

A \$50,000,000 COTTON MILL SYNDICATE FORMED IN CHARLOTTE, REPORTED

Charlotte All Agog Over Reported Launching Of Big Textile Concern.

DUKE MONEY, IT IS SAID

One Million Spindles Would Represent Goal Of Magnate If Launched.

CHARLOTTE, June 9. — Charlotte cotton mill men either denied knowledge of or were non-committal Friday on the proposition of the launching here of a \$50,000,000 textile company to operate a chain of mills in the Carolinas, with headquarters in Charlotte, as reported Thursday in a New York newspaper and broadcasted throughout the South by a news agency from New York.

The most probable basis for the report, local cotton mill thought, was that J. B. Duke is inspiring the most gigantic cotton mill enterprise ever attempted in the world and that Charlotte will be the center of the movement in the event that it goes through.

The news agency sent out the statement that "tentative plans for the organization of a company to operate a large chain of cotton mills in the South are being considered by a group of well-known cotton manufacturers and capitalists, it is reported in well-informed mill circles. Charlotte is to be the headquarters of the company, it is asserted, and it will be headed by one of the leading cotton manufacturers in the South."

When this report, which was also printed in one of the New York trade papers Thursday, was exhibited to representative textile men here Friday, they expressed surprise and astonishment. A combination of large local interests with a well-known group of like characters in South Carolina was ventured by one financier and cotton mill executive as the possible basis for the report, but beyond this, he could venture no opinion whatever.

Learn Of Report. That the Chadwick-Hoskins group of five mills, centering in Charlotte, would probably be interested in the reported merger was denied by B. B. Gossett, chairman of the board of directors and president of the company operating this series of mills. Mr. Gossett was seen in the presence of Word H. Wood, also largely interested in the Chadwick-Hoskins Company and both said that this company had no contemplations of such character in mind. They had not heard of the report until told of it by The News.

The most likely basis for the great enterprise, according to the best opinion procured, was that J. B. Duke was likely interested in such a project and which may have plans developing which will lead to the launching of such a monumental project upon the completion of the \$60,000 horsepower electric development at Mountain Island and that the 1,000,000 spindles would represent the ultimate and not the immediate goal of the undertaking.

Is Duke Interested? That Mr. Duke has been trying to interest outside capitalists in the wonderful possibilities of the Carolinas, and particularly that part of the State centering in Charlotte, has been known to many with whom the multimillionaire tobacco king has been confiding of late.

However, it has been reported that Mr. Duke was not immediately interested at this time in either purchasing or building new cotton mills so long as present costs continued.

The most conservative estimate submitted Friday from competent textile leaders locally was that a series of mills with an aggregate of 1,000,000 spindles would represent an outlay of \$50,000,000 at present prices of machinery, it being figured that it costs \$50 per spindle to erect a cotton mill now.

The largest group of spindleage under the operation of a single system in the South is that of the Cannon mills located in and about Concord, according to the official tabulations that have been made, this group operating fifteen plants with a spindleage of 600,000, approximately. The Riverside and Dan mills at Danville are the second highest in individual groups with 415,000 spindles while the W. E. Beatty group in Greenville has 310,000.

The C. W. Johnston group in North Carolina is the largest in this immediate territory with 158,000 spindles, while the Chadwick Hoskins system is rated as operating 120,000.

A mill or a string of mills with 1,000,000 spindles would therefore, be larger by two-thirds than the present largest group of mills in the South, six times the size of the Johnston chain in North Carolina in aggregate spindleage and nearly ten times the size of the Chadwick-Hoskins group.

COTTON MARKET CLOSING BIDS ON THE NEW YORK MARKET NEW YORK, June 10. — Cotton futures closed steady, 30 points up. July 22.37; October 22.26; December 22.05; January 21.85; March 21.78; May 21.50; Spots 22.55.

