

The Mount Airy News

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HARDING DOES AS HIS SUPPORTERS DESIRED

In His Address Before Congress Makes It Plain That He Has Scrapped The League

Those who voted for President Harding last year with the hope that after election his administration would find a way agreeable to all in which to bring the United States into the League of Nations, or some other world organization to prevent future wars, abandoned all hopes when the President delivered his message to the special term of Congress Tuesday.

"In the existing League of Nations," says President Harding, "this nation will have no part." His language is clear, and yet he suggests no better method, nor any method of any kind, of preventing future wars. The following is what Mr. Harding said in his message regarding the league:

"Little avail in reciting the causes of delay in Europe or of our own failure to agree. But there is no longer excuse for uncertainties respecting some phases of our foreign relationship. In the existing league of nations, world governing with its super-powers, this Republic will have no part. There can be no misinterpretation, and there will be no betrayal of the deliberate expression of the American people in the recent election; and, settled in our decision for ourselves, it is only fair to say to the world in general, and to our associates in war in particular, that the league covenant can have no sanction by us.

"The aim to associate nations to prevent war, preserve peace and promote civilization our people most cordially applauded. We yearned for this new instrument of justice, but we can have no part in committing to an agency of force in unknown contingencies; we can recognize no super-authority. Manifestly the highest purpose of the league of nations was defeated in linking it with the treaty of peace and making it the enforcing agency of the victors of the war. International association for permanent peace must be conceived solely as an instrumentality of justice, unassisted by passions of yesterday and constituted as to attempt the dual functions of a political instrument of the conquerors and of an agency of peace. There can be no prosperity for the fundamental purposes sought to be achieved by any such association so long as it is an organ to any particular treaty or any commitment of the special aims of any nation or group of nations."

FRUIT CROP IS KILLED IN WESTERN CAROLINA

Reports Reaching Asheville From Many Points Say It All Is Destroyed

Asheville, April 12.—Destruction of the fruit crop in western North Carolina at a loss estimated to be in the millions, was wrought overnight by damaging frosts and low temperatures that set in Monday night, according to all reports reaching agriculturists in this city.

"All dead, every single one," was the terse report brought back by C. C. Proffitt, county farm demonstrator, after an inspection this morning of orchards in the Fairview section. Apples and peaches, in so far as he was able to ascertain, were entirely killed, such as had escaped the earlier frosts and cold experienced two weeks ago when one-tenth of the crop only was destroyed, it was estimated.

Upon all sides farmers were uttering the three short words that spell an enormous loss throughout Buncombe and adjoining counties: "Fruit is killed."

Inquiries from several adjacent sections, the farm demonstrator reported, brought forth similar response, all indicating that practically no fruit survived. There may be a few late apples, of course, he admitted, for some have not yet put out.

Coming as it does upon the heels, almost, of the great western North Carolina apple show in which a great wave of enthusiasm for increased fruit production was started, the stroke of misfortune falls with double force in the land of the sky.

Washington, April 8.—Negroes in North Carolina have signified their intention of filing charges against Frank Linney, who it to be the next district attorney for western North Carolina. Linney seems to have displeased the colored brethren because of something he said to Tom Warren regarding the negroes being allowed to vote. Linney, however, will be named district attorney.

PHYSICIAN COMMITS A COWARDLY MURDER

J. E. Taylor, Chief of Police of Thomasville, Killed By J. W. Peacock—Officer Shot Down On the Street By Prominent Doctor.

Thomasville, April 16.—John E. Taylor, chief of police of Thomasville, and an ex-service man, was shot and almost instantly killed, and Henry Shaver, a mechanic in a local furniture factory, was seriously wounded here this morning about 9:30 o'clock by Dr. J. W. Peacock, of Thomasville, one of the most prominent physicians in Davidson county, and until about two weeks ago a member of the city council. Mr. Shaver, who was assisting the chief, was shot accidentally. The immediate cause of the shooting is said to be ill feeling which has existed between the physician and chief for sometime. This morning about 2:30 o'clock Dr. Peacock's barn was burned and he is said to have placed the blame on Chief Taylor.

