

The Laurens Advertiser.

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STAGE BEING SET FOR LAST PARLEYS

Completed Treaty Expected by Saturday

ITALIANS MAY RETURN SHORTLY

Semi-Official View in Rome is that Italians Have Not Definitely Withdrawn from the Conference. Outcome of Italian Parliamentary Action is now Awaited.

The stage is rapidly being set for the final phase of the peace negotiations said the Associated Press last night. Yesterday's plenary session of the peace conference stamped its approval on the covenant of the League of Nations, while today Germany's plenipotentiaries are expected to arrive at Versailles to join the members of the mission already there.

Some points in the peace treaty to be presented the Germans are as yet unsettled, but it is considered possible the clauses involved will shortly be ready for incorporation in the document, so that the completed treaty will be ready for the enemy delegates by the week's end.

Italy was not represented at the plenary session yesterday, but dispatches from Rome indicate the probability that her delegates will return to Paris after a brief period. The Italian parliament will meet today and it is expected that Premier Orlando will at once appear and lay before it the situation which arose at Paris when President Wilson made his public statement relative to Flume and the Dalmatian coast.

Action by the parliament, which will be in effect a mandate to the Orlando ministry, will be requested, there being an effort to obtain a unanimous vote on the resolution demanding that Italy's claims on the eastern coast of the Adriatic be recognized. If this is done, it is probable that Premier Orlando and his colleagues will immediately re-appear in Paris. Advices from Rome state that the semi-official view of the situation there is that Italy has not definitely withdrawn from the peace conference but has merely suspended participation.

If the vote of the Italian parliament is favorable to the position taken by Premier Orlando, it is probable that the diplomatic battle will be resumed in Paris.

There is apparently no thought for the present at least to annex Flume to Italy by parliamentary action, it being planned to demand action on the part of the conference.

The national council of Flume, however, has, according to report, handed all the powers of the state and municipality to a representative of Italy there.

German government troops are slowly encircling Munich, which is held by soviet forces, but it is probable that it will be several days before a general attack on the city is launched.

Rumanian attacks against the soviet army of Hungary are making progress, according to reports, which state that Bela Kun, the head of the Hungarian Bolsheviks, has admitted the troops under his command are being defeated. Hundreds of people are being arrested at Budapest and are being held as hostages by the Bolsheviks, who threaten wholesale executions if the Rumanians continue to advance.

The withdrawal of American forces from most of the front line positions in northern Russia is reported. It is said that they will leave the country as soon as possible.

COTTON MEETING CALLED.

Meeting of Cotton Committee and Farmers Called to be Held in the Court House Saturday.

Mr. W. L. Gray, chairman of Laurens county cotton committee has called a meeting of the committeemen and farmers to be held in the court house next Monday at noon. Final reports on acreage reduction will be heard and the convention in New Orleans discussed. Mr. Gray expects to say a few words about the convention, as he has been appointed as one of the delegates from this state to attend. A full attendance is requested.

COURT IN SESSION.

Judge F. B. Gary Presiding in Place of Judge Geo. E. Prince Who is Sick.

The court of general sessions convened yesterday morning with Judge Frank B. Gary, of Abbeville, on the bench instead of Judge Geo. E. Prince who was to have presided at this term. Judge Prince was sick the first of the week and Judge Gary was appointed to sit in his stead.

Jurors have been drawn for two weeks of court and it is thought that most of this time will be consumed. Yesterday the court was engaged in the case of R. Coke Gray vs the C. & W. C. railroad. Mr. Gray is asking damages for alleged injury to his house on West Main street caused by the caving in of the railroad's embankment. The house is occupied by Mr. J. F. Tolbert and was at one time the property of the Methodist church. The case will be given to the jury this morning.

FIVE NEGRO HOUSES DESTROYED BY FIRE

Blaze Wipes Out Five Cottages While Firemen are Without Water Pressure.

Fire originating in the house of Jane Fields, colored, in the "Rich Hill" section of the city Sunday afternoon, destroyed her house and four others belonging to negroes of the vicinity. Others suffering loss were John Williams, George Cain, Hattie Boyd and N. S. Torrence. N. S. Torrence's house was a rather large structure and the loss to him is considerable.

