

MR. LANSING QUILTS MR. WILSON'S CABINET

Letters Disclose Lack of Harmony Started At Peace Conference In Paris—Secretary Lansing In Reply Disdains Any Thought of Usurpation—Retiring Head of State Department Declares That Meetings Or Conferences of Cabinet Were "Proper and Necessary"; President Expresses "Much Disappointment" Over Tenor of Secretary's Answer To His Request.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Robert Lansing ended his career as Secretary of State today, after President Wilson had accused him of usurping the powers of President by calling meetings of the cabinet during Mr. Wilson's illness.

Mr. Lansing denied that he had sought or intended to usurp the Presidential authority. He added, however, that he believed then, and still believes, that the cabinet conferences were "for the best interests of the republic," that they were "proper and necessary" because of the President's condition and that he would have been derelict in his duty if he had failed to act as he did.

As the record stands, Mr. Lansing tendered his resignation and Mr. Wilson accepted it. The resignation was offered, however, only after the President, under date of February 7, had written, asking if it were true that Mr. Lansing had called cabinet meetings and stating that if such were the case he felt it necessary to say that "under our constitutional law and practice, as developed hitherto, no one but the President has the right to summon the heads of the executive departments into conference."

Mr. Lansing answered two days later, last Monday, saying he had called the cabinet conferences because he and others of the President's official family "felt that, in view of the fact that we were denied communication with you, it was wise for us to confer informally together on * * * matters as to which action could not be postponed until your medical advisers permitted you to pass upon them."

The Secretary concluded by saying that if the President believed he had failed in his "loyalty" to him, and if Mr. Wilson no longer had confidence in him he was ready to "relieve you of any embarrassment by placing my resignation in your hands."

The President replied last Wednesday that he was "much disappointed by Mr. Lansing's letter regarding 'the so-called cabinet meeting.'" He said he found nothing in the Secretary's letter "which justifies your assumption of Presidential authority in such a matter," and added that he "must frankly take advantage of your kind suggestion" to resign.

"I must say," continued the President, "that it would relieve me of embarrassment, Mr. Secretary, the embarrassment of feeling your reluctance and divergence of judgment, if you would give up your present office and afford me an opportunity to select some one else whose mind would more willingly go along with mine."

Before this letter was written, the day for the regular cabinet meeting—last Tuesday—had passed and the correspondence disclosed why the cabinet did not meet. On the same day that he received this letter from the President Mr. Lansing announced that he had written other cabinet officers that he would not call any more cabinet conferences for the present, but no explanation was offered. Inquiry at the White House brought only the statement that Mr. Wilson himself probably would call and preside at the next session of his official advisers.

But the differences between the President long pre-dated the first cabinet call by Mr. Lansing, which was issued last October 5th, seven days after Mr. Wilson returned from his western speaking tour and took to his bed. They began at the peace conference in Paris, as Mr. Lansing disclosed in his final letter to the President, under date of yesterday, and had continued since that time—one of the chief differences being over the government's attitude toward Mexico.

When the cabinet met on October 5th, Joseph P. Tumulty, private secretary to the President, issued a formal statement explaining the reasons for the conference. He said:

"The cabinet was called to consider questions in which more than one de-

partment was concerned, and also to discuss the industrial conference." He referred to the first conference called by the President with the hope of allaying the industrial unrest.

In his statement, Mr. Tumulty said that Rear Admiral Grayson, Mr. Wilson's physician, was present and "suggested that only urgent matters be brought to the President's attention." Thereafter until this week the cabinet met more or less regularly. During the coal strike it met twice a week in an effort to avert the walk-out of the miners and several weeks ago it was decided to have meetings every Tuesday and Friday.

During the coal wage controversy the President was said at the White House to have been advised of the meetings and to have been kept informed as to the progress his advisers were making toward a settlement of the controversy. He finally took the matter out of the cabinet's hands and suggested a settlement which the miners accepted.

