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SECRET CONCLAVES BELONG TO PAST

Northcliffe Speaks for Open Democracy

MUST ADOPT WILSON IDEAL

Peace Negotiations Must be Conducted So that People May Know What is Going On. British Publisher Says Labor is Alarmed at Reports that Sitings Will be Secret.

Paris, Dec. 20.—(By the Associated Press).—Lord Northcliffe, chairman of the London headquarters of the British mission to the United States, who is visiting Paris today, gave to the Associated Press the following statement regarding his ideas as to the need of open diplomacy in conducting the peace negotiations, so that the people may know what is going on:

"Nothing can be worse for the prospects of the coming conference," said Lord Northcliffe, "than an atmosphere of secrecy and half truths. Yet up to the present there has been no official statement that the momentous meetings about to take place, will be held in accordance with President Wilson's expressed views on the question of open diplomacy.

"The days of secret conclaves are dead and gone. Clandestine assemblies are harbingers of intrigues, suspicion and possible deception. It would be intolerable that the fate of whole nations—great and small—should be decided in secret. Shall the destinies of millions of people in all quarters of the globe be left to the tender mercies of a comparative handful of delegates, against whose enactment there is no public appeal? Such would be mockery of that principle of self determination of freed nations which has been fought for and won in this war.

"Labor, upon which the great losses of life during the war have mainly fallen, is alarmed at the prospect of great world plans being carried out without its knowledge. It is reported from London that the labor party has sent a strong protest to our government, which so far, has done nothing to allay public anxiety on the subject.

"The British press and people may be relied upon to support fully the president's enlightened expression of opinion as to the needs of publicity at the momentous meetings expected to begin in Paris in February. Surely the world has suffered enough from secret diplomacy to realize that medievalism of that kind is totally incompatible with the conception of a league of free nations. A great part of the president's popularity is due to the knowledge that he is the father of open diplomacy, which it was understood would be the course adopted at the forthcoming sessions.

VICTIM OF PARALYSIS

Life of J. H. Dukes Ends at Cross Hill in Fifty-seventh Year.

Cross Hill, Dec. 20.—J. H. Dukes was stricken with paralysis Thursday afternoon and died Monday. He was about 57 years old and a man of many good qualities, which endeared him to everybody in the community. He is survived by a son, Sloan Dukes of Columbia; three daughters, Mrs. Eunice Allen of Chappels and Misses Clara and Sara Dukes of this place. The body was interred in Liberty Springs cemetery beside that of his wife, who died about 15 years ago.

Taking Officers' Course.

Friends in the county of "Jap" Caldwell and Bob Barnett, both members of Co. D, will be glad to know that they have recently been at an officers' training camp in France training for a commission. They were both in the big fight when the Thirtieth went through the Hindenburg line, but went to the training camp afterwards. Whether or not they will get their commissions, now that the war is ended, is not known, according to letters received from them by their relatives.

The friends of Nat Richardson were glad to see him in the city again Monday, after being away for several months in Charleston. Government work seems to have agreed with him, partly, as he has lost 42 pounds while away.

POWER CONTRACT MATTER AGAIN POSTPONED BY COUNCIL

Committee to Report at Meeting to be Held Thursday Night. Licenses and Water and Light Bills to be Collected Promptly.

City council met again in session Thursday night to hear the report of the committee sent to Clinton, Newberry and Union to investigate power costs in those cities. The committee made its report, which is printed below, and another committee composed of Aldermen Easterby, Dial and Mayor Babb to draw up another proposal to submit to the local power company and to report back to the council Thursday night. The discussions of the power contract were along the same line as the discussions which have taken place at the several meetings recently. Mayor Babb reiterating his declaration made at a former meeting, that he would not sign any contract with the power company for a length of time beyond his term of office unless the contract was first ratified by a vote of the people. A short discussion of the advisability of putting the light and water system under commission management took place, but no action was taken on it.

The report of the committee which visited adjoining cities was as follows: Report of Committee to City Council.

We found at Clinton, S. C., that they do not keep the light and water accounts separate from the city and do not charge the city for street lights or fire protection. Mayor Copeland stated that in his opinion it cost the city about 4 to 5 cents per K-W to generate his current. This is taken from the present high price of coal and labor. They charge 15 cents per K-W for lighting to the consumer. No motor power is sold for less than 5 cents per K-W. Consumption of coal at Clinton is 33 tons per week, generating 8460 K-W. Mr. Copeland stated that it costs \$1,100 per month to operate the plant and that they had not made any money the last two years, and, in fact, had come out a little behind. Mr. Copeland was in favor of municipal ownership, and that previous to the last two years had made a little money, and all the profits had been used in extending the lines and putting in new arc lights.

Report of Newberry.

The present power contract is with the Southern Power Co., and was made October 14, 1924, for a term of ten years and with privilege to renew same. This contract calls for primary power, 24-hour service, at 1 1/2 cents per K-W; minimum at \$250 per month. This power is used for whatever service they see fit to pull. They have the contract so they can use for motor power up to 99 H-P, and the price is on the sliding scale.

