

The Weather

Unsettled weather Friday and Saturday; probably showers; little change in temperature.

THE WILMINGTON STAR

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WILMINGTON, N. C., FRIDAY MORNING, APRIL 8, 1921.

OLDEST DAILY IN THE STATE.

JURY TAKES WILLIAMS CASE TODAY; ACCUSED ENTERS CALM DENIAL

Defendant Himself Is Only Witness Placed on Stand in His Behalf

ATTORNEYS CLASH

"Killings Were Murders," the Farmer Admits, Disclaiming Any Participation

COVINGTON, Ga., April 7.—The fate of John S. Williams, accused of the murder of 11 negro farm hands, will be decided by a jury tomorrow.

In even, dispassionate tones, the Jasper county planter, testifying in his own behalf, today declared his "innocence" of the charge of murder and when court adjourned late today the trial had been concluded except for the two closing arguments and the judge's charge.

Williams will be either convicted of the murder of one of the men, for whose death he is specifically on trial, or he will be acquitted, for attorneys on both sides argued this afternoon that there could be no "half way verdict" and the defendant himself told the jury in so many words that the killings were "murder."

A verdict of murder might be accompanied by a life term in prison for every carrying life imprisonment.

Suspect Motives Clyde Manning, negro farm boss for 14 years on the Williams place, whose confession implicated the planter, was pointed to by Williams as the man who had "probably" committed the killings. Charles C. King, pleading for Williams' acquittal, told the jury that Manning, ignorant of the penalty for perjury, had become involved at the federal investigation, and that the evidence indicated he was the only person who had a motive for the killings.

Mr. King asserted the defense expected to rely largely on Williams' "alibi" which he said Williams had established "as far as possible" by describing how he was at home the night the three negroes were killed, and asserted the state had offered no legal corroboration of the testimony of a confessed accomplice as required by law.

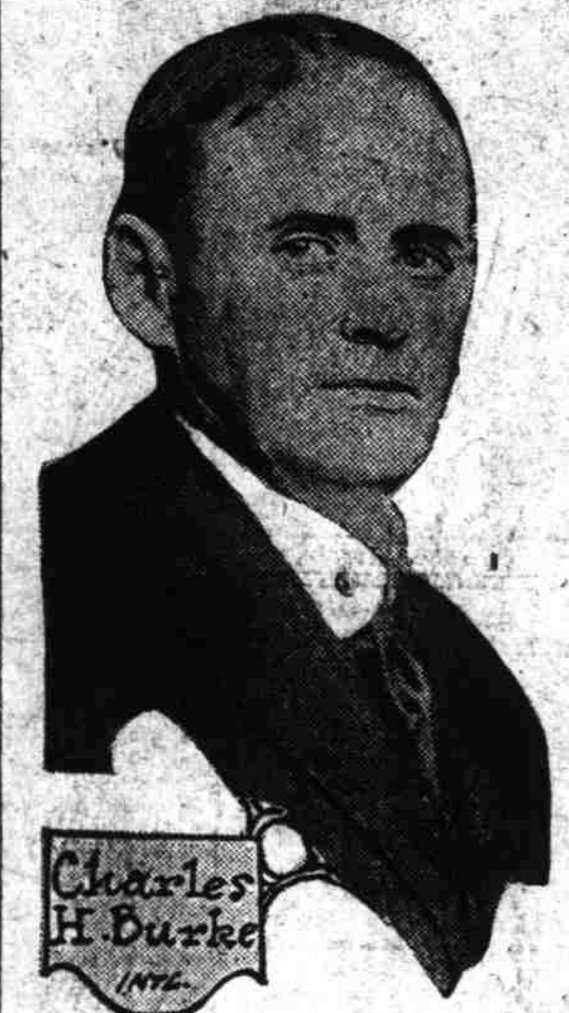
Graham Wright, assistant attorney-general, pointed to certain testimony as corroboration and said the law left it to the jury to make final decision on that question. He termed Manning "a man of honor" and carrying out his duty in the eyes of Williams and his family, and named Williams as the guilty man.

Manning also was put on trial for the murders. It was expected today, the exact time to be decided later, and his attorney, E. Marvin Underwood, said he would not enter a plea of guilty.

"Clyde Manning shall not escape," declared Solicitor-General Brand in urging conviction of Williams. "I could not let a man go who had committed such a crime."

