

# The Polk County News

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ESTABLISHED MAY, 1894.

## SLATON CALLS OUT GEORGIA MILITIA TO QUIET BIG MOBS

GOVERNOR ENCLOSURES HIMSELF WITH MARTIAL LAW AT HIS COUNTRY HOME.

## FRANK BEGINS SENTENCE

Commutation is Received With Wild Demonstrations.—Governor Hangs in Effigy "As Traitor."

Atlanta, Ga.—With several hundred men and boys clamoring to enter his front gates, which had been barricaded and threatening to overpower 20 county policemen, Governor Slaton called upon the militia to protect his home. Upon the arrival of four companies of militia who had been held under arms and rushed to the Governor's country home in automobiles, he proclaimed martial law in a district extending half a mile back and for a distance of about a quarter of a mile on either side.

When the soldiers lined up with fixed bayonets to disperse the crowd, stones, bricks and bottles were thrown at them. A brick struck Lieut. Arnold Parker and rendered him unconscious for a short while. The commanding officer, Major Catron, was struck by a stone, as were several of the men.

The Governor proclaimed martial law at exactly 11 o'clock and by midnight the crowd had practically been dispersed. There was no firing.

A telephone message from Milledgeville where the state prison is located and where Frank was taken after the Governor commuted his sentence, said that trouble was feared there and asked that the Governor order out the Milledgeville company of militia. The Governor told his informant that such a request would have to come from the sheriff of Baldwin county.

The Governor was surrounded in his home by about a dozen friends, nearly every one of whom was armed with a rifle or pistol. The unexpected arrival of a member of the mob at a dark corner of the front porch caused the Governor himself to hastily pick up a large pistol.

In front of the Governor's house were more than 100 automobiles filled with persons evidently there to see what the crowd would do. The troops had great difficulty in clearing the road of these machines and many of their orders were met with the retort of "shoot!"

A crowd estimated at 700 men and boys reached Governor Slaton's country home on Peachtree road about 10:45. A force of county police was on the large estate and the crowd made no effort to get into the grounds, standing outside and shouting.

Governor Slaton's Statement. Governor Slaton still was at his country home when he announced his decision on the case over the telephone to The Associated Press. In making this announcement the governor dictated the following brief statement:

"All that I ask is that the people of Georgia read my statement of the reasons why I commuted Leo M. Frank's death sentence to life imprisonment, before they pass judgment."

"Feeling as I do about this case I would be a murderer if I allowed this man to hang. It may mean that I must live in obscurity the rest of my days, but I would rather be plowing in a field than to feel for the rest of my life that I had that man's blood on my hands."

Governor Slaton issued a statement of approximately 15,000 words explaining his action. He maintained there was reasonable doubt of Frank's guilt of the murder of Mary Phagan. He devoted much of his statement to the part the negro James Conley might have played in the crime.

Announcement of the governor's decision came several hours after Frank had been secretly taken from the jail here and hurried to the state prison farm at Milledgeville. Frank was sentenced to be hanged here June 22 for the murder of Mary Phagan, in April, 1913.

Dorsey Issues Statement. Solicitor General Dorsey, who prosecuted Frank, issued a statement in which he declared that "the action of Governor Slaton nullifying the judgments of the state and federal courts and over-riding the recommendations of the state board of pardons . . . was unprecedented." He added that no defendant in his recollection had had the benefit of more appeals to both the state and federal courts.

## BAR SHIPMENTS OF GOODS TO HOLLAND

MUST BE CONSIGNED TO HOLLAND OVERSEAS TRUST TO GET THROUGH.

## WILL AFFECT ALL THE TRADE

Not Only Contraband But All Other Goods Included in Order.—Control Neutral Exports.

London.—An order-in-council is about to be issued prohibiting exportation of all goods to Holland except those consigned to The Netherlands Overseas Trust. It is expected to stop the trade now believed to be passing through Holland into Germany. An announcement to this effect was made in the House of Commons by Capt. E. G. Pretzman, Parliamentary Under-Secretary to the Board of Trade. Exportation of goods to The Netherlands Overseas Trust would be equivalent to a guarantee that no goods either in the form received or in a subsequent form, would reach a country hostile to Great Britain. Captain Pretzman made the announcement in introducing the "customs exportation restriction bill." He explained that a partial arrangement with The Netherlands trust had been in operation for some time and that the British Consul had made a favorable report on it.

He added that the bill would enable extension of similar control over exports to other neutral countries.

