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"Be Just and Fear Not—Let all the ends Thou Aims't at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's."

THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June 1, 1866.

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CONFERENCE WORKING ON SHANTUNG

Naval Treaty Has Been Practically Completed and Delegates Try to Adjust Chinese Dispute

Washington, Jan. 13. (By the Associated Press.)—With the naval treaty virtually completed, the arms delegates are preparing to turn the conference spotlight on Shantung, apparently in the hope that a settlement of that controversy may make it easier to go ahead with other troublesome problems of the Far East.

It now is the expectation in conference circles that during the next few days, and probably until a decision is reached, the Shantung negotiations will have the right of way while discussions of other Far Eastern subjects remain at a standstill. So far the Shantung exchanges have taken place alone, with American and British observers present but the next phase of the conference program is expected at least to concentrate upon the problem of the friendly interest of all the governments represented here.

At their meeting today the Japanese and Chinese groups reported an agreement for opening up the entire Kiaochow leased territory to foreign trade, and tomorrow they are to take up others of the collateral questions involved in restoration of the leasehold to China. Their sessions are expected to last throughout the day and will form the only item appearing on tomorrow's conference program.

In the naval negotiations only a few details considered more or less perfunctorily remained to be arranged. An agreement has been reached regarding methods of scrapping, under which discarded battleships may be converted in some cases into airplane carriers and training ships, and a final settlement relating to Pacific fortifications awaits a reply expected hourly from Tokyo.

If present plans develop, the final draft of the naval treaty will be laid before the full naval committee early next week and will be publicly announced at a plenary session of the conference a few days later.

One possible element of delay in concluding the naval convention was eliminated today when the French delegation received instructions from President Millerand to go ahead with its conference duties regardless of the cabinet crisis at Paris. Albert Sarraut, head of the French delegation, indicated that he interpreted the message as giving him full power to sign the treaty unless some unexpected question of real importance appears in the negotiations.

Under the scrapping provisions, as finally agreed to, the United States and Japan are understood to be authorized to change into airplane carriers some of the battleships now under construction but which, under the original plan, would have gone to the scrap heap, while France and Italy are to be permitted to convert into training ships the dreadnaughts of their fleet which by the agreement are to become obsolete in 1931.

This decision was formally recorded at a meeting of the "Big Five" today, devoted mostly to a re-examination of the treaty draft for technical legal revisions.

The meeting of the Japanese and Chinese, resulting in an agreement for opening up Kiaochow to trade was regarded in some quarters as one of the most important of the sessions that have been in progress on the Shantung problem. The policy of an "open door" is to be applied in trade development of the territory, the two delegations agreeing that all nations should have equal economic privileges. In addition, China is to undertake to protect the vested foreign interests that may be installed there. Kiaochow is to be a free port.

The decision to give the Shantung problem the right of way as details of the naval agreement clear up was interpreted generally as another evidence of the fundamental importance attached by conference leaders to the question of the long-contested former German leasehold.

THE PEOPLE ARE SEEING THE LIGHT

Republicans Are Not Making Good on Campaign Promises and Are Playing Politics

By Wallace Bassford. (Special News Correspondent.) Washington, Jan. 14.—The swing is very steady toward the Democrats, with increasing momentum. A survey of the newspaper field shows the Democratic less aggressive and full of intelligent criticism of the shortcomings of the administration, while the independent papers in large numbers are in similar attitude. The old conservative Republican organs, mostly owned by the big rich, are on the defensive. Speaking of these organs, it is interesting to note that the DuPonts have bought up all the papers in Delaware of any size excepting two; they can not get those for the very good reason that a staunch and able Democrat owns them—no other than Willard Saulsbury, who will probably return to the Senate as the result of the election next November. All of the Hearst papers—about a dozen big ones—are attacking the administration every day. The extensive string of Scripps-McRae papers—penny dailies—are frankly criticizing the Republicans.

