

## AARON WISEMAN HELD GUILTY BY A JURY FOR KILLING OF HENNESSEE

Shelby, May 17.—GUILTY of murder in the first degree was the verdict of the jury in the case of Aaron Wiseman, of Avery county, tried here for the murder of Dr. E. A. Hennessee, at Glen Alpine on the night of January 31, 1918. Wiseman received the verdict with slight emotion. The jury was out an hour and 10 minutes.

With no signs of flinching, Aaron Wiseman heard his death sentence pronounced at 3:30 this afternoon by Judge B. F. Long. Notice of appeal was given by defendant's counsel. When solicitor Huffman was notified by telephone at Morganton that a verdict of guilty had been rendered, he asked the court to await his arrival at 3 o'clock. The solicitor had gone home on account of sickness and the court waited half an hour after 3 o'clock but he was delayed on account of heavy rain until after adjournment. June 20 is the date set for the electrocution.

A singular thing in connection with the Hennessee and Pitts affair is that when Dr. Hennessee was tried six years ago for killing a Pitts, one of his children died. When the Pitts boys were being tried their grandmother died, and the day Wiseman was arrested his father died.

### Killing of Dr. Hennessee.

The killing of Dr. Hennessee occurred on the evening of January 31, 1918, as the doctor stepped from train No. 21 at Glen Alpine. Dr. Hennessee had been to Greensboro on professional business, leaving that city for his home on the mid-day train. When the train reached Glen Alpine Dr. Hennessee alighted. He had gone but a few steps from the train when there was a fusillade of shots and he fell mortally wounded. An examination of the body showed that some 10 or 12 shots had taken effect. This led to the assumption that two men did the shooting. The following day Garfield and Aaron Pitts were arrested charged with the murder. They were tried for the crime and acquitted. At the trial of the Pitts boys there was evidence that a man wearing a long coat did the shooting. Subsequently Aaron Wiseman was arrested for the crime and at a preliminary hearing held for the grand jury. A true bill was returned against him and the case set for trial at Morganton. When it came on for trial a motion to remove to some other county was made and the presiding judge ordered that the case be tried in Cleveland county.

In the trial here the state relied principally on the testimony of Fred Amos and Mr. Ramey, of Statesville. Amos and Ramey were both passengers on the train. They swore that when the shooting started they looked through the coach windows and saw one man with a revolver in each hand shoot Dr. Hennessee. They identified Wiseman as the man who did the shooting. Amos who didn't testify at the trial of the Pitts boys, said that the reason he failed to make it known that Wiseman was responsible for the death of Hennessee was because he was going to Chicago and did not want to be held as a witness.

### Killing Created Excitement.

The killing of Dr. Hennessee more than a year ago created a great deal of excitement in Burke county. Suspicion was directed at once to the Pitts boys by reason of the battle between the Pitts and Dr. Hennessee some six or seven years ago when a Pitts was killed by Dr. Hennessee. At that time Dr. Hennessee was terribly wounded and for a time it was thought he would die. However, he recovered and was brought to trial and acquitted on the charge of murder. That bad feeling existed between the Pitts and Hennessee was admitted on all sides. After the shooting of Dr. Hennessee on the night of January 31, witnesses testified that one of the men present at the time went in the direction of the Pitts store near the Glen Alpine depot and that after he

## LONDON INTERESTED IN FLIGHT OF SEAPLANES

London, May 17.—This great city has been surcharged with excitement all day, receiving reports of the progress of the American navy seaplanes over the Atlantic. This evening at the hotels Savoy and the Carlton the buzz of conversation showed the deep interest among frequenters over "the coming of the bird Yanks." Extras put out by the evening newspapers telling of the stages in the advancement of the Americans along a ribbon of destroyers equipped with star shells and flares, sold like hot cakes on an excursion train.

The whole affair is being treated as a big international sporting proposition. Regret is heard everywhere that weather conditions in the north Atlantic prevented the start of the British planes.

Your correspondent supplied "London's districts for the use of Columbia" in and around Grosvenor gardens where are located the embassy, the army, navy, air, Red Cross and our other headquarters, with telephone bulletins of the seaplanes' flight. Occasionally navy headquarters equipped with a wireless receiving apparatus atop of its building, obtained flashes from Washington which added zest to the concern over the flying navy men.

Rear Admirals Knapp and Robison, Commander Sexton, Ambassador Davis, Counsellor Butler Wright, General Biddle and other Americans residing in London, plan an enthusiastic reception and demonstration following the airman's expected arrival in England on Tuesday. Secretary of State and Mrs. Lansing, on leaving for France on an early boat, regretted their departure before knowing the climax to the world's greatest air adventure. Nothing else is talked of by members of the American chamber of commerce, the American society, the American Luncheon club, the Anglo-American society, the English-Speaking union, and the various American Y. M. C. A. huts. Everybody is wildly agitated, calling each other by telephone for the latest word. All this American pride and enthusiasm is shown up on a background of British ardor over developing and binding together the two English-speaking nations by heretofore uncharted air routes.

