

SITUATION LOOKS GOOD, SAY RAILROAD EMPLOYEES AFTER CONFERENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT ON ADJUSTMENT OF AFFAIRS

Mr. Wilson to Hold Four Meetings With Representatives of Men and Owners Today—Will Submit Proposals to Both Sides at Third and Fourth Sessions—Leaders of Workers Smile Broadly as They Leave Executive Mansion Following First Conference—Arbitration Believed to Be in the Air—Nation's Head Seems About to Successfully Squelch Most Threatening Labor Crisis in History—Leaving a Lot Up to Him

(By Robert J. Bender)

Washington, Aug. 14.—The first step in the effort of the President to prevent the threatened tie-up of the nation's railroads by a strike ended at noon, when employees' representatives left the White House smiling broadly after an hour and a half's conference.

"The negotiations are entirely in the President's hands," said A. B. Garretson, Warren S. Stone, head of the Engineers' Brotherhood, said: "I'll be optimistic." W. P. Lee of the Brakemen, stated that the situation "looks very good."

Employees are to see the President again this afternoon after the railroad managers confer with him at 1 o'clock. The President spent the intervening time in going over a stenographic report of the session with the employees. He will make no proposals to the railroads' managers, however, until the managers have seen him.

After a talk with the managers the President will make proposals to the employees late this afternoon, and at a later conference with the managers will submit proposals to them.

The apparently well-authenticated report has it that the President's conferences will result in the employees agreeing to arbitration, provided the railroads withdraw until later counter proposals that the readjustment of rules and regulations governing the present pay basis be discussed with the demands for higher pay.

TY COBB'S SISTER IS WRIGHTSVILLE QUEEN

To Be One of Bevy of Royal Ladies at Coming Celebration—Secret Committee Selected Beauties for Occasion—Feast of Lanterns a Brilliant Affair

(By the United Press)

Wrightsville Beach, Aug. 14.—Ty Cobb's sister, Miss Florence Cobb of Athens, Ga., has accepted an invitation to be one of the ten queens of the Feast of Lanterns, Wrightsville Beach, Aug. 17 and 18, when it is confidently expected 10,000 persons will take part in this big celebration.

The other queens of the event are: Misses Helen Dodson of Fayetteville, Florence Taylor, Mary Moore, Elizabeth Sweeney, Miriam Holiday, Sue Northrop, Miss Rembert and Miss Campbell.

The queens were chosen by a secret committee and all have accepted. They will form a part of the big illuminated dragon parade on the evening of the 17th, and will be carried in palanquins, gorgeously decorated, borne by four men chosen by the individual queens. Following the figurative destruction of Gloom by the 100-foot dragon and the magnificent display of fireworks in celebration of the everlasting reign of Happiness on the beach at Wrightsville, the queens will give a dance at Lumina.

Many acceptances have been received from the 175 mayors invited to attend a banquet during the feast and letters of invitation to more than 200 editors in North Carolina have been mailed. It is expected and hoped by the executive committee that many of them will be present. The editors will be guests of the executive committee during the two days of the feast.

MAYBE THEY DO IT TO KEEP IN PRACTICE

Benndji, Minn., Aug. 14.—Wet and dry workers were hustling out votes here today for a Beltrami county option prohibition election that can have but one result. Under an Indian treaty this county is as dry as good powder and the Federal Government is bound to keep it that way. If the county goes dry at today's election, it will stay dry. If it goes wet at

THOUSAND DOLLARS WORTH LOOT TAKEN BY RESORT THIEVES

Wilmington, Aug. 18.—Thieves entered the bath house of the Oceanic Hotel at Wrightsville Saturday night about 6 o'clock and took from the drawer in which the guests' money and jewelry are left while they are in bath, money and jewels to the amount of \$1,000. The man in charge of the bath house had stepped to the rear for a moment to carry towels to a guest when the thief broke the lock on the drawer and purloined the articles. No clue as to the identity of the thief was left but a number of detectives are at work on the case.

WIFE WANTS SERVICES CONVICTED POLICEMAN

Greensboro, Aug. 13.—Former Chief of Police J. W. Slaughter of Draper, N. C., was late night convicted of manslaughter by a jury in Superior Court at Wentworth and sentenced to two years in prison and to pay a fine of \$400 for the killing at Draper several months ago, of a white man named Thomas Weaver. At the time of the killing Slaughter was chief of police. The fine of \$400, the jury requires to be paid to the widow of Weaver. The jury permits the hiring out of Slaughter during the two years' sentence and the wife of the sentenced man has put in a bid for his services.

LATEST STYLES IN TOMBSTONES EXHIBITED

Cleveland, Aug. 14.—The latest styles in tombstones are on display here today. Hundreds of retail monument dealers are arriving from all over the country.

today's election it will stay dry anyhow.