Provision is made in the bill for a fine of \$2,500 or imprisonment for two years for violation of its terms. Consigners and shippers will be equally responsible.

Mr. Pretzman said it was proposed not only to regulate the number of consignments exported but to keep a careful record of the amount of each article going to certain countries and to prohibit further exportation immediately it appeared that more of any article was going to any country than could normally be consumed there.

A special committee will be appointed to deal with licenses for exporting cotton. Mr. Pretzman said all cotton products would be on the prohibited lists.

The bill passed all stages.

## MEXICANS DENY REPORTS.

### General Gonzales is Marching Toward Capital.—Ordered to Halt.

Washington.—Denials of friction in the Carranza ranks and of dissension among Villa leaders were made by the Mexican agencies here. The belief still prevailed in official quarters, however, that the breach between General Obregon and Carranza had not been healed and that the departure of Gen. Felipe Angeles from the camp of General Villa this time was an important military, if not political loss.

Other advices say that Gen. Pablo Gonzales, the Carranza commander marching against Mexico City, who was ordered to halt until Carranza reorganized his Cabinet, has gone ahead and is now reported within a few miles of the Capital. Communication behind him to Vera Cruz is cut. This development is regarded as ominous in official quarters. The Carranza authorities at Vera Cruz claim the lines were cut by the Zapata forces but other information received by the United States Government indicates that General Gonzales cut his own communications.

### New Constitution in Tennessee.

Nashville, Tenn.—By authority of a recent act of the Legislature, Governor Tom C. Rye called an election for the first Thursday in August 1916, at which the people will vote on the question of calling a convention to frame a new constitution.

### Frank Under Care of a Physician.

Milledgeville, Ga.—Leo M. Frank now is under the care of the prison physician here. His condition was declared to be too serious for him to be sent to the fields to work with other prisoners for a week or more.

### Seven Enlisted Men Arrested.

New York.—Seven men who are alleged to have enlisted at San Francisco as British veterans were arrested by special agents of the Department of Justice. They were en route to England. Assistant District Attorney Wood said an investigation of alleged breaches of neutrality was in progress in San Francisco. The men arrested here he asserted were wanted as witnesses. They were arraigned and held in \$500 bail each for appearance before the Federal grand jury in San Francisco.

## LEO M. FRANK



Leo M. Frank, who was sentenced to die for the murder of Mary Phagan is now in the state prison. His sentence was commuted by Governor Slaton.

## WILL MAINTAIN DIGNITY

MEXICANS WILL OBJECT IF WILSON'S WARNING SHOULD MEAN THREAT.

### Villa-Zapata Convention Willing to Co-operate With Other Factions to End War.

Washington.—The United States Government was informed by Francisco Charazo, President of the Villa-Zapata convention in Mexico City, that if President Wilson's recent warning to Mexican factions to compose their differences should signify "pressure or threat" the Convention Government "still harboring the conscience of its sacrifices, will maintain the dignity of the Mexican people."

After declaring a willingness to make peace with the Carranza faction the note says in part:

"The Conventionist Government does not see, does not wish to see, in the substance of the declarations made by President Wilson anything more than an advice, a friendly suggestion to induce the contending groups to wipe out their differences and lead them into the path to the end pursued by the revolution. Coming to the declaration that if we Mexicans can not settle our differences within a very short time the Government of the American Union will find itself constrained to decide as to what means it shall use to bring it about, the Conventionist Government can not understand how President Wilson previously declares in the same note that the United States does not desire or claim any right to settle the affairs of Mexico and more to the same effect. The same chief of the American Nation made at Indianapolis the following categorical declarations:

"I am proud to belong to a powerful Nation which says that Mexico which we could crush, will enjoy the same liberty in the management of its affairs as we enjoy. If I am strong I should be ashamed to dictate to the weak in the measure of my strength. My pride consists in keeping my strength free and not in oppressing another people with it."

"If contrary to the interpretation which in the most friendly sense the Conventionist Government puts upon President Wilson's declarations, this closing part should signify a denial of the instinctive sympathy generously demonstrated to the Mexican revolution and should further signify pressure or threat, the Conventionist Government still harboring the conscience of its sacrifices will maintain the dignity of the Mexican people. We continue, however, to conjecture that the general idea of the Government of the United States is to help us in a friendly way to bring to an end our fratricidal struggle which would be for the greatest good of the country. The government is ready to bring about by all means consistent with its dignity the fusion of all the contending groups, to initiate all the economic, political and social reforms aimed at by the revolution and to establish a strong stable government with which all tendencies and all legitimate interests will find the fullest favor and enjoy the guarantees which our fundamental law provides."

