

1919, 412 DEBT HANGING OVER CITY

CONFERENCE OF CITIZENS WILL ACT ON MATTER

Mayor Gunter Tells Chamber of Commerce Directors Situation Is Such That Relief Must Be Had or Improvements Sorely Needed Will Lag; Audit of City's Books Shows Heavy Load of Debts

Mayor W. A. Gunter, Jr., sitting with the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce as ex-officio member advised the board that it is his purpose to call a conference of various representative civic bodies to discuss what he termed "the terrible financial condition of the city government." The mayor stated Tuesday night that he will request the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Kwanis club and the Central Labor Union to appoint representatives to attend the conference at which the city commissioners will also be present.

The decision of the mayor to lay "the bare facts" of the city's financial condition of approximately \$500,000 before a conference of citizens and seek their advice was reached after a study of an audit of the city's books up to October 5, the date of the beginning of the present administration. This audit shows an exact deficit of \$498,412.04.

Mayor Gunter stated in announcing his purpose of calling the conference that it is the intention of the commission to seek the advice of the representative citizens attending the conference as to the best means to pursue to clear or reduce the indebtedness to such an extent that the city will be in a position to proceed with the necessary improvements.

"There are many things which the city needs," he said, "and these are not improvements, but laboring, as we are under the present administration, which is burdening the commission is not in a position to plan or contemplate these improvements. Our schools are overcrowded and there are many other improvements which should be immediately made and unless conditions are relieved in certain departments of the city government we will be in a bad way."

"The commission believes that the people of Montgomery should be apprised of the exact status of affairs and it is for this purpose and for the purpose of securing their advice that we have decided to call together representatives of the several civic bodies."

The mayor declared that until the conference is held which will be at an early date he is not in a position to state what methods will be pursued to bring about the needed improvements. It is expected that his proposal will be laid before the Rotary club at the regular weekly meeting Wednesday afternoon. Each organization will be requested to appoint three members to attend the conference.

The auditor's report shows a total liability of \$589,078.60 with total assets amounting to \$93,666.56. The assets at the time of the audit, October 5, followed.

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SENATE LEADERSHIP COMES UP THURSDAY

Democrats to Choose Between Underwood of Alabama and Hitchcock of Nebraska at Important Caucus

(Special To The Advertiser) WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—With a breach created in the ranks of the Democratic party by the advent of William Jennings Bryan into the treaty situation, the troubles of the Democrats apparently have just begun.

The next Democratic battle within the ranks is scheduled for Thursday, when hostilities centering about the minority leadership in the Senate will be inaugurated in the Democratic caucus.

The rival candidates for pilot of the Democratic ship in the Upper House are Gilbert M. Hitchcock, of Nebraska, chief administration spokesman for the treaty in the Senate, the present minority leader, and Oscar W. Underwood, who inclines toward compromise on the question of treaty ratification. A characteristic statement of Underwood applies to his position on the treaty issue: "I am always in favor of taking a part of a good thing if I cannot get it all."

Both Hitchcock and Underwood adherents claim that their favorite will win by two or perhaps three votes. One who is well informed on what is going on in the undercurrent of Senatorial jockeying, says that the forces are evenly divided, and that one Senator now out of the city will be the deciding factor.

Selecting a Democratic leader in the Senate at this time is of the utmost importance as it determines just how far the Democrats will go in meeting the Republicans on the question of treaty ratification.

SENATOR WILLIAMS LASHES COLLEAGUES

Demands Abolition for Its Failure to Function

(Associated Press) WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Demanding action just before adjournment of the Senate tonight, Senator Williams, Democrat of Mississippi, launched into a bitter attack upon the body for failure to give what he described as proper consideration to the pending water power bill.

A motion to adjourn had been withdrawn temporarily for presentation of two minor bills, and members were piling out in some confusion when the strident voice of the Mississippi Senator rising above the din, brought them to halt. Eleven Senators remained, and constituted six on the Democratic and five on the Republican side of the chamber. Senator Williams declared the upper branch of Congress was paying no attention whatever to the people's business.

