

WEATHER
Partly cloudy, probably local showers Friday and Saturday.

The News and Observer

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PRESIDENT'S OPPONENTS FIRE FROM NEW BATTERY

Storm Center of the Attack is Section of Defensive Treaty With France

REPUBLICAN SENATORS CALL FOR THE DOCUMENT

Claim That It Was Agreed That It Should Be Presented at Same Time of German Treaty in the Senate; Blocked by Arkansas Senator's Objection, Request For Consideration of Lodge Resolution Comes Up Again Today; Talk of Taft's Six Interpretations

(By The Associated Press.)
Washington, July 24.—While Republican and Democratic Senators were feeling out the possibilities of former President Taft's plan for interpretation of the League of Nations ratification in the Senate, a storm center of the attack was renewed today from a new quarter. The storm center of the assault was a section of the defensive treaty with France which published texts have shown to provide that it must be presented for Senate ratification "at the same time" as the treaty with Germany. The latter was submitted two weeks ago; the former, brought back from Paris by the President, still is in his possession.

In an hour of bitter debate, Chairman Lodge, of the foreign relations committee, and Senator Brandegee, Republican, of Connecticut, accused the President of violating the pledge of simultaneous presentation made when he signed the treaty.

Senators Hitchcock, of Nebraska, and Williams, of Mississippi, Democrats of the committee, replied that the charges only renewed an attempt to "hamstring" and discredit the President.

Later Chairman Lodge presented a resolution by which the Senate would "respectfully request" that the treaty be submitted so that the Senate could consider it "in connection with the treaty of peace with Germany."

A request for immediate consideration was blocked by Senator Robinson, Democrat, of Arkansas, and the resolution probably will come up tomorrow. It carries this quotation from section 4 of the treaty, as published: "The present treaty will be submitted to the Senate at the same time as the treaty of Versailles is submitted to the Senate for its advice and consent to ratification."

Talk About Taft's Interpretations.
The suggestion of Mr. Taft for six interpretations in the ratification resolution affecting the league covenant led to no discussion on the Senate floor but held first place in cloak room talk and in many conferences among Senators of all shades of opinion. Most of them seemed inclined to look warily at the suggested plan and to withhold comment for the present. Chairman Lodge had nothing to say; neither had Senator Hitchcock. Both, however, indicated their positions had been in no wise changed by Mr. Taft's arguments.

Working For Middle Course.
The group of Republicans who under the leadership of Senators McCumber, North Dakota, and McNary, Oregon, are working for a middle course, received the former President's views with enthusiasm, although not committing themselves specifically to his program of interpretations. They say the form of any reservations or interpretation still is an open question among them, though they hope to see it settled soon.

WILSON AND THE TAFT SUGGESTION

President Knew in Advance of The Six Stipulations Submitted

RESERVATIONS MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED IN WEEKS

Administration Senators Still Confident of Ratification Without Change; Group of Republicans Continue Efforts on Reservation Agreement; Guessing at Results

(By The Associated Press.)
Washington, July 24.—It was said today that President Wilson had known of Mr. Taft's interpretation plan for several days and it also developed that the former President had opened correspondence on the subject with the Democratic side in the Senate. It remained conjectural how far these negotiations might go toward bringing some Democrats and some Republicans together on the middle ground of interpretative reservations, but the Republicans who favor the league idea seemed more confident than ever that in the end Mr. Wilson himself would be found committed to such a course.

Lodge Declines To Talk.
Publication today of Mr. Taft's letters to Will H. Hays, the Republican national chairman, was followed by a telephone conversation between Mr. Hays, who is in Indiana, and Senator Lodge, Mr. Lodge declined to discuss his talk with the chairman, but it was understood the latter had called up in regard to the letters which he said had not yet reached him. They were sent from Canada Sunday by way of Mr. Hays' office in New York.

While Senator Lodge also declined to go into his views on the Taft proposal, other Senators who have stood close to him in the treaty fight indicated they considered the development as a break in the ranks of league supporters which eventually would widen to permit radical amendment of the covenant or even rejection of the entire treaty.

Sizing Up Taft's Change in Position.
They pointed out that the former President heretofore had stood consistently for unreserved ratification and declared that his letters to Mr. Hays and to Senators showed that the President had lost one of the most valuable exponents of his cause.

