The Weather

Partly cloudy Sunday, followed by showers Sunday night and Monday; continued warm.

River stage at Fayetteville yesterday at 8 a. m., 27.5 feet, falling.

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BIGHAM, WIFE AND HIS DAUGHTER TAKE STAND AND TELL OF TRAGEDY

Defendant Testifies That His Dying Mother Said Smiley Bigham Did Shooting

TO CONTINUE CASE

Precedent Is Found Whereby Judge May Let Trial Go Right on Until Verdict

By M. C. BRUNSON

FLORENCE, S. C., March 26.—Edmund D. Bigham, defendant in one of the most sensational cases ever tried in South Carolina, went on the stand in the criminal court this afternoon in his own defense. He had been preceded by his wife and his 14-year-old daughter, Louise. The testimony of the Bighams, which had been expected to come up today, was responsible for the attendance of an even larger crowd of spectators than had marked previous sessions of the trial. Among this crowd was an even more liberal sprinkling of women than had come to court yesterday.

Mrs. Bigham was the first of the family to be called to the stand. She told in much detail the story of happenings at the Bigham home on the day of the tragedy in which Mrs. M. M. Bigham, Mrs. Margie Bigham Black, L. Smiley Bigham and Leo and John McCracken, adopted children of Mrs. Black, were the victims. The day of the tragedy was January 16.

Mrs. Bigham showed almost complete imperturbability both in the telling of her story and in answering the questions when cross-examined by Solicitor Gasque. She gave her testimony as if reading it from a notebook and her memory as to details appeared to be most exact. She showed no signs of nervousness and spoke in a clear, distinct voice, without feeling. Louise Bigham, the 14-year-old daughter, who shows extraordinary precocity, told a story that duplicated that of her mother's except in minor details. She seemed to remember everything except such matters as would vitally affect her father's defense. When called upon to recognize Detective Eichelberger and say whether or not she had made certain statements to him concerning the condition of affairs at the Bigham home, she denied ever having seen the detective.

This observance of the interest of the defendant was quite as apparent in the testimony of Mrs. Bigham, who when asked a question affecting her husband's interests would answer, "I don't remember, or "I don't know."

Edmund Bigham's own testimony sounded as though he remembered everything that had taken place in he household even to small details like the distance that was necessary to back an auto in order to come out of the front yard and the distance between points in the Bigham homestead covered in the occurrences surrounding the tragedy. He even recalled that he had not paid one negro for cutting wood on the day of the murder.

It was when Bigham reached the cross-examination stage that the continuity of his story was broken. When a question came up that was not easily answered he would lean toward Solicitor Gasque and say, "hold on a minute," or "just wait," and then venture an explanation rather than a statement of fact.

Bigham's first show of feeling came when he described the finding of his brother's body. He broke into sobs and tears and there was a pause of some length before he could go on. This demonstration was repeated when he told the story of the finding of his sister and he appeared affected only to a slight degree when he described the finding of Leo McCracken and his efforts to save the boy's life.

Toward the end of Bigham's direct testimony he launched forth into a statement concerning the financial affairs of the Bigham family. He told how he had loaned money at various times and how he had never received any share of his father's estate. It was because of these sacrifices, he said, that the other members of the family had made the deed to all their interests to the estate which his wife sought to record the day he was put in jail.

The family owed him, he said, something like $26,000, and he said given them a mortgage covering the difference between that amount and $47,000, the amount named as consideration on the face of this deed.

If Bigham convicts himself, this deed will be the instrument that causes his undoing. He was so insistent upon his defense of the genuineness of this paper and so emphatic in his denials that his sister, Mrs. Black, was really the only party owning any part of the Bigham estate, that he left the path of direct testimony and wandered through a whole wilderness of explanatory statements.

In his cross-examination, Bigham was asked why he kept this deed in his possession after it had been refused record, until he had seen an attorney. Bigham replied that Monroe Spears, of Darlington, had told him to keep the deed, but had never seen it, as his wife had it at the time of his conference with Mr. Spears.

"Why did you tell Mr. Spears about it?" asked Mr. Gasque.

"He told me not to send it back over there to be recorded," was Bigham's answer.

"Didn't he tell you to destroy that deed or it would break your neck," shouted Mr. Gasque.

