

The Mount Airy News.

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\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

CLAIM FOR A BILLION DOLLARS

U. S. Presents Her Bill to Germany for War Damages

Washington, May 20.—America's bill of war claims against Germany, amounts to \$1,479,064,313.92 as it has been presented to the mixed claims commission, for settlement.

The United States government, itself is the largest claimant, asking for \$366,113,000, while the smallest of the 12,416 claims filled with the commission is for \$1.

Heading the list of claims by individuals are those growing out of the sinking of the Lusitania by a German submarine. They total \$22,006,000 and may be disposed of first by the commission. Germany having already admitted liability, but no definite amount.

The stupendous total involved in the proceeding is revealed for the first time in a report to the state department by Robert C. Morris, agent for the United States before the commission. Work on determining the amounts Germany must pay already has been begun by the commission, which organized last October and which consists of Edwin Parker, of Texas, American commissioner, and Dr. Wilhelm Kiessbach, German commissioner, with former Justice Day of the Supreme court as umpire.

How soon the commission can complete its work cannot be estimated, but it is to be expedited through classification by Mr. Morris of most of the claims into test cases, by which one decision of the commission will determine the law and principles to be applied to claims of similar character.

The American claims are to be disposed of without regard to the allied reparations claims, the report of Mr. Morris disclosing that the commission has entered a formal order that "the machinery provided by the Versailles treaty and the rules and methods of procedure thereunder governing the disposition of claims, including reparation claims; so called neutrality claims; claims growing out of exceptional war measures to be dealt with by mixed arbitral tribunals shall have no application to, and are not binding on, this commission."

Neither is the door shut against the United States or its citizens to increase the amounts of the claims presented Mr. Morris having stipulated, on behalf of the American government, and Germany having accepted a proviso permitting the claims to be changed in amount later if circumstances and the facts disclosed should require.

The report of Mr. Morris also disclosed the machinery and rules set up for disposal of the American claims by the commission. Details of the commission's organization, with addresses by the American and German representatives indicating a friendly spirit and desire for accord also were made public. The largest claim listed in the report is the American government's of \$255,544,810.53 for costs of the army of occupation in Germany, now under negotiations with the allies in Paris by Assistant Secretary Wadsworth of the treasury. It is understood, however, this claim will not be pressed in the event the Paris negotiations result in an agreement. Other government claims are for \$67,266,626.23 for general damages growing out of German submarine warfare; \$37,982,000 by the veterans bureau for war risk premiums; \$5,380,000 by the railroad administration and \$40,075 for war risk premiums of the shipping board.

The \$1 claim is presented by Emory Roberts for loss of property while a German prisoner of war.

There are a few other small claims of \$1.50 and \$2 for loss of parcel post property by shippers, but most of the claims run up into hundreds of thousands and millions. Every class of American shipping, manufacturing and business concerns, is found among the large list of claims, all of whose names are disclosed in the reports but their addresses are withheld.

The largest individual claims are \$100,000,000 by Roger B. McMullin for alleged patent infringements and one by William J. Quillon for \$96,000,000 from German submarine warfare. Other large individual claims include Karl Schiller, \$11,362,000 entitled "consequence of war, and Arkell and Douglas, \$6,550,000, consequence of war.

The largest Lusitania claim is \$5,000,000 for the death of Fred S. Pearson, plus \$300,000 for the death of Mabel Ward Pearson. Other large

Lusitania claims include those of heirs of estates of the following: Charles Klein, New York theatrical producer, \$1,762,000.

Justus Miles, foreman, \$100,000. Charles Frohman, another former New York theater magnate, \$250,000. Alfred G. Vanderbilt, \$250,000. Samuel and Solomon Friedland, \$342,000.

Most of the Lusitania claims range from \$10,000,000 to \$100,000.

Unusual Rescues Told of Terrible Disaster

Camden, S. C. May 18.—As this community today overcame its horror as the result of the Cleveland schoolhouse fire, stories of heroism, unusual rescues and incidents of various kinds during the time the building was burning, began to come to light. At first all were too stunned to talk.

