

THE LANCASTER NEWS

68TH YEAR. NO. 42. SEMI-WEEKLY.

LANCASTER, S. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 1919.

SUBSCRIPTION \$2.00 A YEAR

STRAW VOTE SHOWS VARIED OPINIONS

Legislators, However, If Opposed to Extra Session Believe Law Would Pass.

PEOPLE ARE DISAPPOINTED

A Composium of Views Expressed By Members General Assembly in Answer to Query of House's Chief Clerk.

Whether or not an extra session of the general assembly will be called this spring or summer will depend on the attitude of Governor Cooper. The chief executive has said there must not only be a demand for an extra session, but also assurance that good roads legislation will be enacted.

To get the view of the members of the lower house, on whose shoulders the responsibility for failure to enact good roads legislation rests, J. Wilson Gibbs, clerk of the house has assembled a "straw vote." While the majority sentiment is not in favor of an extra session, the members by a wide margin express themselves of the opinion that good roads legislation would be enacted, were the general assembly called back in session.

Most of the members express themselves definitely. There is little hedging or dodging of the main issue. Usually the members are frank in the opinion as to the expediency of an extra session and some of them take no pains to conceal the fact that their constituents have mercilessly applied the lash of condemnation for failure to act last month.

Reasons for Failure.

There is also a frankness of opinion as to the reasons for failure to get action. The main reason cited is a lack of statewide vision; the inability to see beyond the confines of the particular county represented. The charge that the members are only township or school district representatives can be readily proven by an examination of the bulk of acts last session. Among the 343 acts passed, in round numbers a dozen or one in every 25 is statewide in character. Few statewide bills can be gotten through without strenuous fighting to have certain counties exempted, which tendency has so featured the legislation of the last decade that at the recent session of the general assembly a resolution was accepted to have an investigation made of all statutes thus nullified by county exemptions.

The rush for time in the closing hours is viewed by others as contributory to the failure. Unwise leadership is cited by others, while still others enter the plea of some vicious quality of each bill introduced. One gathers from reading the various views, however, that the bill which the senate sent back to the house, for a one mill general property tax levy and automobile license, would stand a much better chance of passing now than when its consideration was postponed last month until next year, in dodging the issue and refusing to take the customary vote on accepting the amendment and allowing the bill to go to free conference.

Nearly \$4,000,000 of federal aid has been apportioned to South Carolina for permanent improvements. Of this amount, more than \$2,500,000 is available by July 1 of the current year. Though 13 counties have bond issues or will vote on the question soon, it will be impossible for the highway commission to gain from these counties sufficient pledge for permanent projects to absorb all this federal aid, and in consequence much of the money will likely revert to the United States treasury.

The following is a synopsis of the views expressed:

Members Give Views.

Anderson, Florence: Does not think extra session necessary, but is of the opinion the members would get together. The time he suggests for an extra session is May 1.

J. B. Atkinson, Spartanburg: In favor of an extra session, and suggests July as the proper time. He would support any bill meeting the favor of the majority.

R. O. Atkinson, Chester: Opposed

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THOUSANDS STARVING TO DEATH IN THE CAUCASUS

First Report Has Been Received

From Dr. James L. Barton—
There is No Bread Anywhere.

New York, March 20.—Thousands of men, women and children are starving to death in the Caucasus, according to the first report from Dr. James L. Barton, chairman of the committee recently sent to that region by the American committee for relief in the near east, received at the headquarters of the committee here.

"There is no bread anywhere," said the report. "The government has not a pound. There are 45,000 people in Erivan wholly without bread and the orphanages and troops all through Erivan are in terrible condition."

"There is not a dog, cat, horse, camel or any living thing in all the Igdir region. We saw refugee women stripping the flesh from a dead horse with their bare hands."

"Thirty deaths a day are reported from Ashkharag; 25 from Etch miazin, Izel and Sadabad certainly more. Another week will score 10,000 lives lost."

"For heaven's sake hurry; we have enough food in the country now at Baku and Batum to keep the starving people alive for a time. The railroads are doing all they possibly can to get food to the people, but snow is our enemy at present. Please expedite as many men as you can; also please remember we shall be through with our food supplies pretty soon, so money and credit are vitally urgent."

The food at Batum referred to in the report is part of the cargo of 5,000 tons of flour shipped from Seattle on the Western Belle.

ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WILL BREAK THE STRIKE

Empowers Customs House to Load and Unload Ships and Nationalize the Harbor.

