

UNION CHIEFS CALL CONFERENCE TO PASS ON WILSON PROPOSAL

Tentative Acceptance of Proposition For Tribunal To Consider Demands

PRESIDENT CALLS UPON BROTHERHOOD TO STOP RECENT STRIKE ORDER

Sends Telegram To Head of Maintenance Workers Making Request 'To Make Sure That No Interruption To Transportation Occurs'; General Conference of Union Committee Men Meets in Washington February 23 To Decide Whether To Press Government For Increased Wages

Washington, Feb. 14.—The railroad wage controversy was referred today to a general conference of union committee men, called to meet here February 23 for final decision as to whether the labor demands for increased pay will be pressed on the government or passed on to the railroad corporations soon to resume control of their properties.

Representatives of the fourteen unions, who have been conferring with Director General Hines since February 3 and whose spokesmen laid their claims before President Wilson yesterday, have tentatively accepted the White House proposal for a tribunal, created either by law or on the President's motion to consider the demands. Final word must come, however, from higher union authority, the conference of union heads.

Fear Effect of Delay. While union leaders feared the effect of further delay on their membership, the possibility of a general strike appeared more remote tonight. Officials of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes and Shop Laborers did not sign the letter accepting Mr. Wilson's proposal and their strike set for next Tuesday was not called off until tonight. The Brotherhood delegates heard telegraphed A. Z. Barker, president of the maintenance workers, arguing that the strike be called off and Mr. Barker complied by postponing the strike indefinitely.

The President tonight supplemented the action of the union leaders with a telegram to Mr. Barker, calling upon him to withdraw the strike order and to "make sure that no interruption to transportation occurs." Mr. Wilson said he felt sure that the officials of the maintenance union would realize that "you cannot in justice to your membership and the citizens generally of the United States, persist in a course which is opposed to your obvious duty to the country."

Wilson Sends Telegram. The President's telegram, addressed to Mr. Barker at Detroit, follows:

"Yesterday I addressed to the chief executives of the principal railroad labor organizations including the one of which you are president, a message, a copy of which has been transmitted to you at Detroit. I have just received a response indicating the purpose of the organization generally to conform to the principles of my message, to bring it to the attention of the membership and to hold a convention here on February 23, for the purpose of carrying the matter into effect. I note with surprise and disappointment that your organization is the only one addressed which has not expressed its concurrence in this method of handling the matter and I understand that no advice has yet been received of withdrawal of your strike order which was sent out several days ago. The director general of railroads explained this situation to your committee as soon as it presented to him advice of the strike order and he has since summarized the position of the government in a telegram to you which I fully endorse. I ask you to take at once the necessary steps to withdraw the strike order and to make sure that no interruption whatever to transportation occurs on that account in this critical period. I feel sure that you and your associates upon full consideration will realize that you cannot in justice to your membership and the citizens generally of the United States persist in a course which is opposed to your obvious duty to the country, to the direct and specific request of the government and also to the attitude of all other railroad labor organizations, all for the mere purpose of obstructing the procedure. I have proposed which is the only practicable method of obtaining a prompt and reasonable settlement of the important wage questions now pending. I also ask you to send my message and its inclosure to all your members and give them the opportunity of co-operating with all the rest of railroad labor in handling the matter.

(Signed) "WOODROW WILSON."

Proposes Wage Commission. Assurance was given the union officials by the President in his proposal that he would provide machinery for dealing comprehensively with their claims. He proposed the naming of a commission of wage experts to begin the compilation of data bearing on the controversy.

The President said he was "certain it is apparent to all reasonable men and women . . . that these momentous questions must be dealt with by an agency which can continue to function after March 1."

Mr. Wilson said he recognized the

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STRIKE OF MAINTENANCE OF WAY MEN CALLED OFF FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD.

Detroit, Feb. 14.—The strike of 300,000 members of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes and Railway Shop Laborers, set for next Tuesday, was tonight indefinitely postponed by A. E. Baker, international president of the union, in accordance with the request of President Wilson that action be delayed until after the general conference of railway union committee men on February 23.