The shooting was one of the most brutal and cold-blooded murders ever committed in Davidson county and has transformed the little town of Thomasville into a complete daze. Dr. Peacock was arrested shortly after the tragedy and taken to Lexington, where he was lodged in jail. Mr. Shaver was taken to High Point, where he was placed in a hospital. He was shot in the abdomen and the outcome is yet in doubt. Hospital authorities stated last night that while his condition was serious he had a fighting chance.

Policeman D. J. Lamb, who made the arrest, stated that Dr. Peacock while en route to Lexington expressed deep regret over the shooting of Mr. Shaver, but was satisfied with the killing of Chief Taylor, declaring that he had seen Taylor Friday evening viewing the premises around the barn and that he was satisfied he, the chief, was directly responsible for the conflagration, which resulted in about \$3,000 damages.

From his office on the second floor of a building on Salem street Dr. Peacock fired two shots from a shotgun at Chief Taylor, who was standing across the street, about 75 feet away. The first lead struck the chief in the face and on the upper part of the chest. Eye witnesses stated that he threw up his hands and screamed "Oh!" and turned. As he turned a second blast struck him on the right shoulder and back. These two shots, according to physicians who performed the autopsy, who not necessarily have caused immediate death. But Dr. Peacock rushed from his office down to the street. By this time the wounded policeman had entered T. A. Peace's grocery store in a fazed condition. At this moment Mr. Shaver and R. C. Alexander took hold of his arms in an effort to hold him to his feet. Dr. Peacock, with a new weapon, a German Luger automatic, entered and opened fire. It was the bullets from this vicious Teutonic pistol that caused death. An examination of the body disclosed the fact that two bullets entered the left breast, near the heart. Taylor crumpled up and fell to the floor on his face. Not content with what he had done, the doctor sent two more bullets into the head. One emerged above the right eye, while the second came out through the nose, both burying themselves in the floor.

After committing the terrible tragedy Dr. Peacock, calm but pale, walked back across the street, with his smoking revolver, into the Thomasville Drug store. A little while later he was accompanied home by a few friends. Policeman Lamb, who made the arrest, stated that the physician offered no resistance, but gave himself up deliberately.

During the shooting everyone in close proximity was thrown into a state of hysteria, men were excited and pale, women were screaming and consequently no one seems to be able to give a clear account of the tragedy. It is believed that Mr. Shaver's wound was due to someone in a state of excitement striking Dr. Peacock's hand which held the pistol, throwing the aim into Mr. Shaver.

Some say that only three pistol shots were fired, but this is hardly true, as the autopsy disclosed four pistol wounds.

Chief Taylor was shot while conversing with Andrew Varner. Varner, a distinguished service man of the world war, stated that Taylor, who served in the navy during the war, had asked him to don his uniform and turn out Sunday afternoon to attend the funeral services of Hamit Harris, the first Thomasville man to make

the supreme sacrifice in France.

The tragedy has a background, a long and bitter factional fight, of which the dead officer was the central figure. Persistent and repeated efforts had been made to secure the removal of Taylor as chief of police, and charge after charge had been brought against him with that end in view; but he had many enthusiastic backers, including some of the most influential and highly respected citizens in the town, and these had defeated every effort to oust him. Some of the charges had been investigated and disproved, but some were still pending when the homicide crashed upon the town with the effect of a dynamite bomb.

Taylor's friends maintain that the endeavors to secure his dismissal were due, not to any misconduct on his part, but to his energetic action against gamblers and bootleggers. There is no question that he waged relentless warfare upon gambling and the liquor traffic; but a certain section of public opinion cites the alleged confession of a bootlegger, arrested by another officer, to the effect that the chief was himself the head of the whiskey ring, and that the bootlegger, Teague, was acting merely as Taylor's agent when the arrest was made.

Republicans Lining Up Around The Pie Counter

Washington, March 31.—Their visiting or rather soliciting days cut down to three a week at the White House, the office seekers are using the mails in increasing volume to get their say before President Harding. The lights in the executive offices burn into the night and some of them early into the morning hours in delving into the stacks of mail that come for the new president, while the telephones that have places on the desks of Secretary Christian and Executive Clerk Forster jingle all through the day with calls that are heard in anxious voices asking for engagements at the White House.