Jane Field went away from her house about three o'clock, leaving a long stick of wood in the stove with one end of it projecting out of the door. It is thought that this broke off and fell, setting her house on fire. When discovered shortly afterwards it was already burning rapidly. A stiff wind fanned the flames and contributed to their spread to other houses. The fire department answered the alarm, but was unable to save the house or the four adjoining it, the firemen being unable to get a stream strong enough to do effective work. Chief J. T. Crows was not in the city and was consequently unable to direct the work of the fire fighters.

COMMITTEES APPOINTED FOR COMMERCE CHAMBER

W. L. Gray Made Permanent Chairman of Board of Directors.

At a meeting of the new directors of the Chamber of Commerce held in the Peoples Loan & Exchange Bank building Monday afternoon, Mr. W. L. Gray was elected chairman of the board of directors and the following committees were appointed:

Civic Committee—Dr. S. H. Templeman, chairman; J. W. Dunklin, B. L. Clardy.

Mercantile—E. H. Wilkes, chairman; L. E. Burns, R. F. Jones.

Industrial—Albert Dial, chairman; H. D. Gray, T. L. Monroe.

Traffic and Transportation—Alison Lee, chairman; E. D. Easterby, D. B. Swygert.

Agricultural—J. W. Todd, chairman; P. C. Owings, R. F. Fleming.

Finance—E. P. Minter, chairman; W. E. Meng, S. M. Wilkes, J. P. Tolbert, J. E. Switzer.

A joint meeting of the Board of Directors and the Finance Committee has been called for Friday evening of this week at 6 o'clock in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce. It is hoped that a full attendance will be had.

TO EXTEND STORE.

Minter Company to Let Contract for Extensive Improvements to Present Store Building.

Mr. E. P. Minter stated yesterday that contracts would soon be let for extensive improvements to be made on the store room now occupied by the men's department as well as lesser improvements in the ladies' department of the Minter Company, business having outgrown the present quarters. The present building utilized by the men's department is to be extended back so as to be about a hundred feet long and modern fixtures installed in conformity with modern ideas. A large archway will be cut between the two buildings so as to establish convenient communication between them. Work will begin at an early date and be completed in time for the fall trade.

PRESBYTERIANS HELD SPRING MEETING HERE

Sessions of Body Marked by Good Reports, Splendid Addresses and Disposition of Cases.

The spring session of the South Carolina Presbytery which was held in Laurens was concluded Wednesday night at 11 o'clock, after three meetings during the day and the transaction of much routine by the body. The fall session will be held with Thornwell Memorial Church, Clinton, whose invitation was extended by the Rev. L. Ross Lynn, superintendent of the orphanage. Just before adjournment the Presbytery elected the Rev. H. C. Fennell of Abbeville and the Rev. J. L. McLain as ministerial commissioners to the General Assembly of the church, Dr. F. E. Harrison of Abbeville and John B. Clardy of Smyrna church, Newberry, as commissioners from the ranks of the ruling elders. The Rev. C. T. Squires, of Laurens, the Rev. L. Ross Lynn of Clinton, B. R. Fuller of Mountville and G. A. Barksdale of Greenwood, alternates.

The sessions of Presbytery opened Tuesday evening with a sermon by Dr. F. D. Jones of Clinton. Wednesday morning the body formally organized by the election of the Rev. J. M. Dallas, of Ware Shoals, as moderator, and Dr. F. E. Harrison, of Abbeville, stated clerk. The various reports from the 42 churches represented and the work of the educational and benevolent institutions were encouraging, showing progress and unity of forces. The annual financial report was especially good. On the \$3,500,000 fund for all benevolences fostered by the church, this Presbytery last year gave \$38,000 while its apportionment was only \$32,000. This year it was asked for \$38,000 and it has already subscribed \$38,500. Supt. Lynn of Thornwell Orphanage stated that the receipts for the year were \$8,000 in advance of those of last year. Dr. S. C. Byrd, president of Chicora College, reported that institution in excellent condition with an enrollment of 319 students, the largest in the history of the college.

