

WEEKS DESCRIBED COL. MITCHELL AS UNFIT FOR OFFICE

The Then Secretary of War Explained Why He Did Not Want Mitchell to Hold Higher Office.

"LAWLESS," SAID WEEKS' LETTER

Letter Sent to President Was Put in Evidence at the Court Martial of Col. Mitchell.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 16.—(AP)—A letter written by John W. Weeks, as Secretary of War, describing Col. Wm. Mitchell as "lawless," and possessed of a desire for publicity at the expense of others, was presented in evidence today at the Mitchell court martial.

Writing to President Coolidge the then Secretary gave these as his reasons for refusing to recommend that Mitchell be reinstated chief of the air service with the rank of Brigadier General.

The letter was presented to the court by Major General Dennis E. Nolan, assistant chief of staff, the last prosecution witness in the trial of the air officer on charges resulting from his public attack on the government aviation policies.

"Gen. Mitchell's whole course has been so lawless, so contrary to the building up of an efficient organization, so lacking in team work, so indicative of a desire for publicity at the expense of everyone with whom he is associated," wrote Mr. Weeks, "that his actions make him unfit for a high administrative position such as he now holds."

The secretary said he wrote the letter "with great regret, because he is a gallant officer with an excellent war record," but he added "his record since the war has been such that he has forfeited the good opinion of those who are familiar with the facts and who desire to promote the best interests of national defense."

N. C. W. Girls to Leave For Holidays. Greensboro, Dec. 15.—Busses and trains which leave Greensboro after 12 o'clock Friday will be filled with a happy crowd of North Carolina college students.

Automobile Accidents Cost Forty-Six Lives in State in November. Raleigh, Dec. 15.—Automobile accidents cost 46 lives in North Carolina during the month of November, according to report on violent deaths given out by the vital statistics bureau of the state board of health.

Fire caused the next greater number of deaths, 37 persons having died of burns during the month. Other causes of violent deaths were: Suicide, 7; homicides, 15; accidental gunshot wounds, 14; drowning, 2.

Asheville to Build Immense Reservoir. Asheville, Dec. 15.—The city will proceed at once on plans to build a 24-inch water line to the Bee Tree watershed and to construct an impounding reservoir of 11,000,000 gallons capacity on White Fawn Gap at an estimated cost of \$900,000.

More Shopping Days. Judge Oliver H. Allen Dead. Kinston, Dec. 16.—(AP)—Judge Oliver H. Allen, a native of Wake county, died here this morning at the age of 75.

Judge Allen was appointed to the Superior Court bench in 1897. He retired on January 10, 1923, and has been an emergency judge since his retirement.

Death came to the aged jurist at his residence here this morning at 8 o'clock. He had been in failing health for some months death coming as a result of complications.

In the time of Cicero a Roman senator was prohibited by law from engaging in any business that would take him out of Italy.

Southern Endorses National Park in the Great Smoky Mountains

Asheville, December 16.—In announcing that the Southern Railway System after careful consideration had given the plan of establishing a national park in the Great Smoky Mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee its "unqualified endorsement," W. H. Taylor, passenger traffic manager of the system today stated that the railroad was ready, once the park is established, to engage in a wide advertising program in connection with the park.

Declaring that there is no conflict of interest between those who favor a park in the Smokies and those who wish to have the Forest Service take over these lands, Mr. Taylor's statement says: "It is our understanding that the area of the proposed Great Smoky Mountains National Park contains some 200,000 acres of mountain land in Western North Carolina and about the same amount of land in Tennessee. About 80,000 acres of this land in Tennessee belongs to a lumber company that has taken the lumber from it; the remainder is in the mountains, and is inaccessible for timber operations, and at the same time is one of the most picturesque portions of the Great Smoky Mountains.

"It is our understanding that some of the parties favoring this national park have sought to incorporate in it a large acreage which is accessible for other purposes. Naturally we would not want to see the national park include a very extensive acreage of this kind, which would serve a better purpose for farming or timbering enterprise than for a national park.

