

CUTTING OF U. S. ARMY COMMUNICATION LAID TO BANDITS OF VILLA

Wireless Service between Columbus and Pershing's Field Base at Casas Grandes Restored.

NO MENTION IS MADE OF MISSING AVIATORS

Fears Entertained For Safety of Two Lieutenants—Resolution to Call Volunteers Has Been Proposed.

Washington, March 22.—Senator Sherman, republican, today introduced a resolution in the senate authorizing and directing President Wilson at once to call for 50,000 volunteers for service in Mexico.

Columbus, N. M., March 22.—Wireless communication with the advance base of the American expeditionary force at Casas Grandes was restored today. Several messages, all in code, were received here, but none gave word of the two missing lieutenants of the First Aero squadron. Search for the two men is being continued.

El Paso, Tex., March 22.—News that communications had been re-established with the American and Garza forces operating against Francisco Villa and his band was greeted with intense interest today, as was also information in regard to the fate of Lieutenants Robert H. Willis and Edgar S. Gorrell of the first aero squadron, who disappeared while attempting the flight from Columbus to General Pershing's field base at Casas Grandes. Early today the wireless station was in communication with the field station at Casas Grandes, but after a few messages were exchanged, transmission failed. The field wire laid by General Pershing failed.

Mexican officials here concede that the severing of telegraphic service between Juarez and Casas Grandes was probably accomplished by a bandit raid on the Mexican Northwestern railroad.

In some quarters there has been a disposition to believe that Villa sympathizers may have cut the ground wire laid by General Pershing in his march to the south. If that is the case there was said to be good reason to fear for the safety of Lieutenants Willis and Gorrell.

Nothing is known in regard to the places where the two officers disappeared. If they lost their bearings and got out of their scheduled course, it is suggested that they may have been compelled to descend and may have fallen into the hands of the bandits.

LEGISLATURE TO PROBE CONDUCT OF JUDGE

Nashville, March 21.—An extra session of the Tennessee legislature meets today on the call of Governor T. C. Rye to investigate the conduct of Judge Edgington, judge of division No. 1 of the criminal court of Shelby county and Z. N. Estes, attorney general of Shelby county. This is the first time such an extra session has been held since 1892. Early indications were that the session would develop into a bitter fight.

POSSES SEARCHING FOR YOUNG GIRL'S ASSAILANT

Durham, March 21.—Armed posses today are scouring the country five miles east of Durham in search of an unknown negro who late yesterday assaulted the 14-year-old daughter of J. D. Webster, a well known tobacco planter of the Lowes Grove section of the county. The child was returning from school when she was assaulted. Officers believe they have the negro located.

Washington, March 22.—Mayor Mitchell of New York told President Woodrow Wilson today that the sentiment of the Mayor's conference in St. Louis recently was overwhelmingly in favor of an adequate army and navy.

EXPLAINS WHY HE CHANGED SENTENCE

Governor Craig Makes Statement Concerning Action in Warren-Christy Case.

Raleigh, March 22.—Governor Craig's statement in connection with his commutation of the sentences of Mrs. Ida Bell Warren and Samuel Christy, in part is as follows: "There is no escape from the conclusion that this woman—Ida Bell Warren—is guilty of murder, deliberate and premeditated, conceived and executed in determined wickedness. The verdict of the jury is fully sustained by the evidence; the sentence of the court is fixed by statute.

"But as governor of the state of North Carolina it is not my judgment that a woman be put to death. I cannot contemplate with approval that this woman, unworthy and blackened in sin though she be, shall be shrouded in the ceremonies of death, dragged along the fatal corridor and bound in the chair of death.

"The spy has in all countries been punished with death. The Germans executed a woman spy. England did not. The action of the military governor of Belgium was condemned by the conscience of the world. The killing of this woman would send a shiver throughout North Carolina. Humanity does not apply to woman the inexorable law that it does to man. This may arise from unconscious sentiment; it may arise from the deep instincts of race.

"The part of Christy in the murder makes more difficult the question presented to me. He, too, is guilty. Since life has been spared to her, Christy, too, must escape death.

"This action is in accord with my conception of the just and humane administration of the law. It is recommended by many of the strongest, wisest and best people. Many good men do not approve of commutation of judgments of the courts. The responsibility for the decision rests with me."

Only One Censured. Raleigh, March 22.—Let's not darken the pages of future history by the execution of a woman who never had a chance. Be merciful is the spirit of the Master." C. V. Richardson telegraphed Governor Craig from Dover just a minute or two after he had commuted Ida Bell Warren and Samuel P. Christy.