"No, he didn't; if he said that, I would have done it," replied Bigham, and his answer caused a roar of laughter around the courtroom. It was this demonstration which caused Judge Memminger to declare the court adjourned. He announced that there would be a session beginning at 8 o'clock tonight.

Judge Memminger was shown today a way in which he can continue the Bigham trial until it is concluded. A precedent was found showing his au-

(Continued on Page Two)

UNCOVER SIX MORE BODIES IN GEORGIA PEONAGE CASE

Startling Disclosures Promised Following Discovery of Total of Nine Dead Negroes Out Alleged to Have Been Held in Slavery By White Farmer and Murdered After a Peonage Investigation Had Been Started

ATLANTA, Ga., March 26.—Disclosures that will surpass developments already made in the alleged Jasper county peonage case, were promised tonight by authorities following the discovery today of the bodies of five negroes buried near the home of John Williams, a prominent Jasper county farmer, and the recovery of the body of another negro in the Yellow river.

With the six bodies unearthed today under the direction of Clyde Manning, who was taken to the scene to substantiate his alleged confession that he had killed four of the negroes and aided in the death of others at the direction of Williams, a total of nine of the 11 negroes said to have been killed, have been found by officials.

Under the protection of a posse of 15 men and the guidance of the negro, a number of men searched for the bodies near Williams' home and in Yellow river, while the Jackson company of the National Guard was held under arms ready to go to the scene in case of opposition.

Williams is held in the Fulton county jail here, having been arrested after Manning's alleged confession.

He today denied his guilt and declared that an old family feud had resulted in a "frame-up" to cause his arrest.

Warrants for three sons of Williams, Julius, Huyler and Marvin, were taken out in Fulton county yesterday at the request of Governor Dorsey and were to have been turned over to officers in Jasper county, but reports tonight from Montezuma, Ga., stated that the Williams boys were there but had not been placed under arrest.

Of the bodies recovered today, three were found in a pasture near the Williams house during the morning. In the afternoon, it was stated, the negro Manning led the party to the Campbell farm, about five miles southwest of the Williams place, where two more bodies were disinterred. The Campbell farm is said to be under the management of the Williams'.

The sixth body recovered today was taken from the river near Waters' bridge. These six, together with those recovered from Yellow river several days ago, weighted down with rocks, makes a total of nine bodies accounted for to date.

Belief was expressed tonight that all the victims had been killed at the Williams place since February 21, when agents of the department of justice visited the farm during an investigation of alleged peonage in that vicinity.

Williams is a cousin of Sheriff Persons of Jasper county, at present under indictment for alleged peonage. It developed today that information also has been filed with the United States attorney here against Williams, relative to peonage charges.

Manning, the negro, whose confession led to revelations on the Williams farm, was brought back to Atlanta tonight and placed in the Fulton county jail.

Reports from Jasper county tonight stated that sentiment was strong against Williams, owner of the plantation where the wholesale murders are alleged to have been committed. According to department of justice investigators, who worked with the officials of Jasper and Newton counties, Williams' employes were referred to as "Williams' chain gang," who were ruled with iron discipline and seldom permitted to leave the place.

A two-room cabin on the Williams farm today was pointed out as the "stockade" where the negroes were locked up at night. The windows were barred and the three doors chained at night, it was stated, but in the day time these were removed, making the house look like an ordinary cabin.

CAROLINA BEACH CASE SETTLED AT RALEIGH

Judge Connor Strongly Intimated He Would Veto Verdict for the Plaintiff

By JULE B. WARREN

RALEIGH, March 26.—The case of J. A. Scarboro against the Carolina Beach Railway company of Wilmington was compromised in the Wake county superior court today when Judge Connor intimated very strongly that he would set aside a verdict if the jury brought in one for the plaintiff.

Scarboro, a Wake county farmer, had purchased a large amount of stock in the Wilmington company. Becoming dissatified with his buy, he exchanged some of it and sold some. There was about $10,000 in bonds which he had exchanged for lots of the company for which he had given his notes. These notes were discounted by the bank of Knightdale and the bank brought suit to collect the notes.

Scarboro in turn sued the company under the "blue sky" law, claiming that he had been defrauded of his money through misrepresentations of the stock. He also set up the contention that he was mentally incapacitated at the time the sale was made.

