

ANOTHER ROAD FOR BUNCOMBE

County Commissioners Tell the Swannanoa Valley Road Boosters That Highway Will Be Constructed.

COUNTY COURT HOUSE CROWDED BY VISITORS

Mayor Rankin Introduced the Delegation and Paid Tribute to Commissioners—Able Speeches Are Heard.

One of the most remarkable meetings in the history of the good roads movement in western North Carolina was called here today at 10:30 o'clock by Chairman W. E. Johnson of the Buncombe county commissioners' board, shortly after the delegations from Black Mountain and the rest of the Swannanoa valley fled into the county court room in such large numbers that many of the Asheville boosters had to stand during the proceedings.

Called upon to make the speech of introduction, Mayor J. E. Rankin reviewed the good road movement in this county. He stated that in the 22 years that he had been connected with the board of county commissioners he had never seen so much enthusiasm or such a delegation. This representative body of voters and taxpayers, said the mayor, is asking for assistance on a proposition that affects the people of the entire county. The link of the road that they are interested in is part of the system that will connect eastern and western North Carolina and will also be a part of the Southern National Highway. Black Mountain township is now second in the county in point of wealth and the citizens deserve what they have come to Asheville to ask for.

Speaking as chairman of the Swannanoa Valley organization, W. C. Dickey said that the first thing of importance in such an undertaking is to put aside all differences of opinion and the roads boosters present today had done that. Mr. Dickey then called upon C. C. Boone to speak for the interests of Black Mountain. Mr. Boone declared that there had been some expectations among a few people that the boosters from his part of the county would have to fight a battle in Asheville today; but the speaker said that the visitors were pleased beyond measure with the spirit in which they had been received. Mr. Boone gave figures showing that since the time when his township had voted \$40,000 in bonds for roads, property values had almost doubled and the taxable property now amounted to \$1,700,000. The road desired was no longer local in its scope; it was a main highway, with accommodations for people from all parts of the United States who come to this region in the summer. On June 1, Mr. Boone said, it is hoped that the road will be finished from Old Fort to Ridgcrest. For that occasion Black Mountain township is planning one of the greatest celebrations in the history of the county. Governor Craig and the commissioners of the county will be guests of honor, said Mr. Boone, and eastern and western North Carolina will join hands through the Swannanoa valley. He read a letter from Governor Craig endorsing the proposed highway.

Called upon by Chairman Dickey, B. H. B. Craven of Ridgcrest said that the delegation came on a business proposition and he gave facts to show that it was good business to provide a highway that tourists demand. Seven years ago between Black Mountain and Ridgcrest there were seven houses; now there are 76. Then there were about 15 taxpayers; now there are about 200.

The Black Mountain section, said Mr. Craven, now entertains 25,000 visitors each summer. What makes Florida so attractive? asked the speaker. Pleasant surroundings and some of the finest roads in the United States. The kind of road, said Mr. Craven, was left to the wisdom of the board which, as Mayor Rankin had declared, had introduced the principle of building permanent highways.

Speaking for Montreat, Dr. J. J. Archer said that last summer 10,000 people came through the gates there. He impressed the fact that people of that community had taken land worth \$5 an acre and are now selling it at \$125 per acre. He called attention to the proposed golf course with its attractions for people of wealth. What increases the land values? Fellowship of good neighbors, fine water and fine sky.

Introduced as one of Asheville's residents with summer home in Swannanoa valley, Hayward Parker said that the road was important as a means of bringing all parts of the county into closer relations with each other. He said that if the request is refused it was possible that some day a new county might be formed with

(Continued on page two)

Reprisal Only Against Enemy, Germany Agrees

Such Is Substance of Phrase Substituted for That Containing Word 'Illegal' in Tentative Draft of Agreement Designed to End Lusitania Controversy.

Washington, Feb. 8.—The Lusitania case looks "very hopeful," a high administration official said today, after a conference between President Wilson and Secretary Lansing before the cabinet meeting. There are indications that the president considers Germany's latest offer as almost if not entirely acceptable.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Germany has agreed that reprisals must not be directed against any other people than the enemy. This expression is offered by Germany to take the place of the phrase containing the word illegal which was incorporated in the draft of the Lusitania agreement which is now being considered.

