

Defeat of Francisco Villa by American and Mexican Government Forces Reported

ENCOURAGING NEWS OF OPERATIONS IN MEXICO RECEIVED ON FRONTIER

General Funston Accepts Report of Reverse to Francisco Villa, Near Namiquba as Probably True.

ANOTHER REPORT SAYS VILLA IS SURROUNDED

Mexican Consul Adds to Details of Reports That Herrera Has Revolted Against the Carranza Forces.

San Antonio, Tex., March 24.—Reports from Mexico that Francisco Villa has been defeated by American and Mexican government troops at El Oso, near Namiquba, were accepted by General Funston as probably true, though he has received no confirmation of the reports from General Pershing.

Improvement in the working of the wireless made it appear likely that General Pershing would break his five days' silence regarding the operations of the American troops south of Casas Grandes by rendering an account of the reported El Oso engagement.

Washington, March 24.—American Consul Letcher at Chihuahua today reported that there was no truth in the report of the revolt of General Luis Herrera and the Carranza garrison at Chihuahua. Although General Funston and General Bell on the frontier received reports confirming the story of the revolt which they believed to be true, the dispatch from Consul Letcher, who is on the ground, is taken by officials here as confirming the statements of Carranza officials that no such revolt has occurred.

Consul Letcher's dispatch reported that General Herrera, who is in command of de facto troops, was loyal to Carranza. The report is regarded as removing one of the most menacing features of the Mexican situation.

Reports Villa Surrounded.

El Paso, March 24.—No word had come to military headquarters here today to confirm the report that American and Carranza forces had Villa and his men surrounded and that a battle was imminent.

El Paso, Tex., March 24.—Early today the Carranza consul here displayed a telegram which he said he had received from General Bertani at Casas Grandes, announcing that Francisco Villa was surrounded at a ranch five miles south of Namiquba by the joint American and Carranza forces, and that a decisive battle was imminent.

General Bell, commanding the United States troops here, received the report in silence. His only comment was that he

would wait until he heard directly from General Pershing, who is in command of the forces pursuing Villa in Mexico, before making any statement on the situation.

There was frank skepticism among other United States army officers, though it was admitted that the advance detachment of American troops might easily have reached Namiquba by this time if it had maintained anything like the speed it made on the first hundred miles of the march south.

The American crew of a train which arrived at Juarez early today from Casas Grandes reported that all was quiet when they left Casas Grandes. They said that there were many American soldiers in the town from the American camp nearby and that the natives seemed pleased at their presence, as they spent more real money than the natives had seen for many months.

The trainmen could throw no light on the cutting of the wires along the Mexican Northwestern railroad. They said their trip was uneventful and that they saw no signs of Villa followers or other bandits.

Nothing was known at Casas Grandes, when they left, as to any fighting at Namiquba or elsewhere.

Two Mormon colonists who arrived on the train confirmed the statements of the members of the train crew. They said that the Casas Grandes natives were very respectful to the American soldiers, but were most impressed by a negro regiment, which left for the south yesterday. The Mormons said many natives of Casas Grandes believed Villa could never escape the negro troops.

That the state authorities of Arizona, which borders on Sonora, are alarmed over the situation across their frontier is indicated by their action in preparing the state national guard for any eventuality. Recruiting of the companies to full strength has been authorized and arrangements have been made to organize civilians in case of trouble. The crisis is expected to be reached when General Calles publishes the decree which he says he has prepared, cancelling all concessions granted by Huerta and Villa and ordering all of the clerical party from the state.

Last night passed in complete quiet in Juarez and El Paso.

El Paso, March 24.—Francisco Villa has established a base to the west of Namiquba, to reorganize his command and to recruit new men for his army it was reported yesterday. At his new base it was said he would lay plans to operate with the forces of General Luis Herrera, who is understood to have renounced the de facto government.

General Herrera is said to be moving northwest to effect a junction with the Villa troops and this in connection with reports that the Carranza garrison at Torreon has revolted occasioned grave concern among American army officials in El Paso.

The Villa forces, reinforced by the Chihuahua command of Herrera, said to number 2000, might be in position to harass General Pershing's army and seriously interfere with communications between the advanced base of the American army at Casas Grandes and the base at Columbus.

Whatever happens in Juarez it is not expected here that an attack will be made on El Paso from the other side of the river, but the greatest apprehension is that an outbreak on one side of the border would be followed by one on the other.

There are about 35,000 Mexicans in this city out of a total population of 71,000. Military and civil authorities have made vigorous efforts to forestall any trouble by the arrest of every Mexican suspected of inciting his countrymen against Americans.

That such a system, apparently organized, has been carried out here for some time is well known.

Revolt Report Denied.

San Antonio, Texas, March 24.—With a message from General Bell, at El Paso, before him confirming his report of that General Luis Herrera had revolted with 2,000 men of the Carranza garrison in Chihuahua and a collection of evidence from unofficial sources denying the alleged revolt, General Funston was still puzzled last night as to the exact status of affairs in Mexico.

