

GENOA ECONOMIC CONFERENCE SECOND IN IMPORTANCE ONLY TO VERSAILLES

INSANE FATHER BRAINS THREE CHILDREN AND THEN KILLS HIMSELF

John Helms, Farmer Living Near Charlotte, Kills Three Children in Moment of Insanity—Knocked Baby Out of Child's Arms—Daughter, Ruby Helms, Witnessed Tragedy.

(Charlotte Observer). Driven despondent and perhaps insane by an incurable stomach malady, John Helms about 6:30 o'clock Sunday morning slew three of his own children with a wood-axe and then ended his life by blowing off the top of his head with a single-barrel shotgun, at his home on the Bob Rice place, at the 11 mile post on the Lawyers road. He was 40 years old.

The only eye witness to the tragedy was his 13-year-old daughter, Miss Ruby Lee, who with Mrs. Helms and an eight-year-old daughter, Wilma, escaped from the mad man. The little girl, although broken hearted over the terrible affair, told a most lurid story of it to relatives who called at the home yesterday, and to representatives from the office of Frank Hovis, the coroner, to whose undertaking parlors the four bodies were carried yesterday morning shortly after the tragedy.

The little Miss Ruby Lee stated that the family arose about 6 o'clock yesterday morning and that the mother was in the kitchen preparing the morning meal and that she was walking around in the yard with the youngest child, Hazeline, a nine-month-old infant, when her father came out where she was. She said he had been walking from room to room in a somewhat restless manner, but she had paid no particular attention to his actions.

She paid no attention to him when he approached her in the yard and walking up to her, struck her baby sister with the handle of the axe. The baby was either knocked from her hands or she dropped it in her fright, and when she attempted to take it up from the ground her father struck her. She ran away from him and began screaming.

She followed as close as she dared and watched through the window while her father went to the bed where four-year-old Blecker was asleep and then went to brain her with the axe. He then went to the bed where the six-year-old son, Broncho, was asleep and brained him with the same instrument. He attempted to kill Mrs. Helms and eight-year-old Wilma, but they escaped from him.

The little girl saw her father grab up the shotgun, walk into the yard and forgetting in her terror that he might well have shot her, saw him kneel down, place the butt of the gun against the ground, cock the hammer and putting his head over the muzzle, press the trigger with his thumb. The whole top of his head was literally blown to bits, his brains and pieces of the skull showering the side of the small house in which they lived.

The infant, struck down in the yard, was not killed instantly, and was later rushed to the Presbyterian hospital here by Dr. Ayer Whitley, where it died some two or three hours later. The other two were killed instantly.

The entire community where the tragedy occurred was thrown into a perfect frenzy. Hundreds of neighbors and friends came to the scene of the tragedy and relatives who were with the family. Mrs. Helms is prostrated and is under the care of a physician.

The family had been in their new home less than a week, moving there from the Highland Park Manufacturing company's village where Mr. Helms had been employed, last Tuesday. He had hoped that the country life in the out-of-doors would work a relief of his trouble which had become almost unbearable.

On Friday, Mr. Helms was in Charlotte and was with his brother, N. A. Helms, who yesterday stated that his brother told him on that day, that he feared he would lose his mind if he did not soon get relief from his sufferings.

"I told him to stop worrying and to live out doors and take care of himself," said N. A. Helms yesterday. "and to stop thinking about losing his mind. I am perfectly sure that that is what he cured."

Asked if his brother was a drinking man, he stated that he was not and that whiskey played no part in the tragedy. He said that his brother was seemingly all right Saturday night, according to the survivors in the family, and that he exhibited no symptoms of insanity until the sudden craze which lasted only a few minutes and which ended in his own destruction.

From other sources of information there seems no doubt that this version of the tragedy is correct; that the mind of the unfortunate man became unbalanced and he was not responsible for the terrible tragedy.