### Warnford is Killed in Flight.

Paris.—Lieut. Reginald A. J. Warnford, who gained fame recently by blowing to pieces a Zeppelin over Belgium was killed by the fall of an aeroplane at Buc, France.

## "GRANDFATHER" LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL

SUPREME COURT ANNULS THE FAMOUS OKLAHOMA RACE LAW.

## DECISION WAS UNANIMOUS

Chief Justice White Announces Decision Which Upholds Conviction of Oklahoma Officials.

Washington.—In probably one of the most important race decisions in its history, the supreme court annulled as unconstitutional the Oklahoma constitutional amendment and the Annapolis, Md., voters' qualification law restricting the suffrage rights of those who could not vote or whose ancestors could not vote prior to the ratification of the Fifteenth amendment to the federal constitution.

Chief Justice White, a native of the South, and a former Confederate soldier, announced the court's decision, which was unanimous except that Justice McReynolds took no part in the case.

"It is true," continued the chief justice, "that it contains no express words of an exclusion from the standard which it establishes of any person on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude prohibited by the Fifteenth Amendment, but the standard itself inherently brings that result in to existence since it is based purely upon a period of time before the enactment of the Fifteenth Amendment and makes that period the controlling and dominant test of the right of suffrage."

"In other words," we seek in vain for any ground which would sustain any other interpretation but that the provision, recurring to the conditions existing before the Fifteenth Amendment was adopted and the continuance of which the Fifteenth Amendment prohibited, proposed by, in substance and effect, lifting these conditions over a period of time after the amendment to make them the basis of the right to suffrage conferred in direct and positive disregard for the Fifteenth Amendment." And the same result, we are of opinion, is demonstrated by considering whether it is possible to discover any basis of reason for the standard thus fixed other than the purpose above stated.

"We say this because we are unable to discover how, unless the prohibitions of the Fifteenth Amendment were considered, the slightest reason was afforded for basing the classification upon a period of time prior to the Fifteenth Amendment. Certainly it cannot be said that there was any peculiar necromancy in the time named which engender attributes affecting the qualification to vote which would not exist at another and different period unless the Fifteenth Amendment was in view."

## LAUNCH BATTLESHIP ARIZONA.

### Big New Superdreadnaught Glides Into Water.

New York.—The new battleship Arizona was successfully launched at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The Arizona shares with her sister ship, the Pennsylvania, recently launched at Newport News, the honor of being the world's largest battleship.

She went to the river with the wine and water of her christening tricking in rivulets down her bow from two broken bottles that swung, bound together by a long red, white and blue cord of silk. Miss Esther Ross of Prescott, Ariz., the sponsor made a fair throw as the big hull quivered and slid slowly forward, the froth of the wine splattered her gown and the clothes of those in her party.

From the grando and the christening was witnessed by Secretary Daniels, army and navy officers, Governor Hunt, Senator Ashurst and others.

### Lansing in Line for Job.

Washington.—President Wilson was understood to have virtually decided on Robert Lansing as Secretary of State to succeed William Jennings Bryan.

### Dummy Cut Down and Burned.

Marietta, Ga.—A life-sized dummy bearing in the inscription "John M. Slaton, Georgia's Traitor Governor" was burned in the public square here by a small crowd of men. The effigy was hanged to a telegraph pole on the edge of the square after the news was received of the commutation of Leo M. Frank's death sentence. The police made no attempt to interfere with the crowd when they cut down the dummy and set fire to it near the base of the monument of the late Senator Alexander S. Clay.

## MISS ESTHER ROSS



Miss Esther Ross of Prescott, Ariz., was selected by Governor Hunt to christen the new battleship Arizona at the Brooklyn navy yard on June 19. Miss Ross is only seventeen years old.

## BRITISH PREPARE ANSWER

REPLY TO AMERICAN NOTE OF MARCH 30 PROTESTING AGAINST BLOCKADE.

Expected That England Will Soon Dispatch Explanation of the Cause For Her Big Blockade.

Washington.—It was stated officially that there had been intimations from Great Britain recently that a reply might be forthcoming soon to the American note of March 30 protesting against the illegality of the order in council in its restriction on noncontraband commerce with Germany through neutral countries.