The price to the consumer for lights in residences is 10 cents per K-W. The motor rate is: first 250 K-W 8 cents; 250 to 500 K-W 7 cents; 500 to 750 K-W 6 cents. They have 129 100 candle power street lamps; 43 250 candle power street lamps; 10 400 candle power street lamps.

This power is furnished to the city free of all charges and all water hydrants. Under this contract they can demand not more than 500 horse power. They pay, under this contract, to the Southern Power Co., an average of \$719.12 per month. They are making a little over \$200 per month above all expenses, and they are also using all the profits in extension. They pull off their street lights on all bright moonlight nights between ten and eleven o'clock. When they operated their steam plant prior to 1914 it cost them 2.9 cents per K-W to produce power. Mr. Schumpert, the superintendent, was personally in favor of municipal ownership unless a contract similar to theirs could be obtained. Plant operated under Commission form of government.

Report of Union.

We find they have light and water plant under Commission form and same in good condition. They have changed superintendents and present superintendent is as yet unfamiliar with costs. The plant pulls 24 hours and they only burn street lights to about 12 o'clock on moonlight nights. Mr. Foster stated that in his opinion it cost the city about 4 cents per K-W, and at the same time they were making about \$1,000 per month clear. They received from motor load for November \$544.92. They have connected up all the cotton mill villages with light and furnish water to Southern Railway Co., which gives them quite a nice revenue. Amount of coal

HUNGER DRAWS THE MAP



A food map of Europe today shows not a single country in which the future does not hold threat of serious difficulties and only a small part which is not rapidly approaching the famine point. With the exception of the Ukraine only those countries which have maintained marine commerce have sufficient food supplies to meet actual needs until next harvest, and even in the Ukraine, with stores accumulated on the farms, there is famine in the large centers of population. Belgium and northern France, as well as Serbia, appear on the hunger map distinct from the rest of Europe because they stand in a different relation from the other nations to the people of the United States. America has for four years maintained the small war rations of Belgium and northern France and is already making special efforts to care for their increased after-the-war needs, which, with those of Serbia, must be included in this plan, are urgent in the extreme and must have immediate relief. The gratitude of the Belgian nation for the help America has extended to her during the war constitutes the strongest appeal for us to continue our work there. The moment the German armies withdrew from her soil and she was established once more in her own

seat of government the little nation's first thought was to express her gratitude to the Commission for Relief in Belgium for preserving the lives of millions of her citizens. Germany, on the other hand, need not figure in such a map for Americans because there is no present indication that we shall be called on at all to take thought for the food needs of Germany. Germany probably can care for her own food problem if she is given access to shipping and is enabled to distribute food to the cities with dense populations, which are the trouble centers. England, France, the Netherlands and Portugal, all of which have been maintained from American supplies, have sufficient food to meet immediate needs, but their future presents serious difficulties. The same is true of Spain and the northern neutral countries—Norway, Sweden and Denmark—whose ports have been open and who have been able to draw to some degree upon foreign supplies. Most of Russia is already in the throes of famine, and 40,000,000 people there are beyond the possibility of help. Before another spring thousands of them inevitably must die. This applies as well to Poland and practically throughout the Baltic re-

gions, with conditions most serious in Finland. Bohemia, Serbia, Roumania and Montenegro have already reached the famine point and are suffering a heavy toll of death. The Armenian population is falling each week as hunger takes its toll, and in Greece, Albania and Roumania so serious are the food shortages that famine is near. Although starvation is not yet imminent, Italy, Switzerland, Bulgaria and Turkey are in the throes of serious stragglers. In order to fulfill America's pledge in world relief we will have to export every ton of food which can be handled through our ports. This means at the very least a minimum of 20,000,000 tons compared with 4,000,000 tons pre-war exports and 11,820,000 tons exported last year, when we were bound by the ties of war to the European allies. If we fail to lighten the black spots on the hunger map or if we allow any portions to become darker the very peace for which we fought and bled will be threatened. Revolt and anarchy inevitably follow famine. Should this happen we will see in other parts of Europe a repetition of the Russian debacle and our fight for world peace will have been in vain.

PRESIDENT VISITS WOUNDED SOLDIERS

In Red Cross Hospital in France

MEN SHOWED GOOD CARE

President Visits Hospital Where American Soldiers, Mostly Survivors of the Fight Around Chateau Thierry, are Being Treated. Finds Them in Excellent Spirits and Well Cared For.

Paris, Dec. 22.—(By the Associated Press).—President Wilson today visited the Red Cross hospital at Neuilly, where he shook hands individually and talked with twelve hundred badly wounded Americans, for the most part survivors of the Chateau Thierry action. He spent more than four hours in the hospital, visiting every ward and stopping at every bedside. Later he visited the French hospital Val de Grace.

Speaking of his experiences at the American hospital, the president said: "I went through the American hospital at Neuilly with the greatest interest and the greatest satisfaction. I found the men admirably taken care of and almost without exception in excellent spirits.

