

Scheme for Despotic and Imperial Power

General Miles Threatens to Resign if Senator Hawley's Bill Should Become a Law

Washington, March 20.—General Nelson A. Miles today told the Senate Committee on Military Affairs that if the bill introduced by Senator Hawley at the instance of the War Department for the organization of a general staff for the army should become a law he would decline to longer hold his commission. The reason he gave for the statement is that the bill is utterly subversive of the interests of the military, and he said that he would not be a party to such a proceeding, to the extent even of continuing to hold his place.

The statement was made in the course of a prolonged hearing by the committee which was conducted behind closed doors and in which General Miles touched upon a variety of subjects connected with the army. The portion of the bill to which he directed his special criticism is that contained in Section 7 reading as follows:

"That from and after the passage of this act the senior general officer of the army shall be assigned to command such portion of the army as the President may direct or he detailed to duty in the general staff corps. All duties prescribed by law for the commanding general of the army shall be performed by the chief of general staff or other general officer designated by the Secretary of War: Provided, that so long as the present lieutenant general of the army continues on the active list he shall be the chief of the general staff and upon the separation from active service of the said lieutenant general of the army said officer except as herein provided, shall cease and determine."

General Miles terms the plan a scheme to place a despotic and imperial power in the hands of the President, the Secretary of War and the Adjutant General of the army. He said that under the terms of the bill creating a chief of staff the President could select his own general of the army by promoting a lieutenant to be a brigadier general and assigning him as chief of staff.

The bill would create an army ring worse, more far reaching and more despotic than any that ever existed, General Miles said. He added that he denounced the bill as a bad one, root and branch.

General Miles said that if this provision should become a law it would have the effect of destroying the unity of the army and he read numerous authorities including Napoleon, Wellington, Washington, Cass and Grant to show the necessity of having one head

to the army and of controlling authority. Then he added that in all probability the senior general of the army would not under the provision he had quoted, have been in position to do anything, and he called attention to the clause relieving him (the senior general) of command and making it possible for any other officer to be appointed. He declared that under section 7 it would be competent to one-day promote a captain to the position of a brigadier and the next day make him chief of staff, thus practically placing a captain at the head of the army.

Warning up somewhat he asserted that the bill was calculated to accomplish no purpose except to allow the Secretary of War and the Adjutant General to promote the interests of their personal favorites.

General Miles was questioned as to the reasons for locating the American army of occupation at Tampa and holding it there so long with the resulting congestion. Replied to the first question, he said that it was because of the order to occupy Havana. The delay was due, he said, to the fact that the American army was supplied with only 64 rounds of ammunition which would not have been sufficient for more than half an hour of fighting.

Considering that Havana was one of the best fortified cities in the world he said that to have attacked it would have been foolhardy in the extreme. He declined, however, to criticize the then Secretary of War, General Alger, for the condition of affairs, saying that probably any one else in the position would have done about what he did. He laid the general blame for this condition of unpreparedness at the door of Congress.

In the course of his remarks General Miles told the committee in confidence that with the bill a law he could now name the men who would hold the places of honor provided under it, but the committee did not ask for the names.

His own experience and observation had, he said, had the effect of confirming these views and he gave an illustration of its beneficial effect in time of emergency, instancing the beginning of the war with Spain.

"I heard at midnight," he said, "that the Spanish fleet had been located definitely at Santiago and I hastened to the home of Secretary Long, where the news was confirmed. Shafter was then at Tampa and I sat down there in the Secretary's house and wrote a dispatch directing him to start immediately for Santiago, with the result that the army was soon on its way to the point where its presence was needed. Suppose," he added, exhibiting the message which he had sent to General Shafter, "I had been compelled to get around to a dozen or more majors, as many colonels and any number of generals constituting a general staff."

CHAS. B. O'BRIEN DIED IN TURKEY

Remains Will Be Brought to His Home at Durham

Winston-Salem, N. C., March 20.—Special—Manager Holcomb of the American Tobacco Company's office here received a telegram today from the New York office stating that a cablegram from Turkey announced the death of Mr. Chas. B. O'Brien which occurred this morning at Kempti, Turkey. No particulars are given as to the cause of his death or how long he had been ill. Another telegram stated the remains would be brought back for interment at his former home in Durham. Mr. O'Brien bought leaf on the Winston market for a year or more. He left here in January and sailed for Turkey on the 24th of that month.

The annual meeting of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Union of Orange Presbytery closed tonight with an address by Rev. Edmund Brown. Following officers were elected: President, Mrs. B. D. Blackwell of Durham; Honorary President, Miss O. H. Dickson of Winston-Salem; First Vice President, Mrs. Parker of Greensboro; Second Vice President, Mrs. Archer of Chapel Hill; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. E. C. Murray of Durham; Superintendent of Children's Work, Mrs. C. H. Wiley of Winston-Salem.

It was decided to hold the next annual meeting at Lexington in March, 1903.

STATE SCHOOL OF REFORM BURNED

The Inmates Believed to Have Fired It to Escape

Lexington, Ky., March 20.—Bradley Dormitory at the State School of Reform, near this city, was destroyed by fire last night, but all the inmates, numbering 125 boys, all white, were saved. The fire was discovered shortly after midnight. The inmates of the building were successfully aroused and all were gotten out safely and without disorder. This city was telephoned to for help. An engine of the local fire department was sent, but arrived too late to save any part of the dormitory. The manual training school adjacent to the dormitory was saved, however.

At 1:10 o'clock the dormitory collapsed, and at 2 o'clock the fire was practically extinguished. The burned building was erected in 1896 during the administration of former Governor W. O. Bradley, at a cost of \$25,000, and was insured for two-thirds of its value.

