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GASTONIA, N. C., FRIDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 8, 1921.

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GREAT BRITAIN FACES INDUSTRIAL CRISIS OF UNPRECEDENTED PROPORTIONS

GASTON REPUBLICANS TO HOLD BIG POW-WOW

Bolshevik Meeting, It Is Reported, May Be Held As Result of Action of Certain Gaston County Republicans — Pie Is Big Issue at Stake.

Gaston Times.
Rumor upon top of rumor, conjecture upon top of conjecture—"Why the mass meeting?" "What does the committee mean?" "What are they going to do?" "Why did they?" "We'll be there and see." "It'll be a hot time." "Lot of fun; maybe a big scrap; I'm going to be there."
These were the expressions in concrete form of the many voters casually interviewed. "A committee has a right to have an office and still be on the Executive Board." "He hasn't; Will have set the precedent," are opinions of others.

Anyway, from what the Times men could learn from going around and listening there will be many men and some women there.

It seems that some voters feel that the chairman and the county executive committee have tried to "hog" everything yet the executive committee does not feel that they have.

Some contention has arisen over the recommendation of the committee for a postmaster at Lowell. The executive committee feels they were right in this matter.

Houser Is Interviewed.
Evon L. Houser, chairman of the Gaston County Republican Executive Committee, was seen on the streets of Gastonia Wednesday afternoon and was interviewed by the Times.

Mr. Houser at first said that he had nothing to say. That if he knew anything to say that would do any good he would say it.

He asked the Times man several questions, then said:
"Get your paper, yes, I'll make a formal statement." This is what Mr. Houser had to say about the matter in general:

"I am opposed to this meeting for the reason I think it out of place. If any republican in Gaston county has any grievance or any suggestion to make as to party management, or to the distribution of offices, the committee will be only too glad to receive him as a father would a son. I say this because I desire to see the Republican party occupy the same position in Gaston county as it does in the nation. I am not a ready date for office myself, nor will I accept one. I shall be contented to see good republicans, whether they supported me for county chairman or not, take the places."

"Will you be there Saturday, Mr. Houser?" he was asked.
"I will not."

John N. Hanna Speaks.
John N. Hanna, another member of the committee, was interviewed Wednesday night at his place of business, on West Franklin avenue, and was asked for a statement. Mr. Hanna said:

"I have heard that the reason of the meeting was that the committee endorsed a democrat for postmaster at Lowell, but we only endorsed Dr. Robinson's and Joe Armstrong's recommendations, and if we did wrong and any one will show it, we can always rectify it. I have all so heard that the reason of the meeting is that some are sore because they were not endorsed or not having their name endorsed. If that is the reason, the meeting will do no good."

"If the object of the meeting is to eliminate the committee and I can be of any use, I'll eliminate myself, for there is no money in it and, anyway, it would get me out of a hole."

"Will you be there, Mr. Hanna?" he was asked.
"No; I hardly think so. Still, I might."

Eli Lineberger.
Mr. Lineberger was seen in Gastonia yesterday and in reply to a request for a statement, said:

"I have nothing whatever to say now. I will say what I want to Saturday."

An effort was made to get in touch with Mr. Cable at Bessemer City but he could not be located.

TURKS RESUME ADVANCE.
(By The Associated Press.)
PARIS, April 8.—Turkish nationalists have resumed their advance in the Bursa sector of Asia Minor, according to dispatches received at the French foreign office.

Fears are entertained here for the safety of the entire Greek expeditionary force. The magnitude of the reverse suffered by the Greeks appears to be greater than first supposed, judging from the latest information. Six thousand wounded Greeks are said to be in hospital in Bursa.

BIG WHEAT EXPORTS.
(By The Associated Press.)
GALVESTON, Tex., April 8.—Eight times as much wheat was exported through Galveston during March as compared with the same month last year, according to figures made public today by the Galveston cotton exchange and board of trade. Total shipments of grain amounted to 5,025,192 bushels.

