

APPEAL TO PRESS BY WANNAMAHER

The Fight For a Fair Price For Cotton Not Yet Over

SOUTH MUST ORGANIZE AND STAND TOGETHER

System of Financing and Marketing Crop Must Be Controlled by South.

Editor The Sumter Item: The great service rendered by your good paper and the splendid editorials you are giving us are doing a great deal to assist not only the producers and business interests of our State, but to assist in upbuilding the general welfare thereof, and is resulting in a great good to many sections of the entire belt. We have taken the liberty of time and time again sending to various sections of the belt copies of your paper and editorials from same. In addition, it affords us great pleasure to frequently note that your editorials bearing on the subjects which we handle are copied by the press in various sections of the belt.

We appreciate so much all that you are doing. It is indeed a source of great satisfaction to have associated with us in this work, which means so much to the South, not only your splendid paper, but your deep personal interest.

I sincerely hope you can find time to give special consideration to the various resolutions passed at the recent convention in Columbia, which resolutions will appear in the press throughout the State, including of course your good paper, on Sunday. There are several matters contained therein of vital importance to not only our State but to the entire South.

Cotton Reserve Banks and Marketing Corporation.

This matter is receiving the attention of every section of the cotton belt. The leading business men and financiers of the South state in many cases that it will absolutely revolutionize the South. Establishing one of these banks and corporations within our State would mean untold benefit to the entire State, in addition to the good it will sufficiently meet with your approval, and that you will urge that the business interests of South Carolina and your city wake up and take steps to secure the location of one of these chains of banks and corporations within the borders of South Carolina.

Change in Banking Laws. The change in the banking laws

permitting extension of credit on cotton will do a great deal to prevent forced sales of cotton which occurs in the fall of the year, as the producer is unable to secure additional credit under existing banking laws. Aside from this, it will be a tremendous recommendation as to the value of cotton. I sincerely hope that you can advocate this change.

Cost of Production.

The matter of the cost of production of cotton is of vital importance. Cotton had never recovered from the blow it received when it was stated that one of the leading officials of the nation had issued the statement that 25c per pound, basis middling, for cotton was a fair price. This statement resulted in the loss of millions to the South. It has resulted in a dispute as to the cost of production in the South. The Federal Reserve Bank has stated that the cost of production of cotton is 22 1-2c for 1918 (that is being the cost, basis middling for September cotton, the cost, of course increasing as the season advanced.) Since that time they state that the cost of 1919 will increase one-third, which means 39c, basis middling. Information we have secured through experts show, basing the cost on just as fair rules, including articles entering into the cost, less all lands, wear and tear and compensation for the farmer himself (based on an equitable compensation as compared with various other lines, a compensation in which ability, experience and time could be used) that, in this way, the cost of production of cotton will be considerable in excess of the amount shown by the Federal Reserve Board, for the coming year. There is a widespread belief and suspicion that the cost of production as shown by this department of the government is incorrect on not only cotton but various other articles of production. An agitation along these lines through the press will certainly prove beneficial.

Urgent Request for Investigation.

The ice in this matter has certainly been broken. The investigation has been requested in public in a meeting which was attended by fully 1,500 representatives of the best citizens of South Carolina, also representatives from North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and other sections (the newspapers stated that there were between 800 and 1,000 in attendance, which writup was issued before the arrival of a great number of delegates). I am sending you under separate cover marked copy containing article bearing on the War Industries Board. In addition to this we have numerous letters on the subject, and it is the profound belief throughout the country that this investigation should be made; that there is something radically wrong. The head of the War Industries Board, as you of course know, is now on the Peace Commission and has charge of the commercial side of same. A reading of the resolutions mentioned will show that the senators and congressmen of South Carolina are either compelled to take steps in this direction, or shirk their duty, and if they fail it will bring down on their heads

a storm they cannot escape. This request was unanimous in the convention.

Your paper has never shirked a duty. I urge that you stand behind this request; the truth never hurts, and the investigation should be hailed with deep satisfaction. The Republican press unhesitatingly states that the investigation will be made and a sensation and scandal unearthed. "An ounce of prevention is worth ten pounds of cure." It would certainly be far better for the investigation to be requested now than to be forced by our enemies later. Then, in justice to the greatest president who has ever served this country, President Wilson, who of course in absolutely ignorant of all of these conditions, I feel that this step is entirely justifiable.

