

## May Withdraw British Soldiers From Cologne

### British and French Ministers Trying to Find Way to Solve the Transportation Problem in Ruhr.

### SITUATION NOW REGARDED SERIOUS

### Believed the British Rhine Forces Will Be Recalled if the Situation is Not Soon Changed.

London, Feb. 15 (By the Associated Press).—British and French cabinet ministers met today in a conference which it is felt to evolve a program of British co-operation with the French and Belgians in solving the Ruhr transportation problems, as a condition for the British troops from the Ruhr area.

The British ministers at the meeting in Downing street were Bonar Law and Curzon, the secretary of state for foreign affairs, and the Earl of Derby, the secretary of war. The French cabinet was represented by M. L. Combarres, the minister of public works.

It was understood at the conference that the British request for additional transport facilities through the British loan was being received sympathetically. The British main aim is that the French have little need of a railway line to handle coal shipments to France, but to recognize the French have a problem equally serious in the transporting of supplies from France into the occupied territory.

The question may be settled temporarily by the transfer of a six-mile section of the British zone containing a double track railway line, to the French.

### VESSELS IN DISTRESS OFF PACIFIC COAST

### Four Vessels Have Sent Calls For Aid During the Past Few Hours.

San Francisco, Cal., Feb. 15. (By the Associated Press).—Out of the wind-whipped waters of the Pacific off the Washington coast, came a series of distress appeals today that told of a vessel in distress, a fourth and a further mystery—mysteriously a further south of Cape Flattery, that looked like a ship adrift.

The steamer Santa Rita, which left San Pedro, Cal., for Seattle on February 10, apparently deviated from her course last night to look for the steamer Nika, earlier reported in distress.

### Lives Lost When Steamer Goes Ashore.

Seattle, Wash., Feb. 15.—A number of lives were believed to have been lost early today when the British steamer Tuscan Prince went ashore near Naveau, Vancouver Island, according to a message received here from the tug Seamanach.

"Ship breaking up. We are going to drown," was the last message from the Tuscan Prince, which was picked up by radio station of the Seattle Harbor Department. Another message from an unidentified source, confirmed the report that the Tuscan Prince was aground near Estevan, British Columbia.

The Seamanach at the time the message was sent was rushing to the aid of the vessel which was said to be a total loss. The message gave no details and did not state the source of the information contained.

### THE "AMERICANIZATION" BULLETIN WELCOME

### First Journal of Its Kind in the World Is Born in Washington.

Washington, Feb. 15 (Capital News Service).—Published by the pupils of the Washington Americanization schools, the Americanization Bulletin, first journal of its kind in the world, has been successfully launched.

The purpose of the paper is to supplement the written in the native language of immigrants, which, circulating among them, retard their progress in the mastery of English. It is hoped it will bring closer union between Americans and newly arrived immigrants, and aid in the naturalization of the latter.

The first issue has been financed by the Richard Arnold chapter of the D. A. B. It is hoped, however, that through advertisements and contributions solicited by the students, G. P. Moore, chief naturalization examiner of the District of Columbia, will conduct a column in the succeeding issues in which he will answer all questions on Americanization.

### Tar Heel Lady to Speak at Hot Springs

Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 14.—Miss Mary R. Bell, secretary of the North Carolina Library Commission, will be one of the chief speakers at the annual convention of the American Library Association at Hot Springs, Ark., according to a preliminary program made public here today.

The convention will open April 23 and will be in session five days. Miss Bell will speak on County Libraries for the South.

### Co-operative Marketing Plan Approved.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Favorable report was ordered today by the House Judiciary committee on the bill to permit producers of resin and turpentine to organize co-operative marketing associations.

## Street Car Fare in City Will Be Reduced on February Twentieth

Another public utility in Concord has decided to reduce its rates, the North Carolina Public Service Company, owner of the street railway system in this city, announcing that on and after February 20th, street car fare in the city will be 7 cents instead of 10 cents, the present fare. The decision of the owners of the street railway here to reduce its fares is the second reduction in public utility rates made by a public utility here this week, the Concord & Kainapolis Gas Company having announced yesterday that beginning March 1st, it will reduce its gas rate 10 cents per 1,000 cubic feet.

The announcement of the change in street car fare here was made by Mr. R. J. Hole, Vice President and General Manager of the North Carolina Public Service Company, in a letter to Mr. M. H. Caldwell, City Attorney.

