

The Watchman and Southron.

THE SUMTER WATCHMAN, Established April, 1850.

"Be Just and Fear not—Let all the ends Thou Aims't at be thy Country's, Thy God's and Thine's."

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SENSATION IN NAVAL CIRCLES

Bribery and Graft Charged in Personnel of Third Naval District.

MONEY PAID FOR ASSIGNMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

Secretary States That Arrests Have Been Made and One Man Courtmartialed.

New York, Feb. 18.—Arrests on charges of bribery and graft in the personnel of the Third naval district have been made following an investigation ordered by Secretary Daniels, the New York Evening Post says today.

The Post quotes Secretary Daniels as saying that the investigation indicates that "money was paid for assignments and promotions in the service."

It is charged that a system of bribery of minor officials of the district, with particular reference to the naval reserve force, has been operating.

The investigation by the secretary of the navy was ordered, it was said, after he had consulted with Rear Admiral Nathaniel R. Usher, in command of the district, who is described as preferring that any investigation that was undertaken should be by some one outside of the district. The investigator is a member of the staff of the judge advocate's office in Washington.

Secretary Daniels is quoted as follows:

"I have learned that arrests have been made and that one man has been tried by courtmartial. The court convicted him and he has asked for a review of the facts. . . . Knowledge of this situation in the Third naval district first came to me through the review of another case in the judge advocate's office. . . . No knowledge of the state of affairs existing had before that time come to the attention of Admiral Usher, for, if it had, he would certainly have begun an investigation immediately on his own initiative. He approved our course in sending a special investigator to his district and he is just as anxious as any one else that the entire case be sifted to the bottom."

The bribery charges are set forth as consisting of the acceptance for enlistment of physically unfit men upon false records; the assignment of men for duties far removed from war zone and actual sea service; the transfer of men from one district to another in order to escape sea service; permission to men to continue their business activities while attending to their naval duties for only an hour or two a day, and the passing of men for early discharge after the signing of the armistice.

Rear Admiral Usher refused to discuss the case this afternoon, stating that all information must come from the secretary of the navy who ordered the investigation.

Secretary Daniels is further quoted as saying that when he first became aware of the situation he issued instructions holding up all discharges from the Third district, later modifying them so that no man could be discharged unless his application received the indorsement of the special investigator. This was done, he explained, to prevent any of the men implicated from getting back into civil life before being brought to trial by courtmartial.

The Evening Post says it is reported that "approximately \$500,000 was expended in payment for special favors granted to individuals in the service."

Many men, it is declared, were apparently admitted to the navy and the naval reserve in order to escape being drafted into the army. The physical standards for the navy and the naval reserve were higher than for the army, it is explained in this connection, and some men who were found physically unfit for service in the navy or naval reserve were nevertheless admitted when they made payments of money.

Rumors of the condition in the Third district, says The Post, had spread throughout the navy until virtually every officer, even those returning from overseas, had some "smattering" of the facts.

Officers, especially those of the naval reserve, have expressed the hope that the investigation will go to the roots of the matter in order that all the guilty may be exposed and suspicion removed from the innocent, continued The Post, adding that some officers feared that the influence of some of the men who are believed to have received favors might prove strong enough to prevent a complete expose.

None of the 10,000 officers and men at the Bay Ride barracks used as a "receiving ship" for the Third naval district, has been placed under arrest, according to the officer of the day on duty tonight. He added that no one at the barracks was even under investigation.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Secretary Daniels said today that he understood one arrest had been made and that several persons were being detained in the Third naval district as a result of an investigation he had ordered of complaints that promotions and assignments carrying shore duty ap-

CLEMENCEAU IS SHOT BY CRANK

Five Shots Fired, Two Taking Effect in Back and Shoulder.

WOUNDS ARE BELIEVED NOT TO BE SERIOUS

Attack Occurred as Premier Was Leaving Home for War Office.

