The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850. "Be Just and Fear not—Let all the ends thou Aims't at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truth's." THE TRUE SOUTHRON, Established June, 1866.

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THE WAR LORDS RUINED GERMAN

They Rejected Peace Overtures of England and France

OFFER CAME THROUGH VATICAN

Erzberger Makes Sensational Revelations to Weimer Assembly

Berlin, Friday, July 25 (By the Associated Press)—Peace overtures to Germany by Great Britain and France were made through the vatican in August, 1917, according to the declaration of Mathias Erzberger, vice premier and minister of finance, in the German national assembly today. These overtures, he added, were rejected by Germany.

Monsignor Pacelli, papal nuncio to Munich on August 13, 1917, addressed a note to the imperial chancellor, Michaelis, inclosing a telegram from the British minister at the vatican to the papal secretary of state, to which the French government assented. The British note, Herr Erzberger explained, asked for a German declaration for Belgian independence and compensation, and inquired as to what guarantees Germany would need for herself.

Chancellor Michaelis did not answer this note for four weeks; then, September 24, he wrote that the situation for giving such a declaration was not yet sufficiently clear.

Herr Erzberger promised more important revelations within a few days.

Monsignor Pacelli's note said:

"I have the honor herewith to transmit to your excellency, a copy of a telegram which his excellency, the king of England's minister at the vatican, has handed to the cardinal secretary of State. The French government gives its assent to the statements made in the aforementioned telegram and his eminence earnestly desires actively to continue his efforts for the speedy attainment of a just and lasting peace, such as the imperial government has shown such a conciliatory readiness to accept.

"Your excellency's attention is particularly drawn to the point in the telegram relative to Belgium with a view to obtaining, firstly, a positive declaration regarding the imperial government's intention with respect to Belgium's complete independence and compensation for damage caused Belgium through the war; secondly, a definite statement of guarantees for political, economic and military independence which Germany desires.

"If these declarations have a satisfactory effect, his eminence thinks an important step will have been taken towards the further development of negotiations. As a matter of fact the minister of Great Britain has already informed his government that the holy see will reply to the communications made in the aforementioned telegram as soon as it has received the imperial government's reply.

"It may be permitted for my part to give expression to my firm conviction that by using your influence to all highest quarters in behalf of the papal proposal and this peace work your excellency will gain the eternal thanks of the fatherland and the whole of humanity, if a conciliatory reply be obtained which can open up the prospect of peace negotiations."

Herr Erzberger said that the government had asked permission to publish the contents of the British dispatch but that such permission had not yet been received.

The reading of the note caused a great sensation in the assembly. In commenting Herr Erzberger said:

"In 1916 President Wilson used every effort to bring about peace, but Mr. Wilson's peace work was absotaged by the proclamation of unrestricted submarine warfare, and at least twice an honorable peace could have been brought about, but a fight with the military party both times prevented it. At the end of September, I was in Munich. The papal nuncio came to me and with tears in his eyes said: 'Now everything is lost and for your poor fatherland, too!' "

"The collapse of Germany," continued Herr Erzberger, "was not brought about by revolution but by madness of the country's political and military authorities, by lack of political insight on the part of the conservatives and the supreme army command. These socalled authorities intimidated and terrorized the German people and are still pursuing these aims. We had to accept a peace of violence because that was the only way out.

"We have undertaken the responsibility for their misdeeds, if they wash their hands in innocency a hundred times, with loud 'noes" they will not free themselves of their guilt, either before us, before history, or their own consciences."

Her Erzberger concluded by pointing out the danger of revolution menacing the whole of Europe. Five monarchs have been dethroned in this war with the greatest ease, and there was every likelihood of this example becoming contagious. Statesmen who were not blind or dumb must perceive the dark despair of the people, must hear the angry rumble from the masses, and must take this factor into account.

TO INVESTIGATE POLISH POGROM

President Appoints Henry Morgenthau Head of American Commisson

REPORTS SAID TO BE EXAGGERATED

Mr. Morgenthau Has Already Made Preliminary Investigation by Visit to Poland.

Paris, July 28.—Henry Morgenthau, former American ambasador to Turkey has been appointed by President Wilson as head of the American commission to investigation reported pogroms in Poland. He told newspaper men today that a short visit which he had made to Poland convinced him that reports as to pogroms were tremendously exaggerated.

