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GERMANS OFFER TO SEND TROOPS HOME

Proposal is Submitted to the American Authorities—Use Fleet of Big Liners—Proposed Several Hundred Thousand be Sent Home via German Ports.

Berlin, Feb. 21.—A proposal to transport several hundred thousand men of the American expeditionary forces to the United States by way of Germany, placing them on board ships at Bremen and Hamburg, has been submitted to the American authorities. According to the present American arrangements, however, the first of the units to be repatriated in German steamers will embark from the Netherlands, but it is said here that American army headquarters is inclined to consider favorably the route through Germany for some of the later embarkations, owing to the transportation facilities and the adequate dockage and other arrangements of the North German ports.

Fleet of Liners.

The proposal submitted by the directors of the North German Lloyd line, with the approval of the German Government, provided that a fleet of big liners with a normal carrying capacity of fifty thousand passengers should be assigned to this service and the troops transported from their present stations over the direct trunk lines to Bremen and Hamburg. Over these lines, according to Gen. Broener, now in charge of the German railways, a speedy movement would be practical. The steamers would be capable of returning 400,000 men in a year by this route. As American experts commented, however, if the ships were loaded in accordance with the present American military practice, instead of under the German pre-war regulations, they would carry one hundred thousand the trip.

Would Relieve France.

The steamship company directors, in a memorandum to Gen. Pershing pointed out the plan would relieve the overtaxed French railways and ports and provide a distinctly quicker route. They urged, also, as against embarkation in Holland that the Dutch railways were not well able to cope with heavy troop traffic, and that no buildings were available to house the men during the inevitable delays before boarding the steamers, while, on the other hand, Hamburg and Bremen had ample barracks. The company proposed the transportation on the return trips of the supplies promised Germany.

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

DR. GAMBRELL "FORDS" IT.

Dr. C. C. Gambrell, who has recently been mustered out of the service and has returned to the practice of his profession in Abbeville, has invested in a new car and is "fording" it to see his patients. Our son Bill tells us that it is the "finest Ford in town, it is a closed car and has a green body."

A VISITOR FROM AUGUSTA.

Mrs. Herbert Hester, of Augusta, is in the city for a weeks visit to the family of Mrs. A. W. Clark. Mrs. Hester has found the fountain of youth and by her charming manner makes herself an attractive visitor wherever she goes. Mrs. Hester is the mother of Mrs. George Clark, whom our people all admire.

CRIMINAL COURT NOW IN SESSION

Now Engaged Upon Case of the Negro, Mark Smith, Charged With Shooting Deputy Sheriff Lester Cann About Three Weeks Ago.

The Court of General Sessions convened on Monday morning with Judge Frank B. Gary, of the eighth circuit, presiding instead of Judge Geo. E. Prince, who was expected to preside. Judge Prince is sick in the hospital at Anderson and was unable to hold the court.

Solicitor Blackwell, Stenographer Perrin, and the Clerk of Court and Sheriff, with the deputies were all on hand.

When the grand jury was called, three of the members could not be had, and it was necessary to draw an extra venire. The petit jury was also short six men and it was filled in the same way.

Judge Gary charged the Grand Jury as to their duties along the usual lines, calling their attention to the several matters under their charge and explaining to them what they were expected to do. His charge was clear and lucid, and to the point.

The solicitor handed out a number of bills for the consideration of the Grand Jury, among them the State against Joe M. H. Ashley, charged with murder. The grand jury returned a true bill in this case and it was tried during the morning hour. Greene & Earle of Anderson, represented the defendant, and he was promptly acquitted. The homicide according to the evidence occurred in Abbeville county while Mr. Ashley was on official duty looking for witnesses in a case pending in Anderson County. He went to the house of John Hogg, and ran into a crap game. When he entered the house, Peter Clinkscales arose from the floor with a pistol in his hand, and attempted to shoot Mr. Ashley, but the sheriff was too quick for him.

