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PRESIDENT VISITS DESOLATED SCENES

Visits Chateau Thierry and Rheims DOZEN VILLAGES ARE VISITED

"No One Can Put Into Words the Impression I Have Received" His Only Comment After Viewing the Ruins and Devastation Left in the Wake of the German Armies. Lines Now Under Snow.

Paris, Sunday, Jan. 26.—President Wilson today made his first trip to the battle front and devastated regions, visiting Chateau Thierry and Rheims. At the close of a tour that took him through a dozen razed villages, ending in the ruins of the historic cathedral at Rheims, he made this comment:

"No one can put into words the impressions I have received amongst such scenes of desolation and ruin."

That was Mr. Wilson's only expression of his feelings after a trip every Frenchman has been hoping he would make before he takes part in deciding what is to be exacted from Germany for the devastation of northern France.

Accompanied by Mrs. Wilson, Admiral Grayson and a very small party Mr. Wilson left the Murat residence early this morning, foregoing attendance at church and the rest which he felt he needed very much to perform what he said he considered to be a duty. The party first motored to Chateau Thierry where lunch was taken on board a waiting train. The party then proceeded by motor to Rheims, passing through many ruined villages and along the old fighting lines, where evidences of combat are still to be plainly seen. After visiting Rheims the President and his party abandoned their motor cars and boarding a special train, returned to Paris. The last part of the motor trip was made in a swirling snow storm.

The first fighting ground was reached as the party neared Belleau wood, immortalized in the history of the war by the gallant fighting of American marines. The motor cars turned off the main roads and crawled perilously through back lanes to bring the President close to the place where the fighting took place. The country folk in that neighborhood are striving to reclaim their country from war's desolation. The farmers were plowing the shell cratered fields as the President stood beside the graves of one hundred or more American boys who gave their lives at that point and looked across the strategic valley to Belleau wood, a mangled mass of three trunks and underbrush, but now a national monument to the marines after whom the French government has named the place.

Colonel Edward M. Watson of Martinsville, Va., who commanded an artillery battalion in the fight and was later chief of staff of the seventy-seventh division in the Argonne fighting, stood besides President Wilson and Brigadier General William W. Harts and told the story of the battle in detail.

Then Mr. Wilson drove up the hill over which the American troops smashed the crack Prussian divisions mustered there to crush the "green horns" and where the advance on Paris was checked. This was near Chateau Thierry and the spot promises to be a mecca for Americans for many years to come. Mr. Wilson saw the ruins of bridges over which the Americans thrust back the enemy at this nearest point to Paris and the shell marked houses which survived the battles of those memorable days.

On entering Chateau Thierry the mayor greeted Mr. Wilson, who responded quite informally. He then drove on towards Rheims, passing along the old battle line between long lanes of barbed wire entanglements now rusting away in the first winter of peace; between long muddy trenches reaching over the hills and down into hollows as far as the eye could see, and past the wrecks of dugouts, ammunition dumps, aviation sheds, hospitals, barracks and all the other litter left behind by the defeated enemy in his flight.

It seemed as if the field had been

POWER CONTRACT STILL UNSETTLED

Council Objects to New Provisions Inserted in Contract Submitted by Power Company.

When City Council Monday night came to consider the written agreement to be executed between the city and the Reedy River Power Company in regard to electric power it was found, in the opinion of the council, that the written agreement proffered the city by the power company was in different form from that verbally agreed upon several weeks ago. For this reason a committee, composed of the Mayor and Aldermen Easterby and Dial, was appointed to revise the contract to conform to the previous agreement and then refer it back to the power company for confirmation.

The new terms in the contract provided that the power company should have the right to cancel the contract on ten days' notice, to sell power to the Laurens Mills village, that the minimum was to be arrived at by taking an average of the first six months consumption, that the owners of the power company were to have the privilege of taking power over the city lines at the net cost of 2-1-2 cents per kilowatt and contained other new details of a technical nature. The committee was instructed, upon a motion of Alderman Sexton and a second by Alderman Easterby, to strike out these provisions and close the contract upon the terms of standing. Although a resolution to that effect has not yet been introduced, it is understood that upon the execution of this contract it will be submitted to the voters of the city for ratification for a period of ten years.

Mr. G. Wash Long, who lives just outside the incorporate limits of the city on South Harper street, petitioned the council to allow him to use city water and lights at the regular rates provided he pay all expenses of extending the lines. The matter was left open pending a decision from the city attorney as to the legality of such a procedure.

Aldermen Bishop and Jones were absent from the meeting.

Hogs Brought Large Prices.

A large number of people attended the Duroc hog sale at the farm of Mr. W. P. Smith, near Kinards, Friday. Fifty-three hogs were sold at an average price of \$102.60, the highest price paid being \$275. Before the sale a bountiful turkey dinner was served those attending.