Judge Connor told his attorneys that there was no law and no evidence about fraudulency as to the bonds and that the only case they had was the mentality of the plaintiff. At the conclusion of the testimony Judge Connor did not believe the plaintiff had proven he was not mentally able to make the contract, so the matter was adjusted without being sent to the jury.

Scarboro will pay the notes provided the company will exchange the lots for the bonds and this the company was perfectly willing to do.

MAJOR MATHESON MAKES INSPECTION OF BOY SCOUTS

Maj. J. R. D. Matheson, corps of engineers, United States army, who yesterday afternoon made an inspection of the Boy Scouts of Wilmington, declared at the completion of the inspection that the members of the eight Scout troops present made a splendid appearance and that he was much pleased with the general conduct of the boys.

The inspection was made by Major Matheson at 3:30 o'clock in the yard of the Wilmington Light Infantry armory on Market street. There were approximately 200 Boy Scouts present and practically all were in the regulation Scout uniform. At the completion of the inspection a photograph of the Scouts was taken.

TO BE A MAESTRO, NOW, IS QUITE, OH! QUITE ENVIABLE

NEW YORK, March 26.—William Mengelberg, Dutch orchestra conductor, became so flabbergasted today when 400 admirers tried to kiss him, slap his back and shake his hand before he sailed for Holland, that he stumbled into his stateroom and locked the door.

The crowd—mostly women—clustered on the steamer Niew Amsterdam for an audible admiration party to the Maestro, who last night concluded a season as leader of the National Symphony orchestra. After he dashed to his stateroom his admirers refused to leave the boat without seeing him once more.

As sailing time approached, ship officers persuaded the musician to unlock his door and greet the crowd. He began to speak, but the enthusiasm of his listeners bubbled over and they tried to embrace him en masse. Four women kissed Mr. Mengelberg and two women fainted.

Finally the conductor slipped away, the crowd went home and the ship sailed.

MUSIC OF THE POPES AT GIBBONS' FUNERAL

Beautiful Gregorian Chant to Be Heard for First Time Outside Sistine Chapel

BALTIMORE, March 26.—At the funeral services for Cardinal Gibbons next Thursday, in the cathedral, there will be sung music heard only before at the funerals of the sovereign rulers of the Catholic church in the Sistine chapel in Rome. The manuscript never before has left the Vatican.

Just before the body is laid to rest in the crypt beneath the cathedral altar and the distinguished assemblage stands with bowed heads, this solemn Gregorian chant will be sung.

This music, which was prepared especially for funeral services of popes, is among the most beautiful and impressive compositions ever written for a Gregorian choir. It will be sung by the Gregorian Choral society of St. Mary's seminary.

A manuscript copy of the music, believed to be the first which has ever found its way out of the Vatican, arrived in Baltimore early last week. Some time ago, when the cardinal was very ill, the subject of Gregorian music, which the late prelate loved, was being discussed with the apostolic delegate in Washington.

Then came the suggestion that Rome be asked if a copy of the papal funeral music could be sent to Baltimore in the event of the cardinal's death, as a special recognition from Rome of the American prelate's services to the church.

This request was transmitted at the time and Pope Benedict ordered the authorities of the pontificial chapel, of whom the music is the exclusive property, to have a manuscript copy made and sent to the Very Rev. E. R. Dyer, president of St. Mary's seminary, and president of the Society of St. Gregory in America.

The cardinal's body will rest for the last time tomorrow night on his own bed in his room at the archepiscopal residence, watched over by special guards of Christian brothers. Early Monday morning it will be removed without special ceremony, to the cathedral, where it will lie in state until the funeral Thursday.

PURITY CANDY COMPANY TO OPEN IN CITY WEDNESDAY

The Purity Candy company, newest wholesale candy concern in Wilmington, with offices at 10 Market street, will open for business Wednesday, March 30, according to announcement yesterday. A full line of confections and soda fountain supplies will be carried at all times and the territory adjacent to Wilmington will be thoroughly covered from the outset of the company's business.

A jobbing business will be conducted until next fall but, after that time, if conditions warrant, manufacturing of confections will be started on a small scale, it being the intention of the management to gradually build up the manufacturing department.

Experienced candy men are in charge of the concern, those actively identified with it being J. B. Vaught, J. A. Bowen, G. C. McIntire and J. B. Dempsey.