Tells "AIP" He Knows Manning had testified for the state that by Williams' orders the negroes were weighted down with rocks and thrown alive into rivers or knocked in the heads and buried, where they lay until they had died, he declared, and briefly recited all he said he knew of the deaths of Lindsey Price, Willie Preston and Harry Price, three negroes drowned the same night in Newton county. He is on trial for murder of Peterson and he did not go into the other cases.

New Commissioner Of Indian Affairs



Charles H. Burke, newly appointed commissioner of Indian Affairs. Representative Burke is a former representative from South Dakota. While in the house he was chairman of the committee of Indian Affairs.

NEW YORKERS MOVED BY VIVIANI'S ELOQUENCE

Though Delivered in French, His Addresses Stir Wave of Enthusiasm

NEW YORK, April 7.—France's determination that Germany shall pay her debts, given impressive expression by Rene Viviani, extraordinary envoy to the United States, in another day of crowded activity in New York.

Addressing the chamber of commerce, the former premier of France defended his country's policy in demanding reparations from Germany. Although M. Viviani is unable to speak English, his address in his mother tongue never failed to move his audience by their apparent sincerity and strength of appeal.

In his address the former premier flouted the idea that Germany is unable to pay, in his address before a gathering of business men at the chamber of commerce, the audience rose to its feet in applause because of the sheer force of his appeal.

RAILROAD UNIONS ASK A NEW SET OF RULES

Urge President to Call Early Conference

CHICAGO, April 7.—Five railroad labor unions with 500,000 members, tonight submitted to President Harding labor's plan for ending industrial disputes between the roads and their workers, proposing that the President call a conference of representatives of both sides at which new rules governing working conditions would be worked out to take the place of the national agreements now in dispute before the labor board.

The proposition was contained in a message by the heads of the five mechanical unions and was sent to the President by B. M. Jewell, president of the railway employees' department of the American Federation of Labor.

It proposed that all wage disputes be held in abeyance pending the conference, holding that the matter of wages could be quickly adjusted to the satisfaction of all as soon as the question of rules had been settled.

CABLE SHIP AT MIAMI; FUTURE PLANS OBSCURE

No Information as to Another Attempt

MIAMI, Fla., April 7.—The Western Union cable ship, Robert C. Clowry, which was halted several weeks ago in its second attempt to connect the Miami-Bahamas cable here after the submarine chaser 154 had fired a shot across its bow, put into port again today. The Clowry came up from Key West.

Asked tonight if another attempt would be made to link the cable, Manager W. A. Moore, of the local Western Union office, declared he was not informed.

DIRECTOR GENERAL SOLDIER RELIEF USED IN COMMITTEE REPORT

Proposed Creation of Veterans' Service Administration to Handle Work

DAWES APPROVES

Head of Suggested Agency Would Be Directly Responsible to President

WASHINGTON, April 7.—Seven specific recommendations, chief among them the creation of the veterans' service administration to take entire charge of government relief work among ex-soldiers and to be headed by a director general, responsible directly to the President, were contained in the report submitted today to President Harding by his special commission investigating the case of veterans.

Charles G. Dawes, of Chicago, chairman of the commission, told the President as he handed him the report that he believed the recommendations were sound and that they would provide a satisfactory solution of the troubles existing in the present administration of soldier relief work. Early action by President Harding on the report is expected.

Recommendation No. 1 provides for the new agency, and gives its jurisdiction over the bureau of war risk insurance, the rehabilitation division of the federal board for vocational education and such part of the public health service as may be necessary to care properly for disabled veterans. It also asks that a director general assume charge of the new agency, with full authority to obtain necessary facilities when those already available prove inadequate.

Care is suggested in the framing of new legislation creating the administration to avoid present inconsistencies of law affecting the three existing bureaus. Particular request is made that no statutory limitations be placed on the director general as to the number and salaries of his employees.

No. 3 says that pending the enactment of new laws, Secretary Mellon, of the treasury, shall issue orders to the heads of the public health and war risk bureaus, authorizing the latter bureau to take charge of the public health activities and personnel engaged in providing medical care for the veterans. The effect would be to consolidate these bureaus under one head by executive order without waiting for congress to act or risk delay from that cause.

The next recommendation provides for an immediate extension and utilization of all government hospital facilities with such mobilizations of civilian medical services as may prove practicable.

An immediate and continuous hospital building program is asked in the fifth recommendation, which suggests that Secretary Mellon's committee, recently appointed to report on cities for new hospitals, be directed to report concerning the type and locations of the required buildings. It adds that applications should be made available to the congress which convenes next Monday.