FEMINE JEALOUSIES DISRUPT POLICE DEPARTMENT

KALAMAZOO, Mich., April 8.—Femine jealousies have disrupted the women's squad of the Kalamazoo police department, Chief Taffe declared today in announcing he had requested the resignation of two police women.
"Something had to be done," the chief wrote City Manager Harry Freeman. "The women are supposed to work together irrespective of personalities, but there has been more or less friction for weeks and cooperation has become impossible. Dismissal was the only solution."

GRAND MASTER TILLITT TO SPEAK HERE FRIDAY

Head of Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows in State to Deliver Public Address at Court-house Next Friday Night.

Grand Master D. H. Tillitt, of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of North Carolina, will pay a special official visit to Gastonia Lodge No. 188 next Friday and will deliver a public address at the court house at 8 o'clock Friday night. Not only Odd Fellows, but the public generally are cordially invited to attend this meeting and hear Mr. Tillitt's address.

Mr. Tillitt is a prominent attorney of Camden and is a most interesting and entertaining speaker.

There will be special music at this meeting.

Mr. Tillitt was elected grand master of the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge held here last May. His coming to Gastonia at this time is of particular interest to local Odd Fellows. The grand lodge is in a flourishing condition and is growing rapidly.

WHITMAN IMPRESSED BY HARRIS' STORY

Former New York Governor Will Probably Have Roy Harris Brought to New York.

(By The Associated Press.)
NEW YORK, April 8.—Impressed by the detailed account of the Joseph B. E. well murder, given at Buffalo yesterday by Roy Harris, former Governor of New York, who is in charge of the murder investigation, said today he was beginning to take more seriously Harris' alleged confession of complicity in the crime.

Mr. Whitman at first had been skeptical of Harris' story, told Wednesday night after his arrest in Buffalo. This skepticism, it was explained, was due to the fact that the authorities already had received seven different confessions, six by letter and one in person.

It was reported today that Mr. Whitman was making an effort to have Harris brought to this city. Harris, arrested on a forgery charge, signed a statement that he and William Dunham, a friend who lived with him, had \$25,000 each, to kill the tyrant. He claimed that a woman known to him as "Mrs. Fairchild" employed them.

Detention of a New York woman, whose photograph was shown today to Harris by Harris as that of "Mrs. Fairchild," was suggested to Mr. Whitman by the district attorney at Buffalo, but Mr. Whitman declined to spot for further developments before taking action.

MARSHAL FOCH HOPES TO COME TO AMERICA

PARIS, April 8.—Marshal Foch has not as yet been advised of any invitation extended to him by the American Legion to visit the United States during the coming summer.

He had intended, however, to visit America during the present month, but his plans were upset by the necessity of conferring with the supreme allied command. It is most difficult for the marshal to make plans in advance. During a holiday of a month in 1920, he was recalled from Britain to Paris three times.

Marshal Foch hopes, however, to be able to find time for a visit to America in the near future.

UNABLE TO CARE FOR WOUNDED GREEK SOLDIERS

(By The Associated Press.)
ATHENS, April 8.—Wounded Greek soldiers are arriving in such numbers from the Smyrna and Bursa fronts that sanitary authorities in this country are unable to care for them properly. Two thousand injured men arrived at Piraeus yesterday, and found inadequate hospital accommodations, the institutions being without beds and equipment and having deficient personnel.

Queen Sophia has appealed to the American Red Cross in Paris for nurses, and four classes of doctors have been called out by the government. The wounded men are being brought in train cars from Piraeus to this city. Most of the wounds from which they suffer were inflicted by rifle bullets or bayonets. Many women of Athens are leaving to work in the baschospitals in Anatolia.

JURY WILL GET THE WILLIAMS CASE TODAY

Barring a Mistrial There Are Three Possible Verdicts, Acquittal or Conviction of Murder With a Chance of Recommendation For Mercy.

