

CONTINUED PROGRESS IS WATCHWORD DEMOCRATS IN THE STATE CONVENTION

Addresses Made by Governor, Max Gardner and Josephus Daniels — Republican Platform Utterance on Taxes Denounced — State Committee Elected — Gardner Says He Will Not Be a Candidate Two Years Hence.

(By Brock Barkley, in Charlotte Observer.) RALEIGH, April 20. — Standing upon a record requiring no apology and against reactionism which dared not raise its head, North Carolina democracy in its convention today kept its face to the front and gave impetus to the forward march of progressive government in this state.

The party platform adopted unanimously tonight cheers from more than a thousand delegates in the convention hall verily breathes the spirit of progress. No other step backward is taken; on the other hand the pledge is there to continue the forward march until North Carolina has forever secured its place among the leaders of the Union.

Not only the platform but the speeches of democratic "champions" was a call for continued progress. Congressman Poo, who delivered the keynote address and served as permanent chairman of the meeting, offered not an apology in response to the republican cry of "high taxes." He proved the value of the return for taxes, however, and showed just what has been done.

Governor Morrison, former lieutenant Governor O. Max Gardner and Josephus Daniels, who were heard by the convention this afternoon, called for a continuation of the progressive program and boasted of the record the party has made in state and nation.

Denounces G. O. P. Attack. Unlike the platform adopted by the republican party in Washington last week, the democratic platform is sound and concrete, and endorses the continuing progress of the country.

After its pledge to the people for the continuance of the progressive program of government, the democratic platform promises that "the democratic party will administer the affairs of the state, counties and municipalities with every penny consistent with efficient and progressive government."

The democratic party throughout its platform pledges to the people of the various counties and municipalities the greatest measure of control of their local affairs consistent with efficient and progressive government and the rights of other counties and municipalities.

It favors the passage of a workmen's compensation act fair both to employer and employee. Expressing gratefulness to the national government for its contribution to legislation looking to their relief.

Reaffirming its allegiance to party principles, commending the constructive leadership of Woodrow Wilson and endorsing the course of the state, county and representative in Congress, the party pledges to the people of this state to meet the needs of the country.

Present Administration O. K. Getting into affairs of the state, the party heartily endorsed the present administration, commending the general assembly on the constructive program carried on for the national and industrial progress of the state.

While lacking the excitement and heat perhaps of past conventions, today's meeting developed a number of interesting events. One of these was the announcement from the platform by O. Max Gardner that he would not be a candidate for governor in 1924.

Mr. Gardner's declaration brought a great outburst of applause from the eastern and western delegates.

Idle Coal Miners Now Number 680,000, But Peak Strength Not Been Reached, Say Officials

Efforts Will Be Continued to Bring More Complete Tie-up of Industry—Strikers' Ranks Include Many from the Unorganized Field.

(By The Associated Press.) INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., April 21. — With the third week of the nationwide suspension of work in the coal industry ended today, officials of the United Mine Workers of America declared that the peak of strength of the strikers had not yet been reached, although the number of idle miners had increased to 680,000, a gain of 20,000 during the week.

Efforts to bring a more complete tie-up of the industry will be continued, but officials declined to make any specific further gains and advised that no break was discernible within the union ranks, which now include many supporters in the unorganized field. Under the union's avowed program calling for almost a complete suspension of coal production, any new developments, forced by the union, may be expected to come in the Pennsylvania bituminous regions, and also in West Virginia, the strongholds of the non-union operators. Almost from the beginning of the strike, these two states have provided the centers of activity, and in central Pennsylvania particularly the union has missed its organizers for the attack.

In a score of other states scattered across the country, no important developments have been reported since operations were brought to a standstill on April 1. In the Pennsylvania bituminous fields, a similar quiet has been maintained. In the unorganized bituminous fields, President John L. Lewis, the union leader, estimated that 450,000 miners have joined the suspension, while in the anthracite industry he said 155,000 men are affected. In addition, he declared that reports of union field activity showed at least 80,000 workers in the unorganized fields as participants in the walkout.