Cotton Ginnings.

Mr. C. W. McCravy, county cotton agent, reports 37824 bales of cotton ginned to January 16th against 34615 bales ginned to the same date last year.

Death of an Infant.

Dorothy Switzer, the seven weeks' old infant of Mr. and Mrs. John Switzer died yesterday afternoon. Arrangements for the funeral had not been made last night.

sowed by Mars with the wastage of war in the hope that it would take root and blossom. American as well as French graves lay along the roadside. There were German graves to be seen too. Desecrated cemeteries were found in many cases. At every turn of the road was a farm, deserted and in ruins, its fields dotted with shell holes filled with water and crusts of ice. There was a constant panorama of destroyed or charred vineyards, gardens and homes.

The President was welcomed at Rheims by the mayor and a committee to whom Mr. Wilson explained that he had not come to the devastated regions sooner because he had been wholly engaged at Paris with the business of making peace.

Before going to the cathedral he passed through the streets of a deserted city which was once the home of 115,000 people, but where less than 5,000 are now eking out an existence among the ruins. He visited Red Cross canteens where hundreds of destitute persons are fed night and day and the hospital where the sick and injured are cared for. The champagne cellars beneath the city, said to contain some seventy million bottles of wine, were not visited.

A light blanket of snow covered the ground as the President drove up to the cathedral and Rheims, ravished and naked in all its misery and desolation, looked like a grave yard in the moonlight. There were more crows in the air, circling over the ruined town than there were human beings below in the littered streets.

WILL ASK CONGRESS TO AID UNEMPLOYED

Senators Want Immediate Action on Emergency Public Works Bill.

Washington, Jan. 25.—Having dispensed aid to Europe's starving millions Congress next week is to be called on for quick action on the pressing domestic problem of unemployment.

Senator Kenyon and others to whom appeals for emergency legislation are coming from mayors, governors, chambers of commerce and plain citizens out of work, will demand immediate consideration of the bill creating an emergency public works board with money to employ thousands of men.

"We have voted \$100,000,000 to Europe's hungry," said Kenyon today. "Dare we refuse to appropriate at least an equal sum to keep thousands of Americans from going hungry?" Kenyon's bill provides \$100,000,000 as an emergency fund to start public works.

"Of the money we spend for food for Europe, much will never be returned to the public treasury, and we don't grudge it," he went on.

"But every dollar used now to put an American to work means dividends to America. Public works provide permanent improvement. In addition to being producers, Americans at work are better consumers. From every angle, the best investment the country can make is jobs for its men."

In spite of the evidence of unemployment carried to members of Congress in letters and telegrams every day, there is an active propaganda on foot to convince Congress that somebody is trying to create an "unemployment scare" in the country, senators charged today.

One is the charge, made openly upon the Senate floor recently, that American workers are demanding more than a fair wage, because they think they can frighten employers into giving it, with the threat of bolshevism if it is not granted.

Another is an attitude of scoffing at reports of unemployment. Congressmen are told that reports are "grossly exaggerated."

Still a third is that many returning soldiers are finicky about the kind of work they want and that they will not accept jobs they had before the war.

"Such propaganda, said Kenyon today, "is an even greater menace to the country than unemployment. It is designed to create distrust and suspicion of the American worker. Whatever lies may be told, the fact remains that the list of unemployed is growing by leaps and bounds and it is up to Congress to shake off its inertia and do something at once."

Postmaster T. M. Boyd Dead.

Mountville, Jan. 25.—Thomas William Boyd, aged 37, died Monday after an illness of one week of pneumonia, superinduced by influenza. Mr. Boyd has been the postmaster of Mountville for the past ten years, was well liked by all who knew him, for his genial disposition won many friends for him wherever he was known and he will be greatly missed. The body was laid to rest with Masonic honors Tuesday afternoon in the Mountville Cemetery in the presence of a large number of friends and relatives.

Mr. Boyd is survived by his father, J. L. Boyd, four sisters, Mrs. J. R. Bryson, Mrs. S. U. Crisp, Mrs. Russell Lynch and Mrs. D. A. Richardson, all of Mountville and one brother, Walter Boyd of Union. In his death the town of Mountville has lost one of her best citizens.

ILLNESS CLAIMS LIFE.

Arthur P. Little Dies of Influenza at Clinton Home.

Clinton, Jan. 27.—Arthur P. Little, one of the most prominent merchants of this place, died at his home Friday evening after a severe illness of ten days, death being due to influenza. Mr. Little was general manager and treasurer of the Bee Hive, Clinton's largest and most modern department store, and possessed rare attainments as a business man. He was one of the town's most public spirited and admirable citizens and enjoyed the confidence and respect of numbers of friends throughout the State. The remains were laid to rest Saturday afternoon in the Presbyterian cemetery. Mr. Little is survived by his wife, who was Miss Rosa Bailey, two small children, one brother and sister.