(By The Associated Press.)
COVINGTON, Ga., April 8.—John S. Williams, Jasper county planter, was today to be tried for the murder of three negroes on his farm to his own security and pride of position, the jury trying him for murder of one of them was told here today by former Congressman Howard.

Only those negroes who had been lured out of jail and whom he said Williams held on the farm by force to work out their debts, were subject to this "dreadful contagion of death," he said in making the closing argument for the state.

Green F. Johnson followed with the final plea for acquittal and it appeared that the judge's charge would be completed and the case in the hands of the jury before night.

Howard contended that even if the jury didn't believe the statement of Clyde Manning, negro farm-laborer, that he helped Williams kill the men, that the fact that they were killed and that Williams alone had the motive remained.

Mr. Johnson assailed Manning as a confessed liar and an admitted murderer, who on his own statement, knocked a nigger on the head as he would an ox.

Manning's ignorance had allowed him to believe he "was as guilty as Williams" of poisoning and that furnished him a motive for the killings, he declared.

Mr. Howard, closing for the state, named the eleven farm hands killed and pointed out all come from jails in Atlanta or Marion except one who was lured out of jail in Monticello, and all worked for Williams or his sons.

The Williams farm and those adjoining operated by his sons were referred to as the "plague spot" by Mr. Howard. "The others on the place seemed immune," he added, "and seemed able to live and move on the Williams plantation without getting this dreadful contagion of disease of death."

The eleven negroes taken from jails to work on the farms met death within the twelve days from February 21 to March 5, he said, and added he would look for a cause for this "scourge of death" as physicians look for the cause of a pestilence.

Mr. Howard then turned to the subject of poisoning and briefly outlined its origin in Mexico and traced it to the south. Federal laws were made against it, he said, and told of investigations by department of justice agents on the Williams place February 18.

Mr. Howard did not make the direct charge that poisoning was the cause of the "scourge of death," seeming to leave the jury to draw its own conclusion.

Mr. Johnson praised the address of Howard, and added, "As for my friend, Mr. Bryant, the distinguished solicitor general, just between you and me, gentlemen of the jury, confidentially, I can't escape the conviction that Mr. Bryant has not got a square deal."

"Just beginning his term of office and having worked up his first big case, he was about to reap the reward of his labor and had visions possibly of honors from it, of the governorship even, when this Atlanta crowd got busy and sent these distinguished men to take his place."

Referring to Howard having conducted the examination of witnesses and having made the closing speech, he declared the former congressman did not appear as did the solicitor general or the assistant attorney general, doing their duty as sworn officers of the state, but as the paid attorney of "private prosecutors."

"The men who guaranteed the fund to pay Howard had the right to do so," he said, and added they had the right to hire another lawyer, to uphold "this splendid character—Clyde Manning."

"I would suggest, however, they might well clean up their own house first."

Referring to the Atlanta race riots of 1906, he said no one hired lawyers to punch the slaves "of more than one hundred unfortunate negroes."

Mr. Johnson then made a plea that Williams for whom he had sought a postponement of trial had not been given sufficient time to prepare his defense. He asked the jury to remember this when it retired "especially when you run up against suspicious facts and circum-stances unexplained."

Mr. Howard turned to the defense's claim that Clyde Manning, believing his son as "guilty as Williams was" of the poisoning charges, might have killed the men. The speaker denounced such an idea as unfeasible and, his voice rising to a high pitch for the first time, launched into a discussion of "that in-vincible thing—motive."

"If the jury did not want to believe Manning's story accusing Williams, and left it out, the attorney contended, the fact that the killings took place remained and the reasons for them remained.

Against his own pride and position in life, the defendant was pictured as en-

Succeeds Caminetti As Immigration Chief



W. W. Husband
Here is a new photograph of W. W. Husband, Commissioner of Immigration in the new administration. He succeeded Anthony Caminetti in this important post.

