

PURCHASE IS DELAYED BY COUNCIL

Mayor, Three Aldermen and Gattis Compose Committee to Investigate and Report on Merits of Motor Fire Apparatus

BUICK ROADSTER BOUGHT FOR CHIEF

Traffic Ordinance Again Discussed—Police Ordered to Enforce Rules—Street Commissioner Instructed to Repair Paving

After hours in session, two and a half hours of which time had been devoted to the transaction of regular routine business and the remainder to receiving and filing bids on fire equipment, and listening to representatives of companies which had filed the bids, the city council adjourned last night at 11:35 o'clock after having bought a Buick roadster, price \$1,000 f. o. b. Chickasha, for Chief Gattis.

In the matter of the purchase of the auto pumping engine and fire truck, after all bids had been received and the companies' agents had talked and expounded the merits of their several pieces of fire-fighting apparatus, the council decided, upon motion of Councilman Caneman, seconded by Councilman Lorenson, that pending final action and purchase of the equipment, the mayor should appoint a committee of five to investigate and thoroughly go into the merits of the machines offered the city. The motion carried with the instruction that the committee of five should consist of three members of the city council and George Gattis, chief of the fire department, and O. Coffman, mayor, the latter to be ex-officio chairman of the committee.

This special committee is to investigate in a complete and systematic manner, all, or any part of the committee to visit such cities as they may wish to wherein any of the fire equipment under consideration may be in use. The committee, following the investigation, will get together and as soon as a majority report may be ready, the mayor may call a special meeting of the council, or pass the matter over until the next regular meeting of the board.

Mayor Coffman stated this morning that he did not care to see any demonstrations of equipment; that what he wanted to do, and what he felt should be done in the interest of the taxpayers of Chickasha, was to visit some of the cities in which machines similar to those now being considered by the council have been in operation for several years, there to ascertain what practical firemen thought of the different makes of machines. By doing this the mayor says he feels that the council will be able to get a line upon the best machine built and to also save the taxpayers of Chickasha a material sum of money.

Mr. Coffman said further, when seen this morning, that the committee should be in readiness to report by the middle of the ensuing week. He stated that Fort Worth and Dallas, each had fire equipment of the motor-truck kind, of different makes and that a trip to those two cities should enable the committee to find out without trouble which machine was considered by practical fire-fighters as the best, the cheapest and the most efficient. "Three or four days should be ample time to spend in investigating the merits of the different kinds of auto fire trucks. Then we can make an intelligent report to the council, order the machine upon which we may agree and have the matter settled," were Mayor Coffman's concluding words in discussing the matter this morning.

The bids, as submitted to the council last night, follow:

The American-La France company, Elmira, N. Y., three bids, as follows: Type No. 75, triple combination pumping engine and chemical car, capacity 800 gallons per minute, price \$8,000; f. o. b. Chickasha; type No. 12, special pumping and chemical engine and hose car, capacity 900 gallons per minute, price, f. o. b. Chickasha, \$9,000; type No. 50, as above, capacity 700 gallons per minute, price, f. o. b.

Chickasha, \$8,000. The Anderson Coupling and Supply company, Kansas City, Kansas, submitted one bid, as follows: Triple combination fire engine and hose car with chemical equipment, capacity 700 gallons per minute, price f. o. b. Chickasha, \$7,600; one chief's car equipped with chemical fire fighting apparatus, f. o. b. Chickasha, \$2,400.

The George C. Hale company of Kansas City, Mo., one bid as follows: One triple combination fire engine and hose and chemical truck, capacity 700 gallons per minute, price f. o. b. Chickasha, \$8,150.

The Robinson Fire Apparatus and Manufacturing company, of St. Louis, Mo., submitted three bids, as follows: Jumbo motor pumping and hose wagon, capacity 850 gallons per minute, price f. o. b. Chickasha, \$9,000; No. 2 motor pumping and hose wagon, capacity 700 gallons per minute, price f. o. b. Chickasha, \$8,500; Monarch motor fire and pumping engine, capacity 900 (Continued on Page Four.)

ACTION IS ASKED BY BAPTISTS

At the meeting last night of the city council, a committee from the First Baptist church appeared before the body and asked that steps should be taken by the city looking to and leading to the elimination of the fire menace, said to be caused by the building located immediately north of the church on Fourth street, and occupied as a blacksmith shop.

