

## GERMANY WILL FOLLOW UP ANTICIPATED REJECTION PEACE PROPOSALS WITH BIG ACTIVITIES IN FIELD; OFFER IS IGNORED

England Prepares to Put Another Million Men In Field—Berlin Expects Enormous Allied Offensive In Spring—Proposals, Together With Confidential Matter, Reach State Department—Britain Has Put Out Great Armies In Year—What Von Hindenburg Said About Conducting Most Vigorous Winter Campaign Still Stands. Indications Against Cessation Hostilities in the Near Future

(By the United Press)

Washington, Dec. 14.—America's first step toward carrying out the wishes of Germany and the Central Powers as their diplomatic representative in the Entente capitals was taken today. Within a few hours after receipt of the official text of the Teutonic peace proposals, which already has been published, Secretary Lansing, at the President's orders, dispatched it to London, Paris, Petrograd and Tokio and to the provisional capitals of Roumania, Serbia and Belgium. The German communication to her enemies was sent without suggestions or comment by the President.

This action completely fulfilled the request of the Central empires made of the United States. It is stated on highest authority that the President's mind is still entirely open. He is still undetermined. He will reach no decision until he has confidential advices from American representatives at the Entente Allied capitals.

One point, however, became clear. This was that however careful the President and his advisers are, that no move be made that might be received unfavorably by the Allied governments, it has been suggested to him that perhaps a statement, concise, clear and full, delivered to the American people and to the world, might be the entering wedge to be adopted.

### Washington Gets Text.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Germany's peace proposals reached the State Department over night. Secretary Grew of the Berlin embassy transmitted with the note a confidential memorandum for the President and Secretary Lansing, to be used as a guidance for them in dealing with the peace subject. The text to all intents is identical with press dispatches received earlier.

### England to Arm Another Million.

London, Dec. 14.—A war office supplementary estimate provides for an additional million men of all ranks in the army for the year ending March 31, 1917, making a total of five million for that twelve months' period.

### Germany to Fight as Though Nothing Had Happened.

Berlin, Dec. 14.—Despite Germany's peace proposals, Von Hindenburg's declaration that there will be no rest this winter still stands. A military authority repeated this quotation of the field marshal's today among remarks in commenting on the fact that Germany had weighed carefully the peace question before the announcement was made, knowing that England did not desire peace because the Allies intend to launch an enormous spring offensive.

## MORGAN A VISITOR TO BRITISH EMBASSY ON SECRET MISSION

(By the United Press)

Washington, Dec. 14.—J. P. Morgan, financial representative of the Entente Allies in America, was a secret visitor at the British embassy today. His purpose is assumed to have been to gather information as to the possible attitude of the Entente Allies toward Germany's peace proposals from Ambassador Spring-Rice. It is further assumed that his visit may have a broad effect upon future developments of international financing.

## COMMERCIAL MEET'G WILL BE STAGED IN N. YORK NEXT YEAR

Congress Accepts Invitation of Mayor and Businessmen—First Time Out of South—Review of Atlantic Fleet

(Special to The Free Press)

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 14.—Three days of the eighth annual convention of the Southern Commercial Congress have seen a considerable accomplishment of the many subjects to have been completed, the Congress as a body has been able to carry out substantially the great program.

Public festivities reached a climax yesterday with the reviewing of the Atlantic fleet of battleships and a fleet of vessels of the Department of Commerce by three cabinet officers and many other distinguished guests, among them the governors of several Southern States. The fleet was anchored off Hampton roads in three long columns past which the reviewing vessels headed by the presidential yacht Mayflower, carrying the naval committee of the House, accompanied by Secretary Daniels, swept majestically at the warships boomed forth the regulation salute.

Last night the fleet was resplendent in myriad electric lights, besides which there was a searchlight drill. Together these illumination features presented a fitting climax to the day's activities.

The committee on resolutions, which was organized early in the convention, already have indicated that many of the propositions before the Congress will be recommended for adoption. Chief of these is the Mussel Shoals development for a power site and nitrogen plant. This is regarded as one of the most important matters now before the people of the South, and it is expected the Congress will recommend its construction.

Conspicuous among the very few resolutions tabled was the following, which was introduced by Delegate F. B. Winston of North Carolina:

"Resolved, That the complete industrial, intellectual and social development of the Southern States can be secured only when the negro race is segregated and becomes a part of the citizenship of our sister states, and that we will encourage all movements tending to an equitable distribution of our negro population among the other States of the Union, and that we favor an immediate repeal of all statutes which in any way retard such a movement. The motion to table the remarkable resolution precluded any debate. Had there been any discussion many delegates are certain that considerable opposition would have been aroused. Meets New York Next.