Woman Is Boss of Police and Fire Department

(By The Associated Press.) AUGUSTA, GA., June 10. — The first woman in the country to become "boss" of the police and fire departments of a city the size of Augusta, is Mrs. L. S. Arrington, prominent club woman and wife of a local business man here, who was elected yesterday afternoon to the chairmanship of the civil service commission. L. F. Elliott, 25, the youngest member of the board, was elected vice chairman.

STAR ROUTE TO YORK FROM GASTONIA ANNOUNCED

Postmaster Slate Reports That Business at Local Office Is Better Than Ever at This Time of Year.

Mr. F. I. Slate, local postmaster, reports that the business of the local office is better than ever at this time of the year. The mail during June and July generally takes a big slump but so far the local business is holding up considerably well. With an additional clerk just added to the postoffice the number of clerks has been brought up to nine men on the regular payroll. All indications show that this year will be a better year for the Gastonia branch and it will hold its own in the first class division.

Several plans are being mapped out with the Fourth Assistant Post Master General, W. E. Glover, by which local service will be improved. No definite announcements can be made at the present time, as these plans must be approved by Washington officials. A new substitution for Flint and Groves is being decided upon this week. If this plan is carried through, it will be of a great benefit to the people at the Flint and the Groves mills. The matter is now in hands of the higher officials. Announcement is made by Postmaster Slate of the inauguration of a star route from Gastonia to York a one way trip to be made daily beginning July 1. Bids are now coming in for the service. Two year's service is being bid on by those wanting the job. Plans call for the mail for Glover, Filbert and York, coming via Gastonia, to leave here at 7:15 a. m. daily except Sunday. Mail will reach Clover by 8:15 o'clock, and on to York arriving there by 9:00 a. m. The people of the South Carolina towns will have their mail nearly a day earlier. Any person or parties desiring to bid for this job are urged to file their papers immediately with the local officials.

CURB MARKET RUNS SHORT OF PRODUCE

Demand Is Greater Than Supply—Most of Stuff Was Sold Out In Short Order—Scarcity of Poultry and Fruits.

Today's curb market opened as usual, but Mr. De-mo-ni put one over on Mr. Supply, and many a matron and housekeeper were forced to go back home with empty baskets. Produce was there but not enough was on hand to take care of the hunters for that raw material that makes a Sunday dinner worth the while. What little found its way to market was bought like hot cakes by the early comers, and those that happened to be a minute late were just out of luck. All of which goes to show that the country folk must bring in more of their garden products. It is still a few weeks early for vegetables and fruits to ripen and the shortage of some at the market at Willow school is thus accounted for by the authorities in charge.

A real system of management will go into effect beginning Monday. It is expected that such a system will go far in remedying the faults that were noticed in the first week's trial. No produce is to be sold from the automobiles or wagons that bring it to the market. All produce that is for sale must be placed on the tables that are provided for same. The market opens at 8:00 a. m. Nothing can be bought before that time. The market will close promptly at 10:00 a. m. The country folk who bring in their produce are requested to abide by these regulations. The city buyers are asked to keep these rules in mind. The success of the market is dependent upon the co-operation of the individuals connected with the buying and selling. If all parties concerned will help, there is no reason why the curb market should fail of its purpose.

A committee from the city buyers will investigate the prices of the produce offered for sale for a week at a time. A committee from the county women will investigate the prices the following week. Then a satisfactory agreement will try to be reached. Plans will be worked out by which no committee will have to serve twice. Other plans for the betterment of the market will be announced through the press from time to time.

PARIS, June 10.—(By The Associated Press.)—The impossibility of an international loan to Germany at present was recognized by the international committee of bankers in their formal reports submitted this afternoon to the allied reparations commission.

The newspaper predicts that the halberd will bring flying into every day business and social life.

BRITISH SUBJECT WAS A TYPICAL ADVENTURER AND SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

Army Officer, Sheep Rancher, Aviator and Member of Royal Mounted Police.