The letter follows: "As per my promise to the members of the Board, I wrote to the Corporation Commission, and an enclosing herewith their reply. "I am instructing Mr. Robertson to start on the 20th of this month with a seven (7) cent fare, and will be glad to report to the Board after a month's trial as to the outcome. "I also beg to acknowledge receipt of your proposed amendment to the city charter, and will return same to you tonight or tomorrow."

## North Carolina is Now Empire State of South

### Official of State University Says Old North State Generally Recognized as One of Most Progressive States in the Entire Union at Present.

Chapel Hill, N. C., Feb. 15.—"North Carolina is attracting more attention throughout the nation than any other southern state," according to S. H. Hobbs, Jr., of the editorial board of the University of North Carolina News Letter.

On the Pullman cars, in hotels, at big conventions—in fact almost everywhere the Old North State is being discussed, according to the educator, who recently completed a three thousand mile trip.

"Twenty years ago a Tar Heel away from home kept the state of his native land," he writes.

"Today, he is proud of his home-land, and people who meet him are anxious to hear about the marvelous achievements of the southern giant that stands first in his vast powers, has taken stock of himself, and has decided to develop to full maturity his wonderful possibilities."

And, why is the North Carolinian so proud of his state? "North Carolina is a great agricultural state as she should be, not the state she will be in a decade or two. But even today, she is the Empire State of the south in agriculture, Texas produced larger crop totals, but Texas is an empire in size, not a state. Only four states have more farms than North Carolina. Only four states have a larger farm population ratio. Only four states produce greater annual crop values.

"We rank first in the nation in the value of tobacco produced annually. "We rank first in cotton production per acre and high in the total value of the cotton crop.

"We lead the nation in soy bean production, and are among the leaders in sweet potato and peanuts.

"The farmers of this state have an investment in land, buildings, implements, and livestock of one and a quarter billion dollars. This is an enormous amount of wealth taken totally, but on a per farm basis we do not rank so well.

"We are the undisputed leader in the south in the field of manufacture. And our position is growing stronger.

"Our 450,000 farm workers produce around \$410,000,000 worth of farm wealth. Not all this is new wealth. For instance, we spend \$50,000,000 for fertilizer alone. Our \$157,700 factory workers turn out a total produce valued at nearly one billion dollars. Nearly a half billion dollars is the value added by manufacturers, a far larger amount than the grand total of all farm products, crop and livestock.

"Eighty thousand cotton mill operatives turn out \$318,000,000 of output. Of this total, \$131,000,000 is created in the processes of manufacture.

"We have eighteen tobacco factories, capitalized at about \$130,000,000. These concerns employ about 14,000 workers and the yearly output is valued at about \$426,000,000.

"Our 124 furniture factories are capitalized at about \$16,000,000. They employ more than 15,500 workers and the value of the yearly output is about \$35,000,000. This factory value, not the prices the consumers pay.

"Our rise to the fifteenth manufacturing state of the Union has taken place almost entirely during the last twenty years. During this brief period the capital employed in manufacture has risen from \$85,000,000 to \$669,000,000. The value of the yearly output has risen from \$85,000,000 to \$944,000,000, while the value added by manufacture has risen from \$40,000,000 to \$417,000,000.

"North Carolina leads the south in the number of factory establishments. "She leads the south in capital employed. Texas, her nearest competitor, is \$100,000,000 behind.

"She leads the south in the value added in the process of manufacture. "She leads the world in tobacco manufacture, as well as in tobacco crop value."

## TESTIMONY TAKING IN THOMAS TRIAL HAS BEEN STARTED

### Jury Was Selected Yesterday and the State Swore in 37 of the First Witnesses to Be Used.

### MRS. LOWE WILL PROBABLY TESTIFY

### Though It Was Reported Yesterday That She Was Ill, She is Expected to Arrive During the Day.

Salisbury, Feb. 15.—The state called 37 witnesses into court today for presentation of its case charging murder against O. G. (Red) Thomas, Charlotte automobile salesman, who is alleged to have killed Arthur J. Allen, a master plumber of Concord, a year ago.

The jury, consisting of ten married men, a widower, and a single man, chiefly farmers, was completed late yesterday after the dozen had told the defense that charges at the time of the shooting Thomas, a married man, was riding with a married woman, would not prejudice them against him.