"Only a very few of them looked really ill, and I think that their mothers and their friends would have been entirely pleased by their surroundings and the alert look in their eyes and the keen interest they took in everything about them.

"I am sure that they will go back to their loved ones at home with a new feeling of joy, alike in their recovery and in the fine service they have been able to render.

Going to the American hospital with the expectation of remaining an hour, the president found four hours all too short, as he felt that he could not leave without speaking with every man, and he expressed regret only of his inability to clasp the hand of every American soldier in France.

The president looked tired and worn when the ordeal was finished, for notwithstanding the cheerfulness of the men and the care which they were receiving, there were many affecting cases in the wards.

When he came to one very badly wounded the president sat on the edge of the cot for a moment and asked where he was from and where he had been wounded. He admired his war crosses and decorations. Noticing that many of his wounds were in the leg, the president asked:

"Why have we here no men wounded in the upper part of the body?" "Men who are wounded above the waist are not here; they have gone over," answered the soldier simply. One of the men the president came to stood proudly erect with medals on his blouse and one arm outstretched in an appliance for restoring its usefulness. He looked suggestively like a traffic policeman on duty.

"I am glad to see you look so cheerful," said the president. "You have seen me many times before, Mr. President," responded the soldier. "I used to be a traffic policeman at the Grand Central Station. Don't you think I look natural?" The president laughed softly. It probably was the only merry moment he had in the hospital.

More than 6,500 wounded Americans from the battles around Chateau Thierry have passed through Neuilly hospital. The 1,200 remaining are the most serious cases, whom miracles of modern surgery are rebuilding to resume their places in civil life, though some will probably leave the hospital.

The president abstained from attendance at church in order to make the visit. He was accompanied by Mrs. Wilson and Rear Admiral Grayson and was met at the entrance by the commandant.

Engagement Announced.

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Fowler, of Youngs Township, near Fountain Inn, announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Paunce Fowler, to C. L. Brasher of Piedmont, the wedding to take place this month.

W. B. MOTTE DEAD.

For Many Years Manager of the County Poor Farm Between Here and Clinton.

Mr. W. B. Motte, for many years manager of the county farm between here and Clinton, died there Sunday morning and was buried at Leesville church Monday morning. The deceased was the son of the late J. Ward Motte, a prominent citizen of the town in his day, and was in his 67th year. He leaves a wife and four sons and two daughters. Mr. Motte was a printer by trade and was employed for many years in the office of The Laurensville Herald.

Lieut. Joe F. Smith Improving.

Letters received by friends and relatives of Lieut. Joe F. Smith, of Co. D, 118th Infantry, indicate that he is steadily improving from the wound which he received when his company, a part of the Thirtieth Division, broke through the Hindenburg line. Lieut. Smith was struck in the hip by shrapnel shell, it is understood, and so severely wounded that medical officers thought it would be several months before he would be able to leave the hospital. He is now in a British hospital in France, but may be moved at an early date to England.

Mrs. Horace L. McSwain Dead.

Friends here of Mrs. Horace L. McSwain will be grieved to learn of her death Sunday at her home in Cross Hill, after an extended illness. Mrs. McSwain was a daughter of the late Col. J. S. Black, of Blacksburg. She is survived by her husband, Horace L. McSwain, and several sisters, one of whom is Mrs. J. H. Miller, of Cross Hill.

Stores to Close.

It is generally understood that the stores of the city will close their doors Christmas day according to the usual custom.

TO ENTERTAIN SOLDIERS.

Eighteen Soldiers From Camp Jackson Expected in the City Today to Spend Christmas.

Eighteen soldiers from Camp Jackson are expected to arrive in the city either this afternoon or tonight to remain as guests in Laurens homes for Christmas. Their entertainment here is part of a statewide program inaugurated in Columbia to give each soldier at Camp Jackson a Christmas dinner, either in Columbia or in one of the other towns of the state. The matter was first brought to the attention of W. L. Gray, president of the Chamber of Commerce, and he, with Mr. McCuen and Miss Sadie Sullivan, secretary of the Home Service department of the Red Cross, arranged to secure homes for them. Those who will take two soldiers each are Mesdames J. S. Bennett, J. O. C. Fleming, J. C. Owings, Jos. H. Sullivan, S. D. Childers, W. L. Gray, O. B. Simmons and R. T. Dunlap.

DIES OF INFLUENZA.

Miller Hill, Eighteen Years of Age, Passes Away at Cross Hill.

Cross Hill, Dec. 20.—After an illness of little more than a week, Miller Hill, eldest son of Mrs. Gussie Hill, died Monday morning. His death was the first in this community from influenza. He was a young man of sterling qualities and will be greatly missed not only by his widowed mother but by the entire community. Although not quite 18 years of age, he held an important place in the business life of Cross Hill. He was a member of the Baptist Church at Bethabara and the remains were interred in the cemetery there.

Lieut. and Mrs. Joe Phinney, of Clinton, were shopping in the city Monday.