

ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO KNOW WHAT PEOPLE EXPECT IT TO DO IN MATTER OF PEACE PROPOSALS FROM THE KAISER

European Neutrals Say That Anything But Flat Rejection of Offer Will Be Seized Upon as Cause for Beginning Overtures—Sweden, Holland, Norway and Switzerland Will Go Easy; Cannot Afford to Make Great Neighbors Cross—Up to United States and Her One-Time Enemy, Spain, to Start Soothing of Turbulent World—President and Lansing Silent, and the American Populace Strangely So

(By the United Press)

Washington, Dec. 15.—For nearly two hours the President and Secretary Lansing today considered the question of supplementing forwarding the German peace proposals to the Allied capitals with some suggestion from this government. At the conclusion neither the President nor Mr. Lansing would throw any light upon what, if any, decision was reached.

It was indicated after the conference that the State Department at least has little on which to work in the way of expressions of public sentiment in this country except as voiced by the newspapers. Heretofore the department has been flooded with telegrams giving individual views of what ought to be done, but in this instance none came. Officials admit the administration wants to know what the public wants it to do.

Neutrals Won't Quit at Soft Refusal. Washington, Dec. 15.—Mediation efforts or suggestions by the United States on behalf of a peace conference would be immediately followed by similar action by all European neutrals.

The United States and European neutrals should consider any answer of the Entente Allies to the German peace proposal save a flat rejection as an invitation to offer their good services in arranging a peace conference. These statements were made to the United Press today by two of the best-informed neutral diplomats in Washington, who are known to have discussed the question of peace with Secretary Lansing, and presumably to have presented these views to him.

Action will be delayed, however, by the European neutrals until next Tuesday, when the speech of Lloyd-George will give them a cue as to how to act. This is the gist of cablegrams from their foreign offices to neutral diplomats today. The United States and Spain, they said, are the two countries which will take the lead if mediation is offered. Switzerland, Holland and the Scandinavian countries are too dependent upon the absolute good will of both sides to run any risk of offending them by unwelcome action.

CAMERON NEW HEAD DEVELOP TRADE IN OF NORTH CAROLINA CHINA, ADVICE OF SHRINERS; POPULAR HON. WELLINGTON KOO

John E. Cameron of Kinston was Thursday afternoon elected to the highest office in North Carolina Shrinehood when he was made illustrious Potentate of Oasis Temple at Charlotte.

A Charlotte report says: "John E. Cameron is one of the best known business men of North Carolina, in addition to having attained the highest degrees of Freemasonry. He was made a Mason in Roundtree Lodge No. 243, in 1897, received the Scottish rite degrees at Charlotte when Carolina Consistory, the oldest in the State, was instituted, and received the degree of Knights Templar at Raleigh in 1901."

THE NATIONAL FOREST BUSINESS EXPANDING

(Special to The Free Press)

Washington, December 15.—National Forest administration last year was characterized, according to Henry S. Graves, chief of the Forest Service, in his annual report which has just been published, by an increase of more than \$340,000 in receipts, which totaled over \$2,800,000, by rapid progress in land classification, by a material advance in development work, in which road building is one of the largest factors, and by relatively small losses from forest fires.

The receipts from timber were over \$1,400,000, a 20 per cent. increase, while grazing receipts were brought in \$100,000.

To Southern Commercial Congress—Most Successful Convention Comes to an End at Norfolk—Foreigners Present

(Special to The Free Press)

Norfolk, Va., Dec. 15.—The eighth annual convention of the Southern Commercial Congress, which closed here last night, was characterized by the officials of that body as one of the most successful in its history. With very few exceptions every detail of the elaborate program was carried out in every detail.

Norfolk is justly proud of having acquitted herself so nobly before so many representatives of not only the South, but the greater party and several foreign countries as well. Each of the sessions of the congress was well attended. Prominent among the speakers was Hon. Wellington Koo, Minister to the United States from the Republic of China. His excellency created a profound sensation at the morning session yesterday, with his clear understanding of the commercial relations of the two countries.

