

Cloudy Today and Tomorrow Local Thunder Showers

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OLDEST DAILY IN THE STATE.

WOMEN BEATEN, SHOVED, LEFT WHERE THEY FELL IS STORY BROUGHT BY SURVIVOR OF CHINESE BANDIT RAID

ATTACK ON AMERICAN TRAVELERS STRAINS FRIENDLY RELATIONS

Minister Schurmann, at Peking Ordered to Make Strong Representations There

WAR DEPARTMENT IS READY TO BACK PLANS

Recounting of U. S. Forces Now in China Shows Nearly One Thousand; Maybe Necessary to Use This Force to Cope With Brigands; Reports Reaching Here Telling of Release of Travelers and Stringent Orders of Government Fail to Ease the Extremely Tense Situation.

SHANGHAI, May 7.—Women beaten, shoved ahead as they lagged behind, spat upon by the bandits and some of them eventually left where they dropped in their tracks as the marauders set a terrific pace over the hilly country, was one of the pictures drawn by the American newspaper man who himself escaped clad only in his pajamas.

WASHINGTON, May 7.—Action of Chinese bandits of Shantung province yesterday in holding up an express train and capturing a number of foreigners, including 19 Americans, has created a situation regarded as seriously affecting the continuance of friendly relations between the United States and China.

Still other steps were said to be in progress but officials here declined to throw any further light on the course taken by Minister Schurmann. It was indicated many phases of the situation which could not be the subject of instructions from Washington, were left in the hands of Mr. Schurmann for execution.

One of these was understood to be the question of initiating a concerted military action against the bandits, in co-operation with the Peking government in the event the Chinese authorities proved impotent and no other effective way of attaining the release of the prisoners was found.

The councils of the ministers of the various governments represented in Peking is expected to meet tomorrow to discuss a course of action.

Ready To Back Up Acting Secretary of War Davis, after a conference with Secretary Hughes, announced that the war department was being informed and was ready to "back up" the plan approved by the council of ministers and the state department.

Under the final protocol signed in September, 1901, by the governments which participated in the expedition, an international military force to be maintained in China for the purpose of keeping open communication between Peking and the sea.

In accordance with this agreement, the United States has at present a force of 45 officers and 888 men stationed at Peking, under command of Brig. Gen. Wm. D. Connor. Official government statistics show Belgium maintains one officer and 14 men at Peking. The British 31 officers and 944 men; the French 24 officers and 1,050 men; Italy one officer and 35 men; Japan 59 officers and 1,082 men; and the Netherlands one officer and 76 men. There is also at Peking one battalion of U. S. Marines stationed as garrison guard.

Military Forces There A composite military force of this nature, in the opinion of military men, would be more than sufficient to cope with the bandits in Shantung. It is also pointed out that mobilization of such a force would have a decided military effect on brigands and irregu-

Congressman Lyon Gives New That World Court Will Serve As Bumper Against Depression

The opinion that the world court will serve as a bumper between the American nation and periods of financial depression, is the view advanced by Rep. Homer L. Lyon of Whiteville, in support of President Harding's proposal to have the United States take part in an international court of justice.

Mr. Lyon's views are expressed in a statement prepared for the Morning Star last night. The statement in full follows: "I am for American entry in world court as I believe this to be the first step in world adjustment and European stability. I believe that had we entered the

HEAVY VOTE IS CAST IN TOBACCO CO-OPS DIRECTOR ELECTION

First Step in Selection of Officials Made by 89,000 Members

RALEIGH, May 7.—Election returns from the 89,000 members of America's largest co-operative marketing association show that a very heavy vote was cast in the first step taken by the organized tobacco growers to elect their directors for 1923, in Virginia and the Carolinas.

One delegate for each million pounds of tobacco was elected last Saturday by the membership of the Association which extends to 127 counties of three states. The elected delegates will meet at 23 district meetings in North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia to name the 23 directors of the tobacco co-operative for the coming year.

The annual meeting of directors of the Tobacco Marketing Association will take place Tuesday, May 15 in Raleigh, headquarters of the association's field service department, where the present board of directors will then hold their last meeting. The new board will take over the affairs of the association on June 5. When they are scheduled to meet in Raleigh.

Cuban Reserve Bank Question Undecided

WASHINGTON, May 7.—The question whether permission should be granted the Boston Reserve bank to establish an agency in Havana, remained undecided tonight, but the federal reserve board, after a three-hour hearing, had in its possession a mass of data bearing on the Boston bank's application.

The board, it was indicated, will set the needs of local and international trade, which would have to be weighed in any conclusion.

