

Weather: Fair and Colder

GASTONIA DAILY GAZETTE

Local Cotton 17 Cents

VOL. XLIII. NO. 40.

GASTONIA, N. C., THURSDAY AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 16, 1922.

SINGLE COPY 5 CENTS

WATSON CHARGES MELLON WITH HOLDING POSITION IN VIOLATION OF LAW

Secretary of Treasury is Accused by Senator Watson of Illegality in Holding Office - Cites Section 243, Revised Statutes, Prohibiting Treasury Secretary in Business.

(By The Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, Feb. 15. - Secretary Mellon is holding the office of secretary of the treasury in violation of the law and can be arrested for retaining the place if anyone sees fit to swear out a warrant charging him with the offense, Senator Watson, Democrat, Georgia, declared in the senate today.

Senator Watson told the senate that Mr. Mellon could be impeached "any time we see fit" and read to the senate the provision of section 243 of the revised statutes which, he declared, expressly forbids Mr. Mellon to retain his place. He declared that by staying in office, the secretary was violating the law, adding that it was generally known that Mr. Mellon was one of the wealthiest individuals in the country.

The assertions by the Georgia senator were made in connection with several speeches of the accomplished statesman of two major political parties. He informed the senate in the course of his remarks that the law, now cited as section 243, was passed in the first Congress of the United States and that during the administration of President Grant, the name of A. T. Stewart had been drawn as nominee as secretary of the treasury when attention was called to provisions of the act.

"Time To Act." Senator Watson asked Senator Heflin, Democrat, Alabama, for his opinion on "what the people will think of the way our government is being run when a criminal, unconvicted but despoiling, committing a crime, is left in charge of our national funds and the refunding of debts of eleven billion dollars."

Senator Heflin said that senator Watson had shown that Secretary Mellon was violating the law and that it was time for senators to speak. Mr. Watson stated that Mr. Stewart had resigned three days after his confirmation by the senate and after President Grant had learned of the provisions of the law.

"And if Mr. Stewart resigned," continued the senator, "why should not Mr. Mellon resign? Why should he continue in office in violation of the law? He knows it; so does President Harding know it, and the Republican party is going to have to answer for it this fall. For I do not believe the people will stand for open violation of the law by a member of the cabinet when persons throughout the country are persecuted for trivial offenses."

Calls Mr. Mellon Impudent. Asking why the President did not "rescind" the status," Senator Watson said that Mr. Mellon was "impudent" for retaining the office and ought to resign. "If he doesn't resign," he added, "then the President ought to ask for his resignation."

The Georgia senator referred to the recent passage of the anti-trust funding bill and said that never before in history had so much money been placed in the hands of one man to handle, "and that man is violating the law every day of his life." He challenged "all of the lawyers in the senate" to refute his statement relative to Mr. Mellon's right to remain as secretary.

Mr. Watson referred to Mr. Mellon as "a colossal figure in the business world," and declared that he had no more right to be secretary of the treasury than had "J. P. Morgan or John D. Rockefeller or a member of the firm of Sears, Roebuck and company, if you please."

He also read from James G. Baline's "Twenty Years in Congress," a reference to the circumstances surrounding the nomination of Mr. Stewart. This told how Mr. Grant had asked Congress first to amend the law to exempt Mr. Stewart and then, after it was seen that Congress was unwilling to make the changes, the President withdrew the request and the newly named secretary resigned.

MELLON SAYS HE HAS NOT BROKEN LAW (By The Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. - Basing his view on legal advice, Secretary Mellon considers that he has not contravened the law prohibiting the secretary of the treasury from engaging in commerce or business, it was declared today by high administration officials in commenting on the attack on the secretary made yesterday by Senator Watson, Democrat, of Georgia.

The law was called to Mr. Mellon's attention, officials said, when he was considering the invitation of President Harding to join the cabinet. A number of legal authorities were consulted, it was declared, who gave it as their opinion that the mere ownership of stock in corporations did not constitute engaging, directly or indirectly, "in commerce or business."

Before accepting the treasury portfolio officials said, Mr. Mellon's only active participation in business was upon the directorate of a number of banks and from these he resigned before entering Mr. Harding's cabinet. Since becoming treasury secretary, Mr. Mellon, officials asserted, has not devoted a moment's time to private business.

