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THIRTEEN NEGROES ARE HANGED AT ARMY CAMP

They Were of the 24th Infantry Found Guilty of Riot and Mutiny at Houston

San Antonio, Tex., Dec. 11.—A trampled clearing in a lonely mesquite thicket on the government reservation here, except for the ashes of two huge bonfires, showed no signs tonight that it was the execution place of 13 negro soldiers of the 24th infantry today. The negroes, convicted of participating in the riots at Houston, Tex., August 28, last, were hanged at one minute before sunrise.

After dark last night motor trucks carried the lumber for the scaffolds and a company of engineers to the clearing. The scaffolds were built by fire-light. Motor trucks shortly after 5 o'clock this morning carried the condemned negroes and the officers and military guard to the place of execution. The trucks later carried the bodies to a place as indistinguishable as the execution site where the burial took place. Then they hauled back to Fort Sam Houston every piece of lumber used in the scaffold so that the site was clear before formal announcement of the execution had been issued by the southern department headquarters.

The condemned negroes had known of their fate since Sunday. Twelve of them sought spiritual counsel of army Y. M. C. A. workers. The 13th, whose name has not been disclosed, gave no inkling that he knew outwardly all were stoical. They did not know the date of the execution but last night they were taken from the cavalry guardhouse where they have been prisoners more than a month, and placed in separate barracks.

Aside from less than a dozen officers of the southern department and the sheriff of Bexar county, no one in the city or the army camps knew of the execution, date or place. The other defendants were ignorant of the fate of their companions until after the formal announcement had been made.

The condemned men were aroused this morning a few minutes before regular army reveille. The military guard had been summoned silently and no sound was heard in the camp where nearly 40,000 men were sleeping, except the purring of the army truck motors awaiting their loads. The negroes dressed in their regular uniforms as carefully as for inspection.

They displayed neither bravado or fear. They rode to the execution singing a hymn, but the singing was that of soldiers on the march. Arrived at the clearing the song ceased, the men, shackled, were helped from the trucks to the scaffolds and seated on chairs. A low "good bye boys" addressed to members of their military guard who had been in charge of the negroes since they were brought here from Fort Bliss, was the only expression from any of the negroes. The men's feet were bound. An army chaplain offered prayer. An officer called "attention," and as on parade the negroes stood erect. They stood quietly while caps and nooses were adjusted and then stepped on the traps. The major in charge of the execution gave a signal and soldiers sprang the traps.

A FAR DIFFERENT CHRISTMAS

The American Boy.

Most of us have never seen a Christmas to be compared with this Christmas. A million of your brothers and uncles and friends will not be at home to eat their Christmas dinner, or to delight in the Christmas tree. Hundreds of thousands are on the other side of the world within earshot of cannon, which even on Christmas Day will be belching death. More will be in cantonments waiting to be sent across the ocean. For these million young men Christmas will be a day in which sadness will outweigh joy. It seems to be our duty and the only true expression of our Christmas spirit to think greatly of the boys who have gone to fight for us, and in such ways as we are able, to make it a Soldier's Christmas. If every one of you would write a Christmas letter to some fellow in camp—or send some little gift to show that you are thinking of him—it would be a splendid thing. Make some little sacrifice to give them pleasure—for they are willing to make the greatest sacrifice possible to make your country safe. Let every boy of you see to it that he wishes some soldier a Merry Christmas.

Red Cross relief shipments to Europe average over 10,000 tons a month. In one shipment was a consignment of 559 soccer footballs and 250 rugby footballs for American soldiers purchased with funds raised by Harvard graduates.

Farmers who chop wood to save coal in our cities this winter will be making the chips fly for freedom.

REMARKABLE PROGRESS IN NAVY OF AMERICA

Daniels' Report Tells of Great Increase in Naval Force's Effectiveness

Washington, Dec. 9.—To a young officer, commanding the first flotilla of American destroyers to reach the war zone when the United States entered the world war, Secretary Daniels turns in his annual report, made public today, to find the war slogan of the naval service. Asked by the British Admiral to whom he reported when his ships would be ready for work against the submarines after a long voyage, the officer replied:

"We are ready now."