The Dover man's message gave the suspicion that it was sent by a minister. He did not indicate it nor did the plea for the quality of mercy ascribed to Christ Jesus make sharp distinctions between the laity and the ministry. From Winston-Salem came the only telegram today that appeared to have been sent to wound. "Am sorry to learn that your backbone was too weak to support the decisions of the courts. Sincerely, Rev. J. C. Styers." That telegram occupied high place on the gubernatorial desk. It did not offend the governor whose face early in the morning bore marks of a sleepless night. He appeared later to have been delivered, himself, from a body of death.

"I slept none last night," Governor Craig said, after dictating his reasons for commuting the death sentence of Christy and Mrs. Warren. For weeks he had been besieged by sentimentalists, by organizations of sentimentality, by women who demanded that no concession be made to the skirts and by men who applauded the nerve of juries and courts. Nobody made the burden any lighter for him. It all piled on in the mails and by wire, but Governor Craig did not talk to anybody about it. He sought nobody's advice and made up his own mind. In the last paragraph of his reasons he accepts the responsibility and does not ask the mercy of public opinion's court.

The news went to all corners of the state in a few minutes and within an hour he was being besieged again. Long distance telephones, telegrams, and letters have been coming in. Few have condemned, none save Brother Styers censured. Many doubted the wisdom but none that the chief executive had not been holding down a man's job and therefore deserved sympathy from every man calling himself Christian or liberal.

Surprised Many. The governor surprised many. They had confused his inability to see the force of Mrs. Warren's contention through her attorneys and had said so. She was diabolically guilty; he made her less guilty than she was. But the careless reader saw no hope when the governor did not say there was none.

Between the hearing and the announcement yesterday Governor Craig continued to read evidence and messages. The appeals from the people over the state asking clemency and opposing the death of a woman, far outweighed the standpatters. It reflects an amazing lot of anti-capital punishment opinion. Cameron Morrison, not a molluscoid, declared to Governor Craig after the arguments had been

heard that a "referendum would determine that the people of North Carolina are opposed to the death penalty." Governor Craig replied: "You never were more mistaken in your life. The people of the state believe in inflicting the death penalty. It would take a long time to convince the state the other way." The governor was not able to delude himself. He is not so sure that the people would be willing to see a woman roasted in the electric chair.

TILLMAN MEASURE PASSES SENATE

Passage in House Expected—Gives Government Power to Make Armor.

Washington, March 22.—When the house navy committee today received the Tillman bill for the establishment of a government armor plate plant, which was passed by the senate yesterday, it also received a proposal from the Bethlehem Steel company to cut the price of armor plate from the present price of \$425 a ton to \$390 a ton. This offer was previously made to the senate committee and was ignored.

In the face of threats, after the senate committee's refusal to entertain the proposal, that the armor plate makers would raise the price of the product late yesterday by a vote of fifty-eight to twenty-three. The house navy committee has set aside tomorrow for consideration of the measure with a view to reporting it to the house promptly.

Democratic senators supported the bill, regarding it as one of the important measures included in the national preparedness program now being hastened to completion. Nine progressive republicans joined with the majority in voting for the bill. They were Senators Borah, Clapp, Cummins, Gronna, Kenyon, Norris, Poindexter, Sterling and Works.

Assured in House. Passage of the measure in the house is regarded as assured. Administration leaders are planning to bring it up soon after passage of the army reorganization and immigration bills. The bill, which has the approval of the administration and Secretary Daniels, was bitterly opposed by several republican senators. At committee hearings on the measure, officers of the Bethlehem and Midvale Steel companies, two of the three concerns which furnish armor to the government, appeared and the threat was made that their plants would have to be dismantled as soon as the government entered upon the business, leaving no source of supply for the navy's immediate needs. The opposition in the senate was led by Senators Penrose, Oliver, Lippitt and Lodge.

MANY CANDIDATES ARE ENTERED IN MAINE

Portland, Me., March 22.—The work of the republican state convention here tomorrow will be confined to the adoption of a platform, the nomination of six candidates for electors of president and vice president and the choice of delegates to the Chicago convention. Aside from this, however, the convention promises to be extremely interesting for Maine republicans, inasmuch as it will probably bring to a head one of the most interesting political situations that has existed in the Pine Tree state in many years. This situation relates to the scramble for state offices to be filled at the election next fall. The general feeling of confidence among the party leaders that this is to be a republican year in Maine has served to bring forth a larger number of candidates for the various places on the ticket than has ever been known before. In the gubernatorial contest there are seven active candidates. Next in interest is the contest for the nomination for United States senator to succeed Senator Charles F. Johnson, whose term will expire next March. Four candidates are prominently in the field for the senatorial nomination, including Col. Frederick Hale, republican national committeeman; former Governor B. M. Ferris; Ira G. Hersey, and Albert M. Spear, late justice of the state Supreme court.

