

AMERICA WILL AWAIT ANSWER FROM HOLLAND

Reply from The Hague to Allies' Demand for Dutch Ships Expected in Washington Today

NO DELAY BEYOND TUESDAY
If Holland Answers Unfavorably Stars and Stripes Will Be Raised over 1,000,000 Tons of Shipping

Washington, March 17.—Holland's reply to the American and British demand that a voluntary shipping agreement be put into effect despite Germany's opposition, in default of which the Dutch vessels in American and British waters would be seized under ancient law, will be awaited before further action is taken by the United States Government.

Dispatches from The Hague tonight indicated that the reply was en route, but probably would not reach Washington before noon tomorrow, when the time limit set expires. As it is believed now, Holland will assent to the Allied proposals, officials here desire to delay action so that transfer by agreement may be substituted for seizure, although in either case they would be entirely within their rights under international law.

Tuesday the Limit
At any rate the addition of 1,000,000 tons of shipping to the resources engaged in the fight for world freedom will not be delayed beyond Tuesday.

The American flag will be raised over the 700,000 tons in American waters as soon as the transfer is made and the vessels will be put into the food transport service.

It was stated officially tonight that there has been no change in the terms of the American ultimatum, which offered Holland ample food supplies and sufficient tonnage. Whether or not assent is given to the terms, the ships will be acquired by the Allies tomorrow or Tuesday.

Concessions to be made by Holland to Germany in the matter of barges for internal commerce were not discussed by officials.

Holland Cables Answer

The Hague, March 17.—After a cabinet council lasting into the night, the government cabled to London a message, which according to reliable information, probably will lead to a satisfactory conclusion of the shipping difficulty.

An Amsterdam dispatch on Saturday said it had learned on excellent authority that the Dutch Government had accepted the demands of the Entente Allies relating to the use of Dutch ships in the danger zone.

Generous Offer

London, Friday, March 15.—In view of the decision of the Entente Allies to make use of Dutch shipping now in Allied ports, Reuter's Limited publishes a note comparing the generous offer with the Allies, before deciding to take over the ships, made to Holland, with the German practice of either bottling up Dutch ships or, if they came out, sinking them, with no replacement being promised or intended.

"In considering the decision of the Allies," the note says, "some reference is needed to the past course of the British commercial negotiations with Holland. Early in the war Holland ceased to supply us with any of her products except at exorbitant prices, that it was only after prolonged negotiations that she agreed to sell us a fair share on terms which could be seriously entertained.

Locked Up Her Ships

"When the German unrestricted warfare was announced Holland alone of all the northern neutrals did nothing to counteract these lawless German methods, but locked up all her own ships in her own ports or other ports.

"As is known, chiefly owing to the action of the Netherlands Government, negotiations for the use of Dutch ships has been drawn out and delayed. The British and Allied Governments feel the time now has passed for such dilatory negotiations.

"The Allies offered the Dutch as liberal a measure of rationing as the world shortage and the Allies' requirements will permit, against a number of concessions from Holland, of which the most valuable was the use of ships.

"It should be stated that the barge tonnage to be replaced at the disposal by the Dutch is at any rate equal to the ocean-going tonnage which the Allies would get under the proposed shipping agreement. Germany has some barge tonnage, but not crews enough to work it satisfactorily and so wants Dutch crews.

"In view of all these circumstances, the Allied Governments have no course left to them but that indicated.

AVIATORS MADE FIRE PROOF

Washington, March 15.—Flame-proof masks, shoes, helmets, gloves and suits for aviators have been devised under the direction of the aviation section of the United States signal corps, it was learned tonight. This protection against fire is to be combined also with a thermos suit, electrically heated, to keep American flyers warm at high altitudes.

PAXVILLE.

Mrs. H. S. Boyd from Lamar came last week to the home of Mr. J. M. Boswell, where she was summoned on account of the serious illness of Mrs. Boswell.

Mrs. Jeff Martin and baby, Hazel, from St. Paul, are spending a few days at the home of her mother, Mrs. M. S. Broadway.

Mr. Eugene Whisonant, a teacher in the Sumter High School visited at the home of his cousin, Mrs. J. W. Mims, Jr., last Saturday.

Miss Leatha Edwards and Earle Perritt, the popular teachers of the graded school spent the week-end in Manning, at the home of Mr. Vernon Edwards.

Miss Catherine McLaurin, of Wedgefield, was a visitor at the home of Mrs. S. E. Curtis last week.

