

WILL BEGIN GREAT OFFENSIVE AGAINST TURKS AND BULGARS

Allies Hope to Eliminate Them From War At One Stroke, Rome Hears

TO END WAR DURING FALL

Is Object—Troops of Four Nations Concentrated At Salonika While Russians Continue to Advance On Bagdad

(By the United Press)

Paris, May 26.—The French repulsed violent German attacks on the West Meuse Bank and northwest of Verdun in last night's fighting, as well as gaining on the east bank, the war office today reported. By smashing a counter attack the French recaptured a trench lost yesterday near Thiaumont. There has been no cessation for thirty-six hours in the cannonading around hill 304 and Avocourt.

Great Offensive Planned

Rome, May 26.—A terrific smash within a few weeks aimed at eliminating the Turks and Bulgars from the war will be the Allies' first great stroke for peace, was a report today generally circulated. Heavy allied blows from Salonika and in Mesopotamia will be followed by a tremendous offensive against the Austro-Germans in an attempt to end the war before winter. French, English, Serbians and Italians are concentrated at Salonika awaiting the word to strike. Meanwhile the Russians are pressing on toward Bagdad.

TAKES DIVINE TOUCH TO RESTORE FROM SIN

Last night Rev. Luther B. Bridgers addressed one of the largest audiences that has yet attended the Queen Street Methodist revival services. He read from the eleventh chapter of John the story of the death of Lazarus and the appeal that was made to Jesus to restore him to life.

The picture of Lazarus was taken by the speaker as a type of the sinner's condition in this world. Death means a separation and so sin always separates man from God and all that is highest and noblest in life. Then, just as Lazarus had no power to restore himself, so the sinner is impotent but must rely for restoration completely on the mercy of God. It takes the divine touch to restore a man from sin. No man ever overcame the power of the devil as evidenced in temptation within himself. It is always the power of God that does it. The natural drift of the unregenerated life is away from God; and God alone can change the drift.

The speaker laid much stress on the thought that salvation is always the gift of God, and is bestowed without fail when man decides for himself to be saved from sin.

The call resulted in a large number going forward to the altar.

This morning's service was of a character to contribute mightily to the upbuilding and strengthening of the Christian life. It was a consecration service based on Philippians 3:7 and following which Paul's complete consecration is so graphically set forth.

Both Mr. Bridgers and Mr. Milan are excellent musicians and music is made an effective part of every service. Mr. Bridgers usually prefaces his sermons by singing a well-chosen solo. Tonight he is to sing an attractive selection which is a production of Mr. Milan, the choral director.

DURHAM DUMPS SEWAGE INTO THE NEUSE RIVER

Durham, May 25.—The contract for the construction of ten and one-half miles of sewerage line from Durham to Neuse river was let tonight.

AMERICANS GET BAD MAN WITH SCORE OF HIS BAND IN MEXICO

Cervantes Attacked Engineers and Lost His Life—Troops Pursued Remnant of Party and Bagged Another Brace, Said

(By the United Press)

Field Headquarters in Mexico, May 26.—Candelario Cervantes, a bandit leader, who has terrorized the section about Cruces, was killed after attempting to rush a party of engineers repairing a road six miles to the south of Cruces, with 20 of his followers.

Three Americans were wounded, one dying later. The Cruces garrison immediately pursued the survivors, killing two and wounding others.

The pursuers were members of the Thirteenth Cavalry, under Capt. Guy Cushman.

Single-stalk cotton culture is being taught Craven county planters by a Federal agriculture expert.

TAFT WILL SUPPORT T. R. IF NOMINATED AT CHICAGO, THO'G'T

Former President Refuses to Comment, However—Roosevelt Will Have to Toe the Line if Westerners Follow Him

(By the United Press)

Washington, May 26.—If Roosevelt wins the Chicago nomination Taft will be for him, according to information from friends very close to both men. The same sources, however, said western Progressives will refuse to follow Roosevelt if he does not adhere strictly to the Progressives' routes.

Mr. Taft today refused to confirm the report, merely chuckling, and saying, "Why should I comment on such a violent hypothesis?"

COMMITTEE AGREES ON ARMY APPROP'R N BILL

(By the United Press)

Washington, May 25.—The army appropriation bill, carrying \$145,000,000 and including provision for carrying out the Hay-Chamberlain reorganization bill, was agreed to today by the House Military committee. The bill includes provision for a council of executive information for co-ordination of industries and resources in war time.