Paris, Feb. 19.—Georges Clemenceau, France's aged but vigorous premier, was shot at and slightly wounded this morning as he was entering his automobile. Five shots were fired by the assassin and it was first reported that the premier was wounded in the head. It developed later, however, that the wounds were in the back and shoulder, and he is apparently not dangerously hurt. The shooting occurred as the premier was leaving his home for the war office. The assassin was an ordinary looking man, dressed as a workman. He was arrested.

Wounds Not Serious

Only Danger is From Clemenceau's Great Age.

Paris, Feb. 19.—Premier Clemenceau's wound is not regarded as dangerous in itself, but it is felt there might be serious consequences considering his age. About 11 o'clock, however, it was officially announced that he was not seriously wounded. Police-man Goursatt was wounded by a stray shot. He said M. Clemenceau rushed his assailant and grappled him. His assailant was Emile Cottin, 25 years old, born at Creil. The police, however, do not believe the papers he possesses are his and are inclined to think him a Russian.

Copenhagen, Feb. 20.—Spartan forces are bombarding the town of Rotterdam in Westphalia with artillery, according to a message received here from Muenster. Assistance to the defenders of Rotterdam is being sent from Muenster.

Apparently had been sold during the war.

The secretary said he had received no report on the inquiry from Rear Admiral Usher, commandant of the district, who he said had been given full authority to take whatever action he deemed necessary.

Detroit, Feb. 18.—Senator-elect Truman H. Newberry, who up to several months ago served as commander of the Brooklyn navy yard, with the rank of lieutenant commander, declined to comment on the reported arrest of naval reservists of the Third naval district on charges of bribery and graft. Apparently Secretary Daniels had ordered the investigation after his discharge. Mr. Newberry said, and he knew nothing of the charges of the inquiry.

It was reported tonight that the man referred to by Secretary Daniels as having already been tried by courtmartial was a lieutenant, senior grade, who had served here as a medical examiner.

The lieutenant, it was said, was convicted on a charge of accepting a bribe for transferring a man to the aviation section and his dismissal recommended. Secretary Daniels, it was said, disapproved the finding and ordered a new trial by courtmartial which resulted in the officer's conviction and sentence to three years' imprisonment.

Another lieutenant, it is said, is held in the brig of the training ship Granite State here awaiting a courtmartial.

A yeoman under arrest, it was said, prospered so well during the period of alleged grafting that he was enabled on one occasion to give a "very small" party to a Broadway theatrical favorite at a cost of \$300.

The former medical examiner's arrest, it was said, was the result of the work of Joseph Whitehead, a member of the naval intelligence department who was formerly stationed at Boston. Whitehead is the son of Mrs. Kelly Evans, a wealthy New Yorker who formerly lived in Atlanta.

Another report was to the effect that seven officers and 40 yeomen were under arrest in connection with the alleged grafting and that the name of a high naval officer of the district had been brought into the case as a suspected "man higher up."

Two Officers Arrested

Secretary Daniels Orders Courtmartial Trial at Once.

Washington, Feb. 19.—The courtmartial of two naval officers in connection with the charges of bribery and graft in the third naval district has been ordered by Secretary Daniels. It was announced today that there is sufficient evidence to warrant trials immediately. Secretary Daniels said at least two other cases are developing. No names were made public.

GERMAN ARMY WAS WHIPPED

Armistice Was Sought by High Command of Army and Terms Accepted by Hindenburg.

ERZBERGER TELLS THE FACTS TO ASSEMBLY

Surrender of German Army Was Not Brought About by Internal Trouble in Germany.

Weimar, Thursday, Feb. 13.—Matthias Erzberger of the German armistice commission told the national assembly today the entire history of the armistice negotiations from the time they began last fall. He declared it was Prince Maximilian who approached the entente because of the iron compulsion of the high military command for peace, and it was Gen. von Hindenburg who demanded and authorized the signing of the first terms.

Huns Still Obstinate

German Press Criticise the League of Nations.

Berlin, Tuesday, Feb. 18.—The prospect for a league of nations now before the Paris peace conference has evoked sharp criticism in the German press generally. Demands are made by some newspapers that Germany refuse to have anything to do with such a league.

