

WEATHER.

North Carolina, fair and colder tonight and Wednesday.

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REPUBLICAN SENATOR ADVOCATES TAKING OVER COAL MINES

Chairman Calder of Senate Committee on Reconstruction, Though Opposed to Government Ownership As a Principle, Believes Only Way For Public to Get Relief is to Take Mines Away From Private Interests - Committee Also Considers Housing Problem and Other Kindred Matters.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Sharp criticism of the national coal industry, with implied threat of drastic legislation by congress to meet alleged evils of profiteering and speculation, accompanied the partial report of the senate committee on production and reconstruction, submitted to the senate today.

These, Chairman Calder said, "must be corrected," while Senator Kenyon declared that "if the matter is to go on, I, for one, harsh as the remedy may be, shall favor taking over the mines."

Coal profiteering, especially as it has followed the priority orders of the interstate commerce commission, has continued unchecked by the department of justice, and is a national disgrace.

Government administration of the production and distribution of coal, the committee said, "should be a last resort," but for the present it was recommended that operators, wholesalers, jobbers and retailers in the industry be required to file full and frequent reports with a federal agency.

In the other field, the committee said, "there exists a serious shortage of housing, not only in the great cities but in the smaller cities, as well, even in the far west, and south."

The report should be sufficient to determine costs and profits, and the corporate interrelations or the communities of interest, if any, between companies producing and distributing coal.

The mis-direction and exploitation of some groups of organized labor, through grafting leadership, has been revealed in New York city, and has been reported in some other larger cities.

Establishment of more trade schools by cities and states to train apprentices for the building trades, was recommended, as was the creation of a federal bureau to assist in framing building codes which would secure public interests and at the same time lower costs.

Popular saving and thrift, it was concluded, would be aided by consolidating under the post office department all federal thrift activities, and by amending the postal savings law to provide adequate interest for depositors.

MAY ACT ON FARM RELIEF MEASURE BEFORE HOLIDAYS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Plans for securing action by the house before the holiday recess on legislation reviving the war finance corporation were laid today by proponents of the farmer relief measure following its passage in the senate.

TRYING TO DETERMINE WHO STARTED FIRES IN CORK SATURDAY

Military Commission Making Investigation May Report Today—Each Side Blames Other—Telephone Communication Re-established.

LONDON, Dec. 14.—Investigation by a military commission of the fires which swept the city of Cork on Saturday night and Sunday was expected to be completed there today.

The mayor of Cork and two Sinn Fein members of parliament have been called to explain allegations they have made in a dispatch sent to various foreign ambassadors here relative to outrages which they declare to have been perpetrated in Cork during the past week.

Announcement of the commission's findings was awaited with keen interest as the question of who was responsible for the fires in Cork has assumed great importance since the conflagration.

Sir Hamar Greenwood, chief secretary for Ireland, speaking in the house of commons last night, asserted his belief that the auxiliary police did not start the fires, and pointed out they were not equipped with incendiary bombs, which, news dispatches asserted, were used to spread flames in Cork.

Prospects of a truce in Ireland appear to have been blasted by the most recent events in that island, declared Sir Hamar.

Telephone service between England and Dublin, which was interrupted last night, was resumed this morning. The break in communication gave rise to much speculation and some anxiety here.

CANADIAN MILLIONAIRE MEETS MYSTERIOUS DEATH

John Hammill Had Been Missing From Ottawa Since November 1—Inquest to Be Held.

GALVESTON, Tex., Dec. 14.—The body of a man found yesterday near the property of the Mexican Petroleum Company in this city was identified late last night as that of John Hammill, millionaire, president of the Murphy-Gamble Limited, of Ottawa, Ont., who disappeared from his home on November 1.

Identification was made through a poster photograph of Mr. Hammill at police headquarters and through a police telegram from Fort Worth.

When found today the man was in a dying condition and death resulted while he was being taken to a hospital. There were no marks of violence on the body. An inquest will be held tomorrow.

OHIO STATE SQUAD LEAVES FOR PASADENA

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 14.—Twenty-three members of the Ohio State football squad will leave Columbus December 17 for Pasadena, Calif., where they will meet the University of California team on New Year's day.