Sales Tax Is Only Way To Raise Money For Bonus Says Harding

LARGE NUMBER OF 15 YEAR OLDS MARRIED

Sixteen Hundred Boys and 12,834 Girls of That Age Married in 1920 According to U. S. Census.

(By The Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. - Sixteen hundred boys and 12,834 girls, 15 years of age in the United States were listed as married in 1920, the Census Bureau announced today in a statement presenting a special analysis of marital statistics. Eighty two boys and 499 girls of the same age were recorded as widowed or divorced.

The analysis revealed a distinct increase during recent years or since the 1910 census in the percentage of married persons for each year of age from 15 to 34, especially among the younger members of this group. The age group from 25 to 34, inclusive, also showed an increase in the ratio of married persons in the decade, although less pronounced, especially among the women, while the proportion for persons 45 years of age and older showed a decrease.

In 1920, the figures show, 3,222 boys of 16 years, or three tenths of one per cent of the total of that age, compared with one tenth of one per cent in 1910, were married, while those 17 years of age married numbered 7,899, or eight tenths of one per cent of the total of that age compared with half that proportion ten years previously.

The number of married girls 16 years of age increased from 34,829 or 3.7 per cent of the total female population at that age, in 1910, to 41,626, or 4.2 per cent of the corresponding total in 1920.

BIG PER CENT OF SOUTHERN TRAINS ON TIME

(By The Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, Feb. 15. - During the year 1921 the Southern Railway System operated 179,835 passenger trains, many of them being through trains operated in connection with other lines and covering distances from 1000 to 1500 miles. Of this great number of trains, 172,182 or 95.1 per cent ran on schedule or made up time on the Southern and 166,277 or 92.5 per cent reached final terminal on time, Vice-President Henry W. Miller in charge of operation announced today.

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY OF BANK OF KERNERSVILLE

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C., Feb. 16. - Greedy Cheek, J. D., Crawford, Ray and Charles Huffman, were arrested in Washington, deputy sheriff about 2 o'clock this morning and committed to jail here on the charge of attempting to break in the Bank of Kernersville, a state institution in a town 11 miles southeast of Winston-Salem. The telephone operator, who was in the exchange, located over the bank, heard a window bell and looking out she saw four men trying to enter the bank. She gave the alarm and the men fled. The automobile in which they were traveling was tracked in the snow by a posse from Kernersville to Waukegon, where the men were arrested.

WARMER WEATHER IS PROMISED FOR FRIDAY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. - A disturbance of considerable intensity is central this morning off Cape Hatteras and moving rapidly northeastward. There have been snows and rains within the last 24 hours in West Virginia, Tennessee and in the south Atlantic and east Gulf States. Rains are heavy in the Carolinas and Georgia; freezing temperatures prevail this morning as far south as extreme northwest Florida. The temperature will rise Friday in the east Gulf states and the interior of the south Atlantic States. Storm warnings remain displayed on the Atlantic Coast at and north of Cape Hatteras.

JENCKES SPINNING CO. HAD STRIKE ON HANDS

PAWTTUCKET, R. I., Feb. 16. - The card and spinning departments of the Jenckes Spinning Company resumed operations today after having been closed since Monday, because of walkouts in connection with the strike against wage reductions. The departments employ 500 persons. Union leaders said those who went to work were not considered strikers but were persons sent home when the departments were forced to close. The Jenckes Company, which employs 2,000 hands here, had notified all employees to report for work today if they wished to retain their positions.

FAIR TONIGHT AND FRIDAY, COLDER

(By The Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. - Storm warnings were continued today by the Weather Bureau from Cape Hatteras to Aastport, Me., with the information that a disturbance of considerable intensity was central off Cape Hatteras and moving rapidly northeastward. Strong gales were forecast this afternoon and tonight.

SIX INCH SNOW IN VIRGINIA

RICHMOND, VA., Feb. 16. - Crippled telephone and trolley service in Richmond and vicinity, and similar conditions in many other parts of the State were reported here early today, as the result of last night's snowstorm, which resulted in six inches depth.

THE COTTON MARKET

CLOSING BIDS ON THE NEW YORK MARKET NEW YORK, Feb. 16. - Cotton futures closed at a decline. March 17.57 May 17.30; July 16.80; October 16.36; December 16.29.

