

MARION PROGRESS

A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTEREST OF THE PEOPLE OF McDOWELL COUNTY.

ESTABLISHED 1896.

MARION, N. C., THURSDAY, JULY 3, 1919

VOL. XXIII—NO. 44

SIMPLE CEREMONIES MARK SIGNING OF PEACE TREATY AT VERSAILLES

Signature Affixed in Historic Hall Where Nearly Half Century Before, Humbled France Acknowledged Defeat at Hands of Her German Adversaries.

Versailles.—World peace was signed and sealed in the historic hall of mirrors at Versailles, but under circumstances which somewhat dimmed the expectations of those who had worked and fought during long years of war and months of negotiations for its achievement.

The absence of the Chinese delegates, who at the last moment were unable to reconcile themselves to the Shantung settlement, and left the eastern empire outside the formal purviews of peace, struck the first discordant note in the assembly. A written protest which General Jan Christian Smuts lodged with his signature was another disappointment to the makers of the treaty.

But, bulking larger, was the attitude of Germany and the German plenipotentiaries, which left them, as evident from the official program of the day and from the expression of M. Clemenceau, still outside any formal reconciliation and made actual restoration to regular relations and intercourse with the allied nations dependent, not upon the signature of the "preliminaries of peace" today, but upon ratification by the national assembly.

To M. Clemenceau's stern warning in his opening remarks that they would be expected and held to observe the treaty provisions legally and completely, the German delegates, through Dr. Haniel von Hatmbausen, replied after returning to the hotel that, had they known they would be treated on a different status after signing than the allied representatives, as shown by their separate exits, before the general body of the conference, they never would have signed.

As a contrast with the Franco-German peace session of 1871, held in the same hall, there were present today grizzled French veterans of the Franco-Prussian war. They replaced the Prussian guardsmen of the previous ceremony and the Frenchmen today watched the ceremony with grim satisfaction.

1871 Conditions Reversed.

The conditions of 1871 were exactly reversed. Today the disciples of Bismarck sat in the seats of the lowly while the white marble statue of Minerva, the goddess of war, looked on. Overhead of the frescoed ceiling, were scenes from France's ancient wars.

Three incidents were emphasized by the smoothness with which the ceremony was conducted. The first of these was the failure of the Chinese delegation to sign. The second was the protest submitted by General Jan Christian Smuts, who declared the peace unsatisfactory. The third, unknown to the general public, came from the Germans. When the program for the ceremony was shown to the German delegation, Herr von Hatmbausen, of the German delegation, went to Colonel Henry, French liaison officer, and protested. He said:

"We cannot admit that the German delegates should enter the hall by a different door than the entente delegates, nor that military honors should be withheld. Had we known there would be such arrangements before, the delegates would not have come."

After a conference with the French foreign minister, it was decided, as a compromise, to render military honors as the Germans left. Otherwise, the program was not changed.

An hour before the signing of the treaty, these assembled in the hall had been urged to take their seats, but their eagerness to see the historic ceremony was so keen that they refused to keep their seats, and crowded toward the center of the hall, which is so long that a good view was impossible from the distance. Even with opera glasses, the correspondents and others were unable to observe satisfactorily. The seats were in no way elevated; consequently there was a general scramble for standing room.

The delegates of the minor powers made their way with difficulty through the crowd to their places at the table. Officers and civilians lined the walls and filled the aisles. President Wilson's arrival 10 minutes before the hour for signing was greeted by a faint burst of applause from the few persons who were able to see him.

The German correspondents were ushered into the hall shortly before 3 o'clock and were given standing room in a window at the rear of the correspondents' section.

When Premier Lloyd George arrived many of the delegates sought autographs from the members of the council of four, and they busied themselves signing copies of the official program until the Germans entered the room.

At 3 o'clock a hush fell over the hall, and the crowds shouted for the officials who were standing to sit down, so as not to block the view. The delegates showed some surprise at the disorder, which did not cease until all the spectators had either seated themselves or found places against the wall.

At seven minutes past 3 o'clock Dr. Hermann Mueller, the German secretary for foreign affairs, and Dr. Bell, the colonial secretary, were shown into the hall, and quietly took their seats at the left end of the U-shaped table. They showed composure, and manifested none of the uneasiness which Count von Brockdorff Rantzau, head of the German peace delegation, displayed when handed the treaty at Versailles.

