

# The Roanoke Beacon

VOL. 34

PLYMOUTH, N. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1923.

NO. 20

## GREAT FURNITURE EXPOSITION OPENS

BUYERS FROM ALL PARTS OF UNITED STATES GATHER AT HIGH POINT.

120 EXHIBITS HERE SHOWN

"Best Show We Have Ever Had," Says Manager Long, of Southern Exposition Building.

High Point, N. C. — With buyers attending from all parts of the United States, the Southern Furniture Exposition opened here with the promise of being the best show in the history of the southern market. Nearly 100 buyers have arrived and many others are expected.

One hundred and twenty exhibits are shown in the mammoth Southern Furniture Exposition Building, the exhibits representing every kind of furniture manufactured in the South. Practically every available bit of space on each of the ten floors is taken, and the exhibitors are optimistic over the outlook for a successful market. They expressed the belief that hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of furniture will be sold during the two weeks of the exposition.

"Best show we have ever had," said Charles F. Long, manager of the Southern Furniture Exposition building in discussing the exhibits shown. Mr. Long expressed the belief that the show will be the most largely attended and successful held here since completion of the largest building in the world devoted exclusively to the housing of furniture.

The exposition, according to furniture men, is not only expected to be the best from the standpoint of attendance and number of exhibits on display, but from the standpoint of quality of furniture shown. The public, they claim, has learned to appreciate furniture of higher quality and for this reason little of the cheap furniture is to be found in the display rooms.

Some of the highest grade furniture manufactured in the world was found among the exhibits when the doors of the exposition building were opened to the buyers.

The show brought to High Point many prominent furniture dealers from all sections of the country. Among those attending were: L. J. Amos, of Oakland, Calif.; Arthur L. Yelvington, of Miami, Fla.; Edward C. Davis, of Houston, Texas, and W. Weinbrat, of New York.

The exposition will continue through January 27. The building contains approximately six acres of floor space and cost about a half million dollars.

### Prices of Coal May Ease Off.

Washington.—Bituminous coal prices, which have been advancing during recent years at a rate which has occasioned concern in official, consuming and trade circles, have about reached peak levels, according to F. R. Wadleigh, federal fuel distributor. He said that unless widespread transportation tie-up developed, the prices would be expected soon to show some tendency to ease off, since the car shortage, which has hampered distribution is being relieved and the demands of the domestic consumers who have been forced to supplement limited anthracite supplies with bituminous are being satisfied.

Latest figures available at the distribution office show that during the week ending January 8, the average price of bituminous coal at the mines where sold on the "spot" market, was \$4.54 for the United States as a whole. During the succeeding week the figure was \$4.47, while for the first week in December it was \$3.93. These prices, Mr. Wadleigh pointed out, did not include cost of transportation from mines to points of consumption, nor was coal mined under nearly constricted conditions.

To obtain data for an exact estimate of the situation, the distributor has ordered a survey of all coal stocks as of January 1, which is being made in co-operation with the geological survey and census bureau.

### Wheat and Wheat Exports Large.

Washington.—Heavy increases in exports of wheat and corn from the United States for the week ending January 13 as compared with the first week of the year are shown in the weekly report issued by the department of commerce. Wheat exports were 3,533,000 bushels as compared with 1,578,000 the previous week, and corn exports 1,421,000 bushels as compared with 299,000.

## CHIEF OF ROBBERY OF MINT PAYS WITH LIFE

Denver, Colo.—The slain mint bandit, whose frozen body was found seated in an automobile in a private garage, and regarded by the police as the master mind of a desperate gang of criminals, was identified as J. C. Sloan, chief of Casper, Wyo. Rugg Williams, chief of Denver police, said he was one of the men the police have sought since December 18, last, when robbers made away with \$200,000 in currency from a federal reserve bank truck in front of the mint, killing Charles T. Linton, a guard. Sloan, it was, the police say, who offered himself as a target, standing upon the running board of the bandit car as it sped away and desperately firing at mint guards.

Sloan's body was found with a bullet in the heart and police declare he was instantly killed by a bullet from the revolver of Pete Keidinger, a guard employed at the mint.