Thomas, who was convicted of second degree murder and sentenced to 18 years in the penitentiary at the first trial, claimed that when Allen approached him in the night of October 21, 1921, he thought he was going to be robbed, and fired in self defense.

Mrs. Robert Lowe, who testified in the first trial, and who was said to have been automobile riding with Thomas the night of the killing, was reported yesterday to be ill in Nashville, Tenn., but it was said later that she would be here for this trial, probably arriving some time today.

J. W. Swing, a Kannapolis policeman, the first witness, told of going to the scene of the killing, and of being told by Thomas that he shot a man who tried to hold him up.

Dr. T. N. Spencer, coroner, testified that Allen died of paralysis of the heart caused by bullet wounds, and James Simpson, undertaker, said there were no powder marks on Allen's body.

### Jury Selected.

Salisbury, Feb. 14.—Selection of a jury to try O. G. (Red) Thomas for the murder of Arthur J. Allen, master plumber of Concord, on the night of October 25, 1921, near Kannapolis, was accomplished in the superior court here today, after 66 of the special venire of 150 men had been exhausted. Judge James L. Webb adjourned court at 5 o'clock this afternoon after 37 state's witnesses had been sworn, until 9:30 tomorrow morning.

The jury is composed of H. A. McNeely, farmer; C. H. Heilig, farmer; L. M. Yost, farmer; U. P. Kuykenear, farmer; L. O. Beck, farmer; E. A. Daniel, railroad shopman; D. A. Poole, mill worker; R. G. Williams, railway shopman; R. G. Fleming, farmer; C. H. Lydy, merchant; P. H. Bernard, merchant; C. W. Stewart, farmer. With the exception of Poole, all the jurors are married.

Defense exercised 11 of its 12 rights to peremptory challenges, and the state exercised a 14 four. Nine veniremen were opposed to capital punishment, six had expressed views that Thomas was not guilty, and 16 had expressed the opinion that he was guilty. One man was of the opinion that Thomas, being alleged to have been riding around with a married woman on the night of shooting, would render it impossible for him to give him a fair and impartial trial.

Thomas was accompanied by Mrs. Thomas and two sisters, Mrs. Reeves and Mrs. Glass, of Spartanburg, S. C. Mrs. Allen was in court, accompanied by Mrs. Myers, wife of a Concord minister, Mrs. Robert Lowe, alleged to have been with Thomas when Allen was killed, is ill in Nashville, it is reported.

Mrs. Lowe is expected here tomorrow morning.

In answer to a question propounded to every venireman by T. S. Linn,

## DESTRUCTIVE BLAZE IN PACKING PLANT

### Three 9-Story Buildings of Armour & Company at South Omaha Destroyed by Fire.

Omaha, Neb., Feb. 15.—A fire that still was burning fiercely early today and that was called by veteran packing men the most destructive in the history of America's packing industry had destroyed three 9-story buildings of Armour & Company's plant in South Omaha, with an estimated loss of \$2,000,000.

Two other large buildings used as lard refineries were threatened. Early today more than 1,000 men temporarily were without employment as a result of the fire.

Twenty-one fire companies were concentrating their efforts on preventing a further spread of the flames. O. C. Willis, general manager of the plant, said the fire started in the ninth story of building 19, from a defective elevator motor.

### \$70,000 Fire in Asheville.

Asheville, Feb. 15.—Four buildings including the planing mill and about 4,000 feet of lumber, of the Williams-Brownell Planing Mill Company at Biltmore, were destroyed by fire this morning, entailing a loss estimated at \$70,000.

## COL. FORBES RESIGNS

### Resignation of Director of Veterans' Bureau Now in the Hands of President.

Washington, Feb. 15.—The resignation of Col. Charles R. Forbes, as director of the Veterans' Bureau, has been placed in the hands of President Harding, and the president now is considering appointment of one of three former overseas service men to the directorship, it was said definitely today in administration quarters.

At the same time, however, it was indicated that the appointment of a successor to Col. Forbes might not be made immediately, and that he might resume his duties temporarily after his return from Europe where he recently went on a vacation trip.

## THE COTTON MARKET

### Was Firm at Opening With Prices Unchanged to 20 Points Higher.

New York, Feb. 15.—The cotton market was firm at the opening with prices unchanged to 20 points higher, active months' showing advances of 8 to 20 points in response to steady late cables from Liverpool and bullish overnight spot advices from the South.