STAMPEDE 600 HEAD CATTLE INTENDED FOR THE GERMANS

TRIPPE, S. D., March 26.—Fourteen men, all of whom are said to have been implicated in the stampeding of 600 head of cattle at Scotland Wednesday night, were arrested here today. They were searched and four were charged with carrying concealed weapons. They were fined $5 and costs. The others were freed.

The cattle had been collected to be sent as a gift to Germany from the Germans of this community.

NEW INDICTMENTS ARE MADE IN THE ALLEGED BASEBALL CONSPIRACY

Thirteen Players Re-indicted and Five Outsiders Held as the Organizers

BONDS AT $48,000

State's Attorney, Who Recently Dropped the Cases, Means Business This Time

CHICAGO, March 26.—Carl Zork, a shirtwaist manufacturer, and Benjamin Franklin, both of St. Louis, were charged today by officials of the state's attorney's office with being the organizers of the alleged plot through which Chicago White Sox players were said to have thrown the 1919 world's series to Cincinnati.

Announcement that the two men would be formally accused when brought to trial, with engineering the alleged deal, was made by the state's attorney's office after indictments against 18 men, including Zork and Franklin, had been returned by the Cook county grand jury which today finished the second investigation into the baseball scandal.

Joseph J. Sullivan, known in the case as a gambler, Louis and Ben Levi, formerly of Des Moines, Iowa, and Abe Attell, were linked with Zork and Franklin by the state officials in announcing the results of the jury investigation.

Sullivan, officials said the evidence showed, handled operations in the east, the Levi brothers directed alleged conspiracy in the central west with Des Moines as headquarters, and Attell acted as traveling agent.

The charges created a sensation in baseball circles, for although Zork, Franklin and the Levi brothers were mentioned by witnesses before the first grand jury which conducted its investigation last fall, only Sullivan and Attell were indicted then. Zork, Franklin, the Levi brothers and David Seizer, who was said to be well known in both Des Moines and San Francisco, were indicted today.

In addition, the 13 men indicted last fall were re-indicted. These men are Claude Williams, Eddie Cicotte, Joe Jackson, Buck Weaver, Swede Risber, Oscar Felsch, Fred McMullin, Chick Gandil, Hal Chase, Joseph J. Sullivan, Rachel Brown, Abe Attell and Bill Burns.

Each man was named eight times in the indictments and each indictment specified three counts against them—conspiracy to defraud, conspiracy to do an illegal act and obtaining money under false pretense. Bail was fixed at $3,000 for each count for each time a man was named, making $24,000.

Under the law this can be doubled and the state announced that the men would be required to put up $48,000 bonds.

The state's attorney immediately began preparation of extradition preceedings against the men indicted, but it is not expected that the trial will come up before fall.

Robert E. Crowe, state's attorney, in discussing the naming of Zork and Franklin as the alleged fixers of the series, said:

"I told you when we dropped some of the baseball cases a few days ago that the first investigation had been bungled and that the real men behind this conspiracy had not been indicted. We have handled this second investigation carefully and have not overlooked a single legal point. When the case comes to trial we will be ready. That is all I can say now."

MANY CASES ON DOCKET IN RECORDER'S COURT

Joseph T. Canady, white, charged with transporting intoxicating liquor, was yesterday morning adjudged guilty by Recorder George Harriss and sentenced to serve a term of six months on the county roads. Notice of an appeal was filed and bond in the sum of $500 was named. C. R. Ennett, arrested at the same time as Canady and tried under the same warrant, entered a plea of nolo contendre and judgment was suspended upon the payment of the costs and the posting of a $500 bond to insure good behavior.

Other cases tried were: Georgianna Brown, violating sanitary law, dismissed. Mary Burney and Maggie Blue, immoral conduct, dismissed. William McIntyre, violating the sanitary law, continued to April 2. Willie Spencer, violating sanitary law, guilty, judgment suspended upon the payment of the costs. Mary Nixon, violating the sanitary law, continued to April 9. Lizzie Hayes, violating the sanitary law, guilty, judgment suspended upon the payment of the costs. Elijah Hansley, assault with a deadly weapon, nol pros. Eddie Walker, violating the sanitary law, guilty, judgment suspended upon the payment of the costs. Walter Swepson, violating the sanitary law, guilty, costs. John Williams, violating the sanitary law, continued to April 2. Addie Pridgen, violating the sanitary law, continued to April 2. Claw Brown, violating the sanitary law, guilty, costs.

