

# The Asheville Gazette News.

Weather Forecast

FAIR; CONTINUED COLD.

THE GAZETTE-NEWS HAS THE MOST EXPENSIVE ASSOCIATED PRESS SERVICE IN THE CAROLINAS.

VOLUME XIX. NO. 11

ASHEVILLE, N. C., TUESDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 24, 1914.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## BENTON AFFAIR BEFORE CABINET

President Talks Over With Advisors Latest Information of Execution of W. S. Benton.

NO EVIDENCE WHICH REFUTES VILLA STORY

Rebels Contend Benton Was Mexican Subject—Request For His Body Meets With Silence.

Washington, Feb. 24.—A cabinet meeting today afforded President Wilson an opportunity to talk over with his official advisers the latest information at hand about the execution of William S. Benton by General Villa.

Much interest was manifested in the published interview with General Villa at Chihuahua, which recited again the story of what he alleges was an attempt on his own life by Benton. Thus far the state department, it is known, has received no authentic evidence tending to refute Villa's version of the affair. Though some doubt as to the manner in which Benton was killed may exist in official circles, unless positive evidence is presented controverting Villa's claims it is now quite certain the American government will not reject his story.

One direct effect of the incident, it is admitted generally, will be a manifestation of some kind by the United States to the constitutionalists that foreigners must be given ample protection. It is suggested the American government may seek to reach an understanding with Villa whereby the constitutionalists will agree not to take summary action with respect to any foreigners until he has previously notified Washington officials.

Still No Word of Baugh.

State department officials today had no word of Gustav Baugh, over whose fate grave anxiety is felt. Neither was there news of Compton or Curtis.

Officials were particularly interested in news dispatches in which Villa was represented as contradicting his previous statement that Baugh had been transferred from Juarez to Chihuahua. In Chihuahua yesterday Villa said he knew nothing about Baugh.

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 24.—The attempt of the Mexican rebels to establish if William S. Benton, Scottish ranchman who was executed a week ago today was a Mexican citizen, is based on a report that he held some minor office while President Porfirio Diaz was in power. This statement was made today at Juarez by Frederico Gonzalez Garza, counselor to the commander of the garrison, who added:

"We have heard that Benton held several small offices under President Diaz, and that he was once mayor of a small settlement on his own estate. He could not have held office without being a Mexican citizen and the records at Chihuahua are being searched to establish the facts."

Relatives here of Benton say that the deeds to his Mexican property refer to him as a British subject and that he was always careful that there should be no doubt on this point. In the meanwhile the request of the state department at Washington for the handing over of the body of Benton has met only with silence.

General Villa has received telegrams not only from many cities in the United States but from London, Berlin and Paris asking for an explanation of the manner of Benton's death. All the replies sent to inquirers have given the same story of a court martial and execution.

Laurence Found.

The finding in the Imperial valley, California, of Roger Laurence, the Englishman who was reported missing in Mexico, leads to the belief here that his alleged companion Curtis also is safe in the United States. No trace, however, of Harry Compton, for whom the American authorities were looking, has been received.

Bauch Freed, Is Story.

An interview printed in the El Paso Times today quotes Villa as Chihuahua as saying that he gave Gustav Baugh, an American citizen, his liberty at Juarez last Thursday. This statement contradicts the official information given by Thomas D. Edwards, the American consul, by General Villa, that Baugh had been taken to Chihuahua, where his case was being reviewed.

El Paso, Tex., Feb. 24.—Efforts of American Consul Edwards at Juarez to induce the constitutionalists to turn over to the widow the body of William S. Benton, executed by General Villa, continued today. So far the requests have met with no response from General Villa, and it is reported that American consul Fletcher at Chihuahua will renew his plea.

Continued Investigation.

Benton's friends, the federal agents and many sympathizers, continued their attempt to ascertain the facts. (Continued on page 3)

## NEGRO JAS. CONLEY IS FOUND GUILTY

Gets 12 Months as Accessory to Murder of Little Mary Phagan.

