

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 1, 1866.

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SIZE OF ARMY WILL BE REDUCED

Bill Appropriating Funds For 150,000 Passed by House

WILL NOT INCREASE THIS NUMBER
Amendments Are Disregarded and Measure Put Through as First Advocated

Washington, Feb. 3.—A definite step toward reduction of the regular army to 150,000 men was taken today when the house approved an appropriation sufficient only for the maintenance of a force of that size during the fiscal year beginning July 1.

The action was taken after attempts had failed to amend the army appropriation bill to provide for 175,000 enlisted men and to decrease the number of officers from 14,000 to approximately 9,000.

The instant section of the bill appropriating funds for the pay of enlisted men during the coming fiscal year was reached a dozen representatives were on their feet clamoring for recognition. Amendments came pouring in and for an hour members revived the small army versus large army debate that has enlivened many a session of congress.

The net results, however, was success for the efforts of the appropriations committee to keep the measure practically intact, all amendments being voted down except one by Representative Johnson, Republican, of South Dakota, authorizing the discharge from the army of youths under eighteen years of age on their application or at the request of their parents or guardians. At the request of Representative Wingo, Democrat, of Arkansas, the house voted to grant such lads honorable discharges.

The appropriation bill carries, as amended, \$72,678,659 for the pay of enlisted men during the twelve months beginning July 1. This amount is sufficient for a force of 150,000, according to Representative Anthony, of Kansas, chairman of the appropriations subcommittee, which framed the measure.

Representative Greene, of Vermont, a Republican member of the military committee, introduced an amendment to increase the amount to \$84,849,909, enough, he said, for the pay of 175,000 men. It was voted down, 45 to 18.

Another amendment which met defeat was offered by Representative Hastings, Democrat, of Oklahoma, which would have required the war department to reduce the army to 150,000 within six months after the passage of the appropriation bill. The amendment was lost by a 65 to 42 vote, opponents of the proposal pointing out that it might be impossible for the war department to reach that minimum, even though it were to cease enlistments at once.

Guilty of Murder

Statesville, N. C., Feb. 4.—William Y. Westmoreland was tonight found guilty of murder in the first degree, following his trial here on charges of killing James Nantz, a public chauffeur, on October 20. Sentence will be imposed tomorrow.

According to testimony of Izey Sims, alleged eyewitness of the killing, Westmoreland engaged Nantz to drive him and Sims to Westmoreland's home, and after arriving there shot the chauffeur to death. Sims testified that Westmoreland compelled him to hide the body in an abandoned well. No motive was given for the killing.

Fire Destroys Home

Timmonsville, Feb. 4.—This morning at 4:30 o'clock the frame cottage of Hiram Wadford on Smith street was destroyed by fire. Mr. and Mrs. Wadford and children had gone into the country to spend the night with relatives and knew nothing of their loss until today. They had left the house in the custody of two boys who were awakened just before the burning roof fell in. Nothing was saved. Some insurance was carried on the house.

Son Slays Father

Greenville, Feb. 4.—Broadus Barton, 20 years of age, was placed in the Greenville jail tonight, charged with killing his father, Earl Barton, 42 years of age, at their home at Tigerville, 18 miles from Greenville. The young man admits firing the shot that killed his father, using a shotgun. He claims, it is said, that he had trouble previously with his father and fired after the older man had reached for a knife. It is said that the latest trouble, resulting in the fatal shooting, developed at the supper table. The coroner has gone to Tigerville to hold the inquest.

First Loan Made by Finance Board

Washington, Feb. 5.—Preliminary approval of a loan of \$10,000,000 to a group of American bankers to finance the exportation of condensed milk and similar products to Great Britain and Europe was announced today by the war finance commission. This is the first application for a loan approved by the commission since its revival last month.

Feb. 5.—Mrs. Chari Steadman, 67, died here today.

OFFICERS TALK OF DISARMAMENT

Ten From Navy and One of Army

CONFERENCE TO COME

Chairman Butler of House Naval Committee Says International Meeting Will Be Held

Washington, Feb. 4.—Satisfied from testimony of a large number of witnesses that calling of an international conference to discuss disarmament would meet with general approval, the house naval committee today called before it ten high officers of the navy and one of the army and heard a vast amount of divergent and confusing testimony as to whether aircraft had made capital naval vessels useless.

