

Weather:
Rain

GASTONIA DAILY GAZETTE

Local Cotton
17 Cents

VOL. XLIII. NO. 39.

GASTONIA, N. C., WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 15, 1922

SINGLE COPY 5 CENTS

ALABAMA POWER COMPANY MAKES OFFER FOR LEASE OF MUSCLES SHOALS PROPERTY

PROPOSES COMPLETION OF WILSON DAM WITHOUT FURTHER EXPENSE TO U. S.

Thomas Martin, President of Power Company, Makes This Offer to Secretary Weeks—Income Number of Proposals Government Has Received to Four—Plan of Power Company for Development of Project.

(By The Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Another offer for purchase and lease of the government's properties at Muscle Shoals, Ala., was completed today and arrangements made by its sponsors, the Alabama Power Company, for immediate filing with Secretary Weeks.

The offer was tendered by Thomas Martin, acting for the Alabama Power Company, of which he is president, and with its submission the total number of proposals received by the government for its water-powered properties in Alabama was brought to four. The new offer is expected to be transmitted soon by Secretary Weeks to Congress, which has before it the offer of Henry Ford.

The Alabama Power Company proposes completion of the Wilson dam "with out further advances or expenditures by the United States," and the outright purchase of the Warrior power plant, on the Gorgas river, which is situated on ground already owned by the company.

The properties would be leased by the power company for a period of 99 years under the plan and be subject to "recapture by the government" at the termination of that time. They also would be operated subject to the provisions of the Federal power act under an operating license.

The offer was outlined to Secretary Weeks in a letter signed by Mr. Martin, as president of the company. The letter follows:

"This company offers to carry out the following plan by which the Wilson Dam at Muscle Shoals may be completed and the nitrate problem of the Government in connection therewith may be simplified without further advances or expenditures by the United States:

"1. To take a license under the Federal water power act, under which we will complete the construction of the dam, locks and power house at Muscle Shoals, known as the Wilson dam, or dam No. 2, at our expense, with the initial installation of approximately 24,000 horsepower, subsequent installation to be made in accordance with the Federal water power act and as may be necessary to meet the market demands.

"2. To furnish free to the Government, or any one it may designate, from the hydro-power plant, 100,000 horsepower, as required for the production of fertilizers and munitions of war, and research in connection therewith, and the steam plant at nitrate plant No. 2, together with necessary rights of way, lands and housing facilities, and to pay therefor the sum of \$5,000,000, less an amount to be agreed on to cover the cost of locks and navigation structures at Wilson dam, payable in five equal annual installments; the first payment to be made when license is granted, the remaining payments to be made in four equal annual installments with interest at five per cent with the right to anticipate any part or all of the same.

"3. To operate and maintain the power plant, dam and gates, the Government to operate and maintain the locks for which the power company will supply the necessary power without expense to the Government.

"4. The Government to transfer the license to the Wilson dam property represented by its investment and commitments to date, free of liabilities and unincumbered, including the construction plant, the locks and navigation structures to be conveyed to the Government in fee, on charge of construction.

"5. Whenever the safety of the United States shall have the right, the United States shall have the right, to fully provided in the Federal water power act, to take over and operate the project covered by the license for the purpose of manufacturing nitrates, explosives, or munitions of war, or for any other purpose involving the safety of the United States for such length of time as may appear to the President necessary for such purposes.

COMMUNITY CHORUS PRACTICE FRIDAY NIGHT

The Community Chorus will hold a practice meeting Friday night of this week at 8 o'clock in the auditorium of the central school instead of at the Chamber of Commerce on account of the fact that the latter place will be in use for the address by Dr. Eaton. Mr. Hoffmeister is particularly anxious that every member of the chorus be present Friday night.

INTERNATIONAL COURT OPENS ITS SESSIONS IN THE HAGUE PEACE PALACE

The Cornerstone of the League of Nations—John Bassett Moore Is the Representative From the United States—Twelve Nationalities Are Represented.