"That was not the language of boasting," Mr. Daniels says in describing the incident. "It was the prophecy and pledge of our service with those fighting in a common cause."

"During peaceful years the navy has been quietly but steadily perfecting itself to meet the time of war. Now the hour for which it has been preparing has arrived. Our sword is drawn, and no one will dispute that the blade is keen and free from rust and its temper true."

"While I may not speak in detail of the greater naval operations, it may be stated that the record is one of increasing power, of developing resourcefulness and of co-operative achievement which the American people may well survey with national pride. While the details of what we have done and how we have done it must wait until it is permissible to spread them upon public record, this summary may be given to our people:

"In the navy we have prepared for, and have met the duties of the present; we are preparing for and are confident we will be able to meet any call for greater duties, for more exacting responsibilities. The best way to secure enduring peace is to prepare unceasingly, night and day, for the winning of the war, whether it be long or short. This we have done; this we are doing; and this we will continue to do."

For the coming year, Mr. Daniels reports a total budget of \$1,919,000,000 which is not itemized in his report. In various ways, he says, it will be necessary to ask for additional funds as the session of Congress proceeds. He points out, however, that appropriations for the last fiscal year totalled \$1,542,732,859 for the navy and for a 18 month period \$1,905,410,930. Congress provided liberally, he says, and legislated for the navy with vision and wisdom.

"This was done too," he adds, "in the broadest spirit of national patriotism by members of all political parties."

Striking figures contained in the report showing the war expansion of the navy include the following: Since January 1, 1917, the naval force has increased from 4,500 officers and 68,000 men to 15,000 officers and 254,000 men; the number of stations of all kinds operated by the navy has increased from 180 to 363; the number of civil employees from 35,000 to 60,000; the strength of the naval reserve from a few hundreds to 49,240 men; the average monthly expenditure from \$8,000,000 to \$60,000,000; the number of ships in commission from a little more than 300 to more than 1000; the hospital corps from 1,800 to 7,000; the national naval volunteers from zero to 16,000 men; the marine corps from 344 officers and 9,921 men to 1,197 officers and 30,000 men. In addition to this and to the vast orders for material placed, the expansion of the air service and to many wholly new activities developing from war conditions, training facilities have been provided for 118,650 men exclusive of the Naval academy and other regular service schools.

For the first time the secretary does not make public the report of the general board of the navy. His synopsis of the board's work shows that it has been of a most confidential character and the report is withheld for that reason, Mr. Daniels says. This report is the usual source of the future building program of the navy. The secretary contents himself this year, however, with recommending that the remainder of the three-year program already approved be authorized, including three battleships, one battle cruiser, three scout cruisers, nine fleet submarines and a number of tugs.

The secretary asks that the permanent salaried personnel be increased to 129,000 blue jackets, 10,000 apprentice seamen, 7,000 men in the trade schools and 4,000 for the air service. For war purposes he asks that the figure be 180,000 blue jackets, 24,000 apprentices, 14,000 in trade schools and 10,000 in aviation.

FOOD CROPS ESTABLISH MANY HIGHER RECORDS

Notable Exception Being Wheat, While Corn, Oats, Potatoes and Other Crops Are in Bumper Class

Washington, Dec. 11.—Food crops generally, with the exception of wheat establish records in production this year. Cotton, however, caught by an early frost suffered a sensational loss of approximately a million bales from early estimates.

Late planting, because of dry weather, and the short season, due to early frosts, curtailed production of many crops.

Final estimates announced today by the department of agriculture show the corn crop to have been damaged to the extent of about 32,000,000 bushels by frosts. Nevertheless, corn production established a record with 3,159,494,000 bushels, while its value also a record, is \$4,653,672,000.

The wheat crop shows a decrease of about 9,000,000 bushels from previous forecasts. This year's crop is estimated at 650,838,000 bushels, valued at \$849,372,000.

Oats is a record crop with 1,587,286,000 bushels, valued at \$1,061,427,000.

The potato crop is the largest ever grown with a total of 442,538,000 bushels, valued at \$543,865,000.

Other crops which established records are rye, sweet potatoes, beans, onions, cabbage and tobacco.

