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Germans Wreck R. Road As Retaliation For Laws Imposed by the French

Cuno's Speech Has Decided Effect in Stimulating Passive Resistance Among Hundreds of Workers and Industrial Leaders in Ruhr.

Essen—The most serious case of railroad sabotage yet reported was discovered today south of Essen where 150 yards of track of the main line between Essen and Duesseldorf had been torn up during Tuesday night.

Chancellor's Cuno's speech in the reichstag has had a decided effect in stimulating the passive resistance among the hundreds of thousands of workmen in the Ruhr as well as the heads of industry, according to German sources here.

The French on the contrary, declare that the speech was disappointing to the population which had hoped to find it a more definite declaration that might lead to negotiations with France.

German trade union leaders here are almost unanimous in the statement that the speech will make the factory workers and coal miners more determined than ever to maintain their resistance to occupation.

Berlin—The reichstag debated the speech of Chancellor Cuno; the discussion revealed general unanimity in support of the government's statement, while in the Reichstag corridors the talk chiefly concerned itself with the effect of the chancellor's speech abroad.

In the course of the debate, Dr. Edward David for the socialists said the French ought to understand that an agreement was only possible with France desiring only reparation and peace, but with France wanting to annex the Rhineland and Ruhr, never.

Herr Hurst conservative, regretted that Chancellor Cuno had not announced a rupture of diplomatic relations and a policy of reprisals.

Herr Stressemann of the people party declared:

"No reasonable minded person will oppose an understanding with France but in her procedure it is now up to France to create prerequisites for such an understanding."

COLOGNE—Additional territory east of Cologne was occupied today by the French troops in order to give France complete control of all the custom posts on the right banks of the Rhine. By this move the British bridgehead at Cologne is now surrounded by French patrols and outposts. The area east of Cologne for the present is being patrolled by the French.

The customs posts at the Derringshausen railroad junction and in the town of Wipperfurth southeast of Elberfeld were occupied by the French Tuesday and detachments of French troops were stationed at Grafath and Renscheid to guard the lines of communication extending just beyond the British area.

NORTH CAROLINA RANKS FIFTH IN CROP VALUES

North Carolina with a total crop value of \$342,637,000 took fifth place among states in 1922, according to figures compiled recently.

If the value of live stock, \$37,000,000 is added to that figure the total farm production of the state last year was valued at \$430,000,000. Since the state ranks 23rd in live stock values, the average for the crops and live stocks brings it down to twelfth in respect to all states. Cotton and tobacco are largely responsible for the crop values and the live stock shortage pulls down the average considerably. At least one half the other states of the Union have more improved land than North Carolina.

North Carolina retained fourth place in respect to the 22 leading crops in 1922, when the total value was \$298,044,000. A similar rank was held in 1921 when the value of the 22 leading crops amounted to \$219,567,000. Texas holds premier place and Iowa and Illinois take second and third place, the order of their rank varying from year to year.

In all crop values, North Carolina ranked sixth in 1921, with a total crop value of \$252,376,000; in 1922 it had risen to fifth place with a total valuation of crops of \$342,637.

Two men labor continuously in the Pennsylvania station in New York to remove wads of chewing gum travelers have tossed on the floor.

Boone Trail is Again Ignored in New Contract

The following from a Yadkinville Dispatch to the Winston Journal:

According to information published in the Manufacturer's Record the North Carolina State Highway Commission will let out at the April meeting 163 miles of road building projects. Several bridge contracts will also be awarded, these being in Avery, Roberson and Mecklenburg counties, the latter on the line between Mecklenburg and Cabarrus.

The contracts will involve the construction of road sections in the following counties: Chowan, Perquimans, Hertford, Bertie, Hyde, Craven, Wilson, Durham, Harnett, Orange, Wake, Randolph, Moore, Cabarrus, Iredell, Caldwell, Ashe, Henderson, Avery, Haywood, Madison and Graham. It is taken that the money to be spent on the 163 miles of road to be constructed at the April meeting is a part of the first \$50,000,000 as the recent issue voted by the Legislature just adjourned is not yet available.