The New York Telegraph, a Republican paper, reports the fact that President Wilson predicted a Democratic victory next November, and adds: "President Wilson is a great man, but it doesn't require a great man to discover the present drift of public sentiment."

The Republicans are trying to work their courage up to the point of enacting a sales tax. Such a tax has some advantages; among them are these: You can't dodge it. You pay it every time you reach your hand into your pocket, no matter whether you buy. You don't have to bother about a savings account, for this tax will allow you to save anything except old trousers and anything to collect, because it will come off of those who have the least income at Washington—the plain people. Better than all it forces the soldier to pay his own bonus; he should be happy, for he not only gets the bonus but has the privilege of paying it himself. The only drawback is the name, but the Republicans will doubtless find a name for it that will make it look like a check from Dad. Didn't they ever make robbery sound good by calling it "Protection"?

Speaking of protection, the tariff bill is to reserve the "Home Market" for Americans. The sponsors of the high tariff frankly say that they want to keep out all European manufacturers. Of course the first effect is to cut off that competition and cut off the taxes that would flow into the Treasury from the importations; the second effect is to allow American manufacturers to raise their prices on all consumers. Then when Europe can't ship manufacturers here, what happens? They are shipped elsewhere, to Canada, the Argentine, India, South Africa, China, and so on. Ship routes are diverted to countries where goods can be sold. Of course, those ships must carry cargoes both ways or lose money. They will carry back to Europe the wheat of Canada, the wheat, beef and mutton of the Argentine, the lumber of Brazil, the wheat and oil of Russia, the farm products of our own. Speaking of Russian oil, there is the greatest field in the world. The surface oil was burning there when Alexander the Great paused to watch it while on his road to India, before the birth of the Christ. But going back to wheat, Argentina has 750,000 bushels left of the old crop and a new crop in the making, soon ready for sale. The American farmer will be left with a surplus for which he has no market. That ends his ability to buy and makes an end of the Home Market dream. And here is the completion of the vicious circle in the failure of the great manufacturing concerns and a collapse such as has followed every attempt on the part of the Republicans to create an artificial prosperity for the fellows who financed their campaign. Their great trouble is that they can't pretend; the natural law of cause and effect.

Probably the chief reason why the Republicans won in 1920 was that the people thought the League of Nations as an "outstanding alliance" had in mind. George Washington had in mind. The Harding administration came in on false pretenses; if the people had thought that Harding, within ten months after taking power, would have all signed up a treaty of alliance with England, France and Japan—a treaty that obligates us to go to war on the side of the Japs in case they become involved in a war with Germany or Russia—then Harding would be at this moment conducting his little newspaper out in Merion, free from the cares of jail and croquet.

The four power treaty doesn't suit Senator Borah a little bit; he is too good an American for that.

CONFERENCE AWAITING JAP PLEASURE

Delegates Are Marking Time With Study of Far Eastern Question

Washington, Jan. 16.—The arms conference studying the Far Eastern and Pacific questions while awaiting Tokyo instructions to the Japanese delegation regarding the naval limitation treaty.

Unemployed Miners Seek Government Aid

Committee Calling on President Say Situation is Acute

Washington, Jan. 16.—Dorothy and Hallie Underwood, aged ten and twelve years are members of the committee calling on President Harding to seek government aid for West Virginia unemployed miners. The mother said the eviction order will be issued Wednesday and no other house was available. The sons were blacklisted by the companies and her six children now face starvation.

Hoover Resumes Conferences

Effort Being Made to Eliminate Labor Disagreements

Washington, Jan. 16.—Conferences between railroad executives and the unions have been resumed under Secretary Hoover to eliminate labor disagreements.

But is the Senator entitled to much of sympathy in his disgruntlement? The partisanship in him caused him to try to steal the initiative in the matter of disarmament from the Democrats. When he introduced the resolution providing for the calling of the conference he was aware that it had already been fully and completely provided for by the Hensley Resolution, the work of a Missouri Democrat who ought to be back in Congress, which Champ Clark helped to make a part of the Naval Appropriation Act of 1916. That legislation even appropriated \$200,000 for the expense of the conference and it was lying in the treasury, unused when Borah introduced his resolution. Now that the conference has hashed together a treaty hateful to the Senator, it must give him pain to see his own feather on the arrow that has pierced him. Old Mr. Retribution is still handing back to us the same kind of stuff we hand out.