In the opinion of coal men here, the drive in the anthracite fields is of much importance in the settlement of the strike. The unorganized miners in central Pennsylvania are regarded as a strategic factor in that the output of these mines may go far toward breaking the suspension in the central competitive field, comprising Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, where more than one-third of the nation's numerical strength is centered. Likewise, the coal men here assert that two central Pennsylvania output can similarly affect settlement of mine-operator disputes in eastern coal fields.

No announcement of motive has been made by the union officials for their drive at central Pennsylvania, but for scores of organizers, there have been strengthened since the start of the suspension of work ended by the union. In all, the central Pennsylvania region has 57,000 of its 80,000 non-union workers on strike, according to reports to union headquarters here. Incomplete reports from West Virginia show 10,000 non-union supporters of the suspension. Mr. Lewis said, adding that all union miners numbering 61,000 are idle. As long as the general suspension of work obtains, the nation's coal output drops largely on the non-union mines, which operators say have an aggregate output of 3,500,000 tons weekly, approximately 2,000,000 tons more than has been produced in either of the first two weeks of the strike. Meanwhile, any excess consumption must come from the 60,000,000 ton pile that has been built up before the strike started, and operators here say little of this has yet been used. Union sources said they had no figures on consumption.

ALIEN MINERS ARE TROOPING BACK HOME

HAZLETON, Pa., April 21. — Rush of alien anthracite coal miners to their native homes in Europe, either to stay permanently or to visit the scenes of their childhood, is now the heaviest since the suspension began, according to statistics here. From twenty to twenty-five leave here every day, many of them being naturalized American citizens who expect to come back after an agreement is reached with the operators. They agree that work will be resumed about the middle of the end of May.

Well supplied with United States currency which commands a high rate as local as they can live more cheaply in Europe than their adopted country, while the colliers are closed. Those intending to remain across the water are taking all their household goods, even their mine picks with them. The exodus also is in full swing in other hard coal regions.

BANKERS VISIT VALLEY OF VIRGINIA FRUIT SECTION

WINCHESTER, Va., April 21. — Bankers from Virginia cities, Philadelphia, Baltimore and New York inspected the commercial apple belt of Virginia today, viewing a million trees in bloom. The bankers have been holding conferences with growers who have asked that they be given the same credit consideration accorded agriculturists. Oliver J. Sands, of Richmond, president of the American Bankers' Association, headed the party.

Frost visited the low places in the district last night but government agents here said the damage was slight. A light snow is reported from the Shenandoah-Cumberland districts.

LEAKSVILLE, N. C., April — Robbers blew open the postoffice safe here last night and escaped with eight hundred dollars.



WILLIAM L. RATHJENS, at Gastonia. Mr. Rathjens was recently elected first vice-president of the 10th Carolina Sunday School Association. He is a prominent Gastonia City Broker, Being the Senior Member of The Firm of W. L. Rathjens & Co.

ROLLER SKATING CONTEST PROVED A BIG SUCCESS

Large Crowd Gathered Last Night to Enjoy Contest Staged Under Auspices of Community Service—List of Prize Winners.

The roller skating contest held last night under the auspices of the Gastonia Community Service was a decided success. An unusually large crowd enjoyed the contest which was held on Second street between Oak and South. City Manager Alexander had had the streets closed and a string of lights placed along the street so that the place displayed a real gala look. The Pythian Band was on hand and played before and during the contest.

A large number of children were registered in the contest and in all cases they conducted themselves in a most sportsmanlike way.

Prof. Abernathy, Ray Armstrong and Will V. Warren acted as judges. Mr. Rufus Johnston judged the skaters and Prof. Grier was the official starter.

The results of the races are printed below. The winners in each case may have the prize by calling on the Community Service office in the chamber of commerce on Saturday morning.

1st Dash—Open to Boys Only. First, Roy Robert Gilman, 815 Saxton Avenue, offered by A. G. Moore, president Citizens National Bank.

