

## HARMONY EXPECTS TO RULE CONVENTION IN RALEIGH WEDNESDAY

### STATE REPUBLICANS GATHER IN RALEIGH

Grier Parsons Looms Up as Candidate For Governor, While Hughes Leads for President.

#### THE TENTATIVE PLATFORM

Public School Questions and Rural Credits Expected to Be Strong Planks.

(By the Associated Press.) Raleigh, Feb. 29.—The North Carolina Republican state convention will meet here tomorrow with State Chairman Frank A. Linney, of Boone, presiding. Prominent delegates here for the convention said today that the meeting will be harmonious and will be ready for adjournment during the afternoon.

Mr. Linney announced today that he would not be a candidate for governor if re-elected state chairman. It was regarded as likely that he would be re-elected and would thereby be eliminated as a gubernatorial candidate.

Grier Parsons, of Ashe county, today was declared to be the most likely candidate for governor with Thomas Harkins, of Buncombe county, as his running mate for lieutenant governor. L. L. Jenkins, of Asheville, had many supporters who desire to endorse him for secretary of state.

Justice Hughes, of the United States Supreme court, is said to be favored as the convention's choice for the presidential nomination, and it was said that the Roosevelt supporters would abide by the vote of the majority and that no bolt from the convention on the part of the latter is anticipated.

A tentative platform under consideration here today by the leaders is outlined as follows:

"For fair elections and honest enforcement of the corrupt practices act.

"For the control of the public schools by the people of the various counties.

"For a constitutional system of public schools making the state the distributing source of all public school funds so that each district will receive the same amount per scholar regardless of the wealth of the county in which the district is.

"For a just and fair employers' liability act."

It also was stated that an attempt will be made to insert a plank in the platform in favor of rural credit system, and that it would be suggested that the platform contain an indorsement of labor insurance to be patterned after the New York law.

#### ARCHIBALD JOHNSON TONIGHT'S SPEAKER AT THE TRAINING SCHOOL

The third address before the High Point Training school will be delivered tonight by Archibald Johnson, of Thomasville, editor of Charity and Children.

Director Marr, of the school, feels that High Point is particularly fortunate in securing Editor Johnson as one of the speakers. He is what Editor Wade Harris, of the Charlotte Observer, calls a "blockade preacher." Both in church and state affairs he has always taken an active interest and prominent part.

Mr. Johnson can make and will deliver a good speech, one which will amply repay any High Pointer to attend. He is editor of an independent paper and is an independent thinker. Even if you are not a member of the training school you are invited to come out and hear this Thomasville editor. He will speak at 7:45 tonight at the school auditorium.

Director Marr states that the school auditorium will be warm tonight and will be thoroughly comfortable. Owing to some misunderstanding of the janitor the building has been cold the last two Tuesday nights, but Mr. Marr assures the public that tonight and hereafter there will be plenty of fire in the furnace. And then, too, Editor Johnson's speech is expected to be of that character. While the weather on the outside may be inclement tonight, the school auditorium will present a warm reception to the public.

### WASHINGTON WAITS FOR DEVELOPMENTS

Cabinet Today Discussed Germany's New Submarine Policy, But Gives Out Nothing.

#### CONTINUES SAME VIEWS

Germany Will Be Held Accountable For Attack on Unarmed Vessels, it is Declared.

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, Feb. 29.—Germany's latest communication on submarine warfare was discussed in detail at today's cabinet meeting and in a separate conference between President Wilson and Secretary Lansing, but no conclusion was reached. It was decided to await data on the way from Berlin regarding instructions alleged to have been issued by the British admiralty to merchantmen captains for attacks on submarines.

Cabinet members carefully avoided all questions on whether the German position as outlined by Count von Bernstorff in his note to Secretary Lansing was acceptable to the American government.

It was reiterated, however, that the United States would continue to stand firmly behind its position that attacks should not be made on unarmed merchantmen or those armed for defense, and purposes to hold the German government accountable if that position is not observed.