Congressman Begg of Ohio, Republican, said on page 1257 of the Congressional Record (Jan. 11) "I say to you men, seriously, the Republican party is pledged to a platform of economy, to cut down expenses. Everybody who is cutting down expenses except this Congress, and we bring in bill after bill to raise salaries when the farmers are compelled to cut down or go into the bankruptcy court." Honest truthful Mr. Begg? Will someone kindly page Diogenes?

Massachusetts is still talking in hushed voices of the Governor's banquet and the terrible spill which occurred. Just picture the scene: There in the staid old city of Boston, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts the home of Whittier, Daniel the Godlike, Gamaliel Bradford, and the Puritan colony were gathered together the great elders of the Republican party, the party of correct living and the New England conscience. No wicked wine gave its color in the banquet, and here are those who are to be in the glass, at least, not exactly on the table. Of course not—hadn't the country gone dry and aren't all the blue-ribboners in the State endowed with the vote? Of course not—at least, not right there in the public gaze. But just across the corridor and a few steps down to the left, or was it just to the right? Any way, it was there—hooch, booze, quantities of it. The popping of corks almost drowned the oratory across the hall, and the banqueters, by twos and threes and singly, came and went, and waxed happier and more care-free. But, hark, what a discordant and blatant sound that smacks of the rude and lewd, breaking in on the joy of this latter-day Belshazzar's feast? Has a hand come out upon the wall and writ as if on sand—the fingers of a hand, a solitary hand—And is some Daniel come to read to the trembling creatures those letters of fire? Is the Medusa at the gate and the Persian on the throne of dear old Boston? No, the new mayor is an Irishman named Jim Curry, peace to his ashes when he has any. No, it is worse than the Medusa and the Persian all put together, it's the dry enforcement with parcel post, and all the blessed while the Chief Enforcement Officer sits pale-checked on the right of Governor Cox? But how could such an accident occur? It took the Bostonese, shocked beyond expression.

Takes Own Life at Fountain Inn

C. Brooks Huff of Sumter Fires Bullet into Temple at Wife's Parents' Place

Greenville, Jan. 13.—C. Brooks Huff of Sumter shot and almost instantly killed himself this morning about 8 o'clock at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Taylor, his wife's parents, at Fountain Inn, this county. Mr. Huff used a .38 calibre pistol. The bullet entered his right temple and passed entirely through his head.

Mr. Huff was for a long time book-keeper for the Fountain Inn Oil Company. He married Miss Lillian Taylor of that place, then moved to Sumter, where he was cashier of the Sumter Bank and Trust Company. He was also connected with an automobile business there; it is understood here.

Find Dead Body of Man in Box

Search by Greenville Officers Brought to Close

Greenville, Jan. 15.—Concealed in a nice box in his pressing club on the Parker road, near Monaghan Hill, the dead body of Oscar Hagood, 35-year-old negro, was found early this morning by Deputy Sheriff J. L. Gharl. The discovery brought to an end a search extending over twenty-eight hours for the man. Five negroes, one a woman, have been placed under arrest pending results of the coroner's investigation.

A long gash in the back of the negro's head told the story of murder. Officers believe that the murder occurred probably Wednesday night, as the negro had been missed by his friends since that time. The five negroes held are thought to have been in the pressing club on that night. They all stoutly deny any knowledge of the affair.

Prospect of Shantung Agreement

Washington, Jan. 14.—The exchange of views between the Chinese and Japanese arms delegates and their governments is believed to have strengthened the chances for an early settlement of the Shantung question. The indications today were that the good offices of Secretary Hughes and Mr. Balfour were having effect.