Wednesday evening the session was made memorable by an address by Dr. J. O. Reavis, of the Columbia Theological Seminary, touching upon his visit to Japan and Korea. After the address reports were read and elections held as already related, after which the body took up certain charges preferred against Rev. J. F. Jacobs and Rev. W. F. Strickland, both of whom have been engaged in work of a secular nature. After hearing these cases, both of the ministers were exonerated by a vote of the Presbytery.

MANY SEEKING POSTOFFICE.

Examination to be Held at Clinton for Local Postmastership.

Interest in the selection of a postmaster in the local office is steadily growing with the approach of the date of the examination, to be held at Clinton some time in May. According to current reports a number of applications have been filed, among them being the present acting postmaster, Mr. D. M. Norwood, two post-office employees, Messrs. W. L. Taylor and Arthur Putnam, besides Dr. W. H. Dial, Mr. C. D. Barksdale, Mrs. J. A. Wofford, of Route 4, and Supt. of Education of the postmaster is made in part upon a competitive basis, educational qualifications counting 70 per cent and business experience 30 per cent. The successful competitor, it is understood, must meet the approval of the U. S. senators, Messrs. E. D. Smith and N. B. Dial, while it is possible that the district congressman may have a voice in his selection.

Have Returned to America.

Rev. R. S. Anderson, who has been doing mission work in Coban, Guatemala, has returned to this country, having landed at New Orleans about a week ago. He was accompanied home by his wife and children, all of whom are now with Mrs. Anderson's father, Mr. A. C. Watson, of Greenwood. Rev. Anderson, who is a son of the late J. Wade Anderson, of this city, and a brother of Rev. W. Ray Anderson, has been in Guatemala for the past ten or twelve years.

At Brewerton.

The advanced grade of the Brewerton school will give an entertainment on Saturday evening, May 3rd at the school house. All are invited to come. The hour will be 8:30 o'clock promptly. No admission will be charged.

WOMEN WORKERS NAMED FOR LIBERTY LOAN

County Chairman Names Committees in Each District to Solicit Subscriptions for Victory Loan.

Mrs. R. T. Dunlap, chairman for Laurens county for the women workers in the Victory Loan campaign, has named the following committees to solicit subscriptions throughout the county:

Youngs Township.
Ebenezer and Patton schools: Mrs. Palmer Patton.
Friendship—Mrs. Frank Bobo.
Riddles Old Field—Mrs. Parry Owings.

Warrior—Mrs. S. M. Benjamin.
Bethany—Mrs. Sallie Stewart.
Grays—Mrs. S. F. Fincher.
Central—Mrs. J. O. Garrett.
Youngs—Miss Lucille Cox.

Scuffletown Township.

Lanford—Mrs. C. L. Waldrop.
Ora—Miss Belle Byrd.
Mugrove—Mrs. W. M. Myers.
Langston—Miss Lucy Donnon.
Sandy Springs—Mrs. Frank Little.

Dials Township.

Gray Court-Owings—Mrs. Robert DuPree.
Green Pond—Mrs. Dee Woods.
Eden—Mrs. Walker Gray.
Shiloh—Mrs. Clyde Wilson.
Harmony—Mrs. V. A. White.
Barksdale—Mrs. W. W. Yeargin.
Dials—Mrs. Cecil Owings.

Merna—Mrs. Brooks Nash.

Sullivan Township.
Princeton—Mrs. J. F. Davis.
Mt. Bethel—Miss Ethel Cook.
Poplar Springs—Mrs. Alma Pitts.
Brewerton—Mrs. G. B. Taylor.
Hickory Tavern—Miss Marie Mahon.

Waterloo Township.

Waterloo—Mrs. Rex Lanford.
Mt. Gallagher—Mrs. J. C. Martin.
Bethlehem—Mrs. Jno. E. McDaniel.
Ekum—Mrs. L. C. Culbertson.
Center Point—Mrs. G. W. Moore.
Mt. Pleasant—Mrs. J. W. Fowler.
Mt. Olive—Mrs. W. L. Cooper.

Cross Hill Township.

Cross Hill—Mrs. Conway Dial.
Long View—Mrs. R. L. Cole.
Pine Bluff—Mrs. William Watkins.
Wade—Mrs. E. H. Goggans.
Old Mountville—Mrs. T. J. Coleman.