SALES PROMOTING CONCERN ORGANIZED IN THE CITY

E. A. Palmgren, a well-known traveling salesman, and Lehman Wood, an experienced traveling man, have organized the Sales Promotion company and opened an office in the Murchison National bank building. It is stated by Mr. Palmgren that only companies with old and established reputations as manufacturers of recognized appliances are to be represented.

Advertising and sales campaign will be planned, sales ideas will be created and advertising will be placed in the proper mediums to get the best results. A personal service will be rendered at all times, and the partners in the new concern promise to keep in intimate touch with the business of their clients so that their ideas may be incorporated into the agency's work.

HIGHWAY COMMISSION WILL TAKE CHARGE ON APRIL 1

Meeting of New Road Commissioners Called for Early in Coming Month, When Chairman Page Will Canvass Situation With Them—Policy Will Be to Proceed Slowly Until Bond and Material Markets Improve

By JULE B. WARREN

RALEIGH, March 26.—The new highway commissoin will take charge of road building operations on the first of April. A meeting of the new commission will be held some time early in the new month and at that time Frank Page will not only acquaint the new and enlarged commission with the work that has been in progress during the past two years, showing them what has been done and what is now under construction, as well as the projects which are ready for contracts, but will also take up with them the proposition of the new construction program under the Doughton-Connor-Bowie road law.

Chairman Page agree with the treasurer, the council of state and the governor that it would probably be unwise to go into the immediate construction of the big system of roads, but will be better to go about the proposition slowly, pending betterment of market conditions both for the sale of the bonds and the purchase of the road building material. The council of state believes it will be better to wait until the summer months before the bonds are offered for sale. That, likewise, is the opinion of the treasurer, who has been looking into the proposition of disposing of the large amount of bonds authorized by the 1921 session of the legislature. He is convinced that the bonds can be sold to better advantage during the summer than at the present time. The money market will be a little steadier, business will be better and general bond conditions will be more favorable for the sale.

Neither the governor, the treasurer nor the council of state have taken under serious consideration the proposal which Representaive Henry G. Connor, Jr., made to the legislature, that these bonds should be marketed in North Carolina if this is possible. Mr. Connor thinks every bit of the bonds authorized could be sold to North Carolina people if they were given an opportunity to buy these bonds at par and in small quantities. He does not believe that any one firm in the state could buy all the bonds, or that any one concern would buy any large block of them. He would favor selling the bonds at par in small quantities much in the same manner and denominations as the liberty bonds were sold during the war. In this way North Carolina could finance her own building program, and would not have to depend on the New York money market for funds with which to carry out the progressive program of the 1921 legislature.

Since ratification of the road bill Chairman Page and his force in the field and in the office have been collecting data and information about the maintenance of the system of roads by the state. Under the new law the commission has the right to map out, in co-operation with the county commissioners of every county, a system of roads which will connect every county seat and larger cities. The general lines of the roads suggested in the map appended to the road bill will be followed unless there are changes which the highway commission and the county commissioners believe are wise and for the best interests of all concerned.

As the various stretches of road are adopted as a part of the state highway system, the state will take over these roads for maintenance. The patrolmen and road forces who will look after this maintenance work will be directly responsible to the state highway commission. The chairman and his field forces are familiar with the county road forces of the state and others who are capable of handling this maintenance work, and they will in the near future begin making arrangements for this part of the work authorized under the $50,000,000 road bill.

PRESIDENT CALLS FOR LEGION CHIEF'S ADVICE

Dawes, Galbraith, Roosevelt and Miller Will Dine With Him At White House Today

WASHINGTON, March 26.—To ask for advice regarding an administration policy toward soldier compensation and related subjects, President Harding today called to Washington Charles G. Dawes, of Chicago, who served as a brigadier-general in France and who at one time was prominently under consideration for secretary of the treasury in the Harding cabinet.

Mr. Dawes would not indicate the recommendations he took to the white house nor forecast what the President's decision might be. He will remain here over Sunday, and will go to dinner at the white house tomorrow with F. W. Galbraith, commander-in-chief of the American legion; Thomas W. Miller, alien property custodian, and Assistant Secretary Roosevelt of the navy department, all of whom have been active in the work of the legion since its organization.

It is assumed that the President will take advantage of the opportunity for a general discussion of the soldier relief problem.