BODY OF CORPORAL ARRIVES IN NEW YORK

Mr. John T. Oates, of Bessemer City, received a telegram Thursday morning advising him that the body of his son, Corporal Howard G. Oates, who met his death in France during the war, had arrived in Hoboken, N. J., and would be sent here for interment. Mr. Oates replied to the telegram today, asking the graves registration bureau to notify him when the body will arrive here. Arrangements will be made and announced through The Daily Gazette for funeral services and a military burial by the local post of the American Legion.

"Nothing for 'those convict lives' as long as there are rivers and rapids to run in their bodies."

As it was known Williams and Manning having a reason for the killings, Mr. Howard asked:

"Did Clyde have any son to protect? Did he own any property? Did he make any contracts with these 'convict negroes'?"

COVINGTON, Ga., April 8.—The case of John S. Williams, Jasper county farmer, on trial in superior court here for the murder of one of the 11 negroes alleged to have been killed while lured to poisoning on his plantation, was expected to go to the jury today. With the presentation of evidence completed and argument begun last yesterday, it was believed that final pleas would be made today, and the case would be ready for the jury in four or five days.

The trial has been postponed by the presentation of only one witness for the defense, Williams, taking the stand on his own behalf yesterday, the only attempt by his attorneys to refute the testimony of the state's star witness, Clyde Manning, negro farm-laborer, who testified that the eleven negroes were killed on the defendant's plantation. According to his testimony, Williams, who was not seen until Monday under the Georgia law not subjected to cross-examination, declared in his statement to the jury he held Manning as the man having a "ferocious motive" for the killings. Defense counsel, J. B. Bryant, sought to support this statement by filing the news that Manning, guardian of the property, was poisoning, but he was rebuffed at the federal headquarters.

Closing argument for the prosecution will be made today by W. M. Howard, former congressman from Georgia, who is now in Monticello, Va., where he is chief counsel for the defense, and will make final plea for acquittal. Evidence of poisoning and closing argument was given by the defense yesterday as its only witness.

Hearing a loud thrum there are three possible verdicts, according to opinion of a group of well-situated, representative section of the jury, with a chance of acquittal being accompanied by a recommendation for mercy, which would not actually change the death penalty to life imprisonment.

Should Williams be acquitted of the present charge, he would not be held in solitary General Prison, as he would be held for trial on two other murder items returned against him in the county in connection with the death of three negroes.

The courtroom was packed to capacity again today, spectators standing shoulder to shoulder in the aisles and in the space between the spectators' seats and the railing of the bar. High school students were given the morning off from school to hear the closing arguments.

COVINGTON, Ga., April 7.—The fate of John S. Williams, accused of the murder of 11 negro farm hands, will rest with a jury tomorrow. In even, dispassionate (Continued on page 5.)

PEOPLE OF THE STATE WARNED TO LOOK OUT FOR BLUE SKY ARTIST

Former Welfare Commissioner R. F. Beasley, of Monroe, Mixed Up in Big Oil Promotion Scheme in Texas — Carolinians Warned Against It.

RALPH, April 7.—Thirty-four North Carolina cities were warned today by Insurance Commissioner Stacy W. Wade that the blue sky artist is abroad in the land soliciting North Carolinians from their money, and with the outlay of a few dollars to get a share in a big oil prospect that the unscrupulous salesmen are to be made.

Synchronous with the telegrams to the police chiefs of these municipalities was given out a statement by the publicity department of the insurance commissioner's office in which the International Petroleum Company of Texas is attacked and the name of a distinguished North Carolinian is called. He is Robert F. Beasley, of Monroe, headquarters Raleigh until he departed ago. Mr. Beasley resigned his position of commissioner of public welfare to go to Texas and the company, with a view of advertising promotion, makes much of this acquisition. It plays up E. C. Williams, another Tar Heel.

It is this very case of circumstances which brings a warning commencing from the office of insurance commissioner. His description of Beasley's name is explained in the light of the fear employment of it by the oil company. The Texas company which shows its cruel boss over Mr. Beasley duly appreciates its catch and states nightly on him. (It doesn't fail to play him up as welfare man who investigated the company's claims and is entirely satisfied with them.)