Hunter Township.

Clinton—Mrs. Bailey.
Goldville—Miss Mattie Ban Brown.
Rock Bridge—Mrs. W. Watts Davis.
Rock—Mrs. M. D. Smith.
Wadsworth—Mrs. H. B. Workman.
Belfast—Mrs. M. A. Cannon.
Mountville—Mrs. Frank Stokes.

Jacks Township.

Jacksonville—Mrs. Job Simpson.
Shady Grove—Mrs. C. B. Johnson.
Stomp Springs—Mrs. W. S. Riser.
Renno—Mrs. J. H. Bell.
Hurricane—Mrs. L. L. Copeland.

Laurens City.

Main St.—Mrs. Douglas Gray, Mrs. A. C. Todd.
Main St.—Mrs. Laura Hudgens, Mrs. Virginia Cain.
South Harper—Mrs. Teague, Mrs. Mary Copeland.
South Harper—Mrs. J. R. Ellis.
Irby Hill—Mrs. R. F. Fleming, Mrs. Frank Caine.
Irby Hill—Mrs. Swygert, Mrs. B. L. Jones.

Brooklyn—Mrs. J. F. Harney, Mrs. Will Richey.

Square—Misses Althea Franks, Ruth Easterby, Roberta Dorroh.
Sitgreaves Row and Greenville Road—Mrs. Crisp, Mrs. L. B. Blackwell.
North Harper—Mrs. L. G. Balle, Mrs. James Dunklin.
Sullivan—Miss Eulae Power, Miss Esther Fowler.

Laurens Cotton Mill—Miss Thames, Miss Annie Simpson, Miss Lula Dial.

117th Engineers Arrive.

Among the regiments arriving in New York during the past few days was the 117th Engineers, in which are a number of Laurens boys. Whether or not these Laurens soldiers arrived with the regiment is not known but it is taken for granted that they did. Among those from this city and vicinity are Capt. J. L. M. Irby, Sergt. John W. Anderson, Corp. Jno. W. Peterson, W. C. Bolt, Fred Wham, John B. Check, C. C. Craddock, Clyde H. DeShields and Thos. H. Wood. Various detachments of the Rainbow Division in which are a number of Laurens boys have also been arriving for the past few days. All of these troops will no doubt reach home within a week or ten days.

SOLDIERS MAY REGISTER.

Clerk of Court Provides Permanent Means of Recording Discharge Papers.

Mr. C. A. Power, clerk of court, stated to The Advertiser news gatherer yesterday that he had just installed a heavy leather-bound book in the vault of his office where soldiers may have their discharge papers recorded free of charge so as to have a permanent record of them even though they may get lost. Mr. Power said that he thought about this when he discovered that a number of soldiers had already lost their discharge papers and that many more were likely to be lost. The pages in the book are printed in identical form as the discharge papers so as to make entry in them easy as well as artistic.

The present book is large enough to hold about 600 names, but Mr. Power stated that he would secure another one if this one is filled up. He invites all soldiers to bring their discharge papers to him and have them recorded for safety as well as a matter of record for the future.

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT IS PROGRESSING

Landscape Engineer Here Last Week Making Surveys for Streets and Sewerage.

Work begun several weeks ago in the Laurens Mills village to rebuild the employees' cottages and beautify the grounds is steadily going forward. A number of houses have already been torn down preparatory to the erection of new ones, while plans are under consideration for various other improvements.

Engineers were here last week making a topographical map of the entire village in order to make up plans for the sewerage system and also, if thought advisable, to change the location of the streets. The mill authorities have not definitely decided about changing the streets and this will be left largely to the discretion of the engineers.

Mr. Lamar Smith, secretary of the mill, stated yesterday that plans will be laid now which will allow for more extensive improvements in the future than are contemplated just at present. However, he said, all of the present buildings will be torn down and larger, more modern and more beautiful buildings erected. The present buildings, he said, were built when the mill industry in the South was in its infancy and naturally are not keeping with present standards. The new buildings will have running water, sewerage and electric lights, besides being built with more regard for appearance. A handsome welfare building is also to be erected and the Methodist church, which was burned several months ago, will also receive substantial aid from the mill company in rebuilding. The whole program will require about two years for completion, as the houses will have to be erected gradually so that the operatives can move out of the old ones into the new as the latter are completed.

