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FIRST MEETING OF LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Geneva Prepares for Delegates from Forty-one Nations—Eminent Men.

Geneva, Nov. 10.—Geneva is beginning to feel its honor as the headquarters of the world and its residents are being violently elbowed to make room for the League of Nations, with all its appurtenances.

The secretariat of the League, 300 strong, occupies the largest hotel for its offices. The delegations to the assembly of the League on November 15, their secretaries and advisers are expected to number a thousand more, taxing to the utmost the accommodations of the small city.

Judging by the promptness and numerical strength of its representation, Japan is the country that takes its role in the League most seriously. About eighty of its delegates, already are here, taking up three floors in two of the leading hotels, and quarters have been reserved for one hundred in all. Dr. Gastao Dacunha, Brazilian Ambassador to France, and one of the most active members in the League council, was the first delegate to arrive.

Delegations are expected from at least 41 of the 45 members of the League. The new kingdom of the Hedjaz has not yet announced the appointment of a delegate, but has asked press facilities for a Hedjaz correspondent. The delegations already announced make up a brilliant group of statesmen, orators and diplomats, headed by two former presidents of republics. There are two former premiers, two presidents of senates, one president of a house of representatives, nine cabinet ministers—mostly ministers of foreign affairs—seven former cabinet members, four ambassadors and twenty ministers plenipotentiary. The distinguished orators include Rene Viviani, Dr. Da Cunha and Dr. Rafael Martinez Ortiz, Cuban minister to France.

Final preparations for the assembly will be completed Sunday by the League council which will meet at the old National hotel, which since it was bought by the League has been rechristened, the "Palace of Nations."

The first important subject coming up, according to the program as it now stands is an amendment to the League covenant. This discussion may, if the delegates so wish, be preceded by the question of the voting strength of the delegations. It is recalled that Leon Bourgeois, the French representative at the time of the adoption of the covenant, expressed the hope that the assembly would accord the French colonies the same right of representation as accorded the British dominions. The French delegation thus far has given no notice that it will bring up the question.—Associated Press.

\$75,000 GEMS UNCLAIMED.

Found in Taxicab With Articles of Feminine Apparel.

New York, Nov. 8.—Wanted, Owner of \$75,000 worth of jewels. They were found in a taxicab by Mrs. H. Sawyer and turned over to the police today.

Last night while riding in a taxicab, Mrs. Sawyer found a small black canvas covered handbag on the seat. Examination showed that it contained several articles of feminine wearing apparel, a large white stone horse-shoe pin set with pearls, a large emerald, two rows of diamonds, a large pearl, three small rings, two diamond rings, one emerald ring, a sapphire ring, a ruby ring and a handsome set of toilet articles set in silver.

The taxicab driver said he drove a woman from the Winter Garden to the Hotel Seville, just before he engaged Mrs. Sawyer. Unless the owner shows up in 30 days the jewels will go to Mrs. Sawyer.—Washington Post.

Fire in Franz Joseph's Study

Budapest, Nov. 9.—Fire in the Royal Palace has destroyed the former study of Emperor Franz Joseph, including the elaborate ceiling, which was considered an artistic masterpiece of Empress Maria Theresa's time.

MRS. VARNER FILES SUIT FOR \$50,000

Enters Suit Federal Court—Varner Gives Statement—Newspaper Man.

Flatly denying all charges brought against her by her husband in his action for divorce instituted last August and charging activity of "certain slanderers and conspirators against her character," Mrs. Florence C. Varner, wife of H. B. Varner, of Lexington, has begun counter-action in the federal court at Greensboro, in which she demands possession of property at Lexington valued at \$50,000, in addition to praying the court to allow her a "reasonable subsistence" from the estate of the defendant.

The action of Mrs. Varner is her reply to the action of her husband, who is well known throughout the state as former president of the State Press association, as publisher of Southern Good Roads Magazine and the Lexington Dispatch, prominent good roads advocate, real estate dealer and motion picture theater owner, and who on last August instituted divorce proceedings against his wife and at the same time began suit for \$100,000 against Baxter McRary, a negro, for alleged alienation of her affections.

