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LEAGUE OF NATIONS WOULD HAVE PREVENTED WORLD WAR

Geneva, Switzerland, Dec. 13.—Lauding the League of Nations, the existence of which "permits representatives of the governments to confer frequently 'man to man,' instead of depending on colorless exchanges of diplomatic correspondence," Foreign Minister Stresemann of Germany today expressed the belief that the World War would have been averted if the statesmen in 1914 had been given as many opportunities of getting together as they have at present through the league.

He voiced this view in commenting to the Associated Press on the success of the negotiations just concluded here which assured the organization of a league system of investigation in place of the inter-allied control of German armaments to which his government objected. Remarking that not only France, but all the former enemies of Germany had contributed to this result, he said:

"If the statesmen could have met four or five weeks in 1914, just as the foreign ministers met at Locarno and Geneva, and discussed the situation frankly and unreservedly, I am convinced that the great war would have been averted.

"Here, then, is one great service performed by the League of Nations, which is destined to be a medium in arranging the affairs of Europe."

The league was necessary and useful for the prompt and harmonious reconstruction of Europe, he asserted, adding: "Europe simply cannot stand another war."

The Locarno security conference and the meetings in Geneva, he went on, had inaugurated a new system of philosophy in statecraft, and that was straight dealing. He paid glowing tributes to all his colleagues, representing other countries with whom he had been negotiating.

He had special mention for Foreign Minister Vandervelde of Belgium, who, the German statesman revealed, played the role of mediator in the difficult negotiations. "And don't forget," he concluded, "that Belgium was the country with which Germany, during the war and because of the war, was on very bad terms. Mr. Vandervelde's attitude is indicative of the new Europe, based on cooperation and continuation."

MANY VISITORS EXPECTED AT BETHLEHEM FOR CHRISTMAS

Bethlehem, Holy Land, Dec. 13.—Thousands of Christians of all sections are converging on Bethlehem to participate in the Christmas eve services in the Church of the Nativity which is built over the stable in which Jesus Christ was born.

It was estimated Saturday about 4,000 visitors will be present for the Christmas observance, which is vastly different here from that in the countries where St. Nicholas is a major figure. Green Christmas trees are unknown here. Instead of the exchange of presents, there will be rejoicing and the singing of carols. The ceremony of singing, praying and worshipping will continue from Christmas eve until noon Christmas day.

Many pilgrims who already have arrived, believe Jesus is coming to the earth a second time and that His return is rapidly approaching.

"Jesus is again coming to the world," an Arab Christian merchant told the United Press, "but this time He will not be born in a stable and laid in a manger. He will come as a king, a great king.

"All unrighteous people will perish, but those who have lived according to their light will be saved. All nations will bow to Him and accept Him as their Lord."

PLAY TO BE GIVEN BY THE COVE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL

The senior and junior classes of the Cove Creek high school will present a play, "Son John," in the auditorium of the school building on Wednesday night, December 22, at 7:30 o'clock. The public is cordially invited. An admission of 15 cents for children, 25 cents for high school pupils and 35 cents for adults will be charged, the proceeds to go to the school piano fund.

Mayor Joe Adams, of West City, Illinois, was shot to death in front of his home Sunday night by alleged gangsters. Two previous attacks had been made on the life of the mayor.

Radium Springs To Be Developed in Ashe Co.

Million Dollar Corporation Planned To Develop Only Spring of Kind in America

A deal which will transfer approximately 12,000 acres in western North Carolina and the only radium spring in America into the hands of a developing corporation was closed in Charlotte last Thursday night, according to a report from T. B. Finley, of North Wilkesboro, says the Charlotte Observer.

The deal, it is known, has been pending for some time and has been definitely closed, with plans already drawn for the application of a North Carolina charter that will have a capitalization of \$1,000,000 or more.

The promoters include capitalists of New York and North Carolina. Among the North Carolina group will be Judge T. B. Finley, J. Gordon Hackett, W. A. McNeil, Clem Wrenn, president of the Bank of Wilkesboro, all of Wilkesboro; A. E. McNeill, merchant, of Jefferson; E. E. Eller, merchant, of J. B. Williams, insurance man, of C. D. Coffey, Jr., and others.