General Bell did not give additional facts concerning Herrera's reported action, nor did he say how the report was confirmed.

To offset General Bell's statement, messages from El Paso quoted General Gavira, commander at Juarez, and Andres Garcia, Mexican consul at El Paso, in detail. The Carranza consul at Laredo also submitted a denial and Samuel Beldon, consul here for Carranza, made public a message he said he had received from General Herrera in Chihuahua dated yesterday. In this message Herrera denied that he had revolted, adding that on the contrary he was "ready to fight Villa as energetically as possible."

Messages were sent to General Pershing during the day instructing him to report often and advising him of Herrera's reported activities.

General Bell.

Columbus, N. M., March 24.—Lieutenant Edgar S. Gorrell, of the United States aero corps, missing since last Sunday was found yesterday three miles south of Ascension by a Twentieth Infantry motor truck train, according to reports to military headquarters.

Gorrell was uninjured but was out of gasoline and had lost his way. He made his way to a wagon trail and there left a note telling of his whereabouts. When rescued he had been without food for twenty-four hours.

Washington, March 24.—Tension over the Mexican situation has relaxed here in the absence of official confirmation of the report that two thousand Carranza troops at Chihuahua under Luis Herrera had joined Villa.

Conflicting unofficial advices from the border, however, caused the state department to telegraph American consuls for immediate reports as to the situation. Slow wire communication may delay the replies.

REPUBLICANS READY FOR PARTY COUNCIL

Richmond Pearson Denies Report That He Will Withdraw From the Race.

Republicans of the tenth district who cannot attend the congressional convention in this city tomorrow will wait anxiously to hear whether harmony reigned or whether the question of who shall go to Chicago ends in a row more complete than the disagreement which characterized the state meeting at Raleigh.

A rumor on the streets this morning that Richmond Pearson, candidate as one of the delegates to the national convention, would withdraw in the interests of party harmony, met prompt denial from the man who is credited with giving the democratic party in this district more trouble than any other republican. Mr. Pearson told a Times reporter that he had no interview to give out further than to say that the report of his stepping down was untrue.

In spite of the general opinion among republicans that no factional issue should be injected into the deliberations, many continue to say that the Roosevelt wing should receive recognition. That Charles J. Harris will be one of the two eligibles seems to be settled today; subject, of course, to those last hour changes that are features of political strife as well as of military conflicts.

Congressman Britt has been in the city several days. In case of disagreement in the early stages of the gathering he is expected to counsel harmony and if need be, perhaps, compromise for the welfare of the party.

The race between Mr. Pearson and Thomas J. Harkins is today the paramount issue. There is a general feeling that McKinley Pritchard, one of the younger members of the party, should be named as presidential elector.

One of the party leaders stated this morning that while some keen, friendly rivalry was expected tomorrow he believed that the deliberations will end in a manner satisfactory to everybody present. However, all who have prophesied appear to realize that political prognostications are, like weather forecasts, come under the head of a science of probabilities, and uncertainties.

Mrs. Virgill Lambert of 16 Turner street received a telegram this morning from Rochester, N. Y., telling of the serious illness of her brother, Joseph Griffin. The message stated that he is not expected to live. Mr. Griffin is a son of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Griffin of Newport, Tenn.

OPERATIONS OF RUSSIANS GROW IN IMPORTANCE

The lull in the infantry fighting in the Verdun region continued today. The artillery, however, is keeping up its active work. The French guns have been energetically cannonading the German positions northwest of Verdun, the intention apparently being to break up an anticipated attempt by the Germans to advance in a further effort to move south.

East of the Meuse the German bombardment apparently has diminished in intensity, only intermittent fire being reported in the vicinity of Douaumont and Damiloup and in Woevre regions.

Scarcely less interest is being aroused by the determined attacks of the Russians on the German northern front in the eastern theater. Berlin admits no permanent successes for the Russians, but Petrograd still continues to claim advantages at various points northwest of Dvinsk and to the south.

Berlin dispatches declare that the German losses have been surprisingly small under the terrific bombardment by the Russians, while the attackers have been mowed down in masses. Confidence is expressed in Berlin in the outcome of the fighting.

The sinking of two more neutral vessels by submarines is reported. One was a Norwegian steamer; the other a Danish bark.

OWNBY CASE STILL IN SUPERIOR COURT

The case of G. O. Ownby and wife against the board of county commissioners, which is being tried in Superior court, has not as yet been settled. The plaintiffs are asking the defendants for damages alleged to have been caused when a public road was run through their property.

SHACKLETON RETURNS.

Sydney, New South Wales, March 24.—Lieutenant Sir Ernest Shackleton has returned from his antarctic expedition. News of the achievements of the expedition is withheld for the present.

Augusta Is Planning To Repair Ravages Of Fire

Work of Rebuilding Burned District Will Start as Soon as Insurance Claims Are Adjusted—Business Men Optimistic—Contributions Made For Relief of People Left Destitute by the Fire.