Canners Improve Canning Process

Louisville, Jan. 16.—Members of the National Canners' Association in convention here declared that they had succeeded in eradicating botulism, especially from canned ripe olives, and often food poisoning is caused by improper diet and careless handling by consumers.

DETROIT PRISONERS BREAK JAIL

Detroit, Jan. 16.—Four prisoners escaped today from the house of detention by tearing away the bars and dodging a fusillade of bullets.

A full week to learn all about how it happened. It turned out that the chief enforcement officer had a lieutenant who had a grudge, and this man selected well his hour for revenge of his chief, and, incidentally, on the whole Republican outfit of the State. The banquets were not pinched, but a truck-load of hooch was confiscated, and there are those who are saying that it may have been hooch that had been confiscated once before from sundry other persons, mere bootleggers and such.

Pastmaster General Hays, who always buys a child's size hat, is arranging to take the finger prints of all depositors at postal savings banks. He has already begun using the system with postal employees. Up to this time the system has only been in use to identify crooks and is used at all our best penitentiaries. Bill should write a brochure on Innovations Calculated to Popularize Administration. It's easy to be a great organizer when you have all the campaign fund and all the landslide on your side, but when it comes to holding a job requiring some horse sense, it's another thing altogether.

Speaking of finger prints, it wouldn't be a bad idea to hold conventions every few years to see how far we have become removed from being a free people.

The Postmaster General is trying to get Congress to assume the responsibility for stopping free delivery at third class offices, by cutting off special delivery service in connection with parcel post packages, and by establishing a surety bond division in the Department. This last is to compete with the bonding companies. And yet the president pledged himself to divorce the government from business.

THE SHANTUNG DISPUTE STILL UNSETTLED

Concensus of Opinion in All Quarters is That China and Japan Can Reach Amicable Agreement

Washington, Jan. 15.—By the Associated Press.—If the Shantung conversations make the leaders hoped for by conference leaders during the next two or three days, the end of the coming week may see all of the issues raised in the Washington negotiations well on the way towards solution.

Confidence that the Shantung problem is nearing a settlement was apparent in most quarters tonight as the delegates feeling that with the other Far Eastern questions in abeyance the separate exchanges between the Chinese and Japanese over the former German leasehold would be pressed forward rapidly. Neither of the two groups directly interested was prepared to say that an agreement was in sight but they evidenced a hope that fresh instructions from Tokyo and Peking, expected hourly, might help materially to clear up the situation. As soon as Shantung is out of the way and perhaps sooner, the conference Far Eastern committee will resume its considerations of other problems. On most of the remaining issues the delegates have informed themselves thoroughly regarding the views of other groups and the prospect for an agreement.

The naval negotiations, seems also to be as good as completed, the treaty text agreed to by the "big five" being regarded as virtually certain to meet with approval, successively, of the full naval committee and of the conference itself, sitting in plenary session. Both of these meetings probably will be held during the coming week, leaders planning to set the conference machinery in motion for final approval of the treaty as soon as Tokyo sends formal approval of the article dealing with Pacific fortifications.

Settlement of the Shantung question still rests largely in the hands of Arthur J. Balfour and Secretary Hughes, in the opinion of Chinese spokesmen.

Both the Chinese and Japanese delegations tonight were waiting for instructions from their governments as to the attitude they must take on the Hughes-Balfour compromise suggestions designed to afford a basis for agreement on both of the phases of the problem which up to now have seemed insoluble. These phases touch upon the method of payment for the Tsingtau-Tsingtau railway and the nationality of the men who will hold the positions of traffic manager and chief accountant for the railroad after its transfer.

Whether the Japanese and Chinese delegates can get together this week was said to be dependent on the nature of the instruction to their respective delegations from the Peking and Tokyo governments. While the Chinese delegation has been in almost daily communication with Peking during the last few days, cables from the Chinese government have been in the nature of inquiries concerning possible obscure features of the proposals.

The Chinese government, however, it is understood, has notified its delegation of the difficulty of compromising on either question.

