

THINKS AMERICANS NOT LIKELY TO BE KILLED BY BANDITS

Minister Schurman Says Negotiations For Release of Captives Have Been Halted by European Politics.

AMERICANS SAFE SAYS THIS REPORT

J. B. Powell, Newspaper Man, Has Been Paroled by Bandits to Take Part in the New Conference.

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, May 24.—A delayed message from Minister Schurman in Peking, received today by the State Department, expressed Mr. Schurman's belief that the task of obtaining the release of American and other foreign captives held by Chinese bandits is "now complicated by foreign politics."

The message said it did not "seem probable that the bandits would kill the foreign captives," but that there was danger that during the prolonged negotiations and compromises, some of the prisoners might die of exposure, starvation or disease.

The minister said that "certain hostile factions" are using the bandit outrage to discredit the Chihli party, the Peking government, and Tsao Kiu, who has been a "hopeful candidate for the presidency."

Powell Released. Shanghai, May 24.—(By the Associated Press.)—J. B. Powell, American newspaper publisher of Shanghai, who has been held a prisoner by the Chinese bandits at Potzuku, has been paroled to take part in a new conference for the release of the captives, according to advices received here today.

Troops Falling Back. Tientsin, May 24.—(By the Associated Press.)—The Chinese government troops which had surrounded the Su-chow train bandits and their foreign captives in the Potzuku mountain stronghold have fallen back six miles, according to advices received today from Tientsin. The bandits, apparently puzzled at the recent cessation of negotiations for the release of the foreign prisoners, sent messages to the relief workers at Linching demanding that newspapers be sent to them. The newspapers were sent but the relief party carefully deleted all matter relating to the kidnapping.

One of the bandit coolies employed in taking supplies to the Potzuku headquarters, told a man at Tsao-chwang that the brigands got their idea for derailing the Shanghai-Peking express train from a social motion picture. The picture showed in detail how one or more of the bandits saw the thriller, the messenger said, and imparted the details to the outlaws with the resultant derailment and the kidnapping of the foreigners.

FIVE PERSONS KILLED IN TRAIN ACCIDENT

Two Texas and Pacific Trains Collided Early This Morning in Texas.

(By the Associated Press.) Abilene, Texas, May 24.—At least five persons were killed, including a negro porter, and four men said to have been riding the "blind" baggage, one engine man probably fatally injured, and two or three less seriously hurt when two Texas & Pacific passenger trains collided early this morning midway between Cisco and Putnam, Texas.

Masonic Clubs to Meet

Boston, Mass., May 24.—Thousands of Masons are coming to Boston next month to attend the annual convention of the National League of Masonic Clubs. The convention officially represents six hundred clubs throughout the United States, with a total membership of about 400,000. The official roster of the convention will include between 350 and 400 delegates.

Among the questions which will be brought up for action in the convention will be protection of the public schools, support of the Boy and Girl scout organizations, the work of the national Masonic employment agency, plans for a national-wide campaign to combat communism, and discussion of the United States tax laws, as well as the adoption of a new constitution and by-laws for the league.

A. Mitchell Palmer to Address Lawyers. Raleigh, N. C., May 23.—A. Mitchell Palmer, Attorney General of the United States in President Wilson's cabinet, will be one of the principal speakers at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Bar Association to be held at Mayview Manor, Blowing Rock, July 5 to 7. It was announced today by Secretary H. M. London.

Trexler Child Drowns in a Watery Trough

Salisbury, May 23.—An 18-month-old child of Harvey Trexler, living near the Saint Paul neighborhood, in the county, was drowned in a watery trough. The little one got out from under the watchful care of those at the home and when discovered in the trough it was dead.

SCHOOL YEAR ROUND DISTRACTION ANTIDOTE

Future Educational Plan Is Forecast by an Educator.

Washington, May 24.—(Capital News Service.)—Will boys and girls in the near future go to school seven hours a day, fifty-two weeks in the year? Some educators think such a plan will be required if the present pressure of out-of-school activities continues to increase.