"If you ask me what to do after the termination of the European war," he said in conclusion, "I would say, develop your trade with China." At the conclusion of his speech, Delegate Upshaw of Georgia proposed a resolution of thanks, to which the whole convention responded with

TRAGIC DREAM CAME TRUE; YOUNG BRIDE SHOT BY A BROTHER

Mrs. Murvin Not Expected to Live—Pistol Thought Unloaded—Most Regrettable Accident in Happy Family

When a 11-year-old son of L. F. Carter, a prominent man of the Deep Run section, played with an old revolver, snapping it in the belief that it was empty, Thursday night, the only cartridge in it was discharged, striking and probably fatally injuring his sister, Mrs. T. A. Murvin, about 20 years of age and only for 10 or 12 weeks the bride of a well-known young man of Lenoir county.

Mrs. Murvin was visiting in her father's home. The night previously Murvin had dreamed that she was ill. The dream impelled him to go to her. They were preparing to return to their home when the tragic accident occurred. She fell into her husband's arms. The bullet had struck her in the side, hitting the seventh rib and going upward and inward. Mrs. Murvin was destined to maternity. A profound hemorrhage followed.

Murvin hastened to Kinston for medical assistance. He had to come 11 miles, but happened in luck when an automobile passed him on the road. A long time after the accident Dr. George Kornegay of this city reached the wounded woman. He returned after doing everything possible with the admission that her case was desperate.

SNOW BLANKETING THE OLD DOMINION

(By the United Press) Richmond, Va., Dec. 15.—Four feet is still falling thick and fast. Inches of snow fell this morning. The fall appears to be general throughout the State.

A Baldwin Lecture. Mr. W. A. Baldwin will lecture at Fairfield school next Wednesday night. His subject will be the Holy Land. The public is invited. Western Union to Move.

The Western Union Telegraph's local office, it is reported, will during January be moved to "new and more commodious quarters convenient to the business district, and entirely re-equipped." The exact location cannot be learned and the office makes no statement.

rising vote. Nearly the whole of last night's session was taken up with addresses on the possibility of extending foreign trade. China, Panama, Brazil, Peru and Argentine were among the countries represented.



LENORE ULRICH The Morocco-Paramount Star

POWER UNLIMITED; ALLIES GRANT SAFE CONDUCT TO COUNT TARNOWSKI AT LAST

Used Unfairly; Is Charge by Kinston Against the Committee in Charge of State Football Finals—Statement From Friends Local Eleven

By E. B. LEWIS

The following statement signed by myself for the local committee, was forwarded to State papers Friday to be printed in the next day or two:

"A committee of three of the University who have been for the past three weeks endeavoring to secure a reversal of certain decisions and requirements of the committee at the University in charge of the State High School Championship contest in football, believes that it is due the Kinston High School football team to make the following public statement in regard to their efforts to secure fair treatment from the committee for the Kinston team:

"The Kinston team entered the contest this fall under the rules sent out by the committee for 1916. (Rule 1.) According to these rules, Kinston forwarded to the committee by November 18th. (Rule 2) This record showed that Kinston had played four games and won three. The one game lost was with Goldsboro and this game was immediately protested to the committee on the ground that an ineligible player had played for Goldsboro in that game. (Rule 3.) On this protest the committee ruled that the protest was valid, and the player was declared ineligible (letter of October 25th). This ruling forfeited this game to Kinston without further action (Rule 6), leaving Kinston with a record, according to the rules, of four games played and none lost.

"On November 20th Kinston was notified by the committee that Kinston was scheduled to play Goldsboro at Goldsboro in the elimination contest on Saturday, November 25th (letter of November 20th). On November 21st Kinston protested to the committee (long distance telephone, Mr. Rankin talking) the playing of this game at Goldsboro and demanded neutral ground for this contest.

