

DO NOT ACCEPT THE DOCTOR'S THEORY AS TO GHOST OF ANTI-GONISH

Caledonian Mills People Still Think There Are Superhuman Agencies at Work—Do Not Accept Human Theory.

(By The Associated Press.) HALIFAX, N. S., March 16.—While Dr. Walter Franklin Prince, New York scientist and lover of ghosts, is satisfied that entirely human and not superhuman agencies constituted the Antigoniish ghost, it was learned today that residents near Caledonian Mills, which is near the MacDonald home, were reluctant to accept his version that Mary Ellen MacDonald, 15, was at the root of their phenomenon.

Dr. Prince, in a lengthy report, the fruit of a week's stay in the "haunted house" of Alexander MacDonald, declared the adopted daughter of the old farmer was author of the supposedly supernatural fires and pranks among the live stock which drove the family from the old homestead in the dead of winter. The ghostly slaps which Harold Widdien reporter, and P. O. Carroll, provincial detective, claimed to have received were attributed to natural phenomena by Dr. Prince.

Skeptics of Antigoniish county are shaking their heads today, however, and placing their tongues in their cheeks. They are seemingly loath so easily to relinquish the importance that attached to their section of the country so long as the outside world was fascinated with tales of what they are wont to believe was a frankish wrath of designs on the MacDonalds. They characterized as absurd the scientist's nomination of Mary Ellen as combined author and cast of their "mystery" while in a "dream state" and the victim of an "altered conscience."

INSURANCE COMPANIES NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR SUIT

MEMPHIS, TENN., March 16.—Dr. Waller Sillers, and N. S. Carr, members of the Mississippi legislative committee investigating the charges of Governor Lee M. Russell, of Mississippi, that certain fire insurance companies maintained a "pernicious" lobby at Jackson, and were responsible for the suit for \$100,000 damages filed against Governor Russell by Miss Frances Birkhead, returned to Jackson today after securing depositions from Miss Birkhead and Earl King, a Memphis attorney.

These two depositions Dr. Sillers said today, tended to show that the insurance companies could have had nothing to do with the filing of the damage suit as they indicate that Miss Birkhead was endeavoring to have her suit filed prior to the time the insurance litigation was initiated in Mississippi.

Saying that he and Mr. Gore had been instructed to make no part of the depositions public until they had been submitted to the committee, Dr. Sillers said that a meeting of the committee would be held tomorrow, at which the depositions of Miss Birkhead and Mr. King would be read.

Whether Miss Birkhead will be asked to testify in person before the committee will be determined after consideration of depositions, Dr. Sillers said.

14-YEAR-OLD BOY TO BE TILDEN'S PARTNER

NEW YORK, March 16.—A 14-year-old Philadelphia boy, will be partner to William T. Tilden II, world's indoor tennis champion, in the men's national indoor tennis championship tournament, starting here March 25. Mr. Tilden announced his selection of the boy today. He recently announced that young Weiner was to be his protegee, saying he believed the youngster to be a future Vincent Richards.

Although entries are not closed until next Wednesday, sixteen nationally known players have already sent in their names for the singles and two teams for the doubles. Besides Tilden and Weiner, the doubles entries include Mr. Edgar T. Appleby, national and international billiard champion, and partner, and Armand L. Brunneau, of Brooklyn, and Jay L. Anderson, New York.

Tilden will not play in this year's singles championships.

VOTES WOULD FAVOR SUSPENSION OF WORK

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., March 16.—Counting of the strike ballots cast by the union bituminous coal miners of the United States and Canada were begun today at the international headquarters here of the United Mine Workers of America. Union officials predicted the canvass would show a large majority in favor of a suspension of work on April 1, but announced that the vote would be made public only by percentage, a practice which will not show the exact number of votes cast for and against the walkout.

Mine workers leaders here finally have given up all hope of obtaining a settlement in the central competitive field comprising western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois and thus the vote automatically will bring about a walkout, union officials said, explaining that a formal strike order would probably not be sent from headquarters here.

Although the conference on a wage scale for the Pennsylvania anthracite fields which is being held in New York, officials here felt that the two sides would be so far apart no settlement would be reached before April 1, resulting in the anthracite miners joining in the suspension of work.

