

The Charlotte News

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FRIDAY, JUNE 10, 1921.

ADMIRAL SIMS' INDISCRETION

Admiral William S. Sims seems to have made one of his characteristic messes of it. It's now nearly fifteen years since Taft, as President found it necessary to reprimand him for using language in an address, unbecomingly an American naval officer; and ever since that episode Sims has been like some volcanoes in a periodical state of eruption.

The News holds no brief for the Irish sympathizers on this side the water. It is by no means rushing to their defense if defense they need. They are able to take plenty of care of themselves. What we would call attention to is the expediency of muzzling in some fashion or other this gallant and undeniably able sailor who allows his fluency so frequently to run away with his judgment. We think that hundreds who in this particular instance might not violently disagree with what Sims had to say in London on Tuesday would approve of somewhat deeper silence on his part.

Sims is, by virtue of the position he holds, representative. His commission in the United States Navy lends weight to whatever he may choose to say—a much greater weight we dare say than his personal record, good as that is, would furnish. When he is at home his vagaries of speech do not amount to much, though they are scarcely in good taste. When he stands in the capital of another land and raises his voice it is as though one having authority did so.

He seems constitutionally prone under such circumstances to stir questions that might as well be left unstirred. This he did in his recent utterance. The reply of those in authority who disagree with his views was prompt. McCormick in the Senate and Ryan of New York in the House at once carried resolutions for investigations, despite the fact that Secretary of the Navy Denby has already started the somewhat slow-moving departmental machinery in motion towards the same end.

Admiral Sims is quoted by the cables in strange comment upon this action: "I stand by all I said, every word of it," he is quoted as saying, "I shan't repudiate a single word I said and I see nothing un-American in it, even if Senator McCormick does."

We do not think the Americanism or un-Americanism of Sims' words constitutes the crux of the question. It is the Americanism or un-Americanism of his taking upon himself to speak upon such a topic at all. He has rights of private opinion that are inviolate, but his rank and military oath, expressly or implicitly, preclude him from voicing those opinions in an official capacity, and it is a matter of practical impossibility for him to dissociate his private and official status as far as public speaking is concerned. An Admiral he is and as an Admiral he must speak.

The newly formed Dilworth Civic Club, under the alert and intelligent leadership of its president, Hugh Merrill, Jr., will find a wide field of usefulness open to it and will doubtless prove a valuable addition to the organized activities making the Charlotte of today into the Charlotte of tomorrow.

FLAG DAY The occurrence next week of Flag Day makes timely the suggestion that a few moments be devoted to reflection on the meaning of the symbol. The American flag stands for the giving of a chance to every man, woman and child, to make the best of their opportunities. It stands for the orderly processes of government, for the rule of the will of the majority, duly ascertained. It stands, in the words of one whose name is a symbol like unto the flag itself, for "government of the people, by the people and for the people."

The American flag is bathed in memories which make it inexpressibly precious to those happy enough to own its allegiance. A continent conquered, a great civilized state built up under its folds, the blood of heroes on countless fields from Lexington to Chattanooga and the Argonne all these are indelibly entwined with the colors. Possibly we are not yet too far from times that tried men's souls to feel these things. Pretty sure it is that there lie in front of us—soon or late—other crises in which the old flag will again audibly spell to us the best hopes of humanity. To think on these things occasionally is not unprofitable.

TOTTERING ON THE TIGHT WIRE

A tight wire artist may step his precarious way in safety as long as his physical equipment is up to standard. When his eyes or his stomach or his nerves begin to wobble, it's time for him to look out. In some such situation at present, according to all appearances, is David Lloyd-George, prime minister of England, whose physician has ordered him to take a complete rest or take dire consequences.

The little Welshman is the only one of the "Big Four" who bore the weight of a world's responsibilities at Paris two years ago, who still sits in the seat of the powerful. Wilson, Clemenceau, Orlando, have each gone the way of all the political earth—into retirement. His retention of power, it is loudly asserted by his foes, has been due to maneuvers not unlike the twistings of a wire-walker. His dearest friends have the face to face that after a quarter of century's arduous fighting in the ranks of the Liberals, he is at present master of the House of Commons by grace of the votes of a coalition the majority of whose votes are cast from Unionist benches.

Meantime with all of the maneuverings and twistings, his hold on power is visibly shaken. Only this week a bye election in a division of Westminster, long held by a supporter, has gone to an opponent by a majority of near 2,000 in a total vote of less than 13,000. The Irish mess, the coal strike, the alleged wastefulness of the government are all having their effect in breaking down Lloyd-George's political fences. It is a perilous time for him to indulge in that complete rest which seems requisite if his life is to be materially prolonged.

Lloyd-George's career has been unique. The details are familiar to every body, in itself no small achievement for the son of a poverty-stricken miner, whose rise to prominence has been effected without adventitious aids of any kind. Despite the bitterness his methods and certain of his purposes have aroused in his own country his place in history is secure; for his name will be inseparably linked with the crushing of the Hun onslaught on civilization.