The correspondence between the President and Mr. Lansing which resulted in Mr. Lansing's resignation was made public tonight at the State Department an hour after Under-Secretary Polk had conferred at the White House with Secretary Tumulty.

Mr. Lansing, in his final letter to the President said that "in thus severing our official association," he felt that he should make public a statement he had prepared recently showing that he had "not been unmindful that the continuance of our present relations was impossible" and that it was his duty to bring them to an end.

He added that had he followed his and "at the earliest moment compatible with the public interest."

Ever since January 1919, Mr. Lansing continued, "I have been conscious of the fact that you no longer were disposed to welcome my advice in matters pertaining to the negotiations at Paris, to our foreign service, or to international affairs in general." personal inclination, he would have resigned while in Paris, but that he had refrained because he felt it his duty to "cause you no embarrassment in carrying forward the great task in which you were then engaged."

Again Mr. Lansing said that while he had been "surprised and disappointed" at the frequent disapproval of his suggestions, he had never failed to follow the President's decisions "however difficult it made the conduct of our foreign affairs."

Mr. Lansing accompanied the President to Paris in December 1918, as one of the American peace delegates, but his friends have said that while Mr. Wilson was at the peace conference Mr. Lansing was virtually without authority and that naturally he felt this keenly since the other allied and associated countries were represented by their premiers and not the heads of their governments.

Mr. Lansing finally returned from Paris before the work of the American peace delegation was concluded, being succeeded by Frank L. Polk, under secretary of state. The friction between himself and Mr. Wilson continued after he came back to Washington.

During the President's illness the Mexican issue again came to the front with the kidnapping and subsequent arrest of American Consular Agent Jenkins in Mexico. After the Jenkins case had been discussed at cabinet meetings, presided over by Mr. Lansing, the State Department sent a note to Carranza bluntly warning him that further "molestation" of Jenkins would "seriously affect the relations between the United States and Mexico, for which the government of Mexico must assume sole responsibility."

President Wilson was advised of a situation which apparently had grown acute and he was said at the time to have personally taken charge of the matter. The Mexican government delayed its reply for some time and subsequently Jenkins was released on bail furnished by J. Salter Hansen without the consular agent's knowledge. Jenkins' case still is pending in the Mexican courts, having been transferred from the Puebla State courts to the Federal Supreme Court, which the State Department had contended was the only tribunal which had jurisdiction in the case. No further action has been taken by the American government, so far as has been announced.

While a few members of the Cabinet have conferred with Mr. Wilson since he was taken ill, it was said tonight that Mr. Lansing had not seen him and that whatever business

BLOCKADERS KILL YADKIN'S SHERIFF.

Slain As He Attempts to Seize Still Operators.—Three Suspects Hurried to Winston Jail—Baptist Divine Accuses Baity.

Yadkinville, Feb. 14.—Sheriff J. E. Zachary, of Yadkin county, was shot through the heart and killed about 11 o'clock last night at a blockade distillery, eight miles from Yadkinville, the county seat.

Three men were at the plant and all of them were arrested early this morning and brought to the Forsyth jail this afternoon for safe keeping, the Yadkin jail not being considered sufficiently secure.

Rev. A. A. Caudle, a Baptist minister of Yadkin county, accompanied the sheriff to the moonshine plant and declares that Robah Baity, aged 23, is the party who did the shooting. The other two men at the plant were Spencer McNeill and James Brown. According to the statement made to the coroner by the Baptist divine, Baity was standing close to Sheriff Zachary when the former fired the fatal shot, the powder burn igniting the officer's overcoat and the blaze was extinguished by Rev. Mr. Caudle, who says that he was standing only a few feet away when the sheriff walked up to Baity and McNeill, notifying them to consider themselves under arrest. Baity immediately drew his pistol and fired, the sheriff falling in his tracks.

The community in which the crime was committed is said by officers to be bad for blockading, nearly all of the people in that section being in sympathy with the making of whiskey. Preachers who dare to touch on prohibition in their sermons are soon made to realize that such doctrine is not appreciated.