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 24.—James Conley, negro factory sweeper was found guilty here today of being an accessory after the fact to the murder of Mary Phagan. He was sentenced to 12 months in a convict chain gang.

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 24.—The minor charge of suppression of evidence against James Conley, negro factory sweeper, on trial for complicity in the murder of Mary Phagan was dismissed by Judge B. H. Hill of the Superior court at the opening of today's session. Attorneys then began their arguments on the remaining charge of being an accessory after the fact to the killing of the 14 year old factory girl. Conley's trial began yesterday and taking of evidence was completed at the first session.

The charge of suppression of evidence was based upon Conley's first affidavit regarding the murder, in which he professed ignorance of the crime. The accessory charge is based on his testimony at the trial of Leo M. Frank, who was convicted of the murder and sentenced to death. This testimony, reciting that Conley helped to dispose of Mary Phagan's body after she had been killed by Frank was read at the trial yesterday. Attorneys for Conley argued today that these alleged acts of Conley were not accessory to the murder.

Frank Motion Filed.

Attorneys for Leo M. Frank, under death sentence for the murder of Mary Phagan, today filed in the Supreme court of Georgia a motion for rehearing of arguments of Frank's appeal for a new trial. The appeal, filed after a new trial had been refused by the Superior court, was denied by the Supreme court February 17. Two justices dissented.

In their motion today attorneys for the convicted factory superintendent hold that certain ground submitted in their appeal were not fully considered by the court, and present arguments in support of this contention.

## DEPORTED REFUSE TO LEAVE VESSEL

South African Labor Leaders Say They Will Not Land At Gravesend.

Gravesend, Eng., Feb. 24.—Nine of the ten labor leaders deported from South Africa on January 27 after the general strike had been broken up by the government declared their intention of refusing to leave the ship when she arrived here today. They said they would remain aboard until the steamer returned to South Africa.

Mr. Bala, general secretary of the Trades federation of South Africa, said: "We were pressed on to this vessel against our consent. We do not intend to leave it until we land again in South Africa."

Arthur Henderson, a labor member of parliament and other British labor leaders went out on a tug down the Thames to meet the deported strike leaders from South Africa, but the captain of the steamer refused to allow anyone to come on board. Both parties contented themselves for the moment with singing "The Red Flag."

Secretary Bala gave out a long statement recounting the events which led up to the strike leaders' deportation. It declared hundreds of people had been arrested indiscriminately during the strike for no crime whatever. Leaders of the movement, it asserted, surrendered only to avoid bloodshed when a military officer had threatened to attack the trades hall in Johannesburg.

The general strike of all trades in South Africa was declared on January 17. Premier Botha's government responded with a proclamation of martial law calling 500,000 men to the colors. There was some disorder in Johannesburg and Pretoria but after a few days the strike collapsed. On January 23 the leaders of the movement were taken secretly on board a steamer for transportation to England.

Zambo In Control.

Washington, Feb. 24.—Captain Russell of the battleship South Carolina at Port Au Prince reported today that President Zambon's forces appeared to control the situation throughout the island and that outposts in Port Au Prince and all other ports.

## COLD CAUSING MUCH SUFFERING

Zero Weather, Following in Wake of Blizzard, Increases Discomfort of Poor And Homeless.

TRAFFIC PARALYZED IN MANY SECTIONS

Numerous Trains Are Snow-bound—Work of Removing Drifts in Middle West Cities Giant Task.

New York, Feb. 24.—An inch of snow was dumped last night on the heavy blanket left by last week's storms but the snow quit falling early today with the thermometer at 10 degrees above zero. Several thousand men worked all night sweeping snow from car tracks and street crossings. The drop in the temperature drove hundreds of homeless men to the municipal lodging house.

Most Severe of Season.

Columbus, O., Feb. 24.—With thermometers registering from one to ten Bremen to Loyds today explains the most severe cold weather of the season. The weather bureau recorded 5.8 inches of snowfall here, while in many parts of the state the blizzard which abated late yesterday left from 12 to 24 inches of snow.

Railroad officials said it would be late today before the trains would be able to come near operating on schedule time. Some trains were cancelled.