Ruthlessly supplanting his long-time chief, Asquith, in December 1916, within two years he witnessed the signing of the armistice. It would be as absurd to deny him all credit in the bringing about of the defeat of the enemy as it would be to assign credit to him alone. He played his part and the role was successful.

Lloyd-George is still on this side of three score but his life has been a strenuous one since he first learned to walk, and his labors have been increasingly exacting. His work as a private member of the House of Commons was a man's size job. When he came to shoulder, some five or six years before the outbreak of Armageddon, the main responsibility for the Liberal party's great program of social legislation, and incidentally a large part of the brunt of its fight on the House of Lords, he faced about two men's task.

Then Potsdam turned destruction loose upon the earth and the crux of England's participation in world defense lay for a time at least in the ministry of munitions. This post was "wished on" Lloyd-George and he filled it at the expense of soul-harrowing toil such as even he had never known before.

His duties as Prime Minister can hardly have given him much opportunity for rest during the prolongation of the war and it is a common opinion that the problems of post-war Britain are of an acuter description than any she knew while her boys were in the trenches.

With such a record of work, no wonder the physical man is showing signs of breaking under the strain. No wonder his physician warns him that he must stop or die. Nevertheless the whole world would unquestionably be surprised if physical disability should be the final cause of his retirement. He has the strong, clever, efficient man's love of power and he'll probably hold on to it at whatever actual or potential cost in physical pain.

According to an official publication of the Treasury Department, every one's spending money shrank \$1.99 in the last year. Judging from strictly personal and private sources of information, that figure is a pitifully ridiculous underestimate.

NET GAIN DOUBTFUL The city of New York had Babe Ruth the home run hero arrested the other day for speeding. As it was the Bambino's second offense, the law prescribed that a term of imprisonment as well as a fine must be imposed.

Six hours it appears constitute a technical "day" in the courts of New York. Such a period Ruth languished in durance vile. The moment his sentence had been completed he leaped into his machine and tore for the Polo Grounds, arriving in time to insert himself into the game in the sixth inning to the uncontrollable and most vociferous delight of thousands of fans. A reporter who timed him avows that he made the nine miles from the hoosegow to the diamond in just nineteen minutes, which must have been somewhat of a jar to the speed law whose violation had just been accomplished by his six hours' imprisonment.

Now the city was most kind, even if it had to be chastising. When Ruth made his nine-miles-in-nineteen-minutes court official for the special purpose of seeing to it that the "Babe" didn't get into the toils of the traffic squad before he reached the game.

What we want to know is whether it wouldn't have been more "grown-up" to say the least to have laughed at the first violation and passed it by, rather than carefully—and most technically—to have punished it, only to instigate another violation of the same statute in which the city, or certainly an official thereof, was participant criminally.

THE VACANT POST

Has Harding abandoned all intention of appointing Taft to the Chief Justiceship, supposing he ever harbored such an intention? The talk emanating from Washington, connecting the names first of Associate Justice McKenna and then of Associate Justice Day with the appointment, would seem to indicate that the ex-President is no longer being considered.

To hosts of his fellow citizens, among whom are counted thousands and thousands of Democrats, Taft's accession to the most dignified judicial post in the country would be entirely pleasing. His personality is so shot through with amiability as to call forth answering amiability towards himself. He might have been the origin—though naturally he was not—of the expression "all the world loves a fat man."

His administration, looked backed upon at the expiration of a decade or so, stands up pretty well. The animosities it aroused have been softened, its achievements—and not a few of them were very solid—are beginning to be recognized.

Of his ability to measure up to the very high requirements of the Chief Justiceship or of the high character which he would carry with him to the post, we do not suppose there exists a shadow of a doubt the country over. Considering that a Republican is sure to be appointed, we suppose Taft is about as acceptable to the Democrats as any man that could be named. It may be his unpopularity with certain of his own political faith will be the final bar to his promotion.

The death of Miss Fromwell, the lady who broke the loop-the-loop record, so shortly after she accomplished her daring achievement, followed so immediately by the sad deaths of two cadets on Langley Field, indicates that flying is not yet the safest vocation in the world, even if there are no longer Gothas in the sky to add to the natural perils of that vasty deep.

CHEERING NEWS

The defeat of a judiciary ticket, in the city of Chicago, sponsored by Mayor William Hale Thompson, will cause satisfaction to thousands of Americans who know, nothing, and if possible care less, about Chicago municipal politics. Thompson's name is inextricably mixed, in the minds of the general public, with a course of pro-Germanism before 1917 and an opposition to the due prosecution of the war in and after that year. His thoughts are not as the real American's thoughts and his actions brought him very close to the jeopardy which was the lot of those who failed to respond to the calls of patriotic duty.