Kinston had played Goldsboro at Goldsboro and in Kinston. The latter in the game here delayed their appearance on the ground until 5:15 p. m., and then ran off the field between downs without word or notice to referee, umpire, or anyone else, with the ball within a few feet of their goal. "Rule 7 of the Regulations for 1916 under which these contests were held reads as follows: "7. Immediately after November 20th, the committee in a consultation with the different managers and coaches will arrange the games of the championship series for the purpose of selecting through a process of elimination two teams which shall come to Chapel Hill for the final State championship game, the date for this to be settled by the committee."

"Having in mind the fact that Goldsboro had played the following schedule: Won from Cary with Fulton, the ineligible player, in the game; won from Kinston with Fulton in the game; tied with Washington; lost to Kinston; won from Washington; lost to Kinston; won from Washington—thus having won only one game of five when playing only eligible men, and thus according to Rule 6, appearing in the elimination by the favor of the committee, which kindly wiped out Rule 2, Rule 3, Rule 6, and Rule 11 by virtue of the reservation of right to do so by Rule 12, Kinston felt justified in demanding neutral ground for the game. If played it would constitute the third game between the two teams, each having won their home game. Kinston also felt with keen disappointment the discourtesy of the committee in their deliberate refusal to observe Rule 7, quoted above, since it was known and published in the press of the State that the Western games had been arranged for by a conference with coaches and managers.

"After several costly and fruitless efforts by telephone to get a change of this game to neutral ground, these efforts being brought to a close by a flat refusal to further consider a change (telegram, November 23rd), the Kinston management asked some of the alumni if they could assist in getting the change. Accordingly, a few of them met on the night of the 23rd and formulated an appeal to President Graham requesting his assistance in order that the Kinston High School may receive just and fair treatment in this matter by directing the committee to name neutral grounds for this contest. This appeal was presented to President Graham by a committee of three of the alumni—signers of same, there being about twenty or more who signed it, on November 25th. He immediately interested himself on behalf of Kinston, impressed by the fact that Kinston was making a reasonable demand.

"No conclusion was reached during the committee's stay at Chapel Hill but President Graham, in further effort to make a fair settlement arranged a conference at Goldsboro on November 26th, with the High School committee, Goldsboro and Kinston. In this conference Goldsboro held that the game had already been forfeited to Goldsboro, but that if Kinston wished to petition the student body for the favor of a game the petition would be presented to them for action. Kinston then withdrew from the conference, naturally refusing to petition either the Goldsboro school authorities or school boys for a right demanded of the committee in charge. Kinston knew when Goldsboro offered to present such petition that Goldsboro had refused a proposal to play in Chapel Hill with all expenses paid, and had refused to entertain any proposition to play anywhere, stating that they held to the already forfeited game.

"Kinston immediately wrote to President Graham that the conference had failed to reach a conclusion, asking what further could be done. He replied, in effect, that he had referred the whole question back to the committee, who reviewed the whole matter, that their opinion was unchanged, and that he could not order a change after the committee had ruled. The full and free discussion of the Kinston committee with President Graham shows that he used every argument possible to secure for Kinston the assent of the committee to the reasonable and fair request made for neutral ground. When this failed he felt bound to stand by them in their refusal.

"In the whole controversy Kinston had no contention with Goldsboro whatever and never protested the admission of Goldsboro to the elimination contest, feeling that a game on neutral ground would settle every point at issue. Kinston has the best football team in the history of the High School, the best in Eastern North Carolina, and has not had an opportunity to establish the fact.

"The proposition presented for the consideration of the public and for the high schools who engage in athletic contests, under the rules made by the High School Athletic Committee at the University, and its action as detailed above, is—

"First. The committee can do anything it wishes to do without regard to its own rules or any rule of reason, justice, or equity.

"Second. There is no constituted authority with power to review its action or reverse its decision.

"Third. If you don't like it you can't do anything about it.

(By the United Press)

London, Dec. 15.—In accordance with the request of the United States, the Allies have consented to grant Count Tarnowski, the newly-appointed Austro-Hungarian Ambassador to Washington, safe conduct to America.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS CASW'L SCHOOL MET THURSDAY AT SCHOOL

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.

