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TAFT OFFERS PLAN TO INSURE LEAGUE

Middle Ground to Get a Sufficient Number of Votes For Ratification—Writes to Chairman Hays of the Republican Party—Criticism Wilson.

Washington, July 23.—A plan for "interpretation" in Senate acceptance of the league of nation has been suggested by former President Taft in the hope of uniting on the middle ground enough Democratic and Republican Senators to defeat any radical amendment of the covenant and in the end obtain its ratification.

The suggestion has been received with earnest consideration by the group of Republicans who favor the league idea and who are already at work on a definite program of interpretative reservations which they declare they have reason to believe will be accepted by the administration. The administration leaders, however, unwilling to concede that any reservations will be necessary, still insist they will have the votes when the time comes to ratify the covenant as it is.

So confident are the league Republicans of the success of their plan that some of them believe President Wilson will publicly accept it to smooth the way to acceptance of the league. Some Republican Senators who have seen the president in the last few days have come away from the White House with the impression that Mr. Wilson, while not encouraging reservations if they can be avoided, seems not to be adverse to such interpretations as would leave the league fabric unimpaired. They say, however, that this impression is not based on any direct statement by the President.

Mr. Taft's suggestion, which created a sensation in the senate because of his well-known advocacy of unreserved ratification, was embodied in two letters to Will H. Hays, the Republican national chairman, copies of which reached some Republican Senators today. They touched upon many features of the treaty controversy and emphasized the former president's belief that only by acceptance of same reservations could the treaty be ratified.

Six specific interpretation proposals are outlined which Mr. Taft says he is confident will meet the objection of a large group of Republicans who favor a league. He counts 45 Democratic Senators as supporting the President in the treaty fight and committed to vote against material amendments no such proposals could receive a Senate majority.

The former president suggested to Mr. Hays that this name be withheld for the present from connection with the interpretation plan since it might antagonize some senators of his party. Chairman Lodge of the foreign relations committee, who is named in that connection, declined today to make any comment on Mr. Taft's letter.

Mr. Taft has also written some of the Republican Senators, who under the leadership of Senator McCumber, North Dakota, and McNary, Oregon, have been interested in formulating a middle course for solution of the Senate situation. It is understood that Senator Kellogg, Minnesota, Colt Rhode Island, and Spenser, Missouri, also have been consulted in the interest of such a plan.

Back to the Old Home.

Mrs. L. C. Parker left Thursday for her usual summer visit to her old home in Courtland, Ala. She will be accompanied by her children and will be away about a month.

Here From Wimsboro.

Mrs. Jesse Doty and her family of interesting children are in Abbeville for a visit to Mrs. Francis Henry. Old friends and school mates are glad to have her come back.

CONGRESSMAN RAGSDALE OF SOUTH CAROLINA DIES IN WASHINGTON

Washington, July 23.—Representative J. W. Ragsdale, of South Carolina, dropped dead today while in the office of a physician.

Mr. Ragsdale was in the House yesterday apparently in good health. He had been undergoing treatment, however, for some weeks and made one of his regular visits today to the office of Dr. R. Arthur Hooe, where he died. Reports reaching his colleagues indicated that death was due to heart disease.

Dr. R. Arthur Hooe, the Representative's physician said Mr. Ragsdale became unconscious while being treated for nasal trouble and that efforts to revive him were unsuccessful.

Mr. Ragsdale was born in Timmonsville, S. C., 47 year ago. He was educated at the University of South Carolina and was a member of the South Carolina legislature and senate before being elected to Congress in 1913.

Congressman J. Willard Ragsdale's home was at Florence and he is well-known throughout the Eastern section of the state. He was a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

"GRAND OLD MAN OF ARMY" LANDS

New York, July 23.—On the steamer Rotterdam, which brought units of the Fifth Division from France today was the "grand old man of the army," in the person of Col. W. F. Harrell, of Marion, S. C. He was wounded seven times in the fighting in France, but was only two wound stripes, which, according to his brother officer, it took orders from a superior officer to make him put on.

Col. Harrell, known to his regiment as "Two Gun Harrell," went overseas as a captain in the 16th infantry. He wore many decorations. Other officers arriving on the Rotterdam included Col. J. M. Jenkins, of South Carolina.

POST OF AMERICAN LEGION TO BE ESTABLISHED HERE.