## FRENCH PREMIER PLANS TO WRITE A BOOK SOON.

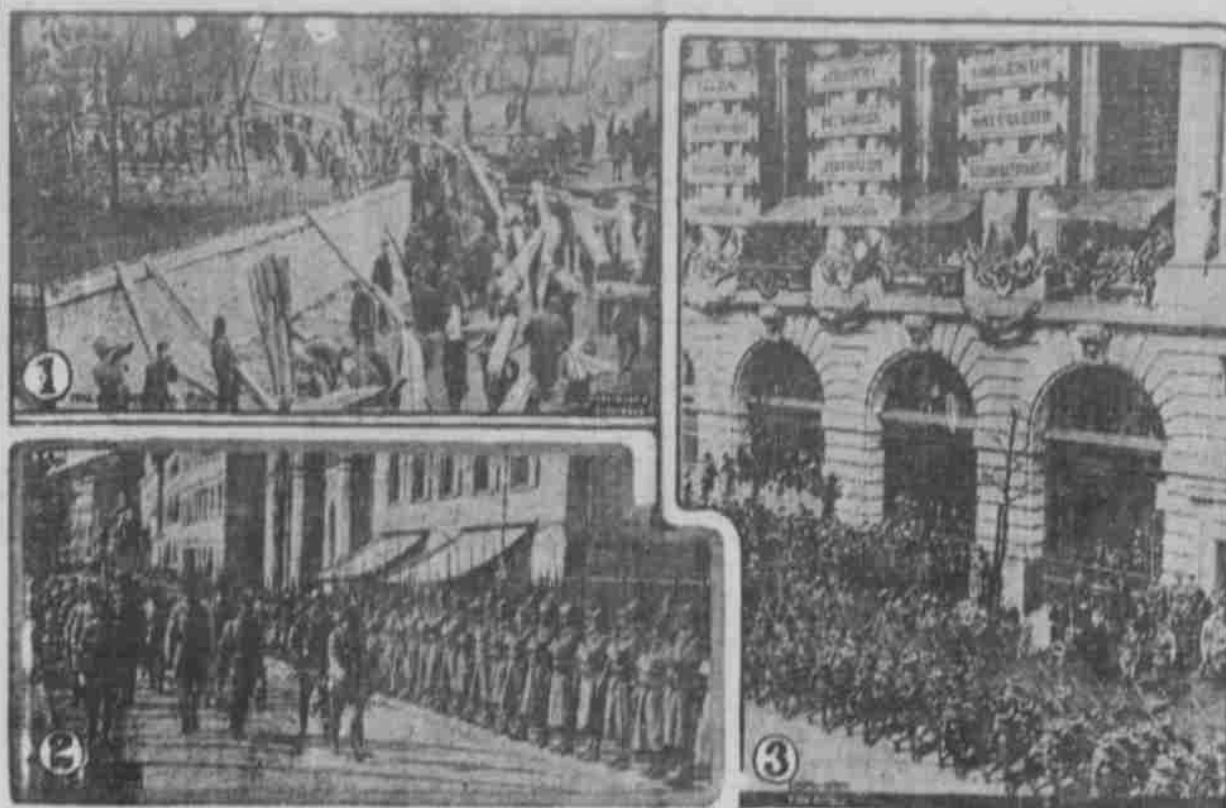
Paris, March 19.—Premier Clemenceau, too, will write a book after the peace conference is over.

"As soon as the peace problems have been solved," he said recently "and I have finished my task, I shall take a rest that, after 60 years of politics, I think I have well earned. And, in my retirement, I shall write a book which perhaps no one will read, but which I, at all events, shall be glad to have written."

It has been stated by those close to Premier Clemenceau that he is his earnest desire to finish his present task and retire. His vitality has been remarked upon recently as being extraordinary and the virility and vigor of former days has been evident.

entered the door was closed. Subsequently the light was put out, but a witness peeping through the window recognized one of the Pitts boys. All this was brought out both at the trial of Aaron and Garfield Pitts and at the trial of Wiseman here this week.

Wiseman is an Avery county man and was called as a witness at the trial of the Pitts boys. He failed to appear, sending word that he was sick. An officer was sent to the man's home and it is alleged, as he approached Wiseman was seen near the house but when the officer arrived the witness was found in bed.



1—Italian soldiers reconstructing railways in the Trentino destroyed during the war. 2—General Mangin, commander of the French army of occupation, reviewing his troops in Sangerhausen, Germany. 3—Australian troops passing Australia house in London on Anzac day.

