

Next Reparations Move Up to Allied Premiers

Views of Washington Government on Reparations Question Made Public by Secretary Hughes.

PREMIERS MEET IN PARIS SOON

And if They Fail to Agree, Mr. Hughes Thinks the American Plan is the Only Practical One Left.

(By the Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 30.—Disclosure by Secretary Hughes in his New Haven speech last night of the belief of the Washington government that an international commission of financiers including Americans might as well be called to recommend a method of settlement for the reparations crisis apparently leaves the next move in the hands of the allied premiers.

The American suggestion, Mr. Hughes specified, was offered as an alternative in the event that the premiers at their Paris meeting next Tuesday failed to find a basis for agreement of their views "among themselves."

The Secretary stressed the view that settlement by the premiers was to be hoped for. He pointed out that failing such an agreement, the world might be facing the employment of forcible means to collect reparations from Germany, and outlined the danger to world peace the American government foresaw in that course.

The plan warning to allied statesmen that the United States could not look with favor on attempted forcible collection was reiterated by Mr. Hughes in his address, and the financial commission plan put forward as an alternative that would "open hopefully" the way for American helpfulness.

As a first condition of appointment of an economic commission, however, Mr. Hughes specified that the whole question of Germany's capacity to pay and methods of payment must be "taken out of politics." He emphasized that the distinguished forces assigned to recommend not only a financial plan of payment, but the amount to be paid, must be freed of the domination of foreign officials and the necessity of obeying political instructions. The problem must be squared with economic facts alone, he said, and relieved of all the questions of sentiment and clashing political opinions, recriminations and counter charges which have blocked the recuperation of Europe up to this time.

ALFRED SMITH COMES BACK LIKE CONQUERING HERO

Vast Crowds Acclaim New York Governor's Return to Albany

Albany, N. Y., Dec. 29.—For the second time in four years Alfred E. Smith—"Al"—to most of the 12,000,000 men, women and children in the Empire state—today took up his residence in the big red brick mansion set apart by the state as the official home of its executives.

The welcome he received was such as might be expected of a military leader returning from fields of victory. When he alighted from the train that brought him from New York and stepped into the great waiting room of the Union station he was cheered tumultuously by a crowd that occupied every available inch of standing room. He was cheered again by a smaller but no less enthusiastic group which had assembled outside the Executive Mansion.

Mr. Harding May Sign Orders Freeing Political Prisoners.

Washington, Dec. 29.—President Harding expects to sign tomorrow commutation of sentences of 12 or more "political prisoners," it was said today by a White House spokesman. There will, however, be no "general amnesty," it was added. The commutation, it was explained, will be in the nature of a New Year's gift. Just prior to Christmas the President granted three commutations, but these were not for offenders against war-time laws.

No Legion-Sawyer Branch.

Fort Worth, Tex., Dec. 29.—Denial that any branch existed between the American Legion and Brigadier General Sawyer was made by Alvin Goveley, national commander of the organization here as he boarded a train for the Pacific coast. The commander intimated that harmony now existed between the surgeon general's office and the legion which at its last convention demanded the removal of Dr. Sawyer.

Fire Breaks Out at Emory University.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 29.—All available Atlanta fire apparatus has been sent to Emory University in answer to a general alarm of fire at midnight. There are approximately 600 students living in dormitories. There is also a large hospital located on the grounds. Only meager details are now available.

WILMINGTON BANK CLOSES ITS DOORS

Commercial National Bank of That City Was Closed Today by Order of Comptroller of the Currency.

CLOSING OF BANK WAS A SURPRISE

One Director Says if the Bank is Properly Managed 100 Cents on Dollar Will Be Paid Depositors.

(By the Associated Press.)
Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 30.—The Commercial National Bank here failed to open its doors today and a notice was posted on the door signed by W. P. Folger, a National bank examiner, saying that the institution had been closed by order of Comptroller of the Currency and that the bank examiner had taken charge.

Mr. Folger, who has been examining the bank's books for several days, refused to make any statement, other than to refer to the formal notice posted on the door of the institution. One executive who declined to permit his name to be used said:

"I believe that if the bank is properly managed, that 100 cents on every dollar will be paid to the depositors."

The closing of the institution came as a surprise generally, it was said by Wilmington business men.

Thos. E. Cooper is president of the bank, and Lieut. Governor W. B. Cooper is a director and formerly was the executive head of the bank. Other officers are: Chas. E. Bethen, vice-president; Horace C. Cooper, cashier; S. D. Pittman, assistant cashier; and directors in addition to the Lieutenant Governor and the bank's president are B. M. Hodges, Henderson Cole, deceased, and Mr. Bethen.

