GASTON COUNTY
The Combed Yarn Center of the South.

GASTONIA DAILY GAZETTE

GASTONIA
The South's City of Spindles.

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KU KLUX KLAN IS STARTED IN CHARLOTTE

Pre-Organization Meeting Held by Citizens Last Night — Other Meetings to Be Called Later, According to Indefinite Reports of Start.

First steps toward the organization of the Ku Klux Klan in Charlotte were taken last night when a group of men of the city gathered in the Odd Fellows' hall over Yorke & Rogers and went over organization plans with the organizer who has been in Charlotte for the past two or three weeks, says today's Observer.

Just how many people were present who they are or what stage in the organization plans was reached last night could not be ascertained, but it was said that all classes of 100 per cent American citizens were represented.

Probably another month will be required in perfecting the organization here, it was intimated, announcement being that some time will be required to complete the work and that the organizer will probably be here for a month or two.

The Ku Klux Klan is creating much comment throughout the south, through organization in many southern cities with Col. W. J. Simmons, of Atlanta Ga., as imperial wizard of "The Invisible Empire of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan."

"We were here yesterday, we are here today, we will be here forever," and "Faultless, fearless and forever faithful" appear on the literature of the organization, along with the information "Founded, 1866—Incorporated, 1915."

"The Imperial Proclamation," issued by Imperial Wizard Simmons, contains the following sentences:

"We, the members of this order, desiring to promote real patriotism toward our civil government; honorable peace among men and nations; protection for and happiness in the homes of our people; love, real brotherhood, mirth and manhood for ourselves, and liberty, justice and fraternity among all mankind; and believing we can best accomplish these noble purposes through the channel of a high class mystic, social, patriotic, benevolent system, not for selfish profit but for the mutual betterment, benefit and protection of all our oath-bound associates, their welfare physically, socially, morally and vocationally, and their loved ones; do

"Proclaim to the Whole World

"that we are dedicated to the sublime and pleasant task of providing generous aid, tender sympathy and fraternal assistance in the effulgence of the light of life and amid the sable shadows of death; amid fortune and misfortune, and to the exalted privilege of demonstrating the practical utility of the great, yet most neglected doctrine of the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of Man as a vital force in the lives and affairs of men."

An outline of the beliefs of the organization is given as follows:

"The tenets of the Christian religion white supremacy, protection of our pure womanhood, just laws and liberty, closer relationship of pure Americanism, the upholding of the constitution of the United States, the sovereignty of our state rights, the separation of church and state, freedom of speech and press, closer relationship between capital and American labor; preventing the causes of mob violence and lynchings, preventing unwarranted strikes by foreign labor agitators, prevention of fires and destruction of property by lawless elements, the limitation of foreign immigration, the much needed local reforms and law and order."

SHERIFF CAPTURES STILL ON BEAVERDAM CREEK

Hundred Gallons of Beer and One Gallon of Liquor Also Taken — Up-to-Date Kerosene Outfit Was Being Used —Cliff Rayfield, Wanted by Officers, Gets Away.

Sheriff J. W. Carroll and a posse of officers yesterday made a good sized haul in Cherryville township when they captured a still, a hundred gallons of beer and one gallon of whiskey. Cliff Rayfield, a farmer to whom the outfit is supposed to belong and for whom the officers were searching, managed to escape and is still at liberty.

Accompanying Sheriff Carroll were Deputy Sheriff J. W. Cole, of Gastonia, Deputy Sheriff Clay Kiser, of Crouse, and Policemen Adam Hord and Bob Terrell. The still was found on Beaverdam creek about a mile from Crouse on a farm belonging to R. B. Metcalf. Rayfield was a renter on Metcalf's farm. His wife and children were at home when the officers arrived. Rayfield was supposed to be working down on the creek but the officers were not able to locate him. The still was destroyed and the beer and liquor poured out.

There were evidences that the still had been operated within the past few days. The outfit was a modern one. Instead of using a wood fire a four-burner kerosene stove was used, this doing away with smoke.

WEATHER.
North Carolina, partly cloudy tonight and Friday; no change in temperature.