SEMNACHER IS GRANTED DIVORCE FROM WIFE

LOS ANGELES, Calif., March 16.—Al Semmacher, manager for Miss Virginia Rappe, film actress, whose death at San Francisco resulted in the manslaughter charge against Roscoe C. Arbusack, was granted a divorce from Lucille Semmacher, in the superior court yesterday. He charged Mrs. Semmacher had deserted him, and named a man, who, he said, was a fugitive from justice, as co-respondent.

DOCTOR STONE SAYS THERE IS TOO MUCH PRUDERY

CHICAGO, March 16.—"Petting" and even a kiss, if stolen under the eyes of a competent chaperon, were championed by Dr. Lee A. Stone, of the Chicago department of health, in a speech the State Health Commission.

"There is too much prudery afloat today," he said. "I can see nothing wrong in a young man becoming affectionate if the young woman is willing and its done under proper safeguards."

SENATOR THOMAS J. HEFLIN HERE FRIDAY, MARCH 24

Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner to Be Featured by Address of Alabama Orator—For Membership Only.

Notices are going out today to the members of the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce for the annual dinner Friday night, March 24th, on which occasion United States Senator Thomas J. Heflin, of Alabama, has promised to be the chief orator. Owing to the present size of the membership roll it will be impossible to provide for any guests and members are asked not to request reservations for friends for this reason.

The annual dinner is always a great occasion for the members of the local commercial organization and the members at this time are guests of the chamber of commerce. It is planned to make the affair this year of unusual interest.

DALLAS DEFEATS BELMONT BY SCORE OF 30 TO 27

Close Game Goes to Up-Country Lads—Play Another Game in Belmont Friday Afternoon.

By virtue of an overwhelming lead piled up in the first half, the Dallas high school team defeated Belmont in the first game of a series to decide the championship of the county, at Dallas Wednesday afternoon by the score of 30 to 27. If the game had lasted five minutes longer the score might have been different. At the end of the first half Dallas was leading by the lopsided score of 24 to 8. The Belmonters went back in and held the home team to six points in the second half while they scored 19. Both teams were badly off in their shooting, the outdoor court and wind currents being probably responsible for this.

The features of the game were the guarding of the two Poyssours for Dallas and the goal shooting of Ratchford, for Belmont. The two teams met in the second game of the series Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock. W. G. Gaston, of Gastonia, refereed the game which was free from objections and rough play.

PRESBYTERIANS TO OBSERVE WEEK OF SELF-DEFENSE

(By The Associated Press.) NEW YORK, March 16.—More than 3,000,000 men, women and children, members of the Presbyterian Church in all parts of the United States, will observe many of life's minor pleasures for a week, so that they may contribute the equivalent in money to church work. It was announced today. This is known as "Self-Defensive Week" and was suggested by Dr. Henry C. Swearingen, moderator.

The money donated as a result of the self-defense is to be given to the funds for missionary, educational and benevolent boards.

Women and girls are said to intend giving up candy, face powder, hair nets, movies and sodas among other things close to the feminine heart. Men and boys, it is declared, plan to forego expensive lunches, smoking, chewing gum, pleasure rides, theaters, golfing and gifts of flowers and candies.

TWO ARGUMENTS REMAIN IN THE COURT CASE

(By The Associated Press.) TALBOTTON, GA., March 16.—Two arguments remained to be delivered today in the trial of Major Lee H. Coart, charged with the murder of A. B. McNeice, but spectators were speculating on whether the defense would accept the challenge of Solicitor General C. F. McLaughlin to reopen the case.

The solicitor yesterday offered to waive all objections to introducing witnesses to uphold the charges made by Coart when he accused the slain county school superintendent of having had improper relations with Mrs. Coart. If the defense did not bring forward those witnesses, said the solicitor after referring to the fact that the former army officer was the only witness in his own defense, they stood "proven a crowd of bluffers."

Recess was taken until today without the offer having been taken up and counsel for the defense indicated to newspaper men that they would take no action on it, saying that "sufficient reply" would be given when J. Render Terrell made the concluding argument for the defense.

PROMINENT SHELBY MAN. H. E. KENDALL, KILLS HIMSELF

(By The Associated Press.) SHELBY, March 15.—H. E. Kendall, one of Shelby's most prominent business men, fatally shot himself through the head this afternoon.

Mr. Kendall had been suffering for two months with melancholia which was responsible for his rash act. Surviving are his wife and four sons, Wesley Kendall, city editor of the Rocky Mount Telegram; Frank A., student at Trinity College; Henry and Whitlaw, of this place.