SOLICITOR INVESTIGATES KILLING OF ALLISON

Brother of Dead Man Discusses Case With Solicitor Huffman.

Morganton, N. C., Dec. 30.—Preliminary investigation by Solicitor R. L. Huffman of the recent killing of Fred Allison, 29 year old automobile mechanic, is reported to have included a discussion of the case set for today with L. J. Allison, of Charlotte, a brother of the dead man.

Fred Allison was fatally wounded in an exchange of shots between three alleged liquor runners in an automobile and Deputy Sheriff Baxter and Miller, according to Sheriff Abernethy. While a coroner's jury indicated its belief that a shot by one of his companions caused Allison's fatal wound, Mr. Huffman said a physician who examined the wound expressed the belief that the bullet had been battered by striking the automobile before entering Allison's body.

Mr. Huffman indicated also that he would inquire into the reason for Deputy Baxter being allowed to continue in office although he is under bond for felony charges, according to the solicitor, involving alleged liquor deals and immorality.

RUM PIRATES' BIG HAUL FROM BOOZE-LADEN SHIP

Craft Clearing From Bahamas Held Up on High Seas and Cargo Taken.

New York, Dec. 29.—A report received by customs officials today from Nassau, Bahamas, of a \$1,000,000 liquor robbery on the high seas was taken by customs officials as proof of reports that pirates were raiding rum runners off the Atlantic coast.

The report said that the Vincent A. White, which cleared from Nassau for Miquelon on October 21 with 10,500 cases of liquor, had been boarded off the New York coast and all the liquor and money she carried taken.

With New Year's approaching, clearance reports from the Bahamas, received by customs officials, indicated that a fresh supply of liquor was on its way from Nassau. Although a number of vessels cleared for St. Pierre, Miquelon, Federal agents indicated they would keep a sharp lookout along the Jersey and Long Island shores to prevent any liquor leaking into New York.

Latest reports showed that Swedish craft had entered the rum-carrying trade along the Atlantic seaboard, for clearing from Nassau with a cargo of liquor was the Swedish auxiliary schooner Carnegie.

WILLIAM GRAY FREED BY GOVERNOR MORRISON

Chief Executive of State Says He Does Not Believe Miss Is Guilty of Fraud.

(By the Associated Press.)
Raleigh, Dec. 30.—Gov. Cameron Morrison today rescinded his action of earlier in the week in honoring extradition papers in the case of Wm. B. Gray, wanted in Kentucky on a charge of obtaining money under false pretenses, after a hearing held at the Governor's office. Gray was immediately given his liberty.

"I have made an investigation of this matter," said the Governor, "and while I believe a sincere and honest effort was made to reestablish the school at Mebane, failure has been the result. I do not believe young Gray is guilty of any fraud. I have found he led his law class at the University of Virginia this year, and is considered a very bright man with an excellent future. I do not intend to ruin his life by sending him to Kentucky for trial."

"I do want to say, however, that Col. Gray should discontinue the operation of the school, or it will get him into serious trouble," he said.

Gray was on a train en route to Kentucky, Thursday night, in custody of Agent J. B. Hubbard when his lawyer Preston Lewis Gray advised Governor Morrison he wished to present his side of the case. The Executive rescinded the extradition until further hearing and Gray was brought here.

He testified here today that Gray had misrepresented the school in securing students. The "fund" was insufficient to meet the needs of a "baby" he said, and a number of Kentucky parents had been forced to withdraw boys at a financial loss. The defense contended that the extradition procedure was attempted to recover in civil action by the use of the criminal docket.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRL SHOT ON HER WAY HOME

Attacker Also Shoots and Kills a Policeman, and in Turn Was Shot by Another Policeman.

(By the Associated Press.)
Chicago, Dec. 30.—One of three men early today shot a high school girl as she was en route from a school entertainment, killed a policeman, and in turn was shot and probably fatally wounded by another policeman. The girl, Miss Minnie Finelstein, 17, was shot through the hip. Her wound was not serious. The dead officer was Wm. J. O'Malley.

Miss Finelstein said the three men accosted her and another girl who were waiting with her brother and another high school student. When she protested one of the men began firing a pistol, all three aiming when the girl fell. Paragon O'Malley, hearing the shooting, rushed up, only to be shot three times. His partner shot the gunman.

DR. IKE CAMPBELL WILL GET USUAL \$2,000

Under the Deficiency Bill Reported Today in the House.