Thomas Dixon, of New York and North Carolina, noted playwright, and others of New York, are also included.

Mr. Dixon was in Charlotte Tuesday night for a few minutes en route from a visit to North Wilkesboro.

Judge Finley said that although the details could not be announced at this time that he was at liberty to say the deal had been closed and that a North Carolina charter would be sought for the corporation with probably a "million or more dollars" authorized in the way of capital stock.

The corporation, it is said, will at once, upon obtaining its authorization from the state, bring to North Carolina, Dr. William Bierman, of New York, said to be one of the world's first authorities on radio-therapy and psycho-therapy, to advise with the promoters about laying out grounds, baths, hotels and sanatoria which the corporation will erect as a step toward making the new development into what is intended to duplicate the famous Spa watering place in Germany. Dr. Bierman is author of Bierman's Medical Guide, a publication which is rated as an authority on waters of curative qualities.

The claim that the "radium" spring in the proposed development is the only one discovered in America is made on the testimony of Froehling and Robinson, chemical engineers of Richmond, Va., who have tested the water.

This firm is on record with its certification that the percentage of radio activity is superior in that of many of the German springs.

The springs are located seven miles from Jefferson and about 10 miles from North Wilkesboro.

It is reported that a New York syndicate has made preliminary advances with a view to acquiring the property by lease or otherwise. The plans, however, are for the corporation now forming to develop the property itself after Dr. Bierman has come here to superintend the laying out of grounds and to suggest plans for buildings which will mark the initial development of the property.

SOCIAL MEETING OF SNOW LODGE ON DECEMBER 18TH

On Saturday night, December 18, at 7:30 o'clock there will be a social meeting of Snow Lodge, A. F. & A. M. All members are invited and the wives, daughters and special friends are also cordially invited. Refreshments will be served during the evening and a short program will be rendered.

Furnace Creek ranch in Death Valley, California, is the hottest known inhabited spot on the globe. A government thermometer there registered 134 degrees in the shade. The coldest recorded locality is in Northern Siberia, where the mercury drops to 90 degrees below zero.

More than two million pounds of copper were required by the United States treasury department in 1925 to mint \$5,115,675 in pennies and nickels. The "nickel" contains 75 per cent copper.

Motor-driven roller skates form one of the latest fads in Europe.

THIRD MONTH HONOR ROLL OF BLOWING ROCK SCHOOL

Following is the list of honor students of the Blowing Rock school for the third month of the present term:

First Grade
Daniel Klutz, Lewis Lowdermilt, Jewel Hartley, Frances Pitts, Mary Pitts, Nellie Gray Sides, Lucy Wooten, Mary Louise Williams, Evelyn Brown, Mary Klutz, Alma Lowdermilt.

Second and Third Grades
Georgia Sudderth, Norman Pitts, Dess Keller, Dennis Coffey, Charles Robbins, Gladys Teaster, Emma Foster, Ruby White, Elise Pitts, Blanche Wooten, Evelyn Jenkins.

Fourth and Fifth Grades
Carroll Greer, Luther Greene, Vaughn Hartley, Edward Coffey, Edward Robbins, Kent Church, Pauline Greene, Oral Pitts, Irene Jenkins, Ruby Coffey, Grace Reid, Blanch Teaster, Bessie Wooten, Virgola Walters, Arlene Jenkins, Mary Klutz, Dore Huxley.

Sixth Grade
Virginia Coffey, Dorris White, Elizabeth Walter, Edward Coffey, Dee Cannon, Jack Greene, Sidney Cannon.

Seventh Grade
Parks Knight, Harlen Greene, Omer Coffey, Arnold Coffey, Frank Klutz, Dewey Story, Ola Coffey, Cora Greene, Virginia Sudderth, Mary Wooten, Maud Mays, Eleanor Story.

Eighth and Ninth Grades
Lucile Reid, Lois Klutz, Margaret Sudderth, Bynum Crisp.

"THE PATH ACROSS THE HILL" WILL BE PRESENTED AT MABEL

The play, "The Path Across the Hill," will be presented by local talent at the Mabel school on Saturday night, December 18 at 7:30 o'clock.