E. Tignor and F. E. Moore presented the question of elimination of the fire danger. Both gentlemen addressed the council and stated in plain and unvarnished terms the conditions as they understood them.

The statements set forth that the First Baptist church, located at the northeast corner of Fourth street and Colorado avenue, was one of the finest edifices for public worship in Chickasha; that it had been constructed and furnished at a total cost of approximately \$60,000; that the congregation carried upon the building and furnishings an insurance of \$20,000; that on account of the building adjoining the church property, referred to as the "blacksmith shop," the insurance rates on the church had been increased 68 per cent over what they would be were it not for the proximity of said blacksmith shop; that should the building be destroyed by fire the congregation would not be able to replace it with a like structure; that the present church was one of the buildings of Chickasha which add materially to the civic beauty of the city; that in addition to this and paramount and above all other reasons, the danger of loss of life should be considered; that there was a membership of 500 and further that there was an average attendance at the Sunday school of this church 250 children whose lives were endangered each Sunday through the fire menace; that in case of a fire there could not be held being serious accidents and numerous fatalities among those children; that the blacksmith shop was a sheet iron covered structure, lined with wood and floored with a wooden floor and considered extra hazardous by the fire insurance companies as evidenced by the advances charged in the insurance upon the church edifice of 68 per cent over the regular or normal rate; that the blacksmith shop building had been erected and constructed prior to the passage of the council bill creating fire limits in the city; that it had been constructed upon another lot than the one it now occupies and later removed to the present site.

The matter was referred to the proper committee by the mayor with instructions to report at the next regular meeting of the council.

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WEATHER FORECAST.

For Oklahoma, Tonight, rain; colder in east portion. Saturday, partly cloudy; warmer in west portion. Local Temperature. During 24 hours ending 8 a. m. today: Maximum, 69; minimum, 46. Rain during 24 hours ending at 8 a. m., 1.26 inch.

MEALS IN GERMANY SMALLER

Government Order to Hotels and Restaurants to Reduce Bills of Fare Goes into Effect Tomorrow Morning

CONSUMPTION OF FOOD RESTRICTED

Limit Use of Butter, Sugar and Other Supplies—British Novelist Returning From Internment Camp Sees Famine Impending

By Wilbur S. Forrest.

(United Press Staff Correspondent.) London, April 14.—The imperial German government's order to all German hotel and restaurant keepers, that they must reduce the size of the meals they serve, both as to variety and quantity, will be effective throughout Germany beginning with breakfast tomorrow morning.

The bills of fare will be reduced to the smallest proportions on record and guests will not be permitted to eat more than one item from any single course—and not very much of that. The butter supply, for instance, now is restricted to 1.8 of a pound per person per week. Mighty little sugar is given. Other food supplies are held to corresponding proportions.

Germany is racing toward famine which has been foreseen since last summer by those who knew the truth about the summer harvest, according to Francis Gribble, the British novelist who has just returned to London after a year in the German internment camp at Itzehoe, near Berlin.

"There is no avoiding the conclusion," said Gribble today, "that the state of the German people soon will be much what the state of the Belgian people now would be but for American philanthropists.

"The date at which the catastrophe will occur depends upon a good many uncertain factors; but it cannot be long delayed.

"The 1915 summer harvest, what there was of it, was both sown and reaped while I was behind the barbed wires at Ruhleben. There was practically no rain from the end of March until the beginning of July.

"The crisis passed. Then came the lashing thunderstorms to complete the damage. Those of our custodians who were concerned with agriculture pulled long faces and used ugly language. There was no mistake about it—the German harvest of 1915 had failed."

The novelist quoted the Vorwarts, the outspoken German Socialist newspaper, to show that the 1915 harvest failed not only on account of drought but because:

1. The ground was not manured, the monopolization of railway equipment, by the military, preventing this.
2. Horses and carts were scarce because of the army needs.
3. Most skilled agriculturists were away at the seat of war and old men, women, children and prisoners could not do the work.
4. The manufacturers of agricultural implements have turned their energies to the manufacture of implements of war.