"The social activities engaged in by the high school pupils, while a source of interference to their studies, are a part of the present-day order of things," says Assistant Superintendent of the Schools of the Nation's Capital. "The pupils of today have distractions unknown a generation ago."

"The condition must be met by having the schools readjust themselves to meet the situation. Our junior high schools in the immediate future will have extra-hour days when the pupils will have supervised study hours. This will permit them to do their home work before they leave the school—before they are distracted."

"Within ten years or so the schools will be operating on a year-round basis. In this way they will be divided into four quarters. A pupil missing the second or third quarter because of illness can take that quarter in the fourth. A pupil will at that time be permitted to select any three quarters in which to pursue his course. The pupil taking all four quarters will finish more quickly."

MANY BADLY INJURED AT FRENCH BULLFIGHT

Three Toreadors Gored and Spectators Trampled in Panic as Bull Escapes.

Paris, May 22.—Three men were badly gored and many people injured at a bull fight at Lunel, in the Herault Department yesterday. Such fights are forbidden by French law, but in the Southern provinces the law is more often broken than observed on public holidays.

A big fight was staged at Lunel for Whit Monday. The first bull to enter the ring charged the toreador so vigorously that flight was the only possible course for him. When the second bull was brought in one of the pole-jumpers who leap over the animal when it charges, caught his foot against its horns and fell. The bull had trampled him before he could be saved, and he is in a dangerous condition.

The second pole-jumper slipped and impaled himself on the horns of the same animal. He is not expected to recover.

The third bull brought into the arena also succeeded in goring one of the toreadors, who, however, was only slightly wounded.

A special bull had been reserved for amateur fighters, and this animal broke into the ring during an interval in which the spectators had left their seats and entered the arena. One man was gored and only with difficulty rescued, while the spectators, filled with alarm at the report that the bull had broken loose, trampled one another in their effort to escape. Frantic women and men rushed for any kind of shelter, and so many crowded into a merry-go-round machine that it broke beneath their weight. It was two hours before some of the badly injured could be extricated.

DAM BREAKS; PORTION OF CITY IS FLOODED

Paul's Valley, Oklahoma, Is Partly Covered With Water, Say Late Reports.

(By the Associated Press.) Oklahoma, City, Okla., May 24.—A report received at the office of the United States Marshall here today said that the Rush Creek dam had broken near Paul's Valley, Okla., and that a portion of the town was flooded. Telephone communication with this city has been cut off. The report said four feet of water was in the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company's office.

Miraculous Escape of Family From Lightning

Southport, May 23.—A startling story of a miraculous escape from death comes from Columbus county, a short distance above the Brunswick line, in a district away from railroads. A few days ago, during a thunderstorm, the home of a farmer named Granger was struck by lightning. In the house at the time were Granger, an older son, a wife and four younger children. At the same time three men who were in the vicinity at the time took refuge from the storm in the same house, standing in the doorway.

The bolt struck the chimney, passed along the gable end, and down the corner posts of the house. The shock prostrated all within the dwelling, but only temporarily. The men in the doorway were also stunned and thrown down, while the man in the center of the group, named Register, had his clothing to the skin stripped from his body, his cap being torn and one shoe buried some feet away into the yard. Except severe burns Register escaped injury. How he was not killed, those who rescued him said, was a mystery. Some chickens and cats on the premises were killed at the time.

Neighbors who came to the rescue immediately after the bolt had done its work, discovered that fire had started in one of the beds, which upon examination, was found to have started from a heated brick from the chimney that was struck. The fire was put out without any special damage to property.

Loss No Time Making Exit From Building

New York, May 21.—With the recent schoolhouse fire at Cleveland, S. C. fresh in their minds, 1,300 pupils of Evander Child's High School, in the Bronx reached the street in two minutes and forty-five seconds today when a fire started in a waste paper chute. The fire was confined to the chute. No one was injured.