Port Worth, Aug. 14.—Miss Texas went camping today. Over 100 society girls from all parts of the State—bitten by the w.k. "preparedness" bug—pitched their tents on the shores of Lake Worth, drew emergency rations of bon bons, got themselves up in stunning semi-uniforms and formally opened the first annual encampment of the Texas division, Girls' National Honor Guard.

ARTILLERYMEN MEET DEATH IN THE SURF FT. CASWELL SUNDAY

Guardsmen of Charlotte and Salisbury Companies Victims—Two Gave Up Lives In Attempt to Save the Third, Said

Wilmington, N. C., Aug. 13.—Three members of the North Carolina Coast Artillery Reserves, in annual encampment at Fort Caswell, near here, lost their lives today while bathing in the surf at the fort. The dead are:

First Sergeant William Ardrey and Lance Corporal Leonard Swaim, of the Charlotte Company; Fred White, of the Salisbury Company.

It is stated positively that Swaim and White were drowned. Ardrey is believed to have died of heart failure. The bodies of Ardrey and Swaim were recovered within a few minutes and vigorous but futile efforts were made by the camp physicians and the Oak Island Life Saving crew to resuscitate them.

White's body was washed away by the strong outgoing tide and has not been recovered. It is said that Ardrey and Swaim lost their lives in an effort to rescue White, who cried for help when he found himself being carried out by the tide.

WAS NOT NEGRO LAW AND ORDER SOCIETY THAT KILLED ROUSE

"They Was No Niggers," Admission of Most Important Witness in Liddell Shooting Affair, Who Had Been Hiding

Joe Cooper, the missing witness in the murder case of Lazarus Rouse, colored, at Liddell, was located by the sheriff Saturday night. Cooper, a negro, was questioned to the limit.

There were five men in the party who went to the home of Rouse's mother to murder the man, Cooper said. They met him on a road and made him promise, on his knees, that he would tell nothing about what transpired. One of the men shot Rouse as he lay in bed. Cooper was told to call the victim out of doors. Under threat he was about to comply when Rouse's mother opened the door and the slayer fired into the room with fatal result. Cooper had been in hiding from the authorities since the killing.

Cooper declared he knew none of the men who were in the party. He said: "Captain, they was no niggers." Their faces, he said, had been blacked. The party intimated to him that Rouse was killed for improper remarks about white girls.

SECOND'S BAND VERY POPULAR AT BEAUFORT

"Last Friday morning the Second infantry band from Camp Glenn came over to Beaufort and rendered one of the classic concerts ever heard on these streets," says the Beaufort News. "The numbers rendered by this organization consisted of the latest selections, and the rendition of the several selections showed clearly that the Second infantry has one of the best bands in this country. The Chief Musician, James G. Mehegan, stated to the News that it was a great pleasure for him to take his band to Beaufort; that the people here were very courteous and showed by their actions that they have the highest regard for all the soldiers over at the camp." A dinner was to be given the musicians, but this they did not have the time to wait for. A standing invitation was issued to the band by the News for the people of Beaufort.

TEUTONS FALL BACK ALONG WHOLE FRONT TO DEFEND LEMBERG

Austro-German Galician Armies Have Lost Half of Effectiveness

SLAVS OVERRUN COUNTRY

Seventy-five Thousand Men Lost by Teutons in Comparatively Small Portion of Eastern Theater—Italians Checked

(By the United Press)

Petrograd, Aug. 14.—The last formidable barrier to Lemberg has been broken. The Teutons generally are retreating along a 90-mile front toward the Galician capital on the entire line. The Russians are reaping a bloody harvest. On the east front and south of Lemberg alone the Teutons have lost seventy-five thousand men and half of their effectiveness. The proportion of Germans among the prisoners is steadily increasing. Austrians Hold Italians.

Rome, Aug. 14.—The arrival of Austrian reinforcements has checked the Italian advance east of Goritz and slightly impeded the Trieste drive, but fresh gains are reported in the Tolmino sector by General Cadorna's forces. They have pierced another strong line of Austrian entrenchments east of Nodlogan, it is officially said. French Gains.

Paris, Aug. 14.—The French followed up their successes north of the Somme yesterday with an advance south of the river in sharp fighting, last night. On the Verdun front three German attacks were repulsed east of Hill 304.

British Raid Without Loss.

London, Aug. 14.—The Germans gained a temporary footing last night in the trenches west of Pozieres, captured by the British in yesterday's fighting. General Haig reported that south of Ypres the British carried out a successful raid without loss. Russian Advance Continues.

Petrograd, Aug. 14.—The war office today announced that the Russians continue to advance westward in the Stanislaw region. Other forces are advancing westward from the river Koropetz and have reached a point on the Dniester before Mariampol.