The chief danger, it was said by officials today, lie in the possible attack on a ship carrying Americans.

#### Effective After Today

Berlin, Feb. 28.—(Via London, Feb. 29.)—The Associated Press is informed by Germany's leading statesman that the new rule of submarine warfare as announced in Germany's memorandum regarding the future treatment of armed merchantmen, will possibly be in effect on midnight of tomorrow, Tuesday, February 29.

#### COLONEL WOOD SEES NOTHING TO ALARM DEMOCRATS

Col. William Penn Wood, of Randolph, state auditor and prominent citizen, was a visitor in the city today for a few hours. Colonel Wood spent the week end at his Asheboro home and was forced to stay over here a while awaiting his Raleigh train.

Along the political line Colonel Wood did not have much to say. "The people generally are not thinking much about politics," said Colonel Wood, "much less talking politics." However, the state auditor was confident that "Democracy would wake up" when the time came and again win at the 1916 elections. He saw nothing in the political horizon which looked unfavorable to the Democratic party.

Regarding his own campaign, Colonel Wood declared that he was again a candidate for auditor and would be so at the coming primaries. While there is a remarkably strong tendency throughout the state for rotation the Asheboro man does not think that it will go to such an extent that it will preclude a man from holding a couple of terms. Thus far Colonel Wood has served his state for only a term and a half, he having been appointed to serve the remainder of Dr. Ben Dixon's term.

"Yes, I think I will be renominated for the second term," answered Colonel Wood, and he therefore felt certain that he would be elected with Democracy's victory in November. The colonel has heard of no opponents. And up to now the newspaper men of the state, the politicians and Colonel Wood have not been able to find one. Colonel Wood is one of the few old Confederate soldiers holding a state office now and for this fact, coupled with his ability and loyal support of Democracy, he is a favorite, especially in this section of the state.

#### ITALY HAS REQUISITIONED INTERNED GERMAN SHIPS

London, Feb. 29.—It was announced in the house of commons today that the Italian government had requisitioned 34 of the 37 German steamships interned in the Italian ports.

### CLUB MAY PURCHASE BENCINI PROPERTY

A Sixty-Day Option Has Been Secured For this Site by Manufacturers' Club.

#### MEETING FRIDAY NIGHT

Members Will Meet Friday Evening to Decide Whether to Purchase the Quarters.

The board of governors of the Manufacturers' club has secured an option on the Bencini residence on South Main street for their future home and will put the matter of purchasing it up to the full membership of the club at a meeting to be held Friday night at 7:30 o'clock.

At this meeting President Tom Gilliam and the board of governors will present the matter squarely to the Manufacturers' club as to whether or not they wish to accept the opportunity now before them, which it is believed, will give them a home second to no club in the state. The Bencini property, lot 100 by 200 feet and a building with three stories and a basement, can be purchased for \$30,000. At a small expense this place can be arranged so as to make ideal quarters for the club.

The board of governors took the option for 60 days but they want the club to decide Friday night if that option shall be taken up. The Bencini property gives ample room for a dance hall, an assembly room to accommodate 100 persons, two tennis courts, swimming pool, a small gymnasium and bowling alleys. There will also be rooms which can be remodeled so the club will be able to take care of the distinguished guests of the city, reading rooms, card rooms; in fact, it looks as if the property has nearly all the ready requirements for handsome and commodious headquarters for the club. All of these virtues will be fully presented to the members when they meet Friday night.

The club also plans to start a membership campaign within a few days with the view to increasing its number to at least 200. President Gilliam will later make full announcement as to the plan of that campaign but the officials of the club feel that the membership should be raised to 200. With this size club occupying headquarters as planned, should they purchase the Bencini property, High Point will have a social and commercial organization that will take a front rank in the state.

