

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION

Bill Introduced in House To Submit Call to Voters of State

Columbia, Jan. 28.—Representative Sapp, of Columbia, has introduced in the house of representatives a joint resolution, providing for submitting to the voters of the state in the next general election, the question of a constitutional convention.

A resolution for a constitutional convention was defeated by the 1920 legislature, but there has been a strong demand for it from many parts of the state, and the new resolution looks to this end.

If Mr. Sapp's resolution passes the people will vote on the question of the convention in 1922. If the vote is in favor of the convention, then the legislature of 1923 will ratify the action of the voters and set the time and place for the convention. The convention, in that event, would probably be held in the summer of 1923. It could not possibly be held until after the adjournment of the 1923 legislature.

In recent years there have been a number of amendments to the constitution and the constitution is now deemed a patch work. The idea in many legislators is for a new constitution, drafted by a committee of the people. Mr. Sapp's resolution would merely allow the voters of the state to decide whether or not they want a constitutional convention.

TO ASSIST IN INCOME TAX

Columbia, Jan. 27.—Acting Collector W. R. Bradley announces that the chief field deputy for the district of South Carolina will assign all deputies under his charge to the work of assisting income taxpayers who desire assistance in making their returns on February 1, 1921, and continuing thereafter until March 15. It is expected that these deputies will visit every county seat in the state, and as many of the larger towns as possible.

The chief field deputy will make arrangements through these deputies to visit week just where the deputies will be found.

PENITENTIARY A HEALTHY PLACE

Columbia, Jan. 28.—There were only three deaths at the state penitentiary during 1920, according to the annual report of Supt. A. K. Sanders, made to the legislature today. Two of these deaths were prisoners who were brought to the prison in sick condition, living only a few days after reaching the prison.

The penitentiary report shows that the prison has on hand 503 bales of the 1920 cotton made on its farms and 578 bales of 1920 cotton, a total of 1,081.

The report also shows that the operation of the chair factory within the penitentiary walls is satisfactory, the plant netting the state a profit. The farms have had a wonderful year, the report says, breaking all records with their yields.

Mr. Sanders' report recommends the creation of a quarter for the women prisoners. Their present quarters, the report says, is a veritable fire trap. If the building were to burn when the women were within, they would all probably be burned up, the report says.

The financial report of the prison shows that all bills were paid and a balance on hand of \$442 at the close of 1920.

GRADUATES ASK FOR MORE MONEY

Columbia, Jan. 28.—A hundred college alumnae gathered in Columbia Thursday afternoon, representing many parts of the state, to discuss the ways and means committee of the house and the finance committee of the senate "by storm" in regard to the matter of appropriations for Winthrop College. The two committees, with which appropriation bills originate, are having daily joint sessions every afternoon, the big group meeting in the supreme court room in the capitol. The women, graduates of Winthrop, appeared to urge on this group of legislators that the recommendations of the budget commission with regard to Winthrop finances be not carried out in every detail. The state house presented an unusual sight Thursday afternoon, with the large delegation of women gathered, their lively chatter piercing to every corridor.

The women were protesting against certain apparent reductions in salaries and other items in the budget. They did not protest against the big cut in the requested appropriation for new buildings. The women realize that all institutions will have their expectations as to new buildings cut this year, the policy of the state government being not to levy taxes for new buildings, but rather to issue bonds for this purpose. A bond issue will likely be urged upon the present legislature.

Winthrop College asked the budget commission for appropriations totaling \$333,095. The budget allows \$294,993 for this college. Of the total requests \$333,991 was asked for erection of Winthrop college buildings. The budget allowed for this \$27,000.

Ancient Greeks considered sandalwood one of the greatest luxuries.

