

The Mount Airy News.

ESTABLISHED 1880

MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17th, 1921.

\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

EUROPE ASTOUNDED BY AMERICAN SHIP OUTPUT

Allies and Even Germany Are Amazed by Rapidity With Which Vessels Were Built.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Both the allies and the Germans were astounded at the rapidity with which the shipping board constructed ships after the United States entered the war, the house committee investigating the board's operations was informed today by E. N. Hurley, of Chicago, who was chairman of the board from July, 1917, to the summer of 1919.

High government officials in England, France and Italy told him during a visit to Europe after the armistice, Mr. Hurley said, that they were highly pleased at the accomplishments of the board, which, he added, built ships faster than those countries had thought possible. He learned, also, he said, that the Germans, too, had been amazed at the board's construction program.

The former chairman discussed the favorable comment he had heard abroad after touching in a general way on criticisms directed at the board in this country. Admitting that mistakes had been made, Mr. Hurley said that was inevitable since it was necessary to create a mammoth organization in a short time for the purpose of turning out ships.

"We delivered the ships," he declared. "That's what we were supposed to do."

Shipping board officials profited by their mistakes and took pains not to repeat them, the witness said, adding that the country could view with pride the accomplishments of the board. The ships it put into use, he declared, helped turn the tide at the most critical period of the war.

Mr. Hurley paid tribute to the men associated with him especially Charles M. Schwab, who, he said, had been drafted to take charge of construction when satisfactory progress was not being made. At the peace conference, Mr. Hurley continued, Clemenceau told him that the appointment of Mr. Schwab had frightened the Germans, heartened the French and enthused the British.

Georgia Masonic Building Is Destroyed by Flames

Sandersville, Ga., Feb. 13.—Sandersville, located just 12 miles from the scene of the disastrous tornado which Thursday laid waste the town of Oconee and Gardner mill district, was visited by a fire early today, when the brick Masonic building and four wooden structures were completely destroyed, entailing a loss of approximately \$60,000.

The Masonic building is reported to have been the oldest structure of its kind in Georgia, having been built in 1856. It was an old land mark and has much history attached to it. When Sherman made his march to the sea in 1864 his soldiers broke in to the building and looted it, it is stated. But when Sherman arrived on the scene he was requested by older masons to spare the building, and being a member of the order he granted their petition.

While the actual loss is estimated at \$60,000 there were over 7,000 books in the Masonic building, many of them being very old and considered priceless. The loss is partially covered by insurance. When the fire was at its height arrangements were made to remove a number of those injured in Thursday's tornado from a nearby hospital, but the flames were checked in time.

It is estimated coal men extorted one and one-half billion dollars from the public during 1920.

The Publishers Responsibility.

Much demoralizing reading is printed on the plea that "the public wants it." A mother might as excusably give her child a glistening arsenic for which it cries. The publisher bears a responsibility to society like that of the preacher or the teacher. This, at any rate, is the view of the Publishers of The Youth's Companion. From its first issue to the present it has been a constant force for character building. And with all that it has been so wisely edited that no publication exists of more varied charm, more inexhaustible and refreshing sources of interest.

The 52 issues of the coming year will be crowded with serial stories, short stories, editorials, poetry, facts and fun. Only \$2.50 for an amount of reading equal to thirty-five volumes of fiction, humor, etc.

THE YOUTH'S COMPANION, Commonwealth Ave. & St. Paul St., Boston, Mass.

MINERS ON TRIAL FOR KILLING FELTZ MEN

Indicted for Killing Five Detectives—Court Guarded by Soldiers.

Williamson, W. Va., Feb. 12.—Excited and confused, with pistols and rifles popping on every side, John McDowell, one of the Baldwin-Feltz detectives who battled with the citizens of Matewan last May 19, fired three shots at Reece Chambers, one of the defendants and then fled from the scene where seven of his comrades and three of the townspeople lay dead in the village street.