MYSTERY OF THE DEATH OF CIRCUS PROPRIETOR IS STILL UNSOLVED

John T. Bruner Who Was Shot to Death in His Home Last Friday Is Said to Have Known That He Was Doomed—Wrote Letter Intimating Such.

(By The Associated Press.) RIVERSIDE, N. J., March 16.—Mystery in the slaying of John T. Bruner, circus proprietor, shot to death in his home last Friday night, was apparently far from solution today. Detective Elias Parker declared that publication of the letter said to have been written by Bruner to his sister, Mrs. Elyza Beth Jaeshe, of Cary, Ill., in which he said he was "being framed in his own household," and that he feared for his life, had greatly hindered the investigation. "We would not be justified in making arrests at the present time on the strength of that letter," said Parker. "Any one can write a letter accusing some one of a crime, but to prove that a certain person did commit the crime is another matter."

"We know positively that Mrs. Bruner did not fire the shot, we want to arrest the man who actually did the killing and the other arrests might follow. He is the man we are after and not Mrs. Bruner."

Mrs. Hazel Parkman, the 16-year-old daughter of Bruner, said that her father undoubtedly had written the letter in a fit of anger. "My father did not know what he was writing when he wrote that letter," she said. "Father was subjected to fit of anger and in one of those he wrote that letter to my aunt. My stepmother never tried to lead me away, and also I know right from wrong." Mrs. Bruner also denied the allegations contained in the letter.

The authorities today were still trying to locate George T. Werner, a former chief at the winter quarters of Bruner's circus at Williamstown, N. J., who was discharged several weeks ago. He is not suspected of any connection with the killing, Detective Parker said, but it is believed that he may have information that would aid in the investigation. Parker made it plain that Werner would not be arrested. "I merely want to question him," he said.

STREET CAR COMPANY IN AUGUSTA CUTS OUT SERVICE

(By The Associated Press.) AUGUSTA, Ga., March 16.—Augusta this morning is without street car service for the first time since 1890, except during brief periods of labor trouble. Employees were not notified until they reported for work this morning that service had been suspended.

Users of the street cars had a difficulty in getting to work as the jitneys gave ample service. No complaints have been heard as to lack of service. The Augusta trolley line, which is interstate, is operating as usual.

City council is expected to meet during the day to discuss the situation. It is understood that street car service will be resumed at once if the city will agree to the street railway company's demands. The only point upon which the city and the company failed to agree is that requiring the casual passenger to pay a ten-cent fare. The company, as required by city council, agreed to allow a five-cent fare to school teachers and children and a seven-cent fare to workers are purchased in multiples of five. But the street car management refuse to grant a seven-cent fare to casual passengers, and council notified the company that unless a seven-cent fare was granted all passengers except school children and teachers that it would permit the jitneys to operate on all streets of the city.

It is estimated that more than 200 jitneys are in operation today, and so far as could be learned they are handling the situation satisfactorily.

SAY PROTECTIVE TARIFF IN SOUTH IS DESIRED.

FORT WORTH, Texas, March 16.—Answering the charges of F. B. Gooding, chairman of the tariff bloc in the United States Senate, that if the South adopted protective tariff it should vote for it, approximately 200 men and women, delegates to the annual Southern Tariff Congress, in session here, late yesterday, gave a rising ballot authorizing its officers to inform the tariff bloc in the upper house that a protective rate on raw materials in the South is desired.

Work of the Southern Tariff Association in attempting to obtain a protective tariff for raw materials in the South was endorsed by a unanimous vote. The committee which will be sent to Washington to confer with the tariff bloc will be instructed to advise the bloc that the people of the South are overwhelmingly in favor of protective tariff.

The resolution to that effect, which was adopted by the congress, was signed by 650 presidents of banks in the south and 233 newspapers.

All speakers today declared that protective tariff was vital to the interests of southerners in all walks of business life. That a low rate will mean literal destruction of the farmers of the South, as well as the ranchman and manufacturer, was declared by three speakers.

ANNOUNCES THAT EGYPT IS INDEPENDENT STATE

CAIRO, EGYPT, March 16.—A receipt issued by the Sultan Ahmed Faid Pasha last night announced that Egypt had become an independent and sovereign state and that the sultan will assume the title king of Egypt.