400,000 VETERANS OF WORLD WAR WERE OUT OF WORK MARCH 1 ACCORDING TO AMERICAN LEGION ESTIMATES

NEW YORK, March 17.—There were 400,000 veterans of the world war out of work in the United States on March 1 last, according to an estimate received by the American Legion. This is a reduction of about 100,000 from the "peak" of more than 500,000 jobless ex-service men in the country shortly after January 1 last and the Legion reports state there is promise of further improvement.

The survey of the national situation on which these figures are based was made by the American Legion Weekly, official publication of the Legion, which states that the unemployment situation as affecting the veterans "appears to have taken a turn for the better."

A chain of employment agencies operated by the Legion in every state has done much to relieve the situation, say the Legion officials. The Legion has been instrumental in obtaining work for veterans, in discouraging the migration of unemployed men toward the great industrial centers and has encouraged a movement from cities to the farms. It has demanded that workers who left their positions to go to war should enjoy seniority rights on a par with those of military age who stayed at home.

Ex-service men have suffered more in proportion to their numbers than other workers, according to the Legion's survey, because of the operation of seniority rules and efficiency standards. Nearly a year is required for the returned veteran to get back to his old trade in industry, according to the testimony of large employers of labor. Another thing that has handicapped the ex-soldier is his restlessness and nomadic tendencies, both products of the strain and environments of war service.

Reopening of factories and mills in the textile regions of New England and in the mining and industrial centers of Pennsylvania leads observers in these parts to believe the worst is past, according to the Legion's surveys. The automobile centers of Detroit, Cleveland and Indianapolis report a slight improvement of conditions. In Chicago conditions are stationary, it is said.

Throughout the agricultural middle west a general movement from the cities and towns to the farms is reported. The average ex-soldier had little taste for agriculture when he came back from the war. It was hard to keep him down on the farm after they had "seen Paris." They chose to work in the small factories or stores in the neighboring country seat, where, during 1919, jobs were plenty and wages high. When these jobs began to go there was at first an exodus toward the larger cities. The Legion strove to discourage this. That movement has almost spent itself and farmers throughout the west now report little difficulty in getting help, and except in the larger cities there are few able-bodied ex-service men reported out of work in the middle west.

The south reports improvement. Texas has been burdened with a larger quota of winter floaters than usual this year, according to reports. Some are now finding farm work in the south, others are drifting north, largely to settle on farms.

The Pacific Coast, a land where there are the three great seasonable occupations of fishing, lumbering and fruit raising, has been able to decrease the number of jobless veterans by half in two months, according to advices from there. In Washington state there were 7,000 unemployed veterans on January 1 and 2,000 on February 1.

MAJORITY OF PACKERS ARE IN FAVOR OF STRIKE

CHICAGO, March 17.—Reports of the strike vote taken at middle west branches of the five big packing companies arriving at union headquarters here today indicated a large majority are in favor of a strike. Full power to call the walk out was placed yesterday in the hands of Denis Lane, secretary-treasurer of the Amalgamated Order of Meat Cutters and Butcher workmen, and Redmond S. Brennan, counsel for the union, at a meeting of the heads of the other unions involved in trades employed in the stock yards.

Resolutions were adopted by the other union leaders pledging the butcher workmen of their support, and a message was sent to Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, asking him to attend a conference Sunday of the employers' representatives. On Monday the representatives of packers and employees met with Secretary Davis of the department of labor.

REPORT MAKES PROVISION FOR 150 CUSTOMS HOUSES.

PARIS, March 17.—Provision for 150 customs houses along railroad and 54 on highways in the new Rhineland tariff zone is made in the report to the supreme allied council by the Rhineland commission, says a Coblenz despatch. The staffs of these customs houses will be made up of Germans, who will work under allied supervision.

SHOOTING AFFRAYS OCCUR IN DUBLIN.

(By The Associated Press.)

DUBLIN, March 17.—Several serious shooting affrays occurred in this city last night, and a number of persons were injured in encounters between military forces and police and civilians. A number of soldiers riding in a motor lorry were proceeding along Redmons Hill street, when a bomb was thrown at the machine. The soldiers returned the fire and wounded two persons.