Cotton production this year is estimated at 10,949,000 equivalent 500-pound bales, the average weight per running bale being estimated at 501.5 pounds gross.

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The report touches on the various naval conferences attended by American officers, but adds nothing to what is known of the questions taken up or decisions reached. Throughout the lengthy document the secretary is careful to avoid any statement that might be of service to an enemy.

The secretary pays tribute to the marine corps, which has lived up to its best traditions, he says, as will be shown when the war is over. The marine regiment in France, he says, will soon be considerably augmented in its service with General Pershing's army.

Development of naval aircraft has been remarkable, the secretary says, due largely to the success of the liberty motor.

"It may be stated with confidence," he says, "that at the present moment we have an American flying boat actually flying with an American engine which is unexcelled by any foreign craft of the type."

The secretary discloses the fact that American coast patrol stations have been authorized abroad and will be in operation next year, but gives no details.

In conclusion, M. Daniels pictures the possibility of an international navy to keep the world peace. Such an agreement cannot be cherished now, he says, that all the world is at war.

"But if this condition could not be reached in time of peace," he adds, "may we not believe that it will be one of the compensations for the terrible tragedy of war?"

Each naval power should assign units to the international force in proportion to its wealth and population, the secretary suggests, adding:

"To such a police of the sea this country will be ready to make full contribution, and to that end the expansion that now crowds all the old and new shipbuilding resources will soon place this country in a position to furnish as many as powerful ships as will come from any other country. It would be a lasting calamity if, when this war ends, there should linger as a burden upon a people, already heavily taxed by war, a competitive program of costly naval construction. This country will no doubt take its proper place in bringing about such provisions in the peace treaties as will never again constrain any nation to adapt its naval program to the program of some other nation from which there is the compelling menace of possible and unprovoked attack. Such compulsion is the very negative of natural and orderly naval development. It means the tyranny of a pro-

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

The following transfers have been recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds, Lillington, N. C., since our last issue:

J. O. D. King to Myatt D. Joyce 126 1/2 acres Barbecue township, consideration, \$10 and other valuable considerations.

E. M. O'Connell and W. J. Hobby 200 acres Shuborn township, consideration, \$100 and other valuable considerations.

M. A. O'Connell and J. D. Byrd 67 acres U. L. R. township, consideration \$47.00.

Walter E. O'Connell to W. G. Williams 30 acres Groves township, consideration \$1050.

S. N. O'Connell to Fred McLean 25 acres Stewart's Creek township, consideration \$100.

J. D. O'Connell and W. M. Moore 3 lots near Dunn consideration \$10.00.

Dr. E. O'Connell to J. B. James 92 acres Barbecue township, consideration \$2000.

F. R. O'Connell to McCormick to Morrison McCook 78 acres Anderson Creek township, consideration \$1100.

M. F. O'Connell to Walter Coakley 12 acres Black River township, consideration \$100.

Wm. D. O'Connell to Maggie F. Patterson 10 acres U. L. R. township, consideration \$100.

R. L. O'Connell to D. P. Jones 3 Tracts 2 1/2 acres Shuborn township, consideration \$4,500.

F. T. O'Connell to G. M. Wimberly 108 1/2 acres Black River township, consideration \$100.

J. D. O'Connell to W. P. Holt 19 acres Groves township, consideration \$500.

W. R. O'Connell to Trustees Fayetteville Park 1 acre in Averasboro township, consideration \$145.

E. F. O'Connell to trustee United States of America in Averasboro township, consideration \$145.

J. A. O'Connell to L. Howell 52 1/2 acres in Black River township, \$1500.

M. T. O'Connell to M. M. Johnson 16 acres in Black River township, consideration \$100.

W. H. O'Connell to J. B. O'Connell 16 1/2 acres in Black River township, consideration \$1200.

G. S. Lee to A. R. Goodman, 12 lots in Averasboro township, \$1500.

E. F. Young, Trustee to A. R. Goodman 7 lots near Dunn \$350.

J. D. Barnes to E. A. Draughon 2 lots near Dunn consideration, \$10 and other considerations.

R. A. Draughon to Henry McKeithan 1 lot near Dunn, consideration \$835.74.

J. B. Ivey to J. A. Ivey 25 acres Averasboro township, consideration 1000.

M. N. Nordan to J. B. and J. A. Ivey 49 1/2 acres Averasboro township, consideration \$1000.

J. C. Byrd and brother to Fred McLean 25 acres Stewart's Creek township, consideration \$1.00 and other valuable considerations.