42 Degrees Below.

Dolgeville, N. Y., Feb. 24.—The mercury dropped to 42 degrees below zero here today.

Digging Out Drifts.

Indianapolis, Feb. 24.—With the thermometer at 1 degree below zero, Indianapolis and practically the entire state today began digging out of the snow drifts in many places five and six feet deep. Practically all the interurban tracks still were snow-bound. A few trains arrived this morning after being stuck in snow drifts since yesterday morning. Traction officials said they hoped to have the majority of their lines clear by tonight.

Intense Suffering.

Cincinnati, O., Feb. 24.—Coming in the wake of the blizzard which raged from Sunday night until last night, zero weather caused intense suffering in Cincinnati and lower Ohio today. Trains from the north and west were reported from one to four hours behind schedule time.

Reports of Suffering.

Kansas City, Feb. 24.—With gradual restoration of transportation facilities and wire communication to points completely isolated yesterday came more detailed reports of suffering and inconvenience than accompanied one of the worst storms known in the Missouri-Kansas regions in a half dozen years. While demoralized wire conditions were improved greatly today yet officials said it would be several days before normal order could be restored.

In Blizzard's Grip.

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 24.—Nashville was in the grip of a blizzard early today. The temperature was 15 degrees above zero.

Seven Inches of Snow.

Pittsburgh, Pa., Feb. 24.—With temperatures from one to five degrees below zero this entire section today experienced one of the few bright days since the advent of winter. Hundreds of men were digging the city out of the seven inches of snow that fell yesterday and largely increased forces were sent out to clear railroad tracks.

## WOMEN PARTICIPATING IN PRIMARY ELECTION

Play Important Part as Candidates, Voters and Election Officials

Chicago, Feb. 24.—Women voters of Chicago cast their first ballot today at the primary election for the nomination of aldermanic candidates. As candidates, as voters and as election officials they played an important part in the election. Names of eight women candidates appeared on the ballots. More than 700 acted as judges and clerks. Hundreds had been officially designated as watchers and were at the polling places early.

The women captured most of their attention on the first ward, comprising the business section, where Miss Marion Drake was the progressive party candidate. If nominated Miss Drake will oppose Alderman "Bathhouse John" J. Coughlin for election.

## GROUND VESSELS IN MORE DANGER

Severe Storm Makes Saving of Sagem and Riversdale Very Difficult.

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 24.—With a severe snow and wind storm raging on the coast the British steamships Sagem, ashore near Hog Island north of Cape Charles, and the Riversdale, stranded near Little Island, south of Cape Henry, were today in more danger than at anytime since they struck—one on Saturday and the other on Sunday last. The wind at the Virginia capes this forenoon was blowing between 35 and 40 miles an hour from the northeast and the seas were running high. The Sagem, which lies on a bar two and a half miles from shore, exposed to all winds, is in worse condition than the Riversdale, which lies well up on the beach in a less treacherous position. The crew of the Sagem, which is a Furness-Withy liner, bound from Boston to Newport-News and Norfolk to finish loading for Liverpool, are still aboard the vessel but they today asked the wrecking tugs I. J. Merritt to stand well by the ship. This was because of the severity of the storm and bad position in which the Sagem lies. There is quick sand in the vicinity of the Sagem's position. Some years ago a steamer was ashore near the same point. Wreckers were at work upon her in fair weather one day and the next day a storm came and the ship went to pieces, the wreckers barely escaping with their lives.

The tug Virginian is awaiting to carry out from Norfolk a large barge for the unloading of the Sagem's cargo with the view to lightening her. Bad weather, however, is delaying the departure of the Virginian and the barge.

The Riversdale's cargo of lumber is being thrown overboard and saved on the beach. The Riversdale lies in almost the same position as did the Belgian steamer Antigone, which lumber laden, struck on the Little Island coast in December, 1905.

## HAMMER NOMINATION IS FAVORABLY REPORTED

Protests Against Ashboro Man Read Before Senate Judiciary Committee.

Gazette-News Bureau, Wyatt Building Washington, Feb. 24.