Augusta, Ga., March 24.—Having perfected plans for relieving the needs of the several hundred destitute people, as the result of the terrible fire Wednesday night, Augusta today began to discuss plans for rebuilding the burned areas. An optimistic spirit prevailed among the business men, and the work will start as soon as the insurance claims are adjusted.

There is much speculation as to amounts of insurance carried on the various buildings burned. The two newspapers—the Herald and the Chronicle—are making arrangements to rebuild as soon as possible. Orders for new equipment will be placed immediately by the two papers.

The members of the special relief committee of fifteen continued today to receive contributions, and every effort will be made to raise a fund of \$50,000 for the needy.

The Southern Adjustment bureau of Atlanta will open an office here Monday to adjust the insurance claims.

A policy of \$300,000 was carried on the fire story party completed building of the Empire Life company. The Chronicle building was insured for \$150,000.

U. S. Army Increase Bill Passed By Big Majority

Washington, March 24.—The Hay army increase bill providing for a regular army peace strength of 149,000 fighting men instead of the present one hundred thousand, passed the house late yesterday by a vote of 492 to 2. It goes to the senate for immediate consideration virtually as drafted by the house committee.

The negative votes were cast by Representative Britten, republican, of Illinois, and London, socialist, of New York.

Mr. Britten opposed the bill because he favored a still further increase in the army and London because he favored no increase.

The bill is the first of President Wilson's great national preparedness measures to pass either house of congress though various related measures have been approved. It was finally adopted

61 OF 63 WITH PEACE REPORTS

Nearly Every Letter Written About Christy-Warren Case Warmly Commends Governor's Clemency.

EXPRESSIONS ARE FROM EVERY PART OF STATE

Only Two Letters Censorous; One Doubtful—Congratulations From Leading Men of North Carolina.

Special to The Times.

Raleigh, March 24.—Sixty-three letters came to Governor Craig's desk yesterday and sixty-one bore hearty congratulations upon his conduct Tuesday when he decreed that Ida Bell Warren and S. P. Christy should not be put to death.

This amazingly disproportionate sentiment as reflected in the letters has pleased Governor Craig greatly for he had not the slightest chance to find how people in such diverse communities would feel about it. The letters have come from all sections, extreme west and extreme east, and only two are censorious. One from W. M. Cummings of Wilmington agrees with Rev. J. C. Styers of Winston-Salem, the only man who has been offensive to Governor Craig. The other comes from Goldsboro and merely expresses the fear that violence will be encouraged.

These letters have come also from all sorts and conditions of men. The ministers were uniformly with him yesterday and fine sentiments were written by Judge H. G. Connor, former member of the Supreme court and now the District federal judge of this circuit, Judge W. S. O'B. Robinson cheers the governor; Congressman Bob Page writes him heartily; A. J. McKinnon is delighted; and Postmaster A. H. Boyden of Salisbury thanks God for a merciful and brave governor. N. J. House of Kirkston joins the happy throng, and Prof. N. Y. Gultey of the Wake Forest department of law, congratulates the state. Without an exception, these letters heartily and unreservedly applaud Governor Craig and they believe that he has satisfied their neighbors.

Mad at the Preacher.

J. J. Barrow, clerk of Franklin court, writes Governor Craig that he had perused with great indignation the telegram from Rev. J. C. Styers and unless Brother Styers is a mythical person Mr. Barrow was pretty sure on him. Brother Styers isn't fit to be a minister. Fact is, it seems that the Baptist gentleman took the occasion to become known as "wit" a hot telegram at the governor. Neighbors of the minister have written the chief executive about him so that there is no doubt of the genuineness of the telegram.

Then a fine letter came from James E. Tharpe of Statesville, who says Governor Craig has immortalized himself. "You took the right stand," he said, "and it is enough to make you immortal." Then Mr. Tharpe, fearing the governor might think him effusive, put down in the southwest corner these words: "I am a republican." Mr. Tharpe would not have anybody believe that Governor Craig is entitled to a niche in infamy's hall of fame.

Page's High Praise.

Congressman Robert N. Page, may have written out the abundance of a critical experience, but he writes heartily all the same. He tells the governor that the exercise of the pardoning power isn't anything to make Mr. Page over-enthusiastic, "but just a line to congratulate you upon your action in the Christy-Warren case. Your action is wise, in my judgment, and therefore commendable. Pay no attention to your critics. The future will vindicate you."

Mr. Page thinks there are other things, too. He writes his letter in his own hand and stops his work to cheer a fellow servant of the people.

A. C. Hunslett, prominent attorney of Albemarle, is gratified at the course of the governor and tells him not to worry about his critics. The letters thus far received furnish very little reason for such worry because they have not furnished critics.

Judge Connor's Tribute.

Judge H. G. Connor says: "I love a man who sees clearly and acts bravely. After all it isn't so much what the state was to do to the wretched woman as what the woman would do to the state." Governor Craig liked the sentiment. Judge Connor also writes his letter of some length in his own hand.