## NAVAL AVIATORS MADE GOOD RECORD OVERSEAS

London, April 18.—Thirty-nine attacks upon submarines were made by the American naval air force in the war and 10 of them were considered in some manner successful, says a summary of American naval aviation prepared at headquarters here.

When the United States entered the war the navy boasted of only 30 officers who knew anything about flying. When the armistice was signed the force was composed of 1,500 officers and 15,000 men, according to the report.

Trials and discouragements of the United States naval air force in the war are enumerated at some length along with "occasional" triumphs. Various causes are assigned for lack of effectiveness, but many of the troubles are said to have been overcome and the service ready to execute what had been expected of it when the armistice intervened. The summary of actual operations is interspersed with accounts of the lack of trained pilots and the difficulty in training them, shortage of machines, stories of receipt of machines from the United States without propellers, without magnetos, defective parts and lastly of the failure of Italian machines for night bombing for which they were intended. The United States had turned to Italy for planes when machines were not delivered from America quickly enough.

One of the biggest planes of the service was the "northern bombing project," calling for the cooperation of Americans with the British in almost continuous bombing of submarine bases on the Belgian coast. A great many hindrances arose, some of them shown in the summary being: Lack of machines, lack of material, lack of trained personnel, both pilots and enlisted men, necessity of complicated negotiations with the royal air force in the matter of supplies of all sorts and necessity of ferrying Italian machines from Milan, Italy, to the north of France. Neither the night nor the day wings were operating efficiently at the time of the armistice, in the opinion of those who compiled the summary.

It was planned to have 12 squadrons, six day and six night. This, however, was reduced to eight when it was found that the United States army could not deliver the planes required. American machines with liberty motors were to be used for the day work and a contract was made with the Italian government to deliver 30 600-horsepower airplanes for the night work. The Italian machines, it is stated, proved wholly unfit for night bombing work.

What is considered by the American navy the most successful aviation operation resulted from the Killingholme project. This was an agreement by which England was to furnish 50 seaplanes and 50 lighters and the United States was to provide 40 seaplanes and 30 lighters by March 1, 1918, for offensive work in Helligoland Bight. The British were suc-

## GERMANS ARE DIVIDED OVER ACTION TO TAKE

Sharp differences have arisen among the members of the peace delegation over the peace treaty and Count von Brockdorff-Rantzau, head of the Teutonic plenipotentiaries, may return to Berlin to discuss with the Ebert government whether the terms presented by the allied and associated governments shall be signed. He has already reached Spa and conferred with technical experts.

A majority of the delegates, including the financial experts, are asserted to be strongly against submission to the terms, and so marked has become the division between the opposing factions that it is quite probable Count von Brockdorff-Rantzau will not agree to remain a party to the negotiations. Unofficial advices from Spa are to the effect that the count already has asked to be relieved of his arduous task. The departure of the German delegation will not necessarily cause an interruption of the negotiations, however, as these may be conducted meantime by those members of the party remaining at Versailles.

## PEACE CONFERENCE IS WAITING ON THE HUNS

The peace conference, while waiting for Germany to decide on her attitude toward the peace terms presented to her delegation, rapidly is completing the treaties for Germany's former allies and is smoothing out the differences between the allied and associated powers.

Germany's 15 days in which to make written appeals on the peace conditions will expire Thursday. Three days have gone since the last German notes to the peace conference. Subcommittees of the conference are at work on the answer, and it is probable they will be sent to Versailles well before Thursday.

Peace terms for Austria are nearing completion, it is indicated, and the Austrians will present their credentials to representatives of the allied and associated powers Monday afternoon. It is understood that Austria will be called upon to pay reparations to the amount of 5,000,000,000 marks, or one-twentieth of the German payment.

The council of four has agreed on most of the mandates for the former Turkish empire, and it is understood that the United States has been offered Armenia and Constantinople, with Great Britain getting Mesopotamia and Palestine, France being the mandatory for Syria and Cilicia, Italy for Adalia and Greece for Smyrna. The sultan of Turkey would be given territory in central Asia Minor, with a capital probably at Brusa.

Greek and Italian claims to the Dodecanese islands off Asia Minor have been adjusted by Italy agreeing to retire in favor of Greece. The islands, which are populated by Greeks, were occupied by Italy during the war with Turkey and Tripoli.

## BURLINGTON MAN WAS DECORATED IN FRANCE

Washington, May 18.—Two men of prominence in the southeast, who achieved unusual records for valor on the French fighting front, were awarded the croix de guerre in Washington last night in the liberty hut here. They were Ernest C. Butler, an oil man, of Chipley, Fla., and Delroy R. Fonville, of Burlington, N. C. Both served as Y. M. C. A. secretaries during the war, going over the top with the marines. A third croix de guerre was awarded to the Rev. Dr. William R. Farmer, of Western Theological seminary, Pittsburgh, another Y. M. C. A. man.