RATES IN FLORIDA ARE ORDERED RAISED

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, March 17.—Railroads in Florida were ordered today by the interstate commerce commission to raise state rates to the level in effect in interstate traffic, effective April 25.

The commission held that rates charged in state traffic in Florida resulted in "undue prejudice to shippers in interstate traffic, in undue preference to shippers of state traffic and in unjust discrimination against interstate commerce."

Passenger rates were referred to in the title of the case, but it developed at the hearing upon which the decision was based that no question was presented with respect to them.

The commission said in rendering its decision that the state commission's ruling of August 18, 1920, abrogated all changes by the director general in rates, rules, regulations, and classifications except for the 25 per cent increase.

"Because of the magnitude of the undertaking," the commission said, "respondents have not attempted to estimate in dollars and cents the loss of revenue which would result from a compliance with the Florida commission's order. However, we do not regard as controlling the exact extent to which their revenues will be adversely affected. The fair conclusion from the whole record is that, taking the commodities in question, as a whole, the increases granted by the Florida commissioners for the longer hauls will not produce revenue sufficient to equalize the reductions required on the shorter hauls. In this connection it is significant that the rate experts of the Florida commission, in testifying at the hearing before the Florida commissioners on the carriers' applications for increases corresponding to those authorized by us took the position that the specific advances as applied had a heavy burden on short haul traffic . . . on that traffic in which state commerce constitutes the most of the business and that the state traffic was necessarily short haul traffic. Similar specific decreases were made by the director general in all other states on state and interstate traffic and in our decisions in numerous cases we have recognized their propriety in general."

JURY IN MATEWAN TRIAL HEARS PROSECUTION TODAY

(By The Associated Press.)

WILLIAMSON, W. Va., March 17.—The Matewan gun fight jury today listened to the prosecution's analysis of testimony given in the trial of 17 residents of the mining town in connection with the death of Albert C. Felts, a private detective, last May. One of the defendants, J. C. McCoy, yesterday was acquitted on motion of counsel for the state, it being stated that insufficient evidence against him had been adduced. Consequently the jury will attempt to determine the guilt or innocence of but 16 Matewannans when it begins its deliberations, probably late Saturday.

When court convened this morning Judge R. D. Bailey read the instructions to the jury and immediately thereafter Captain S. B. Avis, of Charleston, opened arguments for the state. He contended that the prosecution had proved that a conspiracy existed among the defendants to bring about the death of Felts.

"We are not here to prosecute these men as members of the United Mine Workers," he declared. "We are here to prosecute them because they foully murdered Albert C. Felts.

"This is the most remarkable case in the criminal annals of the United States; it is remarkable because never was there so many men tried at one time on the same charge," Avis continued.

There was a stir in the courtroom when Captain Avis in discussing the contention of the defense that Felts shot Mayor Testerman, remarked:

"But the fact remains that after 12 day the widow of Testerman became Sid Hatfield's bride."

Hatfield is a defendant in the case.

QUESTION OF RESCINDING WAGES ON A. B. & A. ROAD BEFORE FEDERAL JUDGE

(By The Associated Press.)

ATLANTA, Ga., March 17.—The question of whether wage reductions on the Atlanta, Birmingham & Atlantic Railway, which precipitated a strike March 1, are to be rescinded pending final action in the matter by the United States railway labor board, was posed before Federal District Judge Foster in a petition from the unions set for hearing here today.

The wage controversy was pending before the board when the road went into receivership and obtained the wage reduction order in federal court. Union leaders have indicated that should the order be withdrawn the men would return to work pending action by the board, while the road claims it is a financial impossibility to continue to pay the wages fixed last August.

HARDING ASKS DAUGHTERY TO REVIEW DEBS' CASE

WASHINGTON, March 17.—President Harding has asked Attorney General Daugherty to review the case of Eugene V. Debs, socialist presidential candidate in 1920, and now serving a sentence under espionage act in Atlanta penitentiary.

SPEAKER AS A COWBOY

Recently Tris Speaker, manager of the Cleveland Indians, rode over from Dallas, where his team is training, to Fort Worth, Texas. There he took part in the "Rodeo" or cowboys' riding and roping contest.