BULLETINS

(By United Press)

CAROLINA STRAWBERRY SHIPMENTS

Washington, May 26.—Telegraphic reports to the Agricultural Department show that 618 cars of strawberries had been moved from the Carolinas up to May 22. One hundred and eighty carloads and liberal boat shipments had been moved from Virginia. The Gulf States season has closed.

MURDERERS SENTENCED

Durham, May 26.—C. B. Burgin, white, sentenced to 39 years, and three negroes, given 25 years each, were found guilty in the second degree for murdering E. B. Cantrell, a Winston-Salem merchant.

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NO RIGHT TO WHIP CONVICTS IN THIS COUNTY, SAYS BOND

Judge Orders Jury to Find Guard Guilty in Superior Court Case

RESOLUTION OF COM'RS

Was Authority for Lashing of Junius Potter by Big "Walking Boss"—Lash Regularly Used, Court Learns In Trial

Margaret Partello, accused of murdering Harry Stein in March, took the stand as the first witness in Superior Court today. She had been on between two and three hours when the noon recess came.

Members of the bar declared her to be an ideal witness. The woman, fair-looking and rather well dressed, answered every question in the cross-examination with snap and decision. All attempts of the State to break down her self-defense statement failed.

She related a story to the effect that Stein had been her lover for months. They had had a split and reconciliation. He was jealous, she declared. He threatened, she said, on the night of the fatal shooting to kill her. She produced a revolver and shot him. He had mistreated her, she stated.

E. W. Mincher, a "walking boss" of the county roads force, was found guilty by a jury in Superior Court late Thursday of whipping Junius Potter, a white convict, after Judge W. M. Bond, presiding, had instructed the jury to bring in such a verdict if they believed the evidence. Sentence was not passed. He was put under a \$500 bond.

Mincher has been in court several times since being employed by the county, on charges of cruelty to prisoners, gambling, etc. He is a man of large stature and apparently of middle age.

James Benton, who has served six months on the roads and has an unsavory reputation from his own admissions, was a witness against Mincher in the case. Benton "guessed" that Mincher struck Potter with a strap some 15 or 20 times. Other witnesses were Bryant Taylor, superintendent of the county roads force; Dr. H. Tull, ex-Chairman of the County Commissioners, and County Physician Albert Parrott. Taylor had instructed Mincher to whip Potter for insubordination, it developed. A resolution passed by the Board of Commissioners empowered the roads authorities to use the lash. No other witnesses admitted that Mincher had struck Potter as many times as Benton thought he had. About a half dozen lashes was the superintendent's estimate. Dr. Parrott had examined Potter for a disease and had failed to find any signs of a beating on him.

But Judge Bond held that whipping of convicts was illegal. The resolution of the commissioners was void in his opinion and he quoted decisions held by him to annul any such action by local authorities. The commissioners, it is said on good authority, contending that whipping of unruly convicts is essential to discipline in the camps, will appeal the case, whatever the judgment may be, to the Supreme Court. Frequent cases of whipping were admitted.

It is understood that Mincher is to be tried on other counts.

Partello Case Started

After concluding the case against Mincher the court started into the hearing of the case against Margaret Partello, a South Kinston woman charged with shooting Harry Stein, a well-known merchant who died as the result of a revolver bullet-wound. The jury had not been secured when recess was taken.

WAITE, CONFESSING, TELLS COURT ABOUT PLAN TO KILL FOUR

Murderer Does Not Think He Is Crazy; "Never Denied Guilt"

HE IS MAKING NO DEFENSE

Intended to Kill Wife, Her Parents and Her Aunt to Secure Peck Millions—No Plot In Tombs to Fake Insanity

(By the United Press)

New York, May 26.—A calm admission that he planned to kill his wife as well as her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Peck, of Grand Rapids, and Miss Catherine Peck, her aunt, was made by Dr. Arthur Warren Waite when he today resumed his amazing confession of an arch poison plot through which he hoped to gain the Peck millions.

Asked if he was crazy, he replied, "I think not."

"Do you care what becomes of you?"

"I want to do what's right," he replied.

Cross-examined, Waite denied a Tombs conspiracy to fake insanity.

"Do you deny your guilt?"

"I never denied it."

"What is your defense?"

"I am making no defense," he stated.