Two boy inmates of the school are missing, and it is believed they escaped during the fire. The management of the institution became convinced that the building was set on fire by the boys who had planned to escape, but that the prompt action of the night watchman in turning in the alarm frustrated the plan.

Superintendent Dock will not say that the fire was incendiary, because complete investigation has not been made, but W. P. Walton, one of the board of directors, says he has information that will lead to arrests during the day. The boys who are missing are William Bracken of Lexington and Grover Ruske of Covington, Ky.

UNIVERSITY DEFEATS OAK RIDGE TEAM

By One Sided Score of Twenty to Nothing

Chapel Hill, N. C., March 20.—Special.—University had an easy victory today in the first game of the season, which was won by the score of 20 to 0 in a six-inning contest against Oak Ridge. The game was uninteresting and there was no especially brilliant work on either side. Captain Holt was not in the game. Batteries: Carolina—Sweeney and Connell; Oak Ridge—Suggs and Sitterson. Carolina 19 hits, 5 errors. Oak Ridge 3 hits, 6 errors. Next game will be against Lafayette on Monday and Tuesday.

Dr. Hubert Royster, dean of University Medical College at Raleigh, delivered a regular faculty lecture here tonight, and was given a cordial reception. Messrs. Stern and Williams, the victorious Johns Hopkins debaters, arrived tonight and were given a hearty welcome by the student body in mass meeting. Speeches were made by faculty and students and a great demonstration was accorded the victors.

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Revealed Robbery While in a Drunken Condition

Four Men Sawed Through Floor of a Store at Gold Hill—Negro Shot at a Festival

Salisbury, N. C., March 20.—Special.—Two white men were arrested here late yesterday evening for robbery. Charles Johnson, a young white man, who has been living at Gold Hill was arrested for being drunk and down. In a drunken stupor he referred in a mumbling voice to a robbery at Gold Hill. Officers Torrence and Cantle, by skillful detective work, pumped Johnson and discovered that he was one of a party of four that sawed through the floor of the store of Hulsehauser & Co. at Gold Hill Tuesday night and stole about \$100 worth of goods. Johnson named the parties who were with him and Will Wilkerson, another white man, was arrested late in the night. Dan and Charles Hopkins, who participated in the robbery, have fled.

A MISSOURI GIRL WEDS UNION MAN

Colored Brakeman Killed at Matthews

Monroe, N. C., March 20. Correspondence of The Morning Post. Hon. Cameron Morrison, of Rockingham, is here this week attending court. He is a candidate for Congress from the (the Seventh) district, and next to Union's own candidate, Hon. James G. Covington, is perhaps the favorite here. He has represented the district, of which Union was a part, in the State Senate. Miss John D. Shaw of Rockingham and Mr. J. W. Keane of Charlotte are visiting lawyers at court. Solicitor L. D. Robinson of Wadesboro is here today on legal business. A supposed case of smallpox was reported yesterday from the country. Dr. J. M. Blair, the county physician, and Dr. S. A. Stevens drove out and examined the sick man, a negro. After a careful diagnosis of the case it was found not to be smallpox, but a mild form of skin eruption. The town and county are now clear of smallpox and there has been but one case here this winter. Alex. Station, a colored brakeman, fell under the train at Matthews Monday and was terribly crushed, both legs and one arm being almost mashed off. Dr. T. N. Reid of Matthews gave him attention and he was then brought to Monroe. He lived only two or three hours after getting here. He lived here and was quiet and industrious and well thought of.

OFFICERS ELECTED BY CONVENTION

Sunday School Workers Close Meeting at Fayetteville

Fayetteville, N. C., March 20.—Special.—Devotional services last night and today were conducted by Revs. Joseph Peale of Greensboro, and Rev. B. R. Hill, presiding elder of Fayetteville. Election of officers took place this morning, resulting as follows: G. H. Crowell, High Point, President; S. M. Smith, Elon College, Secretary; H. N. Snow, Durham, Statistical Secretary; J. H. Weathers, Raleigh, Treasurer; Vice Presidents, Isaac T. Avery, W. H. Sprunt, J. E. Ray, G. F. Tillery; Executive Committee, N. B. Broughton, Raleigh, Chairman; J. O. Adkinson, Elon College; J. G. Brown, Raleigh; Rev. Dr. A. J. McKelvey, Charlotte; Capt. R. A. Southard, J. A. Oates, Fayetteville; G. W. Watts, H. N. Snow, Durham; T. O. Johnson, Salisbury; J. R. Mendenhall, Greensboro; H. B. Parker, Goldsboro; Charles Ross, Asheboro; Rev. Dr. C. S. Blackwell, Wilmington; Rev. D. H. Tuttle, Elizabeth City; T. B. Parker, Hillsboro; R. B. Lacey, Raleigh; J. J. Rogers, Kingston. About \$1,500 was subscribed last night for Sunday School work. Fine addresses were made by President Crowell, Rev. Marion Lawrence, S. M. Smith, H. B. Parker, Isaac T. Avery and Charles Ross.

Resolutions were adopted this afternoon thanking the Fayetteville Presbyterian church, officers of the convention, Rev. Eli Reese and Miss Bettie Gaston and the railroads. Tonight there was an address by N. B. Broughton of Raleigh on "Class Spirit." The convention closes with "Parting Words." The remains of Edmund Pemberton, who died at the University, a nephew of Mrs. R. T. Gray of Raleigh, were buried from St. Johns church this afternoon.

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Discharges in bankruptcy were allowed by Judge Purner yesterday for business men of Wilson. They are S. T. Boyken, Pharo Bullock and Monroe Bullock, doing business as Bullock Bros. and Boyken. Also to William Walls of Wilson. The proceeding in bankruptcy in the Bullock Bros. and Boyken case was instituted October 28, 1901, and that in the case of William Walls on December 30th.

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