Rev. J. J. Johnson, pastor of a Camden Baptist church, saved his two little daughters, but was unable to save his 10-year-old son. Rev. Mr. Johnson was the speaker of the evening at the commencement exercises of the little school. When the audience began leaving the second floor auditorium he took his two daughters in his arms. He led his son by the hand. Nearing the door the minister lost his grip on the boy. He reached back several times in an effort to regain his hold on the little fellow. "This is me daddy. This is me," the child cried out. Then his voice was smothered in the rush of the crowd to get out and he was, apparently trampled under foot. He never was seen alive again by any one who escaped and his body had not been identified tonight.

One man whose name could not be learned placed a flag pole against the side of the burning building. Fifteen persons slid down to safety. One of those who escaped by this method was a woman 70 years old.

Who is the outstanding hero developed by the fire, may be a question of dispute but to many one of the outstanding heroes of the occasion will be a boy who was not even at the fire. He is Thompson Davis, 17.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Davis, and two sisters were burned to death in the fire. Today he stood in the Beulah church yard surrounded by sheeted and charred figures.

Asked what he knew about the fire he said:

"Don't know very much. I wasn't there. But I lost my mother and father and two oldest sisters, Lena and Ida May. They were 14 and 12. At home there's a little brother about nine months and three more little sisters. They are two, five and six. They and me are all that's left. But I guess I can help some. I guess I can do it."

Almost instantly a dozen hands were thrusts into pockets and men who had heard his assertion thrust bills into his hands. The boy hesitated but finally was prevailed upon by an elderly man to take the money.

"You've got a big load to carry," son," the man told him. "I'll do my best, sir, I'll do my best," the boy replied.

A tall young man pinned helpless to the wall by the bodies around him and with his clothes blazing, according to a man who said he saw the incident when he was trying to save his own daughter, shouted out above the tumult, "Look everybody! Let's all smile! Watch me and see how a man can die!" Only a few seconds the wall against which he stood gave way and he fell into the hungry flames.

Another father plunged back into the fiery entrance and tried to extricate his son from the mass of the dead and dying. The boy's head was caught under the body of another victim, but when his father grasped his hand and tried to pull him out, the boy recognizing the touch of his parent's hand, cried out: "Is it you, daddy? You mustn't die, too. Leave me and help the others."

960 Blue-eyed Babies Offered For Adoption

Glasgow, Ky., May 16.—When Mrs. Alan Farquhar, a childless Canadian woman wrote to Commissioner Henry Lamb that she wished to adopt a blue-eyed baby she opened up an unexpected drove of Scottish childhood. When her wish became known the commissioner received 960 offers of babies for adoption. One mother sent with her letter the pedigree of the child she was willing to give away. The pedigree ran back to 1500 years.

HOME AGENTS WERE BUSY LAST MONTH

Not in Surry But in Other Wide-awake Counties

The following reports have been issued by Miss Pauline Smith, district supervisor, of the demonstration work done in Hertford and Bertie counties during the month of April.

Hertford County

Miss Swindell of Hertford county is concentrating her efforts on clothing with the women; sport hats for girls and meal planning with the girls. Twenty dress forms have been ordered this month, and in one school twenty-one sport hats have been made. The negro drama campaign has been waged in all sections of the county. The meetings were arranged by the negro supervisor, and Miss Swindell explained the campaign and gave out the folders giving the gardening instructions.

Field days 21, office days 4, clubs visited 15, attendance 184, schools visited 12, attendance 1643, conferences 78, articles for publication 5, homes visited 8, letters sent 116, bulletins 398, miles auto 544, demonstrations 15.

Bertie County

Miss Harry of Bertie county closed her bread campaign the 28th. The Windsor paper says of it: "Grand Bread campaign and rally day a great success. County boys and girls invade the city! Forty-four schools represented. Saturday, April the 28th marked the closing of Bertie County's first 'campaign for better bread.' And it was a success from every viewpoint, from attendance, from the exhibition of bread; and from the enthusiasm manifested by every one. Everybody seemed to understand that better bread means better health, less indigestion and happier homes. Therefore, never have we seen a finer collection of collection of biscuits. There were five hundred biscuits on exhibition; and after everybody who could had inspected them and resisted the temptation of 'sampling,' they were carried to the inmates and prisoners.