Indeed, so great became the volume of mail that there are two shifts of workers on it these days, and the anxious writers must not be worried if replies do not come at once, for it takes time to digest the letters and recommendations that pour in. And though it has been officially given out that Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays are the "open season," days for taking a shot at hoped-for jobs, there are persistent callers who keep warm the chairs in the ante-rooms. But the work is yet to come, for when the extra session of Congress convenes on April 11 the visiting list at the White House is certain to grow longer. In addition to the office seekers at the White House, each of the cabinet members are besieged by folks wanting to connect with the pay roll.

Sam Gompers Weds A Widow

New York, April 16.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, and Mrs. Gertrude Nuschler, of this city, obtained a marriage license this afternoon. They will be married later today by Supreme Court Justice Robert E. Wagner, the license showed.

Mr. Gompers is 71 years old and Mrs. Nuschler 38.

Births are outnumbering deaths in France for the first time in years. This is the most encouraging symptom of the country's recovery from the war's ravages.

English walnuts selling at \$3 each in Denver were found to contain small capsules of morphine and cocaine in place of nut meats.

Notice

By virtue of a deed of trust executed on the 1st day of March, 1920 by P. I. Edmonds and wife, Letha Edmonds, to secure an indebtedness of \$6,000.00 to H. O. Edmonds, (and upon which there is a balance due of \$5,000) and the stipulations in said deed of trust not having been complied with and at the request of the holder of the note secured by said deed of trust, the undersigned trustee will offer for sale at public auction, to the highest bidder, for cash, on Saturday May 21st, at twelve noon at the courthouse door at Dobson, Surry County, N. C., the following described property, to-wit:

Beginning on a pine on the Rockford road, D. J. Denny's corner, runs West forty-four chains and 80 links to a gum in Pilon's line; thence North 18 chains and 50 links to a stake and pointers; thence East 5 chains and 88 links to a red oak; thence North 8 chains and 80 links to a rock pile in the old Robert Wall line; thence East 27 chains and 75 links to a rock pile in the forks of the road; thence South 22 degrees East about 29 chains and 75 links to a pine on the North side of the Rockford road; thence with said road 40 links to the beginning, containing 114.3 acres, more or less.

This the 15th day of April, 1921.

H. G. DRAUGHN, Trustee.

Home Talent Play

A full house greeted the comedy entitled "A Strenuous Life" given by home talent at the Broadway theatre Thursday night.

The scene was the University of California, Berkeley, California, and the play dealt with the life of the students, members of the faculty and others.

Miss Elizabeth Lovill as Mrs. Wiggins, proprietress of a boarding house aired her troubles before the audience, but in the end succeeded in capturing Warren Davis as Dan Davenant, a wealthy miner and widower and father of Miss Lily Mae George as Marion Davenant, a prospective student.

Charles D. Lucas, as Tom Harrington, a university student, played a leading role, and was responsible for practically all the amusing predicaments in which the others found themselves by his proclivity to get into trouble and the readiness with which he tried to extricate himself by lying.

J. G. Reddick as Reginald Black, Tom's chum and room mate stood by his friend thru thick and thin, until his habit of lying to save himself caused a misunderstanding between Reggie and his sweetheart, Ruth Thornton the modest little niece of the landlady, which part was played by Miss Elizabeth Merritt.

Philip Johnson appeared as Prof. Magee the gymnasium instructor as well as Dawley, a collector, J. H. Allred was Byron Harrington and Miss Isabel Smith was Dulcie Harrington, father and sister of Tom whose arrival at Tom's boarding house caused that young man no little embarrassment. Theodore Reece played the role of Prof. James, a new member of the university faculty, Edward Haymore was James Roberts a freshman, and Miss Virginia Banner appeared as the widow Maguire, who sold tobacco to the students on the sly, and incidentally had a hard time to collect from Tom who stayed broke but did not worry over his debts, and did not see why other people should make such a fuss about them.