(By the Associated Press.)
Washington, Dec. 30.—Dr. James Ike Campbell, republican, who contested the seat of Representative Doughton, democrat, of the 8th Congressional district in North Carolina, will receive the usual payment of \$2,000 under the deficiency bill reported today to the House. Months ago with only one dissenting vote the elections committee held that Mr. Doughton had been legally elected, but the committee report has never been acted on by the House.

January Highway Lettings Will Include Rowan County Work.

Raleigh, Dec. 29.—State highway functionaries would not rob Senator Walter Woodson of his joy in the reorganization of Rowan county from the state as a portion of the state highway system, but men about the office did say today that the January lettings will have some more Rowan county contracts.

To refresh the memory of the Salisbury Post the highway officers recalled that project 670, below Landis, was awarded by the state and that the new bridge over the Yadkin, a costly structure playing around a quarter million will be half Rowan's outfit. And nobody in the office concedes that the state funds will have been depleted when the highway commission gets to these jobs.

Mr. Clifford Hahn was taken suddenly ill this morning, and his condition is considered serious.

The state of South Australia is four times as big as France.

THE KU KLUX KLAN TO MAKE INVESTIGATION

On Its Own Account of Killing of Watt Daniels and Thos. Richards.—Announcement is Made Today.

INVESTIGATION TO BE STARTED SOON

It is Stated That if Any Klan Member Had Anything to Do With the Crime He Will Be Outlawed.

(By the Associated Press.)
New Orleans, Dec. 30.—The Louisiana organization of the Ku Klux Klan will send its own agents into Morehouse parish to investigate the kidnaping and killing of Watt Daniels and Thos. Richards last August, according to an announcement today by a high state official of the Klan. This action, he said, was decided on at a conference here of heads of state organizations at which a reporter of a New Orleans newspaper was permitted to attend.

It was stated the investigation probably will be started within the next 48 hours.

The Klan official stated if it should develop any individual member of the Klan in Morehouse parish had anything to do with the kidnaping and murder of Daniels and Richards they would be outlawed, and the Klan would assist in obtaining their conviction before the criminal courts of the state.

KERNERSVILLE CHIEF CAPTURED BY A YOUTH

Charlie Dillard, 225-Pound Officer, Marched to Jail by 13-Year-Old Boy.

Winston-Salem, Dec. 29.—The wild and woolly western pictures at the moving picture houses yesterday pulled into insignificance in the quiet village of Kernersville when the popular hero of that otherwise quiet community saw their chief of police, Charlie Dillard, a giant weighing fully 225 pounds, marching down the street, headed for the town jail, with his hands pointing heavenward, and 10 paces behind him directing his movements, was a tiny lad with a huge revolver.

While the surprised citizens stared, the pair proceeded to the town lockup. But there the tables were turned. Dillard opened the door at the lad's command, but before the boy could stop him the chief of police had secured his own revolver and the boy, Manuel Kendrick, 13-years-old, was the prisoner.

The whole thing came about like this: W. T. Kendrick, the lad's father, a new-comer to Kernersville, having been reared in the fastnesses of Henry County, Virginia, had been arrested during the morning on the charge of libeling too much of the forbidden fluid. At the time of his arrest and incarceration the lad was attending a moving picture, where pictures of the Wild West were being shown. There he saw men of great daring accomplishing great deeds with nothing more than a huge revolver to aid them.

When the picture was over and he returned home he heard that what had befallen his father. Angered, he approached the chief of police and demanded his father's freedom. When this was denied he returned to his own home, got out his father's pistol and started out as a knight of old to rescue his father. He was almost successful, but he failed and as a consequence he was lodged in his father's cell.

This morning he was tried in the juvenile court in this city. He told the judge that he thought that he had a perfect right to defend his father in any way that it seemed necessary. The court listened to his story carefully, and then upon the recommendation of the superintendent of public welfare, turned the lad loose, placing him upon probation, and requiring him to report to the mayor at least once a week.

PROMINENT MEN ARE UNDER INDICTMENT

On Charges of Conspiracy to Defraud the Government.

(By the Associated Press.)
Washington, D. C., Dec. 30.—Benjamin Crowell, assistant secretary of war, under the Wilson administration, and six "dollar-a-year" men associated with the council of national defense, were indicted here today by a special grand jury investigating war frauds, on charges of conspiracy to defraud the government in construction of wartime army camps and cantonments. The others indicted were:

Wm. A. Spurrett, Morton C. Tuttle, Clement W. Lundoff, Clair Foster, John H. McGibbons, James A. Meers.