On the special train which has been arranged for, will also be 80 or more Ohio State rooters. Athletic authorities announced that reservations had already been made.

COMMISSIONERS HEAR REQUESTS FROM CITIZENS FOR RURAL POLICEMEN

Good Representation of Citizens From County Appear Before Commissioners—Will Appoint Policemen If Way Is Clear Without Additional Tax, It Is Thought—Many Startling Revelations Made in Speeches.

Those who attended the county commissioners' meeting at the courthouse Tuesday morning when the question of rural policemen was brought up for discussion had their eyes opened as to conditions that prevail in Gaston county.

Commenting upon the need of rural policemen and the general necessity of cleaning up in the county, one man on the floor of the meeting remarked that in certain sections of Gaston county, moonshining and whiskey trafficking was just as common as it was 25 years ago.

It was furthermore stated by a prominent Gastonia business man that there were numbers of young men in Gastonia who made a living gambling, that they moved in the best society, wore gilded clothes and were considered outwardly as among the best citizens of the city.

Another Gastonia man, Squire B. G. Bradley, wondered at the justice of the law that convicted the man who was unlucky enough to be caught playing a game with 25 cent stakes, but let go the big man who gambled for a living with \$100 stakes.

John J. George, of Cherryville, also advocated such legislation. Mr. George spoke right out in meeting and called the names of lawbreakers and whiskey traffickers in his section.

Utterances similar to the above in many instances were made by other speakers at the meeting, which apparently resolved itself into an experience meeting before which the evils and wickedness of the county were paraded.

The meeting was called by the county commissioners to hear expressions of opinion regarding the appointment of the rural policemen. They heard it. To a man every one who spoke was in favor of some sort of police system for the county.

Among those speaking were Messrs. W. T. Love, A. C. Jones, John J. George, Rev. Messrs. Moser and Putnam, of Cherryville, and Hamiter, of Dallas, R. C. Kennedy, of Bessemer City, S. N. McKnight, of South Point, Marshall Dilling, B. G. Bradley, J. H. Separk, A. Q. Kale and D. W. Springs.

The sentiment of the meeting as reflected in the speeches of all the above was strongly in favor of the appointment of rural policemen. Nearly every one of the above named cited some instance of immorality or lawlessness that had come to their knowledge and which could be broken up by a set of rural policemen, competent and trustworthy.

Mr. A. Q. Kale said that he would be one of 100 or 200 men in the county to help finance the proposition for 90 days in order that it might be given a trial.

Others discussing the matter were opposed to any measure that would increase taxes. Several prominent farmers expressed their sympathy for the movement, but were opposed to it, if it made

SHEPARD CASE BEGINS TODAY AT MACON, GA.

State Will Make Strenuous Efforts to Prevent Release of Four Persons Charged With Murder of Fred D. Shepard From Getting Freedom on Bail.

MACON, GA., Dec. 14.—Interest in the preliminary hearing in the Shepard case, opening today, centered in how much evidence the state would disclose in its efforts to prevent Judge H. A. Matthews in Bibb superior court here from discharging or granting bail to the four defendants held in connection with the alleged poisoning of Fred D. Shepard, wealthy Houston county peach grower.

Investigations that followed the death in a hospital here last summer of Shepard resulted in the arrests of his wife, now Mrs. Pauline Elmer; her son by a previous marriage, Ernest Hopson; her sister, Mrs. Ione Henry, and Mrs. Annie Cutts, of Fitzgerald.

Solicitor General Charles H. Garrett charged they conspired to remove Shepard in order to get possession of his fortune, which was said to consist of personal property valued at around \$300,000, and a third share in his father's estate, worth between \$2,000,000 and \$3,000,000.

While asserting the innocence of their clients, attorneys for the defense declined to say in advance of the state's presentation how much evidence they would bring forward in defense.

Organization of a jury in another branch of the court and a misunderstanding about the time of starting which the judge announced had delayed the arrival of Mrs. Henry and Hopson, from Perry, prevented the Shepard case from getting under way on time.

Judge Matthews announced he would wait on the two defendants from Perry. Crowds thronged around the courthouse but were excluded from the court room.

Mrs. Elmer and Mrs. Cutts appeared heavily veiled. Dr. E. F. Elmer, of Jacksonville, met his wife in the court room, greeting her affectionately.

