys will be in a position to relish some of those good dishes the mothers are accustomed to prepare on birthday and other big days in a boy's life, so be sure to come and bring well filled baskets. Our cook will have plenty of hot coffee and iced tea to go with the picnic dinner.

A word to parents: It may be that you will not find it altogether convenient to go to the Scout picnic. But are there not good reasons why you should go? It will give you a fine opportunity to cultivate companionship with your boy. The value of this cannot be estimated.

Secondly, it will prove to him that you are glad to do anything, even at the sacrifice of time and comfort, to provide him innocent, helpful and uplifting amusement.

Thirdly, you will be giving your endorsement to an organization that has won a place in the machinery of the United States Government, both in time of peace and war.

Lastly, your presence will be an encouragement to the local Scout officials in an unselfish service they are trying to render your boy.

Henry Stokes, Scout Master, R. W. Johnson, Assistant, A. C. Daniel, Assistant, Dr. T. L. W. Bailey, B. H. Boyd, W. W. Harris, Troop Committee.

County Begins Road Work

Laurens, S. C., July 9 (Special)—In the presence of supervisor, several of the highway commission and a number of citizens, ground was broken near the city limits yesterday morning for the top-soil road from Laurens to Princeton. The work on this road has been let to Gremory & Thomas, contractors, and representatives of the firm were on hand to see that the work was properly undertaken. The firm has at present only one of three sections of its road working force, but the other two sections are expected at an early date.

The power work in grading is furnished by mules and horses, the foreman stating yesterday that motor power is not satisfactory for this particular kind of work. The stock is in good condition and the equipment of the best. Traffic is not being interfered with by the work going on, but drivers are expected to use care in passing teams.

Cross Hill Road Launched.

After witnessing the beginning of work upon the Princeton road the highway commission held a regular meeting in the office of the supervisor and took up other matters pertaining to the new roads. After a thorough discussion of plans for the future, the commission decided to launch its fourth project, the road from Spring Grove, by Cross Hill and Mart Teague place to the Shaw place to connect with the prospective road from Laurens through Waterloo to the Greenwood county line. Work upon this road will be started just as soon as top-soil and rights-of-way are granted. On account of the many details which have to be followed in getting the use of the federal aid, it is likely that the Cross Hill road, like the Princeton road, both of which are to be built without federal aid, will be well under way before the Enoree to Waterloo and Kinards to Fountain Inn roads are begun.

BIG VERDICT GIVEN.

New York, July 2.—A verdict of \$80,000 damages against the Florida East Coast Hotel Company was awarded to Miss Elizabeth Hoffman in supreme court here today for injuries she suffered when she fell down an elevator shaft at the Hotel Breakers, Palm Beach.

SAYS SEVEN MEN GOVERNED NATION

"Secret Government" Formed War Laws Long Before War, Graham Charges. "Defense Council Formed Violation Law."

Washington, July 7.—Seven men formed a "secret government of the United States," which, working "behind closed doors," determined all of the so-called war legislation "weeks and even months" before war was declared against Germany, Chairman Graham, of the house committee investigating war department expenditures, charged today after reading into the record a digest of the minutes of the council of national defense.

These seven men were named by Mr. Graham as Hollis Godfred, Howard E. Coffin, Bernard M. Baruch, Samuel Compers, Franklin H. Martin, Julius Rosenwald and Daniel Willard, members of the advisory committee of the council. This commission, he added, was designed by law to act purely in an advisory capacity to the council, composed of six cabinet members, but the President, he asserted, made them the real executives.

After Mr. Graham had read to the investigating committee a digest designed to show that the military draft, food control and press censorship had been discussed by the commission several weeks before war was declared, Representative Reavis (Republican), of Nebraska, interrupting, asked if "all this was prior to the President's speech on armed neutrality, in which he said he was not contemplating war."

The chairman answered affirmatively.

Later in the recital of the digest, Mr. Graham said that censure of the council and commission, uttered in senate and house, led Mr. Coffin to urge that "a definite channel of contact" be established between the council and congress. "In other words," commented the chairman, "congress ought to be educated."

In brief, Mr. Graham's digest charged the President organized the council in violation of the law, and that in addition to framing legislation, dictated policies the country was to pursue, and befriended "big business." Included in the report read into the record was a letter by Judge Gary advising the commission it was disregarding the laws "supposed to regulate business."

Categorical denial of Chairman Graham's charges was made by Grosverner B. Clarkson, director of the council, in a statement issued today.

"My examination the other day before Mr. Graham's committee," Mr. Clarkson said, "showed at the outset a tendency on the part of a majority of the committee to disclose that the administration had taken no preparedness steps before entering the war. Whereas the truth was that owing to the almost providential presence of the council of national defense, created by congress itself eight months before a great many far sighted plans had been initiated by the council acting alone as well as on the advice of its advisory commission.

"The advisory commission of seven men was throughout the war composed of at least three and probably four Republicans as was the huge majority of the council's committees. The council's minutes which I furnished to Mr. Graham's committee, with the hearty consent of Secretary Baker, chairman of the council, and voluntarily supplemented with those of the advisory commission, disclosed beyond any question that the council had in the most constructive way looked far ahead into the immediate future to the end of the preparation of the country for war.

"The council's minutes have disclosed these facts to Mr. Graham. He addressed himself to the council's system of procuring supplies for the war department. That matter was threshed out long ago before the senate military affairs committee and the initiation against members of the council's committee on supplies died of their own weight at the end of the hearings more than a year ago. Council committee members under the stress of an unprecedented emergency were undoubtedly in some cases placed in the apparent position of doing business with themselves, whereas that never was actually the fact and not a scintilla of wrong doing was ever disclosed and it is believed that the law was complied with throughout."

Mrs. E. W. Ferguson spent Monday in Greenville.