M. Clemenceau, as president of the conference, made a brief speech in viting the Germans to sign the treaty and there was a tense pause. William Martin, master of ceremonies, after a moment's delay, escorted the German plenipotentiaries to the signatory table, where they signed the treaty, the protocol and the Polish undertaking.

After the Germans had signed, President Wilson, followed by the other American delegates, made his way to the table and he and the others speedily affixed their signatures. Premier Lloyd George came next with the English delegation. The British dominions followed—Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and India, in the order named.

A murmur of surprise passed around the hall when it became known that General Smuts, representing South Africa, signed under protest and filed a document declaring that the peace was unsatisfactory.

M. Clemenceau and the French delegates were the next in line for the signing, and Baron Sonnino and the other Japanese delegates. The Italians came after the Japanese, and they, in turn, were followed by the representatives of the smaller powers.

During the attaching of the signatures of the great powers and the Germans a battery of moving picture machines and cameras clicked away so audibly that they could be heard above the general disorder.

Cannon Boom.

At 3:45 the booming of cannon in celebration of the peace broke the monotony in the hall of mirrors, where the crowd had tired of the almost endless signing.

China's failure to send her delegates to the ceremony created much comment. The vacant seats of the Chinese were noted early in the proceedings, but it was expected that the delegates would arrive later. Then the report was circulated officially that the Chinese would not sign without reservation on Shantung, and would issue a statement this evening on their position. M. Clemenceau's announcement that the ceremony was at an end made it clear that China intended to have no part in the day's ceremonies and that she must be dealt with by letter if the signatories are willing to grant her the privilege of making the reservation.

Singers Meet in Marion.

The McDowell County Singing convention convened at the court house in Marion last Sunday and had a most enthusiastic and enjoyable all day occasion. A large and enthusiastic audience attended the singing. Quite a number of choirs took part and all showed careful training and much practice.

Old time songs, quartettes and solos, were rendered in a most pleasing manner.

At the close of the program each choir was presented with a box of delicious candy.

Another convention will be held on the fifth Sunday in August.

The following choirs and leaders were present and took part in the singing. Clear Creek, with H. S. Quinn as leader, Clinchfield, O. J. Jenkins, leader; Old Fort, H. R. Freeman, leader; Carlyle, W. M. Edwards, leader; Bethlehem, C. C. Silver, leader; Hankins, J. M. Edwards, leader; Cherry Springs, C. E. Gilliam, leader.

The annual election of officers was made at the afternoon session. John C. Burnett was re-elected president; Jos. M. Kanipe, vice-president, and H. S. Quinn, secretary and treasurer. A committee composed of the following was elected: W. W. Hollifield, R. S. Silver, R. L. Pyatt and O. J. Jenkins.

Richards-Garrison.

A wedding of much interest to their many friends in McDowell county was consummated at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. B. Garrison, in Broad River township on Sunday, June 22, when Mr. Eric K. Richards, of Tampa, Fla., and Miss Lydia Morgan Garrison were united in marriage. The marriage was a quiet affair, being witnessed by only a few friends and relatives of the contracting parties. The ceremony was performed at 10:30 a. m. by Rev. C. A. Miller, former pastor of the Wilkey Baptist church.

The parlor was beautifully decorated with daisies, ferns and roses. The bride was dressed in a traveling suit of gray flannel and silk georgette with hat to match and carried a bouquet of daisies. The groom was in uniform.

The groom is a son of Mr. A. S. Richards of Tampa. He recently returned from overseas, having served in the U. S. army about twelve months.

Immediately following the ceremony the happy couple left for Black Mountain and boarded train No. 11 for Tampa, Fla., where they will make their future home. They have a host of friends throughout this section who extend them hearty congratulations and best wishes for a long and happy wedded life.

Old Fort Store Burglarized.

Burglars entered the store of the Bryson-Snyder company at Old Fort Sunday night and took a lot of merchandise, including shoes, shirts, clothing, etc. The entrance was made through a window. Bloodhounds were taken to the scene and two men were trailed as far as the tunnel west of Old Fort. At this point the dogs lost the trail and it is believed the men wanted must have caught a freight train, making their escape.