T. M. Bynum, cotton dealer, recalls the fact that he sat as a Kitchin delinquent in the convention at Charlotte (Continued on Page Three).

REPUBLICANS READY FOR PARTY COUNCIL

Richmond Pearson Denies Report That He Will Withdraw From the Race.

Republicans of the tenth district who cannot attend the congressional convention in this city tomorrow will wait anxiously to hear whether harmony reigned or whether the question of who shall go to Chicago ends in a row more complete than the disagreement which characterized the state meeting at Raleigh.

A rumor on the streets this morning that Richmond Pearson, candidate as one of the delegates to the national convention, would withdraw in the interests of party harmony, met prompt denial from the man who is credited with giving the democratic party in this district more trouble than any other republican. Mr. Pearson told a Times reporter that he had no interview to give out further than to say that the report of his stepping down was untrue.

In spite of the general opinion among republicans that no factional issue should be injected into the deliberations, many continue to say that the Roosevelt wing should receive recognition. That Charles J. Harris will be one of the two eligibles seems to be settled today; subject, of course, to those last hour changes that are features of political strife as well as of military conflicts.

Congressman Britt has been in the city several days. In case of disagreement in the early stages of the gathering he is expected to counsel harmony and if need be, perhaps, compromise for the welfare of the party.

The race between Mr. Pearson and Thomas J. Harkins is today the paramount issue. There is a general feeling that McKinley Pritchard, one of the younger members of the party, should be named as presidential elector.

One of the party leaders stated this morning that while some keen, friendly rivalry was expected tomorrow he believed that the deliberations will end in a manner satisfactory to everybody present. However, all who have prophesied appear to realize that political prognostications are, like weather forecasts, come under the head of a science of probabilities, and uncertainties.

Mrs. Virgill Lambert of 16 Turner street received a telegram this morning from Rochester, N. Y., telling of the serious illness of her brother, Joseph Griffin. The message stated that he is not expected to live. Mr. Griffin is a son of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Griffin of Newport, Tenn.

61 OF 63 WITH PEACE REPORTS

Nearly Every Letter Written About Christy-Warren Case Warmly Commends Governor's Clemency.

EXPRESSIONS ARE FROM EVERY PART OF STATE

Only Two Letters Censorous; One Doubtful—Congratulations From Leading Men of North Carolina.

Special to The Times.

Raleigh, March 24.—Sixty-three letters came to Governor Craig's desk yesterday and sixty-one bore hearty congratulations upon his conduct Tuesday when he decreed that Ida Bell Warren and S. P. Christy should not be put to death.

This amazingly disproportionate sentiment as reflected in the letters has pleased Governor Craig greatly for he had not the slightest chance to find how people in such diverse communities would feel about it. The letters have come from all sections, extreme west and extreme east, and only two are censorious. One from W. M. Cummings of Wilmington agrees with Rev. J. C. Styers of Winston-Salem, the only man who has been offensive to Governor Craig. The other comes from Goldsboro and merely expresses the fear that violence will be encouraged.

These letters have come also from all sorts and conditions of men. The ministers were uniformly with him yesterday and fine sentiments were written by Judge H. G. Connor, former member of the Supreme court and now the District federal judge of this circuit, Judge W. S. O'B. Robinson cheers the governor; Congressman Bob Page writes him heartily; A. J. McKinnon is delighted; and Postmaster A. H. Boyden of Salisbury thanks God for a merciful and brave governor. N. J. House of Kirkston joins the happy throng, and Prof. N. Y. Gultey of the Wake Forest department of law, congratulates the state. Without an exception, these letters heartily and unreservedly applaud Governor Craig and they believe that he has satisfied their neighbors.

Mad at the Preacher.

J. J. Barrow, clerk of Franklin court, writes Governor Craig that he had perused with great indignation the telegram from Rev. J. C. Styers and unless Brother Styers is a mythical person Mr. Barrow was pretty sure on him. Brother Styers isn't fit to be a minister. Fact is, it seems that the Baptist gentleman took the occasion to become known as "wit" a hot telegram at the governor. Neighbors of the minister have written the chief executive about him so that there is no doubt of the genuineness of the telegram.

Then a fine letter came from James E. Tharpe of Statesville, who says Governor Craig has immortalized himself. "You took the right stand," he said, "and it is enough to make you immortal." Then Mr. Tharpe, fearing the governor might think him effusive, put down in the southwest corner these words: "I am a republican." Mr. Tharpe would not have anybody believe that Governor Craig is entitled to a niche in infamy's hall of fame.

Page's High Praise.

Congressman Robert N. Page, may have written out the abundance of a critical experience, but he writes heartily all the same. He tells the governor that the exercise of the pardoning power isn't anything to make Mr. Page over-enthusiastic, "but just a line to congratulate you upon your action in the Christy-Warren case. Your action is wise, in my judgment, and therefore commendable. Pay no attention to your critics. The future will vindicate you."

Mr. Page thinks there are other things, too. He writes his letter in his own hand and stops his work to cheer a fellow servant of the people.