THE HAGUE, Feb. 15.—The Peace Palace—which evades during the war labeled "Closed owing to bankruptcy"—was the scene today of the inaugural of the permanent court of international justice, the cornerstone of the League of Nations. The event was hailed by adherents of pacifist ideals as a new milestone in the evolutionary progress of the world toward peace—or, in the words of Lord Curzon, "the beginning of a new era of peace and concord among nations."

At the opening session the judges were to take the oath to fulfill their offices "honorably, faithfully, impartially and conscientiously." In their future sittings they are expected not only to clear up such doubtful points of international law as may come before them, but also to create laws whenever their need is apparent, like the Praetors of ancient Rome.

Members of the court represent 12 nationalities, and eastern and western nations. The judges, in accordance with the law, creating the court, possess the qualifications required in their respective countries for appointment to the highest judicial offices, or are "jurisconsults or recognized competence in international law."

The representative of the United States is John Bassett Moore, and the others present in The Hague for the meeting are: The President, or chief justice, Bernard Cornelius Johannes Loder, Holland; Dr. Rafael Altamiray Croya, Spain; Commendatore Dionisio Anzilotti, Italy; Viscount Robert Finlay, Great Britain; Dr. Max Huber, Switzerland; Oskar Nyholm, Denmark; Dr. Yvon Delbo, Japan; and Dr. Andre Weiss, France. The other two judges, Dr. Ray Barbosa, of Brazil, and Dr. Antonio S. de Bustamante, of Cuba, were unable to come to The Hague.

Three of the deputy judges are here: V. N. Beidmann, of Norway; Demetrio Negulescu, of Rumania; and Michail Yovanovitch, of Yugo Slavia; Dr. Wang Chung Hui, of China, being absent.

AWAITING PRESIDENT'S VIEWS ON THE BONUS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The Senate and House committees charged with the framing of a soldier bonus bill continued to mark time today in their consideration of the question of how the necessary funds should be raised in execution of receiving from President Harding a formal expression of his views in the matter. It was believed the letter which it had been announced at the White House the president would send to the chairman of the committees for this purpose, would be transmitted today.

At the White House yesterday the committee was represented as viewing as impracticable the financing of the bonus in any large sum at this time by a bond issue, while at the same time he was said to be unalterably opposed to the suggested eight point tax program or to a return to any of the taxes that have been repealed.

The president, it was emphatically held, had not lost sight of promises made by Republicans in the 1920 primaries, but his attitude, it was added, had to be that of finding a safe and defensible condition of fulfillment of those promises on the one hand and having regard for restored stability on the other.

UNEARTH PLOT TO GET MONEY BY BLACKMAIL

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 15.—Eight men arrested after a pistol fight in which many shots were fired, are being held here today by Federal agents charged with conspiracy to extort \$250,000 from a wealthy Los Angeles business man, whose name was withheld. A ninth man, thought to have been wounded, escaped.

In the arrests the officers believe that they have broken up a ring which has been extorting money from many business men here by sending letters threatening death if they did not comply with its demands. One business man notified the authorities and a plan was arranged. The arrests might lead to a clue to the murder of William Desmond Taylor.

A typewriter of peculiar make, with which, it was charged, the threatening letters were written, was found in the house raided, it was said.

THE WEATHER

Rain on the coast and rain or snow in the interior tonight, colder tonight; Thursday fair and colder.

CONTINUE SEARCH FOR CLUES AS TO MURDERER OF WILLIAM D. TAYLOR

Mabel Normand's Chauffeur Is Again Questioned—Some Believe That Edward F. Sands Had Nothing to do With the Murder—Rewards Totalling \$4,500 Have Been Offered For Arrest and Conviction of Murderer.

(By The Associated Press.)
LOS ANGELES, CALIF., Feb. 15.—The search for clues as to the murderer of William Desmond Taylor, film director, went on today with a re-questioning of William Davis, chauffeur for Mabel Normand, screen actress, scheduled for this morning.

Sheriff's deputies, who eling to the belief that Edward F. Sands, missing former secretary to Taylor, had nothing to do with the case, were understood to have obtained some information which made it desirable to have Davis quizzed again by the district attorney. It was understood the additional information did not tend to involve Davis.

