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GERMANY WILL EXPLAIN BELGIAN DEPORTATIONS

Is Expected to Contend That Measure was Taken to Give Work to Unemployed Class--United States Makes Vigorous Protest Against Practice.

(By Associated Press.)
Berlin, Dec. 7, via London, Dec. 9.—Germany in a day or two will reply to a memorandum to the representations which Secretary Grew of the American embassy has been making regarding the deportation of Belgian laborers. The reply will follow much the same line as made to the Belgian protest through the Spanish minister, the subject of which was published in the North American Gazette this morning.

It is explained that it has not always been possible to prevent the measure being applied to Belgians not of the unemployed classes, but that greater care is now being exercised and that with the use of Belgian lists it is thought the measure and the restricted solely to the classes which it is designed to affect.

The position of the German government on the Belgian deportations was outlined in a statement carried by the Associated Press earlier in the week.

PROTEST IS FORWARDED

Washington, Dec. 9.—The American government's formal protest to Germany against the deportation of Belgians for forced labor, as a violation of the principles of humanity, has been made public by the state department. It was in the form of a note, dated at Berlin, Dec. 7, and signed by the American minister to Berlin, Charles Grew, and read to the German Chancellor and read to him and was given out by the department with the terse comment:

"The interview has taken place." Officials refused to add to this statement, and so far as could be learned last night there has been no reply from Germany. All information available, however, indicates that the deportations are continuing, and it is known that through informal representations Charles Grew learned that the German position was that the policy was a military necessity and not in violation of international law.

The American note was put on the table November 29, the night of the Ambassador Gerard saw President Wilson preparatory to his return to Berlin, and the night the Associated Press announced that the United States had made further representations on its own behalf on the broad grounds of humanity. Its text follows:

"On November 29, Mr. Grew, our charge at Berlin, was directed to obtain an interview with the German Chancellor and read to him the following: "The government of the United States has learned with the greatest concern and regret of the policy of the German government to deport from Belgium a portion of the civilian population for the purpose of forcing them to labor in Germany and

VETERANS WILL HAVE CHEAP RATES

"On to Washington," which was the war cry of Lee's serried brigade during the sixties will be echoed by the survivors of the armies of the Confederacy next May when the veterans of the gray will journey to Washington for their annual reunion.

The railroads of the south have agreed upon one cent fare per mile each way for the occasion, according to an announcement by H. F. Cary, general passenger agent of the Southern Railway, who is chairman of the finance committee for the twenty-seventh reunion of the veterans, and the effect of this will be to attract a record breaking gathering.

This will be the first reunion of the veterans at Washington. An elaborate program of entertainment is being arranged which is expected to make the reunion one of the most notable and enjoyable in history. Most of the time will be spent in Washington where the citizens are preparing to look after the visitors in royal fashion. Side trips are being arranged for visits to Baltimore, to the Gettysburg battlefield where a Confederate monument will be unveiled on Friday of reunion week, to New York and other places of interest.

GEORGETOWN TO PLAY TURANE THIS AFTERNOON

New Orleans, Dec. 9.—Cool weather and a clear sky early today gave promise of ideal conditions for the football game this afternoon between Georgetown and the Tulane eleven. This is the last college game of the season scheduled in the south. Coaches expect to send in their strongest teams.

is constrained to protest in a friendly spirit but most solemnly against this action, which is a contravention of all precedents and of those humane principles of international practice which have long been accepted and followed by civilized nations in their treatment of non-combatants. "Furthermore the government of the United States is convinced that the effect of this policy, if pursued, will in all probability be fatal to the Belgian relief work, so humanely planned and so successfully carried out, a result which would be generally deplored and which, it is assumed would seriously embarrass the German government."

Business Men are Aiding in Efforts to Maintain Standards of Morality

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 9.—The country's business men have given hearty cooperation to the federal trade commission in its efforts to maintain proper standards of commercial morality in American business, according to the annual report of the commission made public today.