"People of this country are gradually rising to the point where they demand abolition of the Senate for failing to function," Senator Williams shouted. "Here is a great bill before it and no attention paid to it, and I am inclined to agree with Benjamin Franklin, who declared the Senate of the United States was like the fifth wheel of a wagon."

Again surveying the almost empty chamber, Senator Williams said: "Mr. President, I am almost tempted to demand a quorum, only it would be too un-lucky."

With that Senator Williams sat down and Senator Smith, of Georgia, on his way out, hat and overcoat in hand, ended the proceedings by calling attention to the fact that the motion to adjourn was pending.

BERNARD YOUNG IS SLATED FOR OFFICE

Recommended by Kelly Dixon as Probi Enforcer For Montgomery County

Bernard Young, formerly Chief Deputy Sheriff of Montgomery, and now a member of the City Detective Force, has been recommended for the post of Probation Inspector for the enforcement of the prohibition law in this State.

The recommendation was made by J. K. Dixon, of Tallapoosa, who some time ago, was named Federal Commissioner of prohibition law enforcement in this State.

Mr. Dixon, who is chairman of the Executive Committee of the Alabama Bar Association, and who spent Tuesday in Montgomery, stated that Mr. Young, who was picked for the place on merit, is practically appointed, as confirmation of the recommendation in Washington, is practically a matter of form.

SUMTER LAND IS SOLD FOR \$227,500

(Associated Press) LIVINGSTON, ALA., Jan. 13.—Ten thousand acres of Sumter county farm land, the property of the Geiger Farm and Stock Company, has been sold to a syndicate of Tennessee farmers for \$227,500 cash.

Hutchinson Brothers and Campbell Brothers of Chattanooga and Mr. Palmer, of Charleston, Tenn., are the new owners, who will operate a stock farm on the land.

WALTER F. MILLER IS IN RACE FOR ELECTOR

Former Secretary of Upper House Qualifies as Presidential Elector Candidate

Walter F. Miller, formerly Secretary of the upper house of the 1913 Legislature, filed official qualification in the Secretary of State's office Tuesday as a candidate for the office of Democratic Presidential Elector, from the State at large. Mr. Miller, whose home is in Tusculum, is widely known throughout the State and made many friends during his service as Secretary of the Senate.

Although no opposition has yet appeared against Mr. Miller, he has been rumored for some time that Secretary of State William P. Cobb will be a candidate for the same post. Mr. Cobb has made no announcement as to his intentions along these lines as yet, however.

NOTED CHARACTER IS KILLED BY DEPUTIES

Enemy of Deserters and Slackers Finally Meets Doom in Mountains

(Associated Press) HALEVILLE, ALA., Jan. 13.—Henry Brooks, noted character of North Alabama Mountains, battle scarred veteran of "moonshine" history for 25 years, and Nemesis of draft-dodgers during the world war, has been killed in a spectacular "wildcat" raid by sheriff's deputies.

The tragedy was enacted in a mountain fastness in one of the wildest sections of Alabama. The posse penetrated the hideout region after an all night ride, a 40 gallon still was destroyed.

Brooks has served more than one sentence in the Federal prison in Atlanta for violations of revenue laws. During the recent war he had aroused great enmity among "moonshiners" of his community by refusing to allow deserters or slackers to stay in his vicinity.

ASSEMBLY OF LEAGUE COUNCIL WILL MARK NEW ERA FOR WORLD

Wilson's Call For Session Points to Future Conditions

(Associated Press) WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Assembly of the Council of the League of Nations in Paris next Friday will "mark the beginning of a new era in international co-operation and the first great step towards the ideal concert of nations," President Wilson declared in issuing the call for the meeting, as provided by the treaty of Versailles. The text of the call was made public here tonight.

"It will bring the League of Nations into being as a living force, devoted to the task of assisting the peoples of all countries in their desire for peace, prosperity and happiness," the cablegram, addressed to Great Britain, France, Italy, Japan, Brazil, Belgium and Spain said. The president is convinced that its progress will accord with the noble purpose to which it is dedicated.