The chauffeur previously has corroborated the statement of Miss Normand, who was one of the last to see Taylor alive, that the director accompanied her to her automobile with her left hand on the door handle and her right hand on the door handle. Miss Normand, film producer and manager for Mabel Normand, has been questioned by a representative of the district attorney in the hope he might be able to give some information leading to a clue, but without results, it is announced. Sennett said he would be glad to aid the authorities in every way.

Rewards totalling \$4,500 have been offered for the arrest and conviction of the murderer.

Officials connected with the investigation had made no comment early today on the opinion of a Federal agent that the arrest here last night of eight men alleged to have extorted money from wealthy business men under threats of death might lead to a solution of the murder mystery.

ROTARY ANNS SHOW THE MEN HOW TO STAGE A REAL VALENTINE ROTARY PARTY

Wives of Rotarians Have Complete Charge of Annual Ladies' Night Program—Import Talent From Pittsburgh to Hawaii For Evening's Entertainment—Men Are Victims of Clever Jokes at Hands of Women.

Gastonia Rotarians have attempted big things in the way of entertainment in times past, and they freely admit that they managed once in a while to get by with some things that smacked of cleverness and of real brains, but the women beat 'em Tuesday evening at the annual Rotary Ladies' Night when the women laid entire charge of everything. They not only beat 'em, but they grilled them, they roasted them, they extolled them, they praised them, they derided and exalted them, and they sold five of them at auction like so many head of cattle or sheep.

From Pittsburgh to Hawaii, the ladies imported talent to assist in the evening's entertainment, but they didn't need any extra help from the outside. What they needed in their own houses was enough and to spare. One of the features of the evening was the radio dispatches from the East Pittsburgh broadcasting station furnished through the courtesy of Rotarian J. P. Bivens. The dispatches were heard with startling clearness and furnished an experience not enjoyed by many of the ladies heretofore. They were a bit skeptical of the second part of the Pittsburgh program, however, for it contained too many Gastonia and Charlotte allusions.

Beginning with the unique way in which partners were chosen, the evening's program went off without a hitch, or a bubble anywhere. The ladies did everything. Not but one was a man allowed the privilege of the floor and that was at the conclusion of the program when President Separk thanked the ladies for the wonderful evening. A group of four or five Rotary Anns each had charge of some part of the program. Mrs. Jim Kennedy's crowd first took the floor and gave a novelty song in which there were local hits registered against more or less prominent Rotarians. Rotarians Jim Henderson and Joe Separk were favored rather roughly in this first onslaught. A wireless from Pittsburgh announced— together with news from Los Angeles, about the Taylor murder mystery and from Belfast about ten more shootings, that Joe Separk had ordered a guard placed around his home at night. Throughout the evening, at the conclusion of each course the women moved around the table, taking their places beside a new man each time. Mrs. A. G. Myers was in charge of the next stant which included "The Midnight Follies," a clever stunt by Miss Thelma Harbin and a reading by Mrs. Fred M. Allen. Somewhere along in the program, Mrs. Fred D. Barkley in charge of the music for the evening announced a traveling troupe of native Hawaiian

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FOOTSTEPS OF A FLY BOOMING LIKE THUNDER
NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—Footsteps of a peaky house fly booming out like thunder as he leisurely ambled across a piece of paper were heard by scientists who visited the Bell Telephone System's research laboratories.

Utilizing specially developed Rochelle salt crystals and an amplifier constructed by the Bell Company, engineers and scientists listened to the promulgating of the fly.

"Tomorrow," said the engineer, "we're going to put a trained flea on a piece of paper and listen to him tumble. We haven't been able, as Mr. Edison suggested on his birthday, to hear a molecule washing its face."

NINE MEN HELD FOR KNICKERBOCKER TRAGEDY

Will Be Given Opportunity Today to Make Bond—Jury Recommends That All Theaters Be Closed.