RATES ON COTTON ARE RAISED IN GEORGIA

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, March 17.—Freight rates on cotton, cotton linters and hulls within the state of Georgia fixed by the state authorities were ordered by the interstate commerce commission today to be raised April 25 to levels in effect on interstate traffic.

Passenger fares were referred to in the title of the case heard by the commission, but it developed at the hearing that no question was presented with respect to them.

Rates charged on the commodities named, the commission held, result in undue prejudice to shippers of interstate traffic, undue preference of shippers of state traffic and in unjust discrimination against interstate commerce."

The Georgia commission, following an announcement by the interstate commerce commission in 1920 fixing the rates in state and interstate commerce permitted a 25 per cent increase between points in Georgia on the classes and on all commodities except those named. The carriers' application for an increase on these commodities was denied.

Rates fixed by the state authorities resulted in a general disturbance of the relationship between the Georgia state and the interstate rates on cotton, the commission said. As a complete or partial disturbance the commission cited the following:

"The rates from Georgia points to the ports of Savannah and Brunswick, Ga., are 25 per cent higher than for interstate movement to and from the local shipment, the result being that cotton is now billed to the ports that otherwise would be billed to the interstate export rate. Prior to May 26, 1920, the effective rate on export interstate traffic . . . that date was increased . . . the local rate. On December 6, 1920, the . . . of these hearings, the rate was dropped to the March and Brunswick export or inter-state cotton rate . . . now computed with local shipments . . . 11,000 bales. . . . points shown in order of . . . bales, the . . . from an export rate . . . equipments for efficiency . . . 7c to 16 cents . . .

"Charleston, S. C., differed . . . Charleston . . . formerly the same as Georgia points on the north of the Georgia-Florida line . . . Georgia . . . Florida, Ga., and . . . of the . . . Georgia . . . Atlanta, Ga., . . . Birmingham . . . points higher than from Georgia points south of the state line."

MILLERAND SENDS PERSONAL LETTER TO OBREGON

(By The Associated Press.)

MEXICO CITY, March 17.—Delivery of a personal letter from President Millerand of France, to President Obregon of Mexico, was expected here today. It was announced last night that the text of such a letter was impending, and newspapers argued today that the move might portend recognition of the Mexican government.

TO SIGN TOMORROW

(By The Associated Press.)

WARSAW, March 17.—Polish, Russian and Ukranian delegates will sign the armistice treaty between Soviet Russia and Poland at 7 o'clock Friday evening, it is officially announced here. Negotiations on most of the outstanding issues of the treaty have been completed at Riga, where the ceremony of signing will take place, which have been idle for the past three days.

EASTER COMMUNITY SING TO BE LARGEST CHORAL EVENT EVER HELD HERE

Third Rehearsal to Be Held Tonight at 7 O'clock — Rehearsals Next Week Will Not Conflict With Services at First Baptist Church—Important Announcements to Be Made Tonight.

The third rehearsal of the Gastonia Community Chorus will be held in the Armory this evening at 7:00 when the roll will be called.

The work of preparation for the big concert on Easter Monday is progressing very rapidly and all arrangements are rapidly nearing completion for what promises to be the largest choral event ever staged in Gastonia.

Mr. Marie Lorenzo, chairman of the social committee, said this morning that it was thought the announcements would be made during the rehearsal this evening and the committee is anxious that every member of the chorus be enrolled at once.

In order that there will be no conflict between the rehearsals of chorus and the revival meeting of the First Baptist church, which commences Sunday night and continues through Monday, March 28, no chorus will be held Monday at 8:30 p. m.

EASY TO OBTAIN EXPLOSIVES IN AMERICA

[illegible] March 17.—With [illegible] the manufacture [illegible] with the [illegible] legislation has [illegible] explosives for illegal [illegible] today [illegible]

[illegible] to control the [illegible] the manufacture and [illegible] Dr. Hoover asserted [illegible] practically the [illegible] in the world [illegible] a national super[illegible] [illegible] in the [illegible]

FAMOUS WRITER DEAD.

[illegible] Frank W. [illegible] at the Armour [illegible] Washington [illegible] His wife [illegible] at their [illegible] residence [illegible] one son and the [illegible]

WORKMEN REFUSE TO ABIDE BY AGREEMENT

(By The Associated Press.)