McDowell, who was the first witness called at the trial of 19 Matewan men who have been indicted in connection with the death of Albert C. Feltz, leader of the detectives, told his story to the jury and a crowded courtroom here today. He was followed on the stand by two telephone operators, May Chafin, a niece of Reece Chambers, and Elsie Chambers his daughter. Their testimony was no less startling.

McDowell said he had come with the other detectives to evict from houses owned by the Stone Mountain Coal company, at Matewan, a number of miners and their families. He could not recall the exact number and although pressed on cross-examination, did not give the number of women and children turned into the streets. While the evictions were in progress, McDowell recalled that Albert Feltz had seen C. C. Testerman, mayor of the town and Sid Hatfield, the chief of police, accompanied by a party of men coming their way. Feltz, the witness testified, ordered some of the men to get their guns and they did. The mayor protested to Feltz who answered that he had ample authority for what he was doing, to which Testerman replied, "Well, you don't pull anything like that and get away with it down here."

Later in the day the evictions were over and the men were preparing to leave Matewan, Hatfield told Feltz that warrants for their arrest had been sworn out in Williamson and were coming on the next train.

McDowell was not clear as to how the shooting started or who fired the first shot, but he said that while the Baldwin-Feltz men were going to the railroad station, they passed a hardware store where some 15 men had gathered. Suddenly the shooting began and McDowell, who was standing in front of the station, ran to the shelter of a telephone pole. He said that firing was going on all around him but the only man he saw shooting was Reece Chambers, McDowell, according to his testimony, fired three shots at Chambers and then made his way to Tug river, on the edge of the town, and crossed over into Kentucky. Fully 100 shots were fired, he said, in the fight.

May Chafin, the 17 year old niece of Reece Chambers, was on duty in the Matewan telephone exchange as operator that day, she testified. She heard Sid Hatfield call Tony Webb, who was then chief deputy for sheriff G. T. Blankenship, and ask him when warrants could be obtained for the arrest of the Baldwin-Feltz detectives. She further testified that she heard Hatfield tell Webb "we'll kill the — before they get out of Matewan."

The next witness, Elsie Chambers, daughter of Reece Chambers, testified to substantially the same thing. They were excused for the time being as was McDowell, and court recessed until 9 o'clock Monday morning.

The testimony today was heard with absorbing interest not only by the defendants, among whom sat Reece Chambers, but also by the jury-men and the crowd without the rail. For more than two weeks the court has struggled to find 12 men in Mingo county to hear the case and there were many who expressed the opinion that the accused would never be brought to trial.

During all this time a military guard of federal infantrymen have paced the streets about the courthouse and the county jail, the last of the troops sent here for duty in the coal strike region. Colonel Herman Hall, the commander, has been a constant attendant at court, frequently occupying a seat beside Judge R. D. Bailey, on the bench.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy a Favorite

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is a favorite with the mothers of small children for colds, croup and whooping cough. Its pleasant taste and the prompt cures which it effects has won the good opinion of mothers everywhere. As this remedy contains no opium or other narcotic it may be given as confidently to a baby as to an adult.

SETTLE CONTROVERSY THROUGH ACTUAL TEST

Navy Department to Dispose of Battleship vs. Aircraft Superiority Dispute

Washington, Feb. 6.—The controversy as to the relative superiority of battleships and aircraft, which recently has stirred the navy and war departments and has bobbed up in Congress, may be settled through actual tests, high naval officials said tonight.

Brig. General William Mitchell, assistant chief of the air service, who recently told a congressional committee that developments in aircraft had spelled the doom of the present dreadnaught, and other air service officers are understood to have issued a virtual challenge to the navy department to permit them to prove their contentions. The navy department is a firm believer in the superiority of the capital ship and, naval officers believe, will accept the challenge in the hope of settling the controversy, at least for the time being.

General Mitchell has asked his superiors in the war department to send a formal request to Secretary Daniels that two torpedo boats, two supply vessels and one battleship be designated for the tests. Naval officers express the belief that such a request, even if made, would be refused because of the large amount of material involved and the cost of fitting the five vessels with distant radio control apparatus.