REPRIEVED FOR MURDER

Major Ronald True Claims To Be Stepson of Scotch Nobleman.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 10. — Major Ronald True, whose reprieve from the gallows for murder, brought a storm of protest from the British press yesterday, claimed to be Lord de Freyne, stepson of Lord Glen Falloch, of Scotland, when he served a fifteen months' Federal sentence in the Alameda, Calif., county jail, in 1915, for forging stolen postal money orders.

British newspaper freely intimated that True was the son of one of the most noted gentlemen of the English nobility, but True's identity had been withheld by the British authorities. He had been tried for the murder of Gertrude Yates in London three weeks ago and saved from hanging by commitment to a hospital for the criminal insane.

The facts of his conviction and sentence in Alameda, across the bay from San Francisco, were brought to light by William Madeira, postoffice inspector, who traced True in his flight from the Pacific coast to New Orleans, where he was arrested for the theft and forgery of money orders. Comparison of photographs of the English felon with those of True taken here completed the identification.

At the time of his conviction here he claimed right to the title, the Honorable Arthur Reginald French, otherwise Lord de Freyne of French Park, county Roscommon, Ireland.

He was an adventurer and born soldier of fortune, according to the officer who trailed him from here to New Orleans.

"He had been army officer, sheep rancher in Africa, aviator in Brazil, member of the royal Canadian Mounted police, and while here in San Francisco tried his hand at prize fighting," Madeira said. "He was sought for passing a forged \$92 money order on a San Francisco hotel."

When he quit San Francisco, Madeira said, True left in his hotel room a belt such as worn by the Royal Canadian mounted police, from which the Federal officer said True deserted just before coming to San Francisco. The belt served to identify him and aided the Federal authorities in their capture of True.

On his discharge after his 15 months sentence he left for Hong Kong early in 1915, Madeira said, with the announced intention of enlisting in the British army, if the recruiting authorities would take him.

THOUSANDS RUSHING TO AFRICA'S DIAMOND FIELDS

CAPE TOWN, South Africa, June 9. —(By The Associated Press.)—The big rush in the history of South Africa's alluvial diamond digging occurred at Muesberg, 60 miles from Kimberley, today, when about 15,000 diggers from all parts of the union and Rhodesia jugged out their claims.

The line of start for the peggers extended over four miles, and immediately after the proclamation was read, the diggers, each carrying four pegs, rushed to the points they favored.

There were no casualties, which is regarded as remarkable considering the number of claimants and the excitement engendered by the rush. There were many disputes, however, and these will be settled by the officials.

A huge canvas camp has arisen and the greatest optimism prevails.

This Machine Detects When Man Is Lying (By The Associated Press.) SAN FRANCISCO, June 10. — The Sphymomanometer, or lie-tector, was employed by the San Francisco police department yesterday on Henry Wilkins, who wife was reported shot and killed here by an automobile bandit on the evening of May 30, while she was riding in the family car with her husband, and their two children.

Slew 'Lover'



Nurse Peggy Beal, who'll be charged with slaying her alleged lover, Frank Warren Anderson, at Kansas City, if she recovers from a bullet wound inflicted when she sought to take her own life.

AMERICAN LEGION GETS HANDSOME LOVING CUP

Presented To Local Post By Charlotte Post For Prize Attendance At Recent May 20th Celebration.

One of the most delightful and enjoyable affairs ever held in the history of Gaston Post, No. 23, American Legion, took place Friday evening when the loving cup won in the May 20th parade was presented to the local post. Absolute informality prevailed. There were no long speeches, but on the contrary, short, snappy talks, interspersed with jokes and humorous thrusts at one another. There was plenty of music, lemonade, sandwiches, ice cream, etc. The Pythian band played several fine selections throughout the evening.