Before the committee settled down to listen to the officers, however, Chairman Butler announced positively that an international disarmament conference would be called by this country. He did not say when the call would go out, but it was assumed from his line of questioning that it would be shortly after President-elect Harding, with whom Mr. Butler recently conferred, takes office.

Rear Admiral William S. Sims, wartime commander of all American naval forces in European waters and present head of the naval war college, the first witness called, counseled against immediate abandonment of the capital ship. He added, however, that if aerial forces demonstrated the value he expected them to in the near future, they would soon make major surface craft useless. He opposed discontinuing work on the great 1916 naval building program and declared "nobody is going to take his hand off his gun" until conditions become settled in Europe.

The superiority of the battleship over the airplane or submarine was defended by Rear Admiral Charles S. Badger, head of the general board and former commander of the Atlantic fleet, who declared that battleships and battle cruisers would remain the backbone of the fleet for years to come. He did not believe, he said, that anything very definite would come out of the proposed disarmament conference, but said it was a worth while effort.

Still another view was presented by Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske, retired, former member of the general board and inventor of the torpedo plane, who told the committee that aerial dreadnoughts would be the capital ships of the future.

Brig. Gen. William Mitchell, chief of training and operations of the army air service, called to the stand, told the committee that it was a simple matter for air forces to hit and destroy a battleship and repeated his testimony of last week before the appropriations committee to the effect that aerial development had made surface navies obsolete.

General Mitchell cleared up one point that had been causing the committee some wonderment all day when he declared that data, supposed by navy officials to be secret, but disclosed by him before a senate committee, had been secured by army officers who attended the bombing of the old battleship Indiana at the invitation of Secretary Daniels.

General Mitchell was on the stand when the session concluded and will continue his testimony tomorrow.

All of the naval officers who testified stressed the necessity for the immediate construction of high speed airplanes carrying ships.

While the house committee heard the testimony the senate naval subcommittee drafted an adverse report on the resolution presented by Senator Borah, Republican, of Idaho, providing for a six months' suspension of naval building while experts study the best types of ships.

Killed With Bat

Laurens, Feb. 4.—A negro school house grounds out on Duncan creek, ten miles east of Laurens, was the scene yesterday of a rather unusual homicide when George Davis was struck on the head with a baseball bat and instantly killed by John Henry Long, according to Sheriff S. C. Reid, who returned to the city last night after capturing Long, who was trying to make his escape from the community.

It is said that a game of ball was in progress during the noon recess when a dispute arose between Long and Davis over the game. Long, it is said, advanced on Davis with the stick in his hand, threatening to strike the latter. Davis, it is claimed, apparently did not take the threat seriously and made no attempt to defend himself. With one blow with the bat swung by Long, Davis' skull was crushed and he died in a few minutes. The boys are about the same age, 16 or 17 years old. The killing was witnessed by practically the entire school and caused a panic among children.

The coroner's jury held Long for the crime.

Mexico City, Feb. 5.—Daylight saving will be inaugurated here Sunday for the first time in the history of the city. It was decided to turn the clocks ahead an hour to conserve electricity, the city already being rationed in the use of lights and water.

COUNTRY NOW ON SOUNDER BASIS

Annual Report of Comptroller of Currency William to Congress is Optimistic

PRICES HAVE RETURNED TO PRE-WAR LEVELS

Labor, He Says, Must Now Take Choice of Lower Wage or Idleness

Washington, Feb. 7.—The country is now in many respects on a sounder basis economically than for years, Comptroller of the Currency Williams informed congress today in his annual report. Deflation, obviously inevitable a year ago, has come, he said, and prices on many basic commodities and raw materials have returned to pre-war levels or below. It now remains for the middleman to adjust his profits to new prices before ultimate consumer will receive benefit of reduced cost of living. Comptroller Williams declared. Labor, however, Williams said, must soon determine whether a shut down and idleness is preferred to a lower wage scale, which takes into consideration lower living charges.

ORDERS PLAN BIG EVENTS

Columbia, Feb. 7.—Fraternal orders in Columbia are planning for interesting events. The feature of the coming week will be the winter reunion of the Scottish Rite Masons and 189 candidates are expected to report for initiation. The Pythian Sisters will give a supper and entertainment Friday night at Craven hall and Pythians and their friends are anticipating a good time. The Elks are working hard to make their minstrel show a big success and the Woodmen of the World are looking forward to the meeting of the head camp to be held at Florence. Columbia Eagles will stage a spring jubilee beginning March 5.