PUBLIC WELFARE OFFICER

County Superintendent of Public Welfare to Be Elected Soon—His Duties.

The law requires that the county board of education and the board of county commissioners shall jointly elect and pay from their respective funds, a county superintendent of public welfare. The salary is left at the discretion of these two boards. It is urged that competent men be secured in each county. There is a vast work to be done and the people are willing to pay a man for his services if he is such a man as can give the service. When trained men cannot be secured, a suitable young man of energy and good judgment who can and will quickly learn should be secured. Natural talent and capacity are more than minute training just at this time.

The county superintendent of public welfare has the opportunity to be one of the most useful officials in the county. There are certain specific things that he must do everywhere. After these are done there are all manner of ways in which he may be useful to the community, and his success and usefulness will depend upon his own skill, energy, initiative and capacity for leadership. Every community has its own peculiar problems, and with the advice of public welfare, the county superintendent must study ways and means of solving them. His duties are:

1. To act as probation officer to the county juvenile court, if there be but one court in the county, and if more, to be the chief probation officer. In this capacity he must be in touch with all the neglected, dependent or delinquent children, and under the direction of the court, investigate their surroundings and seek means of protecting them in their own homes or on probation, or of getting them into suitable homes or institutions.

2. To act as chief school attendance officer of the county, to whom will be reported by the school officials all children in their respective districts who are not attending school as provided by law. In all these relations he is the next friend of the child and must work always in his behalf. He must find out why parents are not sending their children to school and seek to remedy the cause.

3. As probation officer and as school attendance officer looking out for neglected and truant children he will come in contact with the homes of such children. Many of these homes, and no doubt most of them, are homes of poverty, neglect or shiftlessness, and often objects of charity. He must know when charitable help is needed and when it should be withheld, and other means used. This naturally makes him the most suitable person to advise the public officials regarding the distribution of the poor funds, and under the direction of the county commissioners he should investigate every case where applications for relief are made. Often unworthy persons are on the rolls and worthy persons will not apply because of the stigma attaching to the matter. He should be

able from first-hand knowledge to recommend who should be helped and who should not be. In many counties the poor funds have grown enormously and there are but few instances where this is managed systematically, either for the best interest of the poor or for the interest of the taxpayers.

4. He should know of the blind, the deaf, the crippled and the sick children of the county, and see that proper care and attention is given them, and if they are subjects for institutional care or training that they be sent to the proper places.

5. He will visit the county home, the prisons, the jails, and make report to the State Board on their condition and assist in making suggestions for improvements. Paroled prisoners in the county will be referred to him, and he will assist in reporting the cases of insanity and feeble-mindedness, and in getting them in State institutions and in helping them in their own homes after they are discharged.

6. In short, he will investigate the causes of distress in any and every form and assist in relieving them, and cooperate with the county and city officials and all private agencies and persons preventing unworthy charity and securing worthy help.

7. He will study the subject of recreation and amusement and seek to introduce wholesome agencies and to suppress bad ones and to keep out the vicious. He will encourage the establishment of playgrounds and games, and aid the officials in the enforcement of the laws against vice and bad conditions generally.

8. He will cooperate with the churches, the schools and all other agencies and persons who are seeking to make a better and cleaner community. During the six months when the schools are in operation the enforcement of the attendance laws will consume much of his time, for this must be done with tact and discretion and with a view of helping parents to see the error of not doing their best to keep the children in school. The poor, the sick, the afflicted will always be with us, and it will be his duty to understand how far these causes go towards truancy at school, and to seek to remedy them.

A joint session of the County Commissioners and County Board of Education shall be held not later than July 15th, 1919, for the purpose of selecting the County Superintendent of Public Welfare. It is sincerely hoped that these boards in McDowell County will carefully scan the duties of the County Superintendent of Public Welfare before they go into joint session and look over the county and select the best and most suitable man for the position. The field of work extends throughout the entire county and presents a splendid opportunity to do the greatest possible good. This matter should not be considered lightly or passed upon without mature reflection.

- The Fourth will be observed in the usual quiet manner in Marion. The banks and practically all the stores and other places of business, it is understood, will be closed for the day and a large number of Marion people will spend the day out of town.