Buenos Aires, March 20.—The Argentine government issued a decree empowering the customs house to load and unload ships and nationalize the harbor.

This followed an effort by Sir Reginald T. Tower, British minister, to bring about a compromise between the ship owners and strikers, acting in the role of mediator, which he assumed earlier in the day. The men demand full pay for the past month, during which they have been idle. Sir Reginald suggested to the ship owners that the men be paid for 15 days. The owners refused to consider the proposal.

Under the decree issued by the government the customs house will use government tugs in loading and unloading ships in the harbor. It is provided that all vessels refusing to accept the services of the government shall leave port. The men employed on the work will be fed in government kitchen at cost prices.

The decree became effective Monday morning. The government says it has enough men to enable sufficient service.

The preamble to the decree says it is impossible to permit a further prolongation of the port strike because it is prejudicial to the welfare of the country.

REPRESENTATIVE LEVER OPPOSED TO MR. CLARK

"Will Support No Man Who Will Say That a Conscript is Synonymous With a Convict."

Washington, March 20.—Representative Lever, of South Carolina in a statement announced his opposition to the selection of Champ Clark, as Democratic leader in the next house.

"I support no man who will say that a conscript is synonymous with a convict," declared Mr. Lever's statement.

"It is of utmost importance," he continued, "to the future success of the Democratic party that the minority leadership in the next congress shall be strong, aggressive and in the fullest sympathy, not an enforced sympathy, with the plans and purposes of the President of the United States, who for six years has been elected spokesman and leader of his party."

PLANS UNDER WAY FOR TAKING CENSUS

Enumeration of the Millions of People in United States Begins in January.

PLACES ARE TO BE FILLED

Supervisors for Each Congressional District to Be Chosen Under Rules of the Civil Service.

Washington, March 20.—The act providing for the 14th and subsequent decennial censuses was signed by the president on March 3. The enumeration, which will be made in January, 1920, is now less than ten months distant; and the census bureau already has under consideration the selection and appointment of not to exceed 400 supervisors who will have charge of the 50,000 enumerators. The supervisors' districts will, in most cases, except in the large cities, have the same boundaries as the congressional districts. The supervisors, under the law, are to be appointed by the secretary of commerce upon the recommendation of the director of the census.

The following instructions have been given by the secretary of commerce to the director of the census in regard to the procedure to be followed in making selections and appointments of census supervisors:

"Conforming to the assurances given the president in my letter to him of March 3. You will please be guided by the following instructions respecting appointments to the post of supervisor in connection with the taking of the 14th census of the United States.

"A test examination, of which a record will be kept, is to be required for appointment to the post of supervisor. In addition to this, a careful personal inquiry is to be separately made respecting the qualifications of each candidate. Of this inquiry, also, a record will be kept.

"In making appointments from those who shall have passed the test examination and the separate inquiry as to qualifications, preference is to be given to those candidates who have had executive, administrative, statistical, or accounting experience, and to those who have had charge of bodies of men as administrators, provided in all cases that men with the experience stated possess the other qualifications necessary.

"You will arrange to give notice to the above effect to every candidate applying for appointment, and to his sponsors, and no candidates are to be selected for appointment who do not pass both the test examination and the personal inquiry.

"You are requested to ask the civil service commission to prepare the blanks for the test examination or to co-operate with you in the preparation of them. You will welcome the assistance of the civil service commission in this and in any other respect in which they can be helpful to you.

"It is my earnest desire, as I know it is your own, that this census shall be an example in its quality, as well as in its promptness. I need hardly say that neither result can be had unless the supervisors are selected with special care to their individual fitness for their task. I am depending on you as the responsible officer in immediate charge of the work to see that every precaution is taken to achieve this result. In particular, the appearance as well as the fact of political patronage are to be avoided and fitness for the work to be done will be the controlling factor in the appointments."

The director of the census has already taken steps to carry out the instructions of the secretary.

The supervisor's duties will occupy their time for the greater part of a year, beginning about July 1, 1919. Their compensation will be \$1,500 plus \$1 for each thousand or fraction of a thousand of population enumerated. The total compensation in an average sized district, outside a large city, will therefore be between \$1,700 and \$1,800. Clerk hire and other necessary expenses will be paid by the government.

GENERAL PERSHING PRAISES THE 30TH

Writes to Commander of Division and Expresses Pleasure as to Conduct.