There is a strong likelihood, however, naval officers said today, that the old battleship Iowa, already fitted with radio control gear and capable of a speed of more than 10 knots and of being maneuvered with no one on board, will be used as a target for aerial bombs after experiments now being conducted on the control device are completed.

Another suggestion going the rounds of the navy department now is that large lighters be towed at high speed behind destroyers or cruisers and used as targets. Many officers believe that no test of ability of the aviators to hit naval vessels would be conclusive unless the target were moving at least 20 knots an hour, pointing out that all modern cruisers, battle cruisers, battleships and destroyers and the proposed airplane carriers have more speed than this. If the lighters were used, it was said, a constructive area equal to that of a capital surface ship would be allowed the aviators around the lighter in which all hits would be counted.

No test ever under these conditions would be entirely conclusive, many naval officers maintain, because all of the elements of defense would be lacking including anti-aircraft guns and protective aircraft. It was generally conceded however, that such experiments as General Mitchell has proposed would give a good idea of the ability of the aviators to actually hit a vessel moving on the water.

"I am so confident," said one high naval officer today, "that neither army nor navy aviators can hit the Iowa when she is under way that I would be perfectly willing to be on board her when they bomb her, providing that they were kept at an altitude they would be compelled to maintain in battle."

Army aviators maintain that any surface vessel in existence today can be destroyed by airplane attack, citing the tests on the battleship Indiana with dummy bombs as proof of their ability to hit the target. Navy officers assert that it is one thing to hit a battleship anchored in a bay and another to hit the same ship moving at 16 to 20 knots an hour far out at sea. Officers of both services are eager for a test.

President Wilson Coins a New Phrase

Washington, Feb. 11.—The best "inside story" in Washington today is one of President Wilson's witticisms.

Recently the President listened patiently to a man who impressed him as having little intellectual depth. "That man," said the President, "is a simple bungalow. He has no upper story whatever."

New Congresswoman Says She Will Be Quiet

Muskogee, Okla., Dec. 12.—In saying her official goodbye to Oklahoma, Miss Alice Robertson, only congresswoman-elect told members of the American Legion she was going to Washington to "keep my eyes open and my mouth shut."

"You won't hear much from me at the start," she said.

BANKERS TO AID IN CURTAILING CROP

Resolutions Adopted By Directors of Tobacco Association of U. S.

Richmond, Feb. 10.—Action tending to the drastic reduction of tobacco acreage this coming season to one-half of former years was taken this week at a meeting here of the board of directors of the Tobacco Association of the United States and leading bankers from the bright tobacco growing sections of North Carolina and Kentucky.

The resolutions unanimously adopted at the session recite the necessity of curtailing the production until the present surplus of over one hundred million pounds of stock is reduced to a point where the culture of the leaf may be made economically profitable for the farmer.

Members of the association and the bankers pledge themselves to use every means to effect a universal curtailment of the crop this season.

The resolution offered by W. A. Hunt, of Henderson, N. C., are as follows:

Whereas, unprecedentedly large bright tobacco crops were produced in 1918-19-20, the last year making around 600 million pounds which resulted in an accumulation of a surplus stock far beyond any possible demand, especially on the common grades, with the Kentucky low grade types now selling for at unprecedentedly low prices come to some degree into competition; and

Whereas, nearly three-fourths of the bright tobacco is exported and a large percentage of it to Europe, which countries now, on account of exchange, having to pay 25 to 200 per cent other values here, and many of these countries now have very large stocks of unsold bright tobacco, together with the deplorable economical conditions existing, practically debar business for sometime; and

Whereas, the government report shows 128,000,000 pounds more tobacco than on hand this time last year, which amount will be considerably increased in the report of April; and

Whereas, these facts most undeniably show that a much decreased crop of tobacco is necessary to prevent disastrous consequences to the farming and tobacco interests generally; and

Whereas, the farmer alone can control the production of tobacco, which to be effective and fair, must be universal; therefore be it

Resolved, That this meeting unanimously indorses the movement now instituted by the Tobacco Association, in co-operation with the Farmers' Association, to curtail the crop of tobacco, and to that end will do all in their power, thru tobacco dealers, warehousemen and merchants, to prevent more than half a crop being planted as compared with last year, as it has clearly shown that there is now a large surplus of bright tobacco on hand, especially common grades, and that half a crop will mean better tobacco and the farmers will receive more money, therefore, than they would for a full crop; that those present at this meeting pledge themselves to use every proper means to carry out the purpose of these resolutions, and that copies be sent to every bank, warehouse and supply merchant in the bright tobacco district.