"But there is, in our judgment, no need for a conflict of these interests to any great extent, as we have been told by people who have made a study of this location and who are competent judges in matters of this kind that there is in the Great Smoky Mountains ample acreage for the establishment of the park, most of which is better suited for park purposes than for any other interests.

"When the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is an accomplished fact (which I am satisfied will be the case within a reasonable time), the passenger department of the Southern Railway System will be prepared to engage in a far-reaching system of advertising in connection with this park. It will be our purpose to issue booklets, folders, circulars and advertise in the newspapers throughout the United States the attractions of the park, similar to what is done by the Northern Pacific Railway in connection with Yellowstone Park for many years."

SEVERAL BUILDINGS IN SPRAY DAMAGED IN MOKIEN SECTION. Fire Which Started in the Klan Hall Did Damage Estimated at More Than 125,000.

Danville, Va., Dec. 16.—(AP)—Six business structures were destroyed and three others seriously damaged by fire early today at Spray, N. C., according to word reaching here. Among the places destroyed was the telephone exchange.

The fire is said to have originated in the Ku Klux Klan hall and proceeded to the telephone exchange, a boy sleeping there having a narrow escape from death. The store and garage of E. W. Dismas was completely destroyed, as was a barber shop adjoining. Losses were also suffered by the firm of Harris & Osborne, the Boulevard Theatre, Smith & Company, Atlantic & Pacific Store, Joyce Drug Company, and the plant of the Jones Motor Co.

MORRISON INTIMATES HE MAY ASK SUFFRAGE. Ex-Governor Expresses Love For Old Enemies in Address at Charlotte. Charlotte, Dec. 15.—Rumors flying thing and fast that former Governor Cameron Morrison is planning to re-enter North Carolina politics apparently were given further substantiation by the former executive in an address last night at a meeting of the Men's club of the Second Presbyterian church in which he declared that he "might want you to vote for me again some time."

The former governor apparently is at good humor with the world and all of his political enemies. He praised in glowing terms the work of the so-called "machine" in this state, declaring that this organization is responsible for the great growth of the state during the past 25 years. The state in the last 25 years has been lifted up from the ashes, he declared, and gave credit for this to the "mysterious power" that has produced such politicians as Judge Jeter C. Pritchard, Senator F. M. Simmons, Locke Craig, Josephus Daniels, T. W. Bickett, and Charles B. Aycock.

Issues facing the state, he said are not party issues, but issues of the people, saying that the Republicans of his state also have a great organization headed by W. G. Brantham, of Durham.

The former governor said that since boyhood he had felt the urge to public service and it was in this connection that he intimated that he might want the people to vote for him again.

Persons here who have talked with Mr. Morrison recently express the conviction that he is seriously considering running for governor in 1928, although they stress the fact that he has not said so. Mr. Morrison's talk last night, it was pointed out here today, confirms the rumors that he is thinking of again running for public office.

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Mrs. Ponzi Hits the Keys Again



Here is the first picture of Mrs. Charles Ponzi since the days five years ago when she lived in luxury while her husband was a millionaire. She is now living with him in a small furnished room in Jacksonville, Fla., acting as his secretary and typing letters for him on a rented typewriter.

WIFE HELPS PONZI TO REDEEM MILLIONS. Is Living on \$15 a Week in Jacksonville, Fla. Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 16.—Mrs. Rose Guccio Ponzi has come to Jacksonville, it was learned yesterday, to join her husband, the Charles Ponzi who turned Boston upside down with his financial schemes some years ago, and then slid into jail.

She is going to help her husband pay back the \$2,000,000 he owes these Boston investors. She will help only by being with him, by keeping the "house" clean, by paring down expenses, and by saving all the pennies she can.