RECORD TO BE PROUD OF

Especial Glory Won By Southern Soldiers in Breaking Through Hindenburg and LeCatelet Lines.

Charleston, March 20.—Col. Julius E. Cogswell of this city has just received a copy from Maj. J. D. E. Meyer of the letter of commendation written by Gen. J. J. Pershing on February 19 to the Thirtieth Division, in which General Pershing pays a handsome tribute to this gallant command, emphasizing specially the glory that is theirs for the share they had in smashing the famous Hindenburg line. General Pershing's letter is addressed to Maj. Gen. Edwin M. Lewis, commanding the Thirtieth Division, and is as follows:

"My Dear General Lewis:

"It gives me much pleasure to extend to you and the officers and men of the Thirtieth Division my sincere compliments upon their appearance at the review and inspection on the 21st of January south east of Telle, which was excellent and is just what would be expected in a command with such a splendid fighting record.

"After its preliminary training the division entered the line on July 16, where it remained almost continuously until the end of October. In that time it was in the actual battle from the 30th of August and took part in the Ypres-Lys and Somme offensive. On September 29 the division broke through the Hindenburg and the LeCatelet lines, capturing Bellicourt and Nauroy, an operation on which all subsequent action of the Fourth British army depended. From October 7 to October 20 the division advanced 23 kilometers in a continued series of attacks capturing 2,352 of the enemy. Brancourt, Prement, Busigny, St. Bernin, St. Souplet, Escanquet, Le Hale, Mneresse and Vaux Ardigny are names which will live in the memories of those who fought in the Thirtieth Division. But its especial glory will always be the honor you won by breaking the Hindenburg line on September 29. Such a record is one of which we are all proud.

"It is gratifying to see your troops in such good physical shape, but still more so to know that this almost ideal condition will continue to the end of their services and beyond, as an exemplification of their high character and soldierly qualities.

"I inspected the artillery brigade of the division later and found the same high standard of personnel that marks the rest of the division.

"Very sincerely yours,

"John J. Pershing."

The division commander, the memorandum went on to say, congratulates the division upon this high tribute from the commander and chief, and again expresses his pride in being its commander.

Court Adjourned Yesterday.

The court of common pleas for Lancaster county adjourned yesterday morning after a session which began Monday. Judge Gary left on the 10:17 train yesterday for his home in Abbeville and will convene court at Chester next Monday. In addition to those reported in Tuesday's paper the following cases were disposed of:

Morse Owen Gregory vs. Lancaster cotton mills, suit for \$10,000 personal injuries; verdict for defendant.

J. H. Witherspoon and company vs. Paul B. McManus, et al., suit to recover on note; verdict for plaintiff in the sum of \$190.10.

Jones Mercantile company, assignee, vs. Mary H. Barron and Glenmore B. Barron; verdict for defendants.

Minnie E. McAtee vs. Woodmen of the World, consent verdict for plaintiff in the sum of \$800.

LATE REPORTS SHOW THE JAPANESE ARE TO BLAME

It is Claimed Jap Military Guards Entered French Consulate and Seized Americans.

Peking, March 20.—While early reports from Tien Tsin suggested that American marines were to blame for the recent disorders there later reports would seem to show that the Japanese were also at fault.

It is claimed that Japanese military guards entered the French consulate and there seized two Americans, and when American officials inquired of the Japanese police authorities if any Americans were being detained they were given a negative answer, according to a report. Later American officials found two Americans in a police station, one of them lying almost naked in the yard calling for water. The Japanese were induced to send the injured man to a hospital and an American consul refused to leave the station until the other man, a corporal, had been released. This demand was finally granted. The American consul was stated by Japanese as he drove away from the station, it is said.

When the American marines entered the Japanese consulate they are reported to have attacked a visitor.

On Thursday evening American marines who were entering a moving picture theater in the French concession were attacked by a crowd of Japanese armed with sticks. They managed to enter the theater, the proprietor of which telephoned for the French police who dispersed the Japanese.

The situation at Tien Tsin is said to be tense. The matter has been referred to the French legation here.

AMERICAN TROOPS GO TO STRATEGIC POINTS

Move to Railway West of Vladivostok to Aid John Stevens and His Staff of Railway Men.

Vladivostok, March 20.—American troops have begun to move to strategic points on the trans-Siberian railway west of Vladivostok to aid John F. Stevens and his staff of American railway men in the technical operation of the railway. The first contingent is already at Harbin, while the second will entrain within a few days for Chita, the farthest point west to which the Americans will be sent.