Trade Week Began Here This Morning; Bargains by Hundreds Being Offered

Trade Week is here. With the opening of the business houses this morning Concord's greatest trading event got underway, to continue through 6 p. m. on Saturday, June 2nd. The weather was not so favorable for the opening, but the Weather Man has promised generally fair weather for the next ten days, and the clouds and dampness of this, the opening day, are expected to give way tomorrow to sunshine and real summer weather.

That the merchants of the city are expecting to do a big business during the next ten days is evidenced by the large number of auto coupons they are securing. More than 100,000 coupons have been ordered so far, and it is expected that at least another 100,000 will be needed next week.

With each \$1 purchase or \$1 paid on account a coupon is received. The coupons are kept in the store where the purchase is made until June 2nd when it is placed in a large box for the prize drawing. The prizes will be a Chevrolet touring car and a Ford touring car. The drawing will take place at 7 p. m. on June 2nd at Central Graded School.

Several hoosters went to Harrisburg and surrounding territory yesterday and gave out some advertising matter there. The Boosters' Caravan which spent Tuesday in parts of four counties did not get to the Harrisburg neighborhood and for the reason several cars filled with advertising matter were sent there yesterday, covering the territory completely. Persons making the trip declared the Harrisburg people showed great interest in the bargains to be found here.

FUNERAL OF JUSTICE WALKER HELD TODAY

High Officials of the State and City Followed Funeral Cortege to the Cemetery in Wilmington.

(By the Associated Press.) Wilmington, N. C., May 24.—Earth today received back the body of the late Judge Platt Dickinson Walker, and it now rests in Oakdale cemetery in the city of his birth. High officials of state, city and county dignitaries, and members of the Wilmington and Charlotte bar associations followed the funeral cortege from the home of the dead jurist's sister, Mrs. A. E. Everett, to the historic St. James Church, where Judge Walker worshipped as a boy and where the services of the Episcopal Church for its dead were conducted at eleven o'clock by the Rt. Rev. T. C. Oarst, bishop of East Carolina, assisted by Rt. Rev. Blount Cheshire, bishop of North Carolina.

From St. James, the funeral procession passed up Market street to Oakdale cemetery, where interment took place.

All city and county offices here were closed during the hour of the funeral and flags on all public buildings flew at half mast.

THE COTTON MARKET

Opened Firm at Advance of 27 to 47 Points on Covering and Scattering Demand.

(By the Associated Press.) New York, May 24.—The cotton market opened firm at an advance of 27 to 47 points on covering and a scattering demand encouraged by relatively firm Liverpool cables, and prospects for further showers in the south. July contracts sold up to 27.20 and October to 24.35 but there was a good deal of realizing, and southern selling became more active after the call on reports that a Southern authority estimated the condition of the crop at 72.3, the increase in acreage at 11 per cent, and the indicated yield at 12.640,000 bales.

Cotton futures opened firm, May 28.60; July 27.10; Oct. 24.35; Dec. 23.85; Jan. 23.55.

Coal Dust For Beauty

London, May 24.—Coal dust, powder, specially prepared, is woman's latest accessory for making the eyes beautiful. The preparation is placed round the eyes in such a way that it enhances the white of each orb, giving it a minky and filmy effect. Women whose eyes are blue are warned not to use it, as the coal dust detracts from their color.

Shades of orange rouge, which when placed on the face give it the effect of sunset color, are also fashionable. The tint must be chosen to accord with the color of the skin. The dark-eyed, dark-haired woman scores again in thisfad, as sunset cheeks are not becoming to blue eyes and golden hair.

Several shades of blue, varying from the color of the cornflower to the mauve of lilac, are used to tint the upper lids of the eyes.

Columbus, Ohio, Men Buy the Red Sox

Columbus, Ohio, May 23.—E. L. Schoenborn, of this city, former president of the Columbus Club of the American Association, announced upon his arrival from Chicago that he and other Columbus men had reached an agreement to purchase the Boston American League baseball club, and that they expected to take possession at the close of the present season.

The other Columbus men interested in the deal are Palmer K. Winslow, a glass manufacturer and Dr. Robert B. Drury, a surgeon and former ball player.