TAR AND FEATHER LAWYER IN TEXAS

Houston, Feb. 6.—Police efforts to identify the men who took B. I. Hobbs, lawyer, from his bed late last night, drove him in an automobile into the woods, where they tarred and feathered him and closely clipped his hair, had proved unavailing late tonight.

Five unmasked men forced Hobbs into an automobile about 9 o'clock, he says last night, drove him to the woods, near the city, and applied tar and a coat of feathers. Bringing him back to the business district they forced him from the automobile opposite the postoffice. Clad in his coat of feathers, he sought shelter in the doorway of the building until he attracted the attention of a passerby, who notified police of his plight. Hobbs says he can not identify any of his abductors. He says he was given until Tuesday to leave the city or be killed. He says, however, he prefers to remain here.

RAILROAD AGENT KILLED BY TRUCK

Rock Hill, Feb. 5.—V. Hardin, freight agent for the Southern railway here, was instantly killed shortly after noon today, when struck by a truck driven by Sam Pursley. The accident occurred at the corner of Main and Reid streets, Mr. Hardin being en route home to dinner on his bicycle. The truck was also going down East Main street and pulled to the middle to pass just as Mr. Hardin turned to leave the Main thoroughfare. Mr. Pursley shot the truck into Reid street to avoid a collision when the rear wheel struck the curbing and dashed the rear end of the truck across the street, striking Mr. Hardin and bounding clear of the opposite sidewalk. The injured man was rushed to a hospital but died within a few minutes. Two men in the truck with Pursley said he was going at a moderate rate of speed. The general view is that the accident was unavoidable.

Mr. Hardin, who is survived by his wife and two children, came here over a year ago to become local agent for the Southern, being promoted from the Spartanburg office. Since coming here he won many friends and the news of the accident was received with genuine sorrow. The remains will probably be taken to Spartanburg for interment, but arrangements had not been completed tonight. Coroner Paul McCorkle held an inquest tonight, the verdict of the jury being that Mr. Hardin came to his death as a result of being struck by a truck driven by Pursley.

On Board Pennsylvania, Wireless to Associated Press, Feb. 7.—Wartime routine was observed today on the Atlantic fleet. Warships are steaming southward along the Peruvian coast to meet the Pacific fleet, which left Valparaiso Saturday. They may meet anytime in sham battle, which would closely approximate conditions encountered in war time on the high seas.

LOWER RATES ASKED FOR

Western Farmers and Cattle Raisers Unable to Sell Products For Enough to Pay Freight Rates

Washington, Feb. 7.—A reduction of freight rates was asked today of the interstate commerce commission by the six largest cattlemen's associations of the west. The spokesman told the commission market prices of sheep, cattle and wool had fallen so low the western cattle raisers and farmers are no longer able to sell products for enough to pay freight rates.

TALK ATOP BUS BRINGS SEIZURE

Large Shipment of Drugs, Revolvers and Liquor on Vessel

New York, Feb. 6.—A ruse by a detective and the accidental overhearing of a conversation atop a Fifth avenue bus caused raids on two ships in New York harbor today and the seizure of more than \$200,000 worth of drugs on the one and whiskey, laces, revolvers and other goods on the other.

Thomas E. Rush, customs surveyor of the port, was riding on the top of a bus last week and overheard two men in conversation say it was an easy matter to smuggle goods off ships. He found the men were connected with the steamer Fort Pitt Bridge, which arrived recently from Vigo, Spain. A searching party was sent to the ship and under several tons of coal 51 bottles of whiskey were found and in a cargo hold several thousand dollars worth of laces, lingerie and other articles were stored.

The drug raid was carried out on board the steamship Florence Luckenbach after Detective Bernard Boylan, disguised as a longshoreman, is said to have gained the confidence of Frederick Sundoff, the ship's quartermaster, and had told him a friend would pay thousands of dollars for enough cocaine to last for a year. Sundoff, Boylan said, let it be known that drugs were on board the Luckenbach and later was arrested and locked up, charged with being a drug vendor. Dr. Carlton Simon, special deputy police commissioner in charge of the narcotic staff, said he was certain Sundoff was connected with an international drug smuggling ring. The drug bore German stamps.

PENROSE FAVORS SOLDIER BONUS

Washington, Feb. 5.—An American Legion delegation was told by Senator Penrose of Pennsylvania, senate finance committee chairman, today that he would favor increase in federal taxation if necessary to provide for the proposed cash bonus for war veterans. He expressed doubt, however, whether the legislation could be put through during the present session of congress.