#### INVERTED TRIANGLE A FAMILIAR SIGN IN NORTHERN FRANCE

(Correspondence of Associated Press.) Boulogne, Feb. 29.—The inverted triangle symbol of the Young Men's Christian association is one of the most familiar signs in northern France.

The association is everywhere in the war zone. Its workers speed about in small cars and its wagons carry stores from one town to another. Its huts increase every month; and in some places its work is now being extended by small depots in remote villages placed under the charge of non-commissioned British officers, and opened for a few hours each day.

The regular "huts" of the association are great roomy one-story buildings that hold from four to five hundred men, with kitchens and living rooms for the workers. The principal business carried on therein is a sort of simplified army canteen selling at cost price those articles which are in universal demand, such as trouser buttons, cigarettes, cakes and tea.

At one hut a few miles from Boulogne the daily turnover from this class of trade is \$2,000 a day, mostly in amounts of 2 to 4 cents.

There are also books and papers, tables for writing letters, billiards and various kinds of instruction. Men often gather in large numbers to hear a lecture on the history and architecture of the town; French classes and Bible classes jostle with moving picture shows and concerts.

#### DISTRICT CONFERENCE TO BE HELD HERE IN APRIL

The annual district conference of the Methodist Episcopal church will be held at the South Main street church, High Point, April 27-30. The district is composed practically of Guilford, Randolph, and Rockingham counties. Dr. J. H. Weaver, presiding elder, will preside at the conference and general reports will be heard from the churches regarding their conditions.

### Furniture Manufacturers Are Forced to Advance Prices By Increased Cost of Materials

Furniture manufacturers throughout the country for the past 15 days have been and are now advancing their prices on all of their products. While there is no definite percentage of advance, it is known that it is a substantial one. This is done on account of the increasing cost in raw materials ranging from 10 to 300 per cent.

The announcement of an advance by the furniture manufacturers with a full explanation of the causes necessitating it will appear in the March issue of the Southern Furniture Journal in an article prepared by James T. Ryan, secretary of the Southern Furniture Manufacturers' association.

On Wednesday, February 16, a number of prominent furniture manufacturers from many sections of the country met in Charlotte to consider what they termed "the most unusual conditions and problems" facing their industry. While nothing definite has been given out concerning that meeting and while no specific advance in prices were agreed upon, the furniture men unanimously agreed that it would be "business suicide" to continue selling their products in 1916 at 1915 prices. From unofficial, although entirely reliable sources it has been learned that the furniture manufacturers have and are advancing the prices on their products at a substantial rate, although, it is said, it is doubtful if the present advance will fully cover the increased cost in raw materials going into the manufacture of furniture.

"In the past several years a peculiar situation has existed in the furniture business, both wholesale and retail," says Mr. Ryan in his article which is to be printed in the coming issue of the Journal. Assigning the causes for this peculiar condition, Mr. Ryan says, "the people have been spending their money for luxuries and cheap amusements." Among the chief of these Mr. Ryan names the automobile and the "movie." And all of this has "resulted in the curtailment of expenditures for other purposes." This has affected furniture business to a great extent, declares Mr. Ryan. Speaking philosophically of the cause of the furniture depression, Mr. Ryan states that because the "people have been out of their homes a great part of their surplus time attending the movies, automobiling and engaged in other amusements they have not found the necessity of refurbishing their homes." This does Mr. Ryan define the cause of the furniture depression, the sudden dropping off of the trade in the "lean months" of the past year.

But Mr. Ryan sees better times ahead, indeed he believes that a different era is already upon us. Times have changed, "more interest is being taken in the furnishing of homes and large demands exist for home furnishings of all kinds," says Mr. Ryan. Continuing, he says: "The return of prosperity and change in conditions have found both the manufacturer and the retailer with small stocks of goods on hand and a rapidly increasing demand."