(By The Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The nine men ordered held for the grand jury in a verdict returned by the grand jury in connection with the Knickerbocker theater disaster, January 28, which resulted in the loss of 28 lives, were given an opportunity to appear at the district attorney's office today to give bond.

They were not taken into custody when the verdict was returned last night and District Attorney Goodson said they would be permitted to remain at liberty under \$5,000 bond each. He said the case probably would be presented to the grand jury, which is now in session, by the last of this week.

Based on the testimony of scores of witnesses at the inquest which began nearly a week ago, the verdict of the grand jury found that the collapse of the roof of the motion picture theater was "due to faulty designing and construction and inadequate supervision and inspection." Among those ordered held for the grand jury were R. G. Goetz, architect for the building; J. H. East, engineer who designed the roof structure; Morris Hacker, building inspector when the theater was constructed, and Frank L. Wagner, the builder.

Recommendations of the jury include that all theaters and places where the public assemble be closed and kept closed until such time as their safety is assured.

The District Board of Commissioners had taken no action on this today and it was the opinion of subordinate officials that the recommendations of the jury would not be followed in this respect.

RAIN AND COLDER TONIGHT, FAIR AND COLDER THURSDAY

(By The Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The disturbance in the far southwest yesterday advanced rapidly northward so that this morning its center was over Georgia and a secondary disturbance had formed off the Virginia coast, where it will move northward, the Weather Bureau announced.

There has been general and heavy rains in the Gulf and South Atlantic States except Florida and also in Tennessee and snows and rains in North Carolina and in the Middle Atlantic States.

In the South Atlantic States there will be rain with colder weather tonight and fair and colder weather on Thursday. In Tennessee and the East Gulf States the weather will be rain and snow late 'em Tuesday evening at the annual Rotary Ladies' Night when the women laid entire charge of everything. They not only beat 'em, but they grilled them, they roasted them, they extolled them, they praised them, they derided and exalted them, and they sold five of them at auction like so many head of cattle or sheep.

PROMINENT METHODISTS HELP DEDICATE SCHOOLS

(By The Associated Press.)
ATLANTA, Ga., Feb. 15.—Four bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church, together with heads of several church boards and city and state educational leaders, participated in exercises here today in connection with the laying of the cornerstone of Steward missionary foundation building on Georgia Southern campus, and the dedication of Leche Hall and Virginia chapel of Clark University, two denominational educational institutions for negroes.

After their stop in Atlanta the party of bishops will go to Birmingham, where they will attend the Central Alabama Institute for Negroes on Thursday, and on Friday go to Meridian, Miss., where the New Haven Institute and Conservatory will be dedicated. This property, purchased by the Methodist Episcopal Church, is valued at \$300,000.

ALLEGED BURGLAR IS NOT CHARLOTTE PAINTER

(Charlotte Observer.)
Arthur Bender, who is held in Gastonia on a charge of entering the home of Mr. J. H. Separk, is not a Charlotte painter, as was reported.

Bender had been employed in the Separk home doing some painting and when taken claimed Charlotte as his home. This, the Charlotte painters say, is causing the local organization much embarrassment and members wish it plainly known that he is a "foreigner" and not a citizen of this city.

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Bryan Will Run For U. S. Senate From Florida If People Think It His Duty To So Serve Them

Makes It Clear That He Desires no Contest For the Office—Would Consider Matter From Standpoint of Duty—Prefers to Serve the Public Without Cares of Office.

MIAMI, FLA., Feb. 15.—The following statement was given out by William Jennings Bryan today:

"To those who have been kind enough to write me in regard to the senatorship, greetings:

"I have been actively engaged in politics for more than thirty years, with the exception of less than seven years, my work has been done as a private citizen, and I prefer to continue to serve the public without the cares of office. If the Democrats of Florida feel that as a Senator I could render a service to the state and to the party in the nation, I would be glad to be called upon to represent them at a certain point in the standpoint of duty and in connection with other claims upon me, but I have no thought of entering into a contest for the office.