He was born in Union county and had lived in Charlotte this last the nearly two years, having lived here on previous occasions and having moved back. He is survived by his wife and the two children mentioned, as well as by his aged mother, Mrs. T. F. Helms, who lives with her son, N. A. Helms, in North Charlotte, and also by a brother, D. C. Helms, of Washington city, a sister, Mrs. Alice Kelley, of this city.

The joint funerals will be conducted this afternoon at Pleasant Plains, on the Union-Mecklenburg county line.

Farmers Have "Turned Corners" And On The Road To Prosperity Say Governors of Many States

Governors of Agricultural States Declare That Worst of Hard Times For the Farmer Has Passed.

(By The Associated Press.) NEW YORK, April 9. — Conviction that the farmers of the United States have "turned the corner" and are now started on the road to normally prosperous conditions was the consensus of statements by governors of leading agricultural states made public here today.

The assurances were given in response to an inquiry by E. A. Strout to ascertain the facts concerning the agricultural situation. They came from agricultural states representative of all sections of the country, from New England to the plains states of the Middle West and from the Great Lakes to Virginia and Mississippi.

In making these reports public, Mr. Strout expressed the belief that they reflected accurately a widespread condition extending throughout the farming states from the Atlantic seaboard to the Rocky Mountains.

One of the most optimistic of the statements came from Governor Harry L. Davis, of Ohio, who telegraphed: "Our Department of Agriculture has made a survey of farm conditions in Ohio. Glad to advise that agriculturally Ohio farmers are on the upgrade. Improvement in price of farm products and improvement marketing conditions have given Ohio farmers renewed hope and 1922 gives every indication of being a more prosperous year than the past."

"Ohio is in as sound condition as any state in the Union. We have turned the corner and are going forward agriculturally, industrially and commercially." Extracts from the messages of some of the other governors follow: Governor McCray, of Indiana: "Conditions are improved and prospects brighter in Indiana. On the whole, the outlook is good for an early return to normalcy."

Governor Sproul, of Pennsylvania: "I feel that all conditions point to better times for agriculture in Pennsylvania. There may be some delay due to disturbance incident to the threatened coal strike, etc., but I feel that much better industrial conditions are imminent and that our farmers, being as close to the markets, will benefit."

Governor Holt, of Missouri: "The corner has definitely been turned. Missouri farmers being close to three great terminal markets, Kansas City, St. Louis and St. Joseph, have been more fortunate than farmers more remote from terminal markets."

Governor E. Lee Trinkle, of Virginia: "Agricultural conditions are recovering from depression to some extent. Farmers are looking forward now as prices advance."

"The wholesome effect of the late disastrous conditions is shown in the farmer's determination to organize and practice business principles in production and marketing. He is preparing to diversify, to grow more food and feed crops and remove himself from the uncertainty of a one-crop dependence."

The Virginia Department of Agriculture had more inquiries for farm land from all sections of the Union during the past two months than ever in its history."

Governor Baxter, of Maine: "I consider the agricultural situation of Maine more favorable. The inquiry for Maine farms is five times as great as one year ago. Unquestionably the business of farming will be very attractive in Maine in the next 10 years."

Governor Cox, of Massachusetts, and Governor Russell, of Mississippi, reported favorable conditions in those two states.

ALLIED CUSTODIAN GIVES REPORT OF \$350,000,000 OF ENEMY PROPERTY IN U.S.

First Report Compiled Since February, 1919—Disposition of Enemy Property Will Have Bearing on Economic Relations Between This Country and Europe.

WASHINGTON, April 10.—An accounting of the \$350,000,000 worth of enemy property held by the Government was given the Senate today in a report—the first compiled since February, 1919—filed by Alien Property Custodian Thomas W. Miller, in response to a resolution by Senator King, Democrat, of Utah.

"The final disposition of this property," Mr. Miller said, "will doubtless have a direct bearing on the economic relations between this country and Europe, with particular reference to the late enemy powers. The sequestered property will also have a bearing on the question of the settlement of American claims against Germany."

Discussing the \$415,000,000 of American claims against Germany, Mr. Miller recalled the terms of the Knox-Porlier peace resolution, indicating that no disposition should be made of enemy property held by the United States until the German Government had provided for the satisfaction of all American claims. He asserted that Congress must evolve some plan whereby American claims against Germany may be adjudicated by some proper tribunal created by law.

