

CONFERENCE ON AMERICAN NOTE

German Statesmen Consider U. S. Proposals Concerning Submarine War and Feeding the Civilians.

GERMANS UNDERSTOOD TO FAVOR PROPOSALS

Next Move With Great Britain—American Scheme Has Been Submitted to Russia and France.

Berlin, Feb. 25.—High officials were silent today regarding the result of a conference of German statesmen last night which met to discuss the identical notes concerning the marine war and the feeding of civilian populations of belligerent countries, sent by the United States to Germany and Great Britain.

The meeting was held at the residence of Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, imperial chancellor, Gottlieb von Jagow, foreign minister, was present. No further details have been received of the reported sinking of a British transport by a German submarine. The crew of the American steamer Evelyn, which was sunk in the North Sea, after striking a mine, apparently have all arrived at Bremerhaven, the second boat having been picked up by a German steamer.

Neither at the American embassy nor at the German admiralty had received any detailed report of the sinking of the American steamer Carib, off the German coast, submitted to Allies.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Great Britain has submitted to her allies—France and Russia—proposals made by the United States, designed to end the menace to neutral commerce arising from retaliatory measures of the European belligerents toward each other.

Briefly the American proposals, submitted to both England and Germany seek the elimination by Germany of the recent prescribed war zone, with its dangers to neutral shipping and the adoption by all the belligerents of a definite policy as to shipments of foodstuffs to the civilian population of their enemies.

Pro much preliminary observations as American diplomatic officials abroad already have made, there is said to be some encouragement in the manner of the reception of the proposals at London. Germany is inclined toward an acceptance of the suggestions, it is understood, but on Great Britain's attitude depends the next move.

The strong opposition which other neutrals have assumed toward the retaliatory measures adopted by the belligerents is playing a considerable part in the situation. Although the American proposals have not been communicated to other neutrals, it may be said that virtually all the European neutrals are in accord with the United States government.

Officials, while reticent about what has been said to Germany and Great Britain, do not deny that the gravity of the whole situation has been made unmistakably clear. In some quarters the suggestion has been made, but without confirmation from sources usually well informed, that an embargo on exports of foodstuffs from the United States to both the allies and Germany was being considered in the event of an absolute rejection of the American plan for ameliorating the situation.

It became known that the latest communication was sent to Ambassadors Page and Gerard at London and Berlin, respectively, on Sunday after conferences between President Wilson, Secretary Bryan and Counselor Robert Lansing. The American government asked that the document be regarded for the present as strictly confidential.

High officials are giving virtually all of their attention to the subject of the exclusion of such questions as the Japanese-Chinese negotiations and the Mexican problems.

While complaints have been few, some officials think the most serious effect of the submarine warfare on merchant ships and the restriction imposed on food shipments has yet to develop. They believe that if the present situation continues, American exports will drop to a considerable extent.

There is no comment of the feeling in high official quarters that if the present tension over the attitude of the belligerents continues and any American lives are proved to have been lost as the result of their activities, the Washington government may be called on to abandon its present attitude of friendliness toward all the warring powers.

TWO ANTI-RUSSIANS IN PERSIAN CABINET

London, Feb. 25.—A Central News dispatch from Constantinople says that the posts of minister of interior and minister of justice in the Persian cabinet have been filled by Persians of anti-Russian sentiment.

FRANK CASE TO BE TAKEN UP TODAY

Oral Arguments Before Supreme Court to Decide Fate of Frank.

Washington, Feb. 25.—The fate of Leo M. Frank, under death sentence for the murder of Mary Phagan, an Atlanta factory girl depends on the outcome of oral arguments to be begun today before the Supreme court. The attorneys of Frank are ready to argue for his release on habeas corpus writ on the ground of a popular demonstration against him and because of his absence from the court room when the verdict was rendered, thus depriving the court of jurisdiction over him. The representatives of the state of Georgia were to argue that Frank had ample opportunity to raise the point of mob demonstration when he filed his appeal and had not done so.

CARRANZA COMMANDER ASKS MILLIONS IN TAXES

General Obregon Said to Have Imposed Millions in Special Taxes.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Imposition of millions of dollars of special taxes on business houses and property owners in Mexico City by General Obregon, the Carranza commander, has been reported to the state department. Under the general's decree, payments must be made before Friday evening on pain of imprisonment and confiscation of property.

The tax amounts to three-fourths of one per cent on all banks, business concerns, stock companies, mortgage holders and individual operators in the federal district. Foreign companies are subject to the tax on the amount of capital invested in the republic.