Officials have been preparing an answer to the British notes which preceded the issuance of the order in council and covering the academic principles as they were affected by the law of contraband and continuous voyage. The United States has never admitted the right of the allies to detain cargoes of contraband consigned to neutral ports when enemy destination is not proved and several cases still are pending in which that principle is involved. The close relation of the order in council, prohibiting noncontraband commerce with Germany, to the traffic in contraband articles with neutral countries, has caused officials to combine all phases of these questions in a single note which is expected to be sent as soon as all data is obtained and when the situation with Germany is clarified. The possibility that Germany may suggest a modus vivendi whereby submarine warfare may be abandoned if the allies' order in council were revoked and the usual laws of contraband put into effect is one of the considerations which have delayed the dispatch of the American note to Great Britain until the Germany reply to the last communication from the United States is at hand.

### U. S. Mail Opened in England.

Washington.—Formal notice that United States mail pouches destined for Sweden had been broken open in England and their contents tampered with, was submitted to the state department by W. A. F. Ekengren, the Swedish minister, with a request for appropriate action.

The minister called at the department and delivered to Secretary Lansing a letter written on instructions from his government, reciting instances of interference with mail for Sweden and pointing out that such acts were in violation of the provisions of the World Postal Convention and of other treaty stipulations. The letter stated that the seals of mail bags were broken, that letters were opened and censored, and that one registered unit was retained. While various reports have been in circulation as to the interference with mail since the outbreak of hostilities in Europe the protest from Sweden is the first official communication on the subject.

## TEUTONIC ALLIES SURE OF SUCCESS

NOT SINCE BEFORE BATTLE OF MARNE HAVE ALLIES BEEN SO CONFIDENT.

## KAISER TAKES UP COMMAND

German Emperor Has Established His Headquarters as Near Front as is Practicable.

London.—After seven weeks' battering across Galicia during which the Russians have been thrown back more than 150 miles the Austro-Germans are as close to Lemberg as were the Germans to Paris last Fall. Never perhaps since before the battle of the Marne, have the Teutonic Allies appeared so confident of success. Having failed in their original plan of crushing France and then returning to Russia, they have reversed the order of their strategy and now judging by the expenditure of life and ammunition in Galicia they have pinned their whole faith on paralyzing the Russian army to permit the throwing of a tremendous weight of men and metal into the west, there either to break through the Franco-British line or force an interminable period of sanguinary warfare.

A dispatch from Copenhagen says that the German Emperor himself has taken supreme command of the Galician campaign, establishing his headquarters in Silesia as near to the front as practicable.

Meanwhile the German official communication reports the further progress of the German-Austrian troops toward Lemberg. It claims as well that the Russians have been cleared from parts of the Dneister.

## ANTI-GERMAN MOBS AT MOSCOW.

Wreck 500 Stores; \$20,000,000 Worth of Damage.

Petrograd, via London.—Moscow suffered damage to the amount of \$20,000,000 during the recent anti-German demonstrations in which nearly 500 stores and factories and more than 200 private lodgings were wrecked.

The infuriated mobs turned the city into wild disorder, according to eye-witnesses. From music stores, pianos and other musical instruments were hurled into the streets until the piles of wreckage made traffic impossible.

The rioters, heated with liquor found in the demolished wine stores, became reckless in their pillaging, burning many stores and apartments, the owners of which were Russians. Of the total number of buildings destroyed only 113 belonged to Austro-German subjects.

The demonstrations beginning early on June 9 lasted more than 24 hours. Buildings were burned and crumbled to ashes, and the fire departments although active throughout the disturbances found it impossible to cope with the flames.

### Bryan Speaks at Carnegie Hall.

New York.—William Jennings Bryan, addressing a labor peace meeting at Carnegie Hall here, attacked former Presidents Roosevelt and Taft as leading sponsors of organizations which stood for the use of force in international affairs, and which the former secretary of state declared, were inimical to the true interests of this country and to the cause of international peace.

### New Orleans Gets Federal Bank.

Washington.—After several weeks' consideration the federal reserve board intends to authorize the Atlanta Federal reserve bank to open a branch in New Orleans. No final vote has been taken on the proposal, but it was understood there is practically no opposition to it among the board members.

### Floods in Middle West.

Kansas City.—Twenty-four hours of only negligible rain in Eastern Kansas and Western Missouri gave some relief from fears of large flood damage by waters of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers.

### Automobiles for Rural Routes.

Washington. Automobile rural mail delivery routes will be established in many parts of the country beginning August 2. It was announced that orders had been signed by Postmaster General Burleson authorizing the operation of 105 machines on that date. Preparations are being carried forward for installation of the automobile in the rural mail service wherever the roads will permit. Already some carriers are using automobiles on their routes.