Only two of the counties named in the proposed road projects are in the seventh district, these being Caldwell and Ashe. The information published by the Manufacturer's Record does not give the number of miles of road proposed in either of these two counties, nor does it designate the number of the roads to be built.

The thousands of citizens of Yadkin county whose hearts are set on the paving of highway no. 60, known as the Boone Trail, the main artery of the seventh district are disappointed to learn that this highway was not included in the projects proposed for letting at the April meeting of the highway commission. It was confidently expected that the April meeting would see the Boone Trail bid awarded, at least to the Wilkes county line, as a hard surface road.

Both the Wilkes and Yadkin county commissioners have put their official O. K. on the paving of the Boone Trail and they are still hopeful that Commissioner Hanes will see to it when the time is ripe. It is recognized that Commissioner Hanes has both hands full and is working with his coat off to make the best showing possible for his district and to benefit the majority of the people and for this reason no one has abandoned the idea that the Boone Trail will be ultimately hard-surfaced.

Blowing Rock's Golf Course One of Finest

LENOIR March 8.—Seth Rainer, golf course builder of Long Island, New York has been at Blowing Rock during the past several days to help in locating and laying out the 18-hole golf course for Green Park hotel. Mr. Rainer with C. V. Henkel, of Statesville, one of the hotel proprietors, was here today returning from Blowing Rock to Statesville.

Mr. Rainer says that the new golf course at Blowing Rock is one of the finest he has ever seen in any inland or mountain section. This golf course builder has been connected with and has designed many of the famous golf courses in America. Among these are the Long Island, New York course and White Sulphur Springs Virginia course. He says that the course here surpasses anything he has had anything to do with.

The Green Park hotel is making a number of improvements Mr. Henkel says. A new and larger dining room is being built and other improvements are being added. Five new cottages are under construction and will be completed before the season opens.

Too Cold for Happiness

It was one of those cold raw November days that northern New England knows. A Roman pageant was being given near New York. On the second day an elderly but enthusiastic maiden lady from New England hid her over from the nearby town where she was staying to view the works. As she approached the scene of activities she encountered one of the outposts of the pageant guard, a tall, skinny, sawboned countryman, bare-legged and bare headed, clad only in a tunic of flimsy muslin.

"Oh sir!" cried the lady, clasping her hands in an ecstasy of enthusiasm, as she addressed the blue-lipped shivering Roman. "are you Appius Claudius?"

"Appy ac Claudius?" responded the man, his teeth fairly chattering, "no ma'am, I'm an' appy as 'ell."—Capper's Weekly.

There is always a brighter side. Think how utterly idiotic the rejected scenarios must be. — Baltimore Sun.

Germany Offers to Pay France \$7,500,000,000 According to Reports

Offer Has Been Turned Down by the French. Britisher Says it Should Have Led to Negotiations. France Does Not Want Pay.

LONDON DISPATCH — The announcement that Germany offered approximately \$7,500,000,000 to France as the final sum it would be able to pay in reparations, amazed the British foreign office, which denied that any information regarding Germany's offer had been communicated to Great Britain by France.

A high official said: "It is understandable why France refused that amount, which is far less than the sum offered last May," but he admitted that Great Britain would be glad if Poincaré had used the offer as a stepping stone to negotiations leading to peace.

Publicists who have learned of the offer made and promptly turned down without discussion by France, are agreed that France's action in the matter is in line with her rule or ruin policy in the Ruhr.

Sir Charles Higham said:

"France certainly should have given consideration to the German offer, if it was submitted. While it is a difficult problem to discuss without official figures before me, I am quite sure that if Premier Poincaré had consented to reopen negotiations on the basis of the latest German proposal it would have been the entering wedge that would have brought back peace to the war ridden continent. I do not think the present intolerable situation in the Ruhr can last as it is ruinous to the whole world."