WORK OF THE LEGISLATURE

Repeal of Anti-Tipping Law Proposed—Tax on Cotton Brokers

Columbia, Jan. 29.—The Lexington delegation is introducing in the house of representatives during next week a bill to impose a tax on cotton factors, cotton brokers and cotton commission merchants. The tax to be imposed would be one-half of one percent on all business up to \$25,000; one percent on business from \$25,000 to \$50,000; one and a half percent from \$50,000 to \$200,000, and two percent tax on all business over \$200,000. The bill has been prepared and will be introduced early in the coming week's session.

Not Limit Liability.
Senator Pearce, of Columbia, is next week introducing in the legislature a bill to make it unlawful for a common carrier, of messages, to enter an agreement limiting its liability in case of damages. It is understood the purpose of the bill is mainly to require the Western Union telegraph company to eliminate the clause in its message contract limiting liability in case of loss to fifty dollars.

For Scholarship Men.
Representative DeTreville, of Walterboro, is introducing in the legislature a bill to amend the scholarship law, so as to allow scholarship students at the University to select their courses of study. At present such students are not allowed this privilege unconditionally.

Protect Banks.
Senator Lightsey has introduced in the senate a bill to make it unlawful for any person to make or circulate false statements about a bank's solvency. A penalty of from \$1,000 to \$5,000 fine or one to five years imprisonment or both, being provided.

Columbia, Jan. 29.—Representative Julius S. McInnes, of Darlington, is introducing in the house of representatives next week a bill to repeal the act of 1915 prohibiting tipping in South Carolina, commonly known as the "anti-tipping law." The bill has been drawn and will be introduced probably Monday night, when the house re-convenes.

The anti-tipping law is commonly regarded as a nonentity in the state. It has never been observed, it is said, and there has never been a conviction for its violation. It was passed by the legislature of 1915, but tipping has been as rampant since as it ever was before that year, it is said. It has been said that tipping was never more common than during the war, despite the law.

STATE BAR MEETING

South Carolina Bar Association Elects Charles Carroll Sims President

Columbia, Jan. 28.—With the election of Charles Carroll Sims, of Barnwell, as president of the South Carolina Bar Association, and other officers, the hearing of reports from various committees, an address by C. J. Kimball, city recorder and judge of the juvenile court of Columbia, the address by James Hamilton Lewis, former United States senator from Illinois and the banquet tonight, the two day session of the bar association ended.

Among the important committee recommendations was that which would have the law course of the University of South Carolina lengthened to three years and better equipped for the law library at the institution. Another committee recommendation was that the standard of admittance to the bar be raised so as to require a course of three years in some standard law school. John C. Sheppard, of Edgefield, former governor, opposed this recommendation on the grounds that it would exclude those who are unable to take the prescribed course but who would make sound lawyers through study under reputable attorneys.

R. Beverly Herbert, of Columbia, held that the standard of the profession would be raised and cited instances whereby, he claimed, ways and means could be provided for ambitious young men who wanted to pursue law courses. No action was taken on this recommendation.

Judge Kimball spoke on the work of the juvenile court in Columbia and its power for good, stating that in the two years of its existence 1,500 cases had been handled and cited various instances in which both boys and girls had been restored to respectable citizenship. At the conclusion of his address the association went on record as endorsing juvenile courts and Judge Kimball stated that he hoped to see them established in every county in South Carolina.

TO RATIFY PINEWOOD ELECTION

Mr. Belser Will Introduce Bill To Annex Pinewood Section to Sumter County

Columbia, Jan. 29.—Representative Belser, of Sumter, will introduce in the house of representatives next week a bill to ratify the action of the people of a portion of Clarendon county including Fulton and Calvary townships and the towns of Pinewood and Rimini in voting last summer to join Sumter county.

Mr. Belser's bill will define the new boundaries of the two counties. It will take effect immediately on its signature by the governor.

INDEMNITY FOR HUNS TO PAY

Allied Supreme Council Approve Plan Drafted by Experts

226 BILLION GOLD MARKS

Payment Spread Over Forty-Two Years Beginning With Two Billion First Year

Paris, Jan. 29.—The allied supreme council today approved the German reparation plan drafted by the special committee. The plan provides for the payment by Germany of 226 billion gold marks in forty-two annual installments on a rising scale, beginning with the payment of two billion marks the first two years and in addition the payment of a twelve per cent tax on German exports.