In speaking of these unusual conditions Mr. Ryan declares that "the most remarkable increase ever known in the cost of manufacturing has taken place," and the manufacturer is confronted with "the necessity of advancing prices to meet the swelling tide of costs in raw materials to prevent a positive loss of the business now being done." The advance is not one of the furniture manufacturers choosing but it is positively "forced upon him" on account of the advancing cost of raw materials.

And with it all the manufacturers of furniture are not getting rich. Mr. Ryan does not quote him but he must be thinking of that Indiana manufacturer who said that after a lifetime spent in the business he could say that he had never heard of a manufacturer of furniture making a million dollars or even accumulating a big fortune made strictly and directly from his business. But Mr. Ryan does say that "the best minds in the business are frank in their admission that our industry is not sufficiently regarding those engaged in a business so easily adversely affected by conditions. The furniture manufacturing business, taken as a whole, has not for the past several years earned a fair return for the investors." And then in black face type the Journal will say, with a view to particular emphasis: "Compared with other businesses, the furniture manufacturer is rewarded less for his brains, labor and capital than any other class of manufacturing."

Speaking to the dealer with the evident purpose of showing him that it is better for him that all furniture man-

ufacturers reach some kind of a unanimity regarding their prices in general, Mr. Ryan says:

"Conditions which adversely affect the manufacturers will also adversely affect the dealer. The prosperity of one is essential to the prosperity of the other. If manufacturing is conducted on an unprofitable basis, it will have its eventual effect on the dealer and it behooves both to cooperate in overcoming the existing conditions. Unless the manufacturers are in position to earn a fair and reasonable profit on their output, it prevents them from extending a reasonable line of credit to dealers whose standing justifies the extension of credit, thereby depriving the dealer of what he is entitled to. Healthy competition between the manufacturers has and will prevent unreasonable profit, due to the large number of independent units engaged in the furniture manufacturing business. Stable prices, based on the actual cost of manufacture plus a reasonable profit, benefits the dealer by eliminating unfair competition and insures his receiving value at market prices."

Mr. Ryan states that sharp advances have been made recently and at the present time are now being made on all commodities used in the manufacture and production of furniture. Among these are glass, lumber, iron and steel articles, copper and zinc. He gives a compilation of figures recently prepared, showing percentage of increase in the present price of various materials over that of 1915:

Crating, advanced 20 per cent.

Lumber, (an average), 20 to 25 per cent.

Veneers, (mahogany), 25 to 30 per cent.

Veneers, (walnut), 25 to 30 per cent.

Glass, mirrors, 54 to 75 per cent.

Glass, windows, 20 per cent.

Finishing materials: Stains, 300 per cent; enamel, 20 to 25 per cent; oils, 25 per cent; shellac and alcohol, 25 to 40 per cent.

Hardware, including locks, 35 to 40 per cent.

Brass drawer pulls and trimming, 25 per cent.

Packing materials: Paper, 20 per cent; burlap, 50 per cent; twine, 20 per cent.

Catalogs, including cuts: Blacks, 10 to 15 per cent; blues, reds, and golden rod, 25 per cent.

The secretary discusses the cause of the advance on glass at some length, assigning as the chief one the cutting down of imports and the increasing of exports. His is much the same argument and presentation of facts as appeared in a recent article in this paper, which was based on a clipping from the "Budget," a glass authority of Pittsburgh. Mr. Ryan also shows some of the reasons for the advance on lumber and finishing materials.

As a whole Secretary Ryan's article for the Furniture Journal is an instructive piece of work on the underlying causes for the necessity of the general advance in prices on the part of the manufacturer with the sole purpose that the "manufacturer might survive." It is believed to be an especially clear presentation of the furniture manufacturers' case in this, the most important, era of his career, and it is believed that it will be widely read by furniture men, both wholesale and retail, throughout the country.