WIRELESS TELEPHONE PROGRAM FOR TONIGHT

Music Program. Fred W. Lotz, pianist, organist, and teacher Mrs. Etta Cunningham, soprano soloist of Carnegie First P. Church. Miss Betty Bell, contralto soloist of Carnegie First U. P. Church. Chester Humphreys, tenor soloist of Carnegie First U. P. Church. Frank Cuthbert, bass soloist of Shady Side Presbyterian Church. 1. Carmena, Wilson, Quartet. 2. Tenor solo from "I Pagliacci", Leoncavallo, Chester Humphreys. 3. Waltzes, Kountz, Fred W. Lotz. 4. a. Aria from "Firefly", Friml. b. An Old-Fashioned Town, Mrs. Etta Cunningham. 5. "Tis Thy Wedding Morn, Cowan, Quartet. 6. Aria, My Heart at Thy Sweet Voice from "Samson and Delilah", St. Saens, Miss Betty Bell. 7. Marche Militaire, Schubert-Tansig, Fred W. Lotz. 8. Selected, Frank Cuthbert. 9. Trio from Othello, "Praise Ye," Verdi, Mrs. Etta Cunningham, Chester, Humphreys and Frank Cuthbert. 10. Sextette from "Lucia" Donizetti, Quartet.

SOY BEAN EXHIBIT TO BE FEATURE OF FAIR

Will Include Other Legume Crops as Well—Fostered by First National Bank of Cherryville.

Expanding the soy bean show of last year into a soil improvement exhibit far more extensive in scope and in addition putting on a corn show, the First National Bank of Cherryville has decided to foster a big project this year which will prove a most interesting feature of the Big Gaston County Fair in October, it was stated by the executive secretary of the fair this morning. M. L. Mauney, president of the First National, has sanctioned the plans and Andrew Manning of the bank staff, who made a great success of the corn show in the past and the soy bean exhibit last year, will have personal supervision of the project.

The corn show put on by the Cherryville bank in 1920 attracted attention over many states but last year the bank in itself fostered the soy bean project at the Sunnyside Community Fair visited to put on a special corn show. This year Sunnyside people have decided to emphasize every effort in putting on their community fair, which has always ranked high, and the bank will again stage the corn show.

MONTAGUE PLAYERS DELIGHT LARGE AUDIENCE

One of the most delightful concerts of the season was the program rendered by the Montague players at the Central school auditorium Wednesday evening. Their repertoire consisted of light opera selections and a Japanese comedy. Mr. and Mrs. Eichenberger, Mr. Richardson and Mrs. Birkhead formed the troupe and every one was an artist. Mrs. Eichenberger presented as Miss Montague, possesses a fine contralto voice and her work both in song and at the piano was exceptionally fine. She was ably assisted in expression, Mr. Richardson was a versatile comedian and took every part assigned with perfect ease. The other two members of the troupe, Mr. Eichenberger and Miss Fairchild were equally clever. All in all, the attraction was thoroughly enjoyable.

Outstanding on the program were Mr. Richardson's rendition of Kipling's "On the Road to Mandalay," his work in costume as a Japanese courtier in the comedy, the singing of Miss Montague and her recital of one of Harrie's stories, and the tenor singing of Mr. Eichenberger.

GRAND OPERA SINGER SAYS SHE THREW CHAUFFEUR OUT OF HER APARTMENT

(By The Associated Press.) ST. LOUIS, March 16.—Mme. Margarete Matzenauer, grand opera singer, in a statement to The Associated Press today denied statements of her chauffeur husband, Floyd Glotzbach, that he had deserted her, and emphasized that she "threw him out of my New York apartment March 26."

The diva asserted she has pending in New York proceedings for absolute divorce on the alleged grounds of infidelity, naming as co-respondent an old lover of about 70, of Carmel, Calif., and that papers were served on Glotzbach January 27.

The singer declared she had given Glotzbach \$150 a month, but in spite of this she "had to pay for every thread he wore." She stated that although she allowed him to "live the life of a Prince," he publicly denied their marriage in a letter to a newspaper in Carmel.

Mme. Matzenauer, touching on a report from San Francisco that she expected to become a mother, said she notified her husband to this effect a month ago, after consulting a physician of Ann Arbor, Mich., but that she had learned since that her belief was unfounded.

THE WEATHER

North Carolina, fair tonight and Friday; slightly warmer Friday.