The action of your good paper will have a great deal of bearing upon the decision of the congressmen and senators from our State as to what steps they will take in regard to the matter. They are requested to meet in Columbia on April 15th.

Assuring you that your action in this matter will be highly appreciated, I am, with very best wishes, Very sincerely yours,

J. S. Wannamaker, Chairman.

Columbia, April 8, 1919.

Agreement on Saare Valley

Council of Four Leaves Sovereignty Unchanged, But France Gets Coal Duty Free

Paris, April 9 (By the Associated Press).—The council of four reached an agreement this afternoon on the Saare valley. The agreement leaves sovereignty over the valley unchanged but accords to France free of duty sufficient coal for the Lorraine iron industry and to replace the production of the mines destroyed in the Lens mining district with the privilege to the Germans of restoring the Lensmines and 8903 N. 6 6 6 6666 Lens mines and thus relieving the Saare valley of that charge.

This agreement removes one of the most difficult obstacles to the conclusion of peace.

Chinese Women Adopt New Styles.

Papeete, Island of Tahiti, Feb. 20 (Correspondence).—The Chinese women of Papeete have, with one accord, discarded their national dress of oil-cloth pantaloons and tunic and adopted the semi-European dress of the Tahitian belles of the town. This includes the highest of high heeled French shoes.

The result has been the infliction of much torture which the women are enduring with the greatest fortitude. For centuries they have trod the bosom of mother earth barefooted but today they parade the length of the beach road proud in their new acquisition. As soon as they are out of the public eye off come the shoes and they return to their dwellings, after the fashion of their ancestors—carrying their shoes.

WILSON MAY QUIT COUNCIL

Sensational Termination of Peace Conference Hinted At in Latest Reports

PRESIDENT'S TRANSPORT ORDERED TO FRANCE

President Not Believed to Contemplate Immediate Use for Ship But Will Be Prepared

Paris, April 7 (By the Associated Press).—President Wilson's orders that the United States transport George Washington proceed immediately to a French port have aroused much comment here and are even construed by some officials as preliminary to a determined move to force an agreement at an early date by the conference.

As is usual in such cases, various rumors were soon in circulation, and before night one report was current that the president had delivered an ultimatum to the effect that he would withdraw from the conference unless an agreement was reached within 48 hours. It is confidently asserted by those close to the president that he did not contemplate any such action, but the same authorities have no hesitation in declaring that the president has made his position plain on the questions at issue and it is believed his determination to adhere to this position is fixed.

The summoning of the George Washington will place the president in such a position, it is pointed out, that he can not be embarrassed by having to wait for the transport should the time come when he might wish, owing to failure of the peace delegates to agree or unwarranted delay in finding a settlement of the peace question, to withdraw from the discussions. The belief is common that President Wilson will not hesitate to take definite action if a deadlock is actually reached.

If, however, the council of four succeeds in reaching an agreement and the presence of President Wilson for a longer time is deemed advisable the George Washington would be available for the transport of troops to the homeland, and would then be ready to return at a later date for the presidential party.

Andernach, Germany, Feb. 18 (Correspondence).—If there is one thing more than another that American sailors like to write back to the United States it is "We're marching toward the Rhine." It is a rare man who can resist the letter-writing urge when he is able to start his epistle "Somewhere in Germany."

American Relief Work Two American Workers Have Exciting Adventures in Darkest Russia

Omsk, Siberia, Feb. 12 (Correspondence of The Associated Press).—Exciting adventures have fallen to the lot of Mrs. Carl C. Compton, of Chicago, who, with American womanly pluck, has accompanied her husband in many months of humanitarian relief work among the Armenians and later during the most exciting moments of the Bolshevik revolution. They had never left Illinois before coming to the Caucasus for the Committee on Armenian Relief. Now, Mr. Compton is in charge of the American Young Men's Christian Association work at Omsk.

