

WEATHER

Fair and not quite so cold tonight. Probably light frost tonight. Friday fair and warmer.

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United States To Join Reparations Commission

Harding Says Congress Should Authorize American Membership, And Will Publish Note To Allies Asking That \$241,000,000 Occupation Expense Bill Be Considered

By DAVID LAWRENCE (Copyright 1922 by The Advance)

Washington, March 22.—The United States will take its place at the table of the reparations commission before very long.

This conclusion is inescapable after the developments of the last 24 hours here—the expression from the White House that Congress should authorize American membership—and the decision today to make public the full text of the American note to Great Britain, France, Belgium, Italy and Japan asking that the claim for \$241,000,000 for payment of the expenses of the American army of occupation on the Rhine be considered by the allied powers who are doing out the reparation money.

No less a person than the President himself has told Congress that the situation over the import of dyes from Germany for the textile industry is so serious that American participation in the deliberations of the reparations commission is absolutely essential. Mr. Harding now puts the issue squarely up to Congress and says the responsibility for the absence of an American member on the reparations commission lies with Congress.

This is a new tack for the executive. Heretofore the initiative in international co-operation has been with the President or Secretary of State, but so jealous has Congress become over all dealings with Europe that Mr. Harding is not apt to project the question, especially at a time when the treaties negotiated by the arms conference are having such hard sledding.

It is significant that both Senator Lodge and Senator Underwood, leaders of the Republican and Democratic parties respectively in the Senate, are crying against the allied neglect of the American claim for \$241,000,000 and are insisting on its payment. The executive is not saying that this claim would not now be in question if the United States had been represented on the reparations commission but he has hinted as much and the chances are that he will permit the country to believe Congress rather than the executive is responsible.

Incidentally, the pressure for American representation on the reparations commission comes from many different sides. The textile manufacturers who say they are unable to obtain certain dyes not made in this country are insisting that the American Government exercise its rights and get those dyes from Germany through the reparations committee which is in full charge of what is done with Germany's dyes. It would be possible for instance to take dyes in payment of a part of the \$241,000,000 owed America. These dyes would then be sold to American firms by the United States Government which would credit the receipts against the original sum expended for maintaining the army on the Rhine.

Until last November the textile alliance, an organization created by the textile industry, was getting German dyes by virtue of an agreement with the Department of State which in turn was dealing directly with the reparations commission. The department, however, terminated the arrangement immediately upon the ratification of the Berlin treaty and the adoption by the American Senate of a reservation declaring that the United States Government shall not be represented on the reparations commission without the consent of Congress. The legal experts of the Department of State felt that any further dealings with the reparations commission after that reservation was effective would be illegal. This left the textile industry at a serious disadvantage and appeal after appeal has been made to the President to urge Congress to pass the necessary legislation to permit American representation on the reparations commission. Mr. Harding wrote Senator Frelinghuysen of New Jersey expressing regret over the situation and saying he was powerless to act without help from Congress.

And thus the situation has drifted until the Allies now have gone ahead and apportioned German reparation money without considering America's claims. They had invited America again and again to be present but without result. The problem became so complex that it is believed the first thing Secretary Hughes did

Verdict of Guilty Rendered In Hurry

Jury In Case of Negro Charged With Forgery Took But Eleven Minutes To Decide

After ten minutes of deliberation, a Superior Court jury here late Wednesday afternoon returned a verdict of guilty in the case of Abe Sawyer, negro charged with committing an assault upon two white women here. The verdict took no cognizance of the plea of insanity offered by the attorneys representing Sawyer. Judge Bond temporarily postponed sentence in the case.

The assault charge against Abe Sawyer, the negro who insulted two white ladies, Mrs. Mae Willey and Mrs. H. G. Etheridge at the Norfolk Southern passenger station here in February, was taken up after the Barcliff case had been concluded. W. L. Cohoon and M. B. Simpson, the attorneys representing Sawyer, based their defense on the allegation that their client was insane when he committed the alleged act of assault, and placed on the stand numerous witnesses in support of their contention to that effect. The case went to the jury shortly before five o'clock Wednesday afternoon.

The jury in the case of C. M. Barcliff, colored, charged with forgery, brought in a verdict of guilty within eleven minutes after Judge Bond had concluded his charge Wednesday afternoon in Superior Court, but the judge temporarily reserved sentence on the negro.

GIVE SUBSCRIPTION PARTY ON THURSDAY, MARCH 30

The ways and means committee of the Parent-Teachers Association is arranging for a subscription card party in the Elks Hall, Thursday, March 30, from 3 to 5:30 and from 8 to 11. Tickets will be for sale beginning Friday of this week. Auction bridge, 50¢, and rook will be played and the ladies may take their choice and make up their own parties. The committee is made up of Mrs. J. A. Spence, Mrs. Carl Blades, Mrs. J. M. Weeks, Mrs. James Hathaway, Mrs. Frank Scott, Miss Hattie Harney, Mrs. H. G. Kramer, Mrs. J. Norman Whitehurst, Mrs. Will Perry, Mrs. L. E. Skinner. The music will be under the direction of Mrs. J. M. Meekins.