"Famine is inevitable whether peace comes soon or not. Prices will be high and the value of German money has sunk so low that 20 marks will buy only 5 marks' worth of goods; besides, Germany has no great quantities of goods to export and pay for food imports."

DECISION IS REACHED BY PRESIDENT

Washington, April 14.—High officials stated this morning that the president had determined the course that will be pursued with reference to Germany and the submarine issue. It is expected that the decision will be announced within a day.

It is understood that the president has decided to sever diplomatic relations with Germany if such action is necessary in order to obtain satisfaction. He is said to be determined to have a show-down on the issue. The government is said to have all the facts necessary for backing up its position.

Affidavits Arrive.

New York, April 14.—Affidavits from Sussex survivors and data from the American embassies in London and Paris arrived here on the liner St. Paul and were rushed to Washington. The documents were expected to arrive at the capital in time to be placed before the cabinet meeting today.

BROTHER-IN-LAW OF CHICKASHA MAN IS CAPT. WITH DODD

Capt. A. E. Kennington, of the 10th United States cavalry, a part of General Pershing's forces in Mexico, is a brother-in-law of L. G. Wade, of Chickasha. He is serving under the command of Col. Dodd.

Captain Kennington is a West Pointer, having been graduated from that institution as a second lieutenant in the early nineties. He was a second lieutenant of the Tenth during the Spanish-American war and was with his troops when they saved the day at San Juan hill and blazed the way for Roosevelt's Rough Riders to dash through to victory.

Following the Spanish-American war Captain Kennington was transferred to the Seventh cavalry and later returned to the Tenth, and was with his command at one of the United States military posts in Arizona when the bugle sounded the call for the rallying of the troops to lead the punitive expedition into Mexico.

Captain Pennington has been twice in the Philippines, once with the Seventh and once with the Tenth cavalry. It was while with the Seventh cavalry stationed at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., that he met and married Mrs. Wade's sister, Miss Virginia Wade. Mrs. Wade is at present in Arizona.

Mr. Wade stated this morning that he had not seen Captain Kennington since he was called to service with the Seventh in the Philippines in 1907, from Ft. Oglethorpe.

MAKE NO CHANGE IN MEXICAN POLICY

ATTACK IS REPULSED BY FRENCH

Paris, April 14.—Reports today say the French forces repulsed a weak attack that was made by the Germans southwest of Douaumont, on the battlefield northeast of Verdun.

Both sides kept up a lively bombardment last night on Hill No. 304 and in the Handromont and Moulainville regions without any noticeable advantage being gained.

Heavy Shipping Toll.

London, April 14.—It was officially stated today that British merchantmen with a total tonnage of 207,000 had been sunk by German submarines and mines during the month of March.

British Defeat Turks.

Berlin, April 14.—The British forces that are marching to relieve the garrison at Kut-el-Amara severely defeated the Turks, driving them back south of the Tigris river, Gen. Lake reported today.

VETS MEET SATURDAY

Tomorrow is the day fixed by Joe Shelby camp U. C. V., for their annual "love feast" and the local chapter of Daughters of the Confederacy are busy today with preparations for the big feed that is annually given to the old soldiers of the Southland.

Regardless of wind, weather and mud, it is expected that Col. Jack Hale of Naples will report for duty and other veterans from the county will make no less strenuous efforts to get here while a full turnout of members of the camp in Chickasha is assured.

All members of Joe Shelby camp, with their families, as well as Sons of Veterans and families, are invited to the dinner, which will be served in the Hollingsworth hall, Fourth and Kansas, at 12:30 Saturday and every daughter of a veteran is expected to be on hand with a well-filled basket.

WEATHER ELSEWHERE. Western Union reports reports received at 8 a. m. today: Oklahoma—Generally cloudy, raining at Oklahoma City. Average temperature, 60. Texas—Generally cloudy to part cloudy; rained all night at Amarillo. Average temperature, 65.

CABINET DECIDES TO LET TROOPS REMAIN AT LEAST FOR PRESENT

Lack of Information Prevents Final Action on Carranza's Request; President's Position Not Disclosed; Official Reports on Fighting at Parral Eagerly Awaited

Washington, April 14.—The cabinet decided today that there will be no change in the plans that are being pursued in Mexico, meaning that the troops will remain in Mexico, temporarily at least.