They were first stationed at Alexandropol, Caucasus, then in the hands of the Russians, and were occupied with industrial relief work. Positions were found for refugees as they arrived, fleeing from Turkey. They estimate that they and other members of the corps distributed clothing for 15,000 Armenian orphans, whose parents had been massacred by the Turks. Help was furnished to about 60,000 refugees.

Then, suddenly, the Russian revolution developed. The Bolsheviks abandoned the battle front and the Turkish army advanced. It was feared that the Germans would come down the Black Sea and seize the line from Batum to Tiflis. The American consul advised all the Americans to leave at once, and a special train conveying sixty foreigners finally arrived at Baku on the Caspian Sea. There they were caught in a battle between Bolsheviks and Armenians on one side and Tartars on the other. The street in which they lived was dominated by Tartars who sprayed the roadway with machine-gun bullets. For three days they did not dare leave the house and had only bread to live on. Eventually, by paying a high price, they were able to charter a special steamer for Astrakhan, which is situated at the mouth of the Volga. "We had to sleep on the deck throughout the whole trip," said Mrs. Compton. "The crew and the families of the crew slept in the cabins, and refused to give them up."

"We waited for two weeks for the ice to break up in the Volga and then we went up to Samara. The others went on to Vladivostok. The Bolsheviks were in possession of Samara then, but we were able to carry on general relief. Thousands of refugees came through and we started a soup kitchen at the station. Later, maternity and general hospitals were organized."

"We had rather an exciting time at Samara when the Czechs came in. We lived not far from the river between the Bolshevik barracks and the principal Bolshevik club of the city. The place drew most of the shell fire from the Czech army. Bullets came through our windows and our room became filled with brick dust from the exploding shells. The Bolshevik soldiers lay flat upon the club roof and

fired down on the Czech soldiers, so we had a very good view of the fighting. From my window I could have touched the Bolshevik troops with my hand.

"We were awfully glad to get down into the cellar. There was a slit in the wall and we could see the end of the battle. Finally we heard the Czechs cheering, and saw people running from the houses, all making the sign of the cross. The Czechs had won. Everybody put on their best clothes and paraded in the streets with hands. Collections were taken up for the Czechs, who were hailed as heroes and deliverers.

"When the Bolsheviks had the city we would see them lying in the streets. They were always chewing sun-flower seeds."

Mr. Compton said he had never seen any Bolshevik atrocities but he had seen proclamations issued by the Bolsheviks declaring they would butcher the people if they captured the city. He said that once a Bolshevik broke into an American's room but had immediately apologized, adding that America was the only friend Russia had.

Mr. Compton also said that Russian officers told him nine-tenths of people became Bolsheviks because they didn't have enough to live on, and because they thought anything would be better than their present condition.

New Type Warship

London, Feb. 20 (Correspondence) There is now lying at Clydebank, nearly completed, a remarkable "hush" boat of the British navy, which, according to the shipping paper, Fairplay, is something notable in the history of naval architecture.

This is the Hood, a battle-cruiser of extraordinary size, speed and gun-power and which would, says Fairplay "have inaugurated new methods of naval fighting and shown the Germans that we are still far ahead of them in naval construction."

The prospect of an early termination of hostilities caused work to be eased on this great vessel, but in order to make room for merchant shipping the Hood has been nearly completed and is now out of the fitting basin.

Fairplay says the vessel "is understood to be the finest combination of size, speed, gun-power and light armor yet dreamed of, and farther ahead of the present 'hush boats'—the Courageous class—than these were of the Lion and Tiger. As she lies at Clydebank the Hood seems to fill all the space which was at one time occupied by the Lusitania, and a war vessel as long as the Lusitania—to say nothing of her other features—is something notable in the history of naval architecture."

Southampton, Feb. 24 (Correspondence).—The U. S. S. Yale, which is engaged in the English Channel service between Southampton and France, claims the record of the United States Navy in having carried 140,000 American soldiers without accident or mishap of any kind.

EASTER TOGGERY



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Nearly every man and boy wants to look well at the Easter Season. And it is not always necessary to buy a whole outfit, at once, to do so. But it is a good idea to freshen up a little on you dress at this time. We accommodate you in any article you may need.

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