GEORGE SUGGS SHOWS RALEIGH REAL STUFF

Only 29 Men Faced Him in Capitals-Asheville Game Thursday—There With Stick, Too—"Prettiest Exhibition in Many Days," Says News and Observer of Game

Today's Raleigh News and Observer's sporting page carried the following, at the top of the first column: "George Suggs, a Kinston boy who has more than once turned back big league batters, yesterday came into his own and convinced not only local fans, but the Paramourts that he can yet pitch grand baseball! Suggs not only gave the prettiest exhibition of twirling seen on the home lot in many days, but he won his own game in the eighth inning when his single to right-center sent Manager Heinie Busch across the coveted rubber with what proved the winning run. However, to make the score safe, another run was added in the same frame and the Capitals defeated Asheville 2 to 0.

"When Bradshaw, the first visiting batter to face Suggs, got a scratch hit between first and second in the initial inning it marked the beginning and ending of the Paramourts' slugging. No matter how hard they tried or how often, Hickman, Fenton and Bitting, the Asheville trio of swatters, came to bat the matter of hitting always remained the same. Seven visiting batters swung in vain trying to connect with Suggs' offerings and only once did the Kinston pitcher show any mercy in the form of passes.

"Suggs had everything and 'then

WORST OF 'MYSTERY' FIRES; THREE WERE TAKEN IN CUSTODY

T. W. Chase and Two Young Daughters In Charge of Sheriff This Afternoon

PYROMANIA THE CAUSE?

Long String Strange Blazes At Farmhouse South of the City May End With Arrests If Suspicion Is Borne Out

Miss Lavinia Chase, about 17, and Novella Chase, her sister, several years younger, are in custody at the Sheriff's office here this afternoon, together with their father, T. W. Chase, to await an examination by physicians to determine if either of the three is afflicted with pyromania. It is suspected that one of the trio was responsible for the long series of fires at the "mystery house" on the H. P. Loftin plantation, south of here, and a fire on an adjoining farm this morning which destroyed a farmhouse.

Both girls, especially the older one, are greatly perturbed. Miss Chase cries almost constantly. A married sister who was present when a deputy sheriff took them in charge fainted. Chase does not know what to think of the situation. The past week has been one of the worst for him in his life. He cannot believe either of his daughters is to blame. He has never known to either act other than normal, he declares.

A small tenant house on the farm of G. F. Loftin, four or five miles south of here, was destroyed by fire between 10 and 11 o'clock today. The plantation adjoins the farm of H. P. Loftin, on which there sits the "house of mystery" in which scores of fires have occurred since last Saturday morning.

Children of T. W. Chase, the tenant of the mystery house, spent the night in the burned house, it is said. It is only a short distance away from Chase's home. No one admits seeing the fire this morning start. H. P. Loftin and others unhesitatingly declared belief today that there is a person in the family or the neighborhood afflicted with pyromania, too shrewd to be detected.

Many times in the past five days have blazes, always caught in their incipency by the watchful and distressed family, been started by some undetermined agency. Suspected persons have been watched without result. The best clue up till this afternoon that a person was responsible was the discovery of a number of matches, some of which had been struck in a place where children of Chase's large family were accustomed to play.

Some that a pitcher should have to win games. He showed more stuff than has been seen in the league in some time, and whenever he was not puzzling a batter he was working on a runner on base. Only 29 batters, two extra ones, faced Suggs during the nine innings of play."

TAFT SAYS COUNTRY HAS RIGHT TO WAR TO PREVENT STRIFE

Perfectly Constitutional for U. S. to League With Other Nations for Such Purpose—Takes Issue With the Commoner

(By the United Press)

Washington, May 26.—William H. Taft, speaking as a jurist, today placed his O. K. on the platform of the League to Enforce Peace. He declared it is constitutional for the United States to bind itself with other nations to declare war on any country that starts war without first resorting to arbitration.

He took direct issue with Bryan's recent statement on the subject. Mr. Taft said the league won't try to stop the present war, but will follow its distinct purpose to prevent the recurrence of "such a disaster to civilization."

LANSING DOES NOT INTEND TO RESIGN, DECLARES DEPTMENT

Rumor That Secretary of State Would Quit Emanated From a Questionable Source and Was Fostered by Propagandists

(By the United Press)

May 26.—Denying unqualifiedly a press association report that Secretary Lansing will resign, the State Department today declared circulation of the rumor part of a propaganda proceeding for several months.

A broad intimation was made that German sources fostered the rumor. Mr. Lansing appeared at the cabinet meeting today and will return to his office Monday, having recovered from a slight illness.

LENOIR CROPS DOING FINE; A SUCCESSFUL POTATO EXPERIMENT

Crops in Lenoir county are in fine condition generally, according to Mr. H. H. Grainger, who is one of the best informed men on the agricultural situation. It is probable that the "stands" are better than at this season for several years past, he states.