TO WITHDRAW FROM RUSSIA

England Decides to Bring Her Troops Out and America Will Do Likewise.

SENATORS ARE PLEASED WITH CHANGE IN POLICY

To Facilitate Withdrawal England Will Send 2,400 Reinforcements and America Two Companies of Engineers.

Washington, Feb. 17.—American and Allied troops operating in North Russia will be withdrawn at "the earliest possible moment weather conditions in the spring will permit;" to facilitate this movement and to improve lines of communication for the supplying of the forces that have penetrated into the country President Wilson has approved the sending of two additional companies of American railway troops to Archangel.

This information, cabled to the war department by Gen. Tasker H. Bliss at Paris by direction of the president, was transmitted today to Chairman Chamberlain and Dent of the senate and house military committees by Secretary Baker. The announcement brought expressions of approval from several senators, including Senator Johnson of California, Republican, who has been pressing his resolution providing for a declaration by the senate in favor of withdrawal of the American forces.

Gen. Bliss also informed Secretary Baker that Great Britain had decided to send 2,400 additional soldiers to Archangel to reinforce the army in North Russia. In this connection Gen. Bliss said the British military authorities felt no apprehension over the military situation in North Russia.

The New Citadel

Legislature Makes Appropriation for Bigger Military Academy.

Columbia, Feb. 18.—The house of representatives today passed, with seven dissenting votes, the bill providing for a new South Carolina military academy at Charleston and appropriating \$100,000 a year for three years and the proceeds from the sale of the present site and buildings for the construction of the new institution, which will be erected on Ashley River, on a site given by the city of Charleston.

Washington, Feb. 20.—Col. Stewart, commanding the American troops in northern Russia cabled the war department today: "The alarmist reports on the condition of the troops in northern Russia are not warranted by the facts. The health of the command is excellent." Col. Stewart said. The sick and wounded are well cared for and "the allied command is capable of taking care of itself against the whole Bolshevik army."

Easel, Feb. 19.—German troops on the Lithuanian front surprised the Bolsheviks and captured the town of Murawjow Saturday, according to a report received here from Libau.

ASSAULT MADE BY POINDEXTER

Opening Gun Fired in Senate on the League of Nations.

SIMILAR TO SOVIET GOVERNMENT IN RUSSIA

President Wilson's Home Coming Will Force Vicious Partisan Fight on His Ideals.

Washington, Feb. 19.—In the first prepared address on the league of nations delivered in the senate since the constitution of the proposed league was published, Senator Poindexter today declared the entrance of the United States into the league would mean the surrender of American rights, privileges and sovereignty, abandonment of the Monroe doctrine and the violation of the constitution. The constitution of the league he asserted, is conflicting, indefinite, uncertain and the machinery it proposes is set up "similar to the soviet government of Russia."

Daylight Saving Law

Congress Asked to Repeal Clock Switching Scheme.

Washington, Feb. 19.—Bills to repeal the daylight saving law were introduced in the house today and referred to the interstate commerce committee.

BORAH WILL NOT HEAR REASON

Refuses to Attend Conference at White House on League of Nations.

NOTHING CAN MAKE HIM AGREE WITH WILSON

Blind Partisans of Reactionary Faction of Republican Party Will Fight Wilson and Democracy to Bitter End.

Washington, Feb. 18.—Senator Borah, of Idaho, has asked to be excused from attending the White House dinner which President Wilson will discuss with the members of the congressional foreign relations committee the constitution of the proposed league of nations.

In letters to Secretary Tumulty Senator Borah said it was the custom to hold in confidence information received at such gatherings and he was not willing to be bound to silence on such an important subject, concerning which he and the president disagreed fundamentally.

He added that nothing could make him agree with the league's constitution as it now stands.

Senator Poindexter formally gave notice today that he expected to speak tomorrow on the league of nations. Senator Borah has planned to deliver an address Thursday.

