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\$2.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

MR. W. T. RANKIN TALKS OF TRIP TO EUROPE

Gastonia Business Man Found People of France, England and Belgium Hopeful for Future—He Went Through Some of the War-Swept Area—Still Thinks Old Carolina the Best Place on the Map.

England, France and Belgium were visited by Mr. Wiley T. Rankin, of Gastonia, who returned the first of last week from a six weeks trip overseas. While the limited time he was abroad did not afford him an opportunity to do any extensive traveling on the continent nor to make a thorough study of conditions and prospects, he nevertheless saw many things of interest and talks most entertainingly of his trip.

Sailing from Halifax, Nova Scotia, on the Aquitania, one of the Cunard liners, he landed at Glasgow, Scotland. He went direct from there to London where he spent only three days. He found that the laboring people of England had plenty of money, having made big wages all during the war, but were unable to buy many things because those things were not to be had. The English people are somewhat short on rations and are still undergoing a strict rationing that he here in America did not find the most stringent rules Mr. Hoover had in force at any time. The English people, thinks Mr. Rankin, are in a position to recover quickly from the effects of the war and from what he saw and heard it is his opinion that things in John Bull's country will ere long be again about normal.

From England he went to LaHaye, France, sailing from Southampton. This French port is at the mouth of the Seine river. He struck out at once for Paris and spent ten days in the great French capital. The city was crowded with American soldiers and, said Mr. Rankin, "I was proud of them—the finest looking lot of fellows over there or anywhere else. They were by all odds the finest bunch of soldiers I ever saw." They were heaving themselves, too. There are 1,900 M. P. in Paris but they really do not make a great deal to do. He did not see a single soldier intoxicated, notwithstanding the fact that plenty of drinks were available on all sides. All of the officers and nurses, without exception, praise the American soldier as the bravest in war, never flinching under the most trying circumstances. But, they add, the soldier, who is just an average American, is given to doing more or less knocking after the fight is over. To this disposition is attributed the knocking that has been done against the Y. M. C. A. Mr. Rankin says that the Y. M. C. A. and the Red Cross are the two agencies which have done and are doing more for our boys overseas than any other agency or agencies. In Paris the Y. M. C. A. and Red Cross establishments look after the interests of the boys, provide sight-seeing trips for them, furnish them sleeping quarters, bathing places and entertainment and, in fact take care of them in first-class style. There is no discounting the work done by the Salvation Army and the Knights of Columbus, he says, but those organizations had very limited means and outfits; in short their operations were on a far smaller scale. As far as their work went, however, it was good.

Half a day was spent at Versailles, where the peace conference is sitting, and this was one of the most enjoyable events of his trip. He went with a party of 50 army officers and they were shown through the magnificent palaces whose richness of architecture and furnishings are of world renown. A guide took them through and gave them the history of each room and told them much of the history which centered around this paradise of kings before and during the French Revolution. The party was shown the hall in which the peace conference is holding its meetings. They saw the table on which the treaty of 1871 was signed and on which, they were told, the peace treaty now being formed will be signed.

After viewing the glories of Versailles Mr. Rankin left by rail for Brussels. The trip was made by rail, the trains making five or six miles an hour over the territory between Paris and Brussels, most of which was through the war-swept area. The roads are being worked on but are yet in bad condition. On this trip he passed through the Somme battleground and went through Amiens, Albert, Lens, Arras, Bethune, Lille, Toul, which is on the frontier, and then to Brussels. Amiens had the appearance of having been badly battered up. Albert was wiped off the map and a dozen or so small towns along this road were practically annihilated. Lens was shot up pretty bad and Bethune was riddled. At Bethune is the LeBasse canal where the Germans built great concrete dugouts which they occupied for two years or more. The town of LeBasse itself was shot all too pieces.

Some work is being done on the railroads and a few farms along the road are being worked. Mr. Rankin saw lots of Chinamen engaged in rebuilding railroads and at one place saw a thousand or more German prisoners working dirt roads. German prisoners were also being used to clean out the LeBasse canal.

Belgium, says Mr. Rankin, is in much better condition physically than France. There was not so much property damage except around the fortified cities where the Germans first entered Belgium. The Germans, evidently expecting to retain

GASTONIA DENTISTS VICTIMS OF ROBBERS

A thief, supposedly a professional, entered the dental offices of Drs. D. E. McConnell and P. R. Falls while the dentists were at dinner soon after noon Saturday and helped himself to the gold plate. He first visited Dr. Falls' office where he secured \$25 or \$30 worth of gold plate but overlooked gold solder worth perhaps as much. Half an hour later he entered Dr. McConnell's office across the street and took several dollars worth of gold plate, overlooking some, however. At both places he gained entrance by prying open a Yale lock. The thefts had the appearance of being the work of professional dental thieves. So far no clue has been secured.