Normal Angell said: "It could only be expected that Premier Poincaré would decline Germany's offer to France. He does not want Germany to pay its indemnity. He does not want Germany to get into a position to pay its indemnity. France's invasion of the Ruhr does not mean a debt collecting move, but is an action to cripple Germany financially and economically."

Ford "Plays Square" by Paying Debts of Old Rival

Detroit, March 9.—A desire to play square with those "who have helped to make the automobile industry what it is," even though some of them have been his business enemies, prompted Henry Ford to pay the balance of the indebtedness of the Lincoln Motor Co. it was learned today from persons close to the manufacturer.

Announcement today that Mr. Ford voluntarily had undertaken to pay approximately \$4,000,000 to creditors of the Lincoln company, sets a precedent in the business world, according to Ralph Stone, president of the Detroit Trust Company, receiver for the concern. Mr. Stone pointed out that by the terms of the purchase of the Lincoln company Mr. Ford was under no legal obligation to reimburse its creditors.

The Lincoln company, then in the hands of a receiver, was purchased at auction by Mr. Ford last year. He paid \$8,000,000 for the property. After preferred claims were paid there was left for distribution among other creditors the sum of \$3,450,000, which amounted to 47 1/2 cents on the dollar. The \$4,000,000 being paid by Mr. Ford makes up the difference between the amounts received by the creditors and the sums due them originally.

In announcing the settlement today Mr. Stone made known for the first time that Mr. Ford had the action in mind when he decided to bid for the Lincoln property at the receiver's sale.

Fair Enough

The goose had been carved and everybody had tasted it. It was excellent. The negro minister who was the guest of honor, could not restrain his enthusiasm.

"Dat's as fine a goose as I ever set my teeth in Brudder Williams, he said to his host. "Whar did you get such a fine goose?"

"Well now pahson" replied the carver of the goose, exhibiting great dignity and reluctance, "when you preaches a speshul good sermon I never axes you whar you got it. I hopes you will show the same consideration."—Lawyer and Banker.

There is nothing better for a community than arousing men to come together before God in His house.—William Allen Knight.

The delta of the Mississippi has just been surveyed for the first time with accuracy by using cameras from airplanes.

Slight of Hand Stunt Makes Pensioners Easy Targets for Crooks

Changes Envelopes After Money is Placed in Them by Unsuspecting Persons—Working Toward Carols—Honesty Test.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—A "sharper" is going through the south cheating veterans or the widows of ex-soldiers out of pension money. A slight of hand trick is used to swindle the old people. This fellow has worked his way through Mississippi, Alabama and Georgia and is traveling toward the Carolinas and Tennessee. The Federal government is after him. Gayly dressed and glib of tongue the fellow makes headway, where a less pretentious chap would not.

"Posing as a special agent of the pension bureau," the department of interior warned today, "this man has been calling at the homes of pensioned soldiers with an announcement that an increase in their pensions to \$72 has been awarded them, providing that they pass a simple test."

"The surprised pensioner, according to the information obtained by the bureau of pensions, promptly agrees to any sort of test and the swindler then presents an empty envelope and asks that the former soldier place all the money in his possession inside it."

Here's the proposition, the fake pension agent then explains. All the government wants to know is whether you're an honest man. Now, I'm going to seal this envelope with the money you've just given me in it, and leave it with you to keep until the commissioner of pensions comes around tomorrow. If he finds the money untouched, you're an honest man. If he discovers you've torn open the envelope and taken out the money it shows that you're dishonest and no increase in pension will be given you.

"Sums running all the way from \$5 to \$50 have been eagerly dug up by the pensioned widows or old soldiers, and the clever flim-flammer in each instance has deftly slipped the money into the envelope and given it to the pensioner to hold awaiting the arrival of the commissioner of pensions the following day. But the commissioner fails to put in his appearance either the next day or any subsequent days. Growing impatient the pensioners finally give up hope and tear open their envelopes. Instead of finding their money in it they are startled to discover a few pieces of old newspaper."