Mrs. Varner brings her suit in the federal court as a citizen of the state of Utah, declaring in her complaint that she was sent to Salt Lake City by the defendant or his friends last August, without being allowed to communicate with her husband or make any defense against the charges brought against her.

The complaint denies that Mrs. Varner ever held a private conversation with Baxter McRary in her life and alleges that she has never been in his presence alone and that she "has never, for one moment in her life, treated him as a friend or her social equal," and that the intimately friendly relation existing between McRary and her husband was obnoxious to her; "that the defendant knew of and was responsible to a great extent for the visits of the said McRary to the plaintiff's house."

It was upon Mr. Varner's return from a trip north that the sensation developed at Lexington last August.—Charlotte Observer.

Mr. Varner Makes Statement

Lexington, Nov. 8.—When asked for a statement concerning the allegations made by his wife, Florence C. Varner, in suit for alimony filed in Greensboro federal court, Saturday, H. B. Varner today said: "On August 7, I left home for New York on a business trip, having complete confidence in my wife. While in that city on August 10 I was notified to come home at once. I was met by friends at High Point and informed that Baxter McRary had been seen to sneak in my house by the back entrance at 10 o'clock at night and had been found under the house three hours later. I came directly to the hotel here and conducted a searching investigation. I decided that I could no longer live with her and sent Fred O. Sink and Wade H. Phillips to so inform her. I did not go to see her, but she was not prevented from seeing me at the hotel or my office, before her departure for Salt Lake City, Utah.

"She did not go away until I had ascertained that she had ample means and she took everything she desired from the home.

"At the time a number of years ago when she alleges she was practicing rigid economy in order to assist me in business, she was furnished with automobiles and whatever else she might desire for her pleasure and comfort.

"In July when I attended gatherings at Asheville, I secured rooms for both of us at the Grove Park Inn, but she found excuse for not going. Again I offered to take her with me to New York, and expected her to go but she again made excuse and stayed at home."—Greensboro News.

Doncha Know Ol' Top

"Aw, aw," said Snobleigh, "it must be—aw—very unpleasant for you Americans to be—aw—governed by people whom you—aw—wouldn't ask to dinner."

"Oh, I don't know," said the American girl; "no more so than for you to be governed by people who wouldn't ask you to dinner."

GENERAL AND STATE NEWS PARAGRAPHS

Hapenings of Interest As Gathered From the Daily Newspapers

Milk prices in St. Louis have dropped from 17 to 16 cents per quart.

Nearly 500 have been in attendance this week at the general convention of the U. D. C. Governor Bickett made the opening address Tuesday night.

An eight-year-old boy near Eastman, Ga., was gored to death by a supposedly harmless milch cow Tuesday. The boy's jugular vein was severed.

Prices of food served at Child's restaurants throughout the United States will be reduced from 11 to 28 per cent as soon as new menu cards can be printed and distributed.

The United States Shipping Board barge, Nashville, went down in the Gulf of Mexico Monday with a cargo of 13,000 barrels of oil. All members of the crew were saved.

Mrs. J. O. Garner, of Denton, died Monday after drinking an ounce and a half of carbolic acid. She had been married only about two months. No cause was given for the act.

The dead body of an infant was discovered in the waiting room of the Union station at Durham Monday night. The body was wrapped in a flour sack and packed in a pasteboard snuff box.

The American Fund Stations in the districts overrun by the Bolsheviks in August are being gradually re-established. The chief of the Relief fund in Poland says that during this month 700,000 children will be fed.

Fire broke out in operating room of a moving picture theatre in Wilson Monday after drinking an ounce and a half of carbolic acid. The members of the audience escaped unhurt.