Saturday night or Sunday morning the dental offices of Drs. Waller and Kibler in the First National Bank building, Charlotte, were entered and robbed of \$50 worth of gold, \$300 in Liberty bonds and \$175 in War Savings Stamps. The robbery in Charlotte, like those here, had the appearance of being the work of a professional, which leads to the belief that a gang of dental thieves are again at work in this part of the country.

MUSIC CLUB WITH MRS. J. H. MORROW.
The Gastonia Music Club will meet Wednesday afternoon at 8:30 o'clock with Mrs. J. H. Morrow.

BETTERMENT TO OBSERVE HEALTH NIGHT FRIDAY.

On Friday night, March 21st, at the central school auditorium, the Health Department of the Woman's Betterment Association will have Health Night exercises. A good speaker will be secured for the evening, and the women of this Association are anxious to have a large crowd present.

Play at Union School.
"A Kentucky Belle" will be presented at the Union school house Friday night at 8 o'clock by the pupils of that school. An admission fee of 15 and 25 cents will be charged, the proceeds to go to the fund for improvement on the building.

Marguerite Clark in "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" at the Gastonian Tuesday.

NEGOTIATIONS BROKEN OFF.

(By International News Service.)
LONDON, March 17.—The Allies' negotiations with Germany for the delivery of potash have been broken off, says a Rotterdam dispatch today.

Belgium permanently took good care not to fear up the country except where they found it necessary when the war first started. He spent two days in Brussels, a city of a million people. Things were apparently gay. Everybody was busy. During the two days there Mr. Rankin did not encounter a single beggar. In fact every person almost seemed to have something to do. The attitude of the Belgian people towards America he found to be fine. They hold us and our country in very high esteem. This, of course, is but natural. The Belgian people he found to be the best fed and best dressed people he came in contact with.

From Brussels he went back to Paris and from there to LeMans where he spent a day with Prof. Joe S. Wray, Gastonia's city school superintendent who is over there doing Y. M. C. A. work. He found Wray hard at work doing everything possible for the boys and he found that this Tar Heel Y. M. C. A. man was immensely popular with the soldiers. Twelve miles out from LeMans he found Capt. R. G. Cherry and the 115th Field Artillery, now nearing home, by the way. Capt. Cherry and all the boys were well and in fine spirits. While there he also spent a day with Major A. L. Bulwinkle and Capt. Reid Morrison, who were also stationed near LeMans. He also saw Lieut. Clarence Stroup, of Company B, 105th Engineers. All the boys, he said, were anxious to get back home again. At LeMans he visited Base Hospital No. 52 which is in charge of Dr. McBrayer, of Asheville. It contains 1,500 beds, most of which were occupied. He saw there two Gastonia county men, Nichols from Lowell and Patterson from Mount Holly, neither of whom was seriously sick. In this hospital he was stopped by a man whom he did not know who turned out to be a Wisconsin man who was with the 77th Field Artillery which trained at Camp Chronicle here. The man had seen him here and knew him.

Mr. Rankin sailed from Brest, France, on the 28th of February and was nine days en route home. He came on the New Amsterdam with 2,100 officers and men of the 107th Regiment of the 27th Division, composed of New York men. There were also on this ship 123 A. E. F. nurses. These are regularly enlisted base hospital nurses and had been in France for many months. They represented two units, the Phillips unit from Detroit and the University of Maryland unit from Baltimore.

Though pleased with his trip and impressed with the countries he saw Mr. Rankin says that they do not compare with America and the Old North State, particularly Gaston county. The prettiest section he saw was Brittany.

CITIZENS TO VOTE ON CHANGE OF CHARTER

Change in the city charter to place Gastonia under the commission manager form of government will be voted upon by the citizens of the city at an early date, the call for the election appearing in The Gazette today.

The change was recommended by the present city administration several weeks ago. The Chamber of Commerce was at the time asked to give the matter investigation. A special committee consisting of Col. T. L. Craig, Col. C. B. Armstrong and Attorney P. W. Garland was named to go into it. This committee reported to a special meeting of the board of directors Friday afternoon, recommending the change. It was found that necessary petitions would have to be gotten up by Saturday evening. The directors adopted the report and named a committee composed of Messrs. W. D. Anderson, A. K. Winget, Fred L. Shaver and R. Grady Rankin to see that the petitions were secured. Another conference was held Saturday afternoon, Senator Mangum being called in to go over some of the legal points. The work of getting signatures was then started, many more than the required 25 per cent being secured.