In administration circles, however it was pointed out Mr. Taft had written that he still believed the treaty should be ratified without reservation. The former President's belief that such a course now was impossible it was declared, was due entirely to unfamiliarity with the Senate situation.

Taft Has Others.
It developed today that Mr. Taft's list of six interpretations was only one of the methods of qualifying Senate ratification discussed in letters to Mr. Hays and to Senators. Many letters on the subject had been written by the former President and it is under-

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AFTER ANARCHISTS AND PROFITEERS

British Government Will Protect People From Both Alike, Says Bonar Law

(By The Associated Press.)
London, July 24.—The whole force of the British government "will be exerted to protect the people from any undue pressure" Andrew Bonar Law, government leader, told the House of Commons today when asked what was being done regarding the confusion and disorder resulting from dock workers' and miners' strikes.

OFFICERS CLUBBED SOLDIER PRISONERS

Dozens of Bandaged Heads Sent To Hospitals Daily By Black-Jacks

LETTER SAYS MANY FELL DOWN FROM STARVATION

Inhuman Treatment of U. S. Soldiers in Prison For Minor Offenses in France Being Investigated; Letter Presented by Senator Harding Prefers Charges

(By The Associated Press.)
Washington, July 24.—Effort to fix responsibility of superior officers for mistreatment of American military prisoners in detention camps and jails in and near Paris will be made by a House war investigating committee next week.

Chairman Johnson announced tonight that former Sergeant Clarence Ball, who is serving a six months' sentence at Fort Jay, New York, for mistreating prisoners while he was a guard at one of the camps, would appear before the committee Monday.

"Beat the prisoners or be beaten yourself," is the choice that Ball says was given him by superior officers, according to a letter written by Ball to Representative Dalling, of Massachusetts, who turned it over to the committee. At Prison Farm No. 2, where Ball was an "assistant" of Lieutenant "Hardboiled" Smith, who also is in prison for mistreatment of soldiers, Ball's letter asserts that he and other guards did their "best not to misuse the prisoners, and it did not suit Smith."

"I admit that I hit prisoners," wrote Ball, but the former sergeant said, "I could tell you a lot more if I could only talk with you."

Other witnesses also will be called by Johnson's committee to the inquiry, the chairman announcing that every effort would be made to fix ultimate responsibility.

Further charges of cruelty to soldiers in prisons in France were made in a letter presented today by Senator Harding, Republican, of Ohio, and referred to the Senate military committee for consideration in connection with the bill of Senator Chamberlain, Democrat, of Oregon, proposing cancellation of all military sentences for offenses not felonies under the Federal statutes.

The letter was from Frank Woods, of Youngstown, Ohio, who was dishonorably discharged from the army after serving ten months of a three-year sentence. Woods declared that he saw Lieutenant Disjordan, a prison officer, knock down prisoners with a blackjack.

"I also saw Lieut. Col. Maul take a prisoner out, handcuff and shackle his feet, gag him and spread the eagle with him because he tried to get a letter to his people telling them of the treatment he received at the prison camp," said Woods, adding that he himself got twenty days solitary confinement on bread and water for attempting to advise his relatives of his sentence.

PALMER BEFORE THE COMMITTEE

New Attorney General In Fight For Confirmation By The Senate

HE DEFENDS HIS ACTS WHILE ALIEN CUSTODIAN

Never Passed Personally On Single Claim While Property Custodian, All Such Matters Handled By Subordinates; Answers Criticisms of Kennard and Others

(By The Associated Press.)
Washington, July 24.—A. Mitchell Palmer, before the Senate judiciary committee today, renewed his fight for Senate confirmation of his nomination as Attorney-General and again vigorously defended his administration as alien property custodian. He replied to charges of improper administration of alien enemy property, made by Harold Remington, a New York lawyer, and Leslie S. Kennard, an Indiana attorney, holding a position in the alien property custodian's office.

Mr. Remington appearing before the committee in person, declared that as the department of justice must pass on many acts and claims of the alien property custodian's office, Mr. Palmer's appointment as Attorney-General was highly improper.

Answers Kennard Charges.
General charges of improper administration were made by Mr. Kennard in a statement recently submitted to the committee by Senator New, Republican. Ball's letter asserted that he and other guards did their "best not to misuse the prisoners, and it did not suit Smith."