AN ARMENIAN NATIONAL HOME A POSSIBILITY

Plans for Such a Home Were Presented to Lausanne Conference by Armenian Delegation.
Lausanne, Dec. 30.—(By the Associated Press.)—Plans for an Armenian national home, financed by a possible \$20,000,000 appropriation by the United States Congress or a popular loan in America in addition to funds from other countries, were presented to the Near East conference today by the Armenian delegation.

Marked Improvement In Business Conditions

FARMERS ADOPT MODERN MACHINERY EQUIPMENT

Shown by Report of B. W. Kilgore, Director of Farm Extension Service, Raleigh, N. C. (By the Associated Press.)—North Carolina farmers are rapidly adopting modern machinery and other equipment to carry on their operations, according to the annual report of E. R. Ramey, state extension engineer, according to the biennial report of B. W. Kilgore, director of the Farm Extension Service, made public today.

"The work of the division has been divided into three main projects: Water supply, sewerage disposal and lights; farm buildings and concrete construction, and farm machinery and motors," the report reads.

"Visits were made to various sections of the state where a number of people were interested in any of these projects. The locations were gone over and best plans suggested. Along with this, bills of materials and estimates of cost were given. In many cases after everything was ready, a practical working demonstration was put on. At these demonstrations all the interested parties were invited and were usually present. Besides being able to show and impress them with what we were trying to put across, these demonstrations have proven a very valuable asset in getting other work started when we could refer men to these places."

"Sixty-six of these practical demonstrations were put on, including 24 self feeders for hogs; 4 colony hog houses; 4 breeding crates for hogs; 4 poultry houses; 4 dairy barns; 3 mule barns; 3 34' x 60' two-story impement sheds; 8 water towers; 4 lime kilns; 4 hydraulic rams; 4 pumping outfits with gas engine; 1 pumping outfit with electric motor. These were all placed in as centrally located places as possible. A number of the self feeders were placed on the court-house squares so that the interested parties might see them."

"Six hundred and nine blue prints of plans for various farm buildings have been sent out together with bills of materials for each one. The plans have included everything from residents down in the way of building on the farm. These plans have gone to 60 different counties over the state, not including a good number that have been sent out of the state. Twenty-seven additional designs from large blue prints are made for distribution have been gotten up during the year."

"Years have been made to 28 agents; 23 men interested in home water supplies; 87 in farm buildings; 23 in machinery; 9 in water power; 4 in silos, and 2 in dipping vats."

"Seven meetings with total attendance of 627 were held where various forms of work were discussed. Each of our practical demonstrations usually resolved itself into a meeting for practical suggestions regarding other locations or buildings. Three hundred and eleven conferences were held in the interest of the work; 4 district and two state meetings of county agents were attended. Assisted with one club equipment where instructions were given in terracing and building. Bills of materials for 13 different sizes of silos and 19 different sizes of concrete sites were gotten up. Eight hundred and seventy-five letters were written; 8,807 miles traveled by railroad and 1,903 by automobile in carteron work."

"A test was put on in co-operation with County Agent Falls to get a comparison between several different makes of soy bean harvesters, and arrangements made for continuing this next year."

"A survey was made of 6200 farms to get an estimate of the damage done by rats and by weevils in stored corn. The survey, 23 men interested in home water supplies; 87 in farm buildings; 23 in machinery; 9 in water power; 4 in silos, and 2 in dipping vats."

"A survey was made of all windmill owners in the state as near as possible, to see just what success they were having. The impression from these reports is that the failures have been due to the wheels not being high enough or the tanks were too small and not a general condemnation of windmills," the report read.

WISH FOR SILLY THINGS LEADS TO SEPARATE HOME

Screen Actress Leaves Mother After Quarrel Over Trifles.

Los Angeles, Dec. 31.—Mary Miles Minter, motion picture actress, has left the home of her mother, Mrs. Charlotte Shelby, and has set up her own establishment, according to a story printed in the Los Angeles Times today. A report is current, according to the Times, that "mother and daughter have quarreled."

Interviewed at her new home, Miss Minter said her mother was "ideal," but admitted:

"It is true we have quarreled, but we had only motherly and daughterly quarrels, such as happen in any family. I wanted a home of my own, where I could do the 'funny little things I like to do, and I got me one.' Miss Minter said she would be 21 years old next April. At the Shelby residence inquiries about Miss Minter met with the statement she was out on location."

Cotton Exchange Closed.

(By the Associated Press.)
New York, Dec. 30.—The cotton and coffee and sugar exchanges here were closed today.

Mr. Robert Brown, of Greensboro, and Miss Ethel Brown, of Jellison, and Miss Bertha Brown, of Guilford General Hospital, of High Point, spent Christmas with their mother, Mrs. Lottie Brown.