Full publicity will be given the plan and meetings held at which time full opportunity for discussion will be afforded the taxpayers, so that they may thoroughly understand the proposed new charter before they vote on it.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DINNER TUESDAY NIGHT

Plans for the annual membership dinner of the Gastonia Chamber of Commerce at the C. B. Armstrong Community Hall, formerly the Clara Hall, tomorrow night at 7:30 o'clock, are now complete. It will be a great occasion and over 200 members of Gastonia's boosting organization will be present.

Owners of automobiles are asked to go by the offices of the Chamber of Commerce on their way to the hall and pick up any members there. The dinner will start at 7:30 o'clock sharp and everyone is asked to be at his place by that time.

A program replete with interest will be given and will start at 7:30 at the same time as the dinner begins. A five-piece orchestra, a male quartet and the address by Dr. D. W. Daniel, one of the leading orators of the South, will be special features. But two or three well known citizens who are always good to hear will be on the program, too. There will be plenty of "pep" to the occasion. And the movies will be of interest, too.

Every member attending is asked to be at his place at 7:30 sharp.

WITH GASTON'S SOLDIERS

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Love, of Lincoln, received a telegram this morning from their son, J. Frank Love, a member of Base Hospital No. 6, Brenizer's unit, stating that he would sail for home today. Young Love is a nephew of Messrs. L. T. and R. C. McLean, of Gastonia. While no definite information is at hand on this point, the supposition is that the entire unit is sailing today from Bordeaux. Mr. T. C. Abernethy, of Lincoln, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Abernethy, of Gastonia, is a member of this unit.

Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Wetzel received a telegram yesterday from their son, Fred S. Wetzel, notifying them that he had arrived from overseas and was at Camp Merritt, N. J. He expects to be at home within the next ten days.

A letter from Sgt. Max D. Abernethy of the 675th Aero Squadron, Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas, states that his application for discharge from the service has been approved and that he will receive it March 31st. After spending a few days with his brother, Mr. J. O. Abernethy, at Houston, Texas, he will come home. His many friends will be delighted to see him.

Private John C. Saunders, of the 156th Depot Brigade, Headquarters Company, Camp Jackson, arrived home Friday, having received his final discharge from the service. Mr. Saunders is a son of Mr. and Mrs. M. T. Saunders, of Groves Station.

Private Robert Owens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Marion B. Owen, arrived home last Friday night, having received his final discharge from the service.

Marguerite Clark in "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" at the Gastonian Tuesday.

April 1st Clean-Up Day.
April 1st has been designated as regular Spring Clean-Up Day by the civic committee of the Woman's Betterment Association of which Mrs. Frost Torrence is chairman. On that day the city wagons will begin hauling off the trash. All residents are requested to clean up their premises on that day.

GERMANS ARE EXECUTING SPARTACIDE PRISONERS

(By International News Service.)
BERLIN, March 17.—Sunday, Fifteen hundred Spartacides, including many women, have been executed at Moabit prison during the past four days and it will take another week to kill all the Spartacide prisoners so far sentenced to death, it is stated today. The battle of Berlin ended Friday. Another outbreak is expected by the end of March.

BOLSHEVIKI ARE FINANCING REVOLUTION IN GERMANY

(By International News Service.)
HELSINGFORS, March 17.—Russian Bolsheviki are sending \$175,000,000 into Germany to finance revolutionary organizations, it was learned authoritatively today. There is now grave danger that Lithuania is contemplating a separate peace with the Soviet government.

DEATHS

JEWETT GREEN.
Jewett, the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey W. Green, aged about two years, died Saturday morning at their home at Mayworth. The body was brought to Lowell for burial.

CHRISTINE MORRIS.
Christine, the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Morris, aged one year and 19 days, died last Wednesday at the home of her parents, 338 South Vance street. Funeral services were held at the home at 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, followed by burial in Hollywood Cemetery.

BEulah SMITH.
Following an illness of only a few days Miss Beulah Smith, aged 17 years, a daughter of Mr. L. E. Smith, who lives near Belmont, died at the City Hospital at an early hour Saturday morning. The body was taken to the home Saturday and the funeral and burial were held at Ebenezer Methodist church.