TODAY'S COTTON MARKET

Strict to good middling17c Cotton seed \$10

UNLESS CONGRESS SEES FIT TO ENACT TAX BONUS SHOULD BE DEFERRED

Harding's Communication Leaves Bonus Situation in More Complicated Fix Than Ever - Would Defer Bonus Measure Temporarily Unless Sales Tax Plan is Adopted.

(By The Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. - Enactment of a sales tax as the only practical means of raising money for a soldier bonus was stated to be the view of President Harding by Representative Longworth, of Ohio, a republican member of the House Ways and Means committee, after a call today at the White House. The Ohio Representative did not say whether that view would be set forth by the President in his letter to members of the financial committees of Congress.

Such an executive view also was reflected by Senator Frelinghuysen, Republican, New Jersey, who called at the White House while the President's letter was in course of preparation.

TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR AMERICAN LEGION MARKER

Meeting of Those Interested in Erecting Memorial to Gaston County Soldiers Called For Tuesday Evening, February 21.

Next Tuesday evening, February 21, there will be held an informal gathering of all those interested in the matter of a marker or memorial to Gaston county's dead soldiers. The meeting has been called for the courthouse at 7:30 o'clock. It is especially important that all members of the American Legion, the Woman's Auxiliary the War Mothers, friends and relatives of the Gaston county soldiers who died in service, be present. Special invitations have been sent. All other citizens, who are interested in this movement are also requested to be present.

MAY CUT ARMY AND NAVY BILLS FOR BONUS FUND

Neither Tax Nor Bond Provisions Are Supported - Harding's Expected Message on Financing of Bonus Has Not Come.

(By The Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. - With neither the tax nor bond proposal for financing the soldiers' bonus receiving general support and both known to be regarded with disfavor by President Harding, although Congress continued without official word from the executive of the subject, House leaders were giving close study today to the possibility of providing the necessary funds by slashing items of the annual appropriation bills.

CHARGE DAUGHTERY WITH BE-FRIENDING MAIL ORDER HOUSES

(By The Associated Press.) CHICAGO, Feb. 16. - H. E. Hart, of Long Prairie, Minn., speaking before the Interstate Merchants' Council here today, said that there seemed to be only one class of merchandise distributors that have a "good standing with either the democratic or republican administration and those are the mail order houses."

PACIFIC TREATY COMES INTO LIMELIGHT AGAIN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. - The four-power Pacific treaty, which was negotiated at the Washington conference, again assumed today a prominent place in Senate affairs, both in the Senate floor and before the Foreign Relations Committee.

FIVE CHILDREN DEAD FROM DOSE OF SALTS

(By The Associated Press.) CENTRALIA, WASH., Feb. 16. - The package of epsom salts from which Mrs. Edward Rhodes, of Klaber, Wash., administered doses to her five children last Saturday, after which all five died, contained about ten per cent of an alkaloid poison, according to Hermann Allen, prosecuting attorney of Lewis county, following an analysis of the remainder of the package by the State chemist. An analysis of the stomach of one of the children has not been completed. Mr. Allen said that an inquest probably would be held.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CALENDAR

Thursday, 4:00 Board of Directors, 5:00 Community Service Play Rehearsal, 7:30 Pythian Band, Friday, 7:45 Membership Meeting.

BELMONT AND DALLAS MEET IN FIRST PRELIMINARY

Scheduled to Play at Belmont Next Tuesday - Bessemer City and Kings Mountain to Play Same Date.

GREENSBORO, Feb. 15. - Athletic directors and coaches of 51 high schools in western North Carolina met here to night and fixed a schedule for the elimination games to decide the winners of the high school basketball championship in western North Carolina.

The schedule follows: Group No. 1 - Concord at Charlotte, February 21; Huntersville at Mooresville, February 21; Dallas at Belmont, February 21; Bessemer at Kings Mountain, February 21.

The winners of the Charlotte-Concord match will play Mooresville-Huntersville winner at Davidson, February 23.

The winners in the Belmont-Dallas bout will meet the Kings Mountain-Bessemer City winners at Charlotte on February 25. The winners of the above bouts will play at Davidson on February 25.