The sixth calls for exertion of humanizing influences to impress the sick and wounded with the fact that the nation is entirely concerned in their welfare and rehabilitation.

The last asks immediate use of the \$18,000,000 appropriated by the last congress for new hospitals.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE NAMED

New Men Added by Republican Leaders

WASHINGTON, April 7.—Representatives John L. Nolan, California; Sidney Anderson, Minnesota, and Frank L. Greene, Virginia, today were elected members of the Republican steering committee of the house by the committee on committees.

Mr. Greene takes the place of Representative Winslow, of Massachusetts, who by reason of his elevation to the chairmanship of the Interstate Commerce committee, declined to serve longer. Mr. Nolan, it is understood, was put on to give representation to labor, and Mr. Anderson as the representative of the agricultural interests.

To the Women of Wilmington

Women of Wilmington, you who have stood always for the best in service to your city and country, do not fail us now. You must register and vote. We have the power to elect honest, competent men to manage the affairs of our city and a high duty in exercising the franchise. Every woman who does not register and vote for honest, capable men to attend to the affairs of our town fails in her duty as a citizen.

Many of us did not wish the responsibility of the franchise, but now that we have it we must not fail to use it. Shall we let the women of the north and west who have done such splendid things for their towns look at us with contempt and say we failed to measure up to our standard? We shall not!

WILMINGTON MUST DO AS WELL AS OTHER TOWNS. Let us take for our cry, "Over the Top," and see that we are registered in full strength. No time must be lost, do it TODAY. Saturday may be so rushed you will be unable to register.

"OVER THE TOP, WOMEN OF WILMINGTON"

—MRS. CUTHBERT MARTIN.

STICKS TO CONFESSION OF ELWELL'S MURDER

Account Given by Roy Harris Is Unshaken By New York Reporters

BUFFALO, April 7.—Two hours of questioning tonight by New York newspaper men who had worked on the Elwell murder story and knew every detail of the case, failed to shake the story of Roy Harris, who last night confessed to the local police that he and a companion murdered Joseph B. Elwell in New York last June.

Except for some minor details, Harris, in response to questioning, described perfectly the arrangement of the rooms in Elwell's home. He told again the story of how he and Elwell, a woman, hired by a mysterious "Mrs. Fairchild," went to the home of Elwell and waited four hours until he arrived. Then, Harris said, Duncan fired the shot which killed Elwell.

Under questioning tonight, Harris said he had seen published in connection with the Elwell case a picture of a woman, who he thought was the Mrs. Fairchild mentioned in his story. All efforts to get from him the name of this woman failed, however. He said he would not say who the woman was, but he said he had hired him and Duncan to murder Elwell.

District Attorney Moore, said that Harris told remarkably well connected story of the murder. Before questioning the man, the district attorney had him examined by an alienist, who reported that he was sane.

When shown dispatches from Bridgeport, Conn., saying that "William Duncan" had been in a reformatory since 1919, Harris said: "I don't know any more about that. I haven't been in Bridgeport since I was a boy. The man who was with me was named William Duncan."

By Harris, Duncan's description was as follows: appeared to be an alien, about 27 or 28 years old, five feet eleven, or six feet tall, weight about 170, medium build, smooth face, brown eyes, straight black hair, had gold tooth in upper right jaw; flashy dresser; frequents poolrooms and race tracks; is well known on Broadway between Herald square and Times square.

VOTERS' INDIFFERENCE IS HARDEST PROBLEM

Difficult Task of Women's Organization

CLEVELAND, O., April 7.—Rousing voters from indifference is the biggest problem facing the National League of Women Voters. Mrs. Maud Wood Park of Boston, chairman of the organization, declared today.

SEASON BEGINS MAY 12 BRISTOL, Tenn., April 7.—The Appalachian league, recently reorganized with Knoxville, Bristol, Johnson City, Kingsport, Greeneville and Cleveland as members, will open the season May 12. It was announced at a meeting of the clubs today at Johnson City.

CHESSE GAME POSTPONED MAYANA April 7.—The tenth game in the match for the world's chess championship between Dr. Emanuel Lasker and Jose R. Capablanca, was postponed tonight owing to a slight aggravation of the eye from which Capablanca was suffering. The game probably will be played tomorrow night.