POLICE RECORDS OF AMERICANS

Figures Given for Month of December in City of Paris.

Paris, Jan. 27.—Thirty-four murders, 220 day and night assaults and nearly 500 serious fights due to American soldiers occurred in the department of the Seine during the month of December, says the *Matin* today in reverting to the subject of the re-organization of the American police in Paris. The re-inforcement of the police contingent had been demanded by Brigadier General Wm. W. Harts, the newspaper asserts, and with the new organization effected police operations have been carried out on a wholesale scale, especially in the Mont Martre section, resulting in the arrest of many American deserters.

The American police in Paris had previously been chiefly recruited, the *Matin* points out, among American officers and soldiers who had been wounded. Their main duty was to give information to American soldiers in the streets and to regulate trifling offenses and carry out night patrols. The majority of the members of this force, however were not capable of dealing with serious crimes, adds the newspaper, which cites the December statistics as proving the inefficiency of such policing.

Another of the Paris newspapers, the *Intransigent* welcomes the reinforcement of the American police service in these days when, it says, attacks by armed men were becoming more common and jewelry stores were being robbed in full daylight on the main street.

"For it must be said," says the *Intransigent*, "and our friends of the United States deplore the fact like ourselves, that the audacity of some of their 'bad lots' has grown marvellously since the armistice."

The *Intransigent* adds that the bar of Maxim's has been closed to officers, American, French and others, because, according to the prefecture of police, of violations against the liquor selling regulations and not "owing to widely rumored incidents." These rumors, the newspaper adds, were to the effect that a fight occurred in the bar in which American officers took part, some of the reports having it that one of the participants was killed, another that a French officer had been killed, while another version was that two Americans had been killed.

The recent theft of an automobile added to a long list of such thefts attributed by the *Intransigent* to two Americans who are making a specialty of this kind of crime, driving an automobile of their own and taking in tow any car whose owner had left it alone with the ignition cut out, the gasoline tank closed and the magneto isolated.

Death of Mr. Albert Hughes.

The many friends of Mr. Albert Hughes will regret to learn of his death which occurred at his home on Monday, Jan. 20th, near Enoree, death being due to heart failure. His remains were carried to Trinity churchyard for interment on Wednesday afternoon, following. He had been a member there for a number of years. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Mr. Golightly, his former pastor, assisted by Rev. Mr. Kelley and Rev. Mr. Prince, of Enoree. Mr. Hughes was about 68 years old. He was a well known citizen of Spartanburg county and has been engaged in farming for a number of years. Mr. Hughes leaves a number of friends who extend their deepest sympathy to the bereaved family. He was married three times and leaves a widow and ten children, four by the first marriage and six by the last marriage. Their names are as follows: Johnnie Hughes, of Clinton; Mrs. Tom Edwards, of Watts Mill; Zebb Hughes, of Massachusetts; and Arthur, Rolf, Miss Iris, Lawrence, Robert and Collie Hughes, of the latter marriage. He also leaves one brother, one half-brother, and two sisters as follows: Mr. Jim Hughes, of Spartanburg county; Crawford Hughes, of Laurens Mill; Mrs. Kate Crow, of Watts Mill; and Mrs. Cenie Denson, of Fountain Inn.

Mrs. Ernestine F. Connor.

Mrs. Ernestine Fuller Connor died on January 26 at the home of her sister Mrs. Brooks Nelson. She was the wife of Sgt. Claud M. Connor, now in France.

SOLDIERS ARRIVE FROM OVERSEAS

Fighters from the Front Lines Gladly Welcomed by Homefolks. Glad to Get Home.

During the past week a number of Laurens soldiers have reached home from overseas. Most of them arrived ahead of their commands on account of wounds which they had received on the western front. All of them have been given a big welcome by the homefolks and they in turn are glad to get back home.

Lieut. Jos. F. Smith, of the old Traynham Guards, arrived the latter part of last week and spent several days here while on his way to the hospital at Camp Jackson. Lieut. Smith had almost recovered from the effects of his wound and was received during October on the Hindenburg line. He brought back a glowing account of the company's record in France and said that the entire outfit fought like veterans. Lieut. Smith himself was not present when the Thirtieth Division made its famous drive across the Hindenburg line as he had been put out of action just a few days before, but he was on hand during all of the fierce fighting which his company participated previously to that. As is well known, the Thirtieth and Twenty-seventh divisions were brigaded with the English and fought along the northern end of the line most of the time. The British, he said, were very much dispirited when they arrived and appeared to have given up hope of being able to hold the Germans back. One of the high commanding officers expressed grave doubts about holding the line and said he thought that the Americans had come too late. The arrival of the Americans and their first victories, however, put new spirit into all the allies and this in large part accounted for the final victory on November 11th. Lieut. Smith confirmed the fact not generally known that a considerable body of Minnesota troops was with the Thirtieth Division and these men, he said, took a gallant part in all the battles in which the division participated.