CROP SHORTAGE IS VERIFIED; BUREAU MAKES FINAL REPORT

(By the United Press)

Washington, Dec. 15.—Hope of relief from the high cost of foodstuffs through plentiful production was shattered today with the final report of the Bureau of Crop Estimates, showing unusual shortage of all crops.

Washington, Dec. 15.—The total production of cotton in 1916 from latest estimates, was 11,511,000 bales against 11,191,820 last year.

FAULKNER NOT APT TO FACE CHARGE OF MURDER FORT BLISS

Local Man Who Shot Wilson on Border Is Not in Cell, Neither Is Victim Dangerously Hurt—No Malice

There seems to be nothing so very grave about the case of W. Alpheus Faulkner, now or until recently an officer in the Second North Carolina Infantry, who several nights ago shot Corp. Norwood Harbour, from Wilson, and a member of the same regiment, at Fort Bliss, Texas. Morning papers Friday carried the statements that Faulkner had resigned under pressure, would be tried for his life if Harbour died, and that he was reported to have shot the Wilson man after a brusque order and had feeling. Information to The Free Press from Fort Bliss Friday afternoon mentioned nothing to the effect that Faulkner had resigned, but did give the following facts: "Faulkner confined to quarters pending investigation. Officer in charge investigation will not make statement until 'proper time.' Shootings were not malicious, according to general sentiment. There has been no excitement. Harbour improving."

The fact that the officer would make no statement is not surprising. That is the army way. That Faulkner is confined to his quarters and not the guardhouse, would indicate that if he has resigned his resignation has not been accepted as yet.

RUSSIANS RETREATING

(By the United Press) London, Dec. 15.—Greece has accepted the Allies' ultimatum. Central news dispatches from Athens today announced. The terms were not made known. The original demand called for the surrender of arms, control of the telegraph and postal systems and a guarantee of neutrality.

Russians Still Running. Berlin, Dec. 1.—The Russian armies are retreating in Roumania. They left burning villages as they retreated through Great Wallachia, it is officially reported.

Euzau has been captured by the Germans and the retreating enemy is not allowed to rest. The enemy offered resistance in Porefield positions on the mountains, but their line was pierced.

Nothing Else for Athens to Do. London, Dec. 15.—Presumably the reported surrender by Greece to the Allied ultimatum was because Greece foresaw being starved out by the Allied blockade. Several indications in the interim between the establishment of the blockade and today's reported action were that King Constantine was communicating with Berlin in the hopes, if possible, of throwing his lot with the Teutonic powers and effecting a junction of his forces with the Germans in the Balkans.

M'NAIRY IS AGAIN HEAD OF TRAINING SCHOOL NEAR CITY

Re-elected Superintendent—Directors to Ask Improvements and Maintenance Totalling Quarter Million Dollars

The Board of Directors of the Caswell Training School, in annual meeting at the school Thursday, re-elected Dr. C. B. McNairy, superintendent in an executive session during the afternoon. The directors adjourned at night after a full day's business. The re-election was without a dissenting vote. Members of the board said Dr. McNairy's administration spoke for itself; they regard him as efficient, progressive and wholeheartedly engaged in the work.

The Board adopted the report of the superintendent, made earlier in the day, and decided to petition the General Assembly for material improvements. It was agreed to ask the Legislature for new buildings and equipment asked for by Dr. McNairy; cutting his recommendations for additions and maintenance for the two years by only about \$34,000 out of a total of nearly \$300,000 asked for by him.

ELEVEN AND A HALF MILLION BALES NOW

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GREECE KNEELS TO ALLIED DEMAND IN FACE OF STARVATION

Germany Could Offer Constantine No Hope With-standing Blockade

RUSSIANS RETREATING

Being Hounded by Germans as They Fall Back in Wallachia, Burned Towns Behind Them—Completing Disaster

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