Ponzi has his own ideas as to the way to get that \$2,000,000 to pay back. He has organized the Charpon Land Syndicate in Jacksonville. Redeemable Units. He issues "units of indebtedness," of the par value of \$10. And one receives in exchange for his \$10, a nice gray-green and gold certificate, which is redeemable at three times its par value in accordance with the terms and condition printed on the back.

The first of these certificates was issued on Oct. 24 to Mrs. Ponzi, then living at No. 187 Stranmore Road, Brighton, Mass. It calls for a payment of \$1,050 on an investment of \$350. The printed matter on the back says: "After 30 days from date, this certificate can be applied, and will be accepted by the syndicate at its redemption value toward the payment of any of the Syndicate's lots. After the tract, which the amount paid by the owner for this certificate is invested in, has been sold, this certificate becomes redeemable at once in cash at its redemption value, and, upon presentation will be so redeemed by the Charpon Land Syndicate.

"The Charpon Land Syndicate reserves the right to redeem this certificate at any time for cash, at three times its par value. Any holder refusing to surrender this certificate after being tendered its redemption value in cash by the Syndicate, loses all rights thereon.

Whether Federal Judge Anderson of Boston was right when he said that Ponzi would shortly "return to the financial field with a new scheme and the public will turn to him again with their hard-earned savings," remains to be proved or disproved.

"For egotism, arrogance and fundamental scoundrelism," the Judge declared, "Ponzi has no equal."

But little Mrs. Ponzi declares her husband isn't a scoundrel, only a business man, and an honest one who wants to do right.

Mrs. Ponzi, once mistress of a \$100,000 home—with detectives dressed as butlers hired to guard its treasures—is happy now saving the pennies, making her own dresses, pressing Charley's old suits, working with scrub brush and broom, boasting of being able to feed herself and Charley on \$3 a week.

Their "house" is a furnished room, for which they pay \$7.50 a week. Ponzi rented it, because it is only 30 minutes walk from his office; and he can save car fares. Ponzi was doing his own cooking before his wife arrived. "We live on less than \$15 a week," she the woman, who a few years ago was mistress of millions. "But I am afraid I'm extravagant at that. I spent 25 cents the other day to go to a movie. I shouldn't have done it, but I wanted to see if I could laugh again. But I couldn't. Nothing seems funny any more. I can't even read now.

MORRISON BRIDGE OVER THE PEE DEE OPENED TO PUBLIC

Bridge Was Built at Cost of \$300,000 and Is Important Link in State's Road System.

MORRISON WAS CHIEF SPEAKER. Several Thousand Residents of River Country Joined With Many Visitors at the Opening.

Morrison Bridge, Richmond County, N. C., Dec. 16.—(AP)—Another link of North Carolina's highway system was made available today with the formal opening of Morrison bridge, a \$300,000 structure spanning the Pee Dee River.

Several thousand residents of the river country came to join in a celebration marking the event. Persons from Anson, Richmond and many from Charlotte and many nearby cities attended.

Former Governor Cameron Morrison, whose name the structure bears, and a native of Richmond county, was the principal speaker of the day. The opening of the bridge has been hailed as the most vital link in a mountain to seashore trail connecting Wilmington, Charlotte and Asheville.

The length of the bridge is 1,585 feet, and is built of steel and concrete.

HOUSE BUSINESS HALTED SO MEMBERS CAN TALK. Republicans Asked to Explain Why Insurgents Were Placed at Bottom of Committees. Washington, Dec. 16.—(AP)—The tax reduction bill was put aside for awhile in the House today while that body discussed the action of the republican majority in placing the insurgents at the bottom of the committee list.

After approving the action without prior debate, the membership decided to talk it over, and Representative Garrett, the democratic leader, asserted the republican leaders were punishing some of the insurgents for "standing for the principles of Abraham Lincoln."

When the democratic leader declared he could offer no comfort to the "punished republicans" Representative Frew, of Wisconsin, of the insurgents, hastened to declare the group would "be able to take care of itself in the future."

