

WEATHER

Cloudy tonight and Friday. Much warmer tonight. Fresh and strong winds.

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FRENCH REVISE RUHR COAL ORDER

Only Coal Mined And Above Ground Requisitioned - Influenced By Public Opinion

Essen, Jan. 18 (By The Associated Press)—Ruhr coal operators who thought the French were to take over the mines found themselves still in possession of their properties today and learned that only the coal mined and above the ground came under the revised requisitioning orders of the French.

The magnates also learned that they faced court martial instead of actual arrest for refusal to deliver coal to France.

Public opinion in the United States and England is said to have influenced the French to revise the order.

Essen, Jan. 18 (By The Associated Press)—The French military officials today instituted courtmartial proceedings against six Ruhr coal magnates on charges of "refusing to obey orders of the military authorities in territory under a state of siege." The names of those against whom action was instituted were withheld.

LEGISLATORS WARRING AGAINST BAD CHECKS

Raleigh, Jan. 18 (By The Associated Press)—Legislation to discourage the issuing of "bad checks" will be urged for passage in the General Assembly, supported by the organized merchants of the State with the probable indorsement of the North Carolina Bankers Association, it was learned from authoritative sources here today.

Two bills directed against the practice of giving worthless checks already have been introduced in the Assembly, one by Senator W. A. Graham, Lincoln County, and the other by Representative W. R. Matthews, of Mecklenburg.

The former measure is general in its terms, making the issuance of a check known to be an overdraft a misdemeanor; while the Matthews bill would set a limit of seven days in which a worthless check could be made good to avoid penalty.

Whether a third bill embodying ideas of the agencies which will urge the legislation will be introduced, or their advocacy placed behind one those already on the calendars will be determined at an early conference of those interested in the suggested changes.

At present the law prohibits the issuance of a worthless check to secure merchandise, but it is claimed by those favoring more rigid regulation that conviction under this statute against fraud is difficult, and they wish the law to go further to provide a measure of relief from what they term a great volume of overdrafts.

The carelessness of the man who overdrafts, it is contended, would be discouraged along with willful violations.

RETURN FROM FUNERAL

Mrs. W. H. Crosey and son, F. D. Crosey, and Mrs. Will Brooks returned Wednesday night from Norfolk, where they had been to attend the funeral of Mr. and Mrs. F. D. Crosey's little daughter, Adele. The little girl died at a Charlottesville hospital Sunday morning after a long illness. She was seven years old. The funeral was conducted Monday at the home in Norfolk by Dr. Franklin of Colonial Avenue Methodist church, and interment was made in Riverside Cemetery.

TO ORGANIZE WORKERS

Boston, Jan. 18 (By The Associated Press)—United Textile Workers of America have announced their plan to organize workers in the Southern mills.

RUSSIA TO HELP GERMANY

London, Jan. 18 (By The Associated Press)—It is reported that Russia is to assist Germany against France in the event of armed resistance to occupation.

KIWANIAN HAVE MANY MATTERS TO TAKE UP

The Kiwanis Club has a number of important matters to take up at its meeting Friday evening at 8:30 at the Southern Hotel, among them being the night of meeting, the flat club rate, and the club magazine.

Worth Guard of Columbia was in the city Thursday on business.

Southern Trust Company To Sell More Stock

Authority was given at the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Southern Trust Company Wednesday to dispose of 105 shares of stock held in the treasury. This will give the Southern Trust Company a capital stock of \$75,000. The company's stock is already selling at a considerable premium.

Though organized less than a year ago the Southern Trust Company declared a six per cent dividend for 1922, and the stockholders felt that they had every reason for gratification at the record made and for the utmost optimism as to this new financial institution's future.

At the annual meeting Wednesday the following officers were re-elected: W. G. Galtner, president; W. T. Old, vice-president; Dr. I. Fearing, vice-president; L. E. Old, secretary and manager of insurance department; C. F. Garrett, treasurer.