## PREMIER DEFENDS HIMSELF

### FRENCH DEPUTIES CHEER POINCARÉ AND APPROVE INVASION OF GERMANY.

#### Premier Poincaré Tells Deputies That France Could Hold Off No Longer.

Paris.—France's separate action in the Ruhr was approved by parliament, the members of the chamber and senate cheering for several minutes Premier Poincaré's declaration. The chamber voted confidence in the government, 478 to 86, on the question of the postponement of a group of interpellations on the Ruhr policy.

M. Poincaré, with much sarcasm, defended himself in the senate against the German newspapers' implied accusation that he had inherited his war-like activities through descent from Brennus, who made famous the phrase "Woe to the conquered," the warring king, Louis XIV, and Napoleon. The premier remarked:

"Glorious as is this genealogy, I cannot claim it. I am descended simply from good French who wished France to be free and independent, but who never desired conquest or annexation."

In his statement before the chamber, explaining the reasons for the action which France had taken against Germany, M. Poincaré declared: "We are now going to get coal for ourselves from Germany at the pithead."

The sacred union, however, no longer prevails; a small, but aggressive minority, composed mostly of communists with a few extreme socialists, interrupted M. Poincaré with bitter remarks, provoking a tumultuous protest from the balance of the chamber. Deputy Leon Blum, socialist, sounded the note of opposition when he cried to the premier: "You are following in the Ruhr policy political and economic extension."

The rest of his remarks were lost in a storm of outcries from the benches occupied by the royalists, nationalists and moderates.

The torn and dispersed socialist party made a weak effort to support their spokesman, but the effort was lost in a confused conflict among themselves. The Socialist Ehrlich, who approved M. Poincaré's policy, brought a volley of invectives upon himself from the communists.

The substance of Premier Poincaré's hour and a half speech was that France had submitted to successive amputations of her rights against Germany, had used all the patience any nation could be expected to use, and finally, when confronted with the British plan, which he held would practically withdraw from France all means of enforcing execution of the treaty of Versailles, could hold off no longer.

### J. Bryan Grimes Dies.

Raleigh.—Col. J. Bryan Grimes, secretary of state of North Carolina since 1909, died of pneumonia, following influenza.

Two weeks ago influenza assailed Colonel Grimes. Pneumonia followed quickly, and while there had been hopes for his recovery for several days he had been regarded as desperately ill.

John G. Dawson, speaker of the house paid this tribute to Colonel Grimes:

"As a man, he was considerate, kind and upright, as an officer he was courageous, diligent and efficient. In his death the state loses an admirable and esteemed citizen and an official of sterling worth."

## PLAN ADVANCES INTO RUHR REGION

### FRENCH TO SEIZE BOCHUM UNLESS GERMANS STOP POLICY OF INTERFERENCE.

### FRENCH WILL PAY MINERS

#### Berlin is No Longer Sending Paper Money into the Ruhr Occupied Area.

Dusseldorf.—Bochum, the great center of the Stinnes industries, will be occupied in a few days, hence, the French have decided, unless the German government undergoes a change of heart and abandons its policy of interference and opposition, which the French consider it has been following for the past week. The French authorities do not announce the date of the advance, but make no secret of the fact that they have decided to extend the occupation further eastward to coerce Germany into paying the Ruhr industries for the coal reparations deliveries and as penalties for which they term the willful failure of Berlin to fulfill its undertakings.

Concerning coal deliveries, which the Ruhr industrialists have agreed to resume, France undertakes to pay the cost of labor and the salaries of the employes and miners; only the owners must look to Berlin for other than overhead exposures and the items which make up the price of coal delivered f. o. b. at the French frontier.

The French are prepared to assist the owners in collecting from Berlin to the extent of occupation of the Bochum region and also further territory eastward later, should Germany fail to come to terms. They will pay the miners' salaries from the proceeds of the tax on coal, formerly assessed by the Reich government, which the French have decided to collect for themselves. They will levy a tax on every ton of coal shipped from the Ruhr into Germany, Bavaria and neutral countries. The percentage representing the tax has not been fixed. No tax will be assessed on coal shipped to the allied countries.