FORDNEY BILL LAID ASIDE

Measure That Was Ostensibly Framed For Relief of Farmers Killed By Talk

Washington, Jan. 29.—Hope that the Fordney emergency tariff bill would come to a vote in the senate this session was practically abandoned today when the measure came up for what was generally believed to be the final day of debate. With the appropriation measures crowding for passage the leaders are understood to have definitely decided to put aside the farmer's relief measure and take up the money bills when the senate convenes Monday.

TRAIN BOILER KILLS FOUR

Wheeling, W. Va., Jan. 29.—Four Baltimore and Ohio employees were killed today when a locomotive boiler exploded near Littleton, W. Va. The dead were the engineer, fireman, brakeman and road foreman of engines. The accident occurred at Broadtree Tunnel.

EXPRESS CASHIER IS HELD UP

Tampa, Fla., Jan. 29.—Two men held up Cashier E. F. Smith, at the American Railway Express company's main office at the union station here this afternoon about 4:15 o'clock and got away with a third man, a confederate, in an automobile. They carried with them \$19,700 in cash and two other packages, merchandise, which they seized from the safe and a desk in the cashier's office. The officers have spread a dragnet for the men but no arrests have been made.

BARUCH MEMORIAL BURNS IN CAMDEN

Camden, Jan. 28.—Fire about 12:30 o'clock Friday morning totally destroyed the main building of the Camden hospital. The origin is unknown, but was first discovered on the third floor after it had gained considerable headway. The building destroyed contained about 14 rooms; the nurses' rooms, parlor and all of the private pay wards.

By good work on the part of the firemen the two annexes were saved. Nearly all of the furniture and fixtures in the building were destroyed and will entail a heavy loss. Only \$10,000 insurance was carried on the building and about \$2,000 on the furniture and fixtures.

The hospital was a gift to the city of Camden from Bernard M. Baruch as a memorial to his father, Dr. Simon Baruch, now of New York, but who for many years was a beloved physician of Camden.

There were very few patients in the hospital at the time and they were removed to nearby homes without any serious inconvenience.

BERGDOLL STORY IS DENIED

Washington, Jan. 29.—The department of justice denied today that alleged American detectives attempted to kidnap Bergdoll in Germany. Agents of the bureau are investigating the report. Officials declared that no department agents are on duty in foreign countries. Discussing the possible extradition of Bergdoll officials said there is no treaty under which the United States could demand his return. The only possible method, they said, would be a request that Germany hand over a man who had refused to fight against that country, which would be embarrassing for this government and hardly possible of acquiescence by Germany.

BURN WAY OUT OF COUNTY JAIL

Laurens, Jan. 28.—Four white boys who had been held at the county jail for some days on different charges burned their way to liberty while the sheriff was in Columbia on official business. Three of the young prisoners have been recaptured.

Uniontown, Penn., Jan. 29.—Albert Smith, the 19-year-old son of a wealthy real estate owner of Fairhope, charged guilty today to thirteen charges of arson and was sentenced to not less than forty-two or more than eighty-five years in prison. He is charged with burning school houses, and other property in this section valued at more than a million dollars.

THREE KILLED IN AUTO WRECK

Southern Passenger Train No. 37 Demolishes Car at Central

Greenville, Jan. 29.—Three persons were instantly killed and another seriously, though not necessarily fatally, injured when the automobile in which the four were riding this afternoon was demolished by Southern railway train No. 37 at Central, in Pickens county, about 25 miles from Greenville on the railroad toward Atlanta.

The dead are: W. M. Strickland, 45, who was driving the car; N. E. Strickland, a brother, 40; A. J. Scutell, 37.

W. I. Miller, a carpenter of Central, has one broken leg, a wrenched back and cuts about the face. He was brought to a hospital here immediately after the accident and physicians say he has a chance for recovery.