GASTON MAN HELD FOR SERIES OF CRIMES AT KNOXVILLE

John Honeycutt, Now in Jail in Tennessee City, Believed to Be "Midnight Marauder" Who Committed Murder and Rape and Entered Many Knoxville Homes—Chief Orr Assisted in Weaving Web of Evidence Around Him.

John Honeycutt, alias J. H. Murry, most of his life a resident here, is in jail at Knoxville, Tenn., where he is held on the charge of shooting Capt. J. J. Schneider of that city last November and who, the police officials of Knoxville believe, is the "Midnight Marauder" who killed two people there last fall and entered a score or more of homes. It is understood that he will be tried at an early date in Knoxville. Much of the information which led up to the arrest of this man was furnished the police department of the Tennessee city by Chief of Police Orr, of Gastonia.

Honeycutt, or Murry, was arrested a few weeks ago in Shortland, Ala., where he was working around a cotton mill. With him at the time he was arrested was Mrs. Nettie Myers, of Covington, Tenn. Her husband, Robert Myers, assisted the officers in locating the couple and bringing them back for trial. Mrs. Myers is being held as a material witness.

Last October and November Knoxville was greatly stirred by a series of crimes all of which were very similar and were apparently perpetrated by the same person. The criminal's object seemed to be to attack women. The Knoxville officers were baffled and the crime wave became so rampant that citizens of kindred poses and still out at night in an effort to apprehend this "midnight marauder." It was in a battle between one of these poses and the fleeing criminal on the night of November 2nd that Capt. Schneider was shot.

Chief of Police E. M. Haynes, of Knoxville, sent a circular letter broadcast over the country describing the crimes that were being committed in that city and asking if any other cities were having a similar experience. The only town heard from was Gastonia. At that time this city was having a similar experience in that many homes were being entered by the criminal. Chief Orr got into communication with the Knoxville officials. When Honeycutt was suspected he conducted an investigation of Honeycutt's record here, at Roanoke City and at Knoxville. It is believed that he was here at the time some of the crimes were committed a year or more ago.

Recent issues of The Knoxville Journal and Tribune carry detailed reports of the arrest of Honeycutt and of his crimes. This paper says:

More than 100 police chiefs were written personal letters regarding the capture of the man who shot the city. Mr. Watkins could exhibit a file of newspaper front pages, some reported a few scattered instances similar to those described by Chief Haynes and every report that appeared promising was investigated. Little Rock had been visited by a series of crimes somewhat similar to those that terrorized Knoxville.

Mr. Watkins made a visit to Arkansas to learn the particulars and found that Little Rock's "marauder" had been a negro, who was killed previous to the commission of some of the more recent crimes in Knoxville.

From the chief of police at Gastonia, N. C., came two letters describing the operations of a marauder. The particulars correspond almost in detail to the characteristics of Knoxville's marauder. One says he and his wife and Honeycutt were in Gastonia at the time the series of crimes were committed there. This fact forms an important link in the chain of circumstantial evidence that the department has.

POLICE BELIEVE ADAMS HAS COMMITTED MANY CRIMES

Negro Taken to Charlotte Jail For Sake Keeping Confesses to Three Crimes—Strong Circumstantial Evidence That He Has Entered Many Gastonia Homes During Past Two Years.

In the person of Presley Adams, the young negro who was spirited out of town Sunday afternoon by the Gastonia police department when matters of a possible housing were in the air, Chief of Police Orr believes that he has the man who is responsible for a long series of crimes committed in this city and suburbs during the past two years. Adams was taken to the Mecklenburg county jail at Charlotte where he will be held until he is brought back here for trial for a capital offense in April.

As the investigation of the nefarious uses by Adams in the crimes to which he has already confessed, namely the entering of the homes of Mr. John Moore and Mr. G. F. McLaughlin last Thursday night, progresses, the police officials become more "thoroughly convinced" that Adams is the man who has been entering homes in Gastonia during the past two years. Stubbornly denying his guilt at first, Adams confessed to the two crimes above mentioned. He took the officers to these houses, showed them how he entered and gave minute details which stamp him as undoubtedly the one wanted for these offenses.