Burn 10,000 German Poppies

Cedar Rapids, Mich., May 22.—"Poppies made in Germany are not fit to honor our boys who perished on Flanders field," said the women of the American Legion Auxiliary today. They voted last night to burn 10,000 cloth poppies in a public bonfire on the municipal island Friday night.

The poppies had been purchased to sell on "poppy day," which falls on next Saturday. Later it was discovered they were made in Germany.

RUSSIAN SITUATION GETS CONSIDERATION OF BRITISH CABINET

First Meeting Under Premiership of Stanley Baldwin Held Today.—Soviet Note Read to Cabinet.

RUSSIANS SHOW BETTER SPIRIT

Some Quarters in England Regard the Note as Favorable, and Say It Meets All Demands of England.

London, May 24.—(By the Associated Press.)—At Prime Minister Baldwin's first cabinet meeting today Lord Curzon presented the latest note from Soviet Russia for consideration.

The reconstruction of the ministry itself was discussed and so the subject of relations between Great Britain and Russia received scant attention. Congratulations were extended, however, to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs for at last had been obtained a diplomatic communication from Moscow which did not contain recriminatory language.

There is still discussion as to whether the soviet concessions meet all the British demands, but it is generally thought that the present trade relations with Russia on the disputed questions remaining may be settled at the conference table.

The Russian note is received favorably by the liberal newspapers which say it concedes Great Britain's demand on all the main issues involved, and removes any ground for even talking of a breach between the two nations.

Although Lord Robert Cecil's reported appointment as chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster has not been confirmed officially, the Morning Post's announcement that he has accepted the office seems to be in accordance with the probabilities of the situation.

MISS MacDONALD, FILM STAR, TO WED

One of "Twelve Most Beautiful Women in America" Gets a License.

Atlantic City, N. J., May 23.—A marriage license was issued yesterday at the Ventnor City Hall for Katharine MacDonald, movie star, called by artists one of the twelve most beautiful women in America, and Charles Johnston of Philadelphia, grandson of Charles T. Schoen, inventor of the pressed steel railroad car.

According to Dr. R. Johnson, held stepfather of Mr. Johnston, of 104 South Cornwall Avenue, Ventnor, the wedding will take place at his home tomorrow afternoon.

Miss MacDonald gave her age as 28 and Mr. Johnston as 30.

Miss MacDonald in private life is Mrs. Malcolm Strassner, divorced wife of a portrait painter. She obtained a divorce in 1916, five years after she left the Winter Garden chorus to become the bride of the artist.

Mr. Johnston is head of the Rose Valley Company, Inc., a music roll manufacturing concern left to him by his grandfather.

Cancer in One Year Kills 90,000 People

New York, May 23.—Cancer claimed 90,000 victims in the United States last year, and 150,000 more will die within the next two years, all of whom might have been saved or at least had the course of their disease mitigated by prompt diagnosis and expert treatment, according to Dr. Frances Carter Wood, of the Crocker cancer research laboratory, who today addressed the state medical society.

Relief from cancer, he said, must come first from awakening of the public of the dangers of the disease by means of the publicity work of the American Society for control of cancer.

Then, Dr. Wood said, family physicians must make early diagnosis and submit their cases immediately to competent surgeons.

Inter-City Rotary Meeting

(By the Associated Press.) Raleigh, N. C., May 24.—District Governor Roger Moore, Wilmington, will be the principal speaker at the Eastern North Carolina Inter-City Rotary meeting to be held here tomorrow.

The sessions of the convention will be held at the Methodist Orphanage, on the outskirts of Raleigh. In addition to Mr. Moore, addresses will be delivered by a number of prominent Rotarians from the various Eastern Carolina clubs. In the afternoon the delegates will be entertained at an old fashioned barbecue by Rev. Albert S. Barnes, Superintendent of the Methodist Orphanage.