"Prior to the 'Rally Day,' Miss Harry, the efficient and energetic Home Demonstration Agent, had conducted a contest in every one of the forty-four white schools in the county. The winners in each of these schools were announced last week. This contest decided the best biscuit makers in the respective schools. Then these 'winners' in the various schools were pitted against one another in a contest to decide the best biscuit makers in the whole county. And to this end about five hundred biscuits, baking powder biscuits and soda biscuits were brought to Windsor right fresh from the oven, and the Home Demonstration Agents from Washington and Edgecombe counties judged the best. The judging was no easy matter; for any biscuit among them would have been fit for the table of kings. However, the decision was made and we give below the successful contestants and the winners of the prizes."

Before the names of the successful ones were announced, a very interesting program was rendered.

Miss Wallace, Assistant State Agent made a most excellent address and Mr. Mabey, of the Entomology Department, and Judge Winston made speeches. From all reports the occasion was most successful in spite of a steady downpour of rain.

Field days 22, office days 2, clubs visited 21, attendance 471, schools visited 54, attendance 1537, total meetings held and attended 1243, conferences 407, number of articles for publication 10, homes visited 6, letters sent 144, circular letters 181, bulletins 50, miles auto 996, demonstrations 12.

The Size of the Seed

The size of the flower, the plant, the tree, does not depend on the size of the seed.

The germ in the seed, the soil and the cultivation are prime factors.

The great business houses of the next generation are the small shops of today, perhaps on the side street and not so well and generally known. Among the prime factors in the growth of these small beginnings to great business houses is publicity, consistent, efficient advertising from the very beginning.

The Review expects to see some of its present moderate advertisers occupying the prominent corners in years to come.

"Tall trees from little acorns grow." Learn to advertise and then advertise!—Reidsville Review.

BIG SCHOOL DISASTER IN SOUTH CAROLINA

62 Victims of Fire Buried in One Grave

Camden, S. C., May 18.—Bathed in the glory of a setting South Carolina sun, 62 bodies, that less than 24 hours before had been fun-loving men, women and children, late tonight were placed on one big grave in Beulah Methodist church yard.

Three thousand South Carolinians led by Governor Thomas G. McLeod, gathered from all parts of the state to pay a last tribute to those who had perished in the burning flames of the schoolhouse, through the brief, simple funeral service.

The bodies were those out of the at least 73 dead which could not be identified. They were buried within a few hundred yards of the spot where on last night they gathered for the commencement exercises of the community school and where an oil lamp, dashed from its hanger on the ceiling over the auditorium stage, had turned the little country school into a funeral pyre.

Last night was to have been the last use of the structure as a school building. There were reports today that it had been condemned, but County Superintendent of Education Murchison said the building was being abandoned because of consolidation of three schools and that it had not been declared unsafe. The school was to have held its annual picnic today.

Sheriff Welch of Kershaw county late today announced that owing to the fact that there were so many eye witnesses and that the cause of the deaths was established without doubt, there would be no inquest.

"Sometime with tearless eyes we'll see and sometime we'll understand," the choir composed of the best voices from the churches in Camden and other parts of the county sang.

Tears stood in the eyes of many. Strong men wept, many holding in their arms little tots orphaned by the fire, some of them sleeping.

Banked high with flowers the freshly made grave, 40 by 12 feet in the quiet peace of those who but a scant 20 hours before were planning with joyous anticipation the visit to the little school house to see the comedy playlet, "Miss Topsy Turvy," presented as part of the commencement exercises of the Cleveland graded school.

Governor McLeod in a brief talk and in a voice touched with emotion, said:

"I wish something I could say, something that would assuage the grief within your hearts or that I could relieve my own heart and as a servant whom you have honored, I bring to you the loving sympathy of our state from the mountains to the sea. And not only the sympathy of the state but of all the nation. All over this land tonight, mothers and fathers will breathe a prayer for you in your bereavement."

