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BALFOUR LAUDED FOR EFFORT HERE

EMBASSADOR TO GREAT BRITAIN SAYS UNITED STATES WILL RATIFY TREATIES. GEORGE HARVEY JOINS IN LONDON CHORUS

London, Feb. 21.—America joins in the praises of A. J. Balfour, head of the British mission at the Washington conference, in his welcome to the homeland when the American ambassador, George Harvey, addressed the Pilgrims society dinner tonight at which 300 persons assembled. The Duke of York represented the royal family and the others included ministers of the cabinet, civil and military leaders and social and unofficial representatives of the American community. It was a "personal welcome" for great pilgrim, according to Marquis Curzon, in contrast to the official welcome accorded Mr. Balfour by the government luncheon Thursday.

The king by letter, which was read to the diners, the Duke of York, Lord Curzon and Mr. Harvey indulged in eulogies of Mr. Balfour. Cheers greeted Ambassador Harvey's prediction that the United States was as certain to ratify the various treaties as the British parliament was to sanction them.

"As a result of the Pacific pact," said Lord Curzon, "not a man in this room tonight can expect to see warfare in that part of the world." With the modesty which characterized and popularized his efforts at Washington, Mr. Balfour, in responding, said that in all the years of his career he had never attended an occasion so moving and so difficult to do justice to as this welcome. Though for the moment he appeared in the forefront of the picture, he pointed out that the part of any individual was but a small matter in dealing with issues so great as were handled at Washington.

The Washington conference, Mr. Balfour declared, was of unimpaired benefit to mankind. One or two things, he hoped, had been accomplished, but the greatest satisfaction was that nothing had been done which carried the evil seed of future misfortunes. He did not agree with the only suggestion of criticism of the conference he had heard—that the results were inimical to the league of nations.

"The league could not have done what Washington did," he exclaimed emphatically. "The world is in such condition that all machinery and every instrument upon which we can lay our hands are needed to raise it to its pre-war level."

Neither could Washington accomplish, in his opinion, the work of the league for which other machinery had not yet been discovered.

Ambassador Harvey, lauding Mr. Balfour's work at the Washington conference, took occasion also to praise the American delegates.

Outlining President Harding's first step toward calling the conference he noted especially the president's unwillingness to give publicity to it until the full cooperation essential to success could first be assured.

Flu Closes Honea Path School.

Honea Path, Feb. 21.—The Honea Path high school was closed today by the local board of health for a period of one week on account of an epidemic of influenza. Out of 42 pupils enrolled in the high, only about 20 were present for roll call today and it was after this that the board of health decided that it would be best to close the school for a few days. The type is very mild, according to a local physician, and the situation will be easy to handle if the people of the town will obey the rules of the board of health.

SPEND MILLIONS TO CATCH RUM RUNNERS

EXTRAORDINARY MEANS TO BE USED TO COPE WITH THE LIQUOR SITUATION IN FLORIDA. WILL USE A SMALL ARMY—DETAILED KEPT SECRET

Washington, Feb. 20.—Use of airplanes along the Florida coast in the war on rum smugglers was understood today to be under consideration by prohibition headquarters.

Plans for the use of airplanes against rum runners were understood to be part of a gigantic program being worked out by prohibition authorities involving activities in the air, on the water and on land, to stem the tide of illicit liquor flowing into the country from West-Indian and other islands.

Commissioner Haynes and other high prohibition officials refused today to disclose details of the anti-smuggling machinery available or obtainable to combat the liquor runners. Officials would not discuss plans for a liquor escadrille in Florida nor the possible formation of an anti-alcoholic navy mobilized with former sub-chasers but the marshalling of these forces in the south were understood to be tentatively decided upon.

Several weeks ago the assignment of a special force of prohibition agents to Florida was announced as the first step in the southern campaign but since then the progress of the smuggling war has been kept as quiet as possible by authorities here.

Directors of the field forces, it is understood, are anxious to bring into action all of their units on the southern coast before discussing to combat the rum runners.