Of course, the cool weather has retarded cotton, but the staple is in very satisfactory shape, nevertheless. Tobacco is doing fine, Mr. Grainger asserts. Some of the weed is knee-high. Potatoes are short, of course; the crop is all over the country. "The potato crop was experimental. Fertilizers were scarce and the prices were high." Lenoir county potato planters experienced a handsome streak of luck, though, considering the acreage. "The demand is big, and it will continue big. A government estimate put the shortage at 90,000,000 bushels." New potatoes are retailing here now at \$1. Mr. Grainger expects to see them sell for \$6 and \$7 a barrel.

Corn is not doing as well as the other crops, probably.

TO GIVE THE HEN A CHANCE IN ENGLAND.

London, May 10.—Give the hen a chance. With eggs at 7 cents each, Mrs. Lionel Guest, daughter of the late John Bigelow, American ambassador to Paris, is urging a plan here today to turn London's public parks into poultry farms.

Greenville has a building boom on. The permits for buildings of considerable cost have been issued since May 1.

RECORDER SAYS 'WE SHALL BE JUDGE OF THE COURT ALONE'

Wooten Questions Right of Judge Bond to Review Court's Findings

'WE, TOO, HAVE OPINION'

'Superior Court Judges Are As Prone to Err as the Sparks Are to Fly Upward,' Declares — The Habeas Corpus Case

The following signed communication was handed The Free Press by Recorder T. C. Wooten this morning. In it he questions the right of the Superior Court to review the findings of his court except by appeal, and declares that he will continue to control the procedure of his court, as he has done, irrespective of the ruling of Judge Bond entered upon the Superior Court records at Thursday's session. Judge Wooten maintains that his court is one of "perpetual motion," does not adjourn, but simply takes recesses, and that he shall continue to alter his decisions "when they appeal to the conscience of the court." He promises to explain the habeas corpus case disposed of on Thursday later. His communication in full follows: "We are settled in our opinion as to the powers and limitations of the Recorder's Court, for these are likewise based upon rules announced from the Supreme Court. We shall not be guided by ex parte opinions of Superior Court judges, given to grand juries. The Superior Court can only review the Recorder's Court by regular and proper appeal; not by a free lance. It is right that we should be governed by higher authority. Superior Court judges are as prone to err as the sparks are to fly upward. This is verified by 170 Supreme Court reports; a good load for a mule—170 books of errors!

"We, too, have an opinion. It is to the effect that the Recorder's Court of Kinston moves automatically, and is under the 'bill' perpetual motion personified. It never adjourns, takes only recesses. The impact from Monday morning to dead Saturday night keeps the 'thing' quivering till during morn of Monday again. Perpetual motion, you see. Irrespective of the opinion of learned jurists, we shall be the judge of the court alone. We shall do as we have done—control the procedure, judgments and penalties, and make modifications when they appeal to the conscience of the court."

"We have done our best to make the Recorder's Court useful and beneficial in every respect, and we have been assured by many that it has accomplished its purpose. "We discovered the court to be out of harmony with recorders' courts soon after he left the 'trenches' in the 'charge.' We were impressed with the solemnity of his strictures and criticism of the reason the deadly aim was carried into execution without a 'joke.' No pause for myth or mirth.

"We are constrained to say we shall conduct the court on our own ideas and opinions based upon the law until we receive final orders from the Supreme Court. Any mandate from a court of competent jurisdiction will be respectfully obeyed till overruled. We do not adhere to the erroneous idea that the Recorder's Court is unconstitutional. The question as to its constitutionality settled by no less authority than the Supreme Court. "When the cases leave my court on appeal to the Superior Court we will do as we have always done, exercise no jurisdiction or attempt to do so. If the appeal is withdrawn by consent of the State, the judge and the defendant, we shall take jurisdiction to modify the judgment if justice and mercy demand. This we have a right to do under the ruling of the Supreme Court. If some learned jurists are correct, an appeal taken

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CONFIRMATION OF B RANDEIS THIS P. M. WITHOUT VOTE AGAINST HIM PREDICTED FOLLOWING MEETING REPUB'C'N MEMBERS

Washington, May 26.—The confirmation of Brandeis by the Senate this afternoon without a vote against him was forecasted at a meeting of Republican members of the Judiciary Committee. Only Sutherland is opposed to such a program. The plan is to have the confirmation without a roll call.