NEW HANOVER CASES ARE UP

Two Appeals Sent to Supreme Court in Which Juries Returned Verdict of First Degree Murder.

ARGUMENT IN JOHNSON DISBARMENT CASE

Attorney in Ninth District Under Sentence of Having Violated Law by Selling Too Much Wine.

Special to The Times. Raleigh, March 22.—New Hanover county has sent two appeals to the Supreme court in which murder in the first degree was found by the jury.

The cases are Melvin Horne, murderer of D. L. T. Capps, and Merrick, slayer of Leon B. Hudson. The Horne case is notable. The facts are that thirteen years ago Horne was severely injured while working for the Tidewater Power company by being burned by a live wire. One of his arms was amputated as the result. A suit was won after three years and Horne married and bought a little farm near Wrightsville. Capps induced Horne to buy a business run by Capps in Wilmington. After much persuasion Horne bought a losing business from Capps and it eventually was closed out. While Horne was sick some of his property is said to have been sold by Capps under mortgage. Horne lost his wife and declared that Capps had caused her death, their child's poverty, Horne's ruin; and Horne threatened to kill Capps. On the day of the homicide, it is said, morphine and whiskey had been repeatedly taken.

The defense raised the point of sanity. Horne admitted the killing and contended that it was justified. Several witnesses testified that it was unprovoked. Witnesses testified both ways as to the sanity of the prisoner. The jury did not think the prisoner insane and convicted him. The exceptions are based entirely upon the sanity of the defendant.

Merrick is charged with the murder of Hudson, who was in the Mint-Cola company's employment. A witness, W. N. Parker, related fragmentary conversations between defendant and Hudson, partially to the effect that Merrick and Hudson quarreled, that Hudson put Merrick out and that later Merrick returned with a pistol and shot Hudson. Parker declared that Merrick murdered something, and that Parker warned Hudson "to look out, he has a gun in there."

The state contended that the prisoner borrowed a shotgun three or four hours before the homicide for the ostensible purpose of going hunting and had it with him at this point. Shortly before Hudson came in, the defendant had been seen playing with the gun.

The defense rests its appeal largely upon the fact that the court did not charge that a verdict of manslaughter was possible under the facts presented.

Johnson Case Argued. The state yesterday argued its appeal from the judgment of the Superior court in the ninth district, which granted a dismissal of the petition of the solicitor of that district to disbar James H. Johnson from the practice of law.

Mr. Johnson is now under sentence of having violated the prohibition laws of North Carolina by selling wine in quantities forbidden. It was alleged that a former solicitor held that he was not violating the law, but after the Supreme court sustained the conviction, Governor Craig respited the defendant. In the meantime the new solicitor charging that the defendant had repeatedly violated this statute, made petition for disbarment and the Superior court dismissed the action for want of jurisdiction.

The sole contention therefore is jurisdiction. There was no attorney to appear for him yesterday and the state was solely interested. The law on the subject is scant and the Supreme court really has something new before it. Attorney General Bickett and Assistant Attorney General Calvert in their brief held that under the act of 1907 the respondent must be convicted of a crime "punishable by imprisonment in the penitentiary" and for this an attorney must be disbarred. But under section 211 the power is left to the court to deprive one of the right to practice law either permanently or temporarily. If he shall have been convicted or confessed himself guilty of some criminal offense showing him to be unfit to be entrusted in the discharge of duties of his profession. Under that section they contend it the court's duty to inquire into the case for the purpose of determining that fitness.

GIRL'S CLEVER RUSE TO EVADE CENSOR

The Hague, Netherlands, March 22.—The smuggling of letters over the Belgian and German frontiers, in order to evade the German censor, has taxed the genius of many enterprising persons but it is doubtful whether a more striking ruse has been adopted than the one just reported from the frontier.

A nurse who was entering Holland from Germany, had a "broken" arm that was encased in plaster-of-paris in the regulation manner. Arrived at the frontier, where everyone has to submit to the most rigorous search, the military guard demanded that even the plaster-of-paris encasing the "broken" arm should be ripped open. When the cast was broken, some eighty letters lay exposed to view. The arm was perfectly whole and healthy, and its possessor is now in a German prison.

Mrs. O. K. Bennett, who was operated on at Dr. Long's sanatorium in Statesville, is improving.

GERMAN GUNS POUNDING WAY FOR NEW DRIVE

Intense Bombardments and West of Meuse Late

Further Advance Will Be Attempted.