The undertaker and those in charge of the bodies say that there possibly are bodies of one or two persons buried in the grave with the unidentified dead who were not known to have been in the auditorium last night.

The condition of the bodies was such that it was impossible to make an accurate check. Fourteen of the dead were identified and funeral services will be held for them tomorrow in Camden, at Beulah church and at Antioch.

Autos Furnish Bulk of Crossing Victims

Atlanta, Ga., May 19.—Automobiles figured in 81 percent of the accidents which occurred at crossings of public highways with tracks of the Southern Railway System during 1922.

Out of 474 crossing accidents, 384 were in connection with automobiles. Sixty-seven occupants of automobiles were killed and 194 injured out of a total of 86 persons killed and 274 injured in such accidents.

There were 64 accidents involving other vehicles and street cars in which four persons were killed and 68 injured, and 26 accidents to pedestrians, of whom 15 were killed and 12 injured.

These figures are contained in a statement issued by the Safety Department of the Southern, calling attention to the alarming increase of crossing accidents since the automobile has come into general use, indicating that drivers of motor cars do not take the same precautions at crossings that are taken by drivers of other vehicles and by pedestrians.

CAPTIVES FACE DEATH BY CHINESE

Foreigners Will Be Killed Unless Chinese Government Acts Quickly.

Peking, May 19.—Fifteen foreigners six of them Americans, some of them ill, all of them weary, bruised and footsore, poorly fed, and worse clad, tonight are looking death in the face in the Paotzuku hills of Shantung province as they approach the end of their second week as captives of the bandits who raided the Shanghai-Peking express near Suchow, May 6.

If the foreign and Chinese governments are unable to satisfy the brigands by Tuesday and their terms for the release of the prisoners will not be met, and the robbers' chieftain makes good his threat, two of the Americans and two Britishers have little more than 48 hours to live.

They will be shot as a warning that the marauders mean to force compliance with their demands under their chief's ultimatum sent out Sunday.

"We are pleading for our lives and unless Peking, Washington and London realize that the bandits are ready to sacrifice their own lives and those of all their captives in their fight for re-instatement in the Chinese government, immune from punishment we are surely doomed," is the statement made by Leon Friedman one of the Americans speaking for all.

Friedman's message, sent to his brother in Shanghai, has stirred the foreign communities of China. In Shanghai tomorrow a mass meeting will be held to pass resolutions demanding that American and British governments guarantee the promise of the Chinese government to the outlaws and win the freedom of their imprisoned nationals.

The shadow of death has descended seven times this week on the bandit-prison torments in the Paotzuku hills. Two of the Chinese prisoners were thrown from the cliffs because they romised ransoms had not been paid and five others were shot in cold blood for failure to obey orders.

One man, Marcel O. Berube, a Frenchman, of Shanghai, yesterday was given his freedom with instructions from Wang, the bespectacled, scholarly young bandit leader, to go to Peking and lay before the Chinese government and the foreign diplomatic corps, the desperate plight of the 15 others.

Two factors apparently have clogged negotiations for the release of the captives. One is the dickering between Chinese officials at Tsaochwang, who have poured in there by carload to treat for the prisoners' release, the other is the bandits' demand, repeated again and again, that because they cannot trust the promises of the Chinese government, guarantee that their terms will be met must be given from responsible source. Opposed to this latter position is the stand of the foreign diplomats that the Chinese government is held responsible for the safety of the prisoners and it must obtain their freedom. And Friedman says, and Berube says, that unless the captives are released soon they are doomed.

Advices from Tsaochwang state that mujiny is feared among the troops policing the bandit zone. They have not been paid for 18 months and are reported to be fraternizing with the bandits even to the extent of selling the brigands the government ammunition they carry.

Some of the soldiers, however, still are said to be encircling the brigand fortress, despite repeated assertions from Chinese official quarters that they had been withdrawn to insure the safety of the foreign prisoners, in response to the outlaws' ultimatum.