"There are several classes of claims against Germany," Mr. Miller said. "As for instance, those of Americans whose cash was seized by the German custodian, and who are now being offered the return of their money at the depreciated value of the mark, which today is valued at one-third of a cent for each mark or a reduction of 720 per cent from the pre-war value. This proposition amounts to practically confiscation on the part of the German government. There are also claims on file with the state department for the loss of property and life at sea, growing out of submarine sinkings previous to April 6, 1917."

The German property were returned today without any conditions, the tax laws in force in Germany would require German nationals or other persons under the jurisdiction of the German government, whose property was returned to them, to give up in taxes to the German Government a major portion of the funds returned. One of the taxes assessed is known as the Empire Note tax, the revenues of which are utilized by the German Government for its own nationals, and a second tax known as the indemnity tax, the proceeds of which are paid into reparations going to our life Allies."

"It has been suggested that the amount of money which the German government would realize from such taxation, might form the basis of a fund to be left in this country, the same to be applied for the satisfaction of claims of American citizens against Germany, when these claims are adjudicated."

Mr. Miller's report consisted of thousands of typewritten pages giving the details of about 100,000 active funds representing property in every state and territory in the United States and the Philippine Islands and Hawaii, consisting of industrial plants, shipyard, banks, land and cattle companies, salmon factories, gold and silver mines, and thousands of parcels of real estate and securities.

Answering charges by Senator King that property had been seized since July, the report declared that the last property seized was that belonging to Grover Cleveland Bergdoll, which was seized May 27, 1921.

Responding to inquiry for details of salaries and fees paid in connection with the enemy property the report showed the following list: Attorneys fees paid prior to March 4, 1921, \$2,152,116; attorneys fees paid since March 4, 1921, \$88,290; salaries of officers and directors of corporations previous to March 4, 1921, \$1,574,071; salaries since March 4, 1921, \$122,457; paid for accounting and auditing previous to March 4, 1921, \$911,000; paid for the same since March 4, 1921, \$2,718; paid for advertising and printing previous to March 4, 1921, \$258,067.

One accounting bill alone, of \$71,757 the report declared was paid to an accounting firm out of the Congressional appropriation, for a report covering various operations on the custodian's office to August 1919, but which was not completed until April 1, 1921, and was then "of no practical value." The report listed all money spent on advertising and "the newspapers so favored."

GENOA, April 10.—The Genoa economic conference was formally opened this afternoon in the historic palace of St. George by Premier Facta, of Italy.

NATIONS OF FOUR CONTINENTS DISCUSS EUROPE'S ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION

Representatives of 33 Nations Gather in Historic Genoa For Conference of Far-Reaching Importance—Both Allies and Enemies in Recent World War Gather Around Conference Table—Germany Sends 80 Delegates.

(By The Associated Press.) GENOA, April 10.—The nations of four continents, in this ancient and venerated city of Genoa, today began efforts to restore to the world normal conditions. All plans had been completed today for this great economic Congress, which was generally regarded by competent judges, as the most important and significant assembly since the Versailles peace conference.

Representatives of 33 States were prepared to take steps that it was hoped would lead to the economic reconstruction of Europe, the conference particularly to be concerned with plans for rebuilding central Europe and rehabilitating Russia, which was admitted by many delegates to be a subject of supreme importance by itself, perhaps the most far reaching question which the Congress shall be called upon to solve.

The Ambassador from the United States, Richard Washburn Child, was to take his seat today in a section reserved for eminent visitors. He was to attend all the open meetings, but will not be present at any conferences of committees at which the actual important work of the conference will be completed.

Formal opening of the sessions was to take place at three o'clock this afternoon in the historic palace of St. George. This picturesque structure was built in 1200 by Frate Oliviero, and was the first official residence of the Captains of the People, then the seat of the celebrated company and bank of St. George.