Second place, Russell Talley, 144 roller skates offered by Standard Hardware Company.

Third place, Harry (top), \$1 cash offered by W. L. Rathjens.

50 Yard Dash—Boys. First, Blain Ferguson, 100 tickets offered by A. G. Moore, president Citizens National Bank.

Second, Robert Gilman, 100 tickets offered by Blain Ferguson, 100 tickets offered by A. G. Moore, president Citizens National Bank.

50 Yard Dash—Girls. First, Estelle Wilkinson, 815 Saxton Avenue, offered by A. G. Moore, president Citizens National Bank.

Second, Harriet Robinson, 100 tickets offered by Blain Ferguson, 100 tickets offered by A. G. Moore, president Citizens National Bank.

Coasting for Distance—Girls. First, Harriet Robinson, 100 tickets offered by Blain Ferguson, 100 tickets offered by A. G. Moore, president Citizens National Bank.

Second, Robert Gilman, 100 tickets offered by Blain Ferguson, 100 tickets offered by A. G. Moore, president Citizens National Bank.

Coasting for Distance—Boys. First, Blain Ferguson, 100 tickets offered by A. G. Moore, president Citizens National Bank.

Second, Robert Gilman, 100 tickets offered by Blain Ferguson, 100 tickets offered by A. G. Moore, president Citizens National Bank.

Couple Race, 100 tickets. First, Blain Ferguson, 100 tickets offered by A. G. Moore, president Citizens National Bank.

Second, Robert Gilman, 100 tickets offered by Blain Ferguson, 100 tickets offered by A. G. Moore, president Citizens National Bank.

Three-Legged Race. First, Ferguson, 100 tickets offered by A. G. Moore, president Citizens National Bank.

GERMAN REPLY ACCEPTS DEBARMENT FROM FURTHER PARTICIPATION IN THE DISCUSSION RUSSIAN CONTROVERSY

Expresses Surprise That Allied Delegates Knew Nothing of Progress of Russo-German Treaty, Negotiation of Which Had Been Under Way For Some Time—Germany Does Not Think That Treaty Violates Spirit of Conference.

(By The Associated Press.) GENEVA, April 21. — The German reply to the Allied ultimatum accepts the condition that the German delegates be barred from participating in the further discussion of the Russian controversy, by the conference, the Russo-German treaty signed at Rapallo, being allowed to stand.

Arrangements were made to present the note at noon today to Premier Facta, of Italy, as president of the conference and also as the first signer of the protocol received by the Germans. The German note is longer than that from the Allies, and begins by acknowledging "with painful surprise" the protocol received, which is considered undesired. The note then repeats what Dr. Rathenau, German Foreign Minister, has stated on several occasions that negotiations for the conclusion of the Russo-German treaty had begun long ago, were known to have been in progress by all the European governments, and had lately been suspended out of deference to the conference.

But the exclusion of Germany from the negotiations held by the Allies with the Russian at the Villa de Albertis gave the German delegation the impression that the Allies were trying to conclude an arrangement with the Soviet Government participation, perhaps to Germany's detriment. At a certain moment, perhaps through misunderstanding, the German delegation received the impression that the Allies were about to conclude an agreement with the Russians, therefore the Russo-German negotiations were resumed, and resulted in the signing of the treaty at Rapallo on Easter Sunday.

The German delegation believes that this treaty does not violate the spirit of the conference, and indeed contributes to its supreme aim — pacification of the world and the reconstruction of Europe. The note admits that, after the conclusion of this treaty, the German delegation has no reason to participate in the work of the first commission, dealing with the Russian affairs, but says it will willingly participate in the other work of the same commission dealing with European and German interests.

The delay in delivering the note was due chiefly to differences of opinion among the Germans themselves as to the best attitude to take, some fearing that repercussions it might have in French quarters, as the French delegates had sent themselves severely aloof during the whole incident. The statement made by Prime Minister Lloyd George, of Great Britain, before the journalists at the meeting in the royal palace yesterday, however, was interpreted to mean that France was in perfect agreement with the other Allies.