Private taxpayers must pay an additional amount on the basis of one-third their annual payments. The Carranza agency in Washington announced that it had been informed that Yaqui Indians had mutined against Maytorena, Villa commander in Sonora, killing thirty-four men, including four officers.

WILSON PRAISES PEOPLE OF SOUTHERN MOUNTAINS

Refers to Them as "Simple, Straightforward"—Critics as "High Society Aims."

Washington, Feb. 25.—Praise for the "simple straightforward" people of the southern mountains, and criticisms of the "airs that high society gives itself" were voiced by President Wilson here last night at a meeting held in the interest of Berea College, Ky., founded to educate the mountaineers. The president declared the college was "going straight to the heart of one of the most interesting problems of American life," and added that the "only thing that is worth while in human intercourse is to wake somebody up."

Speaking of the college, the president declared that its object was "to do what America was intended to do, to give the people who had not had it an opportunity and to give it to them on absolutely equal terms, on a basis not of birth, but of merit."

"What America has vindicated above all things else," said the president, "is that native ability has nothing to do with social origin. It is amusing sometimes to see the airs that high society gives itself. The world could dispense with high society and never miss it."

ALABAMA ANTI-JUG LAW TO BE TESTED BY FLA. SHIPPER

Montgomery, Ala., Feb. 25.—The first test of the Alabama anti-liquor shipping law was begun here by J. B. Whittle of Pensacola, Fla., who is asking a temporary injunction requiring the Southern Express company to accept liquor to be shipped into Alabama.

MR. PAGE MAKES FACES AT WEST

Moore County Representative Says He Is Weary of Talk of East's Debt to West—Warns Party.

SCHOOL BOARD BILLS LOST TO ALL COUNTIES

Committee Reports Favorably on Sale of A. & N. C. Road But Doubts if the Price Was Big Enough.

(By W. T. Bost.) Raleigh, Feb. 25.—Henry Page made faces at the west yesterday when the funeral hour for school board election bills had come.

The Moore representative had grown weary at the talk of the "debt of the east to the west." When he spoke and said harder things than any republican could do, he set in motion the greatest party warning that the body has yet received.

The eastern brethren and the western were somewhat wrought up but did not speak. Capt. T. W. Mason spoke a word in fine taste against the speech of Minority Leader Williams and Representative Mintz talked like he was mad at Williams. But Williams did not say worse than Page.

It was perhaps no stage play but it was a fine demonstration. The caucus had stopped the fighting and Page knew before the caucus that the postponement of the issue was death to all requests for election of county boards. He remarked five days ago that the absence of Seawell would lose the bills to every county.

But the protest set in motion will determine what the next convention will do. It is freely declared. No issue has caused half the talk that the school bills requested by a very small percentage of the counties did. Page and Seawell, Thomas and Mason, everybody interested gave warning.

The protest of Page was against the perpetual indebtedness of the east to the west. He does not believe that the east ever owed half so much to the west as the west contends and that the debt has long been discharged. The Moore man has some very interesting views about the election methods of '98 and 1900. He thinks well of the republican members of the west and does not think they are incapable of self-government.

The Duncan offer again. The report of the special committee appointed two years ago to investigate the proposed purchase of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad by E. C. Duncan, would have given the city a startle had not the Carter controversy shelved the lesser excitement.

No committee had hitherto gone so far, but there is plenty of willingness. The committee which reports favorably upon the sale, though doubting whether the price is large enough, is a strong one and its recommendations will go far.

The report of Mr. Duncan offering \$945,000 for the property, has been printed before. Its text and that of the committee reporting, is as follows: **Morganton Trouble Over.**

Dr. Dula, Burke county representative, fought the whole house for the passage of the Morganton extension act yesterday and lost after that splendid scrap.

The Burke representative declared that he had made campaign promises and tried to make them good. "Before I would sell out to any corporation and deny my people what they have asked me to do for them," he said after being prodded from a mild and modest protestant to a cyclone in energy for his bill. "I would wire my wife to meet me at the first train and tell the mayor to sell what I have. I would not have the face to go back to Morganton to live."

Brockett is happy. Representative Brockett of Guilford is happy. He has whipped his political antagonists in High Point and put his charter change through the house abolishing the present system of city government.

It has gone through the house and started in the senate. His foes at home called upon friends in the lower house to block Brockett, but the little man from High Point has not been troubled. He expects no further trouble. (Continued on page 11)

ROGERS TO BE DIRECTOR?