MORRIS THOMPSON NOW UNDER ARREST

In the absence of Sheriff McLane in Columbia, Chief of Police J. L. Johnson last night received a telephone message from Deputy Sheriff Kay of Greenville that Morris Thompson, who is wanted in this county on a charge of attempted rape, was caught yesterday in Greenville county, near the North Carolina border. It is presumed Thompson was making an effort to escape into the mountainous section of North Carolina.

Although reports from the Antreville section where the crime was attempted say that the fury that prevailed immediately following the brutal act and in the pursuit that followed has subsided in some degree it is yet considered unsafe to commit the negro to the Abbeville jail and he will probably be taken to the state penitentiary for safe keeping until the criminal court convenes next week.

Court convenes here next week and Thompson, who is known by the names of Ward and Morris, will probably be tried at that time. A dispatch in The State is as follows:

Greenville, Feb. 21.—Ward Thompson, negro wanted for alleged attempted assault upon a young white woman near Antreville, Abbeville county Saturday, February 11, was captured about noon today in the mountains near the North Carolina line by several residents of that section, who brought him to the Greenville county jail this afternoon. The negro will probably be taken to Columbia for safe keeping early tomorrow. Rewards aggregating \$150 for his capture had been offered.

In conversation with a newspaper correspondent tonight, the negro admitted that he was the person wanted. He admitted having placed his hands on the girl but said it was with no criminal purpose or intent, that he had his arm full of stock feed at the

GIANT DIRIGIBLE FALLS TO GROUND

THIRTY-FOUR PERSONS KILLED IN EXPLOSION OF AIRSHIP OVER NORFOLK—MANY PERSONS PINNED BENEATH BURNING WRECKAGE.

Norfolk, Feb. 21.—Crashing into a barracks building here after a plunge downward due to an undetermined cause, the army dirigible Roma, the largest semi-dirigible airship in the world, exploded shortly after 2 o'clock today. An hour later only eight of the more than half a hundred persons aboard had been listed as safe. Witnesses at the scene of the burning ship said at 3 o'clock when she still was burning like a furnace that fully half a dozen men were pinned beneath the wreckage. The body of one man had been removed up to that time.

The Roma was between six hundred and one thousand feet in the air when she fell, officers at the Hampton Roads naval base stated.

Newport News, Va., Feb. 21.—There were 39 persons aboard the Roma and only eight have been accounted for this far, according to officials of Langley field and the Hampton Roads army base. Undertakers at this city who care for the dead at Langley field were officially notified that thirty or more people had lost their lives.

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 21.—The army's great dirigible Roma exploded at the Hampton Roads army base, at 2:12 o'clock this afternoon after falling from a great distance and plunging into a barracks building. Four men were taken from the wreckage alive, but badly burned, a few minutes later.

Langley field flying officers said the crew consisted of 21 men and that in addition 40 passengers were aboard. Fourteen men were seen to leap from the ship as it fell towards the barracks. Some of them clung to parachutes while others leaped over the side and plunged to the ground according to eye witnesses.

The wreckage was still burning like a blast furnace at 2:50 o'clock though chemicals were being played off the debris by the army base fire department. According to witnesses on the scene of the disaster fully a half dozen men are pinned beneath the wreckage. The body of one man has been removed.

OPENING RECEPTION

Novel Entertainment Comes at Austin-Perrin's Tonight.

The formal opening this evening of the fountain at Austin-Perrin Drug Company conducted by J. L. Anderson, former manager of the Cash Bargain Store will be a novel undertaking. The chief feature of the evening will be music with its accompaniment of festive decorations and gay lighting effects. The Carolina Syncopators have been engaged to produce the jazz notes and the whole city will be present to partake of the pleasures promised by Mr. Anderson. "Something free for everybody" is the advertised legend that has gone forth in the premiere announcements. What this "something" will be remains a mystery this morning, with the guesses varying in substance "This mystery let's explore" will be the slogan of the visitors tonight.

Minister Goes On Strike.

Blackpool, England, Feb. 21.—The Rev. Adam Hamilton, the pastor of one of the Congregational churches here, has announced his intention of going on strike for two weeks. He said the empty pews in his church showed that there was something wrong either with his sermons or the church.

time and merely desired to push her aside.