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J. L. ARMFIELD IS NOW IN JAIL AT LEXINGTON UNTIL BOND IS RAISED

Former Thomasville Banker Who Once Dealt in Thousands Borrows an Overcoat to Wear from Lawyer's Office to Jail - White Haired Father-in-Law Was There and Both Men Cry as They Meet.

LEXINGTON, Feb. 15. - Falling up to an early hour tonight to provide bond in the sum of \$175,000, Jesse L. Armfield, former president of the Bank of Thomasville, which failed August 22, brought back here today from Mexico City by a host of Police George H. Wimberly of Thomasville to face charges of embezzlement, abstraction and misappropriation of the bank's funds, went to jail at 2:30 this afternoon, after spending the afternoon in an attorney's office in custody of Sheriff Fred C. Sink.

His court proceedings will be brought before some judge as early as possible in an effort to have the bond reduced, it was stated by counsel at the time Mr. Armfield was conducted to jail. On his way to incarceration for the night he signed the bankers' corpus application before a notary public.

It had been expected all afternoon that members of his family would arrive here and sign the bond, it being stated that they would be here and would be given as required by the sheriff and then steps taken in court to have it reduced. However, no one had come at nightfall, although a message is said to have been received earlier in the afternoon from a wealthy brother of the accused, that he would come here. The brother is said, however, to have stated this morning over the telephone to the sheriff that he would not sign a bond of such proportions as requested. The amount he perhaps the largest ever asked in Davidson county and attorneys here have stated that they believed it without parallel in this section.

HABEAS CORPUS MAIN HOPE

In the event that the relatives, whom it was thought might have been delayed by the roads, should reach here later in the evening, it was stated that the bond would hardly be signed, the accused banker, instead, to rely on the habeas corpus proceedings in the hope of a better term.

At 6 o'clock this evening, counsel were in consultation and stated that the time and place for the habeas corpus proceedings would perhaps not be decided upon until after the arrival of a train reaching here at 9 o'clock tonight.

BEEN THROUGH HELL

When he arrived here a dozen or two Thomasville men were about the courthouse, but friends of the Greensboro man appeared scarce. Of his relatives and the friends of his days of affluence, only the white-haired father-in-law, ex-Sheriff C. M. Griffith, of Thomasville, was there to greet him. Both men cried when they met. Up to nightfall no relatives had reached here except a brother-in-law, Frank Armfield, of Concord.

FRRIENDS MISSING

Mrs. J. L. Armfield is at her home at Greensboro, it was reported here, and Armfield inquired about the welfare of her and children through Mr. Griffith. The man who dealt in thousands of dollars for years was without an overcoat and borrowed one for the ride from his attorney's office to the jail. He told the sheriff that he had expected to go into the oil business in Mexico and make enough money to pay off his obligations in this State. Prior to his arrest he had been selling accident insurance for two or three months.

TREASURY OFFICIALS LOOK FOR ONLY GRADUAL BETTERMENT IN BUSINESS

(By The Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. - Business conditions throughout the country are better than they were a year ago, in the view of Treasury officials who developed, however, that the improvement has been gradual and there was no immediate prospect of a sudden pick-up in business activities. Some reasonable activity might be looked for in the spring, they asserted, but in general only gradual betterment was to be looked for.

BRITISH EVACUATION OF SOUTH IRELAND EXPECTED TO CONTINUE WITHOUT STOP

Michael Collins Is Evidently Satisfied With Conference With Government Officials - House of Commons Ready to Take Up Irish Free State Bill.

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. Easton. Mr. Hoffmeister is particularly anxious that every member of the chorus be present Friday night.

WANT RECEIVERSHIP FOR ATHENS DAILY NEWS

New Daily Newspaper in Athens Has Hard Time - Company Is Hopelessly Involved.

ATHENS, Ga., Feb. 16. - A petition for a receiver for The Athens Daily News, a new daily newspaper published in Athens, was presented to Judge W. L. Hodges, in superior court, of the Judge Stanton Foster, in Athens, tonight, with headquarters in Athens, leaving Judge Hodges to order the officers of The Athens Daily News to show cause before him at Hartwell on March 14 why the company should not be permanently placed in the hands of a receiver.