The play was given in three acts, taking place in the morning, afternoon and evening of the same day, and surely no one could ask for a more strenuous life than was presented, crowding into the one day enough humorous situations for the average life time. In the last act Tom Harrington realized that it did not pay to try to lie his way thru life, and he decided to reform after his father had disinherited him and his case with the wealthy Miss Davenant had been called off, but he was obliged to tell one more lie which was verified by Miss Esther Boswell as "Nugata" the Japanese servant, who habitually neglected her work in a faithful attempt to master our language from a book which she hid in her pocket whenever Mrs. Wiggins appeared, but whose whole English vocabulary consisted of the one word "yis." This saved the situation for Tom and he was restored to his father and sweetheart, his chum Reggie Black made peace with Ruth Thornton and the wealthy miner Dan Davenant become reconciled to the widow Wiggins after his modesty in asking a woman where to get a "chaw of tobacco" had caused her to mistake his remarks for an attempt to propose, and he had been given a wife instead of the much desired tobacco.

Each one played his or her part with ease and future plays by these young people will be looked forward to with pleasant anticipation.

The work of Miss Elizabeth Merritt in directing the play deserves special commendation.

Guerrilla War Is Now In Full Sway

Dublin, April 4.—Flying columns of the Irish Republican army are officially reported to be operating in Fermagh, Armagh, Tyrone, Kildare and Queen's counties. There has been much destruction of roads and in many cases intimidation has been resorted to. The columns invariably disappear on the approach of crown forces, the official reports say.

A fight occurred last night in the hills near Dundrum four miles south of Dublin. Crown forces had proceeded to the hills in lorries to investigate reports of firing. They found twenty armed men, some of whom, after firing at the military, mingled with women and children who were picnicking for which reason the crown forces refrained from using their machine guns.

They pursued the others, however, who were escaping to another hill and shot two. The remainder set fire to the shrubbery on the hillside and escaped in the smoke screen.

Brides Chosen By Photograph

By Fredric J. Haskin in Charlotte Observer.

New York City.—While premiers and potentates are struggling with problems of readjustment, the women of Europe are quietly settling one of the gravest after-war difficulties by emigrating to this country, where there is a surplus supply of husbands. These women have a great advantage over former generations of war-made spinsters. They have at their disposal the art of photography.

Thus, it happens that genuine romance has recently been revived in New York by the advent of hundreds of picture brides from the most man-exhausted countries. The Japanese have long used the picture bride system, but now half a dozen other races have followed suit. Every ship brings in a dozen or so and the other day a Greek steamship arrived with 300 in its steerage, much to the confusion of the immigration authorities and to the great fatigue of several priests and parsons, who have been kept constantly busy tying the marriage knot.

Most of the brides are from Greece, Syria, Turkey, Czechoslovakia, and Italy. They do not seem to be the slightest bit downcast at the thought of marrying men they have never seen before, although they are naturally curious about the sort of prizes they are destined to draw.

The waiting picture grooms are equally curious as to their fate. Thus, when this particular Greek ship was held up in the harbor for a long interval, owing to a case of smallpox on board, the harbor police launch had to be requisitioned to keep the impatient swains from mobbing the boat. They circled around in rented motor boats and dories, eagerly searching the faces of the damsels on the lower deck and comparing them with the thumb-marked photographs. Some of them having located their prospective brides, sent them fruit, candy and even wearing apparel in baskets, which the ladies lifted with a piece of light rope.

As soon as the girls stepped off the boat, there was a wild rush among the assembled bridegrooms; a few seconds of hasty identification and introduction, and then a storm of rapturous embraces. An onlooker would have supposed the couples had known each other for years. In a few cases, there was a childhood betrothal in the background, but for the most part an exchange of photographs and a letter or two was the only basis of the relationship.

To the most of us, choosing a mate by photograph would seem even more hazardous than most methods, but in all this crowd of picture brides and grooms there were only a few cases of disappointment. One very pretty English girl who had left an Italian villa, where she was employed as a governess, to marry a man from our far west, decided that she couldn't go through with the arrangement when she saw her prospective mate.

"I feel that I should marry you since since you've paid for my passage over here, but I simply can't," she told him. "You look very nice and kind," she added gently. "But I am sure we wouldn't get along. Your letters sounded different somehow—I thought—well, I guess I'd better cable my people for passage money back home."