Development of the commission's policy has had for its first purpose, the report declares, promotion of the best business efficiency. Its aim has been to understand and make allowance for the difficulty of the problem, to see both sides of every case, to protect men in the furtherance of legitimate self-interest by all reasonable and normal methods, and at the same time to keep the channels of competition free and open to all, so that a man with small capital may engage in business in competition with powerful rivals, assured that he may operate his business free from harassment and intimidation and may be given a fair opportunity to work out his business problems with such industry, efficiency and intelligence as he may possess.

The report lays stress on the work of the commission in preventing unfair competition. Since its creation and up to the end of the fiscal year the commission has considered 246 applications for the issuance of complaints against corporations and firms accused of unfair practices. Of those, 197 have been disposed of in various ways. Some concerns were ordered to discontinue the tactics complained of, others voluntarily agreed to cease unbusiness like methods, and in some cases no law violations were

found. The charges covered many kinds of law violations.

The trade commission's work has included also economic and special investigations. What the commission considers its most important economic inquiry was into the subject of cooperation in export trade. This report was issued during the summer and recommended to congress that American manufacturers be permitted to form export combinations. A bill providing for that, having the endorsement of the administration, is now pending in congress.

One investigation had to do with uniform accounting methods. That showed, according to the commission, a large percentage of the country's manufacturers and merchants had slight knowledge of their costs of production or selling expense. An investigation of trade possibilities and conditions in each of the country's industries, the report says, developed information that will prove invaluable to producers and persons contemplating investments.

The commission investigated the high prices of gasoline, situated inquiries into the print paper situation and the bituminous and anthracite coal industries, continued its investigation of resale price maintenance and aided in disposing of the Mexican sisal crop.

Activities in connection with enforcement of the Sherman act included an investigation to determine the relations existing between various companies into which the Standard Oil Company was dissolved, and preparation of a decree in the Corn products Refining Co. case referred to it by the federal courts.

An urgent appeal is made to congress for a larger appropriation for carrying on the work of the commission, which, the report declares, has grown so heavy the present force of employment cannot handle it.

HOLIDAY BUYING STARTS OFF WELL

Christmas trade opened up in Hickory this afternoon in earnest and by next week the holiday buying will be vigorous. The fine rain last night, the warm sun today, and the fact that this is Saturday, brought crowds to the city from every direction. There are just two more trading weeks until Christmas and the merchants are prepared for the usual big demand.

In connection with early Christmas shopping the postoffice department at Washington has urged the people to mail their packages early in the hope that the postal clerks might be able to get some rest Christmas day. Sunday is a holiday, but there will be little rest for the army of employees of the postoffice department. Unless packages are mailed early, many of them may not reach their destination until after Christmas day. The express companies have made similar requests and it is believed that the early buying and mailing movement will be realized this year.

HAS AMENDMENT FOR 8 HOUR LAW

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 9.—Senator Hardwick has prepared an amendment to the Adamson act which would give the interstate commerce commission full authority to fix the hours and wages of railway employees. The amendment would make it unlawful to obstruct or hinder the operation of trains because of any dissatisfaction with the orders of the commission.

The commission would be empowered to fix hours and wages on its own initiative or on the request of outside organizations. The Georgia senator will seek early consideration of his amendment before the interstate commerce committee.

LONDON SAYS QUIET ON BRITISH POSITION

(By Associated Press.)
London, Dec. 9.—No important event occurred on the Franco-Belgian front last night, the war office announced today.

COLDER WEATHER FOR NEXT WEEK PROMISED

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 9.—Generally fair weather with temperatures much below the seasonal average is forecast for the southeastern states during the week beginning tomorrow. Warmer weather is indicated towards the last of the week.

CONTRACTS PLACED FOR 96 AIRSHIPS

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 9.—Contracts for 96 high-power hydro-aeroplanes for the coast artillery stations in the United States, Hawaii, Porto Rico and the Philippines were awarded today. Immediate construction is to begin on the 96 and contracts soon will be let for 52 more.