NEGRO TRIES TO ENTER CROSS HILL STORE

Interrupted in the Act and Captured After Being Wounded and Chased Nearly all Night.

Following a chase which lasted from midnight until early Tuesday morning, Willie Washington, colored, was brought to the county jail yesterday morning by Sheriff Reid, Deputy Sheriff Hicks Owings and Rural Policeman Columbus Owings. About midnight Monday night Washington was discovered by several young men while making an attempt to enter the store of Mr. J. H. Nance. The white men secured guns and when Washington tried to make his escape they shot at him, one load of shot hitting him in the right leg and taking off one of the fingers of his right hand. He eluded these young men then, but they with others joined the sheriff and his officers later and finally captured the culprit in a swamp some distance from town. Before being placed in the county jail, Washington was given medical attention and yesterday afternoon he was getting along very well.

Picnic at Warrior Creek School.

There will be a picnic at the closing of Warrior Creek school Saturday, May 3rd. The public is cordially invited to attend.

LARGE CROWD VISIT THE TROPHY TRAIN

Seven Ton Tank Attracts Attention

REP. LEVER AMONG SPEAKERS

Large Crowd of People from All Sections of the County Here Tuesday Morning to See Victory Loan Trophy Train and Tank. Addresses Made by British Officer and Cong. Lever.

Yesterday was Victory Liberty Loan Trophy and Tank train day in Laurens. In fewer words the government had on display a full outfit of guns, torpedoes, cannon, shells, gas masks, all captured from the Germans, besides one of the American tanks which had seen hard service on the western front and saw hard service again yesterday while men, boys, some girls and a few women climbed all over it, under it, in and around it while the two soldiers in charge patiently answered the questions fired at them from every angle. The tank, which was one of the smaller of the species, weighing but seven tons in comparison to 45 tons of the largest, arrived on a special attached to the morning train from Greenwood and remained here all day. The trophy train arrived at 10:25 from Clinton, about ten minutes late—and about a quarter of an hour was taken in getting it placed where the crowds could see it. Addresses were made by Maj. C. A. Allen, of the British army, and Congressman A. P. Lever, of the Seventh Congressional district, time being too limited to allow the full program to be completed. After these addresses the trophy train was open to inspection and the large crowd passed through in single file. The train left at 12 o'clock for Newberry.

Maj. Allen, in his address, appealed to the sense of appreciation on the part of his hearers, illustrating his appeal by stories of sacrifices made by parents of the allied soldiers as well as the soldiers themselves. He then pictured the 60,000 American soldiers underneath French soil and the 7,500,000 casualties among all the allied troops. He paid a glowing tribute to the Allied soldiers who stood off the German menace for four long years and then to the American troops who fought at Chateau Thierry, the Argonne, Belleau and other places. To these, he said, those who remain behind owe a debt of gratitude that cannot be paid in full, but appreciation of these services can be displayed by the purchase of the bonds which made possible their equipment and transportation.

Congressman Lever spoke of the Victory Loan as an obligation of the people. "A man's character is measured by his willingness to pay his debts" said Congressman Lever in opening his address and the same measure may be applied to a government. The United States government had contracted certain obligations in pushing the war to a successful conclusion and had also obligated itself to feed, clothe and bring safely back home the thousands of soldiers yet in France, and that these obligations must be met. The government is the people, he continued, and there is no other source of money except the people. There was never a more democratic war fought than the one which this government has just victoriously participated in, and he expected it to be paid for in the same democratic manner. The South, he said, and the farmers were never as prosperous as they are today and never more able to buy the bonds of the government. With all products bringing such large prices and all business interests showing such wonderful prosperity, he urged that the bonds be taken up by every class of citizen and the credit of the nation be upheld as a debt-paying country.

Laurens County Girl Honored.

At a recent election for officers for another year at Winthrop college, a Laurens county girl, Miss Myra Wofford, was elected President of Student Government. This is the highest honor that can be conferred on a student and Miss Wofford is receiving congratulations of friends. She will be a Senior next session.