It also became known that Germany has expressed the hope that she will have the opportunity to cooperate with the United States in some action looking toward the freedom of the seas before the end of the war.

As has been previously stated Germany says in the late communication that the killing of citizens of the United States was without intent and that methods of German naval warfare around the British Isles have been changed out of regard for the long-standing friendship between the United States and Germany and because American lives were lost.

Washington, Feb. 7.—Chairman Stone of the senate foreign relations committee, said after a conference with administration officials today that he gained the impression that the Lusitania case was practically settled. The senator did not go into details.

The principal consideration of the United States is that it shall be acknowledged by Germany that the sinking of unresisting merchantmen without warning is in contravention of international law and that such naval warfare shall be permanently discontinued.

Intense Bombardments On West Front Continue

Except for continued intense bombardments along the Franco-Belgian front, but few reports have been received of activities in the various fighting zones.

Paris tells of the bombardment of German positions near Hat Sas and Steenstraete in Belgium, the destruction of a German block house between the Oise and the Aisne and of effective work by French batteries in the Artois and Champagne regions. French shells on the former sector caused powerful explosions northwest of Arras and a great fire in the Champagne near Challerange.

The Germans have been busy with their artillery against the British around Loos, while the British in return have bombarded German trenches near the Ypres-Roulers railway.

The Vienna war office reports the situation unchanged on all fronts where Austro-Hungarian troops are fighting.

Nothing new has come through concerning the reported concentration of troops of the Teutonic allies in the

region of the Greek border. A Copenhagen dispatch indicates that authorities at Kiel are fearful of an allied air raid there. The populace has been notified that a steam siren will give advance notice of a raid, and that in case raiders come the people should not unduly expose themselves.

The semi-official Over-Sea News agency of Berlin says there are now 1,429,171 prisoners of war in Germany. This number it is declared, does not include prisoners the Germans led in Austria-Hungary.

A London newspaper is authority for the statement that Earl Kitchener, British secretary for war, probably will leave the war office to undertake work of a more important character elsewhere. If Earl Kitchener should leave, the newspaper adds, Sir William Robertson, chief of staff, will actively direct the war and a civilian will become secretary for war.

For the second time during the war, Prince Oscar, of Prussia, fifth son of Emperor William, has been wounded.

JUDGE LANE DENOUNCES WAYNE COUNTY LYNCHINGS

In Charge to Grand Jury He Takes Rap at Recent Hearings in County.

Wilson, Feb. 8.—This state is not free from the stain of lynching, said Judge Lane, charging the grand jury yesterday morning at the opening of the February term of the Superior court. Recently in a nearby county a mob took from the custody of the sheriff a man charged with crime and did him to death. One has characterized lynching as a contagious disease and that it is law which is being lynched. It is a fact that lynching is somewhat on the increase. According to the statistics there were 52 lynchings during the year 1914 and 68 during the year 1915. When first apologies were made for lynching, it was said that the reason was because of crimes against womanhood, but this apology cannot be made for the increase in the crime. Of the 52 lynchings reported in the south, only seven were of individuals charged with that crime. The lynchings have gone beyond and to other crimes. It is your duty, as the grand jury, to see to the enforcement of the law, that all law-breakers may understand that they are to be punished.

NEW HYDRO-ELECTRIC PLANT ON CATAWBA RIVER

Southern Power Company Plans Another Development of Water Power.

Newton, Feb. 8.—That the Southern Power company is planning still another great development of hydro-electric power on the Catawba river in this county is indicated by interesting reports from the southeastern section of Catawba, relative to options being taken along the stream of Monbo and Lookout Island. On good authority it was learned today that the Long Island cotton mill had given an option for \$225,000 on its plant and properties and that the Turners at Monbo had given an option for \$425,000 on their two cotton mills, while individuals are reported as having given options. It is said that the dam contemplated would be erected at the lower end of what is known as Clark island, where high hills encroach on the river, driving it into a comparatively narrow channel, and in a location where as much or even more power could be generated than at Lookout, where 30,000 hydro-electric power is now being made. Yesterday Staeville and other towns were switched to the Lookout circuit.