J. C. Byrd and brother to Henry McLean 25 acres Stewart's Creek township, consideration \$1.00 and other considerations.

Union Seed and Fertilizer Company to F. T. Dwyer 50 acres Black River township, consideration \$1500.

J. D. Diggs and et al., trustees to Martin Goodman 1 lot Averasboro township, consideration \$250.

John Mond, Mortgagee to E. A. Draughon 1 lot near Dunn \$374.58.

George Degebre to Kent Jordan Co. 159 acres Johnsonville township, consideration \$1.00 and other considerations.

Marriage License Issued by W. H. Faucette Register of Deeds, since last issue.

WHITE Evander Henry to Florence Creech, of Johnson County.

John S. Bell of Warren county to Janie H. Matthews of Harnett county.

Claud Bagley of Sampson county to Aida Guy, of Sampson county.

COLORED Jerry McLean to Mary Moore, both of Harnett county.

The sugar that goes to waste in the bottom of American teacups would help to sweeten the life of many a French home.

KEROSENE OIL AND GASOLINE IS SHORT

Serious Situation Will Confront the People in a Short While. Supply Inadequate

The following circular letter sent to J. W. Thornton, Texaco dealer here, explains itself. All salesmen, operating inspectors, Agents and Jobber-distributors:

Gentlemen—

A very serious situation has arisen in the Oil Industry, and it is my desire that you should be fully informed of the conditions.

First, there is an actual shortage in the stocks of Kerosene Oil and Gasoline.

Second, the United States Government has recently requisitioned a large number of our ocean steamers, which will prevent us from transporting from our refineries to our distributing terminals the usual amount of products which is necessary to meet the demands of trade, even though there was not an actual shortage in these products.

Third, the United States Government is calling on us daily, as well as other oil companies, for enormous supplies of fuel oil, kerosene and lubricating oils. You can realize that under the present war conditions we are bound to give Government orders precedence over everything else.

Fourth, due to the enormous amount of materials being transported by the railroads for the numerous encampments, as well as for transportation of material destined for our Allies, as well as for the use of our own country in Europe, the railroads have been hampered in the transportation of products for domestic use.

This year it is taking five tank cars to do the same work that one tank car did a year ago. Owing to the conditions mentioned above, our cars are being sidetracked or held in railroad yards both empty and full, and it is utterly impossible to purchase tank car equipment at the present time.

The conditions mentioned above are of such a nature that you cannot help but realize the seriousness of our situation for the past few days have been out of stock about one-half of the time, which is the first occurrence of this character that we have experienced since our Company was organized.

It will be necessary for you to take steps at once to conserve your stocks by adopting the following methods:

You are to take on no new customers whatever, using your utmost endeavors to keep your present trade at least partially supplied.

When one of your customers wants 500 gallons, give him 200 gallons. If he wants 100 gallons, give him 50 gallons—giving preference to customers paying cash.

Any customer where there is any doubt as to his ability to meet his account when due, demand cash on delivery.

Impress upon your garage customers to conserve their stock of gasoline by selling to the consumer for cash and not delivering the entire amount always called for.

As to the tankwagon kerosene oil business, I shall insist that this be strictly cash business, and under no circumstance are you to make any deliveries of kerosene oil from the tankwagons on credit.

I shall in the next day or two make an allotment as to the amount of gasoline and kerosene oil that can be sold by each of our salaried stations, and when you are advised as to the amount that you can sell during any one month you must absolutely adhere to this, for if you sell the amount in the first half of the month, you will have no stock for the last half—hence you must arrange to distribute your allotment where it will do the most good.

In reference to iron barrels, our salesmen will take no orders whatever for shipments of gasoline or kerosene in iron barrels, as the Government has called on us for enormous quantities of products in iron barrels, and have practically depleted our stock. It is impossible for us to purchase any new equipment of this character.

