

MUCH INTEREST IN REDISTRICTING OF STATE MANIFESTED

Plan To Redistrict State Appears To Be Growing In Favor at Capitol

WOULD SAFEGUARD STATE FOR DEMOCRATIC CAUSE

Advocates of Redistricting Plan Outline Reasons Why Interests of Party in The State Would Be Better Served By Its Adoption; Matter Under Discussion

BRINSON PAIRED AGAINST BILL

New Bern, Dec. 24.—In a statement issued here today Representative Brinson says that he did not vote for the emergency tariff bill as he was represented as doing in the Washington correspondence of the News and Observer's Mr. Brinson's statement follows:

"Mr. Powell's Washington correspondence in today's News and Observer says I voted for the emergency tariff bill. I did nothing of the kind. On the contrary, when I found the debate would continue beyond the time for my boat to leave, I left my pair against the bill."

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

Washington, Dec. 24.—Tar heels here, especially members of the Congressional delegation from North Carolina, manifest more interest in the redistricting plan for the state than anything else right now. It is true that some have indicated that probably it would be safer to allow the districts to remain as they now exist and have two Congressmen from the state at large, as would be the result if the legislature should fail to act, but others contend that it would be better for several reasons to redistrict the state.

Under the Siegel bill, which probably will become the law providing for the representation in the House, North Carolina will have two additional Congressmen. One potent reason assigned for re-districting the State is that the present districts are out of proportion as to their population, some of them having nearly three times the population of others. Some of the delegation think that this ought to be adjusted and the only way to do it is by re-districting. If that plan is adopted, it is said, the state could be as securely safeguarded for the Democrats, as it would be with Congressmen from the state at large.

Danger of Complications.

It is pointed out that with Congressmen from the state at large complications would likely arise over the fact that two districts would have two representatives each in Congress, and there would be continual agitation as to the section of the state that might be entitled to them, whereas if the state were divided into twelve districts, but each district would then choose its own member.

Sensators Simmons and Overman and Representative Doughton, Brinson, Robinson, Kitchin, Weaver and Hoey are spending the holidays at their respective homes in North Carolina and it is expected that they will confer with members of the state legislature pertaining to this matter, and attempt to reach a decision as to the best course to pursue and one that will be to the best interest of the state, and the Democratic party. The combined wisdom of the Democratic leaders it is expected, will prevail in the determination of the policy to be adopted.

PRESIDENT-ELECT SENDS CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Marion, O., Dec. 24.—President-elect Harding issued the following Christmas greeting tonight:

"Take every normal human being, I wish everybody a very-merry Christmas. It gets us out of a rut to join in a national chorus of cheer and good will.

"There is peace, there is confidence in the morrow. There is even cheer in the belief that the distress of today is quickly to pass, and we may hope as well as wish for a prosperous new year."

"BAG OF WHEAT" CAMPAIGN FOR NEAR EAST RELIEF

Spokane, Wash., Dec. 24.—A campaign among members of the Washington Farmers' Union to secure a donation of a sack of wheat from each member for European children's relief, was announced today by A. D. Cross, secretary of the organization. He said the wheat would be collected by local unions and shipped to the coast, where it would be exchanged for flour. He estimated that 10,000 bushels of wheat would be donated.

Weekly Weather Forecast.

Washington, Dec. 24.—Weather predictions for the week beginning Monday are:

North and Middle Atlantic States: Considerable cloudiness; occasional rains and snows. Normal temperatures until latter part of the week, when the weather will turn much colder.

South Atlantic and East Gulf States: Considerable cloudiness and occasional rains. Normal temperatures first half and much colder latter half of week.

New York Central Shops Close.

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 24.—One thousand employees of the New York Central car department at West Albany were idle today, notices having been posted by the company that the shops would remain closed indefinitely. Officials at the shops assigned no reason for the shut down.

MRS. HAMON DENIES SHE SIGNED ANY STATEMENT

Declares Purported Interview Was Highly Colored and Exaggerated

Fort Worth, Texas, Dec. 24.—(By the Associated Press).—Denial that she had signed any statement whatever since she left Ardmore except her letters to her attorneys, and characterization of purported interview by a press association as "highly colored, exaggerated and in many places inaccurate" were made by Mrs. Clara Smith Hamon, charged with the murder of Jake L. Hamon, Oklahoma millionaire, in a signed statement given to the correspondent of The Associated Press aboard her train shortly before her arrival here late today.