Senator Penrose and Senator McCumber, Republicans, North Dakota, who has charge of the bonus bill, were interviewed by the American Legion representatives including F. W. Galbraith of Cincinnati, national commander, and Gilbert W. Bettman of Cincinnati, chairman of the Legion's legislative committee. The executive committee of the legion will meet here Monday to discuss the situation.

The opinion that the American people favor "adequate and satisfactory provision for soldiers, their widows and relatives," was expressed by Senator Penrose to the Legion representatives.

"I further told the committee," said Senator Penrose, that the country was in a very bad financial situation and hardly able to meet its requirements and that revenue undoubtedly would fall off to a very marked degree in the next fiscal year.

"At the same time I conceded that it was the duty of the government to provide the revenue for this patriotic purpose and were it necessary that an added tax be levied I would favor these taxes at this short session but it was obvious that this is impossible."

Senator Penrose said he found the legion's spokesmen "in a reasonable and patriotic frame of mind."

Hope for action on the bonus bill at the present session, was expressed to the legion delegations by Senator McCumber. If no agreement can be reached regarding taxation necessary for the bonus provisions Senator McCumber said the question could be left open by deferring operation of the bill until the subsequent congress could enact necessary legislation.

HARDING'S YACHT BEHIND SCHEDULE

Ormond, Feb. 7.—Already far behind schedule Harding's yacht put on leisurely schedule again today and probably will not arrive at St. Augustine before noon tomorrow. Harding plans to come ashore here for a golf game. He spent last night twenty miles south of this place.

LIMITATION OF ARMAMENTS

Representative Monell Says an International Agreement is Absolutely Necessary

OTHERWISE MAY LEAD TO BANKRUPTCY

If Agreement is Not Reached in Near Future Americans Will Have Themselves to Blame

Washington, Feb. 7.—An international agreement for the limitation of armaments is absolutely essential to the avoidance of bankruptcy by some of the more important nations, Representative Monell, Republican house leader, today told the house naval committee. If the agreement is not reached in the near future, Monell said, the fault would be that of the American as in former days the fault was that of Germany. He added there was no time to work out the problem before the change in administration next month.

ARMY BILL PASSED OVER WILSON'S VETO

Houses Passes Bill Decided Majority Stopping Enlistment Until Regular Forces Are Reduced to 175,000

Washington, Feb. 5.—The joint resolution directing the stopping of enlistments until the regular army is reduced to 175,000 men was passed tonight by the house over President Wilson's veto.

The veto was overridden by a vote of 271 to 16, one member voting not present. The president's veto message was not read to the house until six hours after its formal delivery but once read, action was swift.

Representative Mondell of Wyoming, Republican leader, said the message presented no arguments that had not already been before the body and that further discussion was unnecessary. He asked for an immediate vote.

A motion to adjourn offered by Representative Wingo, Democrat, Arkansas, was voted down overwhelmingly.

All of the 16 members voting to sustain the president in the final vote were Democrats. They were: Bee, Texas; Bland, Virginia; Campbell, Pennsylvania; Cleary, New York; Coady, Maryland; Eagan, New Jersey; Fisher, Tennessee; Igoe, Missouri; McAndrews, Illinois; Minahan, New Jersey; Pell, New York; Tucker, California; Summs, of Tennessee; Teague, of Massachusetts; Weaver, North Carolina; Welling, Utah. Lee, Democrat, Georgia, voted present.

These voting to override the veto included 92 Democrats. Action is expected to be taken on the veto early next week in the senate, where it was said prospects were favorable for overriding the president.

SCHOONER TO ENTER RACE

"Undaunted" Will Try For King Albert's Cup

New York, Feb. 5.—The "Undaunted," a three-masted schooner yacht owned by Francis R. Mayer, commodore of the Atlantic Yacht Club, has been entered in the international yacht races for the "championship of the seas" cup offered by King Albert of Belgium. It was announced here tonight. The race is to start July 4 at Sandy Hook, N. J., and will end at Ostend, Belgium.

In a letter to Pierre Mall, Belgian consul general here, Commodore Mayer expressed confidence that "all American yachtsmen will be eager to contest for the honor of winning the cup offered by King Albert of Belgium."