President Wilson's message was transmitted by the state department to United States embassies in the countries named for formal presentation to those governments. It was the same in each case, with the exception of the address, and the full text of the call went to London tonight.

"In compliance with Article V of the covenant of the League of Nations, which went into effect at the same time as the treaty of Versailles of June 28, 1919, which is a part of the present treaty of the United States, acting on behalf of those nations which have deposited their instruments of ratification in Paris as certified in a process verbal dated January 10, 1920, has the honor to inform the government of Great Britain that the first meeting of the council of the League of Nations will be held in Paris at the ministry of foreign affairs on Friday, January 15, at 10:30 a. m."

"The president earnestly ventures the hope that the government of Great Britain will be in a position to send a representative to this first meeting. He feels that it is unnecessary for him to point out the deep significance attached to this meeting or the importance which it must assume in the eyes of the world. It will mark the beginning of a new era in international co-operation and the first great step towards the ideal concert of nations."

The League covenant provides that the council shall consist of representatives of the principal allied and associated powers together with representatives of four other members of the League. The latter are designated in the covenant, until appointment by the League assembly, as Spain, Brazil, Belgium and Greece. Because of Greece not having ratified the treaty as yet, the call as issued by the president did not include that nation. The other vacancy in the council when it assembles Friday, will be the United States.

MOBILE, ALA., Jan. 13.—The members of the State Harbor Commission after an all-day conference and a tour of inspection of the water front and harbor, depart early Wednesday morning for Montgomery to confer with Governor Thomas E. Kilby, relative to the plan for the campaign to put through the constitutional amendment that will provide State aid for the only seaport of the State.

At the session of the State Commission today, President Brown in introducing Mr. DeBardeleben, stated that a coal terminal may be erected here over the constitutional amendment was passed if the co-operation of the coal operators, the United States government and the people of Mobile could be secured. "Every one knows what the building of a coal terminal means to coal operators, to Mobile and to the State and realize that the export coal business should be developed," said Mr. Brown.

Mr. DeBardeleben, in his remarks said: "We have certain physical disabilities and therefore when people ask themselves why we have not exported coal, they cannot answer. A study of the South Atlantic coast compared with the Gulf ports will answer it, however."

"Alabama coal from different seams can not be mixed as it fuses at different temperatures, whereas Atlantic coal is all of the same nature and can be massed in one heap. The production in Alabama is from 300 to 500 tons per day while in Virginia it is from 3000 to 5000 tons per day."

"We have to take coal from one mine and it requires twenty to thirty days to ship enough to load one ship, with consequent demurrage charges for the delay. On the Atlantic coast, all with the same fueling point, can be handled collectively and loaded direct from the cars to the ship. It is evident, therefore, that we need different facilities from those on the Atlantic; we need a reservoir here so that a 10,000 ton ship can be loaded here with the same dispatch as a vessel on the Atlantic coast."

"I have made a study of the question of creating an export coal terminal here, especially with the view of water transportation of the mineral which is a great saving. When produced at the river bank there is no rail charges, but there is very little of such coal now. And we can serve by both land and water. But as water encroaches on rail transportation, coal will become cheaper."

"I took the coal terminal question up with the General Tomlinson of the Inland Waterways Division and he sent H. D. Jewett, formerly terminal engineer of the New York Central Railroad and now terminal engineer of the U. S. Railroad Administration, here to look into the matter."

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RATIFICATION OF AMENDMENTS TO BE PROCLAIMED

Poll Tax Amendment Was Popular; Returns Canvassed

Official confirmation of the adoption of the constitutional amendments which were ratified at a general election held December 29th, 1919, was announced Thursday afternoon, following a canvass of the returns from the various counties by the Governor, the Secretary of State and the Attorney General.

Final results in the poll tax amendment ballot showed 32,613 for and 11,594 against. The local taxation proposal known as the "home rule" amendment, was carried by a vote of 21,539, to 19,318.

In the early afternoon, it appeared that two counties, Dale and Lawrence, would have to be omitted from the count, as no results had been received from them up to that time. Tuesday, being the 15th day provided under the constitution as the time limit for the canvass of the returns, the probate judges of the two counties calling upon them to report their returns as soon as possible. The response was immediate.