The following were re-elected members of the board of directors: L. S. Blades, C. P. Brown, L. R. Foreman, J. G. Gregory, M. H. Jones, Chas. H. Robinson, Dr. I. Fearing, L. W. Norman, W. A. Pinner, G. F. Seyfert, W. A. Worth, J. C. B. Ehringhaus, M. P. Gallop, W. G. Galtner, F. M. Grice, O. F. Gilbert, W. T. Old, C. O. Robinson, W. H. Jennette, D. E. Williams, S. M. Brothers, Sr.

Daughters Prepare Patriotic Program

Rev. H. E. Myers will deliver the address at the celebration of the birthdays of Lee and Jackson at the high school auditorium Friday afternoon at 3:30.

The program has been prepared by the D. H. Hill Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, of which Mrs. C. D. Bell is president, and all members of the chapter will meet at the office of Superintendent S. I. Sheep and go in a body into the auditorium.

After the singing of Dixie by the audience and the invocation by Rev. H. E. Myers there will be a vocal solo by Mrs. J. P. Greenleaf. The singing of Old Black Joe will precede Mr. Myers' address and the singing of The Bonnie Blue Flag will follow, the program closing with the benediction.

The Daughters very cordially invited the public, and especially the young people, to attend the exercises which are held annually to commemorate the lives of these great Southerners.

JUDGE THINKS BOYS NEED MILITARY SCHOOL

Goldboro, January 18 (By The Associated Press)—Every sixty days for a period of two years, five Mt. Olive boys, ranging in age from 17 to 19, must appear before Judge D. H. Bland, of Recorder's court, with a letter from the mayor of their home town stating whether their conduct has been good or bad.

Raymond Flowers, Claud Flowers, Edward Hall, William Hall and Robert Holmes are the boys who appeared before the judge on charges of disorderly conduct, assault on an officer and contempt of court.

The charges developed from their alleged misconduct on the streets of Mt. Olive recently. Each of them was placed in bond of \$100 on the disorderly conduct charges.

"If I had the power I would sentence these boys to a military school for two years each," said the judge. "I think it would be good for them."

Relative to their alleged misconduct in the mayor's court at Mt. Olive, which resulted in the contempt charges, Judge Bland held he could not pass on this phase of the cases.

"I can't rule on the contempt case," he asserted. "That's the affair of the mayor's court at Mt. Olive, but if I could I would give these young men a jail sentence just to teach them respect for the laws and courts."

Several Mt. Olive citizens appeared in court and testified the defendants were of good character.

Foreign Exchange Market Demoralized

London, Jan. 18 (By The Associated Press)—The Foreign Exchange market today is utterly demoralized with operations practically at a stand still.

Berlin, Jan. 18 (By The Associated Press)—The Reichstag Bank discount rate was raised to twelve per cent today.

ITALY ACTS AS MEDIATOR

Washington, Jan. 18 (By The Associated Press)—Italy has taken definite steps to impress the British and French that she regards the present situation in Ruhr as fraught with great danger and although not taking the position of actual mediator she has earnestly suggested that any further forcible steps toward collection of reparations should be taken only after the most mature consideration.

Is Appreciative Of Hospitality

Secretary R. C. Job has just received a letter from Col. J. F. Howell of the Coast Artillery Corps at Fort Monroe, expressing appreciation of all courtesies shown the detachment of soldiers who recently visited Elizabeth City. The text of the letter follows:

"I am informed by Lieutenant Harriman's report of the hospitality shown by your citizens during the recent visit of a detachment of the 61st Artillery Battalion (anti-aircraft) to your city. I am taking this opportunity to express my appreciation for the many courtesies extended by your citizens to the officers and men of this detachment, and I wish to thank you personally for your interest and efforts in making the trip a success. Both officers and men of the detachment have been generous in their praise of Elizabeth City and I am sure will speak well of it whenever the opportunity affords."