Mrs. B. W. Cutler has returned from a visit to her mother, Mrs. J. H. Boswell, at Foreston.

Miss Lizzie Hodge of Columbia spent a few days of the past week at the home of Mr. Pat Hodge.

Miss Mary Lee Cutler went to Sumter on Monday where she has accepted a position.

Mrs. Shorter and family from Davis Station spent Sunday with her sister, Mrs. L. Weinberg.

Miss Aileen Richbourg from Summerton is visiting relatives in the community.

Cards have been received here announcing the marriage of Miss Mae King of Sumter and Mr. A. F. Jones, of Mt. Airy, N. C. They were quietly married on last Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock at the Methodist parsonage by Dr. Truedale, in the presence of a few relatives and friends, Mr. and Mrs. Jones left on the evening train for a short visit to the groom's home, after which he will resume his duties as traveling salesman.

Paxville W. C. T. U. Meeting

The March meeting of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union was held on last Wednesday afternoon at the home of Miss Daisy Abrams. Miss Jessie Curtis, acting president, conducted the meeting and led the devotional exercises, commenting very beautifully upon the 121st Psalm. The temperance quiz from the Union Signal was given by the different members. Mrs. W. R. Keels read an appeal urging more subscriptions to this W. C. T. U. paper. A letter was also read from Mrs. Robinson asking for a contribution to assist in purchasing a typewriter for the Hostess House, at Camp Jackson. The treasurer reported some dues sent in, and the amount asked for the Willard Memorial Fund. The holding of a medal contest was discussed, and it was decided to begin at once to arrange for same. This committee to be appointed. The superintendent of the White Ribbon Recruits reported the following names added to her roll: Frances Willard (Broadway), Susie May Stone and Hattie Geddings. Mrs. F. S. Geddings read a beautiful extract, "The Origin of the White Ribbon." This was followed by the song "My Mother's White Ribbon."

Upon the conclusion of the program the following resolutions were adopted by suggestion from an Iowa W. C. T. U.

"Believing that gossip is one of the worst evils and the common cause of man's contention towards man, we are Resolved: that slander against one's character, true or untrue, shall not be laid at our door.

"That we will not listen to idle gossip.

"That we will not repeat detrimental reports unless necessary.

"That we will not be inquisitive as to affairs to learn about which might create slander and gossip.

"That we will not cast reflections upon any by either tone or gesture.

"That we will guard against unkind insinuations that may hurt some one's feelings.

"That we will teach our children to abhor gossip and exaggeration and not allow them to tell tales out of school."

"That we will suspend judgment until we know the truth."

A discussion by the mothers relative to child-training will, we hope, be helpful along with the different experiences given by them. The meeting adjourned to meet next at the home of Mrs. John Ardis.

Delicious refreshments, consisting of ambrosia, lemonade and assorted cakes were served by the hostess, and a delightful social half hour was enjoyed.

MRS. T. W. GUNTER, Publicity Supt. of the Paxville W. C. T. U. Paxville, S. C. Mar. 18, 1918.

FEDERAL SURVEY SHOWS MORE SUGAR CONSUMED

Returns from the first war emergency food survey made by the U. S. Department of Agriculture indicate that the amount of sugar consumed in 1917 was about 88.3 pounds per capita whereas the average annual consumption for the 5-year period ending in 1916 was 84.7 pounds per capita. The evident increase in consumption, says the Department, is due in part to the increased manufacture for export of commodities like condensed milk and to an increase in population coupled with an increased consumption by individuals and to an increase in consumers' stocks.

ANTI-REFORM PRESS HOPELESSLY AT SEA

Columbia, March 19.—In order to get a clear conception of the political situation in South Carolina today, and to understand fully how completely the Reform faction has that situation in its hands, it is necessary that recent developments in connection with the Tillman-Lever fiasco and the resulting stampede in the anti-Reform ranks be viewed in the light of the campaign of 1913, when Tillman delivered his eleventh hour stab against Blease, forsaking the party which had placed him in power in 1890 and kept him in power for twenty-two years.

The anti-Reform press is hopelessly at sea today without the slightest possibility of being able to right itself and to rally wholeheartedly to the support of Senator Tillman, and without the possibility, now that Tillman has definitely announced his candidacy, of being able to get its forces solidly behind any other man. The reason is not far to seek. The anti-Reform press has never had any love for Tillman. The Columbia State was established in 1891 for the avowed purpose of fighting him. There is not the shadow of doubt that in 1912 a good portion of the anti-Reform press would have been delighted to see both Tillman and Blease defeated and the Columbia State set a trap for Tillman in which the senior senator walked and out of which he came very nearly not being able to extricate himself.