The "Undaunted" formerly the "Karina," is one of the largest sailing yachts of America, having an overall length of 198 feet, 7 inches, a waterline of 150 feet, beam 33 feet, 9 inches and drawing 17 feet. It is the second American entry in the race, the first being the yacht "Seista," owned by Prof. W. F. Clayton, of St. John's College, Annapolis, Md. The race is open to sailing yachts of all sizes and rigs from all nations.

Washington, Feb. 7.—National executive committee of American Legion which began a three days' meeting here today expected to take final action on offer of Knights of Columbus of gift of five million to be used in erecting in Washington a war memorial building.

Washington, Feb. 7.—Secretary Houston told the senate judiciary committee today that one nation had requested the United States to cancel its war loan to that power but refused to say which.

Washington, Feb. 7.—The house unanimously passed the bill and authorized the construction of five hospitals for disabled war veterans at an estimated cost of twelve and one-half millions.

FIRE DESTROYS HOTEL BONAIR

Augusta's Largest Hotel is a Total Loss. Fire Started Early This Morning

LOSS OF A MILLION DOLLARS

All Guests Escaped Without Injury as Far as Known

Augusta, Feb. 4.—A fire of undetermined origin destroyed the Bonair, Augusta's largest hotel at 2:30 this morning. The loss is estimated at one million dollars. As far as learned all guests escaped without injury.

There were in the building at the time two hundred and sixty guests but the night clerk awakened them shortly after the fire was discovered. Some took their belongings but many scantily clad fled out without saving anything. They spent the remainder of the night at other hotels or homes while several who were ill were taken to hospitals. In recent years the hotel has been the winter home of William Howard Taft, John D. Rockefeller, Nathan Strauss, and other notables. Strauss said today he was ready to aid financially the immediate rebuilding upon a scale to make it the finest tourist hotel in the south. The structure was erected in 1889 and was owned by local capitalists. The building was valued at about \$800,000. It is understood that it is fully covered by insurance.

WILL LOMAX PAYS PENALTY

Columbia, Feb. 4.—After having his sentence deferred several times, that his sanity might be investigated, Will Lomax, a Greenville negro, convicted of killing his wife, paid the death penalty in the electric chair this morning shortly before noon, after having expressed sorrow for his crime. Before dying the negro stated to the chaplain of the prison that he was ready to go to heaven. The board of examiners recently reported that the man was not insane.

LEGISLATORS AND BOARD

York, Feb. 2.—Charges for board and lodging in Columbia, the capital city, go up about the time the General Assembly convenes each year, according to E. W. Pursley, a member from York, but despite that fact members of the House and Senate come out ahead of the game now that the salary of legislators has been advanced to \$10 per diem. The average charge for room rent to legislators in private homes in Columbia is \$30 per month, according to the informant. Most of the legislators take their meals in restaurants in preference to private homes because the house or the senate is not always ready to adjourn at mealtime in private homes. A legislator can be fairly filled for \$1.50 a day, provided he sticks to the kind of grub he is used to back home.

EARTH SHOCKS FELT AT OBSERVATORY

Washington, Feb. 4.—A severe earthquake shock beginning at 3:28 and lasting until 4:45 this morning was reported by Father Tondorf, director of Georgetown seismological observatory. The disturbance indicated by instruments as being twenty-two hundred miles south of Washington and reached its highest intensity at 3:38.

The record indicated an earthquake even more severe than that recorded on December 16th. Professor Tondorf said that the scene of the December disturbance was never definitely established. Tondorf estimated today's disturbance probably to be in South America.

London, Feb. 4.—The British draft of mandate for Palestine which will be submitted to the league of nations council provides for a mandatory of nations. Great Britain shall have all powers in her entry in the government of the sovereign state, according to the text of the draft published here today by the Jewish Chronicle.

Philadelphia, Feb. 4.—Hog Island today ceased shipbuilding activities, as far as present management is concerned and the yard was formally turned over to the United States shipping board.

Washington, Feb. 4.—An international conference to discuss disarmament will be called by United States Chairman Butler of the house naval committee, it was said today when the committee met to hear views of prominent naval officers on the subject. Butler did not say when the call will be issued, but from his line of questioning witnesses it is assumed he thought the call would be issued soon after the inauguration of President-elect Harding. Butler recently conferred with Senator Harding at Marion.

Paris, Feb. 2.—Violent protestations against decisions of the supreme council regarding reparations are still being published by Berlin newspapers.