The Balfour-Hughes compromise suggestions are said to be based on various combinations of these questions in a form that might permit either the Japanese and Chinese to give in on one and retain the other, or might enable China by sacrificing the chief accountability position to obtain a concession for payment in cash or instalments for the road, at the same time assuring Chinese control over the road through a Chinese traffic manager.

At the Chinese delegation headquarters there was said to be "hope without optimism" that the Shantung question will be settled through the Japanese giving in on the railway phase of the dispute.

In no other way, the Chinese say, can a settlement satisfactory to the Chinese be reached. There is no inclination, it was said by the Chinese, to accept a compromise concerning the question of a loan and China could not agree to any settlement which would not assure China undivided physical control of the railway. The Chinese delegation, it was asserted, would "stand pat" on the question of management and would insist on a Chinese traffic chief and accountant.

The Chinese declare they are not in the position to recede on the question of the principle involved and that there is nothing for them to do but wait in the hope that Mr. Balfour and Secretary Hughes will be able to affect a settlement through the Japanese. Both Mr. Hughes and Mr. Balfour, one Chinese official said tonight, understand the difficulties the Chinese face in the existing situation at home, with the Chinese people on the verge of domestic turmoil over the Shantung dispute.

In the meantime, the Chinese and Japanese delegations expect to

CAROLINA BANKS STOOD THE TEST

State Bank Examiner Craig Reviews the Financial Situation in This State

Columbia, Jan. 15.—The manner in which the banks of the State have withstood the strain of deflation and falling crops has been nothing short of marvelous, said James H. Craig, State Bank Examiner today in discussing the financial situation in South Carolina. Very few of the banks have closed their doors permanently, he said, commenting on the close cooperation of the people with their fiduciary institutions, many of the depositors agreeing to leave their money in banks for twelve months to insure their solvency.

"Such embarrassments as our banks have experienced," he said, "have been mainly due to inability to realize upon loans. While generally speaking, these loans, I believe will be collectible, many of them are necessarily slow. Given time, however, there is no reason to be pessimistic of the outcome. Our people are inherently honest and they will meet changing agricultural conditions with new zeal and determination and reestablish the financial status of our State as comparatively first in agricultural production."

Continuing, Mr. Craig said: "That we have passed through most of the depressing conditions with practically intact gives us strength to begin the struggle of the new year. We need not shut our eyes to the fact that the present year will be fraught with serious difficulties, which will require all the skill and energy of our best financiers to meet and overcome. Crop diversification has at last been forced upon our agriculturalists, which will require the usual experimental periods of growing and marketing untried crops, but in the end we will produce other paying crops than cotton and we will also continue to produce cotton. This has been anticipated, and already steps are being taken to bridge the necessary period of agricultural readjustment. The most potent factor to this end is the War Finance Corporation, which operating through our banks is extending needed credits. In this connection, it should be added that corresponding banks within and without our States have been most liberal in extending needed credits.

"In view of these facts, we look confidently to the future, with success of the past as an earnest of what we can do by stint of unflinching determination and a public spirit of cooperation. It should be added that banks are just as strong as the confidence of their patrons make them. Our problems are not merely problems of the financiers, but are as well, problems of the people. The man who withholds his deposits from the banks is working to his own detriment, as well as the detriment of his state. Confidence is the keynote of business, and banking is the source of business. Destroy confidence and you destroy banking and hence destroy the amount of money which has been returned to the government through the amortization plan made in the original proposal.

"The offer of Mr. Ford is going to be put in the form of a contract and sent to congress."

It was explained that Mr. Ford's refusal to accept the modification proposed for reduction of the 100 year term probably would give congress an added task in connection with the consideration of the offer. Existing laws regulating lease of property possessed by the federal government, it was explained, limit the period of maximum lease to less than a century and congress probably would have to modify the statutes in the event it decided to accept the Ford proposal.

Mr. Ford, however, was said to have expressed an unwillingness to agree to a shorter time on the ground that the financial policy he would make would involve a greater amount of money than he was prepared to spend for any one period less than 100 years.