In the afternoon the case of the State vs. Mark Smith was taken up. The defendant is charged with assault and battery with the intent to kill, the prosecutor being Mr. Lester Cann, the deputy sheriff of Abbeville County. The testimony of the state is in, and it was developed on the stand from the witnesses for the state that the prosecutor Mr. Cann, and the men with him, Messrs. Tom Finley and John Beauford, were not armed with a warrant, and that they went to the home of the defendant for the purpose of searching his house in the night time, without any warrant. The defense will be pitched on the ground that these men were the aggressors, and that they were intruders in the home of the defendant, had no right there, and that he had a right to use such force as was necessary for the purpose of ejecting them.

The testimony will be continued in the morning when court convenes.

A SAD FUNERAL.

Mr. Ralph Merck, of Gainesville, died at his home Saturday morning. Mr. Merck was the husband of Mrs. Lucy Syfan Merck, who with her infant child died Friday morning. Mr. Merck, who was sick with influenza, was unconscious when Mrs. Merck died and never revived enough to know of her death.

The young couple were buried Sunday afternoon in the cemetery at Gainesville, this closing what promised to be a long and happy married life.

Mr. Merck was a prominent young merchant and had only recently been discharged from the aviation branch of the war service.

Mr. G. W. Syfan, Mr. George Syfan and Mr. Ben Cochran attended this sad funeral from Abbeville.

ACCUSED OF PLOT TO KILL PRESIDENT

Fourteen Spanish I. W. W. Held in New York. All Sent to Prison. Men Held for Investigation Said to Have Planned to Assassinate Wilson in Boston.

New York, Feb. 23.—Fourteen members of the Spanish branch of the I. W. W. were arrested by secret service men and members of the police bomb squad in two raids here late today. While they are charged formally with having seditious literature in their possession, government agents claimed to have evidence they were hatching a terrorist plot.

Frank Francisco and Edward J. Dowd of the secret service, as well as New York detectives who assisted them in the raids, declared they had obtained evidence which would be used in an attempt to prove the prisoners had planned to assassinate President Wilson in Boston tomorrow, but this assertion was discredited by Capt. Peter Rubin of the secret service, who directed the raids.

According to police the two Philadelphia men who readily admitted they were anarchists stopped here on their way to Boston and intended to go to that city tonight.

The grave nature of the alleged plot and the imminence of the attempt to carry it into execution, it was declared, made it essential the men be imprisoned at once.

LIEUT. SWETENBURG HOME.

Lieut. Carrol Swetenburg, who arrived from overseas last week, and who has been transferred to Camp Jackson, with his regiment, is expected home today.

Lieut. Swetenburg was one of the young men from Abbeville who responded to the country's first call for assistance. He applied for entrance and was admitted to the first officer's training camp at Fort Oglethorpe, and in due time he graduated as a second lieutenant.

He was transferred from Fort Oglethorpe to Camp Jackson, and was assigned to a company of colored troops, which he and the other officers of his company trained for overseas fighting. When the call came he took them across, and in France he was engaged with these troops in many bloody fights, escaping through it all without as much as a scratch, though many of his men were killed. His company in one of the battles in which he was engaged was cited for bravery on the field of action. His worth as a soldier is proved by the fact that he was promoted from second to first lieutenant after reaching France.

Lieutenant Swetenburg was in the big parade in Columbia last week, when the 371st. regiment received so much attention. The work having been finished he is anxious to return to private life. He has many warm friends in Abbeville who have been honored by his gallantry in France and who will be glad to see him at home again.

He is a son of whom his parents are justly proud, and a young man who is honored by his home people.

JOY IN RUSSIA AMONG SOLDIERS

People Not Glad to Hear of Movement—Can't Leave for Time—No Considerable Number of Troops Can Be Sent Away Before June.

Archangel, Feb. 21.—The announcement from Washington that American troops in north Russia are to be withdrawn at the earliest possible moment in the spring was received with joy by the troops themselves, but official circles and also the Russian population are anxious to know whether other troops will be sent to replace them or whether it means the complete abandonment of this front. Navigation is now closed except for ice breakers incapable of carrying a large number of troops and according to naval advices, June will be the earliest month for the opening of the ice floes.