GAP BETWEEN PAVING NARROWING EVERY DAY

Day by day the gap in the paving on the 6,200 foot stretch beyond Glover's Cut grows shorter and shorter. A rough guess Thursday afternoon shortly before three o'clock was that the stretch of earth between the two segments of paving already laid on this stretch measured about 900 feet.

It measured 2,200 feet when work on the lap now under construction was begun a little more than a week ago. If as good progress can be made for the next week as has been made for the last, the 2,200 feet lap will be completed before the end of next week. This will give a straight stretch of more than a mile of paving on the other side of Glover's Cut.

There is as yet no sign of a start toward driving of piling for the bridge at Glover's Cut.

Recital Friday Night At State Normal School

A recital featuring Creole folk songs will be given at the State Normal School Friday night at 7:30. The musicians, Maud Cuneey Hare and William H. Richardson, have been heard from coast to coast, and the program is one of educational value, while at the same time affording unusual enjoyment. The admission is only 25 cents and seats will be reserved for white friends.

Will Have To Import Weevil Ammunition

Washington, Jan. 18 (By The Associated Press)—Imports will be necessary in order to furnish Southern cotton planters with sufficient supplies of calcium arsenate to be used in fighting the boll weevil, said a joint report of the Agriculture and Interior Departments to the Senate today, in response to the Dial resolution.

BRITISH EMBASSY WILL CARRY ON NEGOTIATIONS

Washington, Jan. 18 (By The Associated Press)—Negotiations between the American and British regarding debt refunding will be carried forward through the British embassy after the return to London of the commission.

OPPOSES HIGHWAY BONDS

Nashville, Jan. 18 (By The Associated Press)—Governor Peay's first message to the Legislature opposes the seventy-five million bond issue for highways.

CONFESSES TO KILLING

Asheville, Jan. 18 (By The Associated Press)—Mary Collins confesses to killing Urif Smith last fall and claims it was in self-defense.

Hold Hearings On Shipping Proposal

Raleigh, Jan. 18 (By The Associated Press)—Proposals for the State to provide a ship and port commission and to build a railroad into counties of Western North Carolina held chief interest among legislators today. The commission is authorized to inquire into the railroad proposal was ready to report and the commerce committee held hearings on the ship and port proposal.

A bill was introduced in the Senate today to abolish solicitors' fees throughout the State and substitute a salary of \$3,600 annually with necessary expenses in addition.

The Senate received on the third reading a bill to remove criminally insane from the State prison.

The House passed a number of local bills and there was a warm political tilt between Republicans and Democrats over the proposal to abolish the office of the county auditor of Davidson County and the treasurer of Randolph County, to which Republicans were elected at the last election. While the Republicans contended that such an act would be "brutally unkind" after the Democrats had swept almost the entire State, proponents of the proposals retorted that the candidates made the race with the knowledge that the offices would be abolished by the Legislature if the Democrats carried these two counties. The two bills passed the third reading to a chorus of loud ayes.

VIRGINIA COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS RESIGNS

Richmond, Jan. 18 (By The Associated Press)—George P. Coleman today resigned as state highway commissioner in order, he said in a letter, that "I may be free to do things I think necessary for proper advancement of highway interests which mean so much to the development of Virginia."

Tells How Anson Women Marketed Home Products

Raleigh, Jan. 18 (By The Associated Press)—A story of how the women of Anson County, organized into home demonstration clubs, are making rapid strides in earning money through the sale of home products was disclosed at the capitol by Mrs. Cornelia C. Morris, district agent for the Home Demonstration Division of the Agricultural Extension Service. "The work is under the direction of Mrs. Rosalind A. Redfern," she said, "and the women are making money despite the ravages of the boll weevil in the cotton fields."

"As an example, in December a home products sale was promoted for three days at the courthouse in Wadesboro. Hand bills were scattered over the town and county advertising all kinds of home products as eggs, butter, hens, turkeys, sausage, liver pudding, pickles, preserves, jellies, cakes, rag rugs, brooms and fancy work.