Seventeen Rotary clubs will be represented at the meeting, including Wilson, Greensboro, Durham, Elizabeth City, Farmville, Fayetteville, Greensboro, Greenville, Henderson, Winston, New Bern, Oxford, Washington, Mount and Raleigh.

Evans Sues Simmons

(By the Associated Press.) Little Rock, May 24.—H. W. Evans, imperial wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, filed suit here today against Wm. J. Simmons, Emperor of the Klan, asking \$100,000 damages for alleged libelous statements said to have come from Simmons. The statements were printed in a local newspaper.

ATTRACTIONS SECURED FOR CABARRUS COUNTY FAIR

Secretary Spencer Says He Has Everything Ready Now—Will Show a Variety of Attractions.

Dr. T. N. Spencer, secretary of Cabarrus County Fair Association, states that he has everything about ready for the fair. He already has booked a number of attractions, including shows for the fair's midway, and free stunts and amusements for the crowds. Dr. Spencer states that he is also certain that a number of well known racers and their horses will be here for the fair.

Work on the fair grounds is being pushed with double vigor now. A large force of hands is kept at work on the grounds all of the time, and the land that raised cotton and corn last year is rapidly taking on the form of a race track and fair ground. It is practically certain that everything will be in readiness for the opening of the fair in October.

Some of the best free attractions that are to be found in the South today have been booked for the local fair, Dr. Spencer states. Twelve free attractions have been secured, in addition to a number of tent shows and other features which will be shown here during fair week. The free attractions will be offered at a point near the midway and the race tracks, and will be offered several times each day. One of the biggest of the free attractions is a fireworks display, said to be one of the finest things of its kind in the country.

All tent shows and other amusements which will charge an admission, will be under the supervision of officials of the fair, Dr. Spencer stated. The shows will put up in time to give a performance the night before the fair opens, and at this performance officials of the fair will determine the fitness of the show. Anything vulgar, suggestive or hinting at suggestiveness will not be allowed.

No gambling games will be allowed on the midway, it has been decided. All attractions will be given the once over before opening and the fair officials in their contracts with the various companies and individuals who will show here, have reserved the right to cancel any amusement that they deem detrimental to the fair.

Though the fair does not begin until October, already great interest is being shown in it and there is every reason to believe it will be a great success its first year.

BUILDING COST UP 30 PER CENT

Philadelphia Reports, However, No Let Up in Building Operations.

Philadelphia, May 23.—Increased and increasing wages to skilled and unskilled building workers in this city has added 15 per cent to the finished cost of dwellings this year above the 1922 prices. Lumber prices have also added in the neighborhood of a 15 per cent increase during the same period.

There seems to be no slackening in the building boom despite the talk of curtailment on account of high wages. The demand for skilled workers rather than unskilled is responsible for higher wages to men employed on dwelling construction. The work is given out to sub-contractors—plumbing, plastering, bricklaying, cement laying, stone masonry and carpentering. The sub-contractors work their men in crews and shift rapidly from one job to another. The efforts of the sub-contractors to handle as many jobs as possible put them in the position of bidding for labor. They announce a few weeks in advance that they will pay 10 or 15 cents an hour increase beginning on a particular date, June 1 having already been set for a ten cents an hour increase by a number of the employers. The effect is to attract first class workers away from their competitors.

The general contractors are given notice of the wage increases and have to figure contracts accordingly so that there is little or no dispute on the part of the contractors between their selves, or with their men. But all the while the cost of new homes goes merely up and prices of older homes scale up accordingly.

The highest paid among the building trades is the plasterer who now receives \$14 for an eight-hour day. The next in wage rank is the bricklayer at \$12 per day. Other classes, by the hour, receive: Tile fitters, \$12.55; plumbers, \$12.55; painters, \$12.55; structural iron workers, \$12.12; carpenters, \$12.12; painters 90c; ordinary labor, 45 and 50 cents an hour. The above rates are quoted from union scales.

A large portion of the dwelling construction is being done with non-union labor which is receiving a few cents an hour less but with the sub-contractors bidding for workers, they will, on the first of June be receiving approximately the union rates.