The statement was handed to the correspondent, who had accompanied her party from El Paso, by one of her attorneys with the following comment: "This statement was signed by Mrs. Hamon in the presence of nine witnesses, including her attorneys. I guarantee the genuineness of the signature."

Sheriff Garrett, of Ardmore, Oklahoma, where she is to take Mrs. Hamon to face trial, and his party left the train at Benbrook, ten miles west of here, shortly after 5 o'clock this afternoon and proceeded on their way to Fort Worth by automobile. They drove immediately to the law office of McLean, Scott and McLean, where a conference with Mrs. Hamon was held behind closed doors.

Mr. McLean said that Charles A. Coakley, of Ardmore, who is associated with him in the handling of the Hamon case, would proceed to Ardmore immediately, but that their client would remain in Fort Worth with friends until she was "needed in Ardmore."

HARDING AND TAFT TALK OVER LEAGUE

Former President Thinks Mr. Harding Is Working Out Practical Plan

Marion, Ohio, Dec. 24.—President-elect Harding's last conference on the proposed society of nations before casting aside political affairs to enter into the Yuletide spirit and its activities was held today with former President William Howard Taft, whose ideas as to the League of Nations have not always coincided with those of the new party leader.

The former Chief Executive of the nation arrived early this morning from Chicago and had breakfast with Senator and Mrs. Harding. Then they began a conference which continued until about noon, when Mr. Taft left for Cincinnati, where he will spend Christmas with his brother, Charles P. Taft, his son Robert and other relatives.

Neither the former President nor the President-elect would discuss the result of the conference. Mr. Taft, however, gave out a formal statement in which he discussed the Senator's views on the Versailles league and the proposed society of nations advocated by Senator Harding. No intimation was given that cabinet positions were discussed.

Mr. Taft's Statement.

Mr. Taft's statement follows: "I enjoyed very much my conference with Senator Harding. I found that he had been using the conferences with his visitors to formulate and confirm the general views he expressed in his speech of acceptance, and that of August 28, and that he felt confident that the desires of the American people, as interpreted by him in his campaign experiences and in the results of the election, were being given the political and military obligations of the treaty and the league, but that he feels strongly the necessity for reaching a common ground with the leading powers of the world for an agreement that shall secure a gradually effective limitation of armament, a court with jurisdiction over justiciable questions and a conference of nations to negotiate and press a compromise of every non-justiciable question threatening war and which shall give us the benefit of the adjustment of our relations with Germany secured to the United States in the treaty without objectionable features of the provisions of the treaty as shown in the Republican reservations; and without participation in such commissions under the treaty as concern European nations."

Practical Solution.

"I am much encouraged to think that the Senator is working out a practical solution which may not be wholly satisfactory to the enthusiasts at either extreme, of whom I may be considered one, but will satisfy those anxious to make progress and anxious to give the United States the leadership she should have in guiding all the nations to permanent peace so far as that is practicable. Of course, the Senator is properly wary of a definite program because it must depend on the circumstances, which only actual conferences with all concerned may develop, but that he is bent on working out in a very practical way a real and useful agreement is most apparent. He is in an admirable state of mind as to the details and even important provisions, if the definite objections be always expressed to the method and aims and obligations of a political and military character contained in the treaty and the league are obviated, in the new agreement."

Senator Harding has no conferences or engagements scheduled for tomorrow. With Mrs. Harding, he will eat Christmas dinner with half a dozen newspaper men, whom he has invited to be his guests. Most of the morning will be spent by the President-elect and Mrs. Harding opening the hundreds of presents which have been received from all parts of the country.

Earthquake in China.

Tokio, Dec. 23.—A Shanghai dispatch to the Asahi Shinbun reports a terrific earthquake in Kansu province on December 16, with casualties estimated at 2,000.