The message to the police chiefs says: "For the protection of your city I request that you be on the lookout for an itinerant stock salesman. There is every indication that many wildcat stock promoters will be undertaken soon. At present there is and a known stock salesman in the state. Arrest any man you find offering such stock and report to this department for further instructions. Please give this message the widest publicity possible in your community by posting copies and using news papers."

Mr. Wade thinks the proposed activities of the blue sky fellows is probably indicative of improved financial conditions, the operations of this kind of get-rich schemes generally knowing about when and where to find money. Many of them, and in money have been lost recently and at least two banks destroyed by the financial panic on this kind of paper.

Flood of Advertising Matter.
The publicity department of the insurance office says today:

"North Carolina is being flooded with advertising matter bearing the name of the International Petroleum Company of Texas, San Antonio, Texas. It is persuasive and optimistic in tone. It tells of great fortunes made in oil and gas, and of the success of companies, etc. These companies, dividends and other things are shown by an investment of a few dollars in their stock. It is the same old-time bank that has lured many of the people of this state to their ruin, and the ages and would not be particularly dangerous in North Carolina, but the fact that both of them are actively engaged in this kind of business."

First, that Robert F. Beasley, late commissioner of public welfare of the state of North Carolina, is now working for the International. The company says that it offers them a prospect of a big fortune. Beasley, former welfare commissioner of public welfare of the state of North Carolina, has been called to the staff. The announcement goes on to state that Mr. Beasley came to Texas investigated their proposition thoroughly, and before accepting a position with them that he had abandoned all faith in the company."

FAIL TO FIND TRACE OF THREE AUTO BANDITS

CINCINNATI, O., April 8.—Post-office inspectors and police early today had failed to find any trace of three bandits who last night held up a United States mail truck here and robbed it of three pouches of registered mail. Hoarding the truck as it was leaving the Baltimore & Ohio railroad station, the hold-up men forced Joseph Arhino, the driver, and Walter D. Hubler, railway mail clerk, to drive to a secluded alley, where the two were handcuffed to the steering wheel of their machine.

Going to the rear of the truck, the bandits, using a duplicate key, unlocked the trunk and carefully picked over 60 sacks of mail to select those containing registered matter. Obtaining these, the thieves leaped from the truck with a warning to the handcuffed agent "to make an outcry under penalty of being shot, and jumping into a waiting automobile escaped."

An estimate of the amount of loot was unobtainable because of the fact it was incoming matter from Detroit and other points and the facts will not be disclosed until a further investigation is made.

OUTLAW MEMBERS WILL PLAY INDEPENDENT BALL

(By The Associated Press.)
CHICAGO, April 8.—Three ousted members of the White Sox club, who were released because of indictments in connection with the 1919 world's series scandal, are organizing a team of their own, with the object of playing clubs not in the major leagues, with George K. Miller, an investment broker, associated with other brokers in backing the scheme, it was learned today.

The three players are Joe Jackson, outfielder; Charles Rigberg, shortstop; and Claude Williams, pitcher. It is stated that two other former members of the White Sox club, Fred McMullin, first baseman, and Oscar "Happy" Felsch, outfielder, also will be included in the lineup.

Another player, Joe Geison, formerly with the Washington and St. Louis Americans, also is expected to join. In addition to those named, Miller said that three other former big league men would be included.

The new organization is now trying to obtain dates with independent clubs and both players and backers were optimistic in their outlook on the venture.

MINERS REFUSE TO ACCEPT PROPOSAL

(By The Associated Press.)
LONDON, April 8.—Representatives of striking British miners this afternoon refused to accept Prime Minister Lloyd George's invitation to meet the owners of the mines on the conditions proposed, which were that the return of pump men and engineers to the pits would be the first matter settled at the conference.