Great throngs on Palm Sunday visited this scene of today's conference and found scores of assistants engaged in carrying plants and flowers to relieve the somewhat somber and lonely aspect of the auditorium. Thousands of interested Genoaese gathered along the water front seeking advantageous positions from which to observe foreign diplomats and distinguished statesmen upon their arrival. In the bay of Genoa, itself, screeches of small tugboats and the more impressive and despatched whistles of more important vessels seemed to breathe life into the modern commercial city of Genoa, whose vessels sail to markets on all seven seas.

Lively scenes surrounding the opening of the congress, intensified by the activity of the busy port of commerce impressed observers as a fitting background for a congress whose serious mission is the restoration of economic health to a suffering and sorely tried Europe.

A complete list of the nations and states represented, with the number of their delegates follow: South Africa, four; Albania, four; Austria, six; Australia, 4; Belgium, 14; Bulgaria, 15; Canada, 30; Czechoslovakia, 30; Denmark, 10; Estonia, 25; Finland, 7; France, eighty; Germany, 80; Great Britain, 128; Greece, 22; Ireland, 6; Italy, 6; Latvia, 6; Lithuania, 7; Luxembourg, 4; Norway, 3; New Zealand, 16; Holland, 16; Poland, 40; Portugal, 9; Rumania, 27; Bussia, 12; Jugoslavia, 12; Spain, 10; Sweden, 10; Switzerland, 5; and Hungary, 7.

Prime Minister Lloyd George, of Great Britain, who was the chief moving force behind the call for the conference emphasized on the evening of the gathering the vital necessity there was for Europe and the world of grappling earnestly with the problems confronting the conference. While declining to make a prediction as to what would be accomplished, he declared:

"One thing is certain; we have come here to work with all energy and earnestness and not to waste time in amusement. I am sure all the delegations are in accord on one point, and that is to reach an agreement which will prevent renewal of international conflicts, thus re-establishing general peace and reciprocal confidence between the States on a basis of economic prosperity."

As for the French delegation, it was declared in its behalf it had come in an open spirit, resolved to do all possible to accomplish the task set for the conference. This is the first time the allies have gathered in such a conference which were the war with the nations which were their enemies in that struggle and others which were present outside the conflict.

PRESBYTERY OF KINGS MOUNTAIN AT BELMONT Meets in Presbyterian Church Tuesday Evening, April 11—Delegates from Gastonia Churches.

The stated spring meeting of Kings Mountain Presbytery will be constituted in the Presbyterian church at Belmont, Tuesday night, April 11th, at 8 o'clock. Important called committee meetings for the afternoon are the board of Westminster School at 2 p. m. and the home mission committee at 4 p. m. Reverends R. C. Long, T. G. Tate and O. R. Gillespie with Elders Q. A. Hays, R. A. Robinson and J. A. Robinson, Sr., will be the representatives from Gastonia churches. Elder J. H. Kennedy will be in attendance as a member of the Home Mission committee.

TRIAL OF HONEYCUTT AT KNOXVILLE TOMORROW The trial of John Honeycutt, the Gaston county man in jail at Knoxville, Tenn., charged with assaulting Capt. J. J. Schneider, of that city, the murder of at least two other people and various other crimes committed during a carnival of crime in that city last fall is scheduled to commence tomorrow in the criminal court at Knoxville.

The story of Honeycutt's alleged crimes as chronicled in Knoxville papers was recently reproduced in The Gazette. The progress of his trial will be watched with interest here.

NAVAL APPROPRIATION FIGHT BEGINS TODAY

(By The Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, April 10.—The fight over the naval appropriation bill, presaged by the vigorous attack on the measure in the minority report, signed by five republicans and one democrat, and in statements by two other republican members of the appropriations committee, was expected to begin in the House today following formal presentation of the minority views. Those in charge of the bill, which was reported to the House on Saturday, planned to bring it up before the House today.

The minority report, made public last night, declared the bill's proposal to reduce the enlisted personnel of the navy to 67,000 and the number of officers to 6,256, meant a total disregard of the "basic naval policy" set down by the arms conference and would make this country a "third rate naval power."