COMMITTEE ASKS FOR AN EXTENSION

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 9.—The joint house and senate committee investigating transportation problems decided today to ask congress to extend its life so it may postpone further hearings until after the adjournment of congress. This is considered necessary so that time may be devoted in congress to President Wilson's program of railroad legislation. If congress does not extend its life, a partial report may be made before January 8.

Rain and wind last night—northerly wind—caused many people to believe that an inch or two fall, but the precipitation was slight.

FOOT IS MASHED WHEN TRAINS COLLIDE

Mr. W. W. Dysart of Lenoir, foreman on a Southern Railway work train, lost his right foot as the result of a head-on collision between the work train and the Marion shifter near Marion Friday afternoon between 4 and 5 o'clock, the foot being so badly mashed that it had to be amputated. The injured man was brought to Richard Baker hospital about midnight Friday and Dr. Shuford removed the member. A small part of the heel is all of the foot that was left.

Three other persons were slightly injured in the accident, the details of which were not learned.

Mr. Dysart's son, Conductor W. A. Dysart, was badly scalded about a year ago, and remained in the hospital here for several weeks. He recovered all right. Dr. Shuford said that the elder Dysart was doing well today.

GRAND JURY WILL DELVE INTO PRICES

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 9.—Federal grand jury investigations into the high cost of living were ordered today by Attorney General Gregory to begin in New York and Detroit next week. Similar investigations in Cleveland, St. Louis, Minneapolis and other cities.

GERMAN CRUISER AT LARGE IN ATLANTIC

(By Associated Press.)
London, Dec. 9.—A German warship has succeeded in running the British blockade cordon in the North sea, according to the report of a ship captain who says his vessel was held up and examined in the Atlantic. The vessel is not a converted merchantman, the captain said on his arrival here, but is a regular cruiser.

The West Hickory quarterly meeting will be held at Bethel church on Monday, December 17, at 3 o'clock p. m.

Rev. W. R. Ware, presiding elder, has requested Rev. A. L. Stanford to call attention to the fact that the first quarterly meeting of the Hickory circuit will be held at Houck's chapel on Sunday and Monday, December 16 and 17. Methodists are urged to bear the dates in mind.

MARKETS

COTTON FUTURES

(By Associated Press.)
New York, Dec. 9.—There was a renewal of yesterday's selling movement in the cotton market early today and a further break in prices. The opening was steady at a decline of three points to an advance of four points. Before the end of the first hour prices were \$150 a bale under last night's close.

	Open	Close
December	18.80	18.70
January	19.03	18.95
March	19.25	19.15
May	19.46	19.25
July	19.50	19.25
October	17.68	17.34

HICKORY MARKETS

Sutton	18 5-8
Wheat	1.80

CHICAGO WHEAT

Chicago, Dec. 9.—Increased danger to ocean shipping and the continuance of railway embargoes put wheat prices on the downgrade here today. Opening prices, which ranged as the same as yesterday's finish, with May at 1.74 1-4 to 1.74 1-8 and July at 1.57, were followed by a further decline.

THE WEATHER

COMPARATIVE WEATHER		
Dec. 8,	1916	1915
Maximum	57	56
Minimum	45	30
Mean	51	43

BUTTER INQUIRY BY FEDERAL AGENTS

(Ly Associated Press.)
Chicago, Dec. 9.—Pursuing his inquiry into food prices, United States District Attorney Klyne today sent investigators to Elgin, Ill., to attend the meeting of the board of trade, which organization fixes the price of butter that is said to govern largely sales throughout the country.

Federal officials have served subpoenas on a number of smaller packers of this city to appear before the grand jury Monday and answer to charges.

At the United States attorney's office it was announced that the egg supply of Chicago is controlled by four men.

Miss Milles Edmundson is spending the week end in Morganton with friends.