Steps were taken by ex-soldiers of Abbeville and Abbeville County on Monday to organize a Post of the American Legion here. About 25 soldiers attended the meeting held in the Court House to effect a temporary organization. Carroll Swetenburg was named temporary chairman and Gottlob Neuffer was named temporary secretary. Application for charter was made to State Headquarters in Columbia.

At the next meeting it is proposed to have as many veterans of the World War living in this county present as can attend. At that time a permanent organization will be effected. It has not been definitely decided when this meeting will be held but probably not before October.

ONE-CENT POSTAGE IS POSSIBLE, MOON SAYS

Washington, July 23.—One cent letter postage can be established and the postoffice department still earn a surplus of \$25,000,000 a year, if other classes of mail are made to pay the cost of handling, Representative Moon, Democrat, Tennessee, declared today in the house. He said the handling of mail in the last seven years had been no worse than in any previous period, and added that criticism of Postmaster General Burleson would be forgotten because of "his ability and matchless loyalty to public duty."

MIKE KOSTAS BUYS MILLER STOREROOM FOR \$5,000

Mike Kostas has bought the T. M. Miller storeroom on Trinity street, paying \$5,000. He will be given possession October 1. The deal was made through W. A. Calvert.

It is intended to open up another exclusive candy kitchen. Mr. Miller expects to retire from the business of merchandising and devote himself to running his farm.

GOVERNMENT BALKS AT PAYING EXORBITANT PRICE FOR LAND IN CHARLESTON

Washington, July 23.—Having found that the price per acre now demanded from the government for land requisitioned in building the embarkation terminal at Charleston, S. C., would represent about 10,000 per cent increase over the purchase price of six years ago, the war department board of appraisers has submitted a report recommending a flat refusal. Instead of the \$798,500 asked for the principal claimant, the report recommends payment of \$42,360 as a fair and just compensation for the property and all damages resulting from the government's requisition.

Lieutenant Colonel Ralph W. Donges, chairman of the appraisal board, fixed a maximum value of \$100 per acre as compared with \$1,887 demanded by one claimant.

"It is needless to say," the board's report said: "that every compelling reason should be shown to warrant such a remarkable increase in values as are here claimed. It is reported that there was paid about \$2,000 per acre for Hog Island, within a mile or two of the third greatest city of the United States, and on the Delaware river on which is a very great volume of shipping. And yet that transaction was made the subject of investigation and much adverse criticism. Certainly a demand for the same price for marsh lands six and one-half miles from Charleston is cause for careful, painstaking investigation to determine the cause of such pronounced increases, from \$3 an acre in 1908 and \$35 in 1912 to over \$1,800 in '18."

South to the Front in Road Building.

Recent reports received by the United States Department of Agriculture on Federal aid road projects show the South moving forward in the road-building campaign, with projects showing higher grade construction. Of the 16 Georgia projects approved for April, two were for bridges, 7 for concrete and 1 for either a brick, concrete, or bituminous road, the others being for sand-clay roads. The concrete roads will cost from \$30,000 to \$32,000 a mile, indicating the highest type construction, for the cost in the South, is usually less than that in the North. Louisiana will build a short bituminous macadam road at an estimated cost of \$36,377 a mile. Virginia has one bituminous macadam and three concrete roads in 9 projects approved.

Lieut. Phillips Home.

Lieut. J. W. Phillips spent a night in Due West last week on his return from France. He started to the army from Due West and his ticket brought him back to this point. His friends were glad to have seen him again.

Lieut. Phillips was a member of the 118th infantry and after the armistice was given a course in theology at Glasgow. He is a son of Dr. D. G. Phillips, formerly pastor of the A. R. P. Church at Troy and now of Chester, and a grandson of Dr. J. W. Wideman, formerly of Due West. He is well known to the soldiers in Abbeville.

Due West Delegates.

The Abbeville Bible Society meets next Wednesday in Abbeville at 11 o'clock. Dr. McCain is president. Dr. Ross Lynn will come to Due West Tuesday. He will spend the night as Dr. McCain's guest and go down to Abbeville the next morning. The following are delegates from Due West: Dr. and Mrs. McCain, Dr. and Mrs. F. Y. Pressly, Dr. and Mrs. J. S. Moffatt, Prof. and Mrs. E. L. Reid, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Galloway, Mrs. R. C. Brownlee, Mr. and Mrs. O. Y. Brownlee, Rev. and Mrs. J. P. Pressly, Rev. and Mrs. C. S. Young. The A. R. Presbyterian.