A. C. Hunslett, prominent attorney of Albemarle, is gratified at the course of the governor and tells him not to worry about his critics. The letters thus far received furnish very little reason for such worry because they have not furnished critics.

Judge Connor's Tribute.

Judge H. G. Connor says: "I love a man who sees clearly and acts bravely. After all it isn't so much what the state was to do to the wretched woman as what the woman would do to the state." Governor Craig liked the sentiment. Judge Connor also writes his letter of some length in his own hand.

T. M. Bynum, cotton dealer, recalls the fact that he sat as a Kitchin delinquent in the convention at Charlotte (Continued on Page Three).

PEACE REPORTS FROM GERMANY

Cable News Indicates That Germany May Soon Request U. S. to Take Action Toward Peace.

GERARD REQUESTED TO REMAIN IN BERLIN

German Chancellor Said to Have Stated to Ambassador Terms Germany Would Consider.

Washington, March 24.—Talk of peace in Europe again is filtering in over the cables. Thus far it is indefinite in character. Four days ago Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, of the German empire, summoned United States Ambassador Gerard to the foreign office in Berlin and expressed the hope that the ambassador would not carry out his plans for a vacation in the near future. The ambassador had been thinking seriously of leaving Berlin for several weeks, possibly for two months. The chancellor then informed the ambassador, according to information that is deemed most dependable, that the time is near at hand when the principle on which world peace can be established will be considered.

The German chancellor went so far as to state in an informal way the terms on which the German empire would be willing to make peace at this time. These terms are:

1. The restoration of Belgium.
2. Indemnity to be paid Germany in return for the abandonment of that part of France occupied by the German army.
3. The restoration to Germany of the colonies she possessed in Africa at the outbreak of the war.

Undoubtedly Ambassador Gerard gained impression from conversation with the German chancellor that the German empire believes that the time is ripe for preliminary peace talk, in any event. The fact that Ambassador Gerard was summoned to the foreign office is regarded as a sign that the German government is requesting the United States ambassador to remain in Berlin means that if in the immediate future Germany decides to make a formal peace proposal to the allies, the United States government will be the instrument through which that proposal will be made. It would seem that no other interpretation could rightly be placed on the action of the chancellor. It is not understood that the United States government will take any official notice of the informal conference of the German chancellor with Ambassador Gerard. In other words, this government, on the strength of the information it now has, will not say to the entente powers that Germany is willing to talk peace.

After almost a year of friction between the United States and the imperial German government over the submarine issue growing originally out of the sinking of the Lusitania, the information from the German chancellor that this government is to be made the medium through which peace negotiations will be proposed has come as something of a surprise.

THE GOVERNOR

WARMLY COMMENDS GOVERNOR'S CLEMENCY.

EXPRESSIONS ARE FROM EVERY PART OF STATE

Only Two Letters Censorous; One Doubtful—Congratulations From Leading Men of North Carolina.

Special to The Times.

Raleigh, March 24.—Sixty-three letters came to Governor Craig's desk yesterday and sixty-one bore hearty congratulations upon his conduct Tuesday when he decreed that Ida Bell Warren and S. P. Christy should not be put to death.

This amazingly disproportionate sentiment as reflected in the letters has pleased Governor Craig greatly for he had not the slightest chance to find how people in such diverse communities would feel about it. The letters have come from all sections, extreme west and extreme east, and only two are censorious. One from W. M. Cummings of Wilmington agrees with Rev. J. C. Styers of Winston-Salem, the only man who has been offensive to Governor Craig. The other comes from Goldsboro and merely expresses the fear that violence will be encouraged.

These letters have come also from all sorts and conditions of men. The ministers were uniformly with him yesterday and fine sentiments were written by Judge H. G. Connor, former member of the Supreme court and now the District federal judge of this circuit, Judge W. S. O'B. Robinson cheers the governor; Congressman Bob Page writes him heartily; A. J. McKinnon is delighted; and Postmaster A. H. Boyden of Salisbury thanks God for a merciful and brave governor. N. J. House of Kirkston joins the happy throng, and Prof. N. Y. Gultey of the Wake Forest department of law, congratulates the state. Without an exception, these letters heartily and unreservedly applaud Governor Craig and they believe that he has satisfied their neighbors.

Mad at the Preacher.

J. J. Barrow, clerk of Franklin court, writes Governor Craig that he had perused with great indignation the telegram from Rev. J. C. Styers and unless Brother Styers is a mythical person Mr. Barrow was pretty sure on him. Brother Styers isn't fit to be a minister. Fact is, it seems that the Baptist gentleman took the occasion to become known as "wit" a hot telegram at the governor. Neighbors of the minister have written the chief executive about him so that there is no doubt of the genuineness of the telegram.

Then a fine letter came from James E. Tharpe of Statesville, who says Governor Craig has immortalized himself. "You took the right stand," he said, "and it is enough to make you immortal." Then Mr. Tharpe, fearing the governor might think him effusive, put down in the southwest corner these words: "I am a republican." Mr. Tharpe would not have anybody believe that Governor Craig is entitled to a niche in infamy's hall of fame.