MEXICAN ROADS CONGESTED

(By The Associated Press.)
MEXICO CITY, April 8.—Congestion of Mexican railroads has reached a critical stage and commercial and industrial interests of the country have appealed to the government to take extraordinary steps to relieve the situation. At Vera Cruz, Tampico, Puerto Mexico and in cities along the United States frontier thousands of tons of merchandise has been lying for months, the railroads being unable to move these goods to their destination.

Railwaymen And Transport Workers Support Strike

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DIRECTORS MEET

Will Call Attention of Northern Manufacturers to Desirability of Gaston County as Possible Location For Plants.

At the regular meeting of the directors of the Chamber of Commerce held Thursday afternoon, the attention of the board was called to the fact that many industrial plants in Philadelphia and vicinity were face to face with serious labor problems and that many of them were investigating possible sites and locations in other parts of the country. Upon recommendation of the secretary, the board directed that the advantages of Gaston and Gaston county be set before the Philadelphia manufacturers. It was pointed out that the menace of strikes and other labor troubles were contributory causes to this feeling on the part of the Northern manufacturers.

The date and arrangements for the annual dinner of the chamber were left in the hands of the steering committee. It is probable that dinner will be one of the features of the banquet. Regret was expressed that Congressman F. J. Hefflin will be unable to accept the invitation to be the speaker of the evening.

Reports of the Bidsinko demonstration committee and of the Kings Mountain orphan's home committee were accepted and the committees discharged.

Representatives of Miners Refuse to Meet Mine Owners on Conditions Proposed — England Faces an Industrial Crisis — Brings Triple Alliance of Labor into Controversy.

(By The Associated Press.)
LONDON, April 8.—All efforts by Mr. Lloyd George, the prime minister, to bring the miners and the mine owners together to discuss the dire straits which led to the strike in the coal fields having failed, the miners' executives went into conference this afternoon with their partners in the triple alliance—the transport workers and the railwaymen—to decide when the members of the allied organizations should be called out in a sympathetic strike.

Last night's decision by the prime minister at the suggestion of the more moderate labor interests to invite the miners and owners to a conference this morning, at which the first subject for discussion would be the resumption of pumping to clear the mines of water, led the general public to believe a settlement was in sight and that the impending strike, promising to be the greatest in the history of the country, would be averted.

The miners, however, were adamant in their stand, insisting there should be no restriction regarding the questions to be discussed by the conferees and an exchange of letters between them and Mr. Lloyd George failed to change their minds.

GREATEST INDUSTRIAL CONTROVERSY IN YEARS.

LONDON, April 8.—Leaders of the National Federation of Transport Workers and of the National Union of Railwaymen, which organizations have voted to support the miners in the great coal strike, decided this morning upon a strike by the two unions. This brings the entire power of the "triple alliance of labor" into the greatest industrial controversy in England for many years.

Official announcement that the "triple alliance" had decided upon a strike was made shortly after noon today.

A general strike of the railroads and transport workers will be called unless the striking miners and the owners of British coal pits reach a settlement.

British mine owners this morning conditionally accepted Prime Minister Lloyd George's invitation to confer with leaders of the miners' union relative to a return of pump men and engineers to the matter of the coal strike.

The mine owners stipulated that the matter of the pump men returning to work must be the first question settled at the proposed conference.

The miners declared they wished to meet without being hampered by any restrictions on the subject of their discussions. They said they wished the meeting to be entirely free from limitations especially regarding the question involving the return of the pump men to work.

WEATHER

North Carolina, unsettled to night and Saturday, probably showers; not much change in temperature.

FLOUR PRICES DROP.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., April 8.—Flour prices in Minneapolis have dropped 50 cents a barrel the last week, bringing the price of standard patents at the mills down to \$8.15 to \$8.40 a barrel.

OIL MILLS BURNED.

COVINGTON, Ga., April 8.—The Covington cotton oil mills plant was almost completely destroyed by fire of undetermined origin here early today, entailing a loss estimated at approximately \$125,000, practically covered by insurance.

The fire started in the linter room and swept the main part of the mills.