Stock and Bond Prices Close at Materially Higher Levels Which is a Reflection of Industrial Conditions.

STILL FURTHER PROGRESS IN 1923

Is Expected by Banking Interests.—Money Market Easier and High Sums Available for Business.

New York, Dec. 30 (By the Associated Press.)—Stock and bond prices generally closed the year at materially higher levels, which is not only a reflection of the marked improvement in the political and economic situation during the last twelve months, but also construed by conservative New York banking interests as an indication of still further progress in the coming year.

The year closes with conditions favorable for a further appreciation of commodity and security prices in the opinion of the financial community. Unfavorable and unexpected developments in the political and economic situation abroad are generally considered as the only probable obstacles to arrest the improvement in the business and financial world, which began in the summer of 1921 and has continued with few temporary interruptions until the present time.

The prediction of further business prosperity is based on several well-known facts. Foremost of these is the easiness of the money market, and huge sums available for business enterprises. In addition, most stocks of merchandise are low, railroad traffic is close to record levels, exports are increasing, the principal European exchanges are heading back to par, and the European economic situation showed signs of improvement, exports are increasing and unfilled orders for railroad equipment are the largest in years. Other favorable signs are seen in the fact that no big strikes are threatening or pending, a great amount of construction work is still in arrears, despite a record breaking year of activity in the building industry, automobile production reached a new peak, which probably will be exceeded next year, while some consumption has been the highest in history, and electric companies are doing a record business.

Optimism for 1923.

Chicago, Dec. 30 (By the Associated Press.)—Optimism for 1923, permeated announcements from a business standpoint of the year now closing, as made public today by some of Chicago's leaders in finance and industry. They gave their reasons for their satisfaction with the situation, chief of which were:

Upward trend of trade.
A tone of greater confidence.
Improved conditions of agriculture, increasing business activity.
Favorable condition of bank reserves, interest rates and credit structure.

More normal relationship between prices of different classes of commodities.
Better foreign exchange quotations.
Increased prices of farm crops were generally given an important place in the statements.

Blind From Birth But Is to Be Graduated Astronomer.

(By the Associated Press.)
An Arbor, Mich., Dec. 30.—Blind from birth, with his conception of the heavens formed by descriptions from others, Joseph Caldwell, of Indiana, Pennsylvania, is studying astronomy at the University of Michigan in order that he may meet the scientific requirements to permit him to be graduated from the College of Literature, Science and Arts.

Mr. Caldwell, a sophomore and 46 years old, is doubly handicapped. In addition to his blindness, he lacks the mechanical aids for the study of astronomy that often are afforded students who take up other studies. Blind students of astronomy are so rare that there are no text books with raised type. Therefore, he depends upon fellow students to read his lessons to him. So proficient has he become, his professors say, that he frequently remembers a lesson by hearing it read only a few times.

In addition to astronomy, Mr. Caldwell is studying psychology, German, French and Italian. He ranks as one of the most adept students in his classes.

Aims to Be Pecan Supply Center of World.

(By the Associated Press.)
San Saba, Texas, Dec. 30.—San Saba county and its neighboring district is out to become the chief pecan production section of the world. Already supplying a goodly portion of the output of the nuts, it is increasing. Its present pecan area of 1,000 acres, or 5,000 acres, which, according to J. E. Bell, secretary of the chamber of commerce, will make its position of supply less disputed.

"In 1919, San Saba shipped three million pounds of pecans," says Mr. Bell. "Included in the customers were the King of England, who paid one dollar a pound for them. Native pecans here average three and one-half inches in circumference and weight 35 to the pound."

Mrs. Carl Moore, who has been ill with flu at her home on Church street for the last week, is able to be out part of the day.

The Concord Public Library will be closed Monday, New Year's Day which is a legal holiday.

Local police officers Friday delivered to a Mr. Blackley, of Route 7, Charlotte, a Ford touring car which they seized on the streets here one night this week. The owner of the car declared that he came here on business but when he discovered that his car had a flat tire and one light out he left it on the streets, planning to get it the next day. It was seized that night by the police, who gave it to its owner after he identified it.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben R. Craven and Mrs. Reid, have returned from Greensboro, where they spent several days with relatives.

Messrs Crowell Ritchie and Clyde Lippard will leave tomorrow for Richmond, where they will enter the Southside Business College.

Mr. Robert Brown, of Greensboro, and Miss Ethel Brown, of Jellison, and Miss Bertha Brown, of Guilford General Hospital, of High Point, spent Christmas with their mother, Mrs. Lottie Brown.