The occupation of Bochum also intended as a penalty for what the French consider the willful depletion by the Germans of food stocks, especially cereals, always kept in the Ruhr for feeding the industrial population, which the French assert they have found at such low ebb that arrangements must be made immediately to import wheat and other foodstuffs into this area.

Above all the French are desirous of warding off unemployment and famine—if such condition arose they would be certain to cause much trouble.

The problem of currency is giving the French much concern, as Berlin is no longer sending paper marks into the Ruhr occupied area, and the present supply will become inadequate very soon. Experts are studying a plan whereby special Ruhr paper notes, guaranteed by the mines, plants and other real estate security in the Ruhr valley, would be issued and accepted as currency in the Ruhr alone. The Krupp and Thyssen works withdrew from the Essen banks two billion marks for their payrolls; they were informed that the banks would be unable to supply them similarly next week, thus forcing the French to resort to the issuance of special currency.

### French Soldiers Greeted With Stones.

Essen.—It is reported that French soldiers arriving at the small town of Buer were greeted with a shower of stones, but nobody was hurt. When the French general arrived he announced that the German police superintendent would be punished.

A decree issued Sunday exempts the French troops from the luxury tax and orders notification of all meetings three days before due, with the names of the organizers and probable attendants; forbids strikes and also processions and all persons from wearing uniforms, compels the posting of price lists in German currency in all shops and restricts German soldiers from entering the occupied territory from territory not occupied.

### Imports Show Steady Gain.

Washington.—American imports in October continued the healthy growth they commenced last summer, touching the highest figure reached since November, 1920, the Department of Commerce announced.

Imports for the month totalled \$318,000,000 compared with \$188,000,000 in the same month last year and \$133,000,000 in October, 1922, the last previous year.

## FATHER, TWO CHILDREN AND NURSE DROWNED

Key West, Fla. — Four persons, passengers on the seaplane Columbus, lost their lives, when the plane fell into the Gulf of Mexico, 20 miles off Havana.

Five others, also passengers, were picked up by the ferryboat, Henry M. Flagler, which docked at the port here.

Those who lost their lives were: E. F. Atkins, Jr., millionaire sugar dealer, of New York City, and his two sons, E. T. Atkins, 3rd, and David Atkins, and Miss Grace McDonald, governess for the Atkins family.

Mrs. E. F. Atkins, Jr., Miss Julia Haverly, a nurse with the Atkins family; Otto Abrahams, of New York City; W. E. Miller and Harold Thompson, pilot and mechanic of the plane, were those rescued by the Flagler and brought to this city.

According to Miller, engine trouble forced the plane to descend to the waters.

## EXPLANATION IS REFUSED

### STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS THE HARDING DECISION IS ONE OF EXPEDIENCY.

#### President Harding's Order Follows Conference With Hughes and Weeks.

Washington.—Withdrawal of the American troops from the Rhine was ordered by President Harding.

In announcing this decision the state department said that the President deemed the time expedient for the recall of the forces now at Coblenz.

The American forces remaining in that area number about 1,000 men, and it was indicated that the withdrawal order would be carried out as soon as the American commander, Major General Allen, could make the necessary arrangements for winding up finally the affairs of the army of occupation.

A resolution favoring such a withdrawal was adopted by the senate but it was not apparent how far it had contributed to the President's decision, or how far the administration had been influenced by the situation brought about by the French movement into Ruhr valley.

The date of the actual withdrawal of the forces will be left to the war department, where it was said that American evacuation of the Coblenz zone would be conducted in an orderly fashion.

Officials of the state and war departments refused flatly to make any explanation of the decision to recall Major General Allen and his forces other than to repeat that it was considered expedient to complete at this time American withdrawal from Europe.

Secretary Weeks was called to the White House and the purpose of the government to withdraw the troops was disclosed before his return to the war department. It was learned that formal orders had not as yet been sent to General Allen to begin his home-evacuation and is prepared to move on short notice. Secretary Hughes also attended the conference at the White House, which preceded the disclosure that the troops were to be withdrawn practically at once.

As an indication that no time would be lost, it was made known that the transport St. Mihiel would leave New York to bring home the bulk of the Rhine forces. A few small detachments will be left for a short time to close out final settlements involved in the withdrawal.