WEEKS SUBMITS ALABAMA OFFER

BID OF POWER COMPANY BEFORE CONGRESS—REPORT ON FORD BID CAN NOT BE MADE FOR SOME TIME SAYS COMMITTEE.

Washington, Feb. 21.—Acceptance by the United States of the offer by Henry Ford for purchase and lease of the Muscle Shoals, Ala., nitrate and waterpower project "would constitute a violation of the solemn and binding agreement entered into with our company, under date of June 8, 1918," J. O. Hammitt, vice president of the air nitrate corporation, notified the House military committee today.

Mr. Hammitt declared the agreement definitely opposed acceptance by the government of the Ford offer.

The agreement was read from the contract as follows:

"If upon cessation of this war or for any other reason the United States determined to cause the construction, equipment, or operation of any of the said plants and to dispose of the same, the agent shall be given the first opportunity (for a reasonable period of time not to exceed six months after receipt of written notice stating the determination of the United States to dispose of the same, and the material terms upon which disposition will be made), to purchase the same upon as favorable terms as the United States is willing to accept therefor, before the United States shall sell the same to any other party."

The witness asserted that, despite the opinion of Colonel Hull, acting judge advocate general of the army that the agreement was "null and void" he believed it would "hold in the courts," where it would be tested if the government insisted upon violating the pledge.

Mr. Hammitt explained that the air nitrates corporation, was a subsidiary of the American Cyanamid Company of Maine, and was created to protect the stockholders of the latter in case the corporation "fell down on its contracts," amounting to seven times the capital of the company, made with the government during the war.

Without the assistance of the two concerns, he declared, the nitrate plants could not have been erected by the government.

MORE COTTON USED

Increase in Consumption for January According to Figures.

Washington, Feb. 21.—Commerce and industry as a whole made further progress during January, according to figures received up to February 20 by the department of commerce, it was announced today.

Consumption of cotton by mills increased from 511,000 bales in December to 526,000 bales, the report says, while a year ago the January consumption was only 366,270 bales. Consumption of silk increased from 21,000 bales to nearly 44,000 bales in the month or fully 50 per cent. greater than a year ago. With the exception of raw wool, textile prices tended to drop, compared with December.

NATIONAL HOLIDAY

Today, February 22, is Washington's birthday, a national holiday. It was observed only at the post-office where the delivery windows were closed most of the day. The bank and shops were open as usual.

BASKETBALL TODAY

The Anderson high school basketball team came over today to play the Abbeville team this afternoon. This is a return game, Abbeville having won from Anderson week before last.

BEAUFORT SENATOR TRIES TO RESIGN

DECLARES SENATE AGAINST AGRICULTURE IN CRISIS—UPPER HOUSE REFUSES TO ACCEPT. CHRISTENSEN WOULD QUIT AS FINANCE CHAIRMAN

Columbia, Feb. 21.—Declaring that the senate was opposed to his views on the important tax program and that "business has won in the senate against agriculture in a crisis when agriculture is in desperate straits," Senator Niels Christensen, chairman of the upper house finance committee, last night handed in his resignation as chairman of this important committee, but the senate by a unanimous vote refused to accept it.

Following urgent pleas from Senator Johnstone of Newberry, Senator Watkins of Anderson and Senator Duncan of Union that the resignation not be accepted, the upper house refused to accede to the request of Mr. Christensen that he be allowed to retire from the chairmanship and also extended a vote of confidence to Mr. Christensen unanimously.

After the senate had refused to accept the resignation and had extended the vote of confidence, Senator Johnstone moved that further consideration of the matter, if there was to be further consideration, be postponed until today, which was agreed to.

Senator Christensen plainly told the senate last night that he would insist upon being relieved as chairman, but after the upper house had adjourned a number of senators gathered around the chairman and urged him to press no longer his resignation. Senator Christensen said the matter was final with him.

S. M. WARDLAW DIED YESTERDAY

Samuel Moore Wardlaw died Tuesday morning at 4 o'clock at the home of his son, D. A. Wardlaw, Jr., on Bowie street after an illness of several weeks with an affection of the heart. Mr. Wardlaw was in his 69th year, having been born July 6th, 1853. The funeral and interment will be held at Sharon Methodist church Thursday at noon the Rev. Mr. Kilgore conducting the services.