Fifteen Held; Six Americans

Fifteen foreign captives, including six Americans, still are in the hands of the bandits, according to a list compiled at Shanghai for the Associated Press from all available sources. The list is as follows:

Americans: Maj. Roland W. Pinger, U. S. A., ordinance department, Manila; home Berkeley, Cal. Maj. Robert A. Allen, U. S. A., medical corps, Manila; home Tacoma, Wash.

Leon Friedman, Chicago, owner of China Motors corporation, Shanghai. Jerome A. Henley, Commodore hotel, New York, employed by Fearon Daniel company, Shanghai.

John B. Powell, Hannibal, Mo., owner and publisher Weekly Review, Shanghai, and correspondent for the Chicago Tribune.

Lee Solomon, San Francisco; Shan-

ghia agent of the Block company, San Francisco.

British: Fred Elias, broker, Shanghai.

Edward Elias, his brother, broker, Shanghai.

Theodore Saphiere, broker, Shanghai.

Reginald H. Rowlett, Birmingham, England, manager Reiss and company Tientsin.

W. Smith, Manchester, England. French: Emile Gensburger, broker, Shanghai.

Italian: G. D. Musso, Rome, Shanghai lawyer, millionaire and adviser to the Chinese government.

Mexican: Manuel A. Vereas, manufacturer, Guadalajara, Mexico, and Senora Vereas, his wife.

Bright Tobacco Beats Turkish

Kinston, May 16.—Turkish tobacco is not superior to the eastern Carolina bright leaf product. It is losing out as the favorite of European smokers. Its fame is largely artificial. Prices for best grades of American tobacco next fall will be high.

These are the impressions of Leslie Worthington, president of the tobacco board of trade here, after a five week's stay in England and visits to Holland, France and Belgium.

"The British is the most discriminating smoker in the world," Worthington declared. "That is the reason his best cigarettes are handmade yet. I looked over the big London establishment in which 3,500 girls daily make millions of the most popular English brand. The cigarettes were rolled in strips and cut with scissors. They were more perfectly rolled than the American machine-made cigarettes."

The fable that applies to Turkish tobacco, causing it to fetch the highest prices in the world, effects the grower as well as all others connected with the industry, Worthington said. "The tobacco comes in tiny leaves, carefully sized and strung through the stems. The product is baled and not shipped in hogheads as is our product. The stems of a pile of leaves sewn together are invariably of the same length. Turkish tobacco is packed with as much precision in Smyrna figs, even greater. In that factory where I saw good English cigarettes being made, however, the tobacco came from Wilson, Kinston, Greenville and Rocky Mount, U. S. A."

Mail Order Men Watch Weeklies

Discussing the growth of the mail order business, the Wall Street Journal has this to say:

"How profitable an investment for a long pull may be in a well managed company with an expanding business is exemplified by a purchase of Sears, Roebuck & Co. stock some years ago. An investor who had faith in the future of the mail order business and management of this company bought 600 shares in 1908 when selling around \$40 per share, the 600 costing a little less than \$25,000. In 1911 a stock dividend of 33 1-3 per cent was paid, increasing his holdings to 800 shares. Another stock dividend of 50 per cent was paid in 1915, which added 400 shares, more, making his ownership 1,200 shares. Capital was again increased early this year by a 25 per cent stock dividend, making his present holdings 1,500 shares, on which cash dividends of \$8 annually are being paid. The investor is therefore receiving \$12,000 a year from his original investment of about \$25,000, quoted around \$160 a share, the present market value of his stock is \$240,000 giving him a profit of \$215,000, at market prices in addition to cash dividends received during nine years."

It will interest local merchants to know that the large mail order houses have a force of girls whose sole duty is to examine county newspapers and report on the local advertising they carry.

In towns where local merchants are poor advertisers the mail order man concentrates his fire. He avoids the town where the local merchants are sufficiently astute to keep the trade at home.

Mail order competition never need be serious if the local merchant is alive to his opportunity.

Not long ago in the Middle West one enterprising merchant facing this mail order difficulty bought certain articles from a mail order concern and displayed them in his store alongside similar articles he himself handled, and he soon proved to the public that they saved money by shopping at home.