Notice of the decision to postpone the strike was communicated to Director General Hines by Mr. Barker in the following message:

"In compliance with recommendations of the committee of the Brotherhood now at Washington I am indefinitely postponing the strike order which was to have become effective Tuesday morning, February 17. However, I am confirmed in my belief that strike action would have been eminently justified to force favorable action on the wage demands of the men for whom I speak. It is evident our committee did not desire that the maintenance of way brotherhood should be driven into a position seemingly forgetful of the public interest due to unfriendly interests including the avenues of information by which the public can be reached, the people being ignorant of actual conditions among these railway workers. I desire to impress upon you with all the force at my command the absolute necessity of relief for our members immediately if a most serious situation from which there will be no retreat is to be avoided."

SENATE WANTS TO KNOW ABOUT SHIPS

Asks President If Any Agreement Made Regarding Sale of German Vessels

Washington, Feb. 14.—President Wilson was asked in a Senate resolution adopted late today what agreement, if any, he had made with British authorities regarding the disposition of the German ships offered for sale by the Shipping Board.

The resolution was presented by Senator Brandegee, Republican, Connecticut, who told the Senate he had heard of what he considered good authority that the President had entered into an understanding as to final disposition of all the German vessels which came in to American possession during the war and after the armistice.

The Senate acted virtually without debate.

"I have not the knowledge in the sense of having seen any of the documents," said Senator Brandegee, "but I have the information from a friend of mine who I consider reliable."

The resolution requests the President to inform the Senate "whether any and if so what agreement or understanding exists between him and officials of Great Britain, concerning the disposition by the United States of America of the German ships which the Shipping Board is proposing to sell or which were acquired by the United States after the termination of hostilities between the United States and the Central European Teutonic powers."

The proposed sale of the German ships by the shipping board was denounced as a "high handed piece of action" by Senator McKellar, Democrat of Tennessee, speaking today in the Senate in connection with his resolution introduced yesterday which would prevent the sale from taking place. The Senate rules prevented the resolution however, from being called up for consideration.

Senator Williams, Democrat of Mississippi, called attention to the act creating the Shipping Board which he said authorized the board to "buy, build or sell ships" but the Tennessee Senator in reply asserted that these ships were not acquired under the Shipping Board act but were seized in American ports and declared that the government would not receive a title to them until the peace treaty was finally ratified.

ARMED WITH RIFLES MEN GUARD BIG SUGAR PLANT.

New Orleans, Feb. 14.—Armed with quick firing rifles fifty men were placed on guard at the Chalmette plant of the American Sugar Refinery late today following a fight between union and non-union men this morning in which Sidney Adolph, negro non-union man, was shot and killed.

The clash came this morning when a passenger train from New Orleans stopped at the station and switched a car said to contain non-union workers to take the place of the plant employees who struck demanding recognition of their newly formed union and increased wages.

Sixteen Tourists Killed.

San Remo, Italy, Feb. 14.—Sixteen tourists were killed and twenty-one others injured when a motor bus fell into a river while traveling along the road from Taggia to Triona, near here. The newspapers say the bad condition of the road was responsible for the accident.

Annual Swigert, 1 1/2 mile flat race, \$2.50 purse and cup, Pinehurst, Wednesday.—Adv.

GOVERNMENT WILL PROBE CHARGES OF WRONG TREATMENT

Surgeon General Ireland Says Oteen Hospital Complaints Will Be Investigated

SENATOR SIMMONS ASKS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

Another Letter Alleging Inhuman Treatment of Patients Received; U. S. Marshal Charles A. Webb Asks For Investigation; Mrs. Rogers Wires Request

The News and Observer Bureau, 603 District National Bank Bldg. By R. E. POWELL. (By Special Licensed Wire.)