Samuel Moore Wardlaw was born and raised in the Bethel section of Abbeville County, five miles from Abbeville. Until a few months ago when his health became uncertain he had conducted his farming operations conscientiously and energetically, meriting the friendship of his neighbors and the esteem of his acquaintances. Many years ago he became a member of Bethel Methodist church and until his death he was a constant worshiper there.

Mr. Wardlaw was a son of David M. Wardlaw and Elizabeth Paul Wardlaw. Thirty-seven years ago he married Miss Susan Ramey, who with four children, survives. Miss Bessie Wardlaw is the only daughter. E. R. Wardlaw of Philadelphia, Wallace Wardlaw of Augusta and D. A. Wardlaw, Jr., of Abbeville are the sons. Three brothers, John Wardlaw of Due West, G. H. Wardlaw, D. A. Wardlaw, and one sister, Miss Jane Wardlaw of Bethel, also survive.

Mr. Wardlaw had only moved to Abbeville to live with his son about a month ago. He had been ill for many months but his death came suddenly. Pallbearers at the funeral will be the following nephews: H. R. McAllister, L. B. Ramey, R. W. Adams, Paul Wardlaw, Lester Moragne and Tompkins Ramey.

PLATFORM BUILT FOR WORKING MAN

NEW MOVEMENT ANNOUNCED AT CHICAGO—NUMBER OF GROUPS OF THOUGHT REPRESENTED AT CONFERENCE CALLED BY JOHNSTON.

Chicago, Feb. 21.—Unanimous support of a new movement to install men and women of the working class in the nation's legislative halls, was pledged by farmers, members of the Socialist and Farmer-Labor parties, labor union leaders and clergymen in a conference today, called by a group of railroad union men, headed by William H. Johnston, president of the International Association of Machinists. Declared by Morris Hillquit of New York to be "the most significant event that has taken place in the American labor movement for a generation," the conference brought together leaders high in labor movements and minor political party circles. Although Chairman Johnston declared in his opening address that the time was not yet ripe for the formation of a new party, today's meeting was expected to develop the germ of a new political organization which some delegates said would be functioning by 1924.

Non-partisan political action in the 1922 elections was the keynote of the meeting. A dozen speakers pledged their support of a program to endorse candidates favorable to the working man. Committees on program and organization will report tomorrow when definite plans are expected to be adopted. By combining their efforts workers could build a political machine which would elect to office "men and women truly representative of the people of the United States," E. J. Manion, of the Order of Railway Telegraphers, told the delegates and both he and Thomas Van Lear, former mayor of Minneapolis, pledged their support to such a movement.

Morris Hillquit of the Socialist party declared he was not at the meeting to make "political capital" and did not seek office for Socialist candidates there.

The Rev. Herbert Bigelow of Cincinnati made a plea to capture the primaries in the established parties by electing men representatives of the workers' interests and H. F. Samuels, a farmer of Idaho, urged the unity of all classes in achieving that end.

The organized farmers' attitude was presented by A. H. Long of the United Society of Agriculture who emphasized the necessity of obtaining the actual facts regarding the value of their production and demanding their share of production.

The Farmer-Labor party, represented by J. G. Brown, national secretary, was friendly to the new movement, he asserted, in pledging his support "in any liberal plan of coalition."

DIVORCE STAYS PUT

Edith Kelly Gould Loses Her New York Case.

New York, Feb. 21.—Supreme Court Justice Mullan today denied application of Edith Kelly Gould for an order vacating the divorce decree obtained in Paris by J. Frank Gould. In dismissing the action with \$10 costs, the court set forth that the action had not been brought in good faith by the actress and that "the limit of her hope is to coerce the defendant."

The decision also denied Mrs. Gould the right to file an amended reply containing allegations that assail and put in issue the regularity of the French decree.

MRS. BRADLEY ILL

Mrs. W. W. Bradley of Greenville Street is ill at her home and is confined to her room under the directions of her physician.