Before the arrest of these parties this morning, a reward of \$1,000 was offered for their capture and coroner W. E. Rutledge said that it would be paid if the parties put in a claim for it.—Charlotte Observer.

Frank L. Polk Secretary Ad Interim.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Frank L. Polk, under secretary of state, will be made secretary ad interim tomorrow to act until President Wilson appoints a successor to Robert Lansing. This is expected to be in the very near future.

Several names were suggested in Administration circles, but officials frankly admitted that they had no definite information as to who the President had in mind for the place. Chief among those suggested was Mr. Polk, but his friends say that he will not accept the appointment if offered him because of the state of his health. In fact he has long had it in mind to resign from the State Department and take a long rest, a course which his physicians have urged.

National Thrift Stamp Week.

State superintendent of schools in every state in the Fifth Federal Reserve District have been notified that National Thrift Stamp week will be observed beginning Monday, March 1, and ending Saturday, March 6.

The War Organization for this territory is sending out instructions, literature and pledge cards to superintendents, and will co-operate in every way to awaken new interest on the part of parents and pupils in practicing everyday thrift. The effort is intended to emphasize the value of saving regularly in small amounts. Through the press, school journals, notices on school bulletin boards, programs, and in various ways the message of the 25-cent United States Thrift Stamp will be carried.

It is likely that the celebration of Thrift Stamp week in the schools will culminate on Friday, March 5, with an entertainment featuring the number of Thrift Stamps each child has bought during the week, and the presentation of a program based on those prepared by the Treasury Department for this purpose.

he had had with the President had been carried on by daily correspondence.

Before the President left on his Western trip, however, Mr. Lansing, after his return from Paris, had a standing engagement to see him daily and he visited the White House each noon to discuss foreign and other affairs.—Associated Press.

NORTH CAROLINA TOBACCO SALES FOR JANUARY 1920.

There were 103 warehouses active during the past month. Total sales reported for the month, 11,251,882 pounds. The producers' first hand sales reported, 9,522,959 pounds. Reports of resales amounted to a total of 1,728,923 pounds. The farmers' entire sales are estimated to be 9,947,959 pounds. Average price per hundred pounds was \$35.40.

Producers' sales for 1919 crop, reported to date, Feb. 1, 305,543,173 pounds. Producers' sales estimated to Feb. 1, 1920, 310,443,173 pounds. Grown in state in excess imports estimated 3,000,000 pounds. Acreage of the 1919 crop as estimated 554,000 acres. Average yield per acre estimated (October) 560 pounds. Price per pound of season's sales on market 51 cents. Farmers' production according to sales probably 316,000,000 pounds. Estimated value of the 1919 crop as sold \$161,800,000.00.

The total sales of the North Carolina tobacco crop for the year 1919 about closed has surpassed the expected or estimated quantity of 310,240,000 pounds of producers' leaf. There will probably be three million pounds sold after this date. Also there have been produced in the state and sold outside in excess of that imported, something like three million pounds of farmers' tobacco. This has occurred along the Tennessee border and adjacent to the Danville market primarily.

The January sales made by the 103 active warehouses exceeded the quantity expected. It was not expected that over eleven million pounds of the leaf would be sold. Of this amount nine and a half million pounds was farmers' weed. The price averaged somewhat low on account of a large proportion being producers' scrap, but the \$35.40 realized would have been a premium two years ago.

The rise in price from \$21.66 per hundred pounds realized from the July sales gradually increased to sixty-eight cents per pound in November. The Kentucky markets therefore opened during the higher price period, otherwise North Carolina would have been ahead in value of the crop. They are very close in the race as it is, although Kentucky produced half again as much of the weed.

Influenza-Pneumonia Claims Minister.