During the past two years scores of Gastonia homes have been entered by a man who, almost invariably, followed the same methods. He always entered in his stocking feet and was usually dressed so as to give the appearance of a man in his nightclothes. He usually answered the light bulbs so that the inmates of the house could not turn on lights without considerable delay. The movements of this man indicated in almost every instance that his object was criminal as a rule. In one instance at least his object was accomplished, the victim being a woman in East Gastonia. He always managed to get away. At the Mutual mill last Thursday night Adams entered a house and has since confessed to this crime. Here he was shot at several times but escaped injury and made his escape. Many of these crimes have never been referred to in the newspapers but the police department has a long list of them. Chief Orr and his men have worked almost unceasingly for two years to apprehend this much-wanted criminal but have been baffled. However, Chief Orr is firmly of the opinion that Adams is the perpetrator of all of them and thinks that, before he is through with Adams, the latter will be connected with at least a majority of them.

LINEBERGER IS NOT SATISFIED WITH FORM OF SOLDIER BONUS BILL

Wants House To Have Chance To Vote On Harding's Proposal That Bonus Be Financed By Sales Tax—Congressman From California, Former Service Man, Gets Many Signatures To Petition.

(By The Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, March 16.—A petition for a conference of republican House members for next Monday night to consider the compromise soldiers' bonus bill was put in circulation today by Representative Lineberger, of California, a former service man, and received a number of signatures within a short time.

Fifty signatures will be necessary for the calling of the conference. The action taken by the conference would not be binding on the members when the measure came up for consideration on the floor.

Several former service men, members of House, have signed the petition and in addition other members who have been counselling delay in taking up the bonus bill, have attached their signatures. Representative Lineberger is not satisfied with the form of the soldiers' bonus bill, and in a speech in the House early in the week he urged that the Ways and Means committee give the House an opportunity to vote on President Harding's proposal that the bonus be financed by means of a sales tax.

GILLETT TO CONFER WITH CHAIRMAN FORNEY

(By The Associated Press.) ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA., March 16.—Speaker Gillett said today that he would confer with Chairman Forney, of the Ways and Means Committee, in Washington, Saturday, over the parliamentary situation brought about as a result of the expressed wish of certain Republican leaders to bring up the soldier bonus bill in the House Monday under suspension of the rules.

The Speaker expects to arrive in Washington on the special train with President Harding Saturday morning and to see Republican House leaders before going to Massachusetts, where he will speak Sunday on the arms conference treaties.

Mr. Gillett has already indicated that he would adversely act on a motion to bring upon the bonus legislation Monday under suspension of the rules. He pointed out, however, that there was nothing to prevent the rules committee from bringing in a special rule under which the legislation would have precedence and could be brought up at any time the House desires.

The Speaker appeared undisturbed by the situation and left the impression that he thought handling the matter through a special rule was the best procedure.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—Despite advice of Comptroller of the Currency Crisinger to the contrary, national banks in the opinion of high treasury officials could make loans upon adjusted service certificates in the event of enactment by Congress of the new compromise bonus bill.

Should the new bonus bill become a law and national banks ask the comptroller of the currency as to the advisability of making loans upon the adjusted service certificates treasury officials said today the banks could lawfully do so even in the face of an unfavorable reply.

Treasury officials, however, expressed doubt as to the situation which might arise in the event national bank examiners were instructed against adjusted service certificate loans made by national banks regardless of the comptroller's advice.

THREATENED COAL STRIKE ONLY CLOUD ON HORIZON

(By The Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, March 16.—The threatened bituminous coal strike was regarded today at the Treasury as the only "cloud" on the business horizon. Steady improvement has been reported in general business conditions, high Treasury officials declared, which probably will continue uninterrupted, although the prospect of a coal strike may have some depressing effect upon business expansion. The strike should not seriously affect business generally unless it should be drawn out to unprecedented length, it was said at the Treasury. Stocks of coal on hand and the continued production of non-union bituminous mines, officials here held, should enable the public to continue its routine activities requiring consumption of coal.

In this connection high Treasury officials expressed the opinion that the government would take no action in the event of a coal strike unless that hardship were worked upon the public. Such a hardship, the officials said, would not develop for some time after a strike was called, and they expressed the opinion that action by the government looking to a restoration of the normal coal supply would not be taken until the situation became so serious that no other alternative was left.

It was indicated at the Treasury that the government was not considering any step to anticipate a coal strike nor believed there were any measures of anticipatory nature possible.

Cotton Market

CLOSING BIDS ON THE NEW YORK MARKET NEW YORK, March 16.—Cotton futures closed strong at an advance of 25 points: March 18.05; May 17.95; July 17.52; October 16.90; December 16.75.

TODAY'S COTTON MARKET

Cotton seed 5 1/2
Strict to Good Middling 17 1/2