COTTON CROP ESTIMATE IS 12,987,000 BALES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—Cotton production this year will amount to 6,243,262,000 pounds, equivalent to 12,987,000 bales, of 500 pounds gross weight, exclusive of linters, the department of agriculture announced today in its final estimate of the season.

Production last year was 11,429,763 bales of 500 pounds gross weight. In 1918 it was 12,040,532 bales and in 1917 it was 11,302,375 bales. In computing gross weight bales allowance is made for 478.3 pounds of lint and 21.7 pounds of bagging and ties.

The average weight per running bale this year is estimated at 506.9 pounds, compared with 504.2 pounds last year.

The price of lint cotton paid to producers on December 1 was 14.0 cents per pound, compared with 35.6 cents a year ago.

KING CONSTANTINE LEAVES FOR GREECE

LUCERNE, Dec. 14.—Former King Constantine of Greece, recalled to that country by the government established after the fall of the Venizelos regime, rose this morning prepared to leave for Venice, a private car to be attached to a regular southbound train awaited him at the station. He will be met at Venice tomorrow by a Greek warship and will embark for Phaleron, the port of Athens.

Members of his suite, with their families, had made arrangements to go to Brindisi, Italy, where late this week they will go on board a merchant ship and sail for Greece. All luggage owned by the king and his followers had been sent away.

It is expected Constantine will reach Phaleron on Sunday, having picked up Prince George his eldest son, and the Greek council of ministers off the island of Melos. Plans for a triumphal progress from Phaleron to Athens have been made by the Greek government.

any increase in taxes. Said one, "Lay off some of these officials we've got around here now and take some of that money to pay these police with. If it means more taxes, we farmers are opposed to it."

On motion of Mr. P. W. Garland the meeting almost unanimously went on record as being in favor of the proposed measure, provided that it could be properly financed.

It is likely that the commissioners will hold a consultation with the county board of education in regard to the plan as outlined by Supt. Hall.

DISARMAMENT PROGRAM NOW BEFORE ASSEMBLY

Expected That Project Will Be Accepted Without Modification But Will Call For Extended Series of Addresses—While Slavery and Opium Trade Also Under Consideration.

ARGENTINA WILL GIVE NO NOTIFICATION OF WITHDRAWAL FROM LEAGUE

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Dec. 14.—The Argentine government will not give any notification of withdrawal from the league of nations in accordance with article one of the pact, because it does not consider that Argentina has ever been a member of the league. The Associated Press was informed by the foreign office today.

This statement was made to clarify what is held to be a misapprehension concerning Argentina's position in withdrawing her delegates from the assembly of the league which had arisen on account of Geneva dispatches indicating that notification of withdrawal from the league was expected from Argentina as the next diplomatic step, and that it was considered she must continue to be a member of the league for two years after such notification was given, in accordance with the terms of the pact.

The foreign office points to a series of diplomatic documents published last week regarding the relations of Argentina to the league which are held to show that she only accepted the formation of the league "in principle." Her adhesion, it is declared, was "adhesion in general."

The documents are added to show it was clearly stated that Argentina sent delegates for the purpose of assisting in the organization of the league after having set forth in diplomatic communications that it favored the establishment of a league in which all nations would participate without distinction.

The government's adhesion, therefore, was conditional, it is further explained, and its delegates went to Geneva to discuss the conditions of the league's establishment. This was the reason, the explanation sets forth, why the question of adhesion was never submitted to the congress of Argentina for ratification, since the government had not entered into any ratified.

Had the league been formed in a way acceptable to the Argentine government, then the question of ratification of Argentina's participation in it would have been submitted to the congress.

The Argentine government's view, it was declared, is that since the Geneva assembly did not permit discussion of the Argentine conditions, the withdrawal of Argentina's delegation ends the matter for her as the present league is concerned.

BRITISH DELEGATES TO CONFERENCE LEAVE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—The British delegates to the international communications conference have left for home. Their departure is expected to result in an indefinite recess by the delegates representing the United States, Japan, France and Italy.