Washington, Feb. 14.—The charge that patients and prisoners at Oteen, the government's general hospital near Asheville, have been inhumanly treated by officers and guards, is to be probed to the limit, Surgeon General Ireland, of the army, told the News and Observer correspondent this afternoon.

Particulars of the charges made by Joseph Bishop and Sergeant Fitzgerald, patients at the hospital, had not been received at the office of the Surgeon General this afternoon but a telegram from Colonel Lyster, the officer in charge at Oteen, said that full particulars had been sent by registered mail.

General Ireland was shown, however, the letter to Senator Simmons, from Walter P. Whelan, supposedly a patient there also, in which Whelan says that he saw the guard in the hospital mess hall strike a patient with the butt of a gun. When the other patients resented this treatment, Whelan charges that the lieutenant in command at the time threatened to "open fire" unless quiet was restored.

Asks For Investigation.

As indicated in his answer to Joseph Bishop on Thursday, Senator Simmons today sent a letter to Surgeon General Ireland asking for an immediate investigation. The soldier patients and Mr. Lankin C. Rogers, of Asheville, wired the North Carolina Senators urging that a civilian investigation into conditions at Oteen be ordered but the policy of the War Department is that "we can investigate our own troubles."

The inspector that will be sent to Asheville on Monday is, however from the inspector general's department of the army. He will be directed to make a full and complete investigation of the charges that have been made regarding the Oteen situation. Oteen is a hospital, where the patients have been better treated than anywhere in the country," General Ireland said this afternoon. "The mess is excellent and inspectors from this office who returned just a few days ago reported conditions highly satisfactory to the department. Colonel Lyster has reported by wire a 'disturbance' there, pointing out that the principal offender was a prisoner who is kept under guard."

Oteen he added, is taking care of approximately one thousand patients and the mess served there is the most expensive served in any of the government hospitals. In addition to the complaints lodged with Senators Simmons and Overman, Senators Chamberlain, ranking Democratic member of the Senate military affairs committee, and Senator Wadsworth, chairman of the committee received telegrams from Mrs. Rogers urging an inspection of conditions at once.

Webb Writes Senator. Charles A. Webb, United States Marshal for the western district, wrote Senator Simmons that in his judgment the charges ought to be investigated. "There have been complaints of the treatment the soldiers at this hospital have received more or less for the last five or six months," said Mr. Webb. "I do not know the commanding officer very well but the general impression is that he is a cold-blooded, unsympathetic official who is rather 'stuck up' and independent."

The letter which Senator Simmons received from Whelan today reads as follows:

Whelan's Complaint. "The undersigned hereby states that he witnessed on the evening of February 11, 1920 a guard striking a patient while seated, across the face with his hand. As patient got up to defend himself, the guard drew gun and struck said patient on the head with butt. Upon sight of this the other patients in mess hall became excited, generally. Upheaval started immediately. Lieutenant Williams, commander of the guard, arrived, mixed in the fight and succeeded in getting the patient by the neck under his arm.

Following this Lieutenant Williams stood on a table and ordered quiet and threatened to give his guard orders to shoot. Conditions were peaceful until Lieutenant Williams and his guards started coming into the mess hall and called down and arrested sick and convalescent patients, because of non-military appearance, although a majority of those men present had on gray convalescent suits and were not even in uniform.

Senator Simmons Writes.

In asking for this investigation, Senator Simmons wrote Surgeon General Ireland:

"I wish to call your attention to a matter that is giving me very great concern and which has aroused the people of North Carolina to much indignation. "A day or two ago, I received a telegram charging that officers at the United States General Hospital No. 19, Oteen,

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SENATOR REED'S STATE ELECTS DEMOCRAT AGAIN

Excelsior Springs, Mo., Feb. 14.—The election of Captain J. L. Milligan, Democratic candidate and League of Nations advocate, over John E. Frost, Republican and league opponent, as representative in Congress for the Third district was conceded at 9:30 o'clock tonight by W. L. Cole, chairman of the Republican State committee.