Mr. Garrett asserted the amendment to the rules regulating discharge of committees from considering legislation, a vote on which was made a test of party regularity, in reality was framed to block a vote on a resolution proposing tariff revision.

Representative Tilson of Connecticut, republican leader, replied the majority had organized the House "to assure that the majority could direct its work for which it is held responsible."

Representative Tinsler, republican, of Kansas, said it was excused enough to amend the discharge rule if Democrats intended to take advantage of it in forcing action to cut the tariff rates.

ALICE RHINELANDER BACK AT HER HOME. Her Attorney Says She Has Not Been More Than Fifty Miles From New Rochelle. New Rochelle, N. Y., Dec. 15.—While reports from Florida said the Ku Klux Klan was out to prevent Alice Rhinelander from coming back here to her home in New Rochelle, the recent announcement suit brought by Leonard Rip Rhinelander, she reappeared today at her home.

Her attorney, Lee Parsons Davis, said she had never been more than 50 miles away from her home since the suit, though she disappeared two days after a jury in White Plains decided in her favor.

Almost simultaneously with her return, attorneys for her husband emphatically denied reports that he had returned to his wife and a grand jury in White Plains decided it would take notion on alleged tampering with the jury that sat at the trial.

Denial of the rumors of a reunion of the son of the aristocratic Rhinelander family and his quadron bride was made by Leon R. Jacobs, one of young Rhinelander's attorneys.

Pussy Slides



This is Felix, the only cat in America who is a full fledged fireman. Felix was rescued by Pittsburgh firemen when his mistress was about to drown him. Now he lives in the engine house and slides down the pole every time he wants out.

AXE WOUNDS ARE CAUSE OF DEATH. Geo. W. Franklin Dies of Wounds Said to Have Been Inflicted by Wife Last Saturday. Charlotte, Dec. 16.—(AP)—A coroner's investigation was to be started today into the slaying of George W. Franklin, 50, by his wife, following an altercation at the Franklin home Saturday night. Franklin died last night from axe blows on the head. Mrs. Franklin, in the county jail, declares she killed her husband in defending her 75-year-old father from him.

WESTERN CONFERENCE IS PLANNING BIG YEAR. Increase of 10,000 in Sunday School Meets. Salisbury, Dec. 15.—The annual meeting of presiding elders and district Sunday school superintendents of Western North Carolina Methodist conference was held at first church, this city, this afternoon under auspices of the Sunday school presiding with D. E. Henderson, of Charlotte, chairman of the board, presiding, and O. V. Woolsey, conference superintendent, directing the program.

The biggest item of interest was the decision to hold on March 1 to 8 at some point to be selected, a Sunday school conference for all schools of the conference. It will be a delegated body and will be entertained on the Sunday school executive committee, directing the program.

The conference decided on lines of endeavor for the new year, setting goals for individual school as well as for the entire conference. One goal is an increase on 10,000 pupils. The present enrollment is nearly 137,000 the largest of any conference in southern Methodism. Twenty-five standard and 33 Cokesbury training schools will be held and a minimum of 3,000 officers and teachers will be expected to earn credits in them. Five hundred schools are to observe Sunday School Day.

The attendance on today's meeting was almost 100 per cent and the meeting was considered as highly successful. It was stated in the meeting that the Sunday school executive had received and accepted the resignation of Miss Virginia Jenkins as elementary superintendent.

Florida Purchasing Lumber at New Bern. New Bern, Dec. 16.—What may be the beginning of a lucrative trade with Florida will start here within the next few days when J. V. Blades Lumber company of Bridgeton and New Bern, will ship a huge schooner to Miami, Fla., loaded with 800,000 feet of rough and dressed lumber, all grades and sizes, for the building of a \$500,000 laundry there. The order was obtained by J. V. Blades of this city, prominent lumberman, during a recent visit to Miami, where he was a delegate to the Atlantic Deepsea Waterways association convention.