The sleek stranger claiming to be a pension agent has worked a slight of hand trick in transforming the money and instead of putting the currency in the envelope has placed it in his pocket.

Department of justice agents and special examiners of the pension bureau are conducting a search for the swindler but so far have been unable to catch him.

Death Cheats Chair of Human Victim

GREENVILLE, S. C. — "Case closed by death of defendant." These cryptic words written across the record in the case of Cliff Hawkins charged with murder and placed twice in the "death house" of the South Carolina penitentiary, tell the end of one of the most spectacular and bitterly contested cases in the criminal annals of the state. Hawkins passed quietly away in his cell in the Greenville county jail. Meningitis was pronounced as the immediate cause of his death.

For more than two years Cliff Hawkins, young planter of mountain section, had waited in prison for the final judgment of the courts. He had been tried for the murder and convicted and sentenced to die in the electric chair. Almost on the eve of his electrocution the sentence was suspended and only last week he was told that his case would be decided at the present term of court of general sessions.

In July 1920, a negro woman, was fatally shot by a white man. Four days after the shooting of the negroes, hearing that a white farmer named William Morgan had told officers that Hawkins shot the negro. Hawkins went to Morgan's home and killed him. He then turned his gun upon himself and inflicted a serious wound.

Afterwards, Hawkins was indicted by the grand jury on two counts, charging murder, and the case which has just ended through a change of venue to the greater court of justice, was begun.

The trouble seems to be that too many people think the law should be enforced and not enough think it should be observed.—Portland Telegram.

"Clean-Up" Week From March 26-31

The week of March 26-31 has been proclaimed clean-up week by Governor Cameron Morrison in a public proclamation, and the state insurance department, headed by Commissioner Stacey W. Wade, will lead the campaign against rubbish and fire-breeding conditions.

In his proclamation, the Governor asserts that "in the \$8,000,000 loss of property in North Carolina by fire during the past year, the statistics will ever be able to measure our individual guilt, nor penalize our carelessness; yet the responsibility is there and the fact that it is a public burden, an open reproach, does not lessen the personal offense."

The proclamation follows: "Cleanliness is not only next to Godliness, but partakes of it in that it points to the saving of human life. This is true not only in the prevention of fires and accidents which take each year an appalling toll of lives.

"In failing to remove from our homes and places of business all rubbish and fire-breeding conditions, we set aside both the laws of God and man, accepting the charge of criminal negligence and inviting the murderous sacrifice of human life as well as the wanton destruction of property."

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"Cleanliness in our lives, in our homes, in our places of business, is a duty we owe our families, our neighbors and friends. Let us glorify that duty in the discharge of it. Cleanliness is impossible among trash and rubbish; then let us clean up."

"Now, therefore, I, Cameron Morrison, Governor of North Carolina, in order to impress upon our people the menace of carelessness and to induce a general and active interest in fire and accident prevention, do hereby designate the week of March 26 to 31, 1923 as Clean-Up Week, and urge that it be observed by devoting a part of each day to a thorough inspection of attics, closets, basements, storage rooms, and the removal of all waste, trash, or other accumulation that might cause a fire or accident."

"Let us accept a personal responsibility in making North Carolina safe for life and property by first cleaning up our own premises and then co-operating with our city authorities and state insurance department, in removing hazardous conditions from our schools, institutions, factories and other public places."

"Done at our city of Raleigh this eighth day of March, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-three, and in the one hundred and forty-eighth year of our American independence."

"Signed: CAMERON MORRISON Governor."

Cheese School Well Attended and Men Are Doing Good Work

Time spent in Boone at cheese school by the cheese makers of Watauga, Haywood and Henderson counties will be valuable to the milk producers.

The men are intensely interested, and are proving, by the work they are doing, their ability to operate cheese factories in a way that will pay the milk producer all his milk is worth manufactured into cheese. The men have also taken much interest in feed feeding, and breeding of dairy cows.