Cotton futures opened steady, March 28.08; May 28.40; July 27.80; Oct. 25.40; Dec. 25.05.

### 88 Cent Sale at Effrd's.

In a page ad, today in this paper Effrd's announces a big 88 Cent Sale for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. It will be to your interest to read the ad, carefully and see just what the company will offer for 88 cents during the sale.

The sale will continue for three days only. Be on hand at the opening and get them the goods you select when you read the ad.

### With Our Advertisers.

Certificates of deposit of the Citizens Bank and Trust Company make profitable investments for your idle funds.

## CONSTRUCTIVE STEP IN IMMIGRATION

### New Quota Japanese Excluded by House of Representatives Proposed.

Washington, Feb. 15 (Capital News Service).—The House Immigration Committee has completed its proposed immigration bill, which will immediately be reported to the House. It translates into law the terms of the "gentlemen's agreement" existing between the United States and Japan, by forbidding entry into this country of aliens not entitled to seek citizenship.

The bill reduces the quota from its present 3 to 2 per cent of aliens in this country, and bases computations on the census of 1890 instead of that of 1910.

It further provides that all immigrants must procure a certificate of entry from American consulates before embarking, and fines steamship companies giving passage to immigrants not provided with such certificates.

Under the new percentage plan Italy's quota will be reduced from the present 42,000 to 5,000, while the quota for Germany will be increased from 55,000 to 68,000. The quotas for Great Britain, France, Belgium, and the Scandinavian countries also will be increased, while those for Poland, Russia, and the Balkan States will be decreased.

Like the present temporary restriction law, the act will not operate against immigration from Canada, Newfoundland, Mexico, Cuba, and Central and South America, provided immigrants had been residents in those countries for a period of five years.

Certificates of entry from American consuls will prevent an influx of immigrants who would have to be turned back from American ports after they had broken up their homes overseas.

An important meeting of the Co-operative Marketing Association will be held in the court house Saturday, February 17th, at 2 o'clock. All members are asked to be present.

One of the attorneys for the defense, as to whether, if in the evidence it was shown that Thomas, a married man, was out automobile riding on the night of the shooting with a married woman, that fact would tend to influence the venireman against him, or be considered as evidence of murder or manslaughter, only one man admitted such influence. He was promptly challenged by the defense.

One man stated that he had talked with a juror who had convicted Thomas in his previous trial, and had been influenced by this conversation. He was excused by the court.

Former Solicitor Hayden Clement, who was to assist Solicitor Zeb Long in the prosecution of the state's case against Thomas, is not present at the trial, his illness with tonsillitis keeping him away. Solicitor Long is assisted in the prosecution by L. C. Caldwell, of Statesville; H. S. Williams and L. T. Hartzell, of Concord. The defense is composed of Walter H. Woodson, Linn and Linn, K. Lee Wright, John L. Rendleman, and P. S. Carlton, of Salisbury; T. D. Maness, of Concord, and E. T. Casler and John J. Parker, of Charlotte.

O. G. Thomas was tried in Concord at the January, 1922, term of the Cabarrus county superior court for the murder of Allen. With Thomas in the car at the time of the shooting, was reported to be a Mrs. Lowe, of Kannapolis. Thomas was convicted of murder in the second degree, and sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment by Judge J. Bios Ray, who presided at the trial. The case was appealed by his attorneys to the supreme court on a writ of error in that the judge in his charge to the jury, did not differentiate the several degrees of murder, and sent back by the supreme court to be tried again.

Thomas, who had been held in the jail at Concord was released under bond of \$20,000. Judge James L. Webb, at the last term of the Cabarrus court, removed the case to Rowan county for its second trial.

Little Flake Rankin, the flaxen haired son of Deputy Sheriff Rankin, of Rowan county drew the names of the jurors from the box, as required by law. Only six regular veniremen had been left on the panel for this term of the court, and it had been necessary for a special venire of 150 men to be summoned.

The courtroom was crowded long before 10 o'clock this morning, every available seat being taken by veniremen and spectators. There were but few women in the room aside from the relatives of the defendant and the deceased.