### Automobile Show to Open in February.

Charlotte, N. C.—Options have been signed by twenty-one motor car dealers for exhibition space in the third Carolina Automotive Show, which will be held here February 5 to 10, it was announced by Osmond Barringer, chairman of the Charlotte Automotive Trade Association.

Mr. Barringer said several manufacturers have advised him of their expectation to have exhibits of motor cars or trucks at this show. Heretofore the manufacturers have not been represented among the exhibitors in Carolina's automotive shows, he said, explaining that the Charlotte association accepted this new interest as an evidence of the importance the industry is attaching to this show. The heavy demand for motor cars and trucks reported generally throughout the territory is serving to direct greater attention to the approaching exhibition.

## SIZE OF ARMY TO BE UNCHANGED

### THREE HUNDRED MILLION IS THE ESTIMATED COST; GUARD GETS MORE.

### AIR SERVICE GETS BIG SUM

#### Army of 125,000 Enlisted Men and 12,000 Commissioned Officers Provided For in Bill.

Washington.—A standing army of 125,000 enlisted men and 12,000 commissioned officers, the same as authorized last year, is provided for in the last army appropriation bill reported to the house.

The bill carries \$314,064,294 for military and non-military activities, or \$16,010,444 less than last year. Of the total, \$37,000,000 goes for river and harbor projects heretofore authorized. Last year \$42,815,661 was appropriated for the purpose.

Budget estimates for flood control on the Mississippi, amounting to \$5,986,000, were allowed. The amount recommended for the Mississippi completes the authorization of \$45,000,000 contained in the 1917 act.

For the Panama canal the bill carries \$6,599,683. An appropriation of \$750,000 with a contract authorization of \$750,000 additional, is recommended for replacing worn-out portions of the Washington-Alaska submarine cable system.

A fund of \$50,000 is provided for continuation of airplane bombing tests against obsolete naval craft. The air service gets \$12,426,000 and the Chemical Warfare Service \$650,000. For the National Guard the bill provides \$28,939,140, compared with \$25,815,000 last year, the increase being made to permit the maximum growth of the organization to 215,000 men during the next fiscal year.

An appropriation of \$3,250,000 is recommended for the reserve officers' training corps, an increase of \$150,000 over last year. Civilian training camps are provided with \$2,500,000, of which \$500,000 represents an unexpended balance from last year's appropriation. The war department had recommended larger appropriations for both the training corps and the civilian camps.

### U. S. Proposal Still Before Nations.

Washington.—Secretary Hughes' proposal for reference of the reparations problem to financiers for recommendations based upon purely economic considerations is regarded in Washington as still before the allied governments for acceptance or rejection.

A White House spokesman stated that the government was not moving in the German reparation crisis in any way at this time and could not move unless the powers concerned showed a desire that it should do so. It was added that the friendly purposes of the United States had been made plain to all concerned. Ultimately it is hoped that a way to the help will be opened by action of the French and British governments.

At the state department it was said that Secretary Hughes' suggestion stood unchanged; that nothing had been done by the government to withdraw the proposal.

### Health Standards Women's Subjects.

Washington.—Health standards for women in industry, women's wages and home work performed by women were on the program of the second day's sessions of the National conference on women in industry, called by the women's bureau of the Department of Labor. With nearly 400 women delegates present from 41 States, the conference was declared by the speakers to be truly representative of the women of the Nation.

Mrs. Ellis Yost, legislative representative of the women's Christian Temperature Union, presided at the meeting session and Dr. R. A. Spaeth, of Johns Hopkins University, was chosen to lead in the discussion of "health standards for women in industry." Another speaker was Mrs. Florence Kelly, executive secretary, National Consumers' League.

Mrs. Thomas G. Winter, president general of the Federation of Women's clubs, was the presiding officer at the afternoon session, and Mrs. Maud Swartz, president, national women's trade union league, New York, and Mrs. Sophonisba P. Breckenridge, assistant dean of women, University of Chicago, were the principal speakers on the subject of "women's wages." A general discussion from the floor was a part of the consideration of each subject taken up.

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