Norfolk, Dec. 13.—The Southern Commercial Congress will hold its 1917 convention in New York City, it was announced tonight, the directors accepting an invitation presented this morning from the New York Retail Merchants' Association and Mayor Mitchell. This will be the first time the congress has met in a city outside of the South.

Officers also were elected by the directors tonight, Senator Duncan U. Fletcher of Florida, again being chosen president. All of the other officers were re-elected except that LeLand Hume of Nashville was named second vice-president to succeed Albert P. Bush, Jr., of Mobile. The office of counselor of the colonization bureau was created and George W. Koerner, agricultural commissioner of Virginia was selected to fill it.

## MOTHERS CLUB WANTS BUSINESS MEN'S HELP WITH COMMUNITY TREE

Does Kinston want a Community Christmas Tree this year? If so, the Mothers' Club is ready to arrange a program and undertake the leading part. The club has already gone to record as favoring a public celebration again this year. The plans do not contemplate the distribution of gifts or confectionery from the tree, but for the arrangement of a suitable musical program, a prettily decorated tree and an emphasized opportunity for bringing gifts for the poor of Kinston. Such offerings will be given over to the superintendent of the Associated Charities for proper distribution.

But! The Mothers' Club must have some help. Men are needed. The volunteer services of some of Kinston's good business men must be enlisted if the undertaking is attempted.

Who will volunteer? Call Mrs. H. Galt Braxton, president, or Mrs. J. H. Parham, secretary of the Mothers' Club, at once if you will help, Mr. Businessman.

## HE LOVES THE CITY, BUT OH, YOU PULLETS AND COWS, HE SINGS

"Butter Bean" Sidney Arthur, 18, is going to the country. If more young fellows would follow Arthur's example and "experiment," the tide would turn back to the little white cottage and red barn. Sidney Arthur last spring took over not quite half an acre of ground in the outskirts of Kinston. He did not diversify. Young Arthur broke the ground and started in to cultivate it after the most approved fashion. He put in 1,540 hills of butter beans. His about three-sevenths of an acre of city land netted him \$157.20. The harvest was 945 quarts, retailing for about 15c. He marketed methodically. During a part of the season butter beans could be had here almost for the picking. The local crop was a bumper one. Did Sidney Arthur put his product on the market when the market pulled off a disastrous slump? He did not.

Sidney Arthur purchased his own clothes, which is more than a lot of Kinston 18-years-old are doing, and has a neat nump-leaf. He is going to buy "cattle" with the remainder. Yes, Sidney is going on a farm next year. He looks forward to the time with no misgiving; he is plotting and planning; there are a lot of big things to be done with little seed on a little plantation, he says.

## WANT WAGE INCREASES FOR GOVT EMPLOYEES

Washington, Dec. 12.—An organized effort directed by the American Federation of Labor to induce Congress to grant wage and salary increases to all employees of the United States government from President down to the humblest laborer, was planned at a meeting here today presided over by Samuel Gompers.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS CASW'L SCHOOL MET THURSD'Y AT SCH'OL

Dr. McNairy Made Encouraging Report and Recommended Doubling Capacity of Institution by 1918. Entertainment

(Special to The Free Press)

The Board of Directors of the Caswell Training School met Thursday at the school. All the members of the board were present except Hon. W. C. Newland of Lenoir. The board heard a most interesting and encouraging report from Supt. C. B. McNairy, and witnessed a presentation of a school exercise which demonstrated to them that much progress is being made by the school. The children, although deficient mentally, show marked improvement from the training that is being given them and their faces give evidence of the increasing intelligence which the schooling is bringing to them in their unfortunate condition.

Dr. McNairy told of the work being done and of the urgent needs of the school. His budget for the ensuing two years, recommended to the board, contemplates doubling the capacity of the institution.

A dinner recess was taken and the members of the board and some other friends were the guests of Dr. and Mrs. McNairy at their hospitable home, where the inner man was bounteously and most palatably taken care of in the true McNairy style.

The board resumed its meeting after dinner.

Those in attendance at the meeting were: Dr. J. Y. Joyner, president, Hon. J. R. Baggett, W. A. Thompson, R. E. Austin, A. B. Justice, J. D. Boushall, Mark Majette, Rev. D. N. Caviness, Dr. L. B. McBrayer, Dr. W. H. Dixon, C. Dewey, D. F. Wooten and Dr. McNairy. Superintendent's Report.