So far 280 Y. M. C. A. men have been cited or decorated for distinguished service in the fighting areas, 25 croix de guerres having been bestowed upon them by the French government, and six distinguished service crosses, along with other marks of valor including 172 citations for bravery.

Gen. L. Collardet, of the French embassy, gave high compliment to the men as he pinned the medals upon them before an applauding crowd in the Y. M. C. A. hut. Secretary of War Baker, in presenting the citations, also lauded the Y. M. C. A. men for their bravery under fire.

Fonville lost the sight of one eye in the same battle when another Y. M. C. A. man was killed. He was ten months in service with the Y. M. C. A., attached to the Sixth regiment of marines, first battalion, his citation reading: "From the 3rd of October until the 10th of October, near St. Etienneux-Arnes, he has given the best example of courage and devotion in evacuating wounded under the most violent artillery fire." Fonville was lying in a trench in the Champagne sector under heavy fire.

those two acts. In the hour of Edith Cavell's funeral service Thursday as her body approached Westminster Abbey, but before it had quite reached the entrance, the waiting people thought it was come and rose in silent respect. During that silence very faintly from above us as we stood, the clock struck noon. As I counted the strokes, these were my American thoughts:

"This woman who died for her country died for more than that. The shots by which she fell killed what was left of the chance that we should stay out of the fight. They tore away whatever was left of the veil that hid German savagery from our eyes. After that it was merely a question of time when our bodies and our spirits should be equipped to join in defeating Germany. This Edith Cavell did, and now here comes her body, and we all of many nations, but mostly of the British race rise to meet its approach, united in reverence and gratitude beneath this roof."

Presently singing began and my thoughts went on: "These words from the Bible that I am hearing, these prayers, this hymn, 'Abide With Me,' are the corner stones of both my faith and my speech. The prose of the Bible is the foundation upon which rests my belief, my law and my manner of expressing them. This roof, where these words I have known by heart all my life, are being now uttered, is the shrine of my history. It belongs to me. It cannot be possible for any American however untraveled hitherto to enter here and linger awhile and learn what it holds not to be stirred to his depths. The place speaks to him of himself, his meaning, his past, the great race to which he belongs."

"May the striking of that noon hour and the coming here of Edith Cavell's body mark the end of an era of misunderstanding and the beginning of an era of understanding between Great Britain and America."

## ATTENTION OF AMERICA TURNS UPON CONGRESS.

Washington, May 18.—Attention of America and the world is turned upon the new Congress—the 66th in American history—which is to convene at noon tomorrow in extraordinary session, called by President Wilson from Paris.

All was in readiness tonight for the inauguration of the special session which is expected to open a new and important chapter in American and world history, with its long program of action, including consideration of the peace treaty, the proposed treaty for the military protection of France and in innumerable and vital questions of domestic concern.

The opening day as usual will be taken up with routine business, including organization of senate and house by the Republicans, who supplant the Democrats in control for the first time in eight years.

President Wilson's message, cabled from Paris was being prepared tonight for submission to the Congress, but is not scheduled for delivery tomorrow. It probably will be read to the house on Tuesday and in the senate Thursday, adjournment of the latter body being planned from tomorrow until Thursday.

Organization tomorrow by the Republicans proposes election of Senator Cummins, of Iowa, as president pro tempore of the senate and of Representative Gillet, of Massachusetts, as speaker. The Republicans have a majority of two in the senate and of about 40 in the house. Major house committees will be organized tomorrow, preparatory to beginning work immediately, but senate committee organization will be deferred.

Work of Congress throughout the session will be entwined for preparations for 1920 presidential campaign.

Congress expects to turn its attention immediately to the seven regular appropriation bills including the large army and navy measures, which died in the Republican filibuster last March. Passage of these bills will be followed by consideration of revenue, railroad, shipping, woman suffrage, prohibition and other legislation.

The peace treaty is expected to be submitted next month, by President Wilson in person. Ratification of the treaty, including the league of nations, promises to develop into one of the most dramatic and hard fought contests in congressional history.

Addresses on peace subjects are expected to begin soon in the senate.

Before Congress will come problems of reconstruction and the nation's reversion to peace conditions entailing measures for stimulation and extension of American commerce and industry, provision against unemployment, aid for returned soldiers and sailors, and new army and navy policies.

Numerous investigations are planned by the Republicans principally into administrative acts during the war. Many committees, it is expected, soon will be busy delving into affairs of popular interest.

Tomorrow's program as outlined tonight contemplated organization of both branches by the Republicans. No hitch in the house program was in prospect, but senate Democrats were considering objections to the Republican organization plans with possible blocking of them for the day at least, because of cancellation by the Republicans of "pairs" for absent members.

Few leaders expect the session opening tomorrow to end before the regular December session, which, it is believed, will continue until the national party conventions and possibly be resumed immediately thereafter to continue until the late fall of 1920.