Reports from Central are that the four were driving with the curtains up at a slow rate of speed and in low gear. Train No. 37 does not stop at Central and the car was struck on the crossing in the heart of the town. As soon as the car had been hit, the train was brought to a standstill and members of the train crew and passenger rendered all possible aid.

The Strickland brothers and Mr. Sentell were hurled to instant death along the track, while Mr. Miller was thrown possibly 75 feet.

The four men were residents of Central. W. M. Strickland was an official of the Isaacena cotton mill in Central. He leaves a wife and several children.

M. E. Strickland operated a store and also leases a family.

Mr. Sentell was the proprietor of a restaurant.

The coroner's jury will make an investigation, but the hour for the inquest has not been fixed.

REDUCE ACREAGE ADVICE OF BARUCH

New York Financier Holds Conference With Cooper

Columbia, Jan. 29.—While on his way to his winter home in New York, Bernard M. Baruch, of New York and South Carolina, stopped over in Sumter and Columbia today for conferences with Governor Cooper and other South Carolinians on the cotton situation.

Following the conference, Mr. Baruch, who left tonight for New York, gave out a statement in which he predicted that little relief from the present deflated price of cotton could be expected until the regular trade routes and the channels of commerce are reopened.

That the planting of acreage of cotton at the present price, which is below the price of production, is a foolish undertaking, Mr. Baruch contended, and he strongly advised the farmers to curtail their cotton acreage.

Mr. Baruch is a native of Camden and he has a deep interest in the agricultural future of South Carolina and his friends say that it is his ambition to do something to aid the farmers.

"Unless the former trade routes and channels of commerce are immediately opened," said Mr. Baruch, "there is a compelling necessity upon the farmer to reduce the acreage of cotton. This is all premised upon the fact that it cannot be produced at the present cost. Of course it is difficult to reduce acreage but that seems so clearly in the interest of the producer in the present circumstances.

"I am in sympathy with and want to do everything within my power to help the American Cotton Association to meet a very critical condition that now faces the farmer particularly and all lines of trade as well.

"There is no question but what the cotton crop of America brought from 25 to 50 per cent less than it should have during many years to the cotton grower. It is going to be so until something is done along constructive lines.

"We are not going to accomplish anything in the marketing of our products until we reopen the old trade routes. This will not be done until the German reparation is fixed, and we get all of those millions of people back to work. The Germans will not resume purchasing on their former scale until they know what bill will be determined against them.

"The farmer now finds himself in the predicament of having a crop partly cut off from its usual market, the former trade route limit and unable to finance himself unless he is willing to sell the product at a very great sacrifice, in many instances well below the cost of production. This cannot be permanently remedied unless the trade routes of the world are reopened."

VIRGINIA BANK IS ROBBED

Bank Bandits Get Away With \$119,000

Washington, Jan. 31.—The Commonwealth Bank at Reidsville, Va., was robbed of cash and securities totaling \$119,000 and then set at fire according to reports sent to the Washington police. The collector of customs at Reidsville said the robbery occurred about 2:30 this morning and the robbers are believed to have escaped in an automobile. The building was destroyed. Many valuable papers are missing, and one hundred thousand dollars in securities and the balance in cash.

Lady who shot her husband through the head with the only cartridge in the revolver has some justification in claiming it was accidental.—Cleveland News.

WILSON TO WRITE BOOK

Volume to Give Views of President on Questions at Paris Conference

Washington, Jan. 29 (By the Associated Press).—President Wilson is having collected and arranged for ready reference all papers and documents in his possession relating to the work of the Paris peace conference with a view to the preparation of a book on the peace negotiations.

The president in making these preparations, it was learned today, has accepted the volunteered services of Ray Stannard Baker, who was attached to the American peace commission. Mr. Baker during the past two weeks has spent several hours each day at the White House putting into shape all available data on the peace conference in the president's possession.