For the information of our Jobber-Distributors who are receiving a copy of this letter, I wish to state that we will do our utmost to meet the requirements of your trade, but cannot in any way guarantee deliveries, due to the abnormal conditions mentioned above.

Kindly acknowledge receipt of this letter, and advise me your intention to co-operate by keeping your sales down and within the allotment, which I will advise you of in the next couple of days.

Yours truly, WILLIAM THOMPSON, Supt. TEXACO CO.

Give children fruit, fruit juices, fruit breads and fruit cookies instead of candies and rich cakes.

CLIMAX DECISION FOR THE BONE-DRY

U. S. Supreme Court Upholds The Idaho Prohibition Law

Washington, Dec. 10.—With a decision upholding the Idaho prohibition law the Supreme Court today gave an opinion which may be one of the most far-reaching victories for "bone dry" prohibition yet recorded. It was held that a citizen has no constitutional right to possess liquors for his personal use if a state wishes to forbid it.

Justice McReynolds, who gave the court's opinion said that a State "has power absolutely to prohibit manufacture, gift, purchase, sale or transportation of intoxicating liquors within its borders without violating constitution."

"We further think," he added, "it clearly follows from our numerous decisions upholding prohibition legislation that the right to hold intoxicating liquors for personal use is not one of those fundamental privileges of a citizen of the United States which no State may abridge. A contrary view would be incompatible with the undoubted power to prevent manufacture, gift, sales, purchase or transportation of such articles—the only feasible ways of getting them. As assured right of possession would necessarily imply some adequate method to obtain not subject to destruction at the will of the State."

Twelve hundred cases of contagious diseases in State. Not Unusually Large Number But Result of Good Reporting.

Twelve hundred and thirty-four cases of contagious diseases exist in North Carolina at this time, according to the epidemiology maps filed in the office of the State Board of Health by Dr. A. McR. Crouch, State Epidemiologist. These diseases are whooping cough 629 cases; measles 155; scarlet fever 161; typhoid fever 231; smallpox 21; infantile paralysis 2, and cerebro-spinal meningitis 3. While these diseases are pretty

in some counties they become more or less epidemic in Cherokee, Clay, Macon, Wilkes, Cabarrus, Henderson, Rutherford, Cleveland, Caldwell, Davidson, Mecklenburg, Anson, Monroe, Nash, Edgecombe, Wayne and Chown. Measles is shown as existing in Forsyth, Davidson, Gaston, Mecklenburg, Henderson and Funder. Scarlet fever in Forsyth, Guilford, Rockingham, Mecklenburg, Gaston, Caldwell and Burke; diphtheria, in Rockingham, Alexander and Northampton, and typhoid in Forsyth, Henderson, Gaston, Cleveland, Robeson, Richmond and Wayne; smallpox in Wayne and Gaston.

These maps explain the State Board of Health, are made up from the monthly reports of the various county quarantine officers. While the number of contagious diseases that exist this month appear unusually large, says the Board, it is not likely they are larger now than in other years at this season. This is the first year that contagious diseases have been made reportable and the first means of knowing where and to what extent of these diseases prevail in the State.

GUS HILL'S BIG MINSTREL HERE ON THE 14th

Gus Hill's Big Minstrel will be at the LaFayette theatre at Fayetteville, Friday, Dec. 14th for one performance only. This is what the Baltimore Sun has to say about it: Minstrel Show Wins at Auditorium.

A regular big minstrel show, with new features and special acts, and scenes, is presented at the Auditorium this week by Gus Hill's big company. Excellent singing and clever jokes make up a program which kept a large audience in a roar last night.

The first part, "Minstrelsy Up To Date," consists of the regular minstrel circle. Special hits were made by "Sunshine Jane," sung by Jack McShane, "Any Old Port in a Storm," by John P. Rodgers, and "It's a Long Long Trail," by Thomas Hughes. But the house came down with a rush when George Wilson rendered in his own peculiar way "Mason and Dixon Line." From the time Wilson appeared on the scene the audience was entirely captivated by his personality, and went into roars of laughter every time he uttered his "Well, Ah nahh in all mah life."