Following is the cast of characters: Samuel Crawford, grandpa, John E. Combs.

Robert Post, the visitor, Ivan Church.

Walter Conrad, Ruth's brother, Tom Lowrance.

Dr. Jimmy Reed, with ambition, Lee H. Stout.

Alexander, Salamander John Henry Jones, Zuzu's choice, Grover Norris.

Mrs. Davis, grandma, Hazel Norris.

Ruth Conrad, nicknamed "Bobbie," Miss McMillan.

Flo Gray, Ruth's cousin, B. Church.

Lottie, a tomboy, Ruby Johnson.

Zuzu, the cook, Mona Greer.

Synopsis

Act 1—The living room of Ruth Conrad's home in an eastern village.

Act 2—The same scene; two weeks later.

Act 3—The same scene a year later. Ruth and her grandpa show that love is stronger than hate. A happy ending.

NEWS OF COVE CREEK

Sugar Grove, Dec. 15.—The Cove Creek high school will close for the Christmas holidays on Thursday, December 23, and open for the spring term on Monday, January 3. The mid-term examinations will be given the first week in January.

Rev. R. A. Taylor, who suffered a broken knee from a fall recently, is doing nicely in the hospital at Banner Elk.

Prof. Chas. J. Greene, of the high school faculty, has been confined to his room for a few days with an attack of influenza.

Miss Rebecca Taylor, of the 11th grade, and Ray Ellison, of the ninth grade, represented the school at Mars Hill College in the recitation and declamation contest on last Friday and Saturday. Twenty-four high schools of western North Carolina engaged in the contest and it proved interesting and helpful throughout. Principal S. F. Horton accompanied Miss Taylor and Mr. Ellison and served as one of the judges of the final contest on Saturday morning.

The high school attendance has been unusually good this fall, averaging 158-160, with an enrollment of 163-165.

The eighth and ninth grades of the Cove Creek high school, defeated the junior highs of Boone on Thursday of last week in a basket ball game. Two games were played, both boys and girls of the local school easily winning.

Mrs. N. L. Mast is still unimproved to any great extent. There are several cases of influenza in the community, also.

News of a Week At Blowing Rock

Happenings of Interest During Past Seven Days in and around Blowing Rock

By RUPERT GILBERT
Blowing Rock, Dec. 15.—With the arrival of Blowing Rock's \$6,500 fire truck last night, the young men of the town met and organized a volunteer fire department.

The following officers were elected: President, C. S. Prevotta; secretary, J. E. Holshouser; fire chief, J. A. Panella; assistant chief, L. A. Underwood; second assistant chief, Lloyd Robbins. Chief Panella then selected seven men as student drivers to learn the operation of the truck under the direction of Robert L. Pirgic, engineer for the American La France Company, who is here to give instructions to the department.

The student drivers are Tom Sides, Del Teaster, Rob Greene, Paul Klutz, Joe Panella, Andrew Underwood, Lloyd Robbins and Harry Cooper.

The instructions began the next morning with the first test of the truck. Drawing water from the Mayview lake, the motor pumped 469 gallons a minute, according to Mr. Pringle's gauge, although the official capacity of the pump is only 400 gallons a minute. Both Mr. Pringle and Chief Panella expressed themselves as highly pleased with the results of the test.

Monday, the instructions continued, with the men devoting their time to the formula for making chemicals and to the operation of the chemical tank. Meanwhile, workmen were engaged in demolishing the Pendlly garage, which has been leveled for the purpose of erecting a fire station on the site. As soon as the demolition is completed, the city will call for bids from local builders for the construction of the station.

As only \$5,000 was raised last summer for buying the truck, an extra supper will be given Saturday night to raise money toward paying the balance. The supper will be given in Young's cafe, which has been closed during the winter, but the liquor of the town are now putting it in condition for the supper.