The American troops affected by the announcement are the Three Hundred and Thirty-ninth Infantry and one battalion of the Three Hundred and Tenth Engineers, all draft forces entitled to demobilization after the conclusion of the war. There is considerable speculation in Archangel whether they will be replaced by regulars or marines.

De Witt C. Poole, Jr., counsellor of the American embassy, has issued the following statement:

"In connection with the Washington announcement to the American embassy in Archangel the embassy states it understands this announcement relates only to the disposition of the American troops now here. It does not determine one or another the general question of the continued presence of an American force in northern Russia, nor is it understood to disclose a decision as to the future American policy in Russia. Determination of this awaits upon a further discussion by the peace conference at Paris.

"From a consultation with competent transportation authorities, it appears that with normal ice conditions the earliest possible moment at which considerable bodies of troops can be moved away from Archangel will be in June."

FUNERAL OF MRS. McILWAINE

The funeral services over the remains of Mrs. Ella McIlwaine were held at her home Sunday afternoon at three o'clock and were conducted by Rev. H. W. Pratt. A large concourse of sympathizing friends were present.

All her children were present save the daughter, a missionary in China. Mrs. Milford from this county, and Mrs. Morrow, of Spartanburg, sisters of the deceased, were also present for the last sad rites. Interment was at Long Cane Cemetery.

ATTENDING CONFERENCE.

Rev. M. I. Plaxco left Monday for Blue Ridge, N. C., where he goes to attend a War Work Conference. He will be away about ten days and is looking forward to a pleasant and profitable experience.

Mrs. Plaxco will be the guest of Mrs. McMurray during this time.

WORK ON TREATY IS BEING PUSHED

Council of Great Powers Adopts Resolution Ordering Haste to Have Preliminary Document Ready for Submission to Conference by Time Wilson Returns.

Paris, Saturday, Feb. 22.—Results of far reaching character were obtained at the meeting of the council of the great powers today when resolutions, were adopted requiring such a speeding up of all important branches of the work of the peace conference as to permit the formulation of a preliminary peace treaty by the time President Wilson returns to Paris in the middle of March. To accomplish this all commissions dealing with the big questions of reparations, boundaries and economic and financial issues must report to the supreme council within the next two weeks, or by March 8, at the latest. The reports, in turn, will form a basis for the drafting of the treaty.

An extensive program has been carefully matured within the past few days and it was brought to a culmination this afternoon when A. J. Balfour, British foreign secretary, and Col. E. M. House, of the American delegation, called on Premier Clemenceau in his sick room shortly before the council convened. Each found the wounded statesman dressed and sitting up and keenly alert concerning the work of the conference and fully agreed on the plan for a rapid acceleration of work on all subjects.

This brought together the British, American and French viewpoints for a rapid course of action assuring the earliest possible peace. Shortly afterward the supreme council met and ratified the program. The official statement issued after the meeting announced:

"The meeting decided on proper steps to be taken in order to accelerate as much as possible the labors of the conference."

J. F. LIVINGSTON DIED SUNDAY IN COLUMBIA

John Fraser Livingston, one of Columbia's best and most respected citizens, died at the Baptist Hospital at 9 o'clock yesterday morning from the effects of two operations he had recently undergone.

Mr. Livingston was president of the Columbia, Newberry and Laurens Railroad, which office he had filled since 1912. The funeral will be held at the First Presbyterian Church this afternoon at 4:30 o'clock, and will be conducted by the Rev. A. W. Blackwood, pastor.

Mr. Livingston worked his way to the top by faithful and painstaking attention to business. He was a native of Abbeville County, being the son of J. F. and Fannie McCarr Livingston. He was born March 22, 1869, and would have been 50 years old next March. He went to work for himself when he was between 17 and 18 years old, under P. D. Mazyck in North Carolina, but soon came to Columbia and got a position under Donald McQueen in the freight office of the old South Carolina Railroad, later merged with the Southern Railway.