CHRISTMAS SPIRIT FINDS EASY WAY INTO STATE PRISON

Christmas Tree Celebration Held in Chapel For All Prisoners

MRS. BICKETT MAKES EFFECTIVE LITTLE TALK

There Is Much Music With Soulful Singing On Part of Negro Prisoners; Gifts Are Distributed; Governor Bickett Receives Ovation When He Enters Room

By NELL BATTLE LEWIS

Stone walls are strong and cruel things for the men behind them, but they were not strong or cruel enough to keep out the spirit of Christmas last night when the inmates of the State Prison, white and black, men and women, gathered in the chapel there for a Christmas tree given by the prison authorities in conjunction with the Raleigh Woman's Club.

A stolid audience waited the beginning of the celebration. Home is the place to spend Christmas Eve, and this audience was far removed from home; many had not been with the people who loved them for years, and would not be for as many more again. What were they thinking of, those felons, those thieves and murderers, as they sat and silently looked at the big bright Christmas tree in front of them, or the colored motto framed and hung on one of the walls that read, "And the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanse us from all sin." How close was the connection between the two in their minds!

Governor Gets Big Hand.

In came Governor and Mrs. Bickett. Revolution, and his attitude on the Suffrage may have crowned the Governor, but his six hundred odd pardons are the special star in his gubernatorial crown—certainly from the standpoint of his audience last night. Here was the man who had shown himself again and again disposed "to let the oppressed go free," and the prisoners roused and gave him a hearty hand.

Mr. J. H. Weathers, supt. of the prison Sunday school, directed things. The Rev. Dr. Weston Bruner opened the program with a reading of the second chapter of St. Luke, the Christmas story. The words "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord," were fuller of promise in that bleak chapel than they could ever be in the most cheerful home. Then Mr. W. F. Betts led everybody in singing, "Oh, Little Town of Bethlehem." Mrs. T. T. Harrison spoke for the Woman's Club, and there were other songs, "Night of Nights," by Miss Stitzel of Meredith, and "Holy Night," "Silent Night," by a quartet composed of Misses Mary Wiggs, Mildred Davis, Margaret Highsmith and Ethel Ferrell.

Negroes Sing Hymns.

Then somebody suggested that the negro women prisoners sing the same selection. Before the beginning of the regular program they had poured forth their souls in "Who Will be the Leader When the Bridgroom Comes," "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot." But when in their inimitable way they began that song of Christmas Eve, the shivers began to run up and down the spines of some of their hearers. "Niggers" can sing, nobody else can sing that same way, and a "nigger" woman singing a hymn over the wash tub or the stove or in the prison, it's all the same. There is a plaintively ete note in the song of a real negro. What if some of these women, prisoners had murdered their husbands! It may have blackened their immortal souls, but it didn't hurt their singing, rather, it added something to it, a queer inconsistency. Their fervor, their melodic quavering, their melancholy was enriched. A cross, a sort of strange whine, at the voices gathered, and they swung into the melody. A deep contralto boomed almost like a bass; a high, clear soprano soared over the other voices, clinging to wiled minor. The white quiet, trained and Anglo-Saxon, that had sung previously, was backed right off the map.

A white woman directed their singing; she held those negro women when that same way, and when they sang loudly. That wasn't necessary, because there is no white woman, however musical, above ground who can tell a negro how to sing. A negro sings loud, he "rocks down on the melody" when the spirit moves, not when "escendo" is written on the music sheet. That spirit doesn't err, and it should be let alone.

But in came Santa Claus, red and furry in the person of Dr. W. C. Horton, and following him slipped eight Christmas fairies, little girls in red and blue tarlatan dresses, very gay and sprightly and sweet. Dr. Horton said a few words about Santa Claus meaning love.

Mrs. Bickett Speaks.

The Governor didn't speak. Mr. Weathers said he was too full for utterance because he couldn't send all the prisoners home. But Mrs. Bickett did, and she spoke with that manner which has made her beloved. Mrs. Bickett, talking to those prisoners was a deal more than the wife of a good governor with more than 500 pardons to his credit. She was a simple, genuine Christian woman with a warm heart. The Governor is eloquent but pardon your Excellency, Mrs. Bickett surpassed him last night. It was the spirit form of a kind heart that gave her utterance, and that is the spirit that news maintain as a "happy Christmas." She said, "as to open some doors and say to every man and woman here, 'Go Home!' We are

MOVE PLYMOUTH ROCK TO NEW FOUNDATION



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Photograph shows the famous Plymouth Rock being moved to a new foundation just before the celebration of the tercentenary of the landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, Mass., a few days ago. The little boy beside the rock is William S. Brewster, descendant in the ninth generation of Elder Brewster, of Pilgrim fame.