FORD PLANT TO RESUME WORK

Light Production Probably for Next Few Months But the Outlook is Encouraging

Detroit, Feb. 12.—Many heads of departments, steam fitters, foremen and millwrights have been called back to work at the Highland Park plant of the Ford Motor Company to get the factory in shape for resumption of production.

No public announcement of plans has been made by officials for fear of a rush of thousands of men seeking work. It is not expected that even one-quarter of the former workers will be employed for several weeks. Production is expected to be at a low schedule for some time; the 3000 a day mark being put out of consideration entirely.

Negotiations between Henry Ford and banking interests for funds necessary to finance the Ford companies have not as yet been concluded. Opinion is evenly divided as to whether the Ford need for money is dire. It is not denied that Ford will find it necessary to do some financing in the near future, but there is a strong probability that the securities will be offered direct to the public.

BRITISH PREMIER'S FIRM ATTITUDE ON REPARATION ISSUE

Mr. Lloyd George Says While German Proposals Will Be Considered, Allies Will Check Attempt to Avoid Payment

Birmingham, Eng., Feb. 8.—"We entered into the war because a treaty was broken. Now it is over, we mean to see that treaties are observed," said Mr. Lloyd George, the Prime Minister, here on Saturday afternoon, on the occasion of being presented with the freedom of the city.

After paying a graceful tribute to the heroic work of Birmingham during the war, the Premier immediately entered upon the subject of fulfillment of the Versailles Treaty. Taking the fact that a challenged treaty is war in suspense, as the keynote, he pointed out that until the treaty is fulfilled there will be constant unrest in Europe.

There are notably two conditions that it is essential that Germany shall respect, he said. The first is the stipulation of the Treaty with regard to disarmament. There can be no peace without disarmament. It is the first condition of peace that the war machine must be broken up—not merely broken up, but broken beyond repair.

"I have knowledge, on behalf of the British Government, that since the armistice Germany has made very great progress toward disarmament," he continued, and in order to give his audience an idea of the terrible machine Germany possessed, he presented some figures of the implements of war so far surrendered: In cannon, great and small, in round figures, 31,000; trench mortars, 10,000, and thousands and thousands of the biggest guns ever forged have been surrendered, broken and smashed. The Premier recalled to his audience that Great Britain had about 100,000 shells in 1915, with 80,000 in reserve, while Germany has surrendered since the armistice 35,000,000. As to small arms, she has surrendered 70,000 machine guns, 3,000,000 rifles and 411,000,000 cartridges.

Germany's Responsibility

As to reparations, the first condition laid down by the British Government before the last election was that Germany was morally bound to pay for all the damage inflicted by her wanton acts, that by every fundamental of jurisprudence in every nation in the world, the country, just like the individual, is responsible for its own acts.

The second fundamental, which was also laid down in the pre-election program, was not merely one of law, but of common sense. That does not always mean the same thing, said Mr. Lloyd George. "It is that you can only recover from another what he is capable of paying. You cannot get more out of him than he has got. The best way of determining that is to have expert accountants determine what the debtor is capable of paying."

"The third fundamental, and this is the most important, is that Germany must not be allowed to pay in such a way as would inflict greater damage on the country receiving the payment than not to pay at all, which would be the case if Germany paid in goods, as that would throw hundreds of thousands of workmen out of employment here in France, Italy and in America."

These fundamentals the Premier considers that the Allies have now accepted, and the bill presented to Germany has one advantage in the way in which that bill has been framed. It is scaled according to Germany's prosperity. "If Germany is not prosperous, she cannot pay. If Germany is prosperous she can pay and she must pay," the Premier stated amidst cheers.