Mayor Starts Municipal Bread Shops

Fight on Profiteers Being Made in Tiffin, Ohio

Tiffin, Ohio, Jan. 16.—For the purpose of fighting food profiteers Mayor Tugwell will establish three bread stores at fire stations, retailing a pound loaf at six cents. He will use the profits for further investigations.

Two Dead Men Washed Ashore

Biloxi, Miss., Jan. 16.—Two men's bodies have been washed ashore here with their necks broken. The police claim the men were killed in a fight aboard a liquor smuggling schooner anchored off the coast. Ten men were arrested. The schooner has disappeared.

French Cabinet Crisis Not Over

Paris, Jan. 16.—The new cabinet under M. Poincaré, has assumed power. Senator Deshaies, a former president, has announced a demand for an interpellation on the government's foreign policy.

continue tomorrow their efforts to clean the slate of the collateral questions involved in a complete settlement. The coal mines adjacent to the railroad and more or less tied up with that question and the ore fields are the first on the program for tomorrow's meeting, and then the only remaining questions will be those relating to certain cables and the salt fields.

CONGRESS TO ACT ON FORD'S BILL

War Department Will Not Make Decision But Will Refer Proposition With Comments to Legislative Body

Washington, Jan. 13.—Henry Ford's offer for purchase and lease of the government's nitrate and water power projects at Muscle Shoals, Ala., will be referred to congress for final decision, it was announced today at the conclusion of conferences between government officials and Mr. Ford. Accompanying the Ford proposal when it is transmitted, Secretary Weeks said, probably would be the two offers received from Frederick Engstrom of Wilmington, N. C., and C. C. Tinkler of San Francisco.

The decision to forward the three offers to the legislative branch of the government, it was stated, was reached after consideration of the question by executive officials lasting over a period of more than six months. Under the laws regulating disposition of real estate and other properties owned by the federal government, it was said, the department officers lacked authority to take final action and were compelled to refer the Muscle Shoals offers to congress for its consideration.

Actual transmission of the proposals was not expected to take place for at least two weeks. It was explained that the Ford proposal first would be drafted in contract form by law officers of the war department and submitted to Mr. Ford for his signature before it was submitted to congress. While the legal departments are working on the contract form, it was stated, Secretary Weeks would prepare a report for congress containing what "comments" he believed its members should have for their information.

Explaining the action taken by the conference, Secretary Weeks said he was disappointed in that Mr. Ford declined to agree to certain modifications of his plans which were held desirable by his conferees. One of these was known to be that affecting the reduction of the 100 year lease period. The principal modification agreed to by Mr. Ford was that guaranteeing payment annually of 4 per cent. interest on the cost of maintenance of dams Nos. 2 and 3, regardless of the cost, whereas at first he offered interest only on \$28,000,000.

Secretary Weeks' statement, explaining this agreement, follows: "Mr. Hoover and I have had a long consultation with Mr. Ford about his offer for Muscle Shoals and have brought up for consideration various phases of it. The only modification which Mr. Ford is willing to make is based on our request that there should be a guarantee of the limitation of cost of building dams Nos. 2 and 3 and in that matter he has offered to pay 4 per cent. interest on the cost of the dams from the time of their completion to the expiration of the contract. This, of course, means the amount of money which has been returned to the government through the amortization plan made in the original proposal.

"The offer of Mr. Ford is going to be put in the form of a contract and sent to congress." It was explained that Mr. Ford's refusal to accept the modification proposed for reduction of the 100 year term probably would give congress an added task in connection with the consideration of the offer. Existing laws regulating lease of property possessed by the federal government, it was explained, limit the period of maximum lease to less than a century and congress probably would have to modify the statutes in the event it decided to accept the Ford proposal.

Mr. Ford, however, was said to have expressed an unwillingness to agree to a shorter time on the ground that the financial policy he would make would involve a greater amount of money than he was prepared to spend for any one period less than 100 years.