PAINTER IS HELD ON SERIOUS CHARGE

Twelve-Year-Old Girl Returns To Parents Near Townsville

As the result of an appeal addressed to the News and Observer by the father of the twelve-year-old victim, Clarence E. Painter of near Townsville, has been arrested for a violation of the white slave law and the child is now at the home of her parents in Vance county.

On December 4 the News and Observer printed a letter from Mr. C. H. Robertson stating that Painter, who is 35 years old, had left his own wife and had run away with Willie Lee, the twelve-year-old daughter of the writer. The pair were reported as being en route for Georgia.

Publication of the letter brought the matter to the attention of F. C. Handy, agent in charge of the Department of Justice operations in this State. Mr. Handy immediately reported this incident to the Department of Justice agents in other States and the hunt was on. Mr. Handy also requested J. C. Kittrell of Henderson to keep in touch with the Robertson family and advise the department of any developments.

Thursday Mr. Kittrell informed Mr. Handy that the girl had returned home and stated Painter was at Milford, Va. The Department of Justice office at Richmond was notified by telephone and Painter was yesterday placed in jail at Richmond, pending a hearing before a United States commissioner Monday. The officers at Richmond have been furnished the necessary affidavits and a warrant and District Attorney E. F. Aydtel has made formal request that the case be removed to this district.

On her return home the girl stated she had contracted important relations with Painter since last July, when he first began to persuade her to run away with him. According to her story, they first went to Richmond and later to Milford, where Painter secured employment as a carpenter. In both places the couple passed as man and wife, using an assumed name. Before leaving home, the child was attending a public school and was a member of the sixth grade.

URGE 50 PCT. CUT IN TOBACCO CROP

State Tobacco Warehousemen Pledge Support To Acreage Reduction Plan

ADOPT RESOLUTION AT BIG MEETING AT WILSON

Warehousemen Declare Reduction of One-Third in Acreage Not Sufficient; Call On Farmers To Raise More Foodstuffs and Abandon West As Smoke House

Wilson, Dec. 24.—At a meeting of the North Carolina Tobacco Warehouse Association here yesterday, a resolution was adopted urging farmers to reduce tobacco acreage in the coming year at least fifty percent and pledging the co-operation of the warehousemen with the Tobacco Growers' Association in carrying out the campaign for acreage reduction.

The resolution sets forth that a reduction of one-third in acreage for the coming season will not be sufficient, as stocks of tobacco are on hand for normal needs if not a pound of the weed raised in 1921. The warehousemen call on the tillers of the soil to abandon the West as their "smoke house" and corn crib and to make an honest effort to live at home next year.

The association offers its co-operation with the growers organization to assist in personally visiting every tobacco farmer for the purpose of making the recommendations for acreage reduction next year effective.

The text of the resolution follows:

Text of Resolution.

Whereas, the normal supply of bright tobacco is approximately three hundred million pounds annually and whereas it is evident that there will be carried over from the 1920 crop fully 300,000,000 pounds—enough to supply the needs of the world if not a single pound is raised in 1921, and whereas the interests of the Warehousemen and the farmers are identical in respect to the amount of tobacco to be planted, and we feel it our duty to give the growers the facts in our possession that they may be saved from bankruptcy, which may follow the planting of even a normal crop in 1921,

Therefore, It is resolved by the North Carolina Tobacco Warehouse Association:

1. That the proposed reduction of one-third in acreage as recommended by the Tobacco Growers Association is not in our opinion a sufficient reduction—that the reduction should be at least fifty percent, and that any amount planted in excess of one-half of the normal crop will invite disaster.
2. That we feel it is the duty of the Tobacco Warehousemen to reach the tobacco growers in person and to urge them:

TWO KILLED WHEN AUTO STRIKES TREE

Party of Young Men Mistake Efforts of Man To Warn Them of Danger

Asheville, Dec. 24.—Mistaking H. C. Sotherton of Fletcher, for an officer, and concluding that frantic efforts made to prevent them from colliding with a fallen tree on the Asheville-Hendersonville road were efforts to stop the car and arrest the occupants, caused the death early this morning of Wayland W. Fitzgerald and Cecil Hrewtch and the painful injury of Harwood Johnson, driver of the car, and Clifford McCall, occupant of a rear seat.