BACK FROM NEW YORK

M. Leigh Sheep is back from New York, where he made purchases for the pre-Easter trade of the Woman's Wear Store. "Splendid values in dresses, coats and suits were made," says Mr. Sheep, "so that our customers can effect a real saving and be sure of latest style merchandise. No newer or better styles are being shown in New York than I have brought to Elizabeth City for our customers."

WILL SING AT TENT

Mrs. George D. Bell, of the City Road Methodist choir, will sing at the McAdams tent meeting Thursday night.

after President Harding's return from Florida was to advise that it would be increasingly difficult to handle American questions touching the reparations commission unless America officially were represented on the commission. It is beginning to be apparent that the reparations commission which is wholly separate and distinct from the League of Nations is a most powerful economic body with tentacles reaching into American commerce. There are those who believe Germany's exports and imports eventually will be regulated by the reparations commission and that tariffs may be imposed which will affect America vitally and against which interminable legal argument and diplomatic effort will have to be exerted. Absence from the reparations commission is simply piling up legal troubles for the United States—and the White House and Department of State are not averse to having the country know that Congress is alone able to cure the situation and give them the authority to safeguard and protect American rights.

FRONT HIGH SCHOOL TOWARD ROAD STREET

School Trustees Reverse Earlier Ruling That Would Have Faced New Building On Canal

The Board of School Trustees has reversed its decision to front the new city high school on the canal, toward the foot of Elliott street, and will instead locate the building on Road street, opposite the present high school building. The Board justifies the change with the statement that, were the new building to face the canal, the depth of the lot would allow but 56 feet from the handsome structure to the proposed street, and that the building itself would necessarily extend to within ten feet of the Sawyer property line. These factors, declare members of the Board, would spoil the symmetry of building and lot.

School Board officials point out, on the other hand, that the conformation of the Davis lot permits the building, if fronted on Road street, to be located 100 feet from the street. Plans tentatively drawn, however, allow a distance of eighty feet, which the Board believes is sufficient to make the building show up well. At present, it is planned to build a white high school housing 21 classrooms, a library, gymnasium, auditorium and special vocational and business departments. The building will have a frontage of 208 feet on Road street, and 150 feet on the canal, the latter in a handsome wing with an entrance but slightly less imposing than the main entrance on Road street.

The School Board feels that, with the new building 80 feet from the street, it will not dwarf into insignificance the existing high school, since the latter is but 60 feet removed from Road street. The proposed high school will, it is indicated, have two entrances on Pool street, which will, however, be far less pretentious than those on Road street and the canal.

A sixteen room colored high school will be erected on property bought by the trustees on Body Road, some five hundred yards from Roanoke Institute, and a six-room colored primary school will be built on Bank street, in what is known as Sawyertown. Plans call for the expenditure of \$300,000 on the three buildings. The colored high school lot has a frontage of 390 feet, a depth of 1100 feet, and contains approximately nine acres, affording almost unlimited room for a baseball field, football gridiron, tennis and basketball courts. It cost the Board \$6,000. The Bank street lot has an area of three acres, and the purchase price was \$880.

No opposition is indicated thus far on the part of either the School Board or the owners of the Davis property, to the price of \$25,000 set for the tract recently by a board of appraisers under condemnation proceedings. The four or five acres bought by the Board on Parsonage street for \$16,500 will not be built upon for the present, and may be converted temporarily into an auxiliary athletic field.

COST \$5 NOT TO STOP

C. L. Twiford of this city was fined five dollars and costs in recorder's court here Thursday morning for failure to bring his automobile to a full stop at the approach of a fire truck on the way to answer an alarm.

BANKER GETS MISTRAL

Lancaster, S. C., Mar. 23 (By The Associated Press)—The jury in the case of Charles D. Jones, banker and merchant, charged with breach of trust and misappropriation of funds, was discharged this morning and a mistrial ordered. He will be tried on other indictments at the next term of court.

ARMOUR MILLIONS COULD NOT SAVE CHILD'S LIFE

Chicago, Mar. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Gwendolyn Armour, six year old daughter of Philip D. Armour, Third, died from septicaemia, despite the millions of the Armour family, the skill of a dozen surgeons, a host of nurses and resources of an entire city.

FREIGHTER REACHES PORT

Cherbourg, France, Mar. 23 (By The Associated Press)—The Shipping Board freighter, West Caruth, reached here today after sacrificing a large part of her cargo.