COUNTY BOARD HAD MEETING

Special Meeting of Commissioners Held Last Week

A special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held Friday, July 25th, with all members present.

The first matter taken up was a letter from Mr. H. L. Tisdale recommending favorable consideration of the application of William Watson for admission into the Alms House. The Board decided to allow him $10 per month for support and attention by the county physician in lieu of admission into the Alms House.

Commissioner Britton reported on the application of W. J. Brunson for admission into the Alms House. On his recommendation the applicant was granted $15 per month for support.

On the recommendation of City Council Mr. H. G. Hill was elected cotton weigher for Sumter.

Mr. C. E. Rembert was elected cotton weigher for Mayesville.

Special Deputy Sheriff W. J. Frierson was appointed acting rural policeman in place of Policeman John Bradley who is ill. It was decided to continue the salary of Policeman Bradley while he is sick, but the expense account will not be allowed while he is not on active duty.

A letter was read from State Highway Engineer Pennell, sttaing that three government trucks had been shipped to Sumter county.

County Engineer McLellan reported that three trusty convicts had escaped from the chain gang.

He also made a detailed report on the condition of the county roads as the result of the recent heavy rains. He stated that all construction work had been suspended and the road gangs moved to this city to be held in readiness for emergency work.

He reported that the abutments of the Pocataligo concrete bridge had been undermined by high water and the bridge rendered unsafe, on account of which the road had been closed temporarily until repairs can be made.

The salaries of Chaingang Foremen Dunlap and Geddings were raised from $75 to $85 per month. The salary of Guard Holland was raised to $75 per month.

Messrs. L. D. Jennings and J. P. Booth appeared before the Board and made a statement in reference to the proposed enlargement of the Tuomey Hospital at a probable cost of more than $75,000. They proposed that the County Board deed the old jail lot to the hospital on condition that the hospital maintain two rooms for the use of patients of the county. The Board decided to deed the lot on conditions suggested, provided legal authority for this action can be obtained from the county legislative delegation.

The report of the committee of commissioners named to inspect the Alms House was received. The committee recommended certain repairs and replacement of furniture. The recommendation was ad pt..

DEALING WITH PROFITEERS

French Trades Union Adopts Direct Methods

Paris, July 28 (Havas)—Officials of the federated trades union went to the wholesale market today and obliged the producers to sell them a quantity of foodstuffs at prices varying from five to seventy-five per cent under the average market price. They then took the foodstuffs to one of the public market places where they were sold at cost price.

AUSTRIA CRYS BANKRUPTCY

Vienna, July 28.—The financial clauses of the peace terms offered to Austria by the allies are strongly protested both by newspapers and financial circles. Both these quarters go so far as to predict the bankruptcy of Austria within a few weeks unless the financial terms are modified.

OCCUPATION OF RHINELAND

Size of Force Needed Under Consideration by Supreme Council

QUESTION CONSIDERED AT TO-DAYS SESSION

Believed a Force of 150,000 Men Will Be Necessary On Left Bank on Rhine.

Paris, July 26.—The size of the forces required for the occupation of Rhineland under the terms of the German peace treaty was the question under consideration by the supreme council at today's session. For the present it is said a force of a hundred and fifty thousand men is likely to be considered necessary on the left bank of the Rhine.

Why Cost of Living Will Continue High

Philadelphia, July 24. (Correspondence of The Associated Press)—The cost of living is likely to stay high for a long time to come in the opinion of the Philadelphia Board of Trade. This view is a result of compilation of statistics from many lines of trade and industry.

According to these figures the advance in prices in this country since 1914 has been about 107 per cent, in Canada 115 per cent; Great Britain 133 per cent and France 235 per cent. It is pointed out that in spite of material reductions in the price of steel, the advance in other commodities since the armistice has been so great that the average price schedules have been reduced but 5.7 per cent below prices prevailing October 1, 1918.

The following are given as reasons why wages will not be much less for a considerable period of time.

Practical stoppage of immigration since 1914, depriving this country of several millions of workers who would normally have come to us and thus have relieved the labor shortage which confronts American industry upon the resumption of capacity operations.

Retention in the Government military service of nearly 2,000,000 workers, which, it is declared will doubtless continue an indefinite period.