It is proposed to place additional detachments at Verkhni Udinsk, Manchuria station and Nikolsk. On the Ussuri branch American troops already are stationed at Spasske and Khabarovsk.

Czechoslovak troops are guarding the line from Irkutsk to Tcheliabinsk. Japanese troops are in Siberia and also are guarding the Chinese Eastern railway as far as Irkutsk.

No announcement has yet been made of the zones which the various allies will police. It is said to be a question for the inter-allied committee in Siberia to decide. The committee is awaiting the arrival of the Chinese member of the military committee before making a decision. There is strong sentiment among the allied representatives that the Chinese would police at least half of the Chinese Eastern. While there have been some rumors of secret opposition to the allied plan, all appearances are that the nations are working in complete harmony.

STILL FOUND ON LAND OF

ANTI-SALOON LEAGUE CHIEF

Montgomery, Ala., March 20.—Dr. Parley A. Baker, of Westerville, Ohio, general superintendent of the anti-saloon league of America, and an official of the Black Belt Farms company, issued a statement here in connection with the raiding of an illicit distillery operated on land near here owned by the company. A negro was taken into custody by officials of Lowndes county and two gallons of whiskey and 40 gallons of mash were destroyed.

Dr. Baker said he had been informed some time ago that a distillery was operating in the neighborhood, and that tenants on the farm were being supplied intoxicants. He instructed the farm foreman to investigate, but was unable to say whether this investigation resulted in the raid by the officers.

GERMAN CONTROL OF METALS IS BROKEN

Many Concerns in This Country Have Either Disbanded or Been Americanized.

SOME ATTEMPT EVASION

Transfers Have Been Declared Void and in Some Instances the Property Has Been Taken Over By Custodian.

Washington, March 20.—Germany's control of the zinc and lead markets of the world and her tremendous interest in other metals was shown by a report of the alien property custodian to have been broken in large part by the release of American, Mexican and South American mines and smelters from the dominance of German-owned corporations.

All the metal concerns in the United States which were controlled in Germany have been either disbanded or Americanized, and the report declares that "it is believed that the German influences in our metal markets have been completely eliminated."

Three Great Corporations.

Never a great producer of metals, Germany, nevertheless, wielded tremendous power over markets by the fact that her three great metal combinations acted in concert in the purchase of ore and the establishment of smelters, aided by unlimited credit from German banks, which financed the sale of huge quantities of metals, thereby inferring prices. At the outbreak of the European war, the report said, each member of the triumvirate had a branch in the United States, the American Metal Company, representing the Metallgesellschaft, of Frankfurt; L. Vogelstein & Co., representing Aaron Hirsch and Sohn & Beer; Sondheimer & Co., representing the German syndicate of the same name. An idea of their extent may be had from the statement that their combined profits in 1916 amounted to \$12,000,000 of which \$7,000,000 was made by the American Metal company.

When the alien property custodian began investigating German business in this country under authority of the Trading With the Enemy Act he found frequent attempts to transfer stock to supposed Americans in an effort to circumvent seizure by the government. The efforts were useless and in the case of Beer, Sondheimer & Co. the transfers were declared void and the entire business was turned over to the custodian.

Disposition now has been decided upon in all three cases of the metal companies. Beer, Sondheimer & Co. is in process of liquidation, including its subsidiaries, National Zinc Company, Norfolk Smelting Company and Cuba Copper Leasing Company, and it was said the stock would go only into American hands. The companies' control over important flotation patents also has been destroyed.

Control of L. Vogelstein & Co. was assumed by the custodian for five years by means of a voting trust, in which the custodian names two of three trustees, and the firm agrees not to resume relations with its German connections in that period. This arrangement was devised because Vogelstein is an American citizen, and it has not been possible to learn the exact interest of Aaron Hirsch and Sohn in the Vogelstein assets.

Voting Trust.

By agreement between the custodian and American stockholders of the American Metal Company all of the stock has been put into a voting trust for five years with the custodian holding certificates of 3,464 shares owned by enemy aliens out of a total of 70,000. The enemy-owned shares will be sold to Americans.

"The German metal octopus," the report concludes, "had spread his tentacles across the ocean and over the United States into Mexico and South America, but for the present surely, and for all time, it is hoped, he has been driven back and a wall of Americanism erected, which, it is hoped, he will never be able again to scale."