Page's High Praise.

Congressman Robert N. Page, may have written out the abundance of a critical experience, but he writes heartily all the same. He tells the governor that the exercise of the pardoning power isn't anything to make Mr. Page over-enthusiastic, "but just a line to congratulate you upon your action in the Christy-Warren case. Your action is wise, in my judgment, and therefore commendable. Pay no attention to your critics. The future will vindicate you."

Mr. Page thinks there are other things, too. He writes his letter in his own hand and stops his work to cheer a fellow servant of the people.

A. C. Hunslett, prominent attorney of Albemarle, is gratified at the course of the governor and tells him not to worry about his critics. The letters thus far received furnish very little reason for such worry because they have not furnished critics.

Judge Connor's Tribute.

Judge H. G. Connor says: "I love a man who sees clearly and acts bravely. After all it isn't so much what the state was to do to the wretched woman as what the woman would do to the state." Governor Craig liked the sentiment. Judge Connor also writes his letter of some length in his own hand.

T. M. Bynum, cotton dealer, recalls the fact that he sat as a Kitchin delinquent in the convention at Charlotte (Continued on Page Three).

REPUBLICANS READY FOR PARTY COUNCIL

Richmond Pearson Denies Report That He Will Withdraw From the Race.

Republicans of the tenth district who cannot attend the congressional convention in this city tomorrow will wait anxiously to hear whether harmony reigned or whether the question of who shall go to Chicago ends in a row more complete than the disagreement which characterized the state meeting at Raleigh.

A rumor on the streets this morning that Richmond Pearson, candidate as one of the delegates to the national convention, would withdraw in the interests of party harmony, met prompt denial from the man who is credited with giving the democratic party in this district more trouble than any other republican. Mr. Pearson told a Times reporter that he had no interview to give out further than to say that the report of his stepping down was untrue.

In spite of the general opinion among republicans that no factional issue should be injected into the deliberations, many continue to say that the Roosevelt wing should receive recognition. That Charles J. Harris will be one of the two eligibles seems to be settled today; subject, of course, to those last hour changes that are features of political strife as well as of military conflicts.

Congressman Britt has been in the city several days. In case of disagreement in the early stages of the gathering he is expected to counsel harmony and if need be, perhaps, compromise for the welfare of the party.

The race between Mr. Pearson and Thomas J. Harkins is today the paramount issue. There is a general feeling that McKinley Pritchard, one of the younger members of the party, should be named as presidential elector.

One of the party leaders stated this morning that while some keen, friendly rivalry was expected tomorrow he believed that the deliberations will end in a manner satisfactory to everybody present. However, all who have prophesied appear to realize that political prognostications are, like weather forecasts, come under the head of a science of probabilities, and uncertainties.

Mrs. Virgill Lambert of 16 Turner street received a telegram this morning from Rochester, N. Y., telling of the serious illness of her brother, Joseph Griffin. The message stated that he is not expected to live. Mr. Griffin is a son of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Griffin of Newport, Tenn.

61 OF 63 WITH PEACE REPORTS

Nearly Every Letter Written About Christy-Warren Case Warmly Commends Governor's Clemency.

EXPRESSIONS ARE FROM EVERY PART OF STATE

Only Two Letters Censorous; One Doubtful—Congratulations From Leading Men of North Carolina.

Special to The Times.

Raleigh, March 24.—Sixty-three letters came to Governor Craig's desk yesterday and sixty-one bore hearty congratulations upon his conduct Tuesday when he decreed that Ida Bell Warren and S. P. Christy should not be put to death.

This amazingly disproportionate sentiment as reflected in the letters has pleased Governor Craig greatly for he had not the slightest chance to find how people in such diverse communities would feel about it. The letters have come from all sections, extreme west and extreme east, and only two are censorious. One from W. M. Cummings of Wilmington agrees with Rev. J. C. Styers of Winston-Salem, the only man who has been offensive to Governor Craig. The other comes from Goldsboro and merely expresses the fear that violence will be encouraged.

These letters have come also from all sorts and conditions of men. The ministers were uniformly with him yesterday and fine sentiments were written by Judge H. G. Connor, former member of the Supreme court and now the District federal judge of this circuit, Judge W. S. O'B. Robinson cheers the governor; Congressman Bob Page writes him heartily; A. J. McKinnon is delighted; and Postmaster A. H. Boyden of Salisbury thanks God for a merciful and brave governor. N. J. House of Kirkston joins the happy throng, and Prof. N. Y. Gultey of the Wake Forest department of law, congratulates the state. Without an exception, these letters heartily and unreservedly applaud Governor Craig and they believe that he has satisfied their neighbors.

Mad at the Preacher.