"December 14-15-16 were the dates selected, just the time for the housewife to purchase her Christmas supplies for the table and fancy work for gifts. The sale amounted to \$447.79, with additional orders, which were filled the following week, amounting to \$211.40, making a total of \$659.19 for the sale. A check from Raleigh for \$615.40 for turkeys and hens and another from Greensboro for \$102 for other home grown products, brought the total amount for December to \$1376.57.

"Three shipments of turkeys to a wholesale house in Washington, D. C., were not included in the above figures as the amount received from them was not known at the time the report was made. During the winter months, a barrel of dressed poultry is shipped to the North Carolina State College at Raleigh each week," she said.

NEGRO SUPERVISORS HOME ECONOMICS MEET

Raleigh, January 18 (By The Associated Press)—A conference of negro supervisors and teachers of home economics in North Carolina to meet in Raleigh February 1-3 has been called by Miss Katherine Moran, acting head of the home economics department, it was announced tonight.

The work for the year will be outlined at the meeting.

TODAY'S COTTON MARKET

New York, Jan. 18.—The closing bid on middling today was 28.15. Futures, January 27.90, March 28.00, May 28.29, July 28.01, October 28.54.

Such A System Would Pay Says Lewis If It Existed

Testifying For The City In Regard To Utility Company Claims, Former Superintendent For Utilities Gives His Own Estimate Of Sewer System's Cost And Value

That with such a sewer system as witnesses for the utility companies claim that the Elizabeth City Sewerage Company is operating, the company would be able at the present rate to earn six per cent on its investment and pay a handsome profit besides was the contention of R. E. Lewis, witness for the city authorities, in the final session, Wednesday night, of the hearing before the Corporation Commission, beginning Wednesday morning, on the petition of the sewer company for permission to discontinue service.

Mr. Lewis was so far from believing, however, that the system described by the witnesses for the utility companies is the system that actually exists that he gave it as his opinion that with the existing system an even break on the cost of operating, allowing for depreciation and interest on investment, would be the best that could be expected from the present sewerage rate. The present rate is treble the original rate of the sewerage company and was granted by the Corporation Commission less than a year ago. It is regarded as excessive by the city authorities, who have appealed to the courts from the decision of the Corporation Commission granting it. The rate granted is still less than that asked for by the company when it took its petition for a higher rate to the Corporation Commission.

Some time must elapse before the decision of the Corporation Commission on the petition of the sewer company to surrender its franchise, discontinue operation and abandon service can be announced. The company has already served notice on its customers that service will be abandoned after January 31, but that is hardly contemplated now. Statements made at the conclusion of the hearing by counsel for the utilities intimated that operation of the sewer system would be continued until the Corporation Commission had passed on the petition.

The Corporation Commission now has the petition under consideration, but full consideration can not be given it until the Commission has time to review the record, for which they must wait for the transcription of the stenographer's notes and for the copying of the voluminous papers filed by the sewer company. Monday, February 5, has been set as the day when both sides will present their briefs and make final argument in the matter at Raleigh. Whether or not the Corporation Commission will at that time announce its decision does not yet appear.

Mr. Lewis was formerly superintendent of the Elizabeth City utilities and later general manager and secretary-treasurer. He was the only witness put on by counsel for the city, but his testimony was decidedly the most sensational introduced.

Mr. Lewis testified that when the present management acquired the utilities here it found itself at sea as to the separate costs of the sewer and water plants. Ineffectual efforts, he asserted, were made to ascertain the cost by audit of the books of Daniel B. Banks, engineer, under whose supervision all three plants were constructed. Finally Mr. Lewis himself was asked to estimate the cost of the sewer system, which he did, on the basis of the cost of materials and labor at the time, finding it to be a sum slightly in excess of \$27,500. Into the construction of the three utility properties up to this time had gone something like \$157,000 derived from the sale of a \$200,000 bond issue of the electric light company, and certain additional sums, relatively not large, supposed to have been put into the plants by Mr. Banks, the engineer, and a Mr. Evans. Two or three years ago the books kept by Mr. Banks, engineer and contractor, disappeared, Mr. Lewis testified.