"Wayland W. Fitzgerald and Cecil Hrewtch, of this city, came to their death by reason of collision between an automobile in which they were riding, driven by Harwood Johnson, and a tree which had blown across the road," according to the report of a coroner's jury at 10 o'clock.

Sheriff J. A. Igerly stated that no arrests would be made unless new evidence develops. He stated that a broken bottle was found near the car, and that the fluid spilled on the ground smelled of alcohol. He is firm in the belief, however, that the young men were not guilty of transporting any large amount of whiskey and that if they had any at all, it was a small quantity for their own personal use.

Newspaper reports that a car sent for first aid had turned over on the Biller Hill, and that two other persons had struck the tree about 11 o'clock in the night where the collision occurred. The names of the parties involved could not be learned from the officers. It is said that the young men increased their speed to forty miles an hour when H. C. Sotherton attempted to warn them of the danger they were approaching.

SELF-GOVERNMENT FOR DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

President Takes Initial Steps To Withdraw American Control In Island

Washington, Dec. 24.—By direction of the President, initial steps were taken today for withdrawal of American control over affairs of the Dominican Republic.

A proclamation announcing this purpose was issued at San Domingo by Rear Admiral Thomas Snowden, military governor. Its text was made public here. By its terms the friendly purposes of American military intervention in the islands in 1916 are declared to be "substantially achieved" and "simple processes" inaugurated for "rapid withdrawal from the responsibilities assumed in connection with Dominican affairs."

A Dominican commission, aided by an American adviser, will be named by Admiral Snowden to formulate amendments to the Dominican constitution and draft new election laws. When approved by the military government, these will be submitted to a constitutional convention and the Dominican national congress as a preliminary to the erection of a Dominican government to which the affairs of the Republic will be turned over.

An accompanying announcement by the State Department said tranquillity prevailed in the republic.

TO OPEN DINING ROOMS FOR TOBACCO COMPANY WORKERS

Durham, Dec. 24.—The Laggett and Myers Tobacco Company will open a dining room for their white employees and one for their colored employees about the first of February. The dining rooms will serve three meals per day and will be adequate to take care of all the employees of the plant. The dining rooms will be for the benefit of the employees and the policy will be to serve the meals at very near cost. The kitchen and dining room will have the most modern equipment.

REDUCE BEEF PRICES

Whitakers, Dec. 24.—The butchers of this place have reduced the price of the best cuts of beef to thirty cents. This was done pursuant to orders from Mayor Jarrett White, who threatened to revoke licenses if its instructions were not complied with.

WOULD WITHDRAW TAX EXEMPTION PRIVILEGE

Houston Would Impose Tax On Bonds Issued By Joint Stock Land Banks

Washington, Dec. 24.—Withdrawal of the tax exemption privilege from farm loan bonds issued in the future by joint stock land banks has been recommended to Congress by Secretary Houston, on the ground that these banks are organizations of private capital for commercial purposes in which the profits accrue to the benefit of investing stockholders.

Tax exemptions in the case of joint stock land banks were declared by the Secretary to amount to a gift at the expense of the government and taxpayers generally. The privilege, he said, should not be continued with respect to the private mortgage companies organized for private profit. This is emphasized, the Secretary asserted, in this period of high taxes, when the government has established the policy of subjecting its own securities to partial taxation and when the treasury cannot afford to dispense with any of the receipts which otherwise would accrue on account of taxes.

The withdrawal of the tax exemption features from farm loan bonds, however, the Secretary suggested, should be accompanied by an increase in the powers of the federal land banks to make any loans now authorized by joint stock land banks in order that there be no curtailment of the financial benefits to agriculture provided by the farm loan act.

During the past fiscal year, the Secretary said, twenty-seven joint stock land banks were in active operation, making loans in the aggregate of \$29,302,470 to 3,148 borrowers.