The British delegates left late last night after the close of the plenary session. The reason assigned by them for their departure was understood to have been a desire to return home to spend the Christmas holidays together with the expression of the conviction that a settlement of the difficulties which have arisen over the disposition of the former German cables was impossible without the return of the delegates of France and Japan to Paris and Tokio, respectively, to consult personally with their foreign offices.

PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR FAILS TO REACH MARION

MARION, O., Dec. 14.—Governor William G. Sproul, of Pennsylvania, who was to be one of President-elect Harding's conferees today, wired that he would be unable to come to Marion today. He was detained, he said, by executive matters. A later date will be arranged.

W. W. Atterbury, vice-president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, who was to come with Governor Sproul, also sent word of his inability to come today.

Mr. Harding spent a comparatively quiet day, engaging only in short conferences.

CHINESE SAILORS TRY TO GAIN AMERICAN SOIL

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Thirty-five Chinese sailors from the steamship Washington Maru, jumped from the ship at her pier in Staten Island last night, and, armed with clubs and other weapons, attempted to gain the freedom of American soil. Police reserves, summoned by riot calls, rounded up the sailors after a chase and returned them to the vessel.

GENEVA, Dec. 14.—Consideration of the disarmament program of the league of nations as settled upon by committee, began in the assembly of the league today. It was expected the project would be accepted without modification, but, like the plan for an international court, which was discussed yesterday, it was expected to furnish occasion for another series of addresses.

The principal feature of the program is an appeal to the powers to agree not to increase appropriations for armaments during the next two years. From this beginning it is hoped to develop a gradual reduction, finally reaching a point where a general limitation, based upon previous appropriations, may begin.

Other important matters on today's agenda were reports on the "white slave" trade and opium traffic, which were to be taken up following the debate on disarmament.

Two sessions of the assembly will be held daily, beginning today and ending on Friday, this provisional agenda being adopted for the purpose of finishing the meeting of the assembly before Saturday. It is realized, however, that if any one subject brings on a long debate the meeting will last until Saturday, and most of the delegates, counting on a full week's work, have reserved berths on trains leaving for Paris Saturday night.

MCCORMICK THINKS LEAGUE WILL PROVE A FAILURE

PARIS, Dec. 14.—Doubt relative to the future of the league of nations has been expressed by United States Senator Medill McCormick, says a Geneva dispatch to the Echo de Paris. Senator McCormick, the dispatch asserts, has declared that he has an impression that the league will be smothered by the eloquence of the members, and that a great deal too much time is lost in useless verbiage.

GERMAN MILLS UNABLE TO USE MUCH COTTON

Even With American Credits, They Could Not Take More Than 700,000 Bales.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—The German cotton industry, even if aided by American credits, could consume not more than 700,000 bales of American cotton during the present cotton year, according to an estimate made after an inquiry through confidential channels by the department of agriculture's bureau of markets. Numerous requests from cotton producers and others for information as to the possibility of increasing German takings of cotton, which, prior to the war, was an important foreign outlet for low grade cotton, caused the inquiry to be made.

It was found that approximately 4,000,000 German spindles are now idle, but not entirely because of lack of raw cotton. Investigation as to whether mills could be started if raw cotton were available, if they could purchase on credit and whether they would be willing to give first lien on mills and on one half of all manufactured goods to guarantee payment of bills at maturity, disclosed that first lien upon mills was impracticable because most mills are already mortgaged and the trade says collateral requested by equities in plants must be used to obtain local working capital.

The investigation disclosed that the banks are obliged to take the risk of exchange on long term credits. The question of a German government guarantee as additional collateral, through deposit of bonds or otherwise, giving preferred payments for cotton, was answered that general feeling in the textile industry was absolutely against any governmental guaranty which would enable the German government to obtain or exercise any sort of control over the industry. It was found that the mills are willing to make deferred payments in American currency. The report said it was too early in the cotton year to obtain any authoritative estimate of this year's raw cotton consumption in Germany. Last year's consumption was about 550,000 bales. This year between 600,000 and 700,000 bales, held last year as army stocks of yarn, have been exhausted.

THREE KILLED IN EXPLOSION

DOVER, N. J., Dec. 13.—Three persons were reported killed and a number injured today in an explosion which occurred in the plant of the Atlas Powder Company at Lake Hopatcong.