INFANTRY HELD BACK WHILE GUNS PREPARE

Battle for Verdun, Now in Fourth Week, Continues With Intensity—Trying Flank Attack.

The battle for Verdun, now well in its fourth week, continues with intensity, but at present the infantry is being held back while the big guns prepare for further assaults. The powerful German thrust west of the Meuse, which developed this week, halted when it reached the southern edge of the Avocourt wood, but the action of the German artillery in this sector, which Paris reports today to be particularly violent, indicates that the German intention probably is to make further determined attempts to advance in this important flanking operation. The situation on the eastern bank of the Meuse is unchanged, but here, too, the artillery fire continues intense, particularly near Vaux and Damloup.

Russian warships are reported to be active in the Black sea, where the German steamer Esperanza, said to have been sunk off the Roumanian coast, according to advices from the Roumanian capital. The sinking of a score of sailing ships also was reported.

In their desperate attempt to flank Verdun on the west, the Germans have begun a heavy bombardment of the village of Esnes, about eight miles northwest of Verdun and Hill 204, which lies about a mile and a half north of Esnes.

The French, however, are vigorously contesting a further advance eastward, which not alone would bring the German line nearer the fortress, but, spreading fan-like north-eastward, would put in jeopardy the French in the region of Le Mort Homme.

So great has been the counter offensive of the French guns that after debouching from the woods, the Germans were unable to launch an infantry attack and presumably are being held hard to their newly gained lines.

To the north and east of Verdun, the cannonading has been only intermittent. In the Argonne forest, in Lorraine and in Upper Alsace, the French guns have been active against German positions and marching columns. On the river Somme the Germans entered a British trench, but immediately were driven out.

There has been lively fighting between the Russians and the Germans west of Jacobstad, along the Dvina river and in the lake region between Dvinsk and Vilna, with the Russians generally on the offensive.

While Berlin reports these attacks as having been repulsed with heavy losses, the admission is made that a German salient near Lake Norozog was withdrawn in order to escape the encircling fire of the Russians.

Near Butzitzki, midway between Dvinsk and Vilna, the Russians have captured advanced German trenches, and just south of Dvinsk, in the region of Novo Alexandrovsk, have repulsed a German counter-attack on positions taken at Velikoleslo.

Petrograd says that in the capture of the Austrian bridgehead near the village of Mikhalche in Galicia, most of its defenders were killed in hand-to-hand fighting.

FINAL ARGUMENTS

Harrisburg, Pa., March 22.—The Public Service Commission has fixed tomorrow for the hearing of final arguments on the numerous complaints against half a dozen railroads that the full crew law is being violated. Counsel for the railroad brotherhoods have announced their intention of making an extended plea for rulings on many points.

OSBORN FINDS ANOTHER FRAUD

Is Claimed That Cigar Makers Have Defrauded Uncle Sam of Millions of Dollars.

200 FACTORIES ARE SAID TO BE INVOLVED

Plants Are Seized in Eastern Cities—Colonel Osborn Is Given the Sole Credit.

Editor of The Times: Washington, March 22.—Commissioner of Internal Revenue Osborn has again startled those who violated the federal law by seizing over 200 cigar factories in New York, Philadelphia and elsewhere. It is estimated that the frauds uncovered in this raid of the commissioner will net the government high into the millions of dollars.

The investigation has unearthed the fact also that these frauds have been going on for a period of from 10 to 15 years and that during that time something like \$10,000,000 has been taken from the federal treasury.

While at present the frauds appear to be largely by manufacturers of cheap cigars, it is understood that before the investigation is concluded many leaf tobacco concerns and manufacturers of the better grades of tobacco will be involved.

Only a few months ago Colonel Osborn unearthed frauds in oleomargarine and whiskey which netted the federal government a little over \$1,000,000, or more than enough to pay for the entire collection of all internal revenue.

These frauds, like those more recently uncovered, were discovered through the internal revenue secret service agents. Few people in the country know that such an organization exists. It is entirely independent of the regular secret service men.

Soon after Colonel Osborn took charge of the internal revenue bureau here, he conceived the idea of organizing his own secret service force. He told Secretary McAdoo of his plan and later got congress to appropriate money enough to cover the extra expense.

That the service has been one of the best paying devices of the government is shown by the fact that millions of dollars have been saved through these men alone. Levi P. Nutt, formerly of St. Louis, is the man whom Col. Osborn selected to handle this force. Like the majority of men the colonel picks for a certain duty, Nutt has made good.

Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Malburn today paid Colonel Osborn a high tribute in an interview issued to the press. He said:

"The commissioner of internal revenue satisfied that the government was losing millions of dollars annually throughout the country in taxes on cheap cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco, six months ago began a quiet investigation and through his confidential agents has obtained evidence showing that the government's loss in taxes in the products to be appalling.