The men who joined the fire department on the first night are T. H. Coffey, Jr., G. M. Sudderth, Stuart Cannon, Paul Klutz, G. C. Robbins, C. A. Underwood, N. C. Greene, Clyde Dula, Randall Foster, Spencer Greene, G. W. Beaverly, Don Johnson, Benjamin Greene, A. C. Coffey, L. D. Teaster, Marshall Hicks, W. H. Daugherty, Henry Thurington, Lloyd Robbins, R. M. Coffey, Marshall Foster, T. H. Coffey, C. S. Prevotta, A. E. Mercer, Rob Clay, T. A. Winkler, Theo Greene, Wiley Vanoy, R. W. Trippett, A. C. Moody, Dan Klutz, A. M. Orcher, B. K. Jenkins, J. A. Panella, Donald Greene, W. M. Moore, John Williams and Rupert Gilbert.

A second meeting of the department was called by Chief Panella for next Tuesday night.

To Revise Insurance Rates

It is probable that a representative of the state insurance commission will be asked to come to Blowing Rock to revise the insurance rates as a result of the organization of the volunteer fire department and the installation of the new fire truck, it was said last week by Mayor Geo. Sudderth. Just when the examiner would be asked to come had not been decided, but it was expected that a material decrease in the rates would result.

The difficulty of surveying town limits at an altitude of 4,300 feet was illustrated by Cyrus C. Babbs, consulting engineer, last week when he related how the line was surveyed from Blowing Rock itself down an almost sheer drop of several hundred feet into the valley. The rodman, W. H. Daugherty, manifestly could not be expected to find a foot, old in a crevice, hang by one hand to a laurel root and hold his rod straight at the same time. Hence, the distances had to be measured by calculation of angles with the stadia. The Rock will form the corner stone of the new town limits. The survey is being made for presentation to the general assembly in connection with the bill for the annexation of Mayview Park and Green Park. T. H. Coffey, Watauga county's representative, is expected to introduce the annexation bill.

Surprise Birthday Party

Hubert Holshouser was surprised

(Continued on Page Eight)

CRAT WILL BE ISSUED ON TUESDAY OF NEXT WEEK

As announced last week, The Democrat will be published as usual next week, the paper not suspending an issue at Christmas as has been the custom heretofore. However, the publishers desire a little period of rest the latter part of next week, and an effort will be made to issue the paper on Tuesday afternoon instead of Wednesday night.

BANQUET AT DANIEL BOONE HOTEL TONIGHT

Perhaps the outstanding social event of the Christmas season will take place at the Daniel Boone hotel this (Thursday) evening at 7 o'clock, when husbands of members of the Worth White Club will entertain their wives at a Christmas turkey dinner. Sixty plates will be laid and Prof. B. B. Dougherty and L. G. Greer will have charge of the program, which will include speeches, music and jokes.

The following menu will be served in the spacious hotel dining room: Cream of tomato soup

Sweet mixed pickle

Roast turkey with dressing, cranberry sauce

Cellery Candied Yams

Green peas Salad

Hot rolls Biscuits

Ice Cream

Cake Coffee

50,510 YANKS KILLED IN WORLD WAR BATTLES

Washington, Dec. 15.—A careful re-check of American army World War casualties shows that 50,510 soldiers received battle deaths, instead of a number variously estimated at upwards of 70,000.

These figures were made public in the annual report of the adjutant general of the army today.

Those actually killed in action totaled 37,568 while 12,942 died of wounds received in action.

The total number of battle casualties was 211,173. This includes the deaths and 493,663 non-mortal wounds which were treated. Those wounded, however, were only 182,673 individuals, or 10,989 soldiers were treated for more than one wound.

In a summary of the causes of death some popular beliefs were exploded. The first is that gunshot wounds caused the major proportion of casualties, 137,228, or 64.6 per cent, while gas accounted for 68,974 or 33.1 per cent. Shell fire casualties were 9,486, or 4.5 per cent; air raids, 229, or .11 per cent. The bayonet commonly supposed to be the most handy weapon of soldiers, only caused 164 casualties, or .07 per cent.

North Carolina lost 904 in battles, with 3,676 not finally wounded, making a total causal list for the state of 4,580.