The board of directors of the State Industrial School for girls, at Samarcand, Moore county, met in Charlotte Tuesday. There are 169 women at the school at the present time. The institution is crowded and 90 applications have been turned down recently.

A reduction in the price of flour of 50 cents a barrel has been announced by one of the largest mills in the South located at Roanoke, Va. The wholesale price of flour now is quoted there at \$11.75 to \$12.85 a barrel. At Minneapolis, Minn., it sold for \$9.65 Tuesday.

Wilson county is having its first fair this week. Tuesday was featured with a parade, which was led by the City of Wilson float. A number of young ladies rode in the float who were descendants of the first commissioners of Wilson when it was founded 71 years ago.

Forty or more airships with speeds exceeding one hundred miles an hour are to participate in a race in a 160 mile flight on Thanksgiving Day. This is the first race for the Pulitzer trophy donated by Ralph Pulitzer to the Aero Club of America. Army and Navy planes have entered for the race.

COOLIDGE DUE FOR A JOLT.

He Won't Find Any \$37.50 Per Month Flats in Washington. Priced from \$200 to \$700

Washington, D. C., Nov. 9.—If Vice President-elect Coolidge undertakes to rent a house in Washington along the same economical lines as he is reported to have followed in Boston, he will find himself against a real problem.

His Boston "flat" is said to have cost him but \$37.50 a month. A Washington home of the style and location that goes with the job would be hard to find for less than \$200 a month, ranging up to \$700 or more.

It has been suggested that President-elect Harding, who owns his home on Wyoming avenue, might save the situation by turning it over to his colleague or even find an apartment for him in the White House, enabling the President to bring the Vice President more actively into counsels of State.—Philadelphia Record.

"Do you say that your hens 'sit' or 'set'?" asked the precise pedagogue of the busy housewife. "It never matters to me what I say," was the quick reply. "What concerns me is to learn, when I hear the hen cackling, is whether she is laying or lying."—Farm and Fireside.

NEWS FROM THE CAPITAL OF BANNER

Deaths of Mrs. Thomas McLamb and Mrs. Uria Britt—Social Events

Benson, Nov. 10.—Miss Mary Lee was hostess to a number of the younger set, Thursday evening from eight until eleven in honor of her guest, Miss Laura Smith, of Fayetteville. The rooms of the lower floor were tastefully decorated with palms, ferns, autumn leaves and crysanthemums. Many enjoyable games were played and an interesting contest in which the lucky couple proved to be Miss Smith and Mr. Laurie Cavanaugh who were presented with a lovely box of chocolates. Music by several of the guests added much to the enjoyment of the evening. The color scheme of pink, green and white was carried out in the refreshments, which consisted of block cream and cake. Miss Lee was assisted in entertaining her guests by Miss Sarah Turlington and Miss Stella S. Creech.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Hamilton, of Lumberton, were here Saturday and Sunday the guests of Mr. and Mrs. L. B. McDaniels.

Messrs M. T. Britt and W. D. Boone, went to Sanford Tuesday on business. Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Faircloth are being congratulated upon the arrival of a fine son on Monday, November 8th.

Mr. W. H. Royal was a visitor to Princeton Tuesday on business.

Mrs. L. D. Debnam, of Selma, arrived Tuesday morning to visit at the home of her son-in-law, Dr. A. S. Oliver who is sick with tonsillitis.

The firm of J. H. Boon & Son is moving its business into the handsome new brick building which has just been completed.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Hall went to Blue's Creek Sunday and Mrs. Hall's father, Mr. Pete Spence returned with them for a few days' visit.

Miss Flora Canaday spent the week end with her sister, Mrs. O. A. Barbour.

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Rose, of Rocky Mount are in town for a few days visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Rose.

Mr. R. F. Smith went to Raleigh Friday to see his son, Roy Smith, who is in the A. & E. College there.

Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Martin, of Smithfield, was here Sunday spending the day with relatives.