LOYD GEORGE READY TO ENTER CONFERENCE

Hopeful Turn Given the Strike Situation By the Premier's Announcement

LONDON, April 7.—(By Associated Press).—Another day of tense alternations, of hope and fear, ended with one of the prime minister's characteristic eleventh hour interventions, bringing renewed prospects that the grave industrial crisis will be averted. He announced in the house of commons tonight the willingness of the government to participate in a conference to discuss the question of wages before other matters were considered.

Throughout the evening informal conferences continued, moderated like Mr. Asquith, Lord Robert Cecil, Arthur Henderson, John Robert Clynes, working hard in an endeavor to induce the miners to return to the question of pumping, and it was supposed that the whole question was turning on this slender hope.

Premier Lloyd-George had been absent during the latter hours of the debate on the situation, but returned to the house unexpectedly at 11 o'clock and informed the members that the government had agreed to a course which it is believed practically certain the miners will accept—the calling of a meeting of owners and miners to discuss with the government the difficulty relative to pumping the mines before touching upon the question of wages and other matters involved in the demands of the men.

What steps exactly had led up to this change of front are unknown as yet. Arthur Henderson, who rose to reply to the premier, was clearly non-plussed. He had, he said, to express regret that the premier had not given notice of such an important statement.

The board of trade issued an official report of today's negotiations for the enlightenment of the public. The report sets forth arguments of both sides and concluding with a strong repudiation of "the notion that the government is engaged in a general attack on wages."

The council of the independent labor party called upon its members to support the miners by every means in their power, declaring the crisis was due to "an attempt on the part of organized capitalism to establish the right of unlimited plunder and degradation of the living, which must be resisted at all costs."

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READ GOES NORTH MIAMI, Fla., April 7.—Commander Albert C. Read in charge of the seaplanes which accompanied the Atlantic fleet to Guantanamo bay for winter maneuvers, will arrive here at 4 p. m. tomorrow on his way back north. The seaplanes will follow and are scheduled to arrive here at 11 a. m. Saturday.

STATE'S CREDIT GOOD, SAYS GOVERNOR; GOES ON BOND-SELLING TRIP

Position of North Carolina More Secure Than Other States of South

LEAVES FOR EAST

With State Treasurer, He Will Attempt Advantageous Sale of Bonds

(By JULE H. WARREN) RALEIGH, April 7.—In normal times there would be absolutely no trouble in disposing of the state bonds, declared Governor Cameron yesterday on the eve of his departure for New York City and other financial centers where he and Treasury Leay will seek placement of a part of the bonds authorized by the legislature.

North Carolina's credit is in fine shape, the governor declared. In fact, this is one of the few states in the union which has liquid assets of sufficient amount to practically wipe out the state debt. The state has a bonded debt of about eleven million dollars.

Over against this liability the state owns railroad property which, it is estimated, will bring at least that amount, in that it owns the controlling stock in the road from Charlotte to Goldsboro and from Goldsboro to Morehead City. Conservative business men believe that the state's stock in these two roads easily would command sufficient amount to wipe out the state debt. Consequently any talk about the credit of the state being in a precarious condition is foolish and absurd, in the opinion of the governor.

Other southern states have such assets to offset its bonded debt, and few others in the union can make such a showing.

Consequently there would be no trouble in disposing of the bonds in normal times at a 5 per cent interest rate. Even in these times of distressed money and bond markets, when great sums of the world's wealth is destroyed, the governor has hopes of being able to sell the bonds at a price which would give an interest rate of 6 per cent.

Legislature Can't Help In the opinion of the governor a special session of the legislature would be held in face of the present difficulty. The trouble is constitutional rather than legislative, and the constitutional trouble is in the limitation of the taxing power of the state.

On the other hand, members of the legislature who are in the city this week, declare that if the governor and treasurer find it impossible to sell the bonds at a 5 per cent interest rate, the session might meet and authorize an increase in this rate. That, however, it is believed, would not meet the general approval of the people for the state to raise the rate of interest on the bonds, and the chances for a sale are even better when the state has to come down and ask the bond market to buy the bonds, rather than hurt it. Consequently there is no special good the special session of the legislature could do.

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Can Easily Raise Money The governor believes and will argue to the bond people of New York that the legislature has levied more than is amply sufficient to take care of the whole fifty million dollars in bonds, and no one contemplating selling the whole authorization during the first year. The tax on automobiles will bring in sufficient money to pay 5 per cent interest on fifty million dollars, and the interest could be met from this source without touching the other sources of revenue in North Carolina.