J. J. Barrow, clerk of Franklin court, writes Governor Craig that he had perused with great indignation the telegram from Rev. J. C. Styers and unless Brother Styers is a mythical person Mr. Barrow was pretty sure on him. Brother Styers isn't fit to be a minister. Fact is, it seems that the Baptist gentleman took the occasion to become known as "wit" a hot telegram at the governor. Neighbors of the minister have written the chief executive about him so that there is no doubt of the genuineness of the telegram.

Then a fine letter came from James E. Tharpe of Statesville, who says Governor Craig has immortalized himself. "You took the right stand," he said, "and it is enough to make you immortal." Then Mr. Tharpe, fearing the governor might think him effusive, put down in the southwest corner these words: "I am a republican." Mr. Tharpe would not have anybody believe that Governor Craig is entitled to a niche in infamy's hall of fame.

Page's High Praise.

Congressman Robert N. Page, may have written out the abundance of a critical experience, but he writes heartily all the same. He tells the governor that the exercise of the pardoning power isn't anything to make Mr. Page over-enthusiastic, "but just a line to congratulate you upon your action in the Christy-Warren case. Your action is wise, in my judgment, and therefore commendable. Pay no attention to your critics. The future will vindicate you."

Mr. Page thinks there are other things, too. He writes his letter in his own hand and stops his work to cheer a fellow servant of the people.

A. C. Hunslett, prominent attorney of Albemarle, is gratified at the course of the governor and tells him not to worry about his critics. The letters thus far received furnish very little reason for such worry because they have not furnished critics.

Judge Connor's Tribute.

Judge H. G. Connor says: "I love a man who sees clearly and acts bravely. After all it isn't so much what the state was to do to the wretched woman as what the woman would do to the state." Governor Craig liked the sentiment. Judge Connor also writes his letter of some length in his own hand.

T. M. Bynum, cotton dealer, recalls the fact that he sat as a Kitchin delinquent in the convention at Charlotte (Continued on Page Three).

BANK OFFICERS VISIT ASHEVILLE

A group of officials prominent in the management of the Wachovia Bank and Trust company are visitors in the city, from the home office at Winston-Salem, guests at the Battery Park hotel. In the party are F. H. Fries, president; W. H. Willis, manager of the bond department; A. H. Eller, secretary; J. A. Gray, treasurer. The capital of the company is listed at a million and a quarter of dollars and the bank is regarded as the strongest in North Carolina.

Mr. Eller was formerly chairman of the state democratic executive committee and has been prominently mentioned as a candidate for attorney general.

REPUBLICANS READY FOR PARTY COUNCIL

Richmond Pearson Denies Report That He Will Withdraw From the Race.

Republicans of the tenth district who cannot attend the congressional convention in this city tomorrow will wait anxiously to hear whether harmony reigned or whether the question of who shall go to Chicago ends in a row more complete than the disagreement which characterized the state meeting at Raleigh.

A rumor on the streets this morning that Richmond Pearson, candidate as one of the delegates to the national convention, would withdraw in the interests of party harmony, met prompt denial from the man who is credited with giving the democratic party in this district more trouble than any other republican. Mr. Pearson told a Times reporter that he had no interview to give out further than to say that the report of his stepping down was untrue.

In spite of the general opinion among republicans that no factional issue should be injected into the deliberations, many continue to say that the Roosevelt wing should receive recognition. That Charles J. Harris will be one of the two eligibles seems to be settled today; subject, of course, to those last hour changes that are features of political strife as well as of military conflicts.

Congressman Britt has been in the city several days. In case of disagreement in the early stages of the gathering he is expected to counsel harmony and if need be, perhaps, compromise for the welfare of the party.

The race between Mr. Pearson and Thomas J. Harkins is today the paramount issue. There is a general feeling that McKinley Pritchard, one of the younger members of the party, should be named as presidential elector.

One of the party leaders stated this morning that while some keen, friendly rivalry was expected tomorrow he believed that the deliberations will end in a manner satisfactory to everybody present. However, all who have prophesied appear to realize that political prognostications are, like weather forecasts, come under the head of a science of probabilities, and uncertainties.

Mrs. Virgill Lambert of 16 Turner street received a telegram this morning from Rochester, N. Y., telling of the serious illness of her brother, Joseph Griffin. The message stated that he is not expected to live. Mr. Griffin is a son of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Griffin of Newport, Tenn.

61 OF 63 WITH PEACE REPORTS

Nearly Every Letter Written About Christy-Warren Case Warmly Commends Governor's Clemency.

EXPRESSIONS ARE FROM EVERY PART OF STATE

Only Two Letters Censorous; One Doubtful—Congratulations From Leading Men of North Carolina.

Special to The Times.

Raleigh, March 24.—Sixty-three letters came to Governor Craig's desk yesterday and sixty-one bore hearty congratulations upon his conduct Tuesday when he decreed that Ida Bell Warren and S. P. Christy should not be put to death.

