

HICKORY DAILY RECORD

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PRESIDENT ROBINSON

The Catawba Fair Association is unusually fortunate this year in having for its president John W. Robinson, good farmer and splendid fellow. He is deeply interested in agriculture and its kindred lines. He knows the value of a county fair, realizes that it can teach lessons to the observer that would never be learned otherwise.

We ought to have the best fair in the history of the local association. We ought to plan for a county exhibit at the state fair. The Catawba Fair Association is off to a good start.

TONIGHT

A meeting that is of tremendous importance will be held in the American legion hall when Dr. E. C. Brooks, state superintendent of public instruction, will be the principal speaker in the movement for a township high school on the Claremont College property. The dinner will be under the auspices of the Kiwanis club and the guests will include men and women from the county interested in schools and progress.

The Search Light, published in Atlanta, conveys a broad hint that Os Coffin, editor of the Raleigh Times, may some night get a new suit of clothes—tar and feathers—and be dumped from an automobile in front of the Superba. We shouldn't like to see Os wearing so many fine feathers.

Why isn't cotton growing profitable? That's a fair question. If it isn't profitable, what should be done about it? That's another. Governor Morrison evidently got down to the bone when he put these questions up to governors of other southern states.

State Treasurer B. R. Lacy, who has been ill in New York for more than a week, has developed pneumonia, and his condition is serious. Friends may still hope that he will be restored to health.

Rev. Baxter McLendon and party are on their way to Pasadena, Cal., to hold a meeting. The cyclone will have a chance to observe what he termed here a "continental Sunday," and the finest opportunity of his life for changing it.

The state attorney general's office has written the New York attorney that the municipal finance act is valid, and that ought to end it. If the state says it is all right, it is.

The president's four-power Pacific treaty is under fire in the senate. The treaty marks progress in international relations, and it ought to be ratified.

They are now saying that George Washington had red hair. Maybe so, but he wore a powdered wig and looked very patrician in it, one judges from his pictures.

New York bond lawyers may not believe the municipal finance act legal and once the question has been raised, the next thing is to test in the courts. If the supreme court says it is legal, there is no more to be said.

GOING IN FOR RESERVATIONS Springfield Republican. Senator Brandegee of Connecticut offered the reservation, and committee members said the discussion developed that even Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, the committee chairman and one of the American delegates to the arms conference,

was favorably disposed toward its adoption.—Washington Associated Press dispatch.

The reservation habit is of long standing in the senate. Not even the Underwood as members of the American delegation to the arms conference has had the slightest effect in eradicating tendencies of such longevity and strength. Are we to conclude that Mr. Lodge himself could not draft a treaty that would not seem to the senate to require reservations? That is precisely what we must conclude.

More than that—a treaty which for Mr. Lodge as a treaty negotiator for the president would seem to be a work of perfection calling for no reservations or amendments whatsoever, might easily show defects to his keen scrutiny after he had resumed his place in the critical atmosphere of the room of the senate committee on foreign relations. Mr. Lodge perhaps is reverting to type. His services as treaty negotiator for President Harding was a mere include. Functioning once more as a senator, the taste for blood reasserts itself. He is "favorably disposed" to Mr. Brandegee's reservation and before the end of the chapter he may be in his old form again.

But why should a president use senators as treaty negotiators unless they stand by the treaties they have negotiated? Mr. Harding says the four-power treaty needs no reservations. No doubt Mr. Hughes has told him so, and no doubt Mr. Lodge supported Mr. Hughes in that opinion. If Mr. Lodge as a senator now goes back on Mr. Lodge as a treaty negotiator and helps to pepper the treaty with reservation small shot, the use of senators as the diplomatic agents of the president would not seem to be very strikingly vindicated. It was understood that the employment of senators in that capacity was to get treaties ratified without modification or mutilation. But please note what is happening to the four-power treaty.

Mr. Brandegee's reservations would weaken the treaty, especially that part of the reservation saying "the United States shall be necessary to any adjustment or understanding under article 1 or 2, by which the United States is to be bound in any way and that there is no obligation either legal or moral to give such consent." The treaty may not be worth much as it is to Japan and Great Britain, but it would be worthless in case the president could do nothing under its provisions without the express consent of congress in every case that should arise, whether or not it involved the use of force.

For every reservation to the four-power treaty that might be adopted Japan would know how to find compensation in China or Siberia. The senate may trim down the Pacific treaty but Japan retains her grip on Eastern Asia.

THE ILLITERACY RECORD

Charlotte Observer. What is illiteracy? We believe it would prove of public entertainment to have the answer of the average census enumerator to the question. The census report for 1920 claims that its enumerators found as many as 46,744 white men in North Carolina "21 years old and over that fig-

ure," who are "illiterates." They found four of that sort out of every one hundred white men in Mecklenburg, as an example; they found 11 out of every 100 in Gaston, where schoolhouses abound; they found 12 to the 100 in Cabarrus, a county of established intelligent conditions. It is facts of this kind that, in our mind, cast suspicion on the census report as a mirror of real conditions. It must be borne in mind that in this enumeration the women and children of the white race and the negro men, women and children are excepted. The figures refer to white men alone, of and above "the voting age". The census figures are compiled by Mr. S. H. Hobbs, Jr., of the Rural Social Science Department of the University for the News Letter, and makes revelation of "pitiful increase in Washington, Pasquotank, Perquimans, McDowell, Gaston, Haywood, Caswell, Onslow, Swain and Graham counties." The ten counties in which the census disclosed the fewest of "illiterate" white men in the order named are: New Hanover, Mecklenburg, Hoke, Guilford, Craven, Pender, Rowan, Buncombe, Moore and Brunswick.