Eddie Maizer and W. H. Thompson received rounds of applause for their comic skit "Some Job." Merton and Arna put on a good acrobatic stunt. "Scenes in Blackville" was a large song and dance sketch, and succeeded in interesting the audience by portraying life in a negro settlement. The last scene, "The Black Politician," was well received. George Wilson gives a clever talk on woman suffrage.

Watch for the big street parade Friday.

Each Infantryman Carries More Than Nine Pounds of Iron and Steel

In the equipment furnished each infantryman by the Ordnance Bureau of the War Department are 9 1/2 pounds of iron and steel. This is exclusive of the uniform equipment provided by the Quartermaster Corps.

Used in the bayonet scabbard are 2 ounces of iron and steel; bayonet, 0.04 ounce; bayonet, 15 ounces; front sight cover, 3 ounces; knife, 1 ounce; mess can, 0.03 ounce; pack carriers, 0.03 ounce; rifle, 107 ounces; shovel, 28 ounces.

German aircraft are marked with a Y-shaped cross. Allied planes used in Europe are distinguished by a painted bull's-eye. American planes bear a circular blue field with a white star and a bright red center.

OVER 4 THOUSAND DEAD IN HALIFAX EXPLOSION

Estimate Made After Survey of the Devastated District. Snow in Stricken District.

Halifax, N. S., Dec. 8.—Four thousand persons were killed in the burning and destruction of buildings resulting from the explosion of a munitions ship in the harbor Thursday, according to estimates tonight by officials. This estimate, higher than any heretofore, was made after a survey of the devastated district of Richmond where acres of debris probably will not be cleared for a month.

Men of the naval forces dragged the water front today and recovered the bodies of 300 sailors, soldiers and workmen.

Halifax has ceased to number its dead and is directing its energies to the aid of the living.

Twenty thousand persons are destitute and of the number perhaps one out of seven is suffering from injuries which in many cases are bound to prove fatal.

Federal, provincial and Red Cross aid, supplemented by voluntary gifts from other cities and the United States, were being utilized to the best advantage. The Massachusetts relief train arrived today, bringing the first contingent of physicians, nurses and supplies. It was the first of several train caravans from the American side.

More than a foot of snow fell last night. Today the storm passed and the weather was clear and cold. Street car service was partly restored and the lighting system repaired in part.

The water supply is causing the most concern. Emergency supplies are being made as fast as possible, but the system was still seriously damaged this evening.

The property loss, variously estimated at from \$30,000,000 to \$50,000,000 probably will prove to be nearer the minimum. The relief committees have asked for \$20,000,000, which they estimate will be necessary to care for the 20,000 destitute ones.

The search for bodies goes on methodically and hundreds are expected in this work are having many experiences.

When the blow fell Lela Burns, eight years old, was on her knees by her cot saying her morning prayer. The house collapsed. Hours later Lela was found in the midst of the wreckage, blundered by fallen timbers and surrounded by broken glass, but quite unharmed, still on her knees and praying fervently.

In a cellar at Richmond a soldier in uniform was seen digging frantically. It was Private Homburg, who had been overseas with the 52nd battalion and recently returned home wounded.

"Here was my home," explained the soldier briefly, while he continued to dig, "and I am sure I heard a moan a moment ago."

Others assisted and presently from under a kitchen stove the protruding armpan of which had protected her, was revealed Homburg's 18-month old baby. Her wounds were superficial. But the private's joy was short lived. A little more digging exposed the bodies of his wife and five other children.

At one hospital several children were listed as negroes from their general appearance. Later it was discovered that they had been white before the flames reached them.

Word has come from St. John that more injured can be accommodated there. Among the injured already in the city the cases of 30 are critical. The casualties in the Wellington street barracks announced tonight were: Killed 6; missing and presumed dead 27; badly wounded 141; slightly wounded 98; unaccounted for 44; total 314.

In the married men's quarters 160 women and children were reported killed, missing and badly wounded. Thirteen sailors and petty officers were killed on the Canadian cruiser Niobe. Fifteen other men are missing and cannot be traced.

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