FUNERAL OF MRS. ROBINSON.
Funeral services over the remains of Mrs. J. Linwood Robinson, whose sad death was chronicled in Friday's Gazette, were conducted at the residence in Lowell at 11:30 o'clock Saturday morning by Rev. W. J. Roach, pastor of the Lowell Presbyterian church, assisted by Rev. Mr. Kennedy, pastor of the Lowell Methodist church, and Rev. A. L. Stanford, pastor of Main Street Methodist church, Gastonia. The ceremony was brief but impressive and was attended by a large concourse of sorrowing friends and relatives. Among the out-of-town relatives present were Mrs. Robinson's father, Mr. V. E. Long, of Gastonia, her sisters, Mrs. I. McPhail, of Hamlet, Mrs. Victor B. Higgins, of Knoxville, Tenn., and Mrs. J. B. Reeves, of Gastonia, as well as many friends and relatives from Charlotte, Kings Mountain, and Lincolnton. The pallbearers were Dr. J. W. Reid, and Messrs. G. H. Robinson, Paul Titman, P. P. Murphy, J. H. Rainsor and T. P. Rankin.

Mrs. Robinson was greatly beloved by all who knew her. She was a friend to all and won lasting friends by her sweetness and generosity of disposition and by her sincere good will. She was an ideal wife and mother, finding her greatest pleasure in the welfare of her home and loved ones. The love and esteem in which she was held was beautifully attested by the quantities of beautiful floral designs which more than covered her grave. Mrs. Robinson was a member of Main Street Methodist church, Gastonia, until after her marriage, when she joined the Presbyterian church at Lowell, her husband's church.

MRS. BELLE RHYNE.
Correspondence of The Gazette.

DALLAS, March 17.—The passing of Mrs. Belle Rhyne at her home here Saturday at 5 o'clock, closed a long and beautiful Christian life. Having been born in Dallas Sept. 12, 1844, her whole life of 74 years was spent here. A devoted member of the Dallas Lutheran Church since early girlhood, attending all services as long as health permitted and faithful to its every cause. Patiently, cheerfully and without complaint she bore the two years of sickness, during 18 months of which she was confined to her bed.

She leaves to mourn her death beside a host of relatives and friends the following children and step-children: Miss Ida Rhyne, Mr. Eugene Rhyne and Mrs. R. O. Fordham, of Dallas, who were with her when she died, and Mr. H. G. Rhyne, of Dallas; Mr. G. R. Rhyne, of Gastonia, and Mr. E. M. Rhyne, of Ellerbe. Four sisters, Mrs. Betty Costner and Mrs. Lee Stowe, of Dallas; Mrs. Cynthia Rhyne, of Morganton; and Mrs. Sarah Johnston, of Belmont, who is an invalid, also survive.

The funeral services will be conducted at the Lutheran church by the pastor.

CAPT. R. GREGG CHERRY TALKED OF FOR MAYOR

Young Gastonia Attorney Now at Head of Co. A, 115th Machine Gun Battalion, Being Boosted for This Honor—Is Now En Route Home from France—Is Popular With Gastonians, Who Wish to Honor Him.

Friends of Capt. R. Gregg Cherry, of Co. A, 115th Machine Gun Battalion, 20th Division, now en route home from France, have launched a boom for him for the office of mayor of Gastonia. This fact will come to Capt. Cherry as a surprise when he lands in the homeland, the last of this week or the first of next. The



mention of his name in connection with this office is without his knowledge or consent but his friends believe that he would not turn a deaf ear to the call, which will be unanimous, of his fellow citizens, to accept this honor at their hands and serve them in this capacity.

Announcement was made some time ago by Mayor A. M. Dixon that he would not be a candidate for reelection. Following that announcement there began to develop, almost unconsciously, a movement looking to the choice of Captain Cherry.

May 5th is the date for the regular biennial alternate election. As will be noted from information given elsewhere in today's Gazette there will be an election on the day following, May 6th on the proposition of adopting the city manager form of government for Gastonia.

Capt. Cherry is a Gastonia boy whose career has been watched with interest and admiration by a host of friends. Upon completion of the high school course here he entered Trinity College and was graduated from that institution with high honors. He then studied law and, having formed a partnership with Major A. L. Bulwinkle, also now en route home from overseas, he had just begun to establish a practice in his profession when the call to arms came. He at once volunteered and raised a machine gun company. As has been previously told in these columns he and his men were in the thick of the fight over there and rendered an unglorious service in the defense of their country and humanity.

THE BRAVES AND TIGERS.

Ty Cobb, Hank Gowdy and Maranville to Be the Stars of Big Exhibition Game Here April 10th—A Record Breaking Attendance is Expected.

The keenest kind of interest is already being displayed, not only in this city but in the outlying districts, over the appearance here on Thursday afternoon, April 10th, of the Boston National and Detroit American league baseball clubs. It is easily the biggest baseball affair ever staged here and it is the expectation of those who have guaranteed the large amount necessary to get the two clubs to stop off here on their way North from their training camps that the attendance will break all local baseball records.