"For the sake of posterity, I want to make a personal appeal that adequate provision be made for the segregation of all the high-grade mental defective or feeble-minded children," said the superintendent, Dr. McNairy, in his annual report to the trustees. "I honestly believe that if for a period of two or three generations, mental defective men and women were prevented from propagating, mental deficiency would be very materially decreased; and if all the mental defectives were segregated or sterilized, in a period of 100 years mental deficiency and insanity would be almost wholly eliminated. The high-grade mental defective child to the casual observer is apparently not far from normal; physically many of them appear normal many of them are good-looking and but for their mental defects would get along well in the world. They usually raise large families. Heredity is regarded as a tremendous factor in the causation of all mental defection. Statistics show that at least 65 per cent. of all mental defective children come from mental defective parents." A smaller number, probably two per cent., come from traumatism; possibly five per cent. from diseases of the brain and other diseases. "We have no right to allow the defects of this generation to be stamped upon the children of coming generations when we have the power to prohibit and control."

Dr. McNairy reviewed the work of the school for the feeble-minded since its opening in the summer of 1914, and dwelt upon the need for immediate enlargement of its facilities. Statistics were given of the work in the institution, including the school, which has a faculty of three literary and one music teacher. The farm, dairy and industrial departments have each been gratifyingly successful. "The progress made by the children has been wonderful," he declared.

Urgent needs for next year enumerated by Supt. McNairy include a dormitory to accommodate 200 boys, which with repairs and additions to present buildings, would cost \$75,000;

## TEXANS OUGHT SELL THEIR CLIMATE TO REFRIGERATOR MEN

Border Summer Is Bad, Border Winter Awful—Carolina Boys Won't Be Home for Christmas Holidays and Won't Beg Anybody

(Special to The Free Press)

El Paso, Texas, Dec. 9.—This is the finest climate in the world that we have around Fort Bliss. The natives say so. We don't believe it. Honest, it's been colder here in November and December than it ever gets in Carolina in January. One soldier the other day suggested that they bundle up what they're giving us here and sell it to the Chicago cold storage people. We will never, never again knock a delicious border summer, with an average temperature of 110, as long as we live.

We want to go back to the States. Nearly all hands down here do. But few so badly as our Northern cousins from Pennsylvania. They did have demonstrations a few days ago. They howled and yelled: "We want to go home; we want to go home; we want a, want-a, want-a go home-home!" It was amusing. No North Carolinian would dare anything like it. The discipline is a little different. Now, here we've been out just as long as they. True, they were here first, but we were sweating and struggling back at Camp Glenn all the time. We are willing to go home any old day, but now, we're not going to keep folks up all night about it. A stray note found its way over into one of the Peansy regiments. "We're going to send you all bottles and condensed milk for Christmas. Get the department to let your mothers come fix it up for you."

They have one bear over there. It was a perfectly good bear. But we cannot prove proprietorship. There are lots of bears like it. But we are going to get even. One morning that bunch will wake up and find their shoes gone. We can't well take their shirts; they sleep in them. I forgot in my last to mention the football game. It was interesting. Just as nice a game as you could wish to see until a Pennsy doughboy said the forbidden thing in the direction of a Tarheel opponent. After the mixup and the separation of the elevens all hands went back to their quarters. The next two days were spent in explaining to visiting Philadelphians and Pittsburghers that "we don't have those things in North Carolina." The North Carolina eleven so far has cleaned up the local corps, and is claiming the championship of the army, Philippines, Hawaii and all other divisions included.

We won't be home for Christmas.

## INCREASE IN COTTON USED THIS NOVEMBER

Washington, Dec. 14.—Cotton consumed in November exclusive of linters amounted to 584,082 running bales, against 514,743 in November of last year, the Census Bureau today announced.

An industrial building containing a laundry, domestic science department, sewing room, glove and knitting machines, overall and dressmaking department, etc., to cost \$15,000; changes in the present laundry building, \$6,000; farm and other equipment, \$6,000; a cottage for employes, \$1,000, and other improvements, the whole totalling more than \$100,000. Seventy-five thousand dollars is asked for maintenance next year, and \$108,000 for maintenance and \$5,000 for a power plant for 1918, a total of \$293,000 for the two years. The improvements asked would about double the capacity of the institution. Applications on file which it has not been possible to relieve number several times as many as the children now in the school.