Governor Kilby having left his office Tuesday evening without issuing an official proclamation declaring both amendments adopted, the question arose as to whether or not failure to do so would affect the results of the recent election. It developed, however, that although the constitution requires that the results of all elections shall be canvassed and announced within 15 days following the holding of the election, the Governor may issue his official proclamation immediately thereafter. Governor Kilby stated that the official proclamation will be forthcoming Wednesday morning.

COAL EXPORT A NECESSITY FOR BUILDING PORT

State Harbor Commission Completes Hearing at Mobile Relative to Developing Port; Henry DeBardeleben Discusses Plans to Make Harbor Export Center for State; Members Will Confer With Governor Kilby Today

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MOBILE, ALA., Jan. 13.—Fourteen million dollars worth, four thousand tons, of Kentucky bonded whiskey, was shipped from this port to Rotterdam aboard the Moskito today.

The cargo was loaded today, and will sail tomorrow with two thousand barrels of liquor for Havana. This cargo it is said, will be the last to leave this port before the national prohibition amendment goes into effect.

TRADE RELATIONS INQUIRY PROVIDED

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Investigation by government agents of trade relations between this country and South American republics, China and Japan, would be authorized under a bill introduced today by Representative Heflin, Democrat, Alabama, appropriating \$100,000 for the purpose.

THE WEATHER.

Forecast for Alabama: Cloudy Wednesday, probably local rains; Thursday fair.

MONTGOMERY BANKS PROSPERED DURING 1919, REPORTS SAY

Annual Shareholders' Meetings Were Held Tuesday

Officers Re-elected

Vacancies on Two Boards Filled; Financiers Concerned Over Industrial Outlook

Montgomery's seven banking institutions, seven pillars of financial strength for the commercial life of the city, during the year just ended had a widespread growth of business reported to the shareholders and boards of directors Tuesday at the annual meeting clearly showed that to have been true.

Prosperity, according to the bankers, has been rampant in Montgomery and in this particular trade territory and deposits of all banks have been greatly increased. It is thought the present year will be even more gratifying. However, as if apprehensive of dire things ahead in 1921, several of the officials expressed the hope that people will avoid extravagances during the remainder of 1920.

Speaking specifically, bank officials declare that there are evil forebodings of labor trouble, particularly with reference to the railroads after the latter have been returned to their corporate interests. They do not picture the most rosy future in that respect. Although the outlook is not looked for until 1921.

In some cases bank deposits at Montgomery almost doubled, while in the majority of instances there was a gain of at least 50 per cent. It is generally conceded that the impetus given business in Montgomery by the location of Camp Sherman here caused much of the local prosperity, but the organization of new industries, the bankers believe, will be the main factor in the future growth of the city.

Some changes were made in bank officials or in the boards of directors. Generally speaking, the shareholders were satisfied with the boards of directors and the latter with the officers.

Confidence was expressed in Montgomery's business houses as a whole, and all stated they believe the city has just begun to find itself. The bankers spoke of the incoming of farmers from the North and other portions of the country, of the growing live stock interests, and all this argued well for the city's future.

No changes were made in the officers and board of directors of the First National Bank. Officers are as follows: A. M. Baldwin, president; A. M. Woolfolk, vice president; T. Bartlett, cashier; J. A. Ledbetter, assistant cashier. Serving on the board of directors are Arthur Peizer, A. S. Woolfolk, R. F. Ligon, W. A. Bellinger, Henry Abraham, A. M. Baldwin, and R. M. Hobble.

There was no change with the Alabama Bank and Trust Company. J. L. Hall is the president; W. K. Peizer, vice president; R. E. Thornton, cashier. The directors are S. J. Cassels, G. T. Edwards, S. Gassenheimer, J. L. Hall, T. M. Hobble, M. S. Houghton, M. B. Oliver, T. W. Pegler, W. K. Peizer, A. J. Sellers, J. T. Walker, and Isador W. Hall.