Several members of both the house and senate made no secret tonight when informed that the contract would be submitted to them to disguise their fears at both houses of congress would be divided on the question when it reached the stage of consideration on the floor. While the contract will be urged for acceptance by the South western members from the Senate whose constituents are known to favor the Ford proposal, it was anticipated that a small number from other sections of the country would oppose its adoption.

Armenians Fleeing From Turks

Geneva, Jan. 14.—Paul Hymans, president of the council of the league of nations, presented telegrams from Constantinople saying the entire Armenian population had decided to evacuate the country and asking for ships to transport a hundred and twenty thousand persons.

FOOTBALL BANQUET IN COLUMBIA

University Alumni Entertains Members of Legislature at Jefferson Hotel Banquet With Football Squad as Guests of Honor

Columbia, Jan. 13.—Rev. Henry D. Phillips, D. D., president of the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Association, known as the S. I. A. A., an organization of Southern Colleges in the interest of athletics, was the chief speaker at what was possibly the most elaborate banquet ever held in Columbia, held at the Jefferson Hotel last night, and attended by several hundred persons, with the members of the general assembly and of the 1921 football team of the University as guests of honor. The banquet was given by the alumni of the University, and took the place of the annual Founders' Day banquet.

Dr. Phillips, the main speaker, is now pastor of Trinity Episcopal Church, this city. He spoke in a forceful way of the educational outlook of the south and expressed his pleasure at being a South Carolinian now. This was his first introduction to the people of the state, outside of his pulpit. The banquet was attended also by a large number of University alumni of Columbia and other parts of the state. Governor Cooper and Lieut. Governor Harvey were among the speakers. Several other short talks were made, mostly in the interest of the University.

To each member of the football team was presented a gold football, a token of esteem for his services during the past season in aiding Carolina to make such a name for herself on the gridiron. Orchestral music added life to the occasion, which was staged by the University alumni in Columbia as a welcome to Columbia for the legislators and also an expression of interest in the University.

Columbia, Jan. 13.—Representative Evans of Marlboro, has introduced in the house a bill to amend the constitution so as to permit pleas of "guilty" in all cases except capital felonies, and to empower circuit judges to impose sentences in such cases at chambers, dispensing with the necessity of grand jury presentment and indictment.

The general assembly has adopted a resolution discharging the special committee on economy and consolidation, which has reported its findings from the investigation made during 1921.

There is a resolution on the calendars of the two branches of the legislature endorsing the Smith amendment to the federal reserve act of congress to authorize president to appoint a farmer on the federal reserve board the next time there is a vacancy.

Representative Owens has introduced a resolution in the house to cut the pay of J. Wilson Gibbs, clerk, from \$2,400 to \$750, and the pay of his assistant clerk, J. E. Hunter, from \$750 to \$500.

Pres. Griffith Takes Up His Burden

Dublin, Jan. 13. (By the Associated Press.)—Interest in the political situation tonight centers in the meeting which will be held tomorrow by the southern parliament for the ratification of the peace treaty with Great Britain. Invitations to the session were issued today signed by Arthur Griffith. They were directed to all deputies elected for the 26 southern counties, including Eamon De Valera and his adherents. It is not expected, however, that Mr. De Valera or any of his followers will attend.

The meeting will be held in the oak room of Mansion House and unless some members opposed to the treaty decide at the last minute to attend, it promises to be a somewhat perfunctory ceremony. A chairman will be elected, the treaty formally ratified and a provisional government established.

With the establishing of the governments the decks will be cleared for the complicated and laborious task of transferring authority from the British to the Irish government. All the members of the cabinet convened at Mansion House today discussed not only the future duties and the responsibilities of the provisional government, but the immediate necessity for dealing with the threatened strike of the railwaymen.

Washington, Jan. 13.—A decrease of nearly one billion dollars in the favorable trade balance of the United States during 1921 is indicated in the foreign trade statistics for December, issued by the commerce department. The report attributed much of the reduction to the material decline of prices of commodities which made up the bulk of the country's foreign trade.