Mr. Palmer declared there was nothing inconsistent in his jurisdiction of claims for property made against the alien property custodian. Declaring that he had never passed personally on a single claim, as such matters were handled by subordinates, Mr. Palmer added:

"Besides, these claims must be settled by legislation of Congress after peace is proclaimed. I have no doubt that Congress will provide the machinery to prevent men from occupying inconsistent positions."

"Some Delicacy of Ethics."
Senator Sterling, Republican of South Dakota, insisted, however, that there was "some delicacy of ethics in the situation."

Referring to the statement of Mr. Remington, Mr. Palmer said that he had no doubt that Congress will provide the machinery to prevent men from occupying inconsistent positions.

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TO SELL SURPLUS OF FOODSTUFF

Investigation Committee Recommends Sale of Stock Worth \$120,000,000

TO GIVE PEOPLE OF U. S. OPPORTUNITY TO BUY IT

Republican Majority of Committee Charges That Indisposition of Government To Sell Has Been Due To Policy of Baker To Protect Producers and Manufacturers

(By The Associated Press.)
Washington, July 24.—Immediate sale of the \$120,000,000 surplus stock of foodstuffs held by the War Department under a plan which will "insure opportunity for the people of the United States to buy" was recommended today by the ten Republican members of the House war investigation committee. The five Democratic committeemen withheld decision, pending a review of evidence taken by a sub-committee.

Why It Is Being Held.
"The inactivity of the government in the disposition of these food supplies was and is the result of a well defined policy of the Secretary of War to withhold them from the domestic market and to protect the interests from which these products had been purchased," said the sub-committee report, drafted by Representatives Reavis, Nebraska, and MacGregor, New York, Republicans.

Chairman Graham, of the full committee, was instructed to ask for a special rule on a resolution calling upon the War Department to sell the goods. Efforts will be made to bring the resolution before the House next Monday, Graham announced.

While H. C. of L. Continues to Hold Sway.
The report criticized what it declared the department's "non-activities in the sale of very large quantities of food supplies now held in storage" and asserted that six months elapsed before any surplus stock was declared, while "in the meantime the food was deteriorating and becoming of less value and the high cost of living continued."

The report also expressed "the sub-committee's disfavor of a policy of export" and recommended that "plans be devised by the Secretary of War through the War Department, for the early disposition of all surplus food production on the domestic market."

Value of Surplus Stocks Held.
The report estimated that on July 8, last, the value of surplus food stored in the United States over and above the needs of the army was as follows: Corn beef, \$24,000,000; bacon, \$25,000,000; hash corn beef, \$10,000,000; roast beef \$29,000,000; fresh frozen meats and poultry, \$20,000,000, and canned vegetables, \$23,000,000.

"Inexcusable delay," the report declared, resulted in the spoiling of millions of pounds of hams and bacon, it being asserted that "notwithstanding the authorization of surplus by the chief of staff on Nov. 30, 1918, no action was taken with reference to declaring a surplus until May, 1919, six months after the declaration was authorized."

Sale of army food stocks in the United States aggregate \$120,000,000, said the report, adding that "a very large quantity of that sold was spoiled and unfit for the general market—otherwise it would not have been placed on sale."

RATIFICATION IS THE SOLDIERS' DUE

Senator Fletcher, of Florida, Presents Argument For League Covenant

ATTACKS EFFORT TO SEPARATE IT FROM TREATY

Opposition Is Against Any Plan and That Nothing Would Satisfy Some of Them; We Are Involved in Fates of Other Nations Whether We Like It or Not

(By The Associated Press.)
Washington, July 24.—"The crosses that speak of heroism and sacrifice, extending from the English Channel to the Swiss border, reach out their arms in mute appeal to the representatives of civilized peoples to see to it that such slaughter, destruction and barbarity shall never again blight the earth," said Senator Fletcher of Florida, speaking in the Senate today in behalf of the League of Nations. "The President has pointed the way of hope for humanity and assurance for the world. Shall this Senate turn its back and refuse its advice and consent?"

Due the Dead and Maimed.
It is due the dead and maimed of all the Allied armies and the bereaved of the home population, he said, that the enlightened nations of the earth should see to it on the final settlement of terms that provision be made whereby never again should any autocrat or military clique be able to "pour the sweet milk of concord into hell."