An enlisted personnel of 80,000 with 6,000 apprentices, would be required to keep the United States abreast with Great Britain and ahead of Japan as contemplated in the conference treaty, the report declared.

Representative McArthur, of Oregon, a republican member of the appropriations committee, declared in a statement on the bill that he believed after a canvass of the House membership that the prospects of securing its amendment to provide for 80,000 enlisted men "are excellent."

Representative Britton, of Illinois, another republican member of the "British and Japanese delegates framed the bill" to that end "they could not have more deliberately reduced the United States to a third rate power."

Center Attention On Fayette County, Pa. PITTSBURGH, Pa., April 10.—Union leaders and coal operators today centered their attention on Fayette county, where a strong force of picketed organizers from the United Mine Workers were training every force to organize the coal and coke workers of the C. Frick Company, the most important non-union coal producing concern in Western Pennsylvania.

The union leaders insisted that they had made great headway and the operators agreed that about 8,000 men had quit work in some mines of the Frick company and in a much larger number of mines operated by independent companies. Both sides were of the opinion that the next few days would tell the story.

A trip through the coke country from Westmoreland county to Mount Pleasant, Cambria and Uniontown, and thence down through the Monongahela river district, where numbers of independent mines and half a dozen of the Frick mines were closed last week, showed a country expectant.

Miners and their wives with whom the correspondent talked, conversed freely of the activities of union organizers, and expressed the opinion that scores of men who had never been in a strike would soon be out.

"A good many men have been out of work for nearly a day or two," one of them said. "An intelligent young man is set on the porch of his cabin at a Frick mine near Connellsville." "They figure that things could not be much worse than they have been, and they might be better if they joined the union. I believe the most of the miners will strike this week."

He disclaimed, as did his wife, all knowledge seen or talked with an organizer.

CITY COUNCIL TO HEAR PROTESTS AGAINST EXTENSION OF CITY FIRE LIMITS

Meeting Tuesday Evening Will Be Open to Public—All Are Invited to Be Present and Air Views as to Merits of Proposed City Ordinance.

The session of the city council scheduled for Tuesday evening at the city hall promises to be unusually interesting. At this meeting the question of the extension of the city fire limits will be thoroughly threshed out. It is understood that there has been considerable opposition to the extension, so much so that the enactment of the ordinance has been temporarily held up. In order to give both advocates and opponents a full hearing the council meeting Tuesday evening will be open to the public. Those opposed to the extension of the fire limits are especially requested to be present and air their views.

Five Killed in Storm. LAWTON, Okla., April 9.—Five persons were killed, scores injured, some seriously and extensive property damage caused by a tornado which swept Lawton at 8 o'clock this morning. Telephone poles were leveled in the street in the main business section of the city, and numerous dwellings in the outlying sections demolished.

TODAY'S COTTON MARKET Cotton Seed ..... 60c Strict to good middling ..... 17c

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR CONVENTION WAS SUCCESS

Belmont Presbyterian Church Host to District C. E. Convention—John C. Boyd, of Charlotte, President For Next Year—Will Meet in Huntersville Next.

Belmont, April 10.—Attended by over a hundred delegates the Southern District convention of the North Carolina Christian Endeavor Union opened here Saturday afternoon and continued through Sunday evening. Many prominent men and women throughout this section were present and from the standpoint of numbers as well as the splendid addresses given before the body the convention was one of the finest ever held in this district.

Mr. E. G. Cowan, of Charlotte, president, ably presided over the convention, which was heartily welcomed by H. B. Gaston, for the town; R. B. Hall for the church; and Miss Edith Linberger, for the Belmont Christian Endeavor. G. M. Beatty responded to this welcome for the visitors. Two of the most interesting and forceful speakers were Frank P. Wilson, field secretary for North Carolina and Virginia, who discussed "Methods of Work," and Bert G. Jones, of Raleigh, State president, who gave specific advice to the delegates along the lines of securing better equipment.