Post Commander D. H. Williams presided and explained the object of the meeting. Attorney Jas. A. Lockhart, of Hornets' Nest Post, presented the cup to the local post in a very appropriate speech. "The Catawba river does not divide Gaston from Mecklenburg," he said. "It unites us." Our interests and aims, ambitious and ideal are all one. It is good to get together like this once in a while.

Chaplain R. C. Long responded for the post and accepted the cup. "We did not go to Charlotte and march six miles for nothing," he humorously added. "But we are glad, too, that you have seen fit to award a cup to Belmont for their most excellent showing."

At a short business session Mr. M. T. Povey was elected vice-commander of the post.

Present from Charlotte were Commander Victor Shaw, Louis Sutherland, Thos. L. Alexander, J. A. Lockhart and others. The wives of some of the Charlotte members were also present.

Delightful refreshments of lemonade, sandwiches, pickles, cheese and crackers, followed by ice cream and cake were served.

INSURANCE MEN TO MEET AT WRIGHTSVILLE THIS MONTH

Prospects For Largest Attendance In History—Boat Trip On Cape Fear River and Other Social Events.

The annual convention of the North Carolina Association of Insurance Agents will be held at Wrightsville Beach Tuesday and Wednesday, June 20 and 21. The program for this event has already been issued. While much business will be attended to there will also be a varied program on entertainment.

James L. Case, of Norwich, Conn., president of the National Association of Insurance Agents, with which the State Association is affiliated, and Stacey W. Wade, insurance commissioner of North Carolina, will be among those who will deliver addresses.

"Memories" will be the subject of an address at the banquet on Tuesday night at the Oceanic hotel by Mr. Francis Womack, of Reidsville, who has been connected with the association since its organization.

South Carolina Bootlegger Is Taken By Ku Klux Klan, Beaten Told To Stop Whiskey Traffic

Ollie Crompton, Anderson County Farmer, Taken From Home Thursday.

30 MEN IN THE PARTY

Is Second Occurrence of Its Kind to Happen In Anderson County.

(By The Associated Press.)

ANDERSON, S. C., June 10. — Verification of reports received here that a band of masked men and white robes men, about 30 in number, kidnaped Ollie Crompton, Anderson county farmer, residing near Williamston, some 10 miles from this city, Thursday night, taking him to a point near the boundary line of Anderson and Greenville counties, where it is alleged that he was severely beaten and cautioned by members of the party to cease dealing in whiskey, was made today by Chief of Police E. M. Patterson, of Williamston.

While it is not definitely known that the men composing the band are members of the Ku Klux, it was reported that they were garbed in the regalia of that order. Information obtained from Williamston today is to the effect that the identity of none of the members of the band is known, and officers of both this county and the town of Williamston are baffled by the procedure of the midnight riders.

The details of the alleged flogging of Crompton and his experience with the band of men on Thursday about midnight are more or less obscure, but it was learned that the band composed of about thirty masked and robed men went to the home of Crompton, located one mile east of Williamston. In response to a greeting from a member of the band, Crompton is reported to have gone to the front door, then realizing that the men were robed, he retreated through the rear of his home, being caught by several of the men near his home.

The party then proceeded in several cars to a point near the Saluda river, arriving at Cooley's bridge, they came to a halt and Crompton is said to have been taken from one of the cars. The score or more of robed men then formed in a circle and repeated their warnings to Crompton, to cease dealing in liquor. Reports indicate that Crompton was then given a severe whipping after which he was returned here to his home and the night riders retreated in the direction of Greenville.

Chief of Police Patterson, of Williamston, stated this morning that he has been unable to take steps to apprehend members of the band of men whose identity is unknown to him, he declared.

Whether this second attempt in Anderson county within the past two days to put an end to alleged lawlessness is being instigated by members of the Ku Klux Klan is a matter of conjecture, however, it is reported that the order has a strong organization in this county.

TO PROMOTE HARMONY IN BUILDING INDUSTRY

Proposals Ready For Consideration at Meeting of Building Trades Department of Federation of Labor.