Expressing regret that the Senate "cannot unite, as did those around the peace table," Senator Fletcher criticized opponents of the league covenant inclusion in the treaty.

Nothing Would Suit Opponents.
"They not only oppose the League of Nations plan before us," he said, "but they are opposed to any kind of a plan. It is not worth while to discuss the details of the plan submitted so far as they are concerned. It could not be made satisfactory to them. No amendment, no reservation, no separate construction, no condition could be framed that would cause it to meet with their favor. They argue that any covenant with certain nations, any alliance, would mean a certain relinquishment of our sovereignty, a sacrifice in some degree of our independence, and they are unwilling to allow either."

Can See No Danger.
"I am utterly unable to see any danger or find any grounds for objections in the terms of the covenant submitted; there would be, of course, some right of free and independent action surrendered just as there is under any contract an individual may make. The consideration received is a fair exchange, in the one case as in the other. The covenants of all the other nations, the relinquishments and yielding of arbitrarily unrestrained action on their part, is an independent consideration. The concessions, which are mutual, for certain definite and fixed objects, is shared by all for the good of all. The return of what is given up balances the giving."

The "Isolation Idea."
Pointing to the improvement in facilities for transportation and communication during the past century, Senator Fletcher said that those who held the "isolation idea" took "no cognizance of the progress made in the sciences and arts and ignores the increase in population and expansion which has brought"

Wilmington Young Woman and High Point Man Meet Death at Wrightsville

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WOULD CAPITALIZE RECENT RAGE RIOT

Liquor Interests Attribute The Washington Outbreak To Prohibition Movement

BROWNLOW ATTACKS THIS INSIDIOUS PROPAGANDA

Ministers Agree With District Commissioner That This Vicious Conspiracy Was Entered Into By Unscrupulous Men; Congressman Pou Tells Republicans Pertinent Facts

The News and Observer Bureau, 633 District National Bank Bldg. By FRANK W. LEWIS. (By Special Leased Wire.)
Washington, July 24.—The liquor interests are attributing the race riots in Washington to prohibition. It has developed that there is propaganda here to prove to the public that the lawlessness and reign of terror existing here for several days have been superinduced by enforced prohibition. Not only has Commissioner Brownlow attacked this insidious and dangerous propaganda but the Washington ministers have announced that they will expose it from their pulpits. The ministers agree with Mr. Brownlow that this vicious conspiracy to capitalize an unfortunate situation has been entered into by unscrupulous and designing men, and that this propaganda of the wets is being industriously spread to the great detriment of the community.

The wets are arguing desperately to bring about some modification in the prohibition enforcement bill, which has just passed the House and is now pending in the Senate, and they are employing all kinds of devices to attain this end. A local newspaper which has made a vigorous fight for light wine and beer makes the statement this afternoon that the bill will be tossed down in some of its provisions in the Senate.

Senate May Amend It.
Representative Webb, of North Carolina, said the bill was based on the various prohibition State laws, and that it was his opinion that the Senate would not make any very material changes, but, he said, that likely the Senate would change the section which makes it unlawful for a man, who possesses liquor lawfully, to move it from one house to another.

Senator Sterling, chairman of the sub-committee, considering enforcement legislation, gave it as his opinion that the Senate will pass its own bill, drawn by its own committee, instead of trying to put its view into the House measure by amendment.

Senator Shields, of Tennessee, a member of the Judiciary committee, said: "If the House bill is as drastic as it has been reported to me to be, I should say the Senate will find it necessary to liberalize it through amendments."

Resolutions taking issue with the statement of Representative Kahn that crime has increased under prohibition and that the recent riots here were caused by prohibition, were adopted today by the executive committee of State Superintendents and officers of the Anti-Saloon League of America.

Republicans Are Fooled.
The House Republicans this morning when they were considering a resolution to investigate the activities of the United States Shipping Board, thought the Democrats would object, but in this they were mistaken, as the Democrats voted unanimously for the investigation. However, the Democrats did strenuously object to the partisan appointment of the committee. They contended that the minority were entitled to a larger representation than was accorded by the majority forces, but this they were denied.

Representative Pou, of North Carolina, made some very pointed and pertinent remarks on the attitude of the Republicans toward the performance of the administration during the war. He charged that it was all for political effect.

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