The senate judiciary committee today reported favorably the nomination of W. C. Hammer of Asheville for district attorney for the western district. Mr. Hammer will be probably confirmed at the next executive session of the senate. No further opposition to the Asheville man is anticipated.

Senator Overman, who has been acting as chairman of the committee for nearly a year, read to the committee all of the protests against Mr. Hammer. The protest of Henry A. Page led the list. Others protesting were J. H. Holloway, a traveling salesman of Louisville, who wrote to the president and attorney general; two letters from Thomas J. Jerome, of Salisbury; Edward L. Green, a republican of Yadkin county, protested vigorously to the attorney general, and W. L. Clements, of Greensboro, expressed his opposition in a letter to Mr. McReynolds.

## MEXICO PLANNING TO NATIONALIZE OIL LANDS

Report Current That They Are To Be Transferred to Lord Cowdray.

Mexico City, Feb. 24.—A plan for nationalization of all the oil lands in Mexico is to be forced through the next congress, which convenes on April 1, according to an admission made today by Querido Moheno, head of the new cabinet post of commerce and industry.

Senator Moheno says he presented the plan while he was yet a member of the chamber of deputies. The report is current here that it is the intention of the federal government to transfer the oil lands to Lord Cowdray for \$10,000,000 gold after they have been nationalized.

Committee Passes Naval Bill.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The naval bill program for next year was finally passed today by the house naval committee. The administration plan for two battleships, with the minor craft contemplated, is considered certain of adoption by the house.

## PRES. HARRISON ON THE SOUTH

Railway Executive Depicts Possibilities of This Region And Whole Territory Of the Southern.

GROVE PARK BANQUET IS GREAT SUCCESS

More than 150 Dinners Present—Meeting Held in the Afternoon at the Asheville Club.

Ashevillians and western North Carolinians turned out in large numbers yesterday afternoon and evening in honor of the coming to this city of Fairfax Harrison, president of the Southern Railway company, and his party, which included some of the most prominent officials of the road. President Harrison made two public addresses while in the city yesterday, the first at the Asheville club, where he addressed the members of the Greater Western North Carolina association and the public in general, that is as many as could get in. Later he was the principal speaker at the elaborate banquet given at the Grove Park Inn last night, which was pronounced by many the largest and most successful affair of its kind ever held in western North Carolina. Everywhere he appeared he was received with great enthusiasm and applause and met many hundreds of people while on his visit to the city.

After the return of the party from Hendersonville and Waynesville, yesterday afternoon, where they had gone to meet the citizens of the towns and to see the attractions of those places, they were taken to the Manor, where the entire party were guests at luncheon of Thomas Wadley Raoul. After the luncheon the party was escorted to the rooms of the Asheville club, by Mayor J. E. Rankin, Frank M. Weaver, president of the board of trade and H. W. Plummer, chairman of the executive committee of the Greater Western North Carolina association. Here a large number of people from all sections of western North Carolina had gathered to hear the address of Mr. Harrison.

The meeting at the club was called to order by W. E. Breeze, Jr., president of the association, and 300 o'clock he made a short talk dealing with the work done during the year and stated the purposes of the association, submitting his report of the work done during the past two years.

The report of Mr. Breeze went into detail of the organization of the association here two years ago, for what purposes it was organized and just what has been accomplished since then. The report dealt at length with the various work done by the association, the securing of a grant increase in the travel through this section, the decision of the government to establish the military training camp here and said that about \$26,000 had been spent in carrying on the work of the association during the past two years.

Mr. Breeze then presented Mr. Harrison, who spoke only for a few minutes, stating that he had already appeared twice that day in this section and would speak again at night at the banquet at Grove Park Inn. He referred to the great interest that the late President Finley always took in the south and especially in western North Carolina and declared that he proposed to carry on the cooperation given by the Southern toward the up-building of this section of the state. He referred to the fact that co-operation is the best way for a community to get along and that as long as it was done the section could not help but prosper. He declared that the Southern wanted the good will of the people and its confidence and that they propose to justify this good will.