It may turn out on investigation that the majority of these white men in North Carolina who can neither read nor write are located in the 4,000 square miles the Raleigh Times discovered the census bureau took away from the State.

PRESIDENT HARDING AND THE SENATE Springfield Republican. There is a queer echo of old history in the reply made yesterday by the President to the Senate in regard to the Hitchcock resolution asking for information relative to the negotiation of the four-power Pacific treaty. It was impossible, the president stated, to furnish the required information because most of the negotiations were conducted without keeping a record. Nobody can have forgotten how much criticism was directed at President Wilson because part of the negotiations at Paris were carried on in the same fashion.

President Harding says furthermore that it would not be compatible with the public interest to disclose the confidential negotiations which led up to the framing of the treaties. The shortest memory must be able to recall the outburst of indignation on the part of President Wilson's critics when he took a similar stand in regard to the confidential negotiations of the "big four" at Paris.

Assurance is given by the President that there were no concealed understandings or exchanges of notes, but critics of the treaties are likely to ask how he can be sure what may or may not be beneath the surface of the treaties. That in its earlier version the four-power treaty was understood to include the home lands of Japan was discovered only by accident and was at first discredited by Mr. Harding; it may be asked how many other understandings not necessarily secret, yet at variance with the general impression of the meaning of the text, may still remain obscure.

These considerations are not likely to interfere with the ultimate ratification of the treaties, but they may be expected to create within the senate such a thirst for information as it has not suffered from since 1919.

SENATE'S THIRST FOR INFORMATION Springfield Republican. With Secretary Hughes gone to Bermuda for a vacation the Senate foreign relations committee must whistle for inside information concerning the four-power Pacific treaty. The Senate debate Thursday developed the fact that Mr. Hughes had exclusive charge of the treaty's negotiation for the American delegation, and that of written records, minutes, stenographic notes of conversations, letters or memoranda not a scrap is in existence. If Mr. Hughes' memory remains good, he could tell the committee much about the negotiation of the treaty. When he returns from Bermuda the committee could summon him as a witness and in executive session at least he would probably be glad to enlighten it.

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Senator Underwood knows a blessed thing about the inside negotiation of this treaty, which is by far the most contentious of the lot, except what Mr. Hughes has told them. For as both explained to the Senate, "the negotiations were conducted by the 'heads of delegation.'" It was a delicate matter—finding a substitute for the Anglo-Japanese alliance—and the conversations, as Mr. Lodge declared, were necessarily private. But there was no secrecy, Mr. Lodge insisted. The distinction is important: instead of negotiating in secret the heads of the delegations negotiated in private. And the senatorial representatives, supposed to keep the Senate in intimate touch with the business of the conference, can now add nothing to what is already known by the public.

Mr. Underwood, as the titular leader of the opposition party in the Senate, is in no position to complain because no information bearing on the four-power treaty was included in the 900-page report of the American delegation. Mr. Underwood divested himself of his normal functions as a senator when he accepted an appointment as one of the diplomatic agents of the President in the Washington conference. He can not now take on these functions again in their purity, after having signed the treaties as an agent of the executive power. But Senator Hitchcock of Nebraska, the ranking Democratic member of the foreign relations committee, has lots none of his qualifications as a senator in considering these treaties and his resolution calling upon the President for fuller information is strictly in conformity with precedents.

The truth about the four-power treaty was undoubtedly stated by Senator Underwood when he said that it was designed to effect the cancellation of the Anglo-Japanese alliance. This fact is generally known. But a question of real doubt remaining is the extent to which it replaces that alliance. It is to be expected that when he returns from Bermuda Mr. Hughes will be heard by the Senate committee on the subject, at least in secret session. No records of his private conversations were kept for obvious reasons. No one dared to preserve them owing to the extreme delicacy of the questions involved. Spurious version.

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BLUEBEARD TO DIE Paris, Feb. 24.—President Miller and has refused to commute the sentence of Henry Landru, the "blue-beard of Cambrai," as had been petitioned by Landru's counsel this afternoon. The guillotining of Landru for the kill of te women and a boy was set for the last of this week.

CAPTAIN MARRIAGE DEAD Nogales, Ariz., Feb. 24.—Theodore Marburg, Jr., son of the late Theodore Marburg, Sr., former United States minister to Belgium, accidentally shot himself last Friday while handling a gun.

EXTRAORDINARY ATTRACTION PASTIME Last Showing Today WARD LASCELLE Presents THOMAS JEFFERSON IN RIP VAN WINKLE IT'S SIMPLY MARVELOUS ON THE SCREEN ADDED ATTRACTION—PATHE NEWS SPECIAL MUSIC AT NIGHT BY MRS. HATCHER ADMISSION 10 and 30 Cts NOTE