Washington, Feb. 25.—Senator Simmons, Senator Overman and members of the North Carolina delegation in the house today asked President Wilson to name Samuel L. Rogers of their state as director of the census.

SENATE DISCUSSES STATEWIDE PRIMARY

Speeches for and Against Bill Are Made—Adjournment at Midnight.

(By W. T. Bost.)

Raleigh, Feb. 25.—The house finance committee favorably reported the 8 percent interest bill advocated by many bankers, but the house action today reverses the senate's yesterday and leaves the bill where it began. It is admitted that it stands no chance.

The latest messages from Speaker Wooten are that his condition is better than it has been since the injury. Physicians do not yet regard him out of danger.

The house worked two hours last night while the senate debated the Hobgood-Weaver primary act. Speaker Bowie presided and Henry Page was reading clerk. Forty local bills were passed and the pharmacy act requiring college attendance as prerequisite to becoming druggists was so amended that its author, Brummitt, of Granville, tabled it.

In the senate Hobgood, Gardner, Polk, Nash, McRae and Weaver spoke for the primary. Haymore making a fierce attack on it and quoting President Wilson as being on record against the North Carolina act. McRae offered an amendment leaving counties and localities from provisions of the bill. Gilliam, of Edgecombe, pleaded pathetically with the democrats not to saddle the primary on his people.

After nearly four hours debate, the senate adjourned near midnight without taking a vote on the bill.

Friends of the bill doubt its ability to pass either house in its present shape. Amendments come thick and the hardest fight is the retention of state-wide features. Senator Haymore, Republican, surprised the advocates with a fierce light on it despite his party platform.

Senator Hobgood opened the argument. He said it is based on the idea of party loyalty. The state officers other than lieutenant governor pay \$50 and judges \$20, the voter is required to declare party association, and may not vote part of one ballot and part of another. Penalty for fraudulent voting, that is voting against the nominee of the party, is a misdemeanor. In reply to a question of Senator Ward if there was objection to submitting the question to a vote of the people a the next general election Senator Hobgood insisted that there should be no such delay in giving the people the primary which he said they were demanding. The general assembly, he insisted, should act now without referendum.

Senator McNeely offered an amendment for the primaries to be held the first Tuesday in August instead of June, as more convenient for agricultural people.

Senator Gardner spoke at length for an effective primary act, saying that the 250,000 voters who do not run for office would like to have a legalized primary law for all office. He brought applause for Lieutenant Governor Daughtridge when he referred to him in connection with the gubernatorial office. He also passed a bouquet to Senator McRae, of Mecklenburg, for having defeated both his opponents back at home.

MRS. R. E. BURTON IS DEAD AT HOME HERE

Well Known Lady Was Cousin of General Lee—Funeral to Be Saturday.

Mrs. R. E. Burton, aged 61 years, died at her home No. 48 Park avenue at an early hour this morning, death resulting from an attack of pneumonia. The deceased had been ill but a short time and her death will come as a great surprise to the community.

Mrs. Burton was the wife of D. W. Burton. She is survived by her husband and eight children residing as follows: Miss Ella Burton, Mrs. J. L. Rodgers, Mrs. J. O. Lineberry and Mrs. John Elledge, residing in this city; Mrs. Ida C. Lyster of Canton; W. R. Burton of Concord, N. C.; F. Burton of Lexington, and Marion Burton of Denver. There are also 13 grand children and one great grand child surviving. The deceased came of a very prominent southern family and was a great niece of Robert E. Lee and a cousin of Pittsburgh Lee. She was born in Columbia, but has resided in Asheville for the past twenty-five years where she has formed a host of friends, each of whom will feel a personal loss in the death of the beloved woman.

The funeral will be held Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock from the Haywood Street Methodist church and the funeral services will be in charge of Rev. E. M. Hoyle, pastor of the church. Interment will follow in the West Asheville cemetery.

ENGLAND WILLING FOR RUSSIA TO REACH SEA

London, Feb. 25.—Foreign Secretary Grey announced in the house of commons today that he was in entire accord with Russia's desire for access to the sea.

CAN'T PASS ALL SUPPLY BILLS

Senate Leaders Concede Will Not Be Possible Through Some Appropriation Measures.

NO CHANCE TO PASS CONSERVATIVE LAWS

Rivers and Harbors Bill May Have Substitute—Philippines Government Bill May Get Through.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Prospects of an extra session of the senate after March fourth for the confirmation of treaties and nominations is being discussed among administration leaders. White house officials refuse to talk of the matter, but it is known that the president has the subject under consideration.