Vardaman Attacks President Wilson

Pro-German Senator at His Old Tactics.

Washington, Feb. 18.—A discussion of the league of nations developed unexpectedly in the senate today. Senator Vardaman of Mississippi, declared the league unconstitutional and criticized President Wilson for asking congress to remain silent on the subject until he returned to Washington. He spoke only a few minutes and there was no other discussion.

Exempt Public Money

Officials Not Required to Pay Income Tax.

Washington, Feb. 19.—Officials and employees of a state, county, city or other political subdivision will not be required to pay income tax on their public compensation for 1918, the internal revenue bureau announced today in answer to hundreds of inquiries. They need not even count this income from public sources in deciding whether to make a return, although income from any private source is taxable. This exemption applies to governors, state executive, legislators, judges and local officials or employees, including police. It does not, however, include officers or employees of the federal government.

Odessa, Thursday, Feb. 13.—The anti-Bolshevik army of Gen. Denikin has reached the Caspian Sea after an advance of three hundred and fifty miles. He captured 21,000 prisoners, 35 guns and 8 armored trains.

COTTON MEETING IN NEW ORLEANS

Plans Formulated to Hold Cotton and Reduce Acreage Throughout South.

PLEDGES TO BE OBTAINED FROM ALL FARMERS

All Growers and Producers in United States Will Be Called on to Act in Concert.

New Orleans, Feb. 18.—A program for the reduction of the 1919 acreage planted to cotton and the holding of the present crop for higher prices was embodied in resolutions passed at the closing session today of the conference of bankers, merchants and farmers from all of the cotton producing States. The salient features of the resolution are:

1. Reduction of the 1919 cotton acreage by one-third as compared with 1918.

2. A pledge not to sell any part of the present crop for other than "remunerative prices" and to hold this crop until the demand calls for it at such prices.

3. Formation of State cotton acreage reduction associations whose business it will be to obtain written pledges to carry out the first two provisions from every cotton grower and cotton producer in the United States.

4. To brand any man who refuses to cooperate as "so lacking in public spirit as to forfeit the confidence of the community in which he lives."

5. A future convention of cotton producers before which a detailed report of the progress of the plans outlined above is to be made by every cotton growing State.

The resolutions which were drawn up by a committee composed of a banker, farmer and merchant from each of the cotton growing States, headed by Former Gov. Richard I. Manning of South Carolina as chairman, further declared that "the accumulation of large stocks of cotton in the hands of farmers and merchants of the South and the drastic decline in the price to figures below the cost of production, due to past war trade disorganization, to the scarcity of ocean tonnage, to the restrictions on trade imposed by foreign nations. . . . have precipitated upon the cotton producing, mercantile and banking interests of the South a crisis fraught with grave menace to the present welfare of the section as well as to the future prosperity thereof."

The convention was adjourned subject to the call of Governor Pleasant of Louisiana.

The resolution follows:

"Resolved, first, That this convention hereby declares that at this juncture a reduction of at least one-third of the 1919 cotton acreage and the planting of largely increased food crops is imperatively necessary for the present welfare and future prosperity of the South, and this convention and the several farmer, merchant and banker members thereof hereby pledge themselves in their several capacities through their own actions and through their determined influence to produce the desired end."

"Second, That this convention declares that if the foregoing acreage reduction platform is carried out there will be no necessity to sell any part of the present crop for other than remunerative prices, and the convention hereby pledges itself and its members and affiliates not to sacrifice the present crop but to hold the same until demand calls for it at such prices."

"Third, That the farmers, merchants and bankers of the South should organize their forces and influence to the end that the acreage reduction and holding campaign shall be carried vigorously into every county and every subdivision thereof in every cotton growing State, that in furtherance of this intensive campaign those States which are already organized should earnestly prosecute the work so well begun, and those States which as yet are not organized should proceed at once to marshal their forces and in so doing should utilize the machinery of the State Councils of Defense where available and the State and county agents of the agricultural and educational departments of such States, that in all counties in which public organization meetings have not been already held, such meetings should be held on Saturday, February 22, for the purpose of ratifying the acreage reduction and cotton holding movement and securing the written pledges of all concerned, and it is recommended that said day or such days as may be appointed shall be declared a holiday and all stores in such meeting place be closed."