It is hoped that the time spent at this cheese school by the men who attended will be of some help to the cheese industry of North Carolina. Let's make 1923 a year that will be remembered by the growth and development of the dairy business.

The makers are planning on organizing a North Carolina Cheese Makers' Association during the last week of school. The members of the Association will meet three times during the year each bringing a cheese to be judged and scored. The maker receiving the highest average score on his cheese will receive a silver trophy cup. This will enable the makers of North Carolina to make a uniform cheese that will demand a good price.

H. L. WILSON

Rather than miss a football game at Coaldale, Pa., 10,000 persons remained in their seats and refused to desert the game to fight a fire which destroyed a house on the outskirts of town. Appeals were made for fireman to respond but no one moved.

Pay Tribute to Author of the Great Mountain Railroad Measure

Wilkes Commercial Club Gives T. C. Bowie Grand Ovation—Proclaimed "Leader of People" and "the Giant of the Mountains."

From Carter's Weekly.

When Tam C. Bowie, Ashe county legislator and champion of the people of the "lost provinces" and the mountain citizenship in general arrived in the city at 12:50 Tuesday afternoon he was greeted at the station by President J. G. Hackett of the Wilkes Commercial Club and about 1000 citizens, and he was accorded one of the biggest demonstrations ever received by any North Carolinian in this section of the state. The immense crowd gathered to pay tribute to the giant of the mountains for his great victory in the session of the General Assembly which has just ended—the passage of the Bowie railroad bill.

Sometime prior to the arrival of the train citizens began to gather at the station, and when Mr. Bowie arrived the station yard was thronged with a mass of people and many were standing in the street and on the sidewalk. Bowie's name was heralded into the air and never has any man been welcomed with greater enthusiasm than he. From the train Mr. Bowie was escorted to the Orpheum theater the city's new play house, where there was speaking, and where again high tribute was paid one of North Carolina's brightest sons. President Hackett presided over the meeting, and after stating that the assembly had met with only one purpose, that of showing appreciation for the noble achievement of Mr. Bowie, he called upon Ex-Congressman R. N. Hackett to introduce the legislator. Mr. Hackett paid a glowing tribute to the mountain legislator and asked that every citizen in the county give the inciting commission his most earnest and zealous aid. That Mr. Bowie was greatly touched by the great demonstration and continued ovation was very easy to discern. He said that when "I see this demonstration I do not regret one thing that I have done. This great mountain section will be open for we have \$10,000,000 in cold cash for the construction of a trunk line railroad from the middle west, which is a key to the development of all of North Carolina." P. E. Brown ex-sheriff of the county praised Mr. Bowie's achievement in highest terms referred to him as "the leader of our people" and the inn of this mountain section.

Following the meeting Mr. Bowie in company with his private stenographer, Miss Maud Colva left for his Ashe county home.

The construction of a trunk line of railroad from North Wilkesboro to some point in Tennessee would give a direct and the most feasible outlet from the middle west and the Appalachian coal fields, thus saving manufacturers of the state approximately \$100 on each car of coal delivered at Winston-Salem or Greensboro. The Bowie Railroad Bill, which provides for the construction of the branch line and trunk railroad is one that will benefit the entire state, and especially eastern and central North Carolina.

Factories and stores closed in order to pay a merited tribute to Mr. Bowie who, even though he is now a resident of Ashe county, is a son of Wilkes.

Thousands Cut off From Government Pay Roll

During the two years of the Harding administration ending March 4 almost 100,000 employees have been separated from the government service, according to a capitulation made at the direction of President Harding and given our recently at the white house.

Detailed figures furnished by all departments and independent establishments of the government showed that reductions totaled 119,188 but these were offset somewhat in increase in certain of the departments numbering 20,396, leaving a total reduction of 98,792.

Nearly all of the departments contributed to a reduction of the personnel.

The post office department increase of 9,186 was explained in the white house announcement as due to the national expansion of the business of the department.

If you can't travel you can get Pullman luxury at home. Just crawl up on a closet shelf and stick a cinder in your eye.—Coatsville Record.