Rocky Mount, Feb. 15.—Rev. H. F. Morton died early Saturday in New York where he had been called last week by the illness of his wife who had been stricken with influenza while on a visit to the metropolis. Hastening to her bedside, Rev. Mr. Morton was himself stricken with the disease which soon developed into pneumonia and proved fatal after only a few days.

Rev. Mr. Morton, who was only 33 years old, was the son of the late Dr. M. D. Morton, who passed away in this city a year or two ago after having been the beloved pastor of the First Presbyterian church here for a period of 18 years.

Stacy Resigns As Judge.

Wilmington, Feb. 14.—Superior Court Judge W. P. Stacy, of the eighth judicial district late today forwarded to Governor T. W. Bickett his resignation to take effect March 1.

In his letter to the governor, Judge Stacy says that for some time he has contemplated taking this step and that it is his purpose to return to the bar and devote attention to the practice of the law.

League of Nations Candidate Wins.

Excelsior Springs, Mo., Feb. 14.—The election of Captain J. L. Milligan, democratic candidate and league of nations advocate over John E. Frost, republican, and league opponent, as representative in Congress for the third district, was conceded at 9:30 o'clock tonight by W. L. Coles, chairman of the republican committee.

Captain Milligan's majority, Chairman Cole said, will be between 1,700 and 1,800.

The election was to choose a successor in Congress to Secretary of Commerce Joshua Alexander and the league of nations was the dominant issue in the campaign.

Wife—Do you expect to get to heaven by hanging on to my skirt? Hub—No; but I might by showing St. Peter the bills for them.—Boston Transcript.

JUST TALK.

They say talk is cheap. Perhaps so, for there is an endless amount of the stuff going on all over our land and country in this day and time. I am a daily ear-witness to a lot of it. This might give you some little idea—some fellow said the other day that the "Congressional Record" has already published some six million words on the Covenant of the League of Nations, and still it is unadopted so far as Uncle Sam is concerned.

But there is one thing you just must say for talk. It is the weather-cock to the people's thoughts, and the things people think are nearly the things they do. The people of this county talked and talked of a new court house, and now they are going to build one. The Prohibitionists have actually talked whiskey off our map. And still the talk goes on.

Being myself a very poor talker and a good listener, I am the better provided with the necessary instinct to determine what some of the current talk will ultimately bring into existence. The following expressions are little thought-nuggets that I have picked up from day to day as the different citizens of Johnston have talked in passing by: "We need better roads than we have, but we are just not able to pay the price." On another day another man said, "We must have good roads in this county, if we have to float a two-million dollar bond issue." One man said he would like to see a structure reared up in our capital town as a memorial to those of our boys who died in France and said he would like to see that structure take the form of a memorial hospital. One said, "Our County Home is too much isolated." A man of very sound authority said, "The only great thing a poor man can do for his child is to educate him." Another very venerable man, who has great regard for the youth of this generation, said, "That the picture show, with its scenes of theft and robbery, fast living and tragic dying, was perverting the minds of our growing boys and girls to a noticeable degree and that a strong censorship ought to be instituted for every film they see."

These citizens of the "State of Johnston", are some of the things you think and say. They are a few pieces of the material of which our future, progressive Johnston will be built. They are a few of the problems about which our public welfare centers. Think on and talk on till your thinking and talking blaze into actions, and maybe sooner than we know or dream, these talked-of assets and reforms shall be a part of our public institutions.

H. V. ROSE,
Supt. Welfare.

Mrs. Josephus Daniels Named on Com.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Appointment of 11 women, including five from the south, as members of the executive committee of the Democratic national committee was announced today by Chairman Homer S. Cummings. Six additional women members will be appointed soon to make the women membership correspond with that of the men.

Those appointed were Miss Elizabeth Marbury, New York; Miss Caroline Ruuts-Rees, Greenwich, Conn.; Mrs. Kellogg Fairbank, Chicago; Mrs. Stiles W. Burr, St. Paul; Mrs. Helen Grenfell, Denver; Mrs. Overton G. Ellis, Tacoma; Mrs. John B. Castleman, Louisville; Mrs. Pattie Ruffner Jacobs, Birmingham; Mrs. Josephus Daniels, Raleigh; Mrs. John K. Otley, Atlanta, and Mrs. Beverly B. Mumford, Richmond.