November 12, 1895, Mr. Livingston was married to Miss Mattie Withers, who with two children survives him. He is survived also by his aged mother, Mrs. J. F. Livingston, Sr., one sister, Mrs. S. L. Mazyck, and two brothers, H. B. Livingston of Paris, Texas, and J. B. Livingston of Charleston.—The State, Feb. 24.

COTTON MARKET.

Good cotton on the Abbeville market brought 27 cts. yesterday. March futures closed in New York at 22.38.

SOLDIERS TO COME EARLY IN MARCH

Twenty Thousand Men Leave France. Seven Vessels Sail—War Department Announcement Does Not Indicate Any for Camp Jackson Demobilization.

Washington, Feb. 21.—Departure from France of 700 officers and 20,000 men of the army on seven vessels, including the battleship Michigan and cruiser Rochester, was announced today by the war department. The ships are due at Atlantic ports between February 25 and March 5.

Included among the men are the first units of the Twenty-seventh (New York National Guard) Division to start for home. They are coming on the French liner Rochambeau from Le Havre and are due at New York March 3.

On the transport are the field and staff headquarters, bond, Companies A, B, C, and D, and the ordnance and sanitary detachments of the One Hundred and Second Engineers, bound for Camps Dix, Devens, Logan, Grant and Gordon.

The One Hundred and Second Engineers was originally constituted from the Twenty-second New York Engineers with 87 men each from the First, Twelfth, Fourteenth, Seventy-first and Seventy-fourth New York Infantry Regiments, and one officer and 83 men from the New York Engineer Train.

The White Star liner Olympic should reach New York next Tuesday with 375 officers and 5,312 men, most of whom compose units and detachments of the Ninety-second (negro) Division. The largest unit is the complete Three Hundred and Sixty-fifth Infantry. The ship also carries the Three Hundred and Seventeenth Sanitary Train, the One Hundred and Eighty-third Infantry Brigade Headquarters and the Three Hundred and Seventeenth Mobile Ordnance Repair Shop, all of the Ninety-second Division; detachments of the Three Hundred and Fiftieth Field Artillery, the Three Hundred and Forty-ninth Machine Gun Battalion and the Three Hundred and Sixty-seventh Division; casual company for Tennessee, and one each for Illinois and Texas; Base Hospitals Nos. 27, 29, and 33; fifty casual officers and a large number of other casuals. Brig. Gen. Charles Gheradi, commanding the One Hundred and Eighty-third Infantry Brigade, also is aboard the Olympic.

The cruiser Rochester, also due at New York Tuesday, has aboard approximately 300 soldiers, including the Four Hundred and Sixty-seventh Aero Squadron; a Texas casual company and Mobile Hospital No. 100.

The transport Buford is due at Newport News, March 4, with a detachment of the Sixty-third Coast Artillery for Fort Logan, Col.; a detachment of the Sixth Heavy Mobile Ordnance Repair Shop for Camp Grant, and one for Columbus Barracks; casual companies for Arkansas, Illinois, Minnesota, Tennessee and Texas; part of Company M, Three Hundred and Forty-fifth Infantry, Eighty-seventh Division, for Camp Grant, a negro casual company for Virginia, and scattered casuals for Illinois and Ohio.

The transport Santa Marta is due March 5, port not given, with Base Hospitals Nos. 3 and 22, and casuals making up 45 officers and 51 men.

The transport Powhatan is due March 2, port not given, with 105 officers and 3,666 men, including the Sixty-sixth Coast Artillery complete; detachments of the Forty-seventh Coast Artillery and parts of the Three Hundred and Thirty-fifth and Three Hundred and Thirty-sixth Field Artillery of the Eighty-seventh Division, and a number of sick and wounded and casuals.

(Continued on Page 8)

WHERE THEY ADVERTISE.

In Tuesday's and Friday's issues The Press and Banner carried 863 inches of display advertisement. This may be a little more than is carried each week, but the number of inches of advertisements carried in this paper since January first, and before that date, shows that the people who are doing the advertising believe that we print a journal which carries the message to the people. The fact that the home advertisers are making such liberal use of our columns is evidence to the foreign advertiser that the way to reach the buyer and business man is through "The Family Paper."