MEXICO CITY, March 17.—Various [illegible] organizations have refused to abide by the agreement reached by labor [illegible] governments for a settlement of the railway strike, and work has [illegible] men who had been idle for the past three [illegible]

MACHINERY OF TAX REVALUATION EXPLAINED TO COUNTY BOARDS

County Commissioners Have Right to Adopt Any One of Four Methods in Regard to Tax Values—So Elastic That it Will Meet Conditions in Every State.

RALEIGH, March 16.—The tax commission has printed extracts of the new machinery act dealing with the revaluation of real estate in North Carolina and is sending copies of this law to the county commissioners of every county. This new law is so elastic that it will meet the conditions in practically every county in the state.

It gives the county commissioners the right of adopting any one of four methods in regard to tax values in their counties. The law takes care of the county which is satisfied with its tax values, and which have suffered no general depreciation in the value of their property. For those counties which do want to make some adjustment of their tax values the following methods are provided by the new law:

1. The county commissioners may appoint a county board of review, using the old organization of the 1919 valuation work, which shall sit with the county commissioners for the purpose of making a general study of the tax values. This meeting shall be held on the first Monday in April, 1921, and after the complete investigation of the tax values as compared with the market values have been made, the county board of review may make horizontal cuts or increases in the values and certify these changes to the state tax commission not later than April 29, 1921.

2. The board of county commissioners will have the right to adjust specific complaints of individuals about their property, when there is no general demand for changes in the tax values. The commissioners will furnish blanks which may be used by the individuals who think their property has been assessed at too high a figure. This provision takes care of both under valuation and over valuation. When these complaints are received the commissioners may appoint the county auditor or any resident freeholder who has general knowledge of property values to make the investigation and report back to the board, which shall revise the figures not later than July 15 of this year.

3. "If the board of county commissioners of any county, at their regular monthly meeting on the first Monday in April, 1921, shall be of the opinion that the valuation of real estate in such county is so unequal as between the owners of real estate as to require a more general revision of assessments than is provided for" in the other sections of the act, it may by resolution put this on record, and then appoint the necessary board of review to make a complete revision of the property in the county. A complete revision of the property will have to be made in the counties which select this remedy. The work must be completed by July 15 and the result certified to the state tax commission.

The tax commission has no authority over the values except to equalize them as between the different counties. It will have the right to adjust the values in the different counties in such a way that one county will not be paying sixty fifty or seventy-five per cent taxes of actual value while the other county has it property on the books at the market value. This supervision of the tax commission was retained because of the necessity for collecting an equalizing fund for school purposes. The lawmakers did not think it fair to allow one county which might be disposed to do so, to put a low levy and raise a small amount of revenue in order to participate in the school fund to a larger extent than it was entitled to participate.

MAN DEAD AND WOMAN DYING; SEQUEL TO ANOTHER THREE-CORNERED LOVE AFFAIR

ROCKFORD, Ills., March 17.—Arthur Bauscher, president of the Bauscher Brothers Co., florists, of Freeport, Ills., died here early today from a self inflicted bullet wound, and Miss Helen Wilson, of Rockford, is believed to be dying from a wound in the head inflicted by Bauscher, as they alighted from an interurban car here last night.

Miss Wilson recently obtained a divorce from her husband, Clarence Wendholm, an automobile salesman of Rockford, and entered the employ of Bauscher, who, it is said, had implored her to marry him. Bauscher's wife died 18 months ago and he leaves two children a boy of five and a girl of seven.

Miss Wilson, it is said, had been reconciled with her former husband and had planned to remarry him. Last night she left Freeport with her sister, Mrs. Ray Miedholm, of Rockford, on an interurban car, which Bauscher also boarded.

She still refused to marry him and as she stepped from the car at Rockford Bauscher shot her through the right temple, and then fired a bullet through his brain.

MISS CLEMENT MARRIED.

(By The Associated Press.)

ASHEVILLE, March 17.—Miss Exum Clement, Buncombe county state legislative representative, the only woman ever to sit with the general assembly, and William Stafford, Asheville newspaper man, were married late last night.