Chicago, Feb. 7.—The suit of the Federal Baseball league against organized baseball, which was filed a year ago, has been dismissed by the United States District court here.

U. S. VIEWPOINT PRESENTED BY BRITISH PAPER

Manchester Guardian Explains Why Americans Feel So Strongly on Question of Blockade.

WANTS SPECIAL ENVOY SENT TO UNITED STATES

Says Question of Blockade is Being Pressed as Strongly in U. S. as Is the Lusitania Case.

London, Feb. 8.—The Manchester Guardian in an editorial suggests that Viscount Bryce or Arthur J. Balfour be sent to the United States with full powers to adjust the blockade controversy. The paper publishes a statement from its London correspondent to the effect that people in close touch with Anglo-American affairs express the opinion that some such steps should be taken.

The Guardian says that the blockade question is being pressed throughout the United States no less persistently than is the Lusitania case, and that with the dispute in regard to the phraseology to be employed by Germany once settled, exclusive attention will be given to the blockade matter.

The Guardian dwells on the fact that the British people are puzzled that a purely trade subject should create as much excitement in the United States and a question of human life. The paper says the British opinion persistently overlooks the fact that German diplomacy possesses two great advantages over "ours."

"The first is that the critical and even hostile attitude of the American navy toward British sea power, as well as the theory on which it is based, is almost as bold as the American nation itself. Our last war with the United States arose out of what was regarded by America as an abuse of our power at sea."

"We have forgot the little details but the United States has not, and now the United States regards itself as the natural champion of the rights of neutrals. It is impossible to exaggerate the influence of this historic fact on the American policy."

The Guardian declares that the controversy touches one of the strongest currents of American history with which Great Britain must deal.

The paper adds that while there is little conservatism among the American people, in no other country in the world is the force of tradition in the conduct of foreign relations so strong.

"We take a very grave view of the difficulties into which the whole of the controversy may lead us. There is a great work to be done and it is a work that cannot be done too soon. It is not merely a problem of the war. It may affect the whole future of the English speaking people."

MAY NOT MAKE SOUTHERN TOUR

President's Callers Gain Impression That He May Decide Against Another Speaking Trip.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Southern senators and representatives who have called on the president to urge him to visit their districts should be made another tour in the interests of preparedness gained the impression that the president may decide against another tour; that he had not yet made up his mind and might defer decision until the end of the week, when he had thoroughly canvassed the congressional situation.

The president's callers said the president believed that the people of the country had already shown that they approved of adequate national preparedness and that he might well remain in Washington to confer with leaders.

The president has an engagement to address the Chamber of Commerce of the United States on February 16 and would not be able to leave Washington before that date.

MR. WATT ATTACKS NAVAL SECRETARY

Charlotte Man Expresses Hope That Speech of Mr. Daniels to Chamber of Commerce Meeting Will Be Short—Nobody Cares What Daniels Has to Say, He Declares.

Gazette-News Bureau The River Building Washington, Feb. 8.

The national council of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States met yesterday at the New Willard and approved the program of the fourth annual meeting which begins today. The councilors discussed at some length the questions to come before those gathered at the importance of these representatives of business interests from all sections of the country to come to these annual meetings prepared to discuss freely their opinions, and the opinions of their business interests on the subjects considered.

According to the rules of the national chamber, all resolutions to come before the meeting must be submitted forty days before hand. However, an exception was made in the case of an emergency resolution relative to the railroad situation. This resolution was approved by the council and referred to the committee on resolutions for its later report to the annual meeting.

The resolution proposes that the board of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States appoint a candidate which shall carefully observe

and consider all phases of the critical situation which relates to the interests of commerce and the public and report their recommendations as to the best means of avoiding such calamities to carriers, employes, shippers and the public, at the earliest possible date. It was suggested that such a committee should not only report on the impending dangers in the present situation, but should be a permanent active committee to report from time to time on conditions as affecting the railroads.