COTTON BREAKS RAPIDLY IN NEW YORK

(By Associated Press.)
New York, Dec. 9.—A renewal of heavy general liquidations following yesterday's break in prices caused excitement verging on demonstration in the cotton market here today. For a time prices broke 10 to 15 points between sales and before there was any pause in the decline March contracts had sold at 18.50 or 75 points under last night's close and the general list was fully \$14 a bale under the recent high level.

There seemed to be no reason for the sensational break, but bullish confidence had been shaken by the break of yesterday.

Coverings caused rallies of 20 to 30 points from the lowest as soon as the market diminished, but the market was still nervous.

FRENCH TO PROHIBIT IMPORT OF PAPER

(By Associated Press.)
Paris, Dec. 9.—The government has decided to prohibit the importation of cutting paper, according to a semi-official announcement. The object of the step is to encourage the French paper makers and to utilize the forests of France for wood pulp.

UPPER PASQUOTANK NOT TO BE DEEPEMED

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 9.—An adverse report on improvement of the upper Pasquotank river, North Carolina, from Turner's Cut to the head of navigation at Lebanon Road, was made in a report submitted to the house today by the war department.

DON SEITZ SPEAKS TO NEWSPAPER MEN

(By Associated Press.)
Chapel Hill, Dec. 9.—An address on "The business end of newspaper making," by Don Seitz, business manager of the New York World, featured the program of the closing session this morning of the newspaper institute.

Other speakers included W. H. Savory of the Mergenthaler Linotype Company and H. B. Varner of the Lexington Dispatch.

UNDER BLOCKADE SINCE FRIDAY MORNING

(By Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 9.—Ambassador Sharpe at Paris notified the state department today that the allies' blockade of Greece began yesterday at 8 o'clock.

FEAR GREECE IS READY TO STRIKE THEM IN BACK

Constantine and Royalties More Hostile and Large Army is Being Organized--Mackensen Said to be Ready for Drive at Saloniki.

ANOTHER GREAT CROWD HEARS DR. DEW

Though it was rainy last night, yet a large congregation was at the revival meeting at the Baptist church. There were many new faces among them. New faces are recognized at every service. This shows the interest of the meeting is spreading. All miss Rev. A. L. Stanford in the meeting, and regret to hear he is in bed sick. He with other pastors, has aided materially in the meeting.

"The spirit of the meeting seems to get better and better. All enjoy the singing. Many choruses are sung from time to time. The favorite one seems to be: 'Keep sweet, keep sweet, this is the only way; this is the way to win the day, if you'll just keep sweet.'"

"Everybody, old and young, have learned to love that chorus. Dr. Dew discussed the subject—'How one may know he has been born again?' He had many passages of scripture read, making it plain if one will just believe what the bible says about it. People read and believe history written by man, but do not read and believe what is written by the Holy Spirit."

"As it seemed, he made it so plain that a way-faring man or woman, though a fool, need not err therein. His illustrations are apt and have the sticking quality. His condemnation of many sins are sharper than a two edged sword; but is wielded in such a kind spirit, that those who are thus wounded, say 'it hurts good.' There are many, it is said, who will stop cussing, gambling, drinking, smoking cigarettes, dancing, etc. If they do not after hearing him, they will be sinning 'against light and knowledge. And those who have seen the error and sin of it, will need help to quit it, and only the spirit of the devil himself would tempt them to violate their enlightened, and good consciences."

"And no one class can say he hit others, but didn't hit me. That would be self-righteousness gone to seed. All must go away from every service, saying, he gave us all our portion in due season, and that, too, without sugar, salt, salve, or white wash."

EPSTEIN CASE WILL REACH JURY TODAY

(By Associated Press.)
Chapel Hill, Dec. 9.—Argument in the case of Hyman Epstein, on trial for the killing last spring of Leonard Edwards, still was in progress this afternoon in Wayne county superior court and was expected to go to the jury late today.