The conspiracy failed, however, and Blease was re-elected governor. Tillman was also re-elected senator, after a hard struggle, but he forever alienated from himself the faction in South Carolina politics which he had formerly led, and which had made him governor and United States senator. In the hour of their need he had failed them and gone over to the enemy, upon the invitation of Mr. William E. Gonzales, then editor of the Columbia State, and now minister to Cuba.

The Columbia State has been writing a series of editorials during the past several days in an effort to extricate itself and the anti-Reform faction from the meshes in which it has become entangled. It has not yet been able to muster up sufficient courage to come out boldly and declare for Senator Tillman for reelection, but it is holding its nose and gnawing its teeth and making grimaces, which are pretty sure signs that it is making an earnest effort to swallow the bitter pill.

"To avoid confusion in future," says the State, "to print and keep the record straight, it is well to say now that whatever opposition has developed to the reelection of Senator B. R. Tillman had its origin in the group of South Carolina politicians and voters who call themselves the Reform faction or Reform party. It has been understood and openly said for many months that the Reformers would set out a candidate for senator in 1918."

The records show how utterly without foundation in fact the underlying basis of this statement is. The records show that the opposition by the Reform faction to its former leader, Senator Tillman, had its origin in the Tillman-Gonzales "frame-up" of 1912, for the Columbia State has never denied that on August 23, 1912, and August 24, 1912, its Washington correspondent, Mr. P. H. McGowan, received from its editor, Mr. William E. Gonzales, three telegrams, somewhat of the tenor as follows:

"Tillman wrote private letter to Ferguson in Spartanburg, which is severe arraignment. Blease knows contents of letter and is sure to strike Tillman with full force of his organization on Tuesday. If we could get whole letter published, Tillman's gains on Jones' side would counteract losses sure to be sustained in present status. Keep Tillman from knowing source of information. Place facts before him and beg for whole letter."

"If correspondent could get copy of letter, the matter in it could be sent out from Spartanburg."

"Tillman's letter must strengthen Jones' lines and cause Blease losses."

SCHOOL NOTES

Of Interest to Teachers, Trustees and Others

Teachers and trustees throughout the county are urged to give the proper attention to the filing of the annual reports as required by law. These reports should be correct, and not mere make-shifts in order to get the last payroll cashed. The county superintendent can refuse to pay the claim unless the report required is properly made out and sent in with last claim. Trustees should see that the last claim is so marked that he may know what is the last.

Field Day programs are being sent out to each school this week. All should read the suggestions and act promptly, in case the school desires to have any or all of its pupils carry flags in the parade. These flags can be bought very cheap.

Everyone who is competent to teach school, and who desire to teach the coming year should take steps to qualify at the examination in May. The war has called many of our young men teachers into service, and will be calling more. The positions filled by them must of a necessity be filled by ladies. This will call upon other departments for its female teachers who

are best suited for the position of principals. Then again many of the teachers have qualified for government positions, and are continuing to look in that direction. Also, the various business departments are calling young ladies. All this will tend to create a shortage in the number of our teachers, and which must be largely recruited from among those who have not taught.

Let all who are capable take the next examination.

The increased cost of living as a result of the war is out of all proportion to the usual salaries paid our teachers. This is tending to drive many from the profession. To meet the condition, trustees in most places will be called upon to make very considerable raises in salaries. They are not well able to do for the lack of sufficient funds. The funds must be increased, or the terms cut down.

The latter is not best, for the reason that our terms are not long enough at best. Taxation is and has been the popular and proper way, hence unless your districts are already levying its limit would be to take steps to increase your finances. I know that taxes are high, and many do not like it, but the school tax is different from the other kind, and that is the money paid by you is spent in your own com-

munity, and for building up your section in good, intelligent citizenship.

The State Superintendent is making a direct appeal to school officials to do all they can to lessen the amount of illiteracy in our state. One needs only to consult the club rolls of our county, or to scan the questionnaires recently filed to see the need of more and better education. What can you, Mr. Reader, do to help along in this line? Well, some help along by keeping their children out of school if they happen not to like the teacher. Some help along by sending their children about one-half the time while they are pretending to send, and by sending only when they have nothing special for their children to do at home. Many other reasons of this nature could be found.