The principal objection to the proposed action by the Boston bank, headed by W. G. Harding, former governor of the reserve bank, came from the banks of the Atlanta federal reserve district and the Atlanta reserve bank. J. H. Case, deputy governor of the New York Reserve bank; Charles E. Mitchell, president of the National City bank of New York, and other New York financiers, however, took exceptions to the Boston bank's plans for various reasons.

POPELL'S DEATH WILL BE INVESTIGATED BY FLORIDA OFFICIALS

Demise of Star Witness in Prison Cases to Be Inquired Into

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., May 7.—The state's executive department will see that a thorough investigation, if warranted, is conducted into the death of Jerry Poppell, former jailer and star witness in the legislative investigation into the death of Martin Tabert, of North Dakota. It was determined this afternoon after a conference of Representative Davis with the governor and attorney general.

Mr. Davis carried the executive first news of Poppell's death, it is understood. Previously he had considered the advisability, with Representative Keller, of asking that the legislative committee be directed to have an autopsy performed on Poppell's body. Poppell died at Quincy, Saturday night while en route by motor with his family to appear before a jury in connection with a peonage case growing out of the inquiry into Tabert's death.

WANNAMAKER, HEAD OF COTTON ASSOCIATION, CRITICISES WALLACE

In a Reply to Department Head Made Public Last Night

ST. MATHEWS, S. C., May 7.—His attack on the department of agriculture for issuing its recent crop acreage and yield forecast was reiterated and coupled with criticism of the government's activity in the sugar situation by J. Skiffow Wannamaker, president of the American Cotton Association, in a reply made public tonight, to the letter of Secretary Wallace, who charged him with making "gross misstatements" concerning the government policy.

"Whatever may have been your intentions or the policy of the government which actuated this unprecedented departure from established custom," Mr. Wannamaker wrote Mr. Wallace, "the result has been witnessed in the most marked decline in the market value of staple farm products and the creation of a buyers' panic almost equal to that of 1920-1921."

The government started in campaign to deflate market values, the cotton association head declared, by its attack upon sugar and in condoning commercial mob violence by strikes and boycotts on the part of the ultimate consumer. This was promptly followed by the issuance of a most bullish report through your department on cotton acreage, livestock and grain. As a result of these harmful and totally unwarranted and unprecedented activities a wave of pessimism has swept over the country and commercial buyers' strike has again been inaugurated in the midst of what should be a steady revival of business and prosperity in all lines of industry.

Raleigh Elects New Set of Commissioners

RALEIGH, May 7.—A new set of city commissioners will take office in Raleigh tomorrow as the result of the municipal election today when E. B. Culbreth was elected mayor and W. C. Harris judge of city court, without opposition, and Ed G. Birdsong defeated Carl L. Williamson for commissioner of public safety and C. C. Page defeated John Bray for commissioner of public works.

WILMINGTON'S TWO GREAT BARGAIN FEAST DAYS TO BE OBSERVED BY ALL MERCHANTS

"Dollar Days" to be observed by practically every merchant in Wilmington on today and tomorrow, is expected to draw hundreds of purchasers from all local sections. The event is to be open this morning under most auspicious circumstances, and all downtown stores will, no doubt, be crowded with persons in search of the many splendid bargains that the storekeepers are offering on this occasion.

Local merchants have widely advertised "Dollar Days," and judging from the many inquiries which have been made the event this year is to break all former records established in the past. There is every indication that the city will be crowded with visitors both today and tomorrow. Much time and thought has been

Boy Dives Breaks Neck; Still Lives

KINSTON, May 7.—Arthur Rouse, 18, who broke his neck by diving into a submerged log in a swimming hole a few days ago, was still alive today. Silent surgeons in a local hospital declined to predict the result of an operation on the boy. A fractured cervical vertebra was held together with wire. The patient was conscious and had the use of parts of his body. Members of the hospital staff said the word "hopeful."

IF GERMANY PAYS SO WILL FRANCE; THAT IS TENOR OF NOTE

Unquestionable Authority Intimates That Such is Status of Reparations Muddle

PARIS, May 7.—The Franco-Belgian reply to the German note, one of the spokesmen for the French government said tonight, links the question of reparations with that of the inter-allied debt.

This is in the sense that France, out of the total of 130,000,000,000 gold marks fixed in 1921 by the allies as Germany's indebtedness, demands her share of the scheduled payments of 50 billion gold marks, or 26 billion marks to begin with an am'ntimum, and in addition such part of her share of the remaining 80 billion marks as will correspond to the sums as asked of her in payment of the war debts to the United States and Great Britain.