This amazingly disproportionate sentiment as reflected in the letters has pleased Governor Craig greatly for he had not the slightest chance to find how people in such diverse communities would feel about it. The letters have come from all sections, extreme west and extreme east, and only two are censorious. One from W. M. Cummings of Wilmington agrees with Rev. J. C. Styers of Winston-Salem, the only man who has been offensive to Governor Craig. The other comes from Goldsboro and merely expresses the fear that violence will be encouraged.

These letters have come also from all sorts and conditions of men. The ministers were uniformly with him yesterday and fine sentiments were written by Judge H. G. Connor, former member of the Supreme court and now the District federal judge of this circuit, Judge W. S. O'B. Robinson cheers the governor; Congressman Bob Page writes him heartily; A. J. McKinnon is delighted; and Postmaster A. H. Boyden of Salisbury thanks God for a merciful and brave governor. N. J. House of Kirkston joins the happy throng, and Prof. N. Y. Gultey of the Wake Forest department of law, congratulates the state. Without an exception, these letters heartily and unreservedly applaud Governor Craig and they believe that he has satisfied their neighbors.

Mad at the Preacher.

J. J. Barrow, clerk of Franklin court, writes Governor Craig that he had perused with great indignation the telegram from Rev. J. C. Styers and unless Brother Styers is a mythical person Mr. Barrow was pretty sure on him. Brother Styers isn't fit to be a minister. Fact is, it seems that the Baptist gentleman took the occasion to become known as "wit" a hot telegram at the governor. Neighbors of the minister have written the chief executive about him so that there is no doubt of the genuineness of the telegram.

Then a fine letter came from James E. Tharpe of Statesville, who says Governor Craig has immortalized himself. "You took the right stand," he said, "and it is enough to make you immortal." Then Mr. Tharpe, fearing the governor might think him effusive, put down in the southwest corner these words: "I am a republican." Mr. Tharpe would not have anybody believe that Governor Craig is entitled to a niche in infamy's hall of fame.

Page's High Praise.

Congressman Robert N. Page, may have written out the abundance of a critical experience, but he writes heartily all the same. He tells the governor that the exercise of the pardoning power isn't anything to make Mr. Page over-enthusiastic, "but just a line to congratulate you upon your action in the Christy-Warren case. Your action is wise, in my judgment, and therefore commendable. Pay no attention to your critics. The future will vindicate you."

Mr. Page thinks there are other things, too. He writes his letter in his own hand and stops his work to cheer a fellow servant of the people.

A. C. Hunslett, prominent attorney of Albemarle, is gratified at the course of the governor and tells him not to worry about his critics. The letters thus far received furnish very little reason for such worry because they have not furnished critics.

Judge Connor's Tribute.

Judge H. G. Connor says: "I love a man who sees clearly and acts bravely. After all it isn't so much what the state was to do to the wretched woman as what the woman would do to the state." Governor Craig liked the sentiment. Judge Connor also writes his letter of some length in his own hand.

T. M. Bynum, cotton dealer, recalls the fact that he sat as a Kitchin delinquent in the convention at Charlotte (Continued on Page Three).

PEACE REPORTS FROM GERMANY

Cable News Indicates That Germany May Soon Request U. S. to Take Action Toward Peace.

GERARD REQUESTED TO REMAIN IN BERLIN

German Chancellor Said to Have Stated to Ambassador Terms Germany Would Consider.

Washington, March 24.—Talk of peace in Europe again is filtering in over the cables. Thus far it is indefinite in character. Four days ago Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg, of the German empire, summoned United States Ambassador Gerard to the foreign office in Berlin and expressed the hope that the ambassador would not carry out his plans for a vacation in the near future. The ambassador had been thinking seriously of leaving Berlin for several weeks, possibly for two months. The chancellor then informed the ambassador, according to information that is deemed most dependable, that the time is near at hand when the principle on which world peace can be established will be considered.

The German chancellor went so far as to state in an informal way the terms on which the German empire would be willing to make peace at this time. These terms are:

1. The restoration of Belgium.
2. Indemnity to be paid Germany in return for the abandonment of that part of France occupied by the German army.
3. The restoration to Germany of the colonies she possessed in Africa at the outbreak of the war.

Undoubtedly Ambassador Gerard gained impression from conversation with the German chancellor that the German empire believes that the time is ripe for preliminary peace talk, in any event. The fact that Ambassador Gerard was summoned to the foreign office is regarded as a sign that the German government is requesting the United States ambassador to remain in Berlin means that if in the immediate future Germany decides to make a formal peace proposal to the allies, the United States government will be the instrument through which that proposal will be made. It would seem that no other interpretation could rightly be placed on the action of the chancellor. It is not understood that the United States government will take any official notice of the informal conference of the German chancellor with Ambassador Gerard. In other words, this government, on the strength of the information it now has, will not say to the entente powers that Germany is willing to talk peace.

After almost a year of friction between the United States and the imperial German government over the submarine issue growing originally out of the sinking of the Lusitania, the information from the German chancellor that this government is to be made the medium through which peace negotiations will be proposed has come as something of a surprise.

REPUBLICANS READY FOR PARTY COUNCIL