Creation of new industries such as ship building, manafacture of chemicals and dyes.

Urgent demand for building and construction of every class due to their having been forcibly held back for several years.

Shortage of world food supplies and uniformly high prices.

Proportionately higher levels of commodity prices existing throughout Europe.

Croix de Guerre to American Women.

(Correspondence of Associated Press)

With the American Army of Occupation, June 27.—Miss Cora Van Norden, of New York City, a Salvation Army welfare worker with the First Division, and Miss Gertrude Ely, of Bryn Mawr, Penn., in charge of Y. M. C. A. activities with the Eighteenth Infantry, were decorated recently with the Croix de Guerre by General Andrieu, commander of a French infantry division, on behalf of the French government. The ceremonies took place at Montabaur, near the edge of the Brigehead, headquarters of the First division.

General Andrieu also presented the Cross of a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor to Colonel William F. Harrel, of the Sixteenth Infantry, to Colonel A. Hunt, of the Enghteenth Infantry, and to Sergeant Michael B. Eillis, of the Twenty-eighth infantry.

After the presentations had been made, following the French custom, General Andrieu kissed the American officers on the cheek but when the General stepped in front of Miss Ely and Miss Van Norden the officer appeared perplexed as to the proper procedure after a decoration had been presented to a woman.

Major General E. F. McGlachlin, commander of the First division, quickly went to his aid. Witnesses of the ceremony say General McGlachlin kissed the young women on both cheeks after the French custom.

Miss Van Norden and Miss Ely are the first and only women welfare workers with the First division to receive the Croix de Guerre.

Dakar Awaits Her Destiny.

The insignificant port of Dakar is on Cape Verde in Senegal, West Africa. Dakar is comparatively unimportant. Its contiguous area, generally speaking, is neither highly developed nor colonized, yet in spite of itself Dakar may become of colossal importance as a world shipping center.

The town of Dakar is the closest port to the Western hemisphere. It looks out over the narrow waist line of the Atlantic and is only 1,715 miles away from Pernambuco. Europeans are considering linking this west African port to Europe by a through railway and if such a thing comes to pass it will become the great port for exports from all Europe to the South American countries.—The Nation's Business for July.

ITALY SUGGESTS FOOD SHARING

Foreign Minister Tittoni Proposes to Supreme Council Allotment of Coal and Food

RETURN OF WAR-TIME PLAN

Military Mission to Fix Boundary Between Germany and Poland Named

Paris, July 28.—The supreme allied council considered today the proposition advanced by Foreign Minister Tittoni to reestablish the system of sharing coal and foodstuffs among the allied peoples. The council also named the members of the military mission to fix the boundary between Germany and Poland.

TOBACCO GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Officers and Executive Committee Elected at Florence.

Florence, July 27.—Having adjourned for the funeral services of Congressman Ragsdale, representatives of a dozen or more counties of the tobacco growing belt met late Friday afternoon and effected a permanent organization of the South Carolina Tobacco Growers' Association as follows:

President, W. H. Keith of Timmonsville; first vice president, D. D. Rhem of Rhems; second vice president, N. A. McMillan of Mullins; third vice president, Ashton H. Williams of Lake City; secretary and treasurer, Mason C. Brunson of Florence.

The above with the following constitute the executive committee: Dr. J. H. David, Dillon; T. L. Smith, Marion; J. M. Mears, Horry; J. Armstrong Howard, Darlington; R. E. Currin, Florence; S. B. Poston, Williamsburg; W. H. Andrews, Georgetown; C. S. McFadden, Clarendon; E. W. Dabbs, Sumter; Russell Williams, Berkeley; R. M. Jenkins, Lee; D. P. Douglas, Chesterfield; L. A. Walker, Dorchester.

NEED MORE ARMY OFFICERS

Senate Passed Administration Measure Increasing Number to 18,000

Washington, July 28.—Without a record vote senate passed and sent to the house the administration bill authorizing an increase from 9,500 to 18,000 in number of commissioned officers to be retained in the army this year.

WASHINGTON UNDER GUARD.

Race Rioting Subsides in Washington, but War Department Takes Precautionary Steps.

Washington, July 28.—All of the 2,000 regular troops brought here to preserve order when last week's race rioting and street disorders got beyond control of the police had been withdrawn tonight, but the national capital was still depending on the army, which was represented by a provost guard.