All this means that if the United States or Great Britain cancel any part of the debts owing them by France, the latter is ready to reduce to that extent her share of the 50 billion gold marks due from Germany in addition to the 50 billion provided for in the scheduled payments. In other words, she feels obliged to claim for Germany as much of the 80-billion mark balance as may be necessary to pay the allies.

Memphis Business Men Are Helping Saunders

Governor Commutes Negro's Sentence

By BROCK BARKLEY RALEIGH, May 7.—Governor Morrison this afternoon commuted the sentence of Graham White, condemned Mecklenburg county negro. White slew another negro, Grover Henderson, in Mecklenburg, September 17, 1920.

Emperor of K. K. K. Wins in Big Suit

ATLANTA, Ga., May 7.—The supreme judicial body of the Ku Klux Klan is the imperial kloneclium which has the executive function of giving direction to the administration of the affairs of the order by a majority vote. Judge E. D. Thomas declared in a decree today in the Fulton county superior court. The imperial wizard was declared to be the supreme chief executive officer of the order subject to the veto power of a two-thirds majority of the kloneclium. He also must follow all acts of the kloneclium.

SENATOR SIMMONS INVITED TO SPEAK

By H. E. C. BRYANT WASHINGTON, May 7.—Mayor McKinnon, of Brunswick, Ga., has invited Senator Simmons to attend the annual convention of the Altamaha River System association May 13 and May 14.

HARDING DECLARES FOR WORLD COURT IN MESSAGE TO WOMEN

Letter Stressing Plan Read at Atlanta Meet of Federated Clubs

SEES UNIFIED OPINION ON IDEA

Thinks That Nation Has Never Been So Solidly Behind Any Proposal

ATLANTA, Ga., May 7.—"The national heart, conscience and judgment are silks enlisted" in the movement for American adherence to the world court of international justice, "and against these we need never fear that any opposition will prevail." President Harding declared in a letter read here tonight to the mid-biennial council of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

"Not since I have been President has there been in commerce with any great question of public policy so impressive a demonstration of substantially unified opinion," the letter said. "It convinces me that as the discussion proceeds the evidence of this attitude will become so overwhelming that it will at least be a very serious obstacle to attaining the end sought."

The President in the letter, which was addressed to Mrs. Thomas G. Winter, president of the general federation, asserted that "it is plainly the considered opinion of the country that if we are to unite with other nations in an epoch-making effort to establish adjudication of international differences, we should adhere to the court, which is already in being. That court in its constitution represents the matured thought and deliberation of men who have given most expert consideration to the subject. It is difficult to believe that a more representative, more impartial or more able tribunal could be established under any other plan."

"I am writing to acknowledge my presentation of the invitation to address the convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and to express my regret that it is not possible to accept. The word and intelligent interest which this great organization has taken in public affairs and its splendidly effective effort to do that the nation shall derive the utmost advantage from the full participation of womanhood in the responsibility of public life, entitle the federation to be heard among the great constructive and educational forces of the world."

"It has been most heartening to learn of the attitude of this great organization, so long devoted to the consideration of public problems and so well trained in that field, toward the proposal that our country signify its adherence to the world court of international justice. You will, I am sure, be interested to know that the evidence of nation-wide judgment upon this issue, which comes to me from every part of the country and the every earnest deliberation of our very material interest, equally demand that this nation shall give this sincere and effective proof of its wish to cooperate in eliminating the causes of strife among the nations and peoples. I have wanted you, and your co-workers of the federation to know of the accumulating evidences of a firmly crystallizing opinion. The national heart, conscience and judgment are silks enlisted, and against these we never need fear that any opposition may prevail."

"Especially I am glad to be able to tell you that there is evidence of a thoroughly practical attitude as regards our adherence to the court already created and functioning. It is plainly the considered judgment of the country that if we are to unite with other nations in an epoch-making effort to establish adjudication of international differences, we should adhere to the court, which is already in being. The court in its constitution represents the matured thought and expert consideration to the subject. It is difficult to believe that a more representative, more impartial, or more able tribunal could be established under any other plan. But in my case, the present court is actually in existence, its jurisdiction defined by its protocol of foundation has been accepted by a large number of nations. It may well be doubted whether the nations, which in good faith have given support this program would esteem it either a helpful or friendly gesture on our part, if we should indicate our willingness to join in a judicial establishment, but should insist that it must be some other than the one already set up. To adopt that attitude would seem to me to be a most unwise and unwise road to effective participation in such a system. On the contrary, it might be regarded as implying our lack of faith in a tribunal which has the support and confidence of a great group of nations. In short, the opinion of the country plainly is that if we have any sincere purpose of adhering to the procedure of international adjudication, our only way to give convincing evidence of this disposition, is to accept, under such restrictions as may