JURY MAY GET CASE IN HAMON TRIAL LATE TODAY, IT IS THOUGHT

Judge Champion Rules Out Effort of Defense to Waive Its Right of Argument — Twin Brother of Judge Opens For Defense.

ARDMORE, Okla., March 17.—An effort of the defense to waive its right of argument and have the case of Clara Smith Hamon, on trial charged with the murder of Jake L. Hamon, go immediately to the jury, was ruled out by Judge Thomas W. Champion, this morning, and defense counsel began its plea for acquittal of the defendant.

Joe Ben Champion opened for the defense.

With the announced plans of both state and defense, it appeared that most of the day would be taken up with arguments and the case be given to the jury late in the afternoon.

When efforts of the defense to waive arguments were held up yesterday, W. F. McLean, chief counsel for Clara Hamon, and S. P. Freeling, state's attorney general in charge of the prosecution, said if they spoke they probably would go deeply into the evidence adduced at the week's sessions and analyze it to the jury in detail.

ARDMORE, Okla., March 17.—Extended arguments on the guilt or innocence of Clara Smith Hamon, on trial for the shooting of Jake L. Hamon, or the speedy submission of the case to the jury, today depended on a ruling of Judge Champion, on the action of the defense in waiving their right to a final review of the case.

This sudden move on the part of defense counsel, after H. H. Brown, of State counsel, had summed up the state's case yesterday, came as a surprise to Attorney General S. P. Freeling, who was not in court at the time. When it was contended that the defense's move would bar any further argument by state counsel, Mr. Freeling asked for an adjournment of court to give him time to examine the law and Judge Champion announced he would give his opinion when court opened at 9 o'clock today.

Under the Oklahoma law the judge's charge to the jury had been given before final arguments began so that, except for further argument which depends on the judge's ruling, the case is ready for submission to the jury.

Three points were included in the judge's charge, in the event the verdict is guilty. The jury may return a verdict of murder, with a sentence of death or life imprisonment; first degree manslaughter, with four years to life imprisonment, and second degree manslaughter, with a minimum fine of one dollar.

Clara Hamon sat unmoved under the arraignment of Prosecutor Brown, but Mrs. Jake L. Hamon, the widow, sobbed throughout most of his address to the jury. Mr. Brown reviewed the association of years between Hamon and the defendant and pictured her as a woman who had crept into the Hamon home and sold herself body and soul, dwelling on the contracts presented at the trial by which the $6,000 alimony was to be employed by Hamon at $100 a week and should any child be born of their union it should receive $25 a week and a share in the Hamon estate as legitimate issue.

Plans of the defense as announced were to present arguments by three members of that staff before the closing address of Mr. Freeling, if the court rules that further argument is permissible.

CHARGES AGAINST ATLANTA MERCHANT ARE DISMISSED

MACON, Ga., March 17.—The number of men on trial in federal court here on charges of conspiracy to rob the American Railway Express Company of goods valued at more than $1,000,000, was reduced from 54 to 53 today when Assistant United States District Attorney E. Lowe Foster dismissed the charges against W. P. Hosey, Atlanta merchant. In dismissing the charge against Hosey, Foster made no explanation. Hosey formerly was an express messenger.

E. M. Alsbrook, former express messenger, who was one of five of the 64 men indicted in connection with the alleged conspiracy, who pleaded guilty, resumed his testimony today, telling of sorts of small shipments and naming other defendants, who, he alleged, were parts to the theft. Alsbrook testified that once Charles Hunter, especially came into the express office when the former was a messenger and looked over goods, sometimes purchasing something. In one case, Alsbrook said, W. V. Meeks, one of the defendants, had come into his car and looked over some ladies' underwear but did not buy on the complaint that the price was too high.

STORM SWEEPS CAMP.

COLUMBUS, Ga., March 17.—An army observation balloon, 84 feet long, broke away from its cables and was destroyed during a heavy hail and wind storm which swept Camp Benning late yesterday. The hangar also was demolished. Hundreds of trees were uprooted and many houses and tents overturned and damaged.

Gets Recess Appointment.

WASHINGTON, March 17.—A recess appointment as commissioner of the general land office was given by President Harding today to William S. Spry, former governor of Utah.