A recent act of the legislature provides for the creation of an employment agency whereby teachers can secure positions without the usual expense of having to pay five per cent to some teachers' agency for notifying them where they can get a position. Trustees can call on that department at any time for a teacher. It is bound to work for good to the state. It will cost the enrolling teacher one dollar a year, and the trustees nothing, for this service.

A canvass of the schools of this county was made some days ago in the interest of organizing them into membership in the Junior Red Cross work. Several schools have raised the necessary amount and have applied for membership which will be completed in a few days.

The other schools should take steps, if they have not already done so, to organize. When any school has raised an amount equal to twenty-five cents for each pupil on its register, send to Mrs. J. K. Breedin, or E. J. Browne, who will see to the further organization.

Political rumors of all descriptions are going the rounds nowadays. One rumor is that if the present mayor is re-elected he will turn off the fire company, with one or two exceptions. Another is Mayor Coffey was not born in Manning. And still another the Mayor had the seats that were used by the "weary Willies" knocked down. Of course, all of this is politics, but sensible people pay no attention to such rot. This has the appearance of a drowning man grasping at a straw. We hope our people will vote as their judgment dictates, and not listen to political tricks that might be pulled. Everybody in Manning knows both candidates that are offering for the mayoralty. They also know they are both gentlemen, and to resort to any trickery would show bad taste. This is no state election, but merely a contest between home folks. So let's say nothing disparaging about any candidate, and we will remain friends for all time.

The condition of Senator Tillman's health will not permit of his making a campaign, and he has stated that he will not do so, except through the newspapers, assigning as a reason, however, that his duties will not permit him the time. This situation will probably increase the activity of the anti-Reform faction this year to abolish the country-to-country campaign. They may succeed, but it will avail them nothing, because Mr. Blease state to them his position on every issue confronting them. He is opposed to the abolition of the country-to-country system, but whatever action is taken in regard to it he has stated that he will endeavor to make a speech within the hearing of every man who desires to know the truth.

The present political situation in South Carolina has been shaping itself for the past four years. It is the natural result of the "ring rule" of the Manning administration—of the bitter partisanship and extravagance of a bureaucracy which loudly proclaimed that it would know no factionalism. With a free ballot and a fair count, the Reformers will sweep the state this summer all along the line. It is pointed out by Mr. Blease and other leaders, however, that their first duty is to attend the April club meetings, in order that the machinery of the party may be made to represent fairly the majority of the white voters of the state, and in order that the will of that majority may not continue to be defeated, as was the case in 1914 and 1915.

This is a Friendly Contest

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The situation at the present time, Mr. Franklin Bouillon believed, is the gravest since the war began, and he declared there was no doubt that the Entente is face to face with a very long war.

The Civic League held its last meeting on Monday afternoon, and as usual, it was a real live meeting. Our president always has something new to help forward the work undertaken by the League. The ladies have just about finished up the "Chain Teas," and the proceeds of these was fifty dollars, which amount the league gave to our Red Cross.

The flower sale, too, which took place this month was a great success, every flower ordered having been sold. The school grounds committee is busy putting out grass and otherwise beautifying the school grounds. The committee and all of the ladies of the League wish to thank Mr. Joe Davis and Mr. Joe Rigby for the part they have done to help forward this work. The school children, too, have been nice to respond to Miss Gussie's call. Now, the League is looking forward to a wedding soon. A wedding that will be of interest to most everybody in town, so look out for an invitation some time before May.

The other committees are at work and results of their work will soon be seen.

McLaurin Meeting

Senator John I. McLaurin of Bennettsville, by invitation addressed the citizens of this town and community Friday evening at the school auditorium. He made a forceful and telling address on cotton and the war. The program for the evening was as follows:

America, song by the audience, led by a special choir, directed by Miss Cora Cantey.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. Timble.

Address by Hon. J. A. Banks, state senator from Calhoun county, introducing Senator McLaurin.

Star Spangled Banner, by the choir.

Benediction by the Rev. Mr. Walton.