Capt. Milligan's majority, Chairman Cole said, will be between 1,700 and 1,800.

The election was to choose a successor in Congress to Secretary of Commerce Alexander and the League of Nations was the dominant issue in the campaign.

MEETINGS NEEDED, REDFIELD STATES

Former Member of President's Cabinet Enters Defense of Secretary Lansing

New York, Feb. 14.—The cabinet meetings called by Secretary Lansing were necessary, if the nation's business was to proceed regularly, former Secretary of Commerce William C. Redfield, declared in a statement here tonight, in which he expressed the belief that "other causes" than the calling of the cabinet session by Mr. Lansing "lay behind the President's request for his resignation."

"The request for Secretary Lansing's resignation was a great surprise and shock to me," said Mr. Redfield, who was a member of President Wilson's cabinet until November last. "I was present at the first meeting of the cabinet under Mr. Lansing. The members sent word to Mr. Wilson through Dr. Grayson that they were meeting and expressed hope that the President would have a speedy recovery. Admiral Grayson brought back an inquiry from Mr. Wilson as to what business was on hand and the cabinet members replied that they had met in conference to determine their duty in view of his disability."

"No word of disapproval of our meetings ever came from the White House to the best of my knowledge. The cabinet gatherings were voluntary, informal as to my mind, necessary if the nation's business was to proceed regularly and with intelligent knowledge of progress made."

"I accept my share of responsibility for what was done. To my knowledge there was never the faintest suggestion in word or spirit that the cabinet members were trying to do anything except help President Wilson during his illness as far as we were able to do."

"Of course, I can speak only what happened up to the time of my withdrawal from the cabinet. As the published correspondence brings out, I am forced to believe that other causes than the request by Secretary Lansing to his colleagues to meet for consultation lay behind the President's request for his resignation."

SUPREME COUNCIL TAKES UP ADRIATIC QUESTION

London, Feb. 14.—The supreme council in an evening session again discussed the Adriatic question, but was chiefly concerned with the Turkish treaty, the drafting of which progressed substantially despite the complexity of the subject as affecting the future of historical cities such as Constantinople and Jerusalem.

No reply has been received as yet from the Jugo-Slavs, except a formal acknowledgement of the allied powers note.

Holland will receive the allied note regarding the former German emperor Sunday evening, but it is uncertain whether the text of the note will be published here simultaneously with the receipt of it by Holland or with Holland's answer. The council adjourned shortly after seven o'clock until Monday.

Wilson Revokes Regulation.

Washington, Feb. 14.—President Wilson has revoked the war-time emergency regulation permitting foreign born ship's officers to hold licenses for American vessels, exception being made in the case of those who have signified their intention of becoming American citizens. A period of three years and three months grace is allowed to complete naturalization.

INFLUENZA TOTAL AGAIN GOES OVER THREE THOUSAND

Increase Due To Reports From Counties Hitherto Silent

BELIEVED THAT WORST OF EPIDEMIC IS PAST

Counties That Have Been Heretofore Reporting Heavily Reported Considerably Fewer Cases Yesterday; Pneumonia Still Prevalent With Relatively Heavy Toll of Deaths

After dropping nearly 50 per cent in Friday's report, influenza totals for the State soared upward yesterday with 3,322 new cases from 50 counties. Several counties reporting for the first time included their entire totals from the beginning of the epidemic, swelling the complete report to figures that health authorities believe does not reflect the trend of the epidemic in the State.

Counties that have been reporting consistently showing from day to day several hundred cases, cut their reports down considerably yesterday, particularly Davidson county, Johnson, Forsyth and Guilford. Local health officers assured the Health Department that the conditions in their counties had materially improved and that within a few days they expected the epidemic to have passed.

Pneumonia Increased.

Pneumonia increased somewhat in the report yesterday with a total of 85 cases. Deaths were somewhat more numerous for the day with a total of 34. Union county led the State in the number of deaths reported, but Dr. Register, State Epidemiologist, was of the opinion that the report was cumulative, since the county had not been heard from for several days. There were no calls for help received during the day.