While it is not believed that the president contemplates beginning the actual work of writing or dictating the proposed book, during the few remaining weeks of his term of office, it is understood that he has in mind the inauguration of real work shortly after his retirement to private life. It is known that Mr. Baker has only undertaken the task of arranging the material and that his duties do not include in any way the literary work.

Friends of the president are understood to have urged upon him for some time the desirability of recording from the viewpoint of an official American participant events of such monumental importance as took place in Paris during the peace negotiations. They have pointed out that one who played a major role as he and whose decisions later became the subject of such violent controversy both in the United States and abroad, could not afford to lose the opportunity of setting before the world the motives behind the many disputed decisions, as involve Shantung, Fiume, Danzig, the Anglo-Franco-American alliance and the Russian question.

Officials close to the president have said recently that whatever the president might write after his retirement from the White House would not be auto-biographical in form, as the president's preference has always been toward history as form of literary expression.

One version of the events which took place at Paris from an official American viewpoint, already in course of publication. Announcement was made several weeks ago that former Secretary of State Lansing, one of the American commissioners, had prepared a book which takes issue in several important chapters with decisions made by the president. This book is to be released to the public March 5, the day after President Wilson retires from office.

Mrs. Perry Moses Entertains

Mrs. Perry Moses entertained seven tables of bridge at her home on Church street yesterday afternoon. After a very spirited game the scores were counted and Mrs. R. C. Williams found to be winner of the first prize, a beautiful card table cover and Mrs. Ashley Mood winner of the booby, a hand-painted tape measure. The consolation prize, a silk rose colored hair pin receiver, was cut by Mrs. Ferd Levi.

The hostess, assisted by her daughter, Miss Doris Moses, served a most delightful salad course.

Washington, Jan. 31.—The commutation of the sentence of Eugene V. Debs, effective February 12th, has been recommended to President Wilson by the department of justice, it was learned at the White House today. Debs is serving his sentence in the federal penitentiary, at Atlanta.

New York, Jan. 31.—Mrs. Harding arrived here today to purchase a part of her White House wardrobe. After spending a few days here she will join Mr. Harding in Florida.

Miami, Jan. 31.—Mr. Harding began a two days fishing expedition among the Florida keys today, with his headquarters at Coeolobol Island, forty miles south of here. There is no means of communication with the rest of the world except by boat.

Augusta, Maine, Jan. 31.—Governor Parkhurst, of Maine, died today. He failed to recover from the effect of diphtheric infection under the tongue which attacked him three weeks ago. He was apparently improving last night, but took a chill and became unconscious.

London, Jan. 31.—Fifty-five cases of sleeping sickness have been reported in London during the last four weeks.

Providence, R. I., Jan. 31.—Three firemen were killed and eighteen seriously injured when the wall of a building on Mathewson street collapsed during a fire today. Two of the injured are expected to die.

Trapped on the roof the company of firemen who were hurt fell into the fire pit when the wall collapsed.

When they claim that 475,000 men is a large enough army, they do not seem to figure on the force necessary to protect the warehouses where liquor is stored.—Augusta Herald.

Cuba may have a case of the shingles, but does not want any Volsteadism.—Nashville Banner.

Suggestion to the disarmament advocates: Make the aviators quit wearing spurs.—Florida Metropolis.

If they make our navy too small, what will our cabinet officers do when they want to travel?—Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont.

The recording of the seismograph indicate that the shimmy is making little progress in France.—Nashville Tennessean.

SHAW SUES FOR \$175,000

Big Damage Suit For Violation of Contract

Columbia, Jan. 31.—A big damage suit will come to an end in the United States court in Columbia today, Judge Smith Saturday night ordered a recess to Monday morning, when the case was completed and court adjourned sine die.

The suit is that of David C. Shaw, of Sumter, against Robert H. Hassler, Inc., and the Columbia Compress company and involves a contract covering the state agency for a well known shock absorber, the Hassler. The amount for which Mr. Shaw is suing is \$175,000, claiming that he was damaged to this extent when the Hassler company cancelled the contract he held for the agency in South Carolina. The compress company is party to the suit, because of the fact that goods were stored in the warehouses of the company in connection with the distribution of the shock absorbers.