### Four Negroes Burned to Death at Winston-Salem.

Winston-Salem, Feb. 14.—In a fire tonight in Wauington, suburb of Winston-Salem, Melissa Grant, negro woman, and negro children, Moses and Mary Smith, twins were burned to death. Belle Lindsay, a negro woman, was burned and died while being hurried to the hospital. The building caught fire from a heating stove and being a light frame structure, was wrapped in flames before help could be summoned.

### Drop in Temperature.

Washington, Feb. 15.—A drop in the temperature tonight in the East Gulf States, and in the Atlantic States south of Maryland is forecast by the weather bureau which also predicts the colder weather will continue through Friday in the Southeastern states.

### Music Contest to Be Held April 19-20.

Greensboro, N. C., Feb.—The Fourth annual contest in music for North Carolina high school students will be held here April 19-20. The contest will be held at the North Carolina College for Women and Professor Wade R. Brown, of the school of music, will act as director.

## TAXES FOR ALL BACHELORS IN STATE IS PROPOSED

### Bill to Tax All Single Men in State Over 40 Years of Age is Presented to the Lower House.

### MEASURE CAUSES MUCH MERRIMENT

### Bill Would Tax Men Not More Than \$100 a Month, Money to Go to Some Maiden Lady Over 30.

Raleigh, Feb. 15 (By the Associated Press).—The House of Representatives of the North Carolina Legislature today was thrown into convulsions of laughter over the introduction of a bill by Representative Hauser, of Stokes County which would provide for the taxation of single men over the age of 40 years in an amount not to exceed \$100 per month, the amount to be paid to the support of a maiden lady over 30 years until she marries.

The bill was put to passage under suspension of the rules, and after three amendments were voted down it passed its second reading and went on the calendar for final action tomorrow.

### Discuss Prohibition Law.

Raleigh, Feb. 15 (By the Associated Press).—After a motion to table was voted down 107 to 3, the committee substitute for the original house bill to bring the state liquor laws into conformance with the Volstead act was laid open to discussion in the House today, but no action was taken when adjournment was moved after an hour's debate to allow the speaker to attend a banquet which citizens of Kingston are giving in his honor.

The reading of the bill evoked the motion to table which was made by Representative Ervin, of Burke County, but after the motion had been killed Representative Burgwyn of Northampton County sent in the first objection which he aimed at Section 6, and which deals with the seizure of property belonging to another which might have been used in the transportation of liquor without the knowledge of the owner.

Representative Burlington, of Iredell County sought to explain the provision and after considerable debate Mr. Burlington announced the proponents of the measure would accept an amendment which would provide that a jury could settle the question as to whether the vehicle was used without the consent of the owner and thereupon return the vehicle to the owner without cost to him.

The amendment was sent in by Representative Dillard, of Cherokee, but no action was taken pending explanation of the bill, section by section, by Mr. Burlington.

The motion to adjourn set the continuation of discussion on the order for 8 o'clock tonight, after which the Bowie railroad bill, which had already been set for that time, will come under consideration.

### Citizen Police Force for Speeders.

Indianapolis, Feb. 15.—A newly organized citizen police force, its identity unknown even to members of the regular traffic department, is lending valuable aid to the authorities in rounding up speeders and other violating the traffic law here, according to Captain Michael Glenn, head of the police traffic department.

Approximately one hundred citizens are members of the new force, it was said. Under the system, the citizen policeman, seeing a violation of the traffic law, writes the license number of the automobile on a postal card provided for the purpose, also checking the nature of the violation and the place where it took place. He sends it to the traffic department.

Members of the traffic squad then take charge of the case, identifying the owner of the automobile. The owner is notified by postcard that he has violated the traffic rules and is ordered to appear before Captain Glenn. A second violation results in the driver being ordered into city court for trial.

## McHargue Planning Now For Defense of His Life

Salisbury, N. C., February 15.—Lee McHargue, charged with the murder of Deputy Sheriff Will F. Propst and whose trial has been postponed until the May term of Rowan superior court but is engaged in preparing the fight he is to make for his life.

The shooting of the deputy sheriff occurred on the night of November 17, McHargue, Chief J. L. Boger, Patrolmen Swing and Prnett and a bystander were wounded in the fight. The shooting is said to have followed McHargue's entrance into a Kannapolis cafe in search of a man with whom he is alleged to have been gambling. A warrant charging McHargue with murder was sworn out the following day and he was incarcerated in the Rowan county jail.

The prisoner instituted a hunger strike and declined to take medicine.