Then Mr. Breeze called on Mayor Rankin, who in a few words extended to Mr. Harrison the welcome of the city and stated that he was glad to welcome the man who is at the head of the railroad company that means so much to this section of the country. The meeting adjourned after the mayor's address and Mr. Harrison met hundreds of people who were at the meetings. He was taken for a drive over the city and the golf links. The directors of the association went to their rooms in the Electrical building, where many matters of business were attended to.

The Banquet.

At the banquet at Grove Park Inn about 150 people from every county in western North Carolina were present. It was one of the most elaborate banquets ever given in this city. On every side the color scheme of red was carried out. Lights draped with red, red carnations banked on each table and a red carnation at each plate.

The banquet was opened by Mr. Breeze, who called upon Rev. R. N. Wilcox of Hendersonville for the invocation. After this Mr. Breeze asked H. W. Plummer to act as toastmaster. Mr. Plummer made a splendid address in presenting the president.

## CONTENDS U. S. IS RESPONSIBLE

Manchster Guardian Makes Sharp Comment on Grey's Statement Concerning Benton Case.

INCONSISTENT WITH POLICY OF PRESIDENT

Thinks U. S. Cannot Deny Nation's Right to Defend Interests and Refuse Defense Itself.

London, Feb. 24.—Sharp comment is made by the Manchester Guardian today on Sir Edward Grey's statement in the house of commons yesterday in regard to the killing of William S. Benton at Juarez by General Villa. The newspaper asks: "Is it not mere playing with words to say that in such a case the United States has no responsibility? If that were so the Monroe doctrine would be a mere instrument of international anarchy, whereas the whole tendency of President Wilson's policy has been to make it a force of order and good government. If we are not responsible then the United States is."

"We certainly do not wish to drive the United States government into intervention, but it cannot deny to other powers the right of defending their interests and at the same time refuse to defend them itself."

Aid of U. S. Asked.

The British government has invoked the good offices of the United States government to urge that there shall be no interference by General Villa with its investigation into the death of William S. Benton. The investigation is to be made by Charles Percival, British consul at Galveston, who has been ordered to James. Consul Percival has been instructed to supply the most complete reports obtainable.

For Exposition Building.

Paris, Feb. 24.—The chamber of deputies today voted an appropriation of \$400,000 to provide for official French participation in the Panama Pacific exposition at San Francisco.

Oyster Tax Law Annulled.

Washington, Feb. 24.—The Maryland oyster tax law of 1910 has been annulled as unconstitutional by the Supreme court.

The law authorized the collection of a tax of one per cent a bushel upon all oysters unloaded from vessels and not for further shipment by water.

Senator Smith Sick.

Washington, Feb. 24.—Senator Locke Smith, of Georgia, is confined to his home with an attack of grippe.

## Why does beef-steak cost less in Panama than in Chicago? This book tells why.

COUPON

Save it for a Copy of

THE PANAMA CANAL

by Frederic J. Haskin

Author of "The American Government"

Gazette-News Tuesday Feb. 24

Colonel Goethals says: "Accurate and Dependable"

HOW TO GET THIS BOOK

On account of the education value and patriotic appeal of this book, The Gazette-News has arranged with Mr. Haskin to distribute a limited edition among its readers for the mere cost of production and handling.

It is bound in a heavy cloth. It contains 490 pages, 160 illustrations and diagrams, an index, and two maps (one of them beautiful bird's-eye view of the Canal Zone in four colors). IT IS ACTUALLY A \$2.00 VALUE.

Cut the above coupon from six consecutive issues of the paper, present them with 50 cents at our office, and a copy of the book is yours. Fifteen cents extra if sent by mail.

OUR GUARANTEE: This is not a money-making scheme. The Gazette-News will not make a penny of profit from this campaign. It has undertaken the distribution of this book solely because of its educational merit and whatever benefit there is to be derived from the good will of those who profit from our offer. The Gazette-News will cheerfully refund the price of the book to any purchaser who is not satisfied with it.

Present Six Coupons of Consecutive Dates FIFTEEN CENTS EXTRA IF SENT BY MAIL.