(By The Associated Press.)

CINCINNATI, O., June 10. — Proposals intended to promote harmony in the building industry of the country were ready today for consideration at the annual meeting of the building trades department of the American Federation of Labor.

Favorable action on the program of President John Doan, of the department calling for periodical meetings of the chiefs of the unions and also for the unions, joining a national building council, comprising all persons connected with the industry was recommended by a committee report. Mr. Doan said he offered his program with a view of eliminating a strike and winning public support to the industry as a whole.

As the only unfinished preliminary to the Federation's convention next week, the meeting of the building trades today became the chief of interest. Numerous questions affecting building operations throughout the country were pressing for consideration, but delegates planned to reach final adjournment by night. The meetings of the metal trades department ended with the re-election of James O'Connell as president and the label trades department concluded its work by re-nominating J. W. Hays as president.

As a forerunner of the convention of the federation which opens on Monday, the members of the federation's executive council will meet tomorrow to consider the Supreme Court's recent decision in the celebrated Coronado coal of the Federation, interprets as a negation of the right to strike. The attitude of organized labor on the decision is expected to be drafted by the council as a part of its report to be made to the convention on Monday.

The Story Stops Before Janitor Makes Reply

PARIS, June 10. — (By The Associated Press.) — "Excuse me, am I near the wounded soldiers' institute?" asked a blind veteran of a passing pedestrian as he tapped his way along the sidewalk. "I've only been there twice and I'm not quite sure of the way."

"You are close to it now; let me take you," came the reply. Arriving at the door, the guide said to the janitor: "Kindly take this man to the section for the blind."

PLAN TO OPEN BON CLARKEN IN NEAR FUTURE

Conference and Assembly Grounds of A. R. P. Church Near Hendersonville To Be Opened Soon.

CHARLOTTE, June 9. — Plans for opening Bon Clarken (formerly the Heidelberg property), the newly purchased grounds for religious conferences and similar purposes in the Associate Reformed Synod territory in the south are nearly complete, according to Rev. W. B. Lindsay, who announces that Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Brownlee, of Anderson, S. C., will be in charge of the property.

As the work of putting the grounds in shape for summer use approaches completion they appear even more attractive than was at first considered they could be made, according to Charlotte people who have been to visit them.

The grounds are three miles from Hendersonville, one mile from Flat Rock, and about 150 miles by automobile drive from Charlotte over a splendid highway. The place is expected to prove an attractive one to many Charlotte motorists this summer who will make Hendersonville, Flat Rock, Bon Clarken and other nearby places in one of the most picturesque spots of the North Carolina mountains their objective for outings.

There are 40 furnished rooms in the Bon Clarken Hotel, which in architectural lines follows certain details of the Swiss chalet, after which the former owner of the place modeled the building and grounds and called it Heidelberg after the old university town in Germany. Running water will be in every room.

The first event in the life of the place under the new regime will begin August 1. It will be a young People's Sabbath school conference. Following this the General Conference for Christian Workers of the Associate Reformed Synod of the South will begin August 15, with a notable list of speakers and lecturers scheduled to be heard. Among them will be Dr. Jno. McNaughte, of Pittsburgh, Pa.; Rev. E. N. Orr, D. D.; Rev. Dr. J. W. Jacobson, and Professor Palmer, secretary of the South Carolina Sunday School Conference; Dr. J. I. McCain and Prof. Edgar Long, of the faculty of Erskine College, and possibly Dr. J. Campbell Morgan.

A formal opening of the place is planned for the Fourth of July, with representatives from other assemblies of the mountain district present.

Rev. W. B. Lindsay will speak on that date as a representative of the directors of the assembly grounds owners and directors.

BRITT TO BE SOLICITOR OF PROHIBITION IN N. C.