SOUTHERN AIR MAIL ROUTE LIKELY BE REALIZED FACT

Washington, Dec. 13.—Call for bids on a contract to operate an overnight air mail route between New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington and Atlanta will be issued by Postmaster General New within a few days.

The question of the route from Washington to Atlanta has been under consideration some time and indications are that the call will designate the middle route through Richmond, Greensboro, Winston-Salem, High Point and Greenville, because of the prospect of the largest mail business.

Marked interest has been shown by the cities on three routes proposed tentatively. One route would go through Roanoke, Bristol, Knoxville and Chattanooga and one competitor sent a plane over that route obtaining pictures which showed ample landing fields. The middle route which probably will be chosen because of heavier mail possibilities presents some difficulties in the way of landing fields below Charlotte, but communities along the way have promised such fields.

The third route was through Richmond, Raleigh, Columbia and Augusta, but this was not believed to be attractive as either of the other routes in the way of revenue.

Would Establish Farm For Delinquent Women

Worth White Club Would Support Bill to Establish Farm For Those Who Travel Primrose Path

A committee was appointed by the Worth White Club at its meeting Friday to confer with Representative Thomas H. Coffey in an effort to obtain his support for a bill to be introduced in the general assembly providing for the establishment by the state of a farm colony for delinquent women.

Mrs. J. M. Moretz was named chairman of the committee. The other members are Mrs. W. C. Greer, Mrs. Edw. N. Hahn and Mrs. J. L. Qualls.

The proposed farm would care for 100 women who are now sent to the state penal institutions. It is argued that when these women are released from the penal institutions they become either "trampsters" or public charges. It is the object of the farm to give them such training as will enable them to regain their places in respectable society.

The club decided that instead of having a regular Christmas tree and program, members would help make a happy Christmas for the less fortunate of the community.

The club met Friday at the Commercial hotel with Mrs. J. L. Qualls as hostess. The next meeting will be with Mrs. R. L. Clay January 8.

MISS COUNCIL HONORED AT DELIGHTFUL PARTY

Misses Carrie and Ruth Coffey entertained delightfully on last Thursday evening in honor of Miss Virginia Council, whose marriage is an event of this month.

A surprise feature of the occasion was a shower of lovely gifts for the honor guest, including linen, silver and other pretty and useful articles. These were presented to the bride-elect by little Miss Grace Council and Master Joe Greer, dressed as bride and groom. After much merriment over an original contest, the blank spaces in which were to be filled by the names of the guests, the dainty winner's prize went to Mrs. L. G. Greer, who in turn gave it to Miss Council.

Teatime refreshments, of fruit salad, softness, asparagus and date sandwiches, peach pickles, coffee and salt almonds were served with appropriate favors on each plate.

The guests were then given paper and pencils and told to write an original verse their good wishes for the bride-to-be, which, in a dainty hand-painted cover, were presented to her at the close of the very pleasant evening.

WATAUGA MARINE NOW GUARDING THE MAILS

Among the U. S. Marines who were first selected to guard the mails against possible attacks by bandits is Spencer R. Greer, of Zionville, who was stationed at Parris Island, S. C., prior to his assignment to this important duty.

He is one of several picked men from Parris Island who began their duties as mail guards, immediately after President Coolidge gave his approval. They are now furnishing protection to the mails in transit, guarding important postal centers and insuring the safe delivery of valuable mail packages.

Young Greer is the son of Mrs. Pollie Greer, of Zionville, and joined the marine corps in January, 1924.

DEATH OF REV. R. L. PALMER ON DEC. 10TH

Rev. R. L. Palmer, of Beech Creek, died on Friday morning, December 10, after a brief illness with pneumonia. He is survived by his wife and six children, Roy Palmer, of Dark Ridge; Vance Palmer, of Senia; Charles Palmer, Mrs. Geo. W. Harman and Mrs. W. S. Harrison, all of Beech Creek.

Rev. Palmer had been in declining health for several years, but endured his suffering very patiently, always looking on the bright side of everything.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Ed. Farthing, David Greene and J. C. Wilson. Interment was at the old Mt. Gilcard graveyard, and was attended by a large number of relatives and friends.

In 1920 there were more than 44,000 illiterate white native women in North Carolina.