W. W. Watt, of Charlotte, one of the North Carolina members in attendance, today was loudly applauded when he paid his respects to Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels. When it was announced that Mr. Daniels would not address the meeting one day this week, Mr. Watt arose and told the members that he hoped the speech would be short. He said that no one cared anything about what the secretary would say, but would like to know what he was thinking about, if he was thinking at all.

Mr. Watt said that Mr. Daniels a few months ago was against a big navy; he said we did not need one, but today he is clamoring for the largest appropriation in the history of the government.

Two Preparedness Bills Now Go To The Senate

One Measure Which Passed House Provides for Additional Midshipmen at Annapolis; Other to Equip Navy Yards to Build Battleships—Clark and Mann Battle Side by Side.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Two house measures to strengthen the navy went over to the senate today. One was a bill which provides for the addition of about 300 midshipmen to the entrance class at the naval academy at Annapolis, and the other calls for the equipment of the navy yards at New York and Mare Island for the construction of the two battleships, No. 43 and No. 44.

Washington, Feb. 8.—Speaker Clark and Republican Leader Mann fought side by side in the house yesterday for adequate national defense. With party lines obliterated, most of the members followed their leaders and two navy measures passed without a dissenting vote. One to provide for adding three hundred midshipmen to the entering class at Annapolis next July, passed 173 to 0, and the other to equip navy yards for construction of battleships Nos. 43 and 44, passed without a roll call.

Mr. Mann tried to put the anti-preparedness advocates on record by calling for a division on the naval academy bill, but there were no negative responses.

The appearance of Speaker Clark on the floor to champion the preparedness measures aroused wide interest. Rumors persisted that he would take an active charge of the fight to increase the army and navy. Majority Leader Kitchin having joined the opposition.

navy by designing new battleships along the lines of the best now in use, doubling the membership of both Annapolis and West Point, creation of many additional regiments for the army and short term enlistments to produce a reserve were among suggestions made by the speaker. He said he expected to discuss the subject of preparedness generally soon.

Mr. Mann reiterated his previous plans for a larger army and navy and aided in maneuvering the bills to passage. "This is not the time for elimination and recrimination," said he, "it is not the time to find fault with that which has been. It is the time for all to join hands for that which may come."

The debate went far afield from the measures under consideration, extending to the general subject of military preparedness. The unusual sight of the speaker and the minority leader battling together for administration measures while the majority leader sat silently in the back of the house attracted crowds to the galleries, and members rushed to the floor from their offices and committee rooms.

Mr. Clark urged haste in getting new battleships into commission. He asked Chairman Padgett of the naval committee, why it would not be a good plan to pattern the two new battleships, Numbers 43 and 44 after the best United States ship now afloat and get them completed quickly.

Plans Announced For Filling Recruiting Camps

New York, Feb. 8.—The Military Training Camps association today announced plans for obtaining recruits for military training camps in various parts of the country next summer by distribution of circulars to graduates and undergraduates of colleges and to the members of Young Men's Christian associations, and commercial and professional organizations. The association intends also to send speakers to the colleges and larger cities and organize local recruiting committees. The work will be done under the direction of the committee, whose members include several university presidents.

The committee declares that there are in the United States nearly 1,000,000 young men who become of age each year and that 750,000 of these are fit for military training; that between the ages of 19 and 25 years there are more than 4,500,000 men fit for military service of whom it is estimated 200,000 are in colleges.

The committee believes that there are at least 700,000 young business and professional men who are fit for and would be benefited by a reasonable amount of military training, and considers that part of them are eager and ready to be equipped for military service.

Normal Conditions Near In Some Flood Areas

Little Rock, Feb. 8.—While the floods in eastern Arkansas today are approaching their crest in the counties which border on the Mississippi river, normal conditions are being restored at points which were inundated with the first rush of the waters through the breaks in the levees of the Arkansas and White rivers.

Flooding continued to slack to the camps along the Mississippi embankments and to towns along the edges

of the flood lakes.