Monday evening Sergeant Walker Campbell, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Campbell, arrived in the city from overseas. Sergt. Campbell was confined to an English hospital for several months on account of wounds and gas but appears to be in fine condition now. He also brought a glowing account of the Thirtieth. Yesterday afternoon, Sergt. John Whaley and Sergt. Hugh Workman, both of the same company, were reported as arrived home. Sergt. Whaley was seriously gassed but is rapidly recovering. Sergt. Workman, who formerly worked at Powe's Drug Store, had a shrapnel wound in the chin, but skillful work of the army surgeon have largely removed all signs of it.

Sergt. Roland Moseley, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Moseley, who has been in the chemical department in France, arrived Monday. Sergt. Moseley said he was unable to get into the front lines, but his work was none the less interesting on account of that.

Moore Dial came home yesterday. He has been in the hospital almost the entire time since he joined the army about four months ago and was not able to go across.

Yesterday afternoon Corporal Spurgeon Sumerel, of Clinton, was in the city. Corporal Sumerel made a record for traveling while in the army. He was inducted into the service on September 16th, a few days later he was a full fledged soldier and on his way to an embarkation point, he was in France a few weeks after getting his uniform, was right behind the front lines when the biggest battles were in progress, after the armistice he started toward Germany, almost reached the German border, was sent back home and reached Clinton Monday, having been away from home but a little more than four months.

Influenza Situation Better.

The influenza epidemic, which has been at a high stage for the past several weeks, is thought by city physicians to have passed its highest stage and is gradually on the wane. Most of those who have been critically ill during the past week are reported better. However, there is no talk yet of removing the quarantine.

Miss Nannie Kate Hudgens, who was very sick at the orphanage at Greenwood for some time, has come home for a short time to recuperate.

PEACE CONFERENCE IS MAKING HEADWAY

Great and Small Powers in Agreement

GERMAN COLONIES ARE DISCUSSED

With Full Adhesion to Plan of Five Great Powers Given by Smaller Powers Distinct Gain Made in Progress of Peace Conferences. President in Conference With Samuel Gompers.

Paris, Jan. 27.—The peace conference today made a distinct gain when the 19 small powers gave full adhesion to an organization formulated by the five great powers, thus securing a united front of the great and small powers at the outset of the work on the main subjects before the members of the committee.

This was largely due to the skillful direction of Jules Cambon, French delegate and former ambassador at Washington, who was designated by the council of the great powers to preside over the meeting of the small powers held this afternoon. This meeting convened at the foreign office at 3 o'clock, at the same time the council of the great powers met, the two separate gatherings proceeding simultaneously, one in the office of M. Pichon, the foreign minister, and the other in the Salle de la Paix.

For a time there was some apprehension of the sequel to the different viewpoints expressed at Saturday's conference, but today's meeting of the small powers was without incident or renewal of the claims then set up for increased representation on the various committees. Belgium, Serbia, Roumania and all the other small powers had their full delegations at the afternoon meeting.

M. Cambon, in opening the meeting, took occasion to allude to the great part Belgium had taken in the war. He then paid a tribute to the part played by Serbia, Roumania, Greece and the others. This dissipated any lingering shadows of disagreement, and the meeting proceeded with entire harmony to designate the membership of the small powers on the commission. In the meantime the council of the great powers held two sessions during the day, resulting in the formation of two new commissions to deal with financial subjects and the question of private and maritime laws.

While the official communiqués give no indication of the nature of the "question of maritime law," it would seem to be a term embracing President Wilson's second point of freedom of the seas.

The council also proceeded to hearings on the disposition of the conquered German colonies in the Pacific and the Far East, a final conclusion not being reached. The conference is giving evidence of real progress since the committees were named, and most of these bodies began to initiate their work today.

President Wilson, who is chairman of the committee on the league of nations, joined his colleague, Colonel House, also a member of that committee, during the noon recess of the council. Later in the day Lord Robert Cecil, British member of the committee, joined him in a further consideration of the questions which the president and Colonel House had examined.

The labor commission also began to get under way. President Wilson met Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, James Duncan, John R. Alpine and other members of the American labor delegation, for a brief exchange of greetings, and later Mr. Gompers and Edward N. Hurley, who are the American members of the labor commission, held their first conference on the work ahead.

The military commission on demobilization also had a session while M. Pichon completed the draft of instructions for the commission which leaves for Poland in a few days.

Henry White, the American delegate on the waterways commission, also established relations with his colleagues of that body.

Thus real progress on all the main subjects is becoming apparent as the commissions are beginning to formulate detailed projects for presentation to the conference.