The report of influenza by counties is as follows:

- Alamance, 74; Bertie, 197; two deaths, Bladen, 29; Cherokee, 25; Cleveland, 50; Craven, 45; Cumberland, 22; Davidson, 90; one death; Duplin, 75; one death; Durham, 130; Edgecombe, 60; Forsyth, 16; Franklin, 76; Gates, 300; two deaths; Granville, 4; Greene, 50; Halifax, 110; Johnston, 16; one death; Lee, 30; Lenoir, 28; Martin, 274; three deaths; Mecklenburg, 45; Mitchell, 10; Montgomery, 25; New Hanover, 6; Northampton, 74; Onslow, 16; Pasquotank, 26; Perquimans, 16; Pitt, 70; Richmond, 18; Rockingham, 41; Rowan, 234; Sampson, 15; Surry, 45; Transylvania, 44; Tyrrell, 25; Union, 150; ten deaths; Vance, 50; Wake, 10; Warren, 25; Washington, 15; Watauga, 18; Wayne, 2; Wilson, 44; Yancey, 165; Winston-Salem, 111; six deaths; Greensboro, 15; two deaths; Charlotte, 56; one death; Wilmington, 50; Raleigh, 70; Goldsboro, 8; Total, 3,222.

Pneumonia was reported as follows:

- Williamston, 17; Asheville, 11; Winston-Salem, 8; Clinton, 11; Yanceyville, 13; Goldsboro, 2; Tarboro, 3; Murphy, 5; Graham, 4; Elizabeth City, 3; Wilmington, 1; Lenoir, 1; Wilson, 3; Oxford, 2; Lexington, 4; Henderson, 6; Durham, 2; Warsaw, 3; Windsor, 3. Total, 85.

BANK STOCKHOLDERS WILL HOLD MASS MEETING.

Newport News, Va., Feb. 14.—Depositors who had accounts with the Colonial State Bank, of Newport News, which institution closed its doors Thursday under an order from the State Corporation Commission have given notice that a mass meeting will be held here Monday night at which time the depositors will consider the matter of securing an attorney or attorneys to represent their interests and if warranted to bring criminal prosecution against those responsible for the bank's financial embarrassment.

Switzerland Enters League.

Berne, Feb. 14.—President Motta read a telegram to parliament today announcing the acceptance of Switzerland into the League of Nations with guarantees for her military neutrality.

JUDGE STACY RETIRES FROM BENCH ON MARCH 1

Wilmington, Feb. 14.—Superior Court Judge W. P. Stacy, of the Eighth Judicial District, late today forwarded to Gov. T. W. Bickett, his resignation to take effect March 1. In his letter to the Governor Judge Stacy says that for some time he has contemplated taking this step and that it is his purpose to return to the bar and devote attention to the practice of the law. This precludes any idea that Judge Stacy is to become a candidate for Congress in the Sixth Judicial District and it is conceded here that he will not enter the race.

Judge Stacy was appointed by Governor Craig and began his term the first of January, 1916. He was re-elected in the fall of 1916 and would have had four more years to serve. He has made an enviable record and will re-enter the practice with fine prospects.

Announcement of Judge Stacy's determination to retire from the bench came as a surprise to Governor Bickett, who had received an intimation of his retirement. The Governor had not received the resignation.

POSSE KILLS MAN NEAR ROCKINGHAM

Bold Highway Robbery By Two White Men Results In Death of High Point Man

Rockingham, Feb. 14.—W. R. Clineard is dead, Rob Greer is in jail at Rockingham and J. Kent Greer is in jail at High Point as a result of a highway robbery near Rockingham Friday night.

A coroner's inquest was held here today over the dead body of Clineard, the verdict being that the deceased came to his death at the hands of Robert Steele, Jr., J. F. Diggs, P. C. Mark-walter, James Alfred and Constable Ed Rogers and that the killing was justifiable and in self defense.