Treaties with Colombia, to pay that country \$25,000,000 for the partition of Panama and with Nicaragua to pay her \$3,000,000 for inter-oceanic canal rights and naval bases undoubtedly will fail of ratification at this session. The need of action on these treaties is considered by the administration as of great importance. Officials also fear the confirmation of the nominees of the federal trade commission will be delayed.

The president is said to have no thought of an extra session of congress as a whole. Special session of the senate have hitherto been held for the confirmation of cabinet officials.

Washington, Feb. 25.—Senate democratic leaders conceded last night that there was little hope for any legislation except the big supply measures before adjournment of congress a week from today, and that there was no prospect of passing the rivers and harbors bill in its present form. It is now generally expected that there will be substituted for this bill a joint resolution appropriating approximately \$30,000,000 to continue existing projects under direction of the war department.

After a conference between President Wilson and Senators Fletcher and Simmons there were rumors of a spirited revival of the effort to pass the ship purchase bill, and that the president reiterated to the senators his oft-expressed wish that a way might be found to pass the measure before adjournment. The senators said that they were anxious that a report could be agreed upon, but made it plain that they doubted that republican opposition could be overcome. Republican leaders insisted that they never would permit the measure to come to a vote in any form. Senator Simmons said later that no report would be made to the senate before next Monday. The chief purpose of the conference, it was declared, would be to alter the bill in such a way as to gain for it the support of insurgent democrats.

Prospects for conservative legislation were declared to be out of the question. As for the Philippine enlarged self-government measure, it was understood there might be some chance of its passage if it could be done within a few hours time. That such a bill would pass the senate without considerable debate, however, was gravely doubted.

The senate passed the postoffice appropriation bill virtually as it passed the house, carrying a total of approximately \$323,000,000. A recommendation of the senate committee that the house provision fixing the salary of rural mail carriers on standard routes at \$1,200 a year be stricken out was overruled in the senate by a vote of 52 to 10, adding \$2,700,000 to the bill as reported from the committee. All attempts to add new legislation were defeated on points of order.

The agricultural bill was taken up last night. Increases in the house diplomatic and consular bill recommended by the senate committee include the addition of \$50,000 to pay the expenses of the forthcoming conference of South and Central American financial officials with those of the United States. Provision is made for a \$10,000 appropriation for the International Medical conference in San Francisco, and the house provision of \$25,000 for the city of Panama expedition is increased to \$75,000.

Until a late hour the senate kept its work on the agricultural bill. Several disputed items went over for discussion today including an appropriation of \$400,000 for distribution of seed, eliminated by the senate committee. Senator Martine served notice that he would make a fight for restoration of the provision.

R. J. TIGHE HERE FOR A VISIT TO FRIENDS

R. J. Tighe, formerly superintendent of the schools of this city, will arrive here sometime this afternoon or tonight to renew his old associations and greet his many friends of the city. Mr. Tighe, who is now the superintendent of the city schools of El Paso, Tex., has been in attendance at the National Superintendents' meeting of the National Education association which met at Cincinnati this week. The former superintendent of the Asheville schools made a very enviable record while in this city, his advancement to the El Paso schools following his success here and from all reports, he is having unusual success in his educational capacity in the city of the southwest. Mr. Tighe has a very wide circle of acquaintances in Asheville and his stay in the city promises to be a very enjoyable one.

Harry Howell, superintendent of city schools and W. J. Cunningham, supervisor of music in the schools, have also been in attendance at the Cincinnati convention and are expected to return to this city today or tomorrow.

RUSSIANS GAIN IN CARPATHIANS

OPPOSANTS OF BILL ARE ORGANIZING

Mass Meeting of Anti-Commission Men Called for Friday Night.

A mass meeting of citizens opposed to the proposed changes in the city charter is called to meet in the court house Friday night at 8 o'clock. The opponents of the proposed bill for commission government will wage an active campaign against the adoption of the bill in the coming election. This was the decision reached at a conference of leading business men and citizens yesterday afternoon at the board of trade. The meeting had not been advertised, and only a small number of those opposed to the proposed form of city government were present.

S. F. Chapman presided as chairman of the conference, and W. H. Daniel acted as secretary. The discussion brought out the fact that several of those present are in favor of the commission idea, but do not favor the law as framed to be voted on by the people of this city. Special objection seems to exist against the bill in regard to its treatment of the recall of Police judge, the city school board, and the board of health.