Marseilles, Mar. 23 (By The Associated Press)—The American freighter West Caruth is sinking seventeen miles east of Cherbourg, according to a wireless appeal for help intercepted at Mediterranean wireless stations.

FINAL BATTLE IS BEGUN IN SENATE

Administration Leaders Reported Holding Lines Intact Against Onslaught Of Irreconcilables In Debates

Washington, Mar. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Final forensic battle over the four power treaty began in the Senate today with the administration leaders holding their lines intact against the irreconcilables' onslaught, and predicting ratification tomorrow without reservation except that approved by the foreign relations committee and President Harding.

Confesses Crime Laid To Another

Richmond, Va., Mar. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Curtis R. Jenkins, of South Richmond, who died February 23rd, confessed six days before his death that he, and not Walter R. Hines, killed policeman Washington I. Curtis last August, according to a statement made this morning by Mrs. Bessie Jenkins, a sister-in-law of the dead man.

HOUSE DEMOCRATS LAUNCH FIGHT AGAINST GAG RULE

Washington, Mar. 23 (By The Associated Press)—A fight against gag rule was launched by House Democratic leaders today after majority leaders had presented their program for the passage of the soldiers bonus bill.

Big Tidal Wave Has Inundated Venice

London, Mar. 23 (By The Associated Press)—A Central News dispatch from Venice says that a tidal wave last night inundated the city, the water rising over three feet in the public squares.

TRY TO HALT STRIKE

New York, Mar. 23 (By The Associated Press)—An eleventh hour attempt to halt preparations for a nation wide coal strike was made by the arbitration committee of anthracite miners and operators who met today behind closed doors. Upon the conference depends whether 200,000 anthracite workers shall join the 400,000 bituminous miners strike on April 1.

C. M. B. CLASS PRESENTS GIFT TO MISS BAUGHN

The C. M. B. Class of Blackwell Memorial Sunday school met with Mrs. W. G. Overman on Cypress street Tuesday night. Dr. J. H. Thayer made a helpful talk on the book of Isaiah. At the close of the meeting refreshments were served by the hostess.

The class presented a piece of silver to Miss Marian Baughn, who leaves at the end of this month for her home in Harlem, Georgia, after a year and a half as special Sunday school worker for Blackwell Memorial. It is with great regret that the Sunday school will say good bye to Miss Baughn, for she is liked by every one, old and young.

Oklahoma Governor Is To Face Trial

Oklmulgee, Okla., Mar. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Governor J. B. Robertson of Oklahoma and several officials of Okmulgee banks are under bond today for trial, the indictments alleging illegal transactions involving two local banking institutions. County Attorney Hepburn announced that the date of the trial will not be fixed till a week or ten days.

REWARDED AFTER 8 YEARS

Constant Fearing, shop foreman in The Advance office, blossomed out Thursday morning in a collar of the vintage of 1914. He explained that the collar was sent him that year by a relative, who did not know him very well, and that he had to wait eight years—in fact, until Thursday—for his neck to grow big enough for the gift collar to fit him.

OIL EXPORTS FALL OFF

Washington, Mar. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Exports of cotton seed oil during February fell off slightly under 400 per cent as compared with a year ago, commerce reports show.

GRANTED DIVORCE

A divorce was granted in Superior Court here Thursday morning to Lina Brothers, colored, from her husband, Henry Brothers, on grounds of infidelity and brutal treatment.

Annual Surfmens' Meet To Be Mid-April Event

No Set Program This Year, But Many Impromptu Races And Contests Will Feature Convention of Surfmens' Mutual Benefit Association at Elizabeth City, April 18 and 19

The Annual Surfmens' Meet will be held at this city on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 18 and 19. For many years, the annual coming of the life savers, members of the Surfmens' Mutual Benefit Association, to Elizabeth City has been a red-letter event, and the city has turned out to welcome them. Usually it is held in June, but this year it is set for an earlier date in order that the men may more conveniently attend.

Last year's program of water sports, life saving drills, tournaments and contests, which drew thousands of people to this city, and furnished a day of excellent entertainment for all, will not be duplicated at the 1922 Surfmens' Meet. But there will be, it is indicated, numerous impromptu races, signaling competitions and other of the events that are usually pulled off during the days that the life savers spend here. The revenue cutter Pamlico is scheduled to be at the city during the Meet, and it is likely that the vessel will be the center of the day's sports.

The business sessions of the Surfmens' Meet will be held at the assembly rooms of the local Chamber of Commerce, and that organization is planning to entertain the visiting Coast Guard men at an elaborate banquet, and in automobile excursions through the city and surrounding rural districts. Every effort will be made to show the visitors a good time, but as stated they will not be called upon for a series of grueling drills and races during their brief vacation-time here.