Mrs. Thomas McLamb died suddenly at her home here Saturday morning November 6th. She was sixty-five years old and leaves a large family of boys and girls besides her husband and mother, also several sisters, all of whom were grief-stricken at her sudden death. She was buried in the Young family burying ground. Services were conducted by Rev. Charlie Johnson at the home.

Mrs. Uria Britt, mother of our townsmen, J. M. Britt, E. P. Britt and Norman Britt died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Judson Cavanaugh in Wallace last Thursday and her body was brought here for burial Friday. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. C. C. Wheeler of the Baptist church here, prayer being offered by Rev. A. T. Lassiter. Mrs. Britt was 85 years old and was a woman of strong character and lovable disposition. She with her husband reared to man-hood and woman-hood a family of boys and girls all of whom survive her. She was a member of the Benson Baptist church for a number of years prior to her death.

The community association held an interesting meeting last Tuesday evening in the school auditorium, the main feature of the program was an address on Tuberculosis by Rev. Dr. A. S. Oliver and a general discussion of that disease. The association will sell Red Cross Christmas Seals this year. Reports were heard from the various committees and a vocal solo rendered by Mrs. E. M. Hall. The association will serve dinner to the ex-service men of this community on Armistice day which will be celebrated in appropriate manner, the program for the day being in charge of the Banner Post of the American Legion.

The ladies of the Methodist church have been observing this week as a week of prayer. The program yesterday was given by the Young Peoples Society. Mrs. J. D. Spiers is superintendent of this department and the meeting was very interesting.

CRIME COMMITTED NEAR GASTONIA

One Killed, Another Perhaps Fatally Wounded Auto Held Up

Gastonia, Nov. 8.—After a night and day of investigation and search, officers late tonight were apparently nowhere near a solution of the mysterious tragedy enacted three miles from here last night when John Ford, a well connected young man of Lincoln, was shot to death, and Miss Essie Beatty, of Gastonia, was probably fatally wounded, while on an automobile ride with Ransom Killian, of Lincoln, and Miss Effie Grice, of Gastonia. No arrests have been made.

Officers returned tonight from Blacksburg, S. C., where they went today to investigate a report that two negroes had been arrested there on suspicion of implication in the crime. The report proved unfounded and the officers returned without new information. They were accompanied by Ransom Killian, who was taken along to identify the negroes reported held there.

Excitement, which was high last night, greatly subsided today, and interest centered in the account of the alleged hold-up and killing as given by young Killian, at the coroner's inquest. He said that while the four were riding out toward Bessemer City they stopped and Ford and Miss Grice got out of the car and walked out of sight, while the witness and Miss Beatty remained in the automobile. After a few minutes, a negro approached from the woods, held him up at the point of a pistol and robbed him of a few dollars, firing his revolver three times, one of the bullets striking the young woman. About the same time other shots were heard in the direction Ford and the other girl had gone and a second negro approached and said he had shot the other man "down yonder." At this point, Killian's testimony was interrupted by the officers, who took him to Blacksburg.

The shooting was said to have occurred about 7:30 p. m., but it was not reported until nearly 10 o'clock, when Killian and the girls brought the body of Ford to the city. City council in session tonight offered a reward of \$500 for the arrest of the guilty parties or evidence leading to conviction.

The story as told by the two girls, Effie Grice and Essie Beatty and Ransom Killian, another young man in the party is to the effect that the shooting was done by two negroes who robbed them and then committed a crime against the two young white women. The belief prevails on the streets of Gastonia today that the shooting was done by some of the people who live in the neighborhood of the affair and who recently have been greatly molested by night riding parties.—Greensboro News.

President-elect on Vacation

President-elect and Mrs. Harding are now at Point Isabel, Texas, where they will spend two weeks in seclusion before going for a week of sightseeing in the Panama Canal Zone. At Point Isabel they are the guests of Mr. F. E. Scooby, prominent Republican of the Lone Star State, who was a leader of the Harding pre-convention campaign, and has been a personal friend of Mr. Harding for many years.—News and Observer.