An unusual situation exists in this city due to the shortage of bricklayers and plasterers. The public schools are giving to boys instruction, under the supervision of skilled mechanics, in plastering and bricklaying. Contractors and business organizations furnish the materials used and union supervisors give the instruction. The boys are rapidly absorbing the knowledge of the work and will be high class workers when they finish their school terms. A number of private schools have been organized where instruction in plastering and bricklaying are being given. Instead of antagonizing the schools the union officials are encouraging the classes as they realize that many years will elapse before there will be enough men to meet the demand created by the great building era which will continue several years.

Woman Kicked in the Head by a Contrary Mule

Salisbury, May 23.—Mrs. Ross Cross, Route two, out from Salisbury, was painfully injured by being kicked in the head by a mule which had gotten out of the lot and was being driven back by Mrs. Cross. The kick Mrs. Cross received in the head rendered her unconscious for several hours.

Think Solution Has Been Found

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, May 24.—Indications were given at the Treasury today that Secretary Mellon had found a way for reconciling the Supreme Court's recent prohibition decision with foreign laws requiring ships of their nations to carry liquor as crew rations.

Golf Ball Is Found in the Stomach of a Fish

Durham, May 23.—Captain R. L. Bishop, secretary of the Hill and Dale Golf Club in this city, is in possession of a regulation golf ball found by a local fish dealer Tuesday afternoon in the stomach of a searoll mackerel fish. The fish weighed four pounds.

The Concord Lodge of Elks Will Hold a Regular Meeting in their Club Rooms this Evening at 7:30 o'clock.

COMMUNISTS STILL SHOWING FIGHT IN THE RUHR DISTRICT

Police Headquarters at Gelsenkirchen Seized and Red Flag Raised by the "Reds" Over Building.

FIVE PERSONS IN CITY WERE KILLED

In Struggle for Building Civilian Defenders Gave Up When "Reds" Fired One Wing of the House.

(By the Associated Press.) Essen, May 24.—The communists have taken possession of police headquarters at Gelsenkirchen and have hoisted the red flag over the building.

Reports from German sources say that five persons were killed and 61 wounded in the fighting for the possession of the building. The struggle began late last night and continued till early this morning.

The building is said to have been defended by the civilian defense organization which was finally forced to quit when one wing was set on fire by the attacking mob. Fighting was not restricted to the building, but spread through the streets and many street cars were shattered. A number of non-residents were wounded.

WOMEN TO BE APPOINTED ON EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

Of Southern Presbyterian General Assembly—Closing Work of the Assembly.

(By the Associated Press.) Montreat, May 24.—Last night efforts to delay the placing of women on the executive committees of the Southern Presbyterian Church were lost today when just before final adjournment the General Assembly ordered that not more than three women be added immediately to each committee.

The proposal for a Presbyterian Foundation, a corporation for soliciting annuities and bequests for the entire church and its institutions was not put into effect, but the assembly approved the suggestion and authorized an ad interim committee to study methods of changing its laws so that the board of trustees might function in such manner.

Although the Lord's Day Alliance was refused a place in the budget of the church, a day was set aside for the collection of \$20,000 for it. The National Christian Council is not receiving the support or encouragement of the church, the Assembly was informed.

No final action was taken on the report of ad-interim committee on the amendment to the book of church order, but the committee was continued until next year's meeting in San Antonio.

All divisions of church organizations submitted reports reflecting progress in their work.

Appointed to Ways and Means Committee

Chicago, May 24.—(By the Associated Press.)—C. H. Honston, of Chattanooga, Tennessee, former assistant secretary of the Department of Commerce, was appointed chairman of the ways and means committee of the republic national committee today. His selection was announced by John T. Adams, national chairman of the party, who was here conferring with Fred W. Upham, national treasurer.

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STAR THEATRE

TODAY, TOMORROW AND SATURDAY

Trailing African Wild Animals

Without a Single Doubt the Greatest Photoplay Novelty Ever Shown in Concord.