Two Men Held Up.

About dusk Friday night Robert Steele, in his Ford coupe passed a Hudson speedster stalled in the sand about 12 miles south of Rockingham. The stranger J. Kent Greer got in Steele's car and pressing a pistol against Steele's side ordered him to drive to a neighboring house to secure help to extricate his car. When they returned they got the car off safely. The car then apparently went its way.

A few minutes later as Steele and Henry Harrington were driving home a short distance from where the Hudson had been stalled they were accosted by two men who threw a pistol in their faces and commanded them to stop. When they got out of the car the man hit Steele across the head with the butt of his gun and stole from him his pistol, keys, etc. Harrington demonstrated when they took his watch and he, too was knocked on the head. The men then entered the car and drove in the direction the Hudson had gone.

Steele reached the Diggs store and phoned the alarm to Rockingham, the coupe and the Hudson was observed to have passed through the city and at once the sheriff of Richmond county organized a posse of a score of ears to scour the country. The citizens of Eilerly were phoned and they tried to barricade the street with boxes and intercept the Hudson but that car with fearful speed burst through the edge of the obstruction to the accompaniment of shots and sped northward.

Posse Overtakes Men.

Cars were in pursuit and when some distance beyond Eilerly the car containing the above five men came across the Ford coupe standing by the roadside with a wheel broken. The radiator was still warm showing that they were close on the trail. About four miles further they passed two men and stopping they were asked for a ride who stated that their Ford coupe had broken down.

Said Steele to the men: "You don't know me do you?" "No," was the reply. "I'm the man you held up, knocked on the head and from whom you stole a watch and car," and drawing his pistol commanded the men to hold hands. The dead man Clineard, sprang backward, raising as he did so his right hand, which was clutching something in his overcoat pocket. The click of the man's pistol was heard testified Steele, and simultaneously a gun was fired from the car and Clineard fell with a hole torn just under his left temple.

In the meantime the man's partner, Bob Greer, was endeavoring to pull a weapon from his hip pocket, testified by Witness Alfred, but the men in the car covered and made his hands come up. On being searched the watch stolen from Harrington was found on Greer and a pistol just behind him on the ground, where he had dropped it as his hands came up. In the right pocket of the dead man's overcoat was found the pistol he had stolen from Steele and his hand was tightly clenched around the weapon. Also on him was Steele's bunch of keys.

The Rockingham men brought the dead body and the prisoner, Greer, to the city about 3 o'clock this morning. The inquest was held at noon. Bob Greer is in jail awaiting a preliminary hearing on a charge of highway robbery. It is understood J. Kent Greer, is in jail at High Point to also answer to the highway robbery charge.

When interviewed by a reporter today Bob Greer stated that his brother, J. Kent, on Tuesday bought from Jettie Garland at High Point a Hudson speedster that was recently traded in by J. Elwood Cox, that the three men with two show women of Greensboro, left Saturday Wednesday for Columbia. They spent Thursday in Columbia and were returning to High Point when as Greer expresses it, the entire bunch got drunk and the car stuck in the sand where

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POLK MAY SUCCEED LANSING AS STATE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Ambassadors John W. Davis and Henry Wallace Discussed As Possibilities

SECRETARY'S DRAMATIC EXIT CAUSES SENSATION

Secretary Lane, Who Leaves Cabinet March 1, Takes Equal Responsibility With Lansing For Holding Cabinet Meetings; Congress Discusses Situation

Washington, Feb. 14.—Under-Secretary Polk, John W. Davis, ambassador to Great Britain and Hugh C. Wallace, ambassador to France, are foremost among those being discussed to head the State Department as successor to former Secretary Lansing, who announced his resignation after a dramatic clash with President Wilson.

Although it is known that Mr. Polk had determined to return to private life and practice law, some friends of the administration were hopeful that he might be induced to serve out the unexpired term of his former chief.