The first commission was summoned for a meeting this morning by the chairman, M. Schmeizer, for a discussion of the Russian answer to the report prepared by the Allied experts at their London meeting. The Russian answer, which has not been made public yet, is understood to accept in principle the acknowledgment of Russia's pre-war debts on condition that a long moratorium be granted, this to be followed by minimum interest payments which were made to pay. It adds that the other Russian debts be wiped out by the indemnity claimed by Russia from the Allies, and finally asks for a large loan.

The text of the final clause in the Russian note reads: "With regard to the further treatment of the Russian question in the conference the German delegation also thinks it right that it should take part in the deliberations of the first commission on questions corresponding to those already settled between Germany and Russia only in case its collaboration be especially asked for."

DELEGATES ARE BEGINNING TO DISTURB EACH OTHER. GENEVA, April 21. — The Geneva conference has reached a stage where several of the delegations appear highly distrustful of one another and the delegates are now concentrated in the heart of the city where they can watch one another closely. Prominent members of the small delegations which were centered along the Mediterranean coast from here to Rapallo packed their bags overnight, abandoned their luxurious villas and settled in any small room they could find along Geneva's single main street leading to the conference halls.

Here it is possible to see every one passing toward the English and French headquarters as well as to the conference sessions in the royal palace and to the audiences to newspaper men in the Casa Della Stampa or University, which has become a sort of post-graduate school in journalism. At these audiences the lecture halls were thronged by experienced newspaper correspondents listening to Sir Robert Horne, Chancellor of the British exchequer, Christian Rakovsky, president of the Ukrainian soviet republic; Sir Philip Liddell-Greaves, director of the department of overseas trade of the British government.

WASHINGTON, April 21. — Former Senator Marion Butler, of North Carolina, made a strong plea before the Senate Agriculture Committee today for immediate development and operation of the government's nitrate and power projects at Muscle Shoals, Ala. Congress should not adjourn this session, Mr. Butler declared, "without making this great property function."

F. E. Engstrom, of Wilmington, N. C., had explained the purposes which led him to make an offer for completing and leasing the property when Mr. Butler took the stand to present the details of the proposal.

COMMUNITY WORKERS STUDY "THE COMMUNITY" Dr. Linderman's New Book Taken Up by Gaston Association — An Appeal for More and Better Gardens. Gaston County Community Workers Association met in regular session at St. Mark's parish house Monday afternoon at three o'clock with a splendid attendance of regular members and a number of visitors among whom were Rev. and Mrs. George M. Manly, of Bessemer City; Mr. E. D. Bonditch, of the horticultural department of Raleigh, Messrs. D. M. Jones and A. M. Dixon of the city.

After prayer offered by Rev. Mr. Manly, a short while was spent in an interesting discussion of the first two chapters of Dr. E. C. Linderman's book, "The Community," most ably led by Rev. J. W. C. Johnson, touching particularly upon the neighborhood and community and being peculiarly fitting to this body of workers. A selected chapter will be presented by Miss Gertrude Taylor at the May meeting which takes place in the Chamber of Commerce rooms the third Tuesday afternoon instead of the third Monday, this change having been voted on at this time.

An earnest appeal for more and better gardens was made by Mr. E. D. Bonditch of the horticultural department of Raleigh. He gave some sound reasons for this from a financial and health standpoint. Tests have proven that by adding fresh vegetables daily to the menu, spring fever can be made a thing of the past; this diet aids greatly in many diseases, especially pellagra, and that regular exercise prolongs the period of youth. Those wishing to obtain same by writing for extension circular No. 121, 122 and 123 at Raleigh. Mrs. Nell Pickens, president and hostess of the discussion at the business hour on arrangement and the program of the Southern Textile Workers Association, that will meet here in June and which will bring into the city many noted speakers. The full account including the list of speakers will be published at a later date. It is very urgent that a full attendance be at the May meeting as final arrangements will be made at this time.