"Fourth, That any man who because his neighbors and the cotton producers generally are reducing cotton acreage shall for selfish ends undertake to profit through such general action by increasing his own acreage or by refusing to reduce the same, such man shall be deemed so lacking in public spirit and good citizenship as to forfeit the confidence and support of the community in which he lives."

"Fifth, That the several State organizations in charge of the movement should in the near future, at a time and place to be designated by the chairman of this convention, send delegates to a meeting called by

COTTON ACREAGE REDUCTION PLAN

Reports Indicate That Farmers Will Support Movement and Sign the Pledge.

ORGANIZATION OF STATE IS TO BE PUSHED

Friday, February 28th, Has Been Named as Pledge Day—County Meeting Saturday.

Columbia, Feb. 19.—The movement to get the farmers of the State to pledge themselves to reduce their cotton acreage 33 per cent this year has taken headway. Farmers from all over the State are reporting that they and their neighbors will sign the pledge.

F. Barron Grier, chairman of the county organization in Greenwood states that 90 per cent of the farmers in that county will sign the pledge and will stick to it. W. B. Bailew, of Laurens county, reports that the farmers of that section, comprising several counties, are determined to follow the leadership of men who have studied the situation. They are also clamoring for cheaper fertilizers or no fertilizers at all.

Governor Cooper's office today received a dispatch from Governor R. I. Manning who was chairman of the South Carolina delegation in the great cotton conference in New Orleans. Governor Manning urged that Saturday of this week be the day for the assembling of the citizens in mass meetings over the State. Governor Cooper had already named the 28th as the day, and this day will be observed. However, it is advised that the county committees might be assembled Saturday and make the preliminary arrangements for "Pledge Reduction Day." The list of committees in charge of the work in the several counties will be published Friday morning. The members will be notified through the press.

The enthusiasm with which the announcement has been received shows that the people of the State are ready to accept the result of the conference that was held here on the 13th, and that the acreage will be reduced. It is encouraging to hear from New Orleans that in this action South Carolina is followed by all other States.

Conditions in Germany

American Officer Reports That Food Supply is Almost Exhausted.

Paris, Feb. 19.—Captain Walter Gherardi, of the United States navy, who has been in Germany studying economic and general conditions has returned to Paris and reports that he found much unemployment throughout the country and a restless condition containing a threat against peace in the immediate future. He says Germany's food supplies cannot last longer than next month, leaving a great gap to be filled before the harvest. The German army, he says, has shrunk to insignificant figures and is no longer formidable.

Huns Protest Strongly

New Armistice Terms Have Aroused Anger of Germans.

Weimar, Feb. 19.—Telegrams of protest against the signing of the new armistice are pouring into the national assembly. One from Berlin demands that a period of national mourning be ordered.

Falls to Death

Arcadia, Fla., Feb. 18.—Second Lieut. Daniel Crawford, a student aviator officer, was instantly killed by a fall from his airplane at Carlstrom Field here this morning. Lieutenant Crawford's plane was at a height of about 1,600 feet when in some manner the belt by which he was strapped in to the seat of the plane became unfastened while he was executing a "dip" and he fell out. The body will be sent to his home, Columbia, S. C. He was about 25 years of age.

Count Rantzau

Reconsiders

Withdraws Resignation and Continues as Foreign Minister.

Copenhagen, Feb. 18.—Count von Brockdorff Rantzau has decided to retain the portfolio as secretary for foreign affairs, according to a dispatch from the Weimar foreign correspondent of the Politiken. He reached this decision because the government has expressed confidence in him.

the said chairman for the purpose of reporting upon the work accomplished and considering the formation of a permanent organization of the farmers, merchants and bankers of the South dedicated to the purpose of securing for the cotton producer a just return upon his investment of money or toil."