CRAP SHOOTERS ARE ARRESTED AND FINED \$10 EACH BY MAYOR

Seventeen ebony devotees at the shrine of the "rolling bones" were separated from \$10 by Mayor Mars Tuesday. Two crap clubs were roped in en masse, one at the Palm Garden and one at Little Jerusalem. The following negroes assisted in enriching the city coffers by \$170: George Pressly, Charles Greene, Frost Davis, Will Collier, Abb Ramey, West Fisher, Dave Smith, Charles Fisher, Jim Wright, R. J. Watt, James Thomas, Ruben Hill, Will Jones, Milligan Nance, Albert Ware, Walter Gaines and Will Harris.

MEXICO NOT EAGER TO PUNISH BANDITS, FLETCHER DECLARES

Washington, July 23.—Henry P. Fletcher, American ambassador to Mexico, told the house rules committee today that since his appointment three years ago about fifty Americans had been killed in Mexico without a single prosecution being made by the Mexican authorities.

Replying to questions by Chairman Campbell Ambassador Fletcher said withdrawal of recognition of the Carranza government by the United States would only increase the turmoil in the southern republic. He added that he did not know of any revolutionary leader capable of establishing a permanent government.

Mr. Fletcher repeatedly declined to express opinions upon conditions in the southern republic, insisting that he would furnish only facts. He also told the committee that he had no statement to make, but would answer any questions he could. "Do you regard the situation in Mexico as having improved in the last three years?" asked Chairman Campbell.

"Oh yes," was the quick reply. "In what respect?" "Columbus has not been raided," the ambassador answered.

When Chairman Campbell called attention to the recent murder of an American citizen and the maltreatment of his wife in Mexico, the ambassador said this did not involve relations between the United States and Mexico.

Ambassador Fletcher said he had not noticed any special anti-American feeling in Mexico and explained that the presence of more American citizens there than other foreigners probably accounted for the greater number of outrages affecting Americans.

The house today began what is expected to be a complete investigation of the Mexican situation.

Taking a Rest.

Captain Foster McLane is taking a two weeks' vacation and is enjoying life. To keep him from being too fat Mrs. McLane has put him to work weeding out the Civic Club beds in front of the court house and to stringing beans to can.

Come Again.

Col. W. S. Cothran, who is keeping house on his own responsibility while Mrs. Cothran is in the mountains, entertained a dinner party made up of eight of the best setback players in town Monday evening. After dinner the fine points of the game were demonstrated by Big Chief, Patrick Roche, and ordinary Indians: Thos. P. Thomson, J. L. Perrin, Wm. P. Greene, J. S. Stark, Richard Soudley, W. T. Magill and R. O. Hunter.

COTTON MARKET.

Cotton sold on local market yesterday for 35 cents. October futures closed in New York at 35.21.

RIOTING CONTINUES IN WASHINGTON DESPITE MILITARY PRECAUTIONS

Washington, July 23.—Race hatred in the national capital engendered by attacks on white women by negroes and fanned by three successive nights of rioting, found expression again tonight in clashes between white men and negroes. A home defense guard was shot and killed, a second guard fatally wounded and another white man slashed severely by a razor wielded by a negro. All of the negro assailants escaped.

The outbreaks, however, were sporadic and confined to a single vicinity near Eighth and M. Streets, the center of the black district of the Northwest section. This was due in the opinion of the authorities to the extraordinary precaution taken to prevent formation of mobs and to a rain which began early in the evening.

Approximately 1,500 troops—cavalry, infantry, marines and sailors—patrolled the streets and waited in reserve for possible outbreaks supplementing regular and volunteer police. Detachments of marines from Quantico, Va., and regulars under command of Maj. Gen. William G. Mann from Camp Meade arrived early in the evening and took up stations in the outskirts.

Seven Persons Dead.

The night's casualties brought the number resulting from the rioting which began Saturday night to seven persons dead, 11 believed to be fatally wounded and scores injured.

The only fatal outbreak tonight up to midnight, resulted from the stopping of a negro by Isaac Halbfinger, a home defense guard. Halbfinger attempted to search the negro, who drew a gun from his pocket and shot the guard through the heart. Another home guard, like Halbfinger armed only with a riot stick, ran to his companion's assistance and was shot. He died later. The negro escaped.