INSANE SERVICE MEN ARE HERDED WITH GENERAL RUN

CHICAGO, March 26.—William R. McCauley, department commander of the American legion, in a speech tonight said that an investigation had shown that there are more than 400 insane former soldiers, over half of whom are border line cases—men whose normal mental state could be restored by proper treatment—now being herded in with the general run of insane patients in the eight state insane hospitals.

The speaker declared active steps had been promised at once to remove the insane service men from their present environment and place them in one or the hospitals where they will be housed in cottages and receive individual treatment.

HAYS PROMISES TO SEE TO SERVICE MEN GETTING JOBS

WASHINGTON, March 26.—Promise that he would observe the spirit as well as the letter of the law ginving preference to former service men in the postal service was given by Postmaster General Hays today to a committee of the American legion.

The legion commission, consisting of Theodore Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy; Thomas W. Miller, alien property custodian, and D. John Markey, of Frederick, Md., laid before the postmaster general several specific cases of alleged discrimination against former service men. Mr. Hays promised to have the cases investigated immediately and assured the committee he was in full sympathy with the law directing officials of the postal service to consider time spent by employes in the military service on their postal record.

RAIL DIRECTOR GENERAL

WASHINGTON, March 26.—James C. Davis, of Iowa, former general counsel of the Chicago Northwestern railroad, was appointed director general of the railroad administration by President Harding today to succeed John Barton Payne, who has held the post during the past year in addition to his duties as secretary of the interior.

N. AND W. LAYS OFF 1,700 MEN

ROANOKE, March 26.—In compliance with orders issued a week ago, 1,700 employes in the local shops of the Norfolk and Western railway were laid off at noon today to remain idle until April 1.

CONEY'S CONDITION IS VERY LITTLE CHANGED

Spends Fairly Comfortable Day and Is Being Kept Quiet as Is Possible

NATCHEZ, Miss., March 26.—Early tonight the condition of Lieut. W. D. Coney showed but little change. He was still conscious and resting easily. He made no further statement, as it is the desire of his physicians to keep him as quiet as possible. His mother is expected to arrive here at noon Sunday.

At 8:30 o'clock tonight Drs. C. T. Chamberlain and J. S. Ullman, issued the following bulletin regarding Lieutenant Coney's condition:

"Lieutenant Goney spent a fairly comfortable day. His condition is practically unchanged. Temperature 100; pulse 88; respiration 20."

At the request of the Natchez chapter of war mothers, special prayers for the recovery of the trans-continental flier will be offered at all the local churches Easter morning.

The mother, aunt and brother of the injured flier, who are on their way here, are being kept posted regularly as to the lieutenant's condition, through the efforts of the local post of the American Legion.

REFUSE TO DISCHARGE NEW WORKERS ON THE A., B. AND A.

ATLANTA, March 26.—Possibilities of an early settlement of the strike of the union employes of the Atlanta, Birmingham and Atlantic railway, faded late today when representatives of the strikers withdrew from the federal courtroom, after Judges S. H. Sibley and Henry D. Clayton had ruled that the court was without authority to direct the receiver to discharge men employed to take the places of the strikers.

Earlier in the day conciliatory proposals had come from the strikers when their representatives stated the men would call off the strike immediately and return to work at the reduced scale of wages, if they were permitted to return in a body and resume their former status and provided that the court would order an audit of the company's books to determine if they were able to pay the wage scale at issue.

This proposal was rejected by Morris Brandon, of counsel for the railroad, who declared that 900 men had been employed by the road since the former employes went on strike and these could not be discharged to make room for the return of the old men.

HARDING IN SYMPATHY WITH IRISH RELIEF UNDERTAKEN

WASHINGTON, March 26.—In response to a request by a group of Irish leaders in this country, President Harding sent to New York tonight a message of sympathy for the Irish relief movement, to be read at a relief meeting held there on April 3. The communication was transmitted to Morgan J. O'Brien, chairman of the New York relief committee, and was as follows:

"I wish you the fullest measure of success not only in the great benefit performance at the Metropolitan opera house April 3, but in every worthy effort to make a becoming contribution on the part of our people to relieve distress among the women and children in Ireland. The people of America never will be deaf to the call for relief in behalf of suffering humanity and the knowledge of distress in Ireland makes quick and deep appeal to the more fortunate of our own land, where so many of our citizens trace kinship to the Emerald Isle."