The position of chairman of the board of directors of the Fourth National Bank, held by T. J. Reynolds, was abolished. W. H. Hubbard, formerly chairman, now holds the position.

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DRY PARTY TO MEET AT LINCOLN, NEB.

July 21 Set as Convention Date; To Determine Future "Dry" Policy

(Associated Press) WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—The National Executive Committee of the prohibition party tonight selected Lincoln, Neb., and July 21, as the place and time for the 1920 national convention of the party.

The future policy of the party in view of nation-wide prohibition will be determined at the convention, the committee announced. If it was decided to continue as a party it was said aid toward world-wide prohibition would be made an issue.

National prohibition will be celebrated at the convention by a jubilee.

HUGE LIQUOR CARGO PASSES THRU MOBILE

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SERIOUS RIOTING IN GERMAN CITIES

Mobs Storm Reichstag Building; Ten Are Dead; Oberhausen Scene of Break

(Associated Press) BERLIN, Jan. 13.—Ten dead had been brought into the court yesterday when the national assembly adjourned at 5 o'clock this afternoon, according to an announcement made by President Fehrenbach.

BASLE, Jan. 13.—Many persons were killed or wounded in Berlin today, when the troops fired upon or bayoneted demonstrators who tried to rush the Reichstag building in protest against the exploitation law, says a dispatch from Berlin.

The dispatch adds that since noon, crowds have paraded the streets of Berlin, following an appeal from Die Freiheit, the radical socialist organ, for workers to demonstrate in protest against the law.

PLUNDERERS BUSY.

BERLIN, Monday, Jan. 12.—Plundering on a large scale occurred today in the occupied town of Oberhausen. Men storming the town seized arms, threw the archives into the street and stripped the shops. The disturbances spread to the villages of Marsebohn and Bruckhausen, where the plunderers were followed by the police. Order has not yet been restored.

DISORDER CONTINUES.

BERLIN, Jan. 13.—Up to 2:30 this afternoon, public order had not been restored in connection with the demonstrations before the Reichstag. Big processions passed along the streets converging into the Koenigsplatz area. Numerous factories were obliged to close.

The demonstrators bore flags inscribed "We demand an unrestricted work-council bill." Numerous speeches were delivered from the steps of the Reichstag sharply protesting against the bill in its present form. The street car service was partly suspended, the men being on strike.

The public security police restricted themselves to guarding the Reichstag with strong forces.

SAVANNAH SEEKING ALABAMA EXPORTS

Appeals For Reduction in Freight Rates From Birmingham

(Associated Press) MOBILE, ALA., Jan. 13.—Word reached here today from Savannah that the Savannah Board of Trade had petitioned for a reduction in rail rates for the export of cotton to the South Atlantic port.

The Savannah board claims that the all water route from the Birmingham steel district to Mobile will result in the port of Mobile becoming the chief port of the cotton trade. It is also claimed that Savannah has developed a large trade from the Birmingham district the last few years, the commodities being of a high value to Savannah, and it is essential to have this class of freight moving in conjunction with cotton, a light cargo.

NO MOTIVE FOUND

LOUISVILLE, KY., Jan. 13.—Motive for the murder of Rebecca Lovell, 21, whose body was found today in a Louisville public park with the head partially severed from the body, has not been determined tonight. Authorities, however, are said to be seeking a sweetheart of the girl in an effort to clear up the second Louisville woman murder mystery within a month.

Examination of the body shortly after it was found in the park, discovered it at the entrance of the park, and coroner Carter to announce his belief that Miss Lovell, who was partially deaf, had been murdered some time last night. An axe, hatchet or butcher knife was used in the killing, he added.

REVISION OF INCOME TAX LAW ADVOCATED

Otto Kahn Urges This to Bring Levy Within Bounds of Moderation and Give Needed Relief

(Associated Press) NEW YORK, Jan. 13.—Revision of the Federal income tax law, to bring the levy "within the bounds of moderation" and afford relief "in the present era of economic disturbance" was urged in an address here tonight by Otto H. Kahn, New York banker.