The Colored Fair.

The Johnston County Colored Fair opened here Wednesday. The president H. R. Goodson of Clayton made a speech at the opening. William S. Avera is the secretary of the fair and D. W. H. Mitchiner is treasurer. The crowds yesterday were large and much interest was taken. At 2 o'clock Thursday a speech was made by Prof. J. D. Wray of Greensboro who is from the Farm Makers Club Agents. Today is education day. They are having some interesting horse racing each day. The exhibits are creditable all through.

New Orleans, La., Nov. 8.—Union plasterers today went on strike when employers refused to grant their requests for wage increases from \$8 to \$10 a day. Work on several large buildings under construction was delayed.

AUTOMOBILE HITS DWELLING HOUSE

Accident in Goldsboro Fatally Hurts One And Injures Others.

Goldsboro, Nov. 11.—Driving at 50 miles an hour in response to a fire alarm from an outlying section of the city, the fire chief's automobile, with Chief Yelverton and Fireman Hinson aboard, ran into an iron "traffic cop" at the intersection of Oak and John streets shortly before midnight while attempting to pass another automobile, careened across the street and crashed into a small dwelling where a mother and her three children lay asleep.

The automobile was smashed to bits, the dwelling was knocked from its moorings and partially wrecked and the mother and her children more or less painfully injured. The fire chief was seriously injured and the driver of the car fatally hurt. The fire itself was forgotten in the excitement of the wreck, but turned out to be not much of a fire. A small store was burned.

At an early hour this morning both the chief and the fireman were still unconscious and had been carried to the operating table at the Spicer Sanitarium. Medical attention was given the mother and her children in the ruins of their home.

The car, a Dodge roadster, was being driven at its utmost capacity for speed. When it left the street it missed a water hydrant by an inch, and a few feet further cleared a telephone pole by a similar margin. The little dwelling was crushed, the wreckage of the roadster going completely through the outer walls.

Chief Yelverton is one of the most popular citizens of Goldsboro. He returned two days ago from his bridal tour, and the entire population of the city anxiously awaits word from the room where surgeons are fighting for his life.—News and Observer.

In Honor of Mrs. Aycock

Mrs. H. C. Hood delightfully entertained in her friends Wednesday evening in honor of her sister, Mrs. R. N. Aycock. Two tables of rook were played, after which delicious asparagus salad and coffee was served.

The fortunate guests were, Mrs. F. H. Brooks, Mrs. R. L. Tomlinson, Misses Eula Parrish, Irene Myatt, Bettie Watson and Cora Bell Ives.

Mrs. R. B. John has returned to Maxton after spending a few days in the city with her daughter, Mrs. N. T. Holland.

THE SWISS PERFORMERS.

Woman's Club Brings Fine Entertainment to Town. Packed House Audience Well Pleased.

The Woman's Club of Smithfield is to be congratulated upon the splendid lyceum attraction with which they entertained the community at the Smithfield Opera House on Tuesday night, November 9th.

This was the second of a series of four performances, which will make up the lyceum course for the year. It consisted of Mrs. Fietch's Tyrolean Yodlers, a troupe of six Swiss performers and singers, and every one was a real artist. The house was packed full and the closest attention was given to every number of the program, and every number received its share of the very copious applause that the whole program received by the Smithfield folks. The costumes worn by the troupe were the same as those worn by the people of Switzerland on Sundays when they go to church. The attire, of course, looked a bit quaint here, but it had a pleasing effect on the audience. The performers indulged just enough in their native folk-songs to give zest to the evening. The audience especially liked the yodeling and its echo that was resounded from the distant mountains, and the little fireside folk-song that the peasants sing on winter nights.

They were a clean bunch from beginning to end, and their entertainment was high class through and through. The members of the Woman's Club have our congratulations for the success of the last performance, and our best wishes for their success in securing another troupe as good for the next number.