AUTOPSY IN DELEMAR CASE AT NEW BERN

The death of J. G. Delemar, a prominent New Bernian who died in shallow water while bathing a few days ago, was not caused by heart failure, according to Dr. B. S. Primrose, who refused to sign the death certificate. An autopsy is being held this afternoon. So far, it has been determined that neither heart disease, drowning nor suspected abrasions on his head caused Delemar's death. Possible causes to be investigated are a fracture of the spinal column near the base of the brain, organic trouble which might have caused his heart to stop and injury to his head from diving against the bottom in the shallow water.

WOMEN ROOKIES TO OPEN 'CHEVY CHASE OF WEST'

(By United Press)

Lake Geneva, Wis., Aug. 14.—Women rookies of the West, numbering about 300 will answer the call of reveille at 6:30 tomorrow morning at the women's military training camp established here—the Chevy Chase of the west.

The women will do everything about except cook. Cooks have been hired to get the meals, but the women rookies will be given instruction in dietetics. Besides this they will be taught how to make surgical dressings, perform military drills, do ambulance driving and telegraphy.

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NEW RAILROAD WILL PUT CITY IN CLOSE TOUCH BOTH PORTS

Kinston-Wilmington Line to Bring Norfolk Nearer Wilmington

DUPLIN TO VOTE SOON

On Bonds to Build Road From This City to Cypress Creek Township—Judge Allen Thinks Line Would Be Big Thing

(By the United Press)

Judge Oliver Allen, discussing the proposed railroad from Kinston into Cypress Creek township, Duplin county, for which there is to be a bond issue election on August 22, says that he feels a great interest in the road, both for Kinston and for Duplin county. Both are about equally interested, he thinks, and the building depends largely upon the vote in Duplin and upon the people of Kinston subscribing liberally to the stock.

"The railroads build new roads of this kind upon the principle that it helps the country as well as the road, and all ought to share in the expenses," he states.

"My fears are that if it is not done now while the iron is hot it might be finally abandoned," declares Judge Allen. "Col. W. B. Rodman is giving the matter much attention now, and is very much interested, but says he will not be able to continue at it, as this kind of work does not belong to his, the law department, of the Norfolk Southern, and if the proposition does not succeed now the opportunity of getting the road may be postponed and the matter not taken up again. There is the danger."

"I know that when the Atlantic Coast Line came to Kinston it was the purpose to carry it on to some point east or south, and the right of way was secured through Kinston to the river, but the extension was postponed and never taken up again. Mr. Harry Warters told me the purpose was to go on to deep water somewhere. Another case in point is that of the road from Durham to Dunn. Mr. Staggs had it in charge, and had bought rights-of-way through Mount Olive one way and through Clinton another way. Staggs died and Reams was appointed in his place, who, after examining into the plans disapproved Staggs' plans and abandoned them, and sold all their holdings in Mount Olive at about one-third of their cost. So, my fears are that if Kinston and Duplin county do not seize upon this opportunity it may be lost. It never pays to take chances on a thing within your grasp if you want it, that is, if it pays. I suppose that after the vote is taken in Duplin, if it is favorable to the road Kinston will be called upon to do its part, though Lenoir county has already done a great thing long ago by taking \$50,000 stock in the A. & N. C. R. R., which affords an outlet to this proposed Duplin road as well as many other benefits. This stock turned out to be valuable, and I understand the proposition now is to exchange stock for an equal amount of bonds on the Duplin road. I have no reason to think that this stock will not be as good as the A. & N. C. R. R. stock."

According to Mayor F. I. Sutton, who is also interested in getting the road through Duplin, there is a possibility that existing lines to the county, depending mainly upon the timber business, may be taken up some time. Only about 10 per cent. of Duplin county, "amazingly fertile," is under cultivation, he declares—"the county is a garden of possibilities." Exhibiting a map of North Carolina, he shows that if the road should be continued to Wilmington, as its charter permits and it is hoped will ensue, Kinston would be on the most direct route from Norfolk to Wilmington, the two ports for North Carolina, and would with Wilson alone enjoy the best all-round freight service in East Carolina.

LAKE TOXAWAY DAM BURSTS AND FLOOD WATERS RACE SOUTH

'Sapphire Country' Pleasure Lake Draining Off—South Carolina Towns in Path—Power Plant Is Endangered

(By the United Press)

MOUNTAINEERS' RIDE IN FACE OF DEATH SAVE MANY HUNDREDS.

Asheville, Aug. 14.—How possible heavy loss of life in the villages below Lake Toxaway dam was prevented through a daring ride by mountaineers just ahead of the water loosed when the retaining wall broke, was today told by survivors. The mountaineers, risking death, galloped through the villages telling of the floods that followed them, warning the residents to flee to the hills. Not a life was lost. An estimate today placed the loss at half a million dollars.