## NORTHCLIFFE SAYS GERMANS' OPTIMISM IS A VEILED FRAUD

Internal and International Troubles Cause Kaiser to Seek Peace

## LONDON MORE RATIONAL

Would Not Turn Down Offer Without Letting Central Powers Know Just What Entente Will Accept With Peace

By LORD NORTHCLIFFE

(Copyrighted 1916 by United Press) London, Dec. 14.—Germany's peace proposals were due to a fact which neutral correspondents were not allowed to indicate during the last few weeks.

Grave internal discussions have arisen owing to the food shortage. There is a violent reign of terror in Germany. Relations are strained between Berlin and various states, also with Turkey.

Proposals have been received with contempt. France, Russia, Italy and Belgium are firm as Plymouth Rock. London Would Give Terms.

London, Dec. 14.—Sentiment increased today in favor of including in England's answer to Germany's peace note a definition of the Allies' basis terms. It is certain that the answer will be a rejection at this time, but it is felt that the Allies should accept Germany's strategy by a move which would put the Allies first to make known demands and concessions.

## OFFICER SHOOTS A SOLDIER; DIFFICULT TO GET AT THE TRUTH

(Explanatory—This came late in the afternoon.)

El Paso, Dec. 14.—Lt. W. A. Faulkner of Company B, 2nd N. C. infantry, shot Corporal Barbour accidentally last night. Lt. Faulkner was officer of the day at the time, which accounts for his being armed.

Barbour's condition is not serious. Reports that Faulkner is under arrest are, of course, erroneous.

A Wilson report says a telegram received there stated that Norwood Barbour, a soldier of the Second North Carolina infantry, had been shot and seriously wounded by "Lieutenant Faulkner," organization and home not given. The shooting was said to have been accidental. One lung was penetrated by the bullet and Barbour, prominent in his home town, was in a serious condition.

There is but one Lieutenant Faulkner from North Carolina. He is Lt. W. A. Faulkner, of Barbour's regiment, from this city. An Oklaean bears the same name and rank, second lieutenant.

The plot thickens. The Free Press at 8:30 a. m. Thursday wired its correspondent at Fort Bliss for particulars. The whole machinery of the Western Union has been unable to extract a reply from that worthy. He evidently was not located. The telegraph people have been instructed to leave no stone unturned—in no belief that he might be under a stone, but just figuratively speaking. Also to look in every place where a soldier might be three days after pay day.

## CRAZED BY RELIGION, TRIED KILL CHILDREN

Wilson, Dec. 13.—Luke Teddon, a white man from Springhill township, was brought to Wilson this evening, a raving maniac. He attempted to brain two of his children with a chair. He is one of the sect known as "Holy Rollers," and it is thought that he worked himself into a frenzy over his religious belief.

## PRESIDENT APPROVES SENTENCE MILITIAMEN

Washington, Dec. 13.—President Wilson today approved the action of an army court-martial in sentencing Lewis O. Gardner of the New Mexico Militia, to dishonorable discharge and a year in prison as hard labor for failure to obey the Federal call for border duty last June, but remitted the prison sentence because the case had been pressed as a test.

War Department officials regard the decision as important because of the warning it gives to more than 10,000 enrolled members of the National Guard who have not appeared for Federal service.

## WANTS TO SET OUT MODEL ORCHARDS

Farm Demonstration Agent O. F. McCrary wants to establish six model orchards in Lenoir county, on scales of one acre and one-half acre. The trees for a one-acre orchard may be had for \$20, he says. "These would not be trees that some agents might offer for sale, but of varieties proven in this section." Mr. McCrary has blueprints showing how an orchard should be laid off. On one acre a surprising profit can be made, he says, planting apples, peaches, cherries and several other fruits and grapes.

## EDUCATION CITY'S CHILDREN SUBJECT RALLY FRIDAY P. M.

Supt. K. R. Curtis Thursday announced an educational rally to be held in the High School building on Friday night. Mayor Sutton will preside. Every citizen of Kinston is invited; those in charge hope to have the auditorium filled to its capacity. There will be several speakers, probably. Dr. B. W. Spilman will address the gathering on "Kinston's Schools of Tomorrow." There will be special music.

## KANSAS HAS WORST COAL MINE DISASTER

Pittsburg, Kansas, Dec. 13.—Twenty miners were killed and seven injured in an explosion late today in the Reedy and Ryan Coal Mine at Stone City, 16 miles southwest of here. The injured men will recover, it was believed. A combination of gas and powder explosion is said to have caused the disaster. The loss of life today was the greatest one in the history of Kansas coal mining, mine officials said tonight.