"The proof so far obtained by Colonel Osborn, who has had personal charge of the matter, has resulted in evidence being secured to date warranting the seizure of about 200 factories in New York and elsewhere, which will be accomplished at once, and the various offenders prosecuted criminally. The result of his investigation shows a far-reaching and gigantic conspiracy to have existed for 10 or 15 years. Many manufacturers have been making the cigars and selling them without stamps to consumers and other dealers, resulting in large losses in revenue. The evidence in the possession of the revenue officers shows that these frauds on the revenue have been going on for 10 or 15 years.

"In addition to these frauds, the present commissioner of internal revenue has uncovered long standing frauds in the manufacture of oleomargarine and whiskey, whereby the government has lost many millions of dollars. A number of factories and distilleries have been seized in different parts of the country. Numerous convictions have been obtained and a large amount of money collected in fines and penalties. In one case, more than \$600,000 was paid to the government.

"The result of the commissioner's crusade on this class of violators in New York and other points will, without doubt result in the collection of million of dollars heretofore evaded, and break up a rotten condition that has existed for many years."

IN SESSION AT FORT WORTH

Fort Worth, Tex., March 22.—Opening had its formal opening today educational and theological institution of the Baptist denominations in North America are in Fort Worth for the annual convention of the Baptist Student Missionary movement. The official representatives of virtually every and the sessions thus begun will continue until next Sunday. The keynote of the convention is "Baptist Students in Relation to World-wide Evangelism," and the subjects scheduled for discussion cover every phase of missionary enterprise.

MILLIONS LOST IN TEXAS FIRE; UNDER CONTROL

Holocaust of Paris, Texas, Practically Burns Itself Out, After Destroying 30 Blocks of City.

WHOLE OF BUSINESS DISTRICT IS SWEEP

Indications Are That Outside Aid Will Be Necessary to Feed People—No Loss of Life Reported.

Paris, Texas, March 22.—The first which swept this city for six hours, destroying approximately 30 blocks of buildings, was placed under control early today, and the property loss is estimated at from \$2,000,000 to \$5,000,000. No lives were lost so far as is now known.

The fire started at 5:50 o'clock yesterday afternoon. The wind was blowing a gale at the time and the flames were driven on so rapidly that they were soon beyond control. At 9:30 p. m. there was no sign of checking the flames and the fire fighting apparatus from Dallas and other cities began to arrive.

Toward midnight the wind died down and the fire began to subside somewhat because there was no further material to feed the flames. Practically every building on either side of the square in the heart of the business district was destroyed. With outside assistance and with only light winds prevailing, shortly after 1 o'clock, the fire was considered practically under control, though houses at isolated points in several districts were still burning.

The flames first made a clean sweep of the southern part of the city, burning a path three or four blocks wide, extending to the public square, where the large open space arrested the course of the flames temporarily. Thence the flames were swept by the gale into the residential and Mill sections of the city until about 30 blocks of buildings were consumed.

Among the most prominent buildings destroyed were: The Gibraltar hotel, the Merrick hotel, two national and one state bank, three churches, the Paris Daily Advocate building, the Paris Morning News building, the new \$100,000 postoffice building, the old Federal building, the city hall, the county court house, county jail, all dry goods stores, all drug stores and almost all grocery stores. Not a hotel and not a restaurant was saved.

The suffering during the night is not believed to have been severe as the weather was mild. It is believed, however, that suffering from hunger will become acute later in the day and that outside aid will become imperative.

TO CALL EXECUTIVE BODY IN MEETING

No Provision Made For Calling Precinct Meetings, Says Chairman Haynes.

Within a few days Chairman J. W. Haynes of the democratic executive committee, will call the committee together to make arrangements for the precinct meetings on April 15 and the county convention on April 22.

These dates were fixed by the state committee, said Mr. Haynes today, but there is no provision made for issuing a call for the meetings throughout the county which will select delegates to the county convention. The Buncombe county chairman has written to the secretary of the state committee asking if there will be any uniformity as to calling the precinct and county meetings.

The state convention meets on April 27; and on the twenty-second Buncombe county democrats will meet in Asheville to name their representatives to that gathering.

SUPERIOR COURT HEARS

Palmer against G. W. Bryant, is being tried in Superior court today. The plaintiff is suing the defendant for the recovery of \$50 damages. The jury had not reached a decision at 1 o'clock this afternoon.

James Carland who was brought in from Skyland, charged with being drunk and disorderly, and disturbing the peace, was tried before Magistrate Lyda yesterday afternoon and fined \$2.75.