Two committees named by the conference are an executive committee composed of: W. E. Shuford, chairman, D. S. Elias, F. A. Hull, F. W. Thomas, J. Scrogg Styles, Zeb. F. Curtis, John A. Campbell and W. H. Daniels, secretary. The committee on arrangements: C. L. Sykes, A. Hall, Johnston, W. M. Jones, and W. H. Daniel. The call for the mass meeting will be issued today. It is expected that speeches will be made against the commission bill, and plans outlined for an active campaign in the city election.

BELGIAN RELIEF VESSELS ARE NOW IN WAR ZONE

Four Ships of Relief Commission in Zone—Three More Sail Today.

New York, Feb. 25.—Belgian relief vessels are now in the war zone, the commission for relief in Belgium announced last night. They are the Aymeric, the Uganda, the Wabana and the Strathay.

The Aymeric left New York February 4 last. The Uganda left Norfolk January 23 and docked in Rotterdam yesterday. The Wabana docked in Falmouth, England. It will be examined by the British admiralty before it resumes its journey, passing into the mine zone of the upper channel and the North Sea. The Strathay is on its way to New York, having left Rotterdam in ballast February 15.

Three vessels of the commission will leave United States ports today for Rotterdam. They are the Ferrona from Baltimore; the St. Kentigern, from Newport News, and the St. Helena, from Charleston, S. C. The St. Helena carries a general cargo given in part by the states of North and South Carolina and Georgia.

WAR DEPT. ABOLISHES FIVE DEFENSE BOARDS

Washington, Feb. 26.—Five special defense boards were abolished today by a war department order, and their work hereafter will be done by the general board of review composed of from five to seven officers on detailed at Washington. From time to time it will make recommendations concerning the country's defenses.

The membership of the new board has not yet been determined. The special boards dissolved are the National land defense board, which had oversight of the protection of the land approaches to our coast defenses; the Cape Henry defense board; the Long Island defense board; the Panama canal fortification board, and the Philippine defense board.

ANOTHER STEAMER IS VICTIM OF BLOCKADE

London, Feb. 25.—The steamer Deptford has been sunk, either by mine or torpedo, off South Shields.

The Deptford was a ship of 3200 tons; she was 237 feet long and of 35 feet beam. The vessel was owned by W. Cory and son. She was built at Rlyth in 1912.

Continued Russian Successes in Furious Battles Described in Dispatches to Swiss Newspapers.

AUSTRIANS LOST 3000 MEN AT DUKLA PASS

Categorical Denial Entered to Report That Russian Tenth Army Was Annihilated in Retreat.

Geneva, Feb. 25.—Continued Russian successes in the furious fighting in the Carpathians are described in dispatches to Swiss newspapers. The Austro-German forces are said to have lost 3000 men in the fighting at Dukla pass. The melting of the snow at Usok pass has revealed the bodies of 2000 Austrians and Russians.

The Austrians are reported to have launched a number of futile attacks at Dubova, in which they lost heavily. The Russians captured at Grownik a transport wagon in which was the regimental safe containing \$20,000. The Russians claim to have captured an advance post of 600 men at Plesna. The Russian are showing great activity at Saliczyn.

Dispatches say that an additional Russian column has burst into Marmaros county, Hungary, bordering on Galicia, Bukovina and Transylvania, capturing a convoy.

Deny German Reports. Petrograd, Feb. 25.—The general staff has issued a communication saying that the official announcement in Berlin that the Tenth Russian army had suffered severe reverses in its retreat to the rivers Niemen and Bobr are incorrect.

"The German declaration that the Tenth army was completely annihilated can be categorically denied. As a matter of fact the component parts of two of our corps of the Twentieth division and another division found themselves in untenable and dangerous situations and withdrew from Wirballen, Poland, with heavy losses. The other corps, after foiling attempts of the enemy to surround it, is holding the position allotted to it and for several days has enraged the enemy along the entire front and is in every way fulfilling its duties.

"During the past two days two regiments of the Twenty-ninth division and the 20th corps have advanced from Augustow forest and have rallied our men."

Two regiments of the twenty-ninth division, which were surrounded by the Germans during the Russian retreat from east Prussia broke through the German lines and joined the Russian army, according to a statement of the Russian general staff. The communication says that the Germans are making continuous attacks along the front from the Bobr district, at Jodwabna, as far as the Vistula, in the region of Bodzima.

Minor Russian successes in the Carpathians are claimed as the result of desperate fighting.

Berlin, Feb. 26.—The town of Przasnysz, Russian Poland, has been taken by storm by the Germans, according to an official announcement, with the capture of 10,000 Russian prisoners.

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