During the social hour delicious black ice cream and cake were served by the ladies of the parish house. Rev. and Mrs. J. W. C. Johnson to whom were extended a rising vote of thanks.

SITUATION ON MISSISSIPPI RIVER GROWING GRAVE (By The Associated Press.) VICKSBURG, Miss., April 21. — Tension among the people living behind the levees along the swollen Mississippi river is reported here as very high, but they are showing a reluctance in quitting their homes until the backwaters actually force them out. Those whose homes are reached by the water are living in nearby towns or high places with a good number camped on the levees waiting to be moved.

No actual suffering has been reported in this district, as planters and merchants are taking care of those in distress. A continuation of good weather in the entire district has strengthened the confidence of success, engineers in charge of the levee system said today.

ARKANSAS CITY, Ark., April 21. — Sings of weakness in the levees on the Mississippi side of the river between here and Greenville, Miss., developed last night, according to reports received here today, and a harder fight to hold the levees is being conducted there than here, today. Local levee officers who crossed the river late yesterday, reported on their return this morning that hundreds of men are at work raising the levees near Greenville, and that the levees on the Mississippi side are in more danger than on this side.

The river was at a stand here today and the situation was more favorable here than at any time in several days. Hundreds of men still are working raising the emergency loop levee behind a threatened section at Fulton, but the work is so far advanced that there is no danger of the water coming through, even should the main levee break.

MARION BUTLER MAKES PLEA FOR MUSCLE SHOALS. (By The Associated Press.) WASHINGTON, April 21. — Former Senator Marion Butler, of North Carolina, made a strong plea before the Senate Agriculture Committee today for immediate development and operation of the government's nitrate and power projects at Muscle Shoals, Ala. Congress should not adjourn this session, Mr. Butler declared, "without making this great property function."

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MUSIC MEMORY CONTEST REACHES CLIMAX TONIGHT Much Interest in Musical Event at First Presbyterian Church Tonight—Twelve Numbers To Be Played. The Musical Memory Contest, which has been conducted during the past four weeks by the Gastonia Music Club, reaches its grand climax tonight at the First Presbyterian Church, when the final competition will be held.

The contestants will use the front pews in the sanctuary of the church. The other parts of the church will be open to the public which is invited to be present.

Music numbers on the Musical Memory list will be rendered in a special concert. These numbers will be used to test the musical memories of the contestants. The contestants will receive for the prizes which the operators will get the list of recognized names of guessing the numbers as they are played.

Contestants will use the North door on Market street and will report at 7:45 to receive their papers and be seated. The subjects will be submitted at the other entrance.

The contest program, which will be furnished by various individual musicians as well as by local musical organizations, will begin at 8 o'clock.

DR. KREBS AT HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM TONIGHT Will Talk on Community Centralization and Solidarity—Address Will Close the Merchants' Institute. Community Centralization and Solidarity will be the theme of Dr. Stanley L. Krebs at the closing of the Merchants' Institute at the high school auditorium tonight at 7:30 o'clock, before merchants and business and other members of the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce and their wives and the members of the Gastonia Women's Club. Members of the Gaston County Community Workers Association have also been invited.

This evening will close the institute and it is hoped that a wider attendance than has been made of the institute because of the fact that the subject is more of a community subject. Dr. Krebs' talks have all been intensely interesting and the one tonight is certain to be a real treat.

SMALL BOY ALMOST CAUSED TRIPLE TRAGEDY. (By The Associated Press.) RICHMOND, S. D., April 21. — Mrs. J. E. Sowerhiller, was shot and killed last night when a small child, riding on the hands of her son, Elmer, 12, is believed to have accidentally discharged a .22-caliber rifle which would be punished according to the coroner. Elmer shot his father in the jaw, and then inquired a wound in his own forehead which physicians say may prove fatal.

THE WEATHER North Carolina, generally fair tonight and Saturday, no change in temperature.