In addition to these automobile taxes the state collects inheritance taxes, a large amount of which is already due, and gets additional money from license and franchise taxes. In 1922 it will begin the collection of taxes from unearned incomes, so that there is no trouble with getting a sufficient amount of money to pay interest on the bonds. These being the facts in the case, according to the governor, North Carolina faces no financial or credit crisis that is not common to every other state government in the United States.

TO CONSIDER EXPORT PLAN WASHINGTON, April 7.—Eugene Meyer, Jr., managing director, and Dwight P. Davis, a director of the war finance corporation, left today for New Orleans, for further conferences relative to the financing of cotton exports.

At the office of the corporation, it was said Mr. Meyer and Mr. Davis had been invited to participate in a meeting of officials of the federal industrial banking corporation.

HARDING WILL REJECT TREATY AND COVENANT, BUT WILL BE CAREFUL

Does Not Intend to Be Stamped Into Taking a Dozen Steps At One Time

END STATE OF WAR

President Desires to Control Wording and Time of the Peace Resolution

(Copyright, 1921, by The Star) WASHINGTON, April 7.—President Harding at his semi-weekly meeting with the Washington correspondents made it very clear that he doesn't intend to be stampeded into taking a dozen steps at once in matters of foreign policy and that he means to proceed slowly and cautiously in formulating America's program.

Many cabinet conferences and discussions have failed to develop a practical way to consider the Versailles treaty without submitting it again to the United States senate, a course that might be construed as indorsement of the covenant of the league of nations which is a part of the treaty itself. Suggestions that articles might be rewritten with the league clauses modified or that the enforcement provisions of the treaty might be separated from those articles which have to do with international cooperation have seemed to lead nowhere. On every side the problem of amending the treaty has meant accepting portions of the treaty which the government administration feels committed to reject.

Meanwhile the movement to rush the Knox resolution through has been to some extent stemmed by the desire of Mr. Harding to maintain a control over the phraseology of the resolution as well as the time of its passage. It is proper to say at the present moment is that the Harding administration is getting ready to turn its back on the Versailles treaty and the covenant and is planning to end the technical state of war by a congressional resolution which would be followed by a carefully worked out policy toward the other nations of the world.

The new policy will not be isolationist. It will be a return to the old days of diplomatic isolation. It will mean that as a world power America will not cease to be aggressive where her rights are concerned and that America recognizes the importance of playing her part in the world peace if any nation or government threatens to disturb civilization again.

Mr. Harding is loath to talk formulas. Principles of action, however, are already imbedded in the minds of the president and the secretary of state. The endeavor will be to play an independent role in world politics, using the moral influence of America to assist in those matters which the United States considers her interest and withholding American participation from anything that involves us in quarrels or controversies in which we have no vital concern. The Wilson policy was based on the conception of America's mission in the world. The Harding policy is based upon a consideration of the practicalities of a situation in which series of changing factors make it impossible to exercise complete freedom of action for the time being at least.

There is one principle first enunciated by John Hay and which is the "open door" policy, which is to be cardinal factor in the Harding program. Originally it was applied to the far east, but it is henceforth to be extended around the world. It is the basis for America's claim that she be given equality of commercial opportunity whether or not the treaty of Versailles bestows special privileges on signatory nations. In other words the United States will derive her rights to equality of trade by reason of her part in winning the war. She will claim rights that accrued to her out of the signing of the armistice and not necessarily out of an unratified treaty which put into effect most of the terms of that document.

The mandate situation is a case in point. The allies have been managing things to suit themselves in certain regions originally owned by Germany. The return to the American people of the ten billion dollars that was loaned. The Washington government intends, too, to have its say in all questions involving trade with Germany or Russia as the case may be, and will express her viewpoint whenever it becomes necessary to do so. Already the American government has advised Germany that this government feels Germany is responsible for the war and must pay for the damage done. That is the first of a series of statements which will take the place of any signature on the Versailles treaty and will leave the department of state without pledges of concrete action.

The hope for an association of nations has not been dimmed. There is no desire here to ask Europe to abandon the present league if that particular association suits the needs of the rest of the world. There is no reason either why a new organization in the world shall not have the partnership of as many members of the present league of nations as seek to join it. For the moment the Harding administration is insisting on American rights and claims throughout the globe. The Knox resolution in amendment form will declare a technical state of peace with Germany. Thereafter there will be a separate treaty with

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