In this game between the Braves and the Tigers, as they are known in the baseball world, will be presented absolutely the biggest drawing cards of present-day major league baseball. Everybody has heard of Ty Cobb of the Detroit club, himself a Southerner and everywhere recognized as in a class by himself. He will play his usual position in the Detroit outfield and whenever Cobb is in the lineup there is sure to be something doing almost any minute. Then there is Hank Gowdy, whose wonderful prowess with the bat in that memorable world's series of 1914 is not yet forgotten. But Gowdy has a more recent claim to fame for he was the first of all the big league players to see overseas service and for more than 18 months he was on the other side, rising to the rank of color sergeant with the gallant Rainbow Division. The third of this great trio of stars is Rabbit Maranville, the diminutive and peppery shortstop of the Braves, easily the best shortstop in the game today as well as about the smallest player in point of inches who has ever made good in the company of the top notchers.

The contract calls for the appearance of all of these stars and in addition will

Rev. C. E. Fritz, at 11 o'clock today and the body laid to rest in the burying-ground at Stanley.

TERRIFIC TORNADES IN MISSISSIPPI VALLEY

(By International News Service.)

MEMPHIS, March 17.—As reports continue to trickle in today from along the Mississippi Valley, it is becoming evident that tornadoes, floods and storms during the last 48 hours have caused damage aggregating around \$5,000,000. More than a score of people are known to have lost their lives. Trains are at a standstill in many sections, with the worst conditions around Memphis and Vicksburg. A tornado tore through Sharkey, Washington and Issaquena counties, Miss., where the number of dead is placed at 17 and 150 injured, a number of them fatally. At the J. W. Johnson plantation at Pantzerben, Johnson, who is a millionaire cotton planter, was killed. Sinal, plantation was razed with a loss of life and the plantation manager, E. P. Green, was fatally injured. Most of the dead are negroes.

SATURDAY'S TELEGRAPHIC NEWS

(By International News Services.)

WASHINGTON, March 15.—The War Department this afternoon stated that the 115th Field Artillery with 1,500 men and the 105th ammunition train with 740 men, all from Tennessee, would arrive at Newport News aboard the Niederlander March 23rd. The 114th artillery, also Tennesseeans, will arrive aboard the Finland, March 22nd.

NASHVILLE, March 15.—According to Vice Grand President Degray, of the Brotherhood of railway clerks, the strike on the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railroad will be adjusted or in process of adjustment within 48 hours.

WASHINGTON, March 15.—A total of 1,143,860 officers and men have been discharged from the army to date, Gen. March announced today. Demobilization orders to date amount to 1,678,500. Of the last figures 1,205,000 were in the United States and 373,500 from overseas.

PARIS, March 15. An unofficial agreement has been reached on the question of reparations which Germany must make, it is learned this afternoon. Details, disposition of the Kaiser and other questions are yet to be decided.

PARIS, March 15.—Fixing Germany's new eastern and northern frontiers continued to engage the attention of the peace delegates today. The supreme war council is not meeting today but will meet Friday. Latest reports from Germany by American and other experts emphasize the extreme necessity of speedily feeling the country. It is doubtful if the present German government can withstand another revolution, which is reported to be imminent.

NEW YORK, March 15.—Four persons were held today charged with advocating the overthrow of the United States government as a result of the raid last night when police searched Bolsheviki headquarters on East 15th street. Over 150 others arrested in the raid were released after a long close questioning. The authorities confiscated all books and papers found. They now have the names of hundreds of Bolsheviki throughout the United States.

Marguerite Clark in "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" at the Gastonian Tuesday.

Capt. W. L. Balthis, chairman of the housing committee of the Chamber of Commerce and also head of the Gastonia Housing Corporation would like for any persons who are interested in the building of an apartment house and who have not been seen by the committee to see him at their very earliest convenience. It has been impossible for the committee to see everybody and there are probably persons who are interested in the movement who have been waiting for the committee to call on them.

Billie Rhodes in "The Girl of My Dreams" Broadway today.

Everybody loves a pretty girl and adores a happy one. See BILLIE RHODES at the Broadway today.

—Mr. John V. Hanna returned to his home in the New Hope neighborhood yesterday after spending several days with the families of Mr. Harvey D. Hanna, Mr. C. A. Spencer and Mrs. J. R. Shannon, west of the city.

come to this city all of the other players of the two teams, regulars and rookies alike, making altogether a party of over 70 ball players to say nothing of managers, attendants and a perfect horde of newspaper men who are covering this tour of the clubs for the Boston and Detroit newspapers. It promises to be one of the biggest days this place has ever seen.