The Lansing resignation furnished official Washington with a sensation unparalleled since William J. Bryan departed from office. The statement of Secretary Lane, who is leaving the cabinet March 1, that he felt an equal responsibility with Mr. Lansing for holding the cabinet meetings to which President Wilson objected, seemed to add possibilities of further cabinet resignations for a time, but this was disposed of by a statement at the White House that there were to be no further retirements as a result of the incident.

Congress Discusses Sensation.

Congress discussed the sensation with avidity, but in the cloak rooms, however, and the subject did not come up on the floor of either House or Senate. Such comment as was made was more or less divided, opponents of the treaty praising Mr. Lansing's course, and others recalling that one of the President's prerogatives is to select the members of his own official family.

The row served to bring to public light much that has been going on under the surface since President Wilson fell ill, and the principal effect was to emphasize that President Wilson and his former Secretary of State were at loggerheads on many important subjects even before the United States went into the war in 1917, and that these fundamental questions of policy, continued throughout the peace negotiations at Paris and even into the handling of the Mexican situation since the President has been sick.

Accumulation of Conditions.

The best informed of those close to the administration were sure that the climax was the result of an accumulation of conditions which continued over the question of whether the peace treaty and the League of Nations covenant should be separated or treated as one document, ranged into the recent handling of the Mexican situation and wound up in the inside administration discussion of whether the President's illness incapacitated him from discharging the duties of his office.

Mr. Lansing's friends say that in calling the cabinet together he was acting with precedent to support him, and that although as ranking officer of the cabinet he actually called the meetings, other members of the cabinet agreed in the procedure. They point to Secretary Lane's statement that he assumed equal responsibility and that all the cabinet members thought the meeting a good thing.

The under-the-surface discussion of the incident, however, the sort which goes on between officials and is not intended for publication, connects at least the first of the cabinet meetings last October with the speculation which was going on at the time as to whether Vice-President Marshall ought to be called upon to take over the duties of the presidency. While it is known that the subject never came up actually at a meeting of the cabinet officers, it is also known that it was discussed privately, and that some of the reports which were taken to the President included Secretary Lansing's name among those who were discussing that probability. How much this part of the incident had to do with the outcome can only be left to speculation.

Mr. Lansing was not at the department today, and it was understood was preparing to go to his home in Watertown, N. Y., for a vacation and a rest.

President Mentally Alert.

The President's friends made the occasion one to observe that the President's action, like his conference with Senators Fall and Hitchcock on the Mexican situation several weeks ago, served to emphasize that while he may be ill physically, he is in full possession of all his mental faculties.

To the Senate, whose struggle with the peace treaty had given it some insight into the condition of foreign affairs, the revelation of President Wilson's disagreement with his Secretary of State caused less surprise than did the time and manner of the final break between them. Privately, many Democratic Senators expressed regret that the resignation came just on the eve of another effort to ratify the treaty.

Senator Norris, Republican, Nebraska, one of the "irreconcilables," said in a statement the Secretary's resignation showed that "the mental expert that has been employed at the White House has been discharged to go home." Throughout the treaty controversy the tendency of the Republicans has been to exculpate Mr. Lansing from any

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Increase in Subscription Rates Effective March 1, 1920.

On account of the high cost of newsprint paper and all materials that go into the making of a newspaper, The News and Observer is forced to increase its rates to subscribers, effective March 1, 1920. On and after that date the rates will be:

Daily and Sunday, one year	\$9.00
Daily and Sunday, 6 months	4.50
Daily and Sunday, 3 months	2.25
Daily and Sunday, 1 month	.85
Daily and Sunday, 1 week	.20
Daily only, one year	7.00
Daily only, 6 months	3.50
Daily only, 3 months	1.75
Daily only, 1 month	.65
Daily only, 1 week	.15
Sunday only, one year	2.50
Daily and Sunday delivered by carrier in Raleigh and out of town, per week	.20

Payment in advance required. Renewals will be accepted at the old rates until March 1.