It was brought out in the course of the case that there were 38,856 Ford automobiles in South Carolina on July 15, last year. Other interesting facts in connection with the automobile business came out in the testimony in the case.

The case was heard Friday and has consumed most or three days. A mass of correspondence and other documentary evidence was submitted.

The Shaw-Hassler case will not go to the jury until Monday afternoon.

OIL SHIP ON FIRE

Captain Declares Salvation of His Vessel to Be Miracle

Jacksonville, Fla., Jan. 30.—The Italian steamer Nettuno, Capt. G. Bersini, en route from Port Arthur, Texas, to Brindisi, Italy, was towed into this port today by the coast guard cutter Yamacraw after being adrift at sea.

Capt. Bersini attributes the salvation of his ship to a miracle—the explosion of her fuel oil tanks, which literally snuffed out the fire after it had raged unchecked for twenty hours. The blaze originated in the engine room from a bursting feed pipe when the Nettuno was four days out from Port Arthur from which she cleared on January 21 with a cargo of gasoline and fuel oil. At that time she was off the Florida coast.

In a few moments the Nettuno was a seething inferno amidships and Capt. Bersini stated that it did not seem possible for her to remain afloat but a short time.

Seated in his badly damaged cabin this afternoon while the Nettuno swung easily at anchor in the river, Capt. Bersini painted a vivid picture of the horror through which he and the ship's personnel lived during the twenty hours the fire raged unchecked in the ship wallowing helplessly in heavy seas.

It was also a story of courage and devotion to duty such as men are seldom called upon to perform. The crew fought with desperation to keep the fires from the gasoline stored in the hold of the vessel. The fight, however, appeared hopeless, according to Capt. Bersini, and momentarily he expected the flames to reach the gasoline and blow the ship to atoms.

Practically every lifeboat aboard the Nettuno had either been carried away or smashed by the terrible buffeting the tanker sustained during the hours of the fire. Fire twisted and wrecked her engine room and warped and cracked her steel decks and side plates. The fact that the crew had no lifeboats in which to leave the burning vessel added to the horror of the situation.

Capt. Bersini spoke in the highest terms of the behavior of his officers and crew, speaking of the bravery of the two chief engineers, Bettino and Croa, as well as of the heroism of the engineer, Landi Joanno, who volunteered to go below at the time the feed pipe burst to shut off the flow of oil and rescue two firemen trapped in the fire room. Joanna was so severely burned that Capt. Bersini stated he did not think the engineer could survive. His clothing was burned from his body and his flesh in many places literally cooked. Joanna and the two firemen, Francalonne and Losito, who were also badly burned, were transferred to the Belgian steamer Krenlin on January 26, the day after the fire aboard the Nettuno had been extinguished, and sent to Newport News.

The Yamacraw, which had been advised to look out for the Nettuno, picked up the ship on January 28 and headed for Jacksonville. The Nettuno is owned by the Italian State Railways, her home port being Palermo, Italy.

The ship is so badly damaged that it is estimated that it will be weeks before she is again ready for sea. A representative of the owners is expected tomorrow from New York.

The Nettuno is a 6,000-ton ship, 490 feet in length with a breadth of beam of sixty feet.

Capt. Bersini stated he had had four years of war, had two ships torpedoed under him by submarines, was badly wounded in one of the explosions, but those experiences were nothing compared to the horror through which he had just emerged. For four days the crew of the Nettuno was without food or sleep.

WANTED—A few colored families for one and two horse farms, share-crop. No loafers. S. P. Broadway, Dillard, S. C., Route 2. Phone 4596.

FOR RENT—Two or three horse farm, good land for cotton, corn or truck. Good house and barns. See M. H. Beck, Pocalla Springs, Phone 4905.

WANTED—To buy a few tons of peavine hay. H. G. Osteen.