The petition was filed by T. J. Simmons, former editor and general manager of The Athens Daily News for the past four months, who has had charge of the paper from its first issue, September 27 to January 15. The petition was presented to Judge Hodges by Hon. Lamar Rucker, of Athens, as attorney for Mr. Simmons.

The petition alleges that the company is hopelessly insolvent, stating that the total liabilities of the company are \$50,000. It also alleges that Simmons' contract with the company has been violated without cause and without notice to him.

BANK OF ENGLAND REDUCES ITS DISCOUNT RATE

LONDON, Feb. 16. - The Bank of England today reduced its rate of discount to four and one-half per cent.

The discount rate of the Bank of England has been five per cent since November 3, last, when it was reduced from the five and one-half per cent rate established on the preceding July 21. Today's action was forecast in a London dispatch last night, in which it was pointed out that the treasury had suspended temporarily its issue of 5 per cent treasury bonds.

The highest rate was reached in August, 1914, after the outbreak of the world war, when it was set at ten per cent which had only been equalled on two previous occasions, those of the panics of 1857 and 1866. Since then the rate has fluctuated, but the figures today is the lowest since the outbreak of the war.

PART OF TAYLOR'S PROPERTY IS REPORTED MISSING

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 16. - Oil stock and money, believed to have constituted part of the estate of William Desmond Taylor, murdered film director, are missing, according to Charles A. Jones, investigator for the district attorney. Jones made this statement after checking on Taylor's personal papers and belongings, and then conferring with Mrs. R. M. Berger, an income tax expert, with whom Taylor is said to have discussed his 1921 income tax report a short time before he was killed.

From this it was learned, according to Jones, that Taylor was prepared to pay a tax on securities and money which have not been located.

Further investigation into the murder was planned for today. Thomas Leo Woolwine, district attorney, stated witnesses would not, however, be summoned to his office, but would be questioned at their homes by his agents. It was believed the publicity attending their visits to his office frightened persons in keeping to themselves what might prove valuable clues.

SAY TWO SOLDIERS TOOK PART IN LYNNING

ELLSVILLE, Ga., Feb. 16. - That two United States soldiers were with the mob that took Will Jones, a negro, from a hiding place near here last Sunday night and shot him so badly that he died within a few hours, is the information that Sheriff Battle claims he has in hand.

Two John Doe warrants are held by Sheriff Battle for the arrest of the enlisted men, and it is expected that their identification will be completed during the day. The men came to Ellsville several days before the killing of Jones, riding a government motorcycle, the number of which Schley county officers say they have in their possession.

JUDGE REVERSES JURY VERDICT IN NEGRO'S TRIAL

ANDERSON, S. C., Feb. 16. - After Calhoun Ware, negro railroad fireman from Abbeville, negro, had been found guilty of murder of A. Mary, white foreman of a road construction gang, yesterday afternoon, Judge W. H. Townsend reversed the jury's verdict and granted a new trial to the defendant. Judge Townsend held that the State had not proven malice on the part of the defendant and that there was no evidence to support a verdict of murder.

LOCAL COTTON 17 CENTS

THE WEATHER

Fair tonight and Friday; colder in east and central portions tonight; slowly rising temperature Friday.

116 N. Y. SOLDIERS COMMITTED SUICIDE

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 16. - One hundred and sixteen New York State soldiers took their own lives overseas during the world war, says a statement issued today by Adjutant General J. Leslie Kincaid. One hundred were enlisted men and sixteen were officers.

"While it is impossible at this late date to assign a proper cause leading to such individual suicide," said the statement, "the officers particularly were overcome with the feeling that winning the war was an impossible task and that the world's culture was to be swept by the triumph of German arms. Impulses of a more personal character were evidenced in the suicides of the enlisted personnel."

LESLIE HARRINGTON THOUGHT TO BE IN PALM BEACH

CHICAGO, Feb. 16. - The police were awaiting word from Palm Beach, Fla., today, in their search for Leslie Harrington, missing head of one of three convicts here said to have defrauded foreign born citizens of many million dollars. A woman said by the police to be Harrington's wife, was located in Palm Beach and is being kept under surveillance. Federal authorities think Harrington is enroute to join her there.

Harrington fled Chicago Saturday after the arrest of Raymond J. Bischoff for co-operation in which he is said by the police to have lost \$1,500,000 invested with him by six thousand foreign born stockholders workers.

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