Subsequent to Mr. Lewis's appraisal of the cost of the sewerage system, Mr. Banks and H. Clay Tunis, then general manager of the utilities, appeared before the Board of Aldermen with a proposition to sell the sewer system to the city at \$54,000, which, Mr. Lewis testified, was represented as a cost price. Mr. Lewis also testified that he could not, in view of his own estimate of the cost of the sewer system, regard the figure of \$38,000, represented by the utilities as the book value of the

ENTIRE CREW LOST LIVES

Norfolk, Jan. 18 (By The Associated Press)—The entire crew of eleven men of the schooner Helvetia are believed by Coast Guard officials here to have lost their lives when the vessel capsized off the Virginia coast during a heavy storm in December. It was stated today upon completion of the investigation which started Monday when a derelict was sighted off the coast. And found to be the Helvetia, which left New York December 13 for Charleston, S. C. It was said to be almost impossible for the crew to have escaped during the heavy gales.

OWSLEY DENIES CHARGES

Anderson, Ill., Jan. 18 (By The Associated Press)—Alvin Owsley denies charges that the American Legion is in politics.

sewer company's stock, as anything but excessive.

Mr. Lewis also testified further that so far as he knew no stockholder had ever paid anything for his stock in the Elizabeth City Sewerage Company. He said that at one time a third of it was made out to Mr. Banks; a third of it to J. T. Hill, now vice president of the utilities; and a third of it to some one else whose name he could not recall. Later this stock was cancelled and a fourth of the sewer company's stock went to Mr. Hill, a fourth to Howard E. Crook, now president of all three utilities, a fourth to Mr. Banks and a fourth to a person whose name he could not remember. The stock in each instance was kept in the book and not put in the hands of the individual stockholders. Later, again the stock issued was cancelled and the stock divided into five parts of four shares each, one part going to Mr. Crook, another part to Mr. Hill, another part to R. T. Whitehurst, another part to C. W. Grice and one part to the witness himself. Mr. Lewis did not pay anything for his stock and never heard of any of the others having paid anything for theirs.

There was also evidence from Mr. Lewis tending to show that, during the test period when the present management metered the water flowing through the sewers and kept an account of the current used at the pumping stations of the system, the sewers were operated extravagantly and wastefully. Counsel for the city deem this point exceedingly important because, they contend, on the showings of this test period officials of the sewer company base not only their claim that they are now operating at a loss but also their claim of a \$34,000 deficit in the operation of the plant from its beginning.

Witnesses put on the stand by counsel for the utilities Wednesday afternoon were: E. H. Burrell, Baltimore engineer, Howard E. Crook, John T. Hill, and R. T. Whitehurst, now treasurer and auditor of the utilities. Counsel for the utilities also presented figures showing on their face that the sewer company has been operating at a loss under the increased rate granted it by the Corporation Commission last spring.

Mr. Burrell corroborated and strengthened the testimony of G. J. Reardon, who testified Wednesday morning that the sewer plant here is in good condition and that its replacement cost would be approximately \$75,000.

Mr. Crook and Mr. Hill testified the book value of the sewer company to be \$38,000 and this, they declared, to the best of their knowledge and belief, represented the actual cost of construction. Both these utility officials denied any knowledge of the offer of the sewer system to the city at an alleged cost price of \$54,000. They admitted that the three utilities here are under identical management, though claiming that each is a separate entity.

Mr. Whitehurst merely testified that the books and records kept at the office of the utility companies bore out the assertions as to the books and records testified to by Mr. Crook and Mr. Hill.