#### GREAT BRITAIN TO PERMIT SHIPMENTS OF DYESTUFFS

Washington, Feb. 29.—Great Britain will permit the shipment of two cargoes of dyestuffs, valued at \$5,000,000, from Rotterdam to the United States, Ambassador Page, at London, has advised the state department, and officials here are hopeful that Germany will make an exception to its embargo by granting permission for their exportation.

Ambassador Page said that the British foreign office had given him assurances that the cargoes would not be interfered with.

#### ANOTHER AMERICAN KILLED BY GENERAL VILLA'S FORCES

Washington, Feb. 29.—The murder of Grover V. Varn, an American, by the Villa forces at his home last night near Durango, was officially reported today to the state department. No other details were given.

#### The Weather.

Partly overcast tonight, and Wednesday; colder on the coast tonight; moderate northwest winds.

### GERMANS RENEWING DRIVE ON VERDUN

With 750,000 Men They Are Attacking, Each Assault Being Returned by the French.

#### LOOK FOR WEAK SPOTS

The Point of Assault Constantly Changing Along Verdun Line. Struggle Grows Fiercer.

(By the Associated Press.)

What may mean a renewal of the German drive on Verdun in the same terrific force which marked the initial attack, is contained in the announcement from Paris that the bombardment to the north of the fortress is assuming greater intensity.

The heavy infantry fighting of last night seemed to have been in the Woivre district to the south of the fortress.

The comparative lull that prevailed for some hours before the renewal of the intense artillery fire indicated that a new phase of the battle might be developing. As a whole, the German attack, while continuing, has apparently less driving power, while the pressure is being shifted from point to point.

The possibility is indicated by the military observers that the crown prince's armies are gathering forces for a new and concentrated attack at some selected point and that the thrusts now being made here and there were for the purpose of picking out the weak spot in the extended line. The Germans, it is noticed, need time to replace their heavy guns and possibly even now they have not brought them up from behind the advanced infantry lines closer to the fortress for the concentration on its permanent defensive works.

Meanwhile the French are delivering vigorous counter strokes when attacked, and their lines are in a stronger position now and holding firmer.

It is estimated that the number of Germans engaged in the great battle is considerably larger than the 300,000 men believed to have been engaged in the initial operations. Some authorities now declare that there are as many 750,000 troops on the German side, strong reinforcements having arrived.

The sinking of the former French liner LaProvence, a converted cruiser, in the Mediterranean Saturday, was officially announced in Paris today. The vessel in peace time was engaged in trans-Atlantic trade between New York and Havre. The ministry of marine estimates the survivors at 870. The vessel was being used as a transport.

#### GERMAN RAIDER REPORTED ATTACKING ATLANTIC SHIPPING

(By the Associated Press.)

New York, Feb. 29.—Wireless warnings that a German commerce raider, possibly accompanied by consorts, was attacking shipping in the Atlantic, were received by the Standard Oil tanker Communipaw, which arrived today from Aliers.

One message received February 17 read:

"German steamer is attacking shipping in the Atlantic and may be assisted by captured vessels, which she has armed. Description: 6,000 tons; speed, 15 knots; combination freight and passenger liner; carrying two guns and posing as neutral."

Last December it was reported that the Communipaw had been attacked and sunk by a submarine in the Mediterranean. After Washington had tried in vain to ascertain her whereabouts she put in at Algiers and her captain denied that any attack had been made.

#### TURKS ARE EVACUATING SEVERAL BLACK SEA TOWNS

London, Feb. 29.—A Central news dispatch from Petrograd says that the Turks are hastily evacuating Trebizond and the neighboring towns on the Black sea.

#### Forty-Nine Passengers Lost.

London, Feb. 29.—Owners of the Pan-insular and Oriental line steamer Maloja, which struck a mine and sank off Dover Sunday, announced last night that the total number of persons saved in the disaster was 301. Of these 72 were passengers, 92 members of the European crew and 137 of the Lascar crew. The missing comprise 49 passengers, 20 members of the European crew and 86 Lascars.