Many of the old timers whose faces have become familiar in the city by reason of their attendance at numerous Surfmens' Meets of other years, will be here for the event. Captain Bannister B. Midgett, affectionately known as "Cap'n Ban," the daddy of the Coast Guard Service, will be right on hand as well as Captain John Allen Midgett, popularly conceded to be the best looking Coast Guard Captain, and who, with his crew of daredevil Midgetts, won international fame during the World War as the hero of the Mirlo disaster.

Coast Guard men from Cape Hatteras, "the Graveyard of Ships," will be here—bronzed, fearless fellows whose fateful Cape is ever jeopardizing lives that they must save from the peril of lurking, shifting shoals. Others may come from points all along the wide-flung seaboard of the United States, from Maine along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts to Texas, from the Coast Guard stations along the Pacific, and likely even from the shores of the Great Lakes.

The Surfmens' Mutual Benefit Association, for whose business sessions the annual Surfmens' Meets are primarily held, is essentially a fraternal life insurance organization. It was organized by eighty members of what was then the Life Saving Service, but is now known as the Coast Guard, at a meeting at the courthouse at Elizabeth City in June, 1900. The Association was formed largely as the result of the efforts of the late Hodge Gallop, a brother of M. P. and C. D. Gallop, of this city, who long served as captain of Whale's Head station, on the Currituck beach.

The Association was organized purely for the protection of the widows and orphans of the then poorly paid life savers who might die in the performance of their dangerous duties. In the 22 years of its existence, it has paid out considerably more than a quarter of a million dollars to the surviving relatives of deceased members. It affords life insurance to men whose duties are so hazardous that regular insurance companies will not accept them as risks.

M. P. Hite, the present secretary-treasurer of the organization, states that the cost of operation of the Surfmens' Mutual Benefit Association is less than that of any similar benevolent association of which he has heard. The cost has never exceeded six per cent, he says, and has averaged around four per cent of the dues collected from the members. He has completely revolutionized earlier, cumbersome bookkeeping methods used in the Association, and has materially simplified the record-keeping by carefully systematizing it.

Elizabeth City will turn out this year as usual to welcome the life-

SOLDIER BONUS SURE TO PASS

Washington, Mar. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Passage of the four billion dollar bonus bill by the House before adjournment was made certain today with the adoption of a resolution providing for the consideration of the measure under suspension rules.

MOTHER EARTH SHIMMIES IN PARTS OF SIX STATES

St. Louis, Mar. 23 (By The Associated Press)—The seismologist of St. Louis University ascribed the weak spots in her firmament as the cause of mother earth's trembling in parts of six states yesterday, shaking buildings and homes.

Restaurant Robbery Carefully Planned

Burglar Took Nail From Above Window Some Time Before He Broke Into The Place

A burglar entered the restaurant of Madrin & Bailey, formerly known as Morris' Cafe, on Matthews street, early Thursday morning, and stole eight dollars from a small metal cash box on the counter. The cash register was undisturbed. The marauder evidently planned the robbery in advance, for a nail over a window opening into the livery stable of J. B. Fearing, adjoining the restaurant, was taken out, it is believed, sometime during the day or night when the place was open. The burglar crawled under the locked livery stable door, raised the window and entered without difficulty, leaving by the same route. The police are investigating.

TWO WOMEN WOUNDED

Belfast, Mar. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Two women were wounded when three bombs were thrown today, one on the porch of St. Matthews Roman Catholic church.

SPECIALS AT TURNER'S

T. T. Turner and Company is offering attractive specials this week for men and boys. Mothers will be especially interested in their boys' Two-Pants suits, sizes 8 to 20, which are selling at \$7.45 to \$15, and their boys' shirts and blouses, with prices ranging from 95 cents to \$2.

AT COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Miss Mary J. Cox of Old Trap entered the Community Hospital Thursday for operation and treatment. Andrew Wilson of Gregory, an old colored man, was taken to the hospital Wednesday to undergo an operation.

Leroy Boyce of Powells Point underwent a successful operation Wednesday.

Dorsey Saunders of Weeksville, the little boy who had been in the hospital suffering with a broken jaw, was able to go home on Wednesday.

DIAMOND IMPORTER ARRESTED

New York, Mar. 23 (By The Associated Press)—Diamonds valued wholesale at over \$100,000 were seized today by customs officials. Francisco Chamis, Brazil rubber dealer, was arrested for illegal importation.

British Submarine Lost With Its Crew

London, Mar. 23 (By The Associated Press)—The British submarine H-42 is lost with all hands in the Mediterranean, says an Exchange Telegraph Gibraltar dispatch. It collided with a destroyer during maneuvers.

saving members of the Coast Guard who come here April 18 and 19. The hospitality of the city will be accorded to them in full measure, according to Secretary Job of the Chamber of Commerce, and the various civic commercial organizations here will work together to make their stay at this city a pleasant reminder of the Surfmens' Meets of other years.