SEC. DANIELS SENDS GREETINGS TO COLBY

Washington, Dec. 24.—Secretary Daniels sent today the following message to Secretary Colby who is on an official visit to South America:

"Washington newspaper lunch sends season's greetings to the Secretary of State. As a cabinet colleague who will soon join the bunch I join with them and rejoice in the interpretation of the sentiment of the United States you are making to our South American brothers."

FIRST WEEK'S PAY FOR IRON WORKERS AT NEW BERN PLANT

Wages Show Reduction of Ten Per Cent Under New Profit-Sharing Plan

DECLARES PLANT NOT TURNED OVER TO MEN

Leaders Among Employees Not Entirely Pleased at Reduction in Wages, But Convinced of Getting Full Share of Actual Profits Made

New Bern, Dec. 24.—Employees of the New Bern Iron Works and Supply Company received today their first week's pay on the profit-sharing basis established by the concern in agreement with the workers. The pay contained in the envelopes handed out today represented a reduction of ten per cent from the wages received a week ago and the new scale of pay based on profits above actual operating expenses, was said by company officials to represent roughly the wage schedule put forward by the concern several weeks before the profit-sharing plan was agreed on.

Leaders among the employees after the pay-roll had been distributed, said that while not pleased with a reduction in wages, they were convinced that the company was giving them a square deal and that they were getting their full share of whatever actual profits were made.

Ernest L. Willis, president of the company, in a statement given out after the officers of the concern had not turned over the plant in any way to the workers, but had arranged a sliding scale of pay which operates on the volume of business done. He asserted that the company desired, He asserts employees that their interests were at all times being looked after and that it was hoped that business conditions soon would improve to such an extent that the men would be able to turn out sufficient work to enable them to make even greater wages than before the wage reduction put into effect under the old system was made.

"I want it distinctly understood that I am president," said Mr. Willis, "and that we have not turned our plant over to the workers. Our company still is operating it and will continue to do so. We are merely trying to satisfy our employees and to make it possible for them to continue at their tasks and make a living wage."

The profit-sharing basis for payment of wages was evolved after the company had announced two reductions in wages, each of ten per cent within a few weeks, due, it was said, to the decline in prices received by the concern for its products. The first reduction was accepted by the employees after they had staged a one-day walkout. The second reduction was received with disfavor by the workers and after company officials had explained the situation they agreed to payment on a profit-sharing basis.

TRADE OPPORTUNITIES IN SPAIN FOR AMERICA

Trade Commissioner Arthur Young Outlines Spanish Financial Conditions

Washington, Dec. 24.—Opportunities for trade with Spain are called to the attention of American business men in a report just made to the Department of Commerce by Trade Commissioner Arthur Young, dealing with Spanish finance and trade conditions. Spain, Mr. Young said, is the only European nation with a balance of trade in its favor as a result of the war and has a surplus sufficient to pay cash for American goods.

Spain's balance of trade at the close of the war, Mr. Young said, was \$772,000,000 and the condition of the entire country is prosperous. This was largely due, he explained, to the fact that Spain, the only large European neutral, was able to export goods to the warring nations and received cash for its products while at the same time curtailing imports. As a striking feature of the Spanish financial situation during the war, the commissioner pointed out that Spain even extended a credit of \$20,000,000 to the United States. By curtailing loans just after the signing of the Armistice, he further said, Spain was able to retain the large trade balance obtained during the war and at the same time protect its big war loans.

Cotton is the most important product entering into trade between the United States and Spain and it was stated as about one-half of the entire exports from the United States to Spain consists of cotton. If this country exported nothing but cotton to Spain the balance of trade would still be in favor of the United States, as Spanish imports do not aggregate the amount of cotton sold yearly.

STECHER SUFFERING FROM NEURITIS AS RESULT OF BOUL

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 24.—Joe Stecher, who lost his crown as heavyweight wrestling champion to Ed (Strangler) Lewis in New York last week, was in a hospital here today suffering from neuritis. The specialist attending him said the attack was caused by straining his left arm in the Lewis match. He probably will be out of the game the rest of the winter, it was said.

Toy Pistol Has Injuring

Kinston, Dec. 24.—The toy pistol had its injuring here today. One negro boy was shot and badly injured by another boy of his race, and a white youth narrowly escaped when a bullet went through his clothing.