"The nomination that I have received—two for Congress, one for the Senate and three for the Presidency—have been tendered me practically without opposition, and I have prized them as expressions of confidence. No friend will expect me, at any period of life and when my political record is known to all, to solicit support or to take the risk of alienating those pledged to aspirants. I am looking forward to congenial association here with Florida Democrats who have been my collaborators for a quarter of a century. I am sure that our relations will be pleasant so long as my plans do not conflict with the ambitions of others or with their personal preferences.

"With profound appreciation of the expressions of friendship and esteem that have come to me, I am,

Very truly,

WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN"

SACRED CONCERT NEXT MONDAY EVENING

Community Chorus Under Direction of Mr. Hoffmeister Will Render Number of Famous Choruses at Central School—A Rare Musical Treat in Store For Gastonians.

Monday night is the date set for the concert to be given by the Community Chorus. It will be given in the auditorium of the Central school and the hour is 8 o'clock. The chorus is composed of about seventy-five Gastonians who have been trained for the past three weeks under the direction of Mr. Roy Hoffmeister, an expert chorus leader. The concert, which will be of a sacred nature, will be one of the biggest musical events in the history of the town is hardly to be doubted. Mr. Hoffmeister has been assisted in training this chorus by Miss Blanche Heisterman, head of the local Community Service, under whose auspices the concert is to be given.

A complete program of the concert will appear in an early issue of The Gazette. It includes Gounod's Gloria and several other of the best known choruses. Local music lovers have in store for them in this concert a rare treat and it is expected that the school auditorium will be taxed to its capacity to take care of those who desire to hear it.

COLUMBIA STREET CAR MEN GO ON STRIKE

(By The Associated Press.)
COLUMBIA, S. C., Feb. 15.—On the street cars tonight in Columbia, S. C., and there is nothing to indicate that there will be resumption of service soon.

P. H. Knox, president of the company, stated Wednesday morning that the company had no plans and he could not state what would be done. He stated that he was preparing a statement, to be issued publicly during the day, explaining the company's position, but that no plans had been made for resuming the service.

The strike of carmen was called by them at an eight hour Wednesday morning, following the discharge Tuesday of a group of 21 employees of the company. No reason is given for the discharge of the men.

It is stated that the street car company has been operating at a financial loss for months, and some months ago it was anticipated by officials that something would have to be done to bring relief. In their statement the men say that the discharge of the men can only be construed by them as a strike on the part of the company to ease operation of the street cars. There is no explanation of violence in connection with the strike.

NEAR EAST IN MOUNT HOLLY TONIGHT

Rev. George M. Manly, of Bessemer City, to Present Cause of Near East Sufferers in Methodist Church at 7:30 P. M.

Tonight at 7:30 o'clock all churches of Mount Holly will unite in a prayer meeting at the Mount Holly Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the cause of the suffering, starving, dying and destitute children of Armenia will be presented by Rev. George M. Manly, of Bessemer City and High Shoals.

Appropriate and splendid selections will be rendered by a chorus of singers and Rev. O. P. Ader, chairman for Mt. Holly, will be in charge of the meeting.

HEAVY RAINS PUT SAVANNAH RIVER UP

AUGUSTA, Ga., Feb. 15.—Three inches of rain during the past 48 hours in the shed above Augusta will send the Savannah river at this point to a stage of 20 degrees by tomorrow morning, according to a forecast issued today by the Weather Bureau here. Farm lands on the Carolina side below Augusta will be inundated, it is said, but railway and automobile traffic will not be interfered with.

IRISH SOLDIERS' UNIFORMS TO BE HOME PRODUCTS

BELFAST, Feb. 15.—The uniforms of the Irish Free State soldiers will be entirely Irish made. They will be of a gray-green material. Orders have been placed with the Irish co-operative clothing manufacturing society.

HARDING'S OPPOSITION KILLS SOLDIER BONUS IN PRESENT CONGRESS

Harding Pledged Himself to Soldier Bonus Idea in Ohio Primaries But Is Also Pledged to Business Stability—Announces Opposition to Bonds or Special Taxation.