At the earnest request of the local authorities the war department recreated the provost guard which had been abolished several weks ago, and tonightt he troopers with red bands on their sleeves armed with riot sticks and six shooters in opened holsters were patroling the principal parts of the capital in pairs.

Although the race rioting and the attacks by negroes on white women have subsided, street holdups have continued.

The Maryland State authorities have demanded the extradition of one negro whom they charge with an assault on a white woman. The Washington police who say they believe the man's alibi, however, refused to give up the prisoner for fear he would be lynched when taken over the Maryland line. The local Maryland authorities dissatisfied with the conclusions of the Washington police, called in detectives from Baltimore who declare they have disproved the man's alibi entirely. Governor Harrington of Maryland has issued a formal request for the negro's extradition.

While action has been deferred in congress on various resolutions demanding an investigation of the police and fixing of responsibility for the crime, the local authorities have been preparing legislation to increase the personnel of the forces.

It is stated that a petition has been presented to City Council by a number of the best negro citizens asking that the circumstances surrounding the shooting last week of Pinckney Bradford, a negro boy by Policeman Julian Chandler be investigated. The request is a reasonable one in view of the conflicting reports concerning the shooting and City Council should promptly and thoroughly investigate the whole matter.

STATE COTTON MEETING CALLED

Farmers and Business Men to Meet in Columbia August 6

TO FORM PERMANENT ORGANIZATION

Call Issued by Governor Cooper And President Wannamaker of Cotton Association

Columbia, July 28.—Calls were issued yesterday for a meeting in Columbia Wednesday, August 6 of the farmers, bankers, merchants, business and professional men of the State for the purpose of effecting the permanent organization of the American Cotton Association in South Carolina. The calls came from Gov. Robert A. Cooper, J. Skottowe Wannamaker, president of the American Cotton Association; B. Harris, commissioner of agriculture for South Carolina; A. E. Padgett, president of the South Carolina Bankers' Association; J. H. Claffey, president of the South Carolina Farmers' Union; W. G. Smith, warehouse commissioner, and Joseph D. Miot, president of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce.

The meeting will be held at Craven Hall beginning at noon and promises to be the biggest and most representative meeting held recently in the State.

The call issued by Governor Cooper follows:

"In order to effect the permanent oranization of the American Cotton Association in South Carolina, a meeting of farmers, bankers, merchants, and other business and professional men will be held in Columbia, August 6. I urge that each county be well represented, or, better still, each township.

"The temporary organization of the cotton producers and allied interests has been one of the important factors in bringing about an increase in the price of cotton. The permanent organization, erected upon the groundwork of its predecessor, will have the same effect.

"The cotton belt has never enjoyed prosperity commensurate with other sections of the country. The economic and social life of the South has suffered tremendously because cotton has not yielded a reasonable profit to the producers. Some advantage, however, has now been won; it must not be lost. Our progress in education, roads, in general happiness is considerably dependent upon the price of cotton.

"Bearing this in mind I appeal to the people of South Carolina to cooperate in an effort to insure for the present and for coming years a fair profit for the South's greatest commodity. Organization is essential."

A joint call for the meeting was issued by J. Skottowe Wannamaker, B. Harris, commissioner of agriculture; A. E. Padgett, president of the South Carolina Bankers' Association; J. H. Claffey, president of the South Carolina Farmers' Union; W. G. Smith, warehouse commissioner and Joseph D. Miot, president of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce. This call follows:

"Whereas, the organization of the American Cotton Association has saved to the South a sum estimated conservatively at $5,000,000, and whereas, as a result of the organiaztion of the American Cotton Associaion every citizen in every township and every county, not only in South Carolina, but in the entire cotton belt, will receive great benefit, and

"Whereas, as a result of the organization of the American Cotton Association, the farm will be operated on a business basis, cotton will be sold at a profitable price, the producer will be furnished with information on supply and demand through representatives in every cotton consuming country in the world and regular crop condition reports issued, and

"Whereas, as a final result, the bad roads of the South will be a thing of the past, illiteracy will be blotted out, and rural conditions will be so improved that the farm will attract and hold the white man, and