Church Unification Idea Has Advanced Steadily in the United States

(By Associated Press.)
St. Louis, Dec. 9.—Important movements of church unification in America have advanced during the last four years and will have a far-reaching effect upon the mission field, according to the Commission on Foreign Missions which reported at today's session of the quadrennial meeting of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. The report is an exhaustive review of mission work abroad, laying stress upon the great advance that has been made in cooperation. Discussing Church Union, the commission says: "The proposed union of the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Congregational churches in Canada will not only deeply influence the home mission policy and situation in Canada, but will deeply affect foreign missions in many fields. The movement toward the unification of Methodism will completely change the missionary situation in Latin America and Asia and Africa, and is rightly stirring profoundly the thought of the missionary leaders."

In conclusion the report reads: "The events of the last two years have made humanity deeply conscious of its unity. To the uttermost corner of the world the influence of the European war has extended. Man-kind recognizes that it is one body in which each member must suffer or profit with every other member. The common experiences of all men have been so deep and piercing as to eclipse their isolated and partisan experiences. The unity of human

(By Associated Press.)
The situation in Greece is not only again of decided political interest but potentially of marked military import in connection with the supposed purpose of the central powers to turn important sections of Field Marshal von Mackensen's powerful Rumanian army in a campaign against Saloniki.

Correspondents in Greece report a persistently hostile attitude by King Constantine and the Greek royalists towards the entente, and declare efforts are being made to gather a strong army in the Larissa region for an attack upon the entente forces from the rear simultaneously with the German attack.

British military writers call attention to these contingencies and decisive action towards Greece is urged in view of the military necessities of the allies.

Latest reports from the Rumanian campaign reject the continued retirement of the Russo-Rumanian armies in eastern Wallachia with the figures of men and materials by the invaders constantly increased.

How far the advance of Field Marshal von Mackensen may take him before the entente allies may feel able to oppose him is not clear. It is considered that not much if any of Wallachia will be left in Rumanian hands. The Abuz river which military commentators has picked for the Rumanians to make a stand is a boundary of the southern province of Rumania.

That there is every indication on the part of the Russians to maintain firmly the line along the western Moldavian frontier to safeguard that province is indicated by today's report from Petrograd of a Russian offensive in the Putna valley region. The announcement declares that the Austro-German forces were dislodged from two heights, losing 500 men in prisoners, one gun and six machine guns.

MAKE RIGHT OF WAY PRETTY TO LOOK ON

The railway right of way from the depot to Hotel Huffry, thanks to the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce, Manager Huffman and Colonel Robert Ransom and Mr. T. L. Henkel, is to be made attractive by the planting of grass and flowers. The city has cooperated also and by spring the place will not look the same. Instead of seeing tin cans and paper, passengers on the trains will behold grass and flowers all the way from the depot to the hotel. A pretty walkway and driveway will add to the attractiveness of the whole distance.

Mrs. J. H. Dew will speak to the intermediate classes of the Methodist Sunday school tomorrow morning at 10:15 o'clock.

history and of human life has asserted itself against all that separates it. These unifying forces have collided with the enterprise of foreign missions. It has always been a movement of cooperation and unity. It has proclaimed the duty of international sympathy and good-will. Even in the midst of the divisions and misunderstandings of war it has preserved the catholic mind and the christian spirit, and has held up before all schisms the loyalty of its unity.

"In China, where the Continental missions suffered great distress because of the cutting off of their supplies, the missionary agencies of other lands took up the burden. In India the American Lutherans came to the aid of German missions, while the entire mission body in India assessed itself for funds for the relief of German missionaries who might be in need. To relieve the strain of mission work in Japan and the United States, and to maintain the traditional relationship of common understanding and friendship by the sending of Dr. Mathews, the president of the federal council, and Dr. Gulick as a commission of good-will from the churches of America."

"The Christian churches working together in the missionary enterprise confront today both the privilege and the duty of unique service to humanity which needs above all else that principle of service and of unity and of love, of which the enterprise of foreign missions is the purest expression."