(By C. W. Gilbert.)
WASHINGTON, Feb. 14.—President Harding today declared himself against payment of the soldiers' bonus through a bond issue. He is also unalterably opposed to the special taxes, including a return to the excess-profits tax, by which it has been proposed to raise money for adjusted compensation.

This practically kills the bonus for this session, unless Congress should adopt the sales tax, for the White House views seem to leave the way open to the adoption of the sales tax. But the firm line alone will kill the sales tax. And it is probable that the aroused business sentiment against the bonus will probably oppose the sales tax.

Mr. Harding will communicate his views upon the bonus in the form of a letter to the chairman of the house and senate committees which are conferring upon the bonus.

His position is just what it has been right along. He is for the bonus if means of paying it can be provided which will not cause a disturbance in business conditions. He is pledged to a bonus but not at this particular time.

A bond issue is out of the question because it is doubtful whether bonds can be sold and because the selling of them would interfere with the big refunding operations which government must undertake this year or next.

Mr. Harding became committed to the bonus when he was running for the Ohio primaries for the nomination for the Presidency. Since his entrance into the White House he has a large sense of his responsibilities and of the difficulties of reconciling the bonus with the task of restoring business stability. He probably regrets his pledge made in the primaries but considers himself as bound by it.

Every indication is that the soldiers' bonus is ideal for the session. Every member of the past few days has been directed in putting the blame for its death where it will do the least harm to those who come up for re-election next fall.

In this maneuvering considerable feeling has developed between the White House and Congress. The representatives and the senators who have to face their constituents next fall desire very much that the President should assume responsibility for the defeat or postponement of the bonus. They feel that the President does not come up for re-election and that he is stronger and more popular than they are. Accordingly they think that whatever he says or does will carry more weight with the country than they can say or do. A postponement of the bonus at his suggestion similar to that which resulted last year from his appearance before the senate would probably cost the party less votes than the failure of Congress to enact one or the other of the passage of one which would arouse the taxpayers or bond holders.

GOV. TAYLOR PUTS IN PLEA FOR FORD'S OFFER

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Governor M. A. Taylor, picturesque chief executive of Tennessee, returned to the House today, where he served once as a member, to appeal for adoption by Congress of the Ford offer for operation of the Government's properties at Muscle Shoals, Ala. He was received amid applause by the House Military Committee and immediately launched into a vigorous attack upon the Alabama Power Company, which he declared opposed the adoption of Mr. Ford's proposal.

"The Alabama Power Company," he asserted, "should not hold the name of 'Alabama' and oppose development of the Muscle Shoals projects. No man or company is welcome in Alabama or Tennessee who opposes Mr. Ford—the man of all others who can help us and is qualified to complete the shoals, for we are in the damn, without it."

"His completion means new hope," he continued, "New enterprises, and business. We need them."

CHIEF RECOMMENDS GRAND JURY PROBE.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 15.—Chief of Police Charles A. Sherry, today announced that following a week's investigation into the fire which destroyed the Lexington hotel here February 7, and cost 12 known lives, he has recommended to Judge Richardson and Commonwealth's Attorney Satterfield, that results of his inquiry "merit a grand jury investigation."

NINE WHITE MEN CHARGED WITH MURDER

LITTLEVILLE, GA., Feb. 15.—With warrants for the arrest of nine white men, charged with murder in connection with the shooting of Will Jines, a negro, last Sunday night, in his possession, Sheriff Battle, of Schley county, was today endeavoring to locate seven of the men who have disappeared.

Cotton Market

CLOSING BIDS ON THE NEW YORK MARKET
NEW YORK, Feb. 15.—Cotton futures closed steady.
March 17.75; May 17.70; July 17.20; October 16.72; December 16.62.

TODAY'S COTTON MARKET
Strict to good middling 17c
Cotton seed 51c

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CALENDAR.

Wednesday.
3:00 Women's Meeting.
5:00 Textile Superintendents' Club.
Thursday.
4:00 Board of Directors.
5:00 Community Service Play.
Rehearsal.
7:30 Pythian Band.
Friday.
7:45 Membership Meeting.