Hints of a rigid investigation and possible action developed when it became known that the retaining wall had been reported to be leaking several times during the year.

Shortly before noon Sunday an alarming volume of water was noticed to be sweeping through the masonry. A watch was set and about 6 o'clock the breaks ripped wider and wider until it was evident that a collapse of the wall was inevitable.

Hardy mountaineers volunteered to run down the valleys and warn men, women and children. Traveling over short mountain trails and often risking their lives by their breakneck speed over narrow mountainside trails, the riders kept just ahead of the raging waters. Residents of Pickens, Walhalla, Anderson and Seneca, were warned by phone from Asheville. Many refugees reached the heights barely in time to see their homes washed away under them.

Asheville, Aug. 14.—Many small towns are threatened with serious damage as the result of the flood of waters loosed by the breaking of the great Lake Toxaway dam, fifty miles south of here. Warned of the dam's breaking, residents of the towns had time to flee.

Asheville, Aug. 13.—The great dam at Lake Toxaway, fifty feet high, 400 feet in width and holding back waters that covered 550 acres of land in the Toxaway region, 38 miles from this city, crumpled and went out with a roar at 7:10 tonight, and at 11 o'clock tonight the waters thus released were racing toward South Carolina cities in their path, including Walhalla, Anderson, Pickens and Seneca. According to long distance messages, from Toxaway, the entire dam, built of earth and stone, seemed to melt before the rush of waters within a few minutes.

The dam, which was built in 1902, at a cost of \$38,000, was built at a point where the hills are not more than 400 feet high.

Prepare for Flood Waters in South Carolina.

Greenville, S. C., Aug. 13.—At midnight the Seneca river, through which the waters of Lake Toxaway will flow into the Savannah river, were normal near the town of Seneca, 38 miles west of Greenville and about 40 miles southwest of Toxaway. Portman shoals, where the light and power for the city of Anderson is generated, is on the Seneca river, and tonight large forces are at work preparing for the flood waters. Sand bags are being placed on the dam and power house and other preparations are under way to combat the force of the flood.

Walhalla, Seneca and Anderson are each several miles from the river. There is no town of importance on the course of the stream.

TOBACCO MARKET IS READY FOR OPENING OF SEASON TUESDAY

Good Prices Expected for First Breaks—Crop Believed to Be About Same As That of Last Year in Bulk, But Finer

(By the United Press)

Tuesday marks the opening of the 1916-17 tobacco season here. Preparations at all five of the local warehouses are complete this afternoon for the beginning of sales in the morning. Planters will flock into the city tonight and early tomorrow, many of them with offerings for the initial sales and many to watch the sales, to see how prices are going.

High prices are looked for. The shortage in most of the world's tobacco regions this year has resulted in high prices everywhere. In South Carolina they have been almost record-breaking.

The crop locally is about as large as last year's, most tobaccoists seem to think. A very few predict an even larger production. It is generally agreed that the crop on the whole is comprised of splendid weed. The June and July storms, it is said, kept down a production that would have been considerably larger than that of last year. With good prices at the start and maintained throughout the next three or four months, practically all of the crop should be marketed by the first of the year or middle of January.

THREE DOLLARS MORE FOR THE FLOOD FUND

Three dollars was added to the Flood Sufferers' Fund here in the past 48 hours. The list stands: Previously reported\$772.14 Morning Star S. S. (colored), reported by Dr. Codrington... 3.00

Grand total to date\$775.14

LOSS IN SELLING COTTON IN SEED

Practice of Marketing Unginned Cotton an Unprofitable One for the Producer, Says the Department of Agriculture—Prevalent in Sections

(Special to The Free Press)

Washington, D. C., Aug. 14.—That the practice of selling cotton in the seed is responsible for serious losses to producers in many sections has been demonstrated by investigations by marketing specialists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. It is impossible, it is said, to determine accurately before ginning the quality of cotton and the percentages of lint, seed and trash which it contains. In consequence, buyers of seed cotton base their prices on the average character of the cotton of the community and the farmer who produces better cotton than the average often obtains no reward. As a matter of fact, even the producer of average cotton suffer, for the buyer allows himself a wide margin of safety in making his quotations and purchases.

These facts are brought out in a number of tables just published in Department bulletin No. 375, "Disadvantages of Selling Cotton in the Seed." This practice, while not as common as it once was, is still prevalent in certain sections, particularly in those regions in which cotton is a comparatively new crop or in which the production is comparatively scanty. For example, it is estimated that 90 per cent. of Missouri's small crop was sold in the seed in 1915 and only 2 per cent. of South Carolina's. The actual number of bales sold in this way, however, was greatest in Oklahoma, and for this reason the investigation, the results of which are to be found in the bulletin already mentioned, was conducted in that State.

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