Another girl who was not disposed to accept kindly the husband fate had awarded her, was not so polite. She was a large and buxom Syrian lass, with a pair of fine brown eyes that sparkled with excitement when she talked.

"I will not marry you," she declared contemptuously, as she took in the grotesque appearance of the small, bent and somewhat elderly Syrian gentleman who claimed her as his property. "You are not the same as your picture—no hair, perhaps no teeth—and you dare to think you marry me!"

At this point, a member of one of the several social service organizations, which offer a protecting arm to the picture brides at Ellis island, hurried to the scene and tried to straighten out the difficulties. The man explained he had a fine house, a fine automobile, was wealthy. He would treat her well, he said, and she would not have to work. But the girl remained obdurate, so the social worker sent her to an immigrant home. Here, a Syrian society became interested in her case, and she soon had most of its membership list as candidates for her hand. Among these, she finally found one to her liking, who paid the picture suitor back his passage money and the incident ended happily.

In the great majority of cases, however, the course of picture love runs smooth. The girls have no fault to find with their swains, and the men are usually more than pleased because the girl turns out to be better looking than her photograph, which is a cheap and badly posed likeness. Occasionally, a man feels that he was led to expect a great deal more than he got, but he is apt to take it philosophically like one Armenian, who upon beholding his bride, exclaimed, "Ah, well, why waste the passage money. All wives are the same after five years."

The fact is that picture marriages are probably as safe and quite as romantic as any other kind. The peasant girl of Europe is accustomed to the idea of marrying a man she does not know, because over there the parent-arranged marriage is the conventional thing. No self-respecting girl would think of marrying the youth of her own choice, unless by some stroke of good fortune he also happened to be the choice of the parents. She has been taught that marriage must be governed by economic considerations. The man must be well established in his trade or profession, and the girl must have her dot and trousseau.

The lack of dots and trousseaux since the war is another reason for the rush of picture brides to this country, where a bride need have no property at all, except a feather mattress. Even a picture bride is expected to have this requisite. Hence, a huge unwieldy, lumpy mattress, rolled and tied with a piece of string, is a conspicuous item of picture bride luggage which has recently been doubling the work of the health authorities stationed at the docks.

As for the man ordering a bride by picture from the old country is a convenient arrangement for him, too. Coming from Syria or Jugo-Slavia or Czechoslovakia, he lives in his own foreign settlement in this country, where there is probably not one single, satisfactory unmarried girl. The young ladies born in America do not interest him as wives. They are apt to be too independent, too irreverent of the home customs, and unable to cook his favorite national dishes. So what is more natural than that he should write to a relative in the old home village—enclosing his photograph—and requesting that a good, husky, sweet-tempered wife be selected and shipped to him.

Capital Punishment

Every once in a while some well meaning person criticizes capital punishment.

It remains for Nevada, however, to propose a new mode of ridding society of that class of humanity which commits a deed requiring death as adequate punishment.

The New York Sun presents this view of the new idea, which one may consider for a moment:

"The Nevada legislature has passed a bill providing that capital punishment in that state shall be administered by lethal gas 'at an unknown hour and during sleep.' It is said that the governor of the state favors the measure and the author of the bill found no opposition to getting it through both houses. The present law of Nevada permits the condemned person to choose death either by hanging of by a firing squad.

"It will of course strike many persons in this longitude that the present Nevada law involves too much of uncertainty and too little of the inherent sternness of a death penalty; too much room for argument, too strong a reversal of the exemplary quality of execution. The matter remains an unsettled point in our penal theories.

"But the proposal to inflict the death penalty with lethal gas—undoubtedly in itself a painless means of passing—'at an unknown hour and during sleep'—will stir yet more critics. Opinions of local jurists should be obtained, and also of local physicians and neurologists. It is conceivable that a brutish individual might not be disturbed by the mere uncertainty of time involved in this measure, but to a man, even though a murderer, of any imagination, the matter might seem very different. Probably the framers of the bill gave no thought to the exquisite mental torture which a condemned person might suffer after his entry into the lethal chamber. It seems likely that sleep would scarcely come to him save under soporifics; the whole matter seems far from simple. Possibly Governor Boyles of Nevada will take further counsel and give the subject careful consideration before committing the state to a questionable procedure."