Greece Accepts Award of League Council. Athens, Dec. 16.—(AP)—The Greek government in a note to the British minister says it accepts unconditionally the league of nations award in the Graeco-Bulgarian incident. It expresses hope, however, that the sum Greece must pay will be settled equitably with the sums owing by Bulgaria for reparations.

Earth Shocks in Belgrade. Belgrade, Jugoslavia, Dec. 16.—(AP)—Earth shocks occurred today in many parts of the country. Considerable damage is reported along the Adriatic coast.

SAT'S BEAR SAYS. Cloudy tonight and Thursday, slightly colder in west portion tonight, somewhat colder tonight, moderate to fresh northerly winds.

COMMITTEE NAMED TO DRAFT COTTON LEGISLATION NOW

Senator Smith, of South Carolina, Chairman of Committee Appointed by Congress For Work. MEETING WILL BE HELD SOON. At the Meeting Plans For Drawing Up New Law Will Be Submitted and Debated by Members.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 16.—(AP)—A special legislative committee composed of Senators and Representatives from cotton growing states has been appointed to draft cotton legislation.

Senator Smith, democrat, of South Carolina, chairman of the committee expects to call a conference within a few days to begin work on a bill which particularly will be aimed at improvement of the government cotton reports.

The special committee is as follows: Mississippi, Senator Stephens, Representative Rankin; South Carolina, Senator Smith, Representative Fulmer; Georgia, Senator Harris, Representative Vinson; North Carolina, Senators Simmons and Overman, Representative Bulwinkle; Texas, Senator Mayfield, Representative Jones; Tennessee, Senator McKellar, Representative Browning; Alabama, Senator Hefflin, Representative Algood; Oklahoma, Senator Pine, Representative Swank; Arkansas, Senator Carraway, Representative Driver; Louisiana, Senator Ransdell, Representative Aswell; New Mexico, Senator Branton, Representative Morrow.

SOLVE MYSTERY OF A TRIPLE TRAGEDY. Man Confesses Killing Three Persons, Two of Them Women. Stephenville, Texas, Dec. 15.—The grisly story of a triple murder told on the lonely eminence of Cedar Mountain Saturday to police and Texas Rangers has solved the mystery of Bernie Connolly's headless body and the disappearance of his mother and grandmother.

F. M. Snow, stepfather of the boy, whose head was found in a deserted cabin a week ago, was taken to the mountain last night by officers to show them the decapitated body of his stepson. There exhausted from many hours of questioning, he also told how he had shot the boy's mother and grandmother and had burned their bodies in the fireplace of their farm home.

Snow, the officers reported, confessed that the killings followed a quarrel, in which he charged he was attacked by his son with a revolver. Wreathing the revolver from the son, he is declared to have confessed that he then shot his wife the boy's mother, using a rifle. The bullet from the rifle, he said, passed through his wife's body and struck her mother, Mrs. S. A. Old, standing nearby. He said he then burned the women's bodies.

Young Connolly's funeral was held today while Stephenville was hushed in horror at the tragedy which has kept it in feverish excitement for a week. Snow is in the Tarrant county jail at Fort Worth where he was taken after officers said he had confessed.

Miss Jenkins Resigns Sunday School Work. Salisbury, Dec. 15.—It was stated at a meeting of presiding elders and district Sunday school superintendents of the Western North Carolina Methodist Conference assembled here today to consider Sunday school training work that the resignation of Miss Virginia Jenkins as elementary superintendent had been received and accepted.

Appointed to Shipping Board. Washington, Dec. 16.—(AP)—John H. Walsh, of New Orleans, was nominated today to be a member of the shipping board. He now is serving under a recess appointment.

The Stone Age Man of Britain was clever enough to trepan a skull to relieve pressure on the brain. The teeth of the operating saws are so fine that to see them one needs a magnifying glass.

Newspapers in inland Asiatic cities are sold at reduced rates when earlier readers get through with them.

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Before CHRISTMAS