At the hour for the commencement of the exercises it was learned that Senator Banks had met with an accident, and could not reach Summerton on time, and Senator McLaurin was introduced by Dr. Ellison Capers, who presided at the meeting. Senator Banks arrived, and at the conclusion of Mr. McLaurin's address was asked to reply to the sentiment: "John I. McLaurin, a statesman of whom South Carolina is justly proud." Senator Banks' reply was in a happy manner. The meeting was largely attended by a most appreciative audience who frequently cheered the speaker, demonstrating a hearty approval and appreciation of all that he said. It seemed to be the unanimous opinion that Senator McLaurin had not only charmed the audience of this place, but that he had rendered a patriotic service to South Carolina and the nation.

ALCOLU NOTES

We have been blessed with a fine rain since last writing, which was much appreciated, as everything and everybody feels better after a long needed rain.

Our town is wide awake now, and everybody seems to be in a good humor, while there are lots of us who have sad hearts, over this war, and the separation of our loved ones, but we who are deprived of our loved ones still live in hopes of their return some sweet day.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Collins, of Lake City, are visitors at the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Martin.

Mrs. W. J. Floyd spent a few hours at Mrs. B. N. Stewart's Tuesday night as she was returning to her home at Sumter.

Mr. Charlie Chapman, of Camp Jackson spent Saturday night and Sunday with friends in Alcolu.

Miss Uline Stukes of Manning, spent Sunday at the home of Mrs. J. C. Harvin.

Mr. Frank Martin of Camp Jackson spent Saturday and Sunday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Martin.

Mr. David Hodges, better known as "Gyp," from Camp Sevier, returned to Camp Sunday morning, after spending several days with home folks and friends. Gyp surely has made good and he surely looks well. Uncle Sam should feel proud of young men that have applied themselves as Gyp has since being in his service.

Mrs. B. N. Stewart and her daughters, Aline and Marie, are suffering with what is called the German measles. We have had several cases of the German measles in our town.

Mr. Blaney Brunson has resigned his position at the dairy, and has gone to Greenville to make his home.

Misses Lettie and Leda Dennis of Turbeville returned to their home Saturday morning, after spending several days with their cousins, Mrs. Henry Gray.

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Hines are the happy parents of a pair of twins.

Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Lide, are both sick in the Florence hospital, but we hope for them a speedy recovery.

Miss Alice Harvin has been suffering with a bad sore throat, but is better now.

Mrs. Julia Hinson spent a few hours with her sister, Miss Alice Harvin, at the Stewart boarding house Sunday p. m.

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The flower sale, too, which took place this month was a great success, every flower ordered having been sold. The school grounds committee is busy putting out grass and otherwise beautifying the school grounds. The committee and all of the ladies of the League wish to thank Mr. Joe Davis and Mr. Joe Rigby for the part they have done to help forward this work. The school children, too, have been nice to respond to Miss Gussie's call. Now, the League is looking forward to a wedding soon. A wedding that will be of interest to most everybody in town, so look out for an invitation some time before May.

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BERLIN HOPES TO BEGLOUD ISSUES

Italian Statesman Urges Allies to Keep Real Issues Before the People

GREAT FAITH IN AMERICA

London, March 19, (Tuesday)—Remo Gallanga Stuart, a member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, and representing the Italian cabinet, in an address before the American Luncheon Club today, after ascribing the Italian disaster last autumn to the German pacifist propaganda, declared that the Central Powers now were launching a still more insidious diplomatic offensive against the Entente Allies by which they hope to begloom the real issues of the war and thereby weaken the allied purpose and effort.

"Let us keep the real issues steady before us," he said. "When I hear people talking beautifully of a league of nations and the possibility of referendums aiming at self-determination, I say all this is very fine, but let us win the war first. Then we can put all these ideals into effect. It is certain that we cannot put them into effect until we have won."

"Let us concentrate on the work immediately before us let us untidely convince Germany that the Entente is going on with its whole strength against the aims and false ideals of the Central Powers are entirely defeated."

The alliance with the United States is a great factor in the morale of Italy today. The majority of Italians, particularly the lower classes, know America better even than they know England or France. In the old days we used to say we admired Germany but we loved France, and we sometimes added that we both admired and loved England. The feeling toward America was like the latter, only more so.

"When you ask an Italian what he thinks of the situation since Russia dropped out, he invariably answers: 'But the United States has come in.'"

"If an Italian had ever been asked which he would choose as an ally, the United States under President Wilson, or Russia, under either the Czar or Lenin, he would have voted unhesitatingly for the former."

The former French minister of mission abroad, Henry Franklin Bouillon spoke of the defection of Russia from the alliance as "the greatest treason the world has ever known."

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