Interfered With Preaching.

On Sunday February 15 two young men were taking a ride on the Central Highway between Smithfield and Clayton and had an accident. Perhaps the steering gear of the Ford was not right exactly but fast running was partly responsible for the accident. They passed a car and when they tried to get back to the middle of the road went further than they expected and the car turned half over injuring the top and one of the wheels. The young men were not hurt but badly frightened. The accident occurred near a colored church and a large part of the congregation left the preacher expounding the holy scriptures while they went out to see the sight of a car turned over and to help in getting it back on the wheels.

FLU EPIDEMIC NOW APPEARS ON DECLINE

Sunday's Total of New Cases Somewhat Lower With 2,667—Pneumonia Increases Following Influenza.—Three of 24 Counties Reporting Yesterday Responsible For More Than Half of Total.

Three counties of the 24 reporting yesterday furnished more than half the 2,667 new cases of influenza that were received at the offices of the State Board of Health, and with the exception of Davidson county, these reports were regarded as the accumulation of a week or more of the epidemic. Pneumonia reported in the 24 counties was considerably in excess of previous days, totalling 136 cases, with 34 deaths.

Except in some counties where the disease has just taken epidemic form, the situation is believed to have improved throughout the State and that the worst of the epidemic is over. Pneumonia is developing at a rate that is discouraging to health authorities, but this was not unexpected in the light of experience gained in the outbreak of 1918.

Some encouragement is gained from the fact that pneumonia is not as prevalent this year as it was in the initial outbreak in the state, and so far there have been less than 200 deaths due to it in the three weeks since the epidemic began, as against more than 6,000 during the four weeks of the 1918 scourge. The weather is regarded as the best cure for the disease and such weather as has been in vogue for the past three days is decidedly favorable to stamping out the epidemic.—News and Observer, 16.

Work Together Solve Market Problem

The growers of cotton have long since solved the problem of production, which has been proven by the fact that ample supplies of raw cotton have been harvested each year to meet the requirements of the active spindles of the world consuming American cotton. The growers of American cotton have done their full duty in supplying the demands of civilization with the silken fiber for clothing. This has been done under conditions of privation, poverty and illiteracy as the portion of the Southern cotton growers in the great raw cotton industry. The conditions fully emphasize the fact that during the past half century the growers have failed utterly to give proper attention to the marketing of spot cotton. It is of more vital importance to solve the problem of profitable marketing than it is to win out in the field of ample production.

If the farmer, who devotes his capital, brains, labor and the services of his family in the production each year of a great staple product, and through bad marketing facilities sells his crop at the cost of production, or below, he would have been better off had he never planted and cultivated such a crop. Every man who produces a valued commodity is entitled under the laws of trade and justice to a fair and reasonable profit on his labor and capital invested in the production of such commodity.

The time has now come in the evolution of our vast agricultural resources in the South when the question of modern and up-to-date methods in the future marketing of farm products must receive the attention it deserves. Fairly good cooperative systems are already employed by the producers in the marketing of nearly all staple farm products in the nation except the one big crop—cotton. It is the most valuable monetary crop raised in the United States, while it is at the same time the most wastefully handled of any known agricultural product. Cotton is baled, handled, sold and transported today under practically the same primitive methods employed fifty years ago. About the only difference between now and half a century ago is that production has been doubled and trebled, and a corresponding increase in waste, high fixed charges and unnecessary losses levied upon the growers as a penalty for their continued adherence and permission of such unbusinesslike systems.—Cotton Facts.

The most consoling thing about going to the movie is seeing so many women in the pictures opening their mouths and not saying a word you can hear.—Jacksonville Times-Union.