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, June 10. — Final action on the appointment of James J. Britt, of Asheville, former Congressman of North Carolina, as solicitor of prohibition, was understood today to await the decision of Secretary Mellon and Internal Revenue Commissioner Blair as to the advisability of creating the new office.

CAROLINAS LAND BANK, OF COLUMBIA, WILL DO BUSINESS IN GASTON

Bulwinkle & Cherry Are Local Representatives of Institution In This County.

MAKES LOANS ON FARMS

System Enables Borrower To Pay Off Principal and Interest In 33 Years.

Announcement is made that the First Carolinas Joint Stock Land Bank, with former Congressman Lever, until recently a member of the Federal Farm Loan Board, as president, and with offices at Columbia, S. C., is to do business in this county. This fact became known when it was learned that Bulwinkle & Cherry had become connected with this institution as abstract attorneys, and for the time being as its local representatives in the county.

The First Carolinas Joint Stock Land Bank is chartered under the Federal Farm Loan Act and is operated under the same federal supervision as the Federal Farm Loan Board. The present paid in capital stock is \$250,000, and \$25,000 surplus. The bank operates very much along the same lines as does the Federal Land Bank of Columbia and under the same supervision. It makes loans only on improved agricultural lands, it does not loan on city property. The proceeds of these loans must be applied for general agricultural purposes. The loans are made direct to the borrower and the borrower is forbidden to take stock in the bank. Any person is eligible for a loan through this institution if in addition to his other work he is at the same time actually farming.

The bank will accept applications for loans from \$1,000 to \$25,000. Loans cannot be made in excess of 50 per cent of the appraised value of the land and 20 per cent of the appraised insurable value of the buildings, such appraisals being made by officials of the government. The interest rate is six per cent payable semi-annually, to which is added one per cent to amortize or kill off the debt over a period of 33 years. In other words, for seven per cent, interest and principal are paid in 33 years and the debt is discharged. Repayment of principal may be made at any time under regulations issued by the Farm Loan Board. The borrower through this bank is responsible alone for his own debt. There are no commissions that may be charged under the law nor are there renewals.

"We have become connected with this institution because of the financial strength of the men back of it," said the local authorities. "Notable among whom are J. P. Matthews, president of the Palmetto National Bank, Columbia, S. C.; W. B. Drake, Jr., president of the Merchants' National Bank, Raleigh, N. C.; A. W. McLean, wealthy planter and banker of North Carolina; Thomas & Lumpkin, outstanding lawyers of the state, and Mr. Lever, the president, whose activities in behalf of agriculture for 30 years are known to every one. We feel confident that this institution is going to serve a most useful purpose in helping the farmers of this county to pay off on the installment plan the losses suffered in the recent depression. The Federal Land Bank and this bank are acting in the closest harmony to take care of all the needs of agriculture in the county."

SEARCHING FOR WARD'S FATHER AND BROTHER

Subpoenas Have Been Issued But They Had Left Home.

(By The Associated Press.) WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., June 10. — Sheriff's deputies today were searching for George S. Ward and Ralph D. Ward, father and brother of Walter S. Ward, confessed slayer of Clarence Peters, ex-savior.

Subpoenas for Ward's father and brother were issued yesterday, but they had left the elder Ward's home in Spouten Bayvil, a few hours before the servers appeared.

The authorities want to question the father of Walter S. Ward regarding the blackmail plot, said by his son to have caused the killing of Peters, in a fight, May 16.

The reasons for the reported message from Ward to his son—"not a cent for blackmail, but I will spend \$75,000 to put the gang in jail"—are desired by the county officials, who also want to learn just how much Ward money has been paid the blackmailers and who made the demands.

WILL NOT REQUEST FORD TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT

(By The Associated Press.) DETROIT, Mich., June 10. — Decision not to make a formal request to Henry Ford that he become a candidate for president of the United States "for several weeks at least" has been made by the executive committee of the Dearborn "Ford for President Club." It was announced today by Rev. William Lawrence, president of the club.