The lack of information concerning the events which caused the request of Carranza for the withdrawal of the troops, it is understood, prevented a decision in regard to the future course to be followed. What attitude the president took at the cabinet meeting is not known.

Chairman Stone of the senate committee on foreign relations, following a conference with Secretary Lansing, said withdrawal of the United States troops or intervention were the only alternatives in Mexico.

Gen. Funston was instructed to forward all the facts received from Gen. Pershing as soon as possible. Secretary Baker expressed the hope that the first reports concerning the fighting at Parral were exaggerated and that the fight was only a local affair. Funston replied that he had not heard anything from Pershing but was trying to get advice.

Secretary Baker declared that no orders had been issued except to give Funston free rein in handling the situation resulting from the fighting at Parral. Baker understood that Mexico had no objection to the troops traversing towns if they did not occupy them. Consul Rodgers at Mexico City may discuss the situation with Carranza today.

It was indicated that the official suggestion had been made that the base of the American troops be changed from Columbus to Ojinaga and that Funston had asked for additional troops.

Consular reports vary as to the number of Mexicans killed at Parral.

NEW LINE TO NAPLES

The Naples Telephone company has practically completed stringing its wires and has entered Chickasha, with its line, connecting with the phone system of this city and opening up, thereby, a new telephone territory tributary to Chickasha and extending 18 or 20 miles east of the city.

In constructing this line into Chickasha the Naples company have departed from the usual system followed by rural telephone companies, and, in place of installing a cheap and temporary line, have installed the metallic system, or circuit, thereby giving good service to its patrons from the start.

Walter Griffin, Dr. Hill and A. Murphy are the officers of the company. Manager Kelly, of the Chickasha branch of the Pioneer Telephone company stated this morning that the connection between the Pioneer city lines and the Naples rural lines would be completed today.

WILL MEET TONIGHT

The directors of the Commercial and Farm Bureau will hold their regular meeting this evening at 8 o'clock. The attendance of all members is urged.

running all the way from a few to a hundred. According to the best information only one American was killed. These reports are based on stories told by travelers. Army men fear that Villa will get away unless Carranza co-operates with the Americans.

Americans Halt.

Columbus, N. M., April 14.—The forward movement of American troops is halted, detachments being consolidated pending the disposition of the request of Carranza for withdrawal. Important movements, however, are in progress, reinforcements going to strategic points.

Executed by Zapata.

Galveston, Tex., April 14.—Generals Manuel Palafox, Francisco Pacheco and Genevovo Delao were executed by Zapata, according to reports received by the Mexican consulate here. Eight others were also executed, reports say.

Report Fighting Continues.

Washington, April 14.—The cabinet meeting today promises to be historic. Indications this morning were that the president is favoring withdrawal of the United States troops from Mexico as essential to the humanitarian purposes for which the expedition was sent.

The Parral incident was expected to loom up as paramount in the discussions of the cabinet. Advice in regard to it from Gen. Pershing were anxiously awaited this morning.

It is understood that the president believes that there is only one alternative to failure to withdraw, intervention, indicating that an effort is being made to find some way to withdraw.

UNITED STATES CAVALRY PURSUING VILLA



This photograph of the American cavalry in Mexico shows the character of the country through which the pursuit of Villa took General Pershing's forces.

Report Fighting Continues.

San Antonio, Tex., April 14.—Anxiously awaiting advice from Gen. Pershing concerning the fighting between American troops and Mexican citizens at Parral, Gen. Funston stated this morning that the Villa case was still on as far as headquarters were concerned.

Funston had heard nothing officially regarding the request of Carranza for the withdrawal of the troops and had not received the account of the Parral fighting that was forwarded to Washington by the Carranza authorities.

The latest dispatches to Washington from Mexican sources indicated that the fighting at Parral was still in progress, the American soldiers being attacked by a mob of natives in superior numbers. Many were reported killed in the second outbreak in which the Americans used a machine gun.

It is feared that unorganized bands may have cut off the retreat of the troops, preventing news of the attack from reaching Gen. Pershing. Officers at headquarters regard the outbreak as the result of hysteria among the natives living in a town which has long been considered a Villa stronghold, the natives probably being ignorant of national developments.

It is admitted in army circles that the situation is becoming serious but confidence is expressed that the American troops will be able to take care of themselves.