Agitation in Berlin

As to the storm raised in Berlin on hearing the account of the Paris conference proceedings, he had read a fairly full report of the speech delivered by Dr. Walter Simons, who is Germany's Foreign Minister, "and I may say at once a very able man—I think a very high-minded man, as I judge men. I sat with him around the table several days at Spa, and he impressed me as a very sincere and honest statesman, who meant to carry out his obligations as far as he could."

Dr. Simons' speech about refusing to accept the Allies' conditions as a basis of discussion reminded the Premier of that speech in the Reichstag which also received even louder applause—a sentence about a scrap of paper. "I ask Germany not to allow itself to be misled by passion of the

moment into repeating the follies of 1914."

He then rapidly sketched the relative taxation of Great Britain and France, as compared with Germany, and showed that it is intolerable that the country which inflicted the damage, and which escaped the damage itself, should also escape with a lighter burden of taxation than the two countries which were victims of her wanton attack. The burden imposed by the Allies on Germany is not extravagant. For the first two years, it is not equal to the annual pensions bill of France and Great Britain alone. Afterward, it increases, but that is in proportion to the increased prosperity of Germany.

Somebody must pay, said the Premier. "Who is to repair devastated France, destroyed by the German army? Is it the workmen of France, who simply protected their native land against the invader and protected it with infinite heroism? Our claim is a righteous one, and we must enforce it."

Alternative Proposals

"As far as Germany is concerned," the Premier pointed out, "it is purely a question of good will. Dr. Simons has said that he has some alternative proposals. He is entitled to make them by the Versailles Treaty. Dr. Simons has not put forward any claim of his own for liquidating German obligations, and his excuse is extraordinary. He says it is because of the sneers of the Paris press. Fancy making that as an excuse for anything! Dr. Simons must be very young in politics. The Paris press is just like any other press, some of it sane, and some of it rather less so."

"Dr. Simons must find a better reason than that. If he has alternative proposals, we promise fair condition for them. We said so at the time of the Treaty, so long as these proposals show a bona fide effort to liquidate the obligations of Germany. We are willing that Germany should pay us under conditions which best suit its own means, requirements and resources; but if it is a mere attempt to avoid payment, we cannot put up with that."

In conclusion, the Premier announced: "The Allies have the same just cause as ever. They will proceed in the same spirit of justice and moderation and they are as united as ever in their purposes." He said that at Spa, he had had misgivings that behind Dr. Simons were the men of 1914, but the assumption of power by the instigators of the war could not be permitted. The sword must be sheathed for all time. Nothing, he said, would harden the allied people against Germany more than the feeling that she was still animated by the idea of looking upon treaties as they had looked upon those of 50 or 60 years ago—as "scraps of paper." "Our claim is a righteous one," said the Premier, "and we must enforce it."

NEGRO DETECTIVE COINS THE MONEY

His Operations Land Him in Statesville Jail

Statesville, Feb. 12.—Charged with having used the mails for fraudulent purposes, C. D. Douglass, negro proprietor of the Union Bloodhound Detective Agency, of Mooresville, is in jail here. He was brought to Statesville by Deputy United States Marshal John L. Milholland. It appears that Douglass had been operating at Mooresville for several months and had developed a growing business. His scheme was to place advertisements in newspapers and distribute circulars, offering to employ other negroes to do detective work. His victims extend in many states of the union and in Canada. He offered to employ men at \$7 a day. Applicants had to forward him \$3 in cash for a commission and pay him \$2.90 additional for a badge. Having received their commission they were to await orders from Douglass for assignments.

Mooresville postoffice records show that since October 1, he collected more than \$400 in money orders for commissions and badges, and there is evidence that he collected much actual cash, express money orders and checks. It is learned that Douglass has done some detective work, either himself or through his employes, in Statesville and Hickory. It is stated that as a result of his work at Hickory, at least 17 negroes, three women and 14 men were arrested for their part in the liquor traffic. Douglass claims that he has done no wrong and has employed local counsel to defend him in a preliminary hearing here before Commissioner W. J. Lazenby.