Negroes in several parts of the city were reported to have fired on passing white men but in no other instance was any one killed or injured. Scores of negroes were arrested tonight charged with carrying fire arms, with which they have been stocking up for several days.

DEPOSITS ARE NOT BEING DRAWN FROM THE SAVINGS BANKS

Washington, July 24.—Despite the tremendous funds invested by the people of America in Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps, deposits were not generally withdrawn from the savings banks, according to an official announcement. Indeed, it appears that the purchase of Government securities has tended to increase deposits by developing the spirits of thrift, the amount of money in savings accounts now showing a steady increase in practically every part of the country.

Recent statements from various sections from New York to California indicate that since the armistice was signed the savings banks of the Nation have been flooded with deposits. New York State recently passed the two billion mark with the number of depositors exceeding 3,500,000.

Deposits piled up steadily all thru the war, even when the people were investing most heavily in Liberty Bonds. A statement covering the savings deposits in all banks other than national recently issued showed that the total rose from \$6,147,592,232 in 1913 to \$7,727,007,971, in 1918.

In the latter part of May the savings banks of Los Angeles, Cal., for instance, quoted deposits at approximately \$160,000,000. The United States postal savings banks found January and February of this year exceptionally good months. Although March is usually not so good for deposits, this being due in large measure to the annual labor migration, the total for the first three months of 1919 showed an increase of \$9,500,000.

CARRANZA BLAMES MEXICAN BANDITS

Gives Out Statement As to Robbery of American Sailors—Other Accounts Put Blame on Men Killed—Mexican Press Stirred Over Situation Between Two Countries.

Mexico City, July 23.—Official accounts of the robbing of American sailors from U. S. S. Cheyenne, July 6, and of deaths of Americans were given out today by Gen. Jaun Barragan, chief of the presidential staff, in the form of governmental dispatches. One of these stated that the sailors went up the river Temesi into rebel territory.

Gen. Ricardo Gonzales, chief of the Tampico garrison, in a dispatch reporting on the murder of John W. Correlli near Tampico June 16, stated the murder was committed by Temesi bandits. He said he had ordered a pursuit of the outlaws and that four of the bandits had been killed and 20 horses recovered in a fight at the bandits' headquarters.

Other official dispatches on deaths of Americans placed the responsibility for the incidents in some cases upon the men killed.

General Barragan also announced that tomorrow there would be made public "various documents belonging to the archives of the bandit Villa", recovered in Jaurez and including "a letter addressed to Villa by Col. Charles F. Hunt offering Villa a visit by Senator Fall and other persons" in an effort to aid Villa's campaign.

Mexico City, July 23.—The constantly increasing space devoted by Mexico City newspapers to the relations between the United States and Mexico culminated today in the issue of an extra edition by El Universal carrying a seven column headline, "Mexico and the United States". Underneath is another headline in smaller type saying: "United States Press Affirms Preparations Continue for Armed Intervention; General Dickman, Chief of Southern Operations."

The body of the reading matter contains summaries of stories, most of them from New York newspapers and sent by special correspondents or clipping bureaus regarding recent incidents in Mexico, involving Americans and the reported mobilization of large armed forces along the frontier. Other stories tell of anti-Mexican cartoons appearing in American papers and of declarations in regard to Mexico made by under Secretary of State Polk and Major General Leonard Wood. Part of the extra is given over to a story printed in the New York World discounting the intervention stories.

Mention is made of recent report published here that officers of the American army of occupation in Germany are busily studying a campaign for an invasion of Mexico.

The newspapers of the capital have been publishing statements by various personages, notably Ygnacio Bonillas, ambassador to the United States, and General Candido Aguilar, former foreign minister, dealing with the present cordial relations between the United States and Mexico and Mexico's anxiety to enact legislation, especially regarding oil claims, that will satisfy all parties.

New Front.

Amos B. Morse and Co., recently let a contract for a new front and the enlargement of their store on Trinity street. The improvements will cost approximately \$8,000.

City Airs.

Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Jones and Misses Elizabeth and Frances Jones went over to Atlanta this week for a little outing. They traded a little, had a big dinner at the cafe, saw the animals at the park and otherwise enjoyed the big city.