The main address to the convention was given by Dr. W. M. Frazer, president of Queens College of Charlotte, who made a very interesting and inspiring talk, having as his subject, "Christian Endeavor Contribution to Soul and Health." Having this as his central theme he developed it under the following four heads: 1. A set, 2. attitude, 3. exercise, 4. atmosphere. Dr. Frazer also delivered a very powerful sermon at the morning service at the Presbyterian church.

During the afternoon session Miss Melva Gullick, leader of the Belmont Junior Endeavor Society, gave a very interesting demonstration of the work done by the Juniors with her own little band of Endeavorers. The regular meeting of the Belmont Endeavor Society Sunday evening was in charge of a delegation of young men from Davidson College led by Mr. W. A. Gamble, of Marion, Ga., who made the meeting a most inspirational one.

To carry on the work of the district for the coming year the following officers were chosen: President, John C. Boyd, Charlotte; Vice-President, C. L. Spencer, Gastonia; Secretary, Miss Evelyn Sadler, Charlotte; Treasurer, Cary Lorraine, Mooresville; Junior, Superintendent, Miss Melva Gullick, Belmont; Intermediate Superintendent, Chas. W. Forman, Charlotte; Superintendent of Quiet Hour and Life Work Recruits, F. A. Guion; Superintendent of Missionary and Tenth Legion, Miss Frankie Lee Neal, Albemarle.

The delegates were entertained at a delightful picnic supper on Saturday afternoon on the lawn of Mr. and Mrs. S. P. Stowe just after the afternoon session, which was given by the Senior Cary Lorraine, of Mooresville, at the Presbyterian church. The following enjoyable menu was served: scrambled chicken on toast, ham and roll sandwiches, potato salad, tomatoes, pickles, ice cream and home made cake. An invitation was extended by the delegates from Huntersville to meet with them next year, which the convention accepted and the next convention will be held there.

Dr. Frazer Delivers Powerful Sermon On Pre-eminence of Christ. At the Presbyterian Church Sunday morning, Rev. Dr. W. H. Frazer, pastor of Queens College, delivered a very powerful sermon on the "Pre-eminence of Christ." Discussing the pre-eminence of our Lord he pointed out how some lives are obscure and some eminent but that Christ was the only pre-eminent being the world had ever known. He then asked the question "Is Christ Pre-eminent in Church, in the Social World, and in Our Individual Lives?" He stressed the point that only by holding Him first could we lead a real true Christian life.

TO CHARLOTTE CONVENTION FROM GASTONIA SCHOOLS Many Representatives From Gastonia Sunday Schools Will Go to State S. S. Convention.

Delegates to the State Sunday School Convention which will be held in Charlotte, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week will include Mr. C. A. Dixon and Mesdames R. C. Long, C. A. Dixon and T. G. Caldwell from the West Avenue Presbyterian church and Dr. C. E. Adams, Mrs. S. A. Kindley and Miss Lois Freeman from the Charles B. Arrington Memorial church. Many others from both churches will be visitors during the convention.

FOUND \$10,000 IN FIVE DOLLAR BILLS IN RIVER Finding May Have Connection With Inventory Going on at Bureau of Printing and Engraving—No Trace as to Source.

(By The Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, April 10.—While still trying to solve the mystery of the \$10,000 in five dollar bills turned over to them by a boatman who found the money floating in the Potomac river Friday, Department of Justice agents spent yesterday digging in various places in the vicinity of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. Whether they had definite clues of money stolen from the bureau and buried nearby could not be learned, nor could it be ascertained whether the search had any connection with the inventory now being taken of the money production plant of the Bureau. So far as could be learned, however, no treasure was uncovered in yesterday's digging.

Department of Justice agents, so far as known, had not succeeded in their efforts today to trace the source of 2,000 five dollar bills found in the river. The bills, which had been torn into fragments and placed in an envelope, were examined yesterday by Director Hill, of the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, who succeeded to that office on the recent dismissal of Jas. W. Wilmeth and numerous other officials of the Bureau. Director Hill later indicated that he did not believe the bills were stolen from the Bureau.