"Whereas, as a final result of the vast benefits that the permanent organization of the American Cotton Association will bring to the entire South, the entire nation will in like manner be greatly benefited, therefore:

"Be it resolved: That the permanent organization of the American Cotton Association, which will include the farmers, merchants, bankers, business and professional men in every school district, every township, in every county in the entire State of South Carolina and throughout the length and breadth of the entire cotton belt is of such vital importance that we, the undersigned, both in our official capacity and as citizens of the State of South Carolina with the best interests of South Carolina, of the entire cotton belt, and the entire nation at heart, hereby earnestly urge that the citizens in each township, each school district and each county in South Carolina send a large and representative delegation to attend a mammoth mass meeting in Columbia Wednesday, August 6 at 10 o'clock noon at Craven Hall for the purpose of hearing addresses and discussion on this great question—on the objects, purposes and formation of the American Cotton Association and for the further purpose of devising and putting into effect and force detailed plans for pushing to completion the organization of the American Cotton Association, throughout South Carolina.

"As a matter of State pride we further urge that the citizens of South Carolina use every effort in their power to complete the organization of these great associations in South Carolina with all possible speed so that our State will be the first in the entire cotton belt to go over the top and will show the largest membership."

GERMAN AGENTS OPPOSE PALMER

Attorney General Makes Final Answer to Charges as to Conduct of His Office

ALL CHARGES ARE UNTRUE

Allegations Result From His Activity as Alien Property Custodian, He Says.

Washington, July 25.—Attorney General Palmer appearing today before the senate judiciary committee to make final reply to charges put forth in an effort to prevent confirmation of his nomination, declared the fight against him was conceived and carried on by representatives of German interests because of his work as alien property custodian in breaking up the German industrial army in the United States.

Mr. Palmer made detailed denial of charges by Senator Frelinghuysen, Republican, of New Jersey, regarding the payment of excessive fees to Senator Harris of Georgia, and John J. Fitzgerald, a former member of the house from New York. The total amount paid Senator Harris, he said, was $5,000 for work done before he became a member of the senate while Mr. Fitzgerald's firm received $500 a month as associate counsel of the American Metal Company.

"As New York prices go for legal services," the attorney general said, "Mr. Fitzgerald's compensation was shamelessly low. In all, he was paid less than $7,000."

Starting off with charges by Harold Remington, a lawyer of New York, that Mr. Palmer should not be permitted as attorney general to pass upon his acts as alien property custodian, the witness said:

"These lawyers, representing German interests," Mr. Palmer declared, "have come here with their charges, but they have been careful to cast no aspersions upon my moral character or my qualifications. They have attempted to say that I sent a man to Paris to have put in the peace treaty a provision that my acts as alien property custodian should stand, a perfectly absurd thing to say. It is a part of the German fight against me, carried on by paid agents of Germany still incensed because their property was taken over and put into American hands."

The attorney general said he might later file answers to what he characterized as "perfectly outrageous insinuations" by Merton E. Lewis, formerly attorney general of New York, that he had sold the Bosch Magneto Plant at Springfield, Mass., to friends at a figure much below its value.

The committee spent nearly an hour discussing with the attorney general the case of Stollwerck Bros., chocolate manufacturers of Stamford, Conn., whose plant was seized and sold after Homer S. Cummings, chairman of the Democratic national committee, whose firm had been its counsel since 1908, reported to the custodian that it was German owned. Mr. Cummings, who was paid $10,000 a year as managing director, resigned a year ago, Mr. Palmer said, because he wanted to join a sindicate to buy the property. On account of his former connection with the company the custodian would not permit the sale to be made to him, and the plant was bought for $1,500,000 by the Touraine Company and Estabrook and Company of Boston.

Mr. Palmer denied charges that the Touraine Company, long in the candy business in New England, was enemy-owned. Harry B. Duane, he said, was president, and looking up Mr. Duane's ancestors the attorney general said, one was the first mayor of New York and another was one of the drafters of the declaration of independence, which he submitted was proof enough of his Americanism.

THIRD DIVISION COMING HOME

Orders Issued for Americans to Leave Occupied Region of Germany.

Coblenz, Sunday, July 27.—The Third Division of the American army has been ordered home from the occupied area of Germany and will begin entraining for Brest August 5th. The movement of the division to port of embarkation is expected to be completed within one week.