Speaking before the Council on Foreign Relations, Mr. Kahn declared the three chief factors in upsetting present day economics were the world's demand for America's raw materials and manufactured articles, inflation and faulty taxation. The world's demand for American materials and services will slacken gradually, he said; the curb for inflation is a slow process, but the remedy for faulty taxation can be secured at once whenever it pleases Congress and the administration to seek that remedy and apply it.

Citing an extreme instance in which a person in the highest taxable class would have to make nearly 17 per cent with a corporate security or in his business to get the same return he would receive by investing in a tax-free municipal, state or Federal bond, Mr. Kahn reached these conclusions:

"No bond—foreign or domestic—can compete with the attractiveness of tax-exempt bonds to those in possession of incomes of any considerable size."

"The owners of medium sized or large incomes have gone on strike as an investing in corporate securities is concerned, thus greatly diminishing the quantity of funds available for private enterprise."

"The American investment market for the time being has been largely destroyed, the linkage in the value of existing corporate bonds as well as in the largest extent attributable to the income tax, amounts to billions of dollars; the free flow of capital and working of the investment market are absolutely basic elements for every kind of trade and industry, and we cannot have a return to normal conditions of trade, prices, etc., until our investment market will have come within measurable distance at least of normal conditions, which is impossible as long as our present income tax remains in force."

"The security which would undoubtedly be the greatest favor in the United States as well as in other countries," he said, "would be a bond, free of all taxes both in the United States and in all other countries and therefore of great value for the purpose of international payment."

"At what rate of interest such bonds would have to be issued can be gauged only by experience, but it is evident that a League of Nations bond interest and principal of which was guaranteed by every member of the League would be the finest security that could be issued. Its issue would assure to American producers prompt payment of their accounts. At the present moment the chief security for the American creditor is the purchaser and the seller of goods."

DEADLOCK OVER TREATY MAY BE OVERCOME NOW

Spokesmen For Various Organizations See Lodge, Hitchcock, Smith and Others; Lodge Sees Desire to Avoid Carrying Issue Into Elections; Manifesto Presented Senators and Also Sent to President

(Associated Press) WASHINGTON, Jan. 13.—Assurances that Democratic and Republican senators were united in endeavoring to end the Senate treaty deadlock and to avoid carrying the treaty issues into the coming political campaign, were given by Senators Lodge, of Massachusetts, and Hitchcock, of Nebraska, Republican, and acting Democratic leaders, respectively, today to spokesmen of organizations claiming to represent 20,000,000 people desirous of early ratification of the treaty.

The two leaders were visited separately at the capital by more than a score of representatives of various organizations, including societies working for ratification of the peace treaty, labor unions, church and other religious societies, and agricultural and educational bodies. The calls on the senate leaders followed a meeting to urge immediate ratification of the treaty with such reservations as may be necessary to secure the requisite two-thirds vote.

Senator Lodge told the delegation that he would be "glad" to consider any modification of the treaty reservations which the Democratic minority might present and that there was being evinced "a general desire" to dispose of the treaty promptly so as to avert its injection into the election. Republicans and Democrats in the senate, he said, now were attempting "to reach a common ground" with that end in view.

At the office of Senator Hitchcock, the delegation was told by the acting Democratic leader and by Senator Smith, Democrat, Georgia, of the efforts being made on the Democratic side of the chamber to bring about prompt ratification. The spirit of antagonism which dominated the treaty debates at the last session of congress, Senator Hitchcock said had given way to a spirit "of honorable compromise," which led to the belief that ratification of the treaty with some reservations would be attained before the end of January.

The conference with the senate leaders was the transcendent development today in the treaty situation. Many conferences were held between senators, with negotiations virtually confined to the main question of reservation to article 10 of the League of Nations covenant. No definite progress was reported from the conferences and leaders of both sides said that such "hot" proposals as had been made on the treaty this week. Some of the Democratic leaders, however, expressed hope that next week may bring an agreement which can be presented to congress with a closure rule to hasten a final vote.

In their conferences with the early ratification advocates, neither Senators Lodge nor Hitchcock indicated any change in the positions they have taken recently. Their callers, however, said

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