It has always been a matter of wonder that Chicago hasn't repudiated him long since. Possibly all grades and labels of politicians in the Windy City—the residence of "Bath House" John and "Hinky Dink"—are so utterly rotten that the city, like the fox in the fable, hesitated to drive off the feasting flies of the Thompson faction, for fear of the settling down of an equally pestiferous horde whose appetites might prove sharper. Whatever the situation, Thompson seems to have "gotten his" in this latest election and gotten it "good and proper." What little of significance outside of Chicago the incident holds, is distinctly of good omen.

The vast majority of the press of the country having wisely fought shy of publishing the "slacker list", the old Congressional Record decides to rush in where angels, and perhaps others frankly confess that they fear to tread. And that too, when the Congressional Record is one of the few publications in the world not the least bit interested in the publicity attendant upon a red hot libel suit.

"MIKE" IS IN CHARGE OF THE GOVERNMENT

Washington, June 10.—One American small boy, his only known name being "Mike," is waiting at Liege, Belgium, for the huge machinery of the United States government to find a home for him. He was found, with worn clothes and without money, on a road near the city last January and told the American consul he had lived in Trenton, Texas, but was sent away on a cattle ship by an older brother because he had fought with another boy.

"Mike" traveled to Paris with cowboys from the ship, the consul's report to the State Department said, and fell asleep at a table in a cafe while the cowboys went out "to see the town." They never came back and Paris gendarmes turned "Mike" over to the American army of occupation on the Rhine as a mascot.

An order forbidding mascots deprived "Mike" of that refuge. He trudged away to Belgium as an international waif. Now, Trenton, Texas, has disowned him. The consul wrote the postmaster there, who said the young traveler was unknown. The State Department said he was not "Mike" Gillhooly, the Belgian stowaway of a few months, and made public the tale in the hope that somebody might claim him.

By way of description, the consul said "Mike" had a distinct Bowery tang to his tongue.

F. D. A.

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LITTLE INTEREST IN BOND ISSUES

First Lot of German Bonds Will be Offered Public Shortly After July 1.

BY CHARLES McCANN, United Press Staff Correspondent.

London, June 10.—"As soon as is practicable" after July 1, the first lot of Germany's \$33,000,000,000 reparations bond issue will be offered to the world in the open market.

So far, there is little to be learned as to when "as soon as practicable" means.

The first instalment of the bonds—\$2,000,000,000—will be delivered to the reparations commission on July 1. A second instalment is due November 1 of \$9,500,000,000. At the same time Germany is to deliver a third series, totalling \$20,500,000,000 to be held without coupons until the reparations commission decides Germany is able to pay interest and sinking fund from her stated annual payments of \$500,000,000 and a 2 1/2 per cent tax on her exports.

That represents a total of \$33,000,000,000 to be delivered. Not all of these will be issued. The ultimatum to Germany provided for payment of this sum in bonds, plus \$750,000,000 representing Belgium's debt to the Allies. From the total must be deducted the amount Germany has already paid in reparations—so far, \$2,000,000,000. The total to be issued will be roughly \$31,750,000,000.

The reparations commission will await a favorable opportunity to open the first of the bonds to the market, according to plans. Though procedure has not been definitely decided upon, it is thought they, as the central governing special body will be formed, comprising delegates from bond holding countries.

The bonds represent Germany's total reparations debt, and they or their value will be apportioned by the commission among Allied and associated countries to whom reparations are due. The solution contemplated is to permit the recipients of the bonds to do most of the marketing, or to hold the bonds as they choose. In this case precautions will be taken against possible "dumping" by some country willing to accept too low a price for them.

It is believed the first lot marketed will total from \$50,000,000 to \$500,000,000. There is no authoritative estimate so far, though it is certain the marketing will be as soon and as far as great an amount as the commission things possible.

Financiers so far have shown little interest in the issue. What little they have said about them has been pessimistic, and while they retain this attitude and the bond market remains bad, it is unlikely the new-born post-war baby will be sent out to earn money for its parents.

TO BUILD BIBLE "CABIN."

Statesville, June 10.—The Young Men's Bible Class of the First Associate Reformed Church are erecting a building behind the church for the use of the class. The building will be known as the "Cabin" and is 30x60 feet. It contains a main auditorium and a kitchen for serving suppers. The class was organized two and a half months ago with twelve members; now the enrollment is seventy-five with an average attendance of 45 and 50. Attorney Harry P. Gries is teacher, Carl Axley, secretary, and W. L. Pope, treasurer. For some time the class has been holding its weekly meetings in the Woodmen hall. They expect to hold their first meeting in the "Cabin" next Sunday.



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BOATS FEARED BOMB AND LET MAN DROWN

Hampton, Va., June 10.—Private Thomas J. Mulligan, regarded as one of the most expert parachute jumpers at Langley Field, was drowned late Thursday when his parachute was caught in an adverse wind current and within a few feet of the ground carried him into Back River. Boats in the vicinity reported having mistaken the falling parachute for a bomb exploding in the water and no effort was made to reach Mulligan until men from the field manned small boats and went to his rescue.

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