HARDING POLICY AS TO GERMAN PROPERTIES IS TO RETURN THEM SOON

New Custodian Will Settle Up All Questions in Which He Has Authority

TO PAY U. S. CLAIMS

Interests of American Citizens Who Suffered Damage Will Be Protected

By DAVID LAWRENCE

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WASHINGTON, March 26—The early return to their rightful owners of vast amounts of German property held in the United States appears to be in prospect. Congressional action is necessary before the transfer can be made, but the trend of opinion in the Harding administration is toward giving back what was seized as a war measure.

Meanwhile, the policy of the new alien property custodian, Col. Thomas W. Miller, as explained to the writer today, is to settle up as quickly as possible all questions for which authority is vested in him under existing laws.

"There are some enemy insurance companies," he said, "which will probably have to be operated by us for some years to come, but most of these companies can be liquidated at once and the proceeds returned to the German owners. It is unlikely that they would wish to operate as German concerns again, anyway."

Colonel Miller was drafted for the job of alien property custodian by President Harding because of his remarkable executive ability. He won his military rank overseas, having enlisted as a private and working up to the staff of General Kuhn, of the 79th division. President Harding felt that in appointing Colonel Miller, who has been active in the affairs of the American legion, there could be no suspicion of pro-German leanings in any of his decisions.

Anybody who talks with Colonel Miller on the subject of enemy property, however, will find that he believes the time is ripe to give back to the German owners the property that was taken from them. He is loath to criticise his predecessors in the alien property custodian's office, but he has already instituted some sweeping changes.

The new alien property custodian has found, for instance, large lawyers' fees charged to the yearly proceeds of certain companies now held by American trustees and has made up his mind that all excessive charges shall be reduced whether Republican or Democratic law firms are involved. Colonel Miller believes that it is the American spirit to be fair to individuals even though they be Germans.

Already there has been many cases settled which would have required prolonged litigation. The policy of the new administration is to spare litigation and bring about early settlements so that business may proceed, for while many concerns are of enemy ownership they employ American citizens. The revival of trade and commerce depends to no small extent upon the restoration of millions of dollars worth of property to their lawful owners.

Of course the transfer of all this property back to the Germans is predicated on the assumption that the German government will pay the claims lodged by American citizens who lost relatives in the sinking of the Lusitania, or who lost property in Germany during the war. The expectation is that Germany will settle these claims, but if not, then it is planned to liquidate as much of the assets of Germans in this country as possible and use the proceeds to pay American citizens who suffered at the hands of the Germans. One of the difficulties, however, from the German viewpoint, is that France and the allied powers have a prior claim on any money that Germany may have available to pay war claims and unless America can reach an agreement with the associated powers on that point, the only way the United States government can avoid using the German assets in this country is to make a loan to Germany out of which claims would be paid. This, however, will be developed definitely when the American government begins negotiating with Germany on the settlement of all questions growing out of the war. Congressional action will necessarily be delayed somewhat until foreign relations are cleared up. Meanwhile banking groups in New York are back of a plan whereby the assets of the Germans held in this country shall be used as a basis on credit for the immediate resumption of trade with Germany when peace is finally made. Assuming that the Berlin and Washington governments have reached a settlement on war claims, the early return my be expected of the German property or the use of as much of it as collateral as may be sanctioned by the German citizens in co-operation with the German government.

CAROLINA RIVERS TO GET VARIOUS SUMS FOR WORK

(Special to The Star)

WASHINGTON, March 26.—The war department has made allotments for North Carolina rivers and harbors work from the last appropriation by congress, as follows: Mantee, Shallowbag bay, $4,500; Pamlico and Tar rivers, $8,500; Neuse river, $15,500; Swift creek, $800; Contentnea, $500; Trent, river, $1,000; waterway connecting Core sound and Beaufort harbor, $2,500; Northeast-Cape Fear river, $3,000.

CACKLING HENS ARE NOT ALWAYS LAYERS OF EGGS

WASHINGTON, March 26.—The hen that did the cackling may not have laid the egg, government farm experts assert. They advise farmers to use trap nests in order to pin the cackler down to facts in the way of eggs.

By holding a hen on the nest until released, the announcement said, it was possible to keep tab on the good layers, regardless of the fuss raised by some hens on false pretenses.