At Pendleton, more than 2000 homeless people made destitute by the floods are being cared for. Citizens of Dermott, who have so far escaped the overflow, yesterday made up a purse of \$500 at a mass meeting for the purchase of food and clothing for their less fortunate neighbors.

McGehee, another town which lies above the flood, is caring for 200 refugees.

REBELS LOSE IN SOLDIERS HOME

Everybody Satisfied, Governor Craig Declares, After Conference With U. D. C. Members.

DOES NOT TELL HOW ALL WERE SATISFIED

Through Grape Vine Medium It Is Learned That Col. Boyden Asked For 6 Months to Improve Things.

(By W. T. Host)

Raleigh, Feb. 8.—"The Daughters of the Confederacy are satisfied, Mrs. Eugene Little, president of the North Carolina division, is satisfied, the Johnston Pettigrew chapter is satisfied, Colonel Wood is satisfied, Alex Webb is satisfied, Mrs. Price is satisfied, Colonel Boyden is satisfied, and I am satisfied," Governor Craig said in an interview yesterday afternoon following a conference with the ladies on the "Soldiers' Home" controversy.

This statewide "satisfaction," the first fruits of millennial lawism, followed an acute three weeks in which the Soldiers' home has been under fierce criticism. Assuming that all the news dispensed to the state had found its source in that picturesque insurgent, one C. W. Small, the sponsors for the home called for a primary on the bête noirness of Cussing Small and he didn't even also run. The home was dead again him.

Meanwhile the call for a bill of particulars brought reports from Alex Webb, chairman of the board of internal improvements and from Mrs. Nellie Price, in which the severest condemnation of conditions about the home was openly made. Governor Craig took a hand in the proceedings and declared that he had heard of conditions that ought not to be allowed. He demanded better and yesterday's "satisfaction" appears to have had that meeting of Thursday, January 20, to thank for the improvement.

The governor cunningly supplied the newspapers with all the news fit to print of the proceedings. Colonel Boyden, chairman of the board of directors of the home, was present, and twelve or more women were in the conference. The newspaper men were not excluded. They were simply admitted "not yet." When the "yet" came Governor Craig spoke for the "satisfied" body and all agreed. He declared that the two hours in the conference had been very delightful, and that all who had remained were content. Nobody could speak for the Old Man Small.

Why the Satisfaction.

The imminence of the content that had been shortly before a state of alarm lost the status quo win over the insurgency was not accounted for. Governor Craig gave to the boys all that appeared good for them to know. They took it eagerly albeit the news and was sawed off at the ground. All laughed. It was all that they could get.

During the interview the Daughters drew upon Colonel Boyden his Charlotte speech before the last meeting of the Daughters of the Confederacy in which he was quoted as having severely condemned the home and promised a general turning over of things needing improvement. It was not the first time that this speech had been brought back by a Daughter to confound, not a son, but a soldier and a father. One of the Daughters was the object of a good-natured inquisition of Colonel Boyden. Hadn't he written her lovely letters, hadn't he always loved her people, hadn't he been perfectly nice all the time. She admitted that he had written somewhat, but she thought he had wrought little; she admitted receiving the letters but had not observed the performance of the promises therein contained; she admitted his affection for her folks not in the home, she wanted for those out there. Of course he was a nice man, everybody said that.

Why Webb Was Swallowed Up.

It wouldn't be right even for Governor Craig to intimate that Alex Webb had been appeased without an able-bodied disposition to meet the conditions which he gave such a skinning a few days ago, including a sharp criticism of one of the nurses who admitted "hating every old man out here."

Mr. Webb was not present when Governor Craig gave the interview to the newspaper men. Had he been he might have made a statement. He has not since done so but from that grape vine attack to the Governor's telephone came the telegraphic communication that Colonel Boyden asked for just six months in which to straighten things out. Mr. Webb was willing to wait. If not, he was unwilling to oppose such a proposition. He will wait, anyway. The Daughters are understood to have the same disposition.

Home Was Clean.

Governor Craig visited the home (Continued on Page Two).