

# WILSON FOR IRISH, BUT UNOFFICIALLY

**President Refuses to Commit Himself on Peace-Table Attitude**

**OBJECTS TO QUESTIONS**  
**Receives Committee Appointment at Race Convention in This City**

President Wilson declared himself in sympathy with the people of Ireland who desire independence, but he refused to state what his official attitude would be at the Peace Conference, according to the official account of his meeting with a special committee in New York Tuesday evening.

The committee was created at the Irish Race Convention in this city recently. It was authorized to lay Ireland's claims to independence from Great Britain before the President.

The official account of what transpired at the meeting follows:

**Ask President to State Attitude**  
"After former Justice Goff had introduced various members and explained the action of the Philadelphia convention in sending them to him:

"Mr. President, representing as we do many millions of your fellow American citizens, I ask you to present to the Peace Conference in Paris the right of Ireland to determine the form of government under which she shall live. Will you do it?"

"I do not believe I should be called upon to answer such a question," the President answered, and inquired:

"Then he explained his position as head of the nation and its official representative at the Peace Conference, and said he did not think it fair to ask him to state what would be his course in Paris. He said he understood he was only to receive the resolutions adopted in Philadelphia and to hear arguments of the delegation."

"That was not my understanding," Mr. Goff said.

"Mr. Wilson turned to Eugene F. Kincaid, a former Congressman and member of the committee, and inquired:

"Was that not your understanding?"

Personally in Accord with Aims

"Mr. Kincaid said it was and then the President went on to explain that personally he was in accord with the aspirations of the Irish as voiced by Mr. Goff and had been for a long time, but that he should not be called upon to state his official attitude, no matter what his personal feelings might be."

"He said he was not unfriendly to the cause as the delegation had presented it; but the situation in which he was to act is a very delicate and complicated one which he must be allowed to meet by methods which seemed best to him and not use means which might injure the cause instead of helping it."

Frank P. Walsh, former joint chairman of the war labor board, called the President's attention to his activities in behalf of the smaller nations. The President agreed he had been active in this direction, and again turning to Mr. Goff continued:

"I wish you to understand further that the Irish question has not yet been presented to the Peace Conference. These countries that are falling into our laps, as it were, are doing so on account of the breaking up of the powers with which we have been at war, and when the Irish question comes up I will have to use my best judgment as to how to meet it."

"Mr. Goff, on behalf of the committee, then wished the President Godspeed and good luck on his coming voyage, and the President left. He had spent about twenty-five minutes with the delegation."

### THREE SONS IN SERVICE

**One of the Ogdens Boys Won War Cross**

Mrs. Thomas Ogdin, 2226 West Norris street, offered her three sons to the cause of the Allies, and recently received the word of the safety of each of them. They are Ralph, Russell and Lloyd Herbert Ogdin.

Corporal Ralph E. Ogdin, 190th Infantry Company, enlisted April 15, 1917, and has been on the other side for more than a year, having been through some of the heaviest fighting and having been gassed once. He won the Croix de Guerre during one of the German drives on Paris for bringing in a wounded comrade under heavy fire from artillery and snipers, and attempting to bring in another man who was desperately wounded as they were about to reach the safety of the trench.

Russell Ogdin is sergeant in the Canadian Royal Mounted Rifles, having enlisted in that organization November 8, 1917. He was sent to France immediately after enlisting, and at present is somewhere in the devastated regions of Belgium.

Lloyd Herbert Ogdin, the youngest of the three brothers, enlisted in the United States Navy April 8, 1918, and made a number of trips across on a transport. He is at present stationed on the United States steamship Connecticut.

**Pottsville to Have Higher Taxes**  
Pottsville, Pa., March 6.—(City Council has announced a rise of 25 per cent in Pottsville's taxes, due to the increased cost of maintaining the city government. The total valuation of property in the city has been placed at \$10,279,866. Only a minor part of this tax is on coal lands. Nearly every property in the city has been increased in valuation in order to increase the revenues.

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## STARR GARDEN COMMUNITY DANCE



Members of the Starr Garden Community Center in a dance in the gymnasium of the school building at Seventh and Lombard streets.

## CAMOUFLAGED GYM SCENE OF STARR GARDEN FROLIC

**Community Members Dance and Sing Among Themselves and With Soldier and Sailor Guests—Most Graceful Dancer Is Awarded Prize and Everybody Applauds**

The members of the Starr Garden Community Center are pretty nearly impervious to weather. At any rate that is the way it seemed last night when 175 residents of the community with a fair sprinkling of soldiers and sailors joined in the community dance in the gymnasium of the school building at Seventh and Lombard streets.

The dance started at 8:30 o'clock. It was well after 11 o'clock when the eight-piece section of the Police Band played "Home Sweet Home" and the dancers scented their way homeward through the rain.

An hour before the dance began volunteers were camouflaging the gymnasium. Chest weights, horses (those athletic contrivances that look like a leather-covered sack-horn) and other paraphernalia disappeared behind screens. On the rafters various flags were hung and chairs were lined along the walls for those who did not dance. As everybody danced, the chairs remained unoccupied for the greater part of the evening.

M. Garson Fall, principal of the school, and Mrs. Eva Schevel, who had a group from her Americanization class for women in charge, were among the first on the scene, and so rapidly did they direct the work that half an hour before the dance began nobody would ever have suspected that the gymnasium was or ever had been a gymnasium.

The big feature of the evening was a competition between the girls to decide who was the most graceful dancer. As everybody danced, the chairs remained unoccupied for the greater part of the evening. M. Garson Fall, principal of the school, and Mrs. Eva Schevel, who had a group from her Americanization class for women in charge, were among the first on the scene, and so rapidly did they direct the work that half an hour before the dance began nobody would ever have suspected that the gymnasium was or ever had been a gymnasium.

In addition to the dancing, there was

## PLAN PHILADELPHIANS' WAR SERVICE RECORD

**Council of National Defense Wants Police to Aid in Census**

A war-service record of all Philadelphians in the army and navy is to be compiled, according to plans now being worked out by the Philadelphia Council of National Defense, through the police department. An examination has been made of the "military census," which was compiled last year by Mayor Smith's "personal service bureau," but it was found to be inadequate.

Judge J. Willis Martin, chairman of the Philadelphia Council of National Defense, has asked Charles B. Hall, chief clerk of Select Council, to be chairman of a committee to compile the local material for Pennsylvania's war history, which is in course of preparation by the Pennsylvania Council of National Defense and the Committee of Public Safety.

According to tentative plans, blanks for the war-service record of each soldier and sailor are to be distributed to each house in Philadelphia by the police, on a later date these blanks, properly filled out, are to be collected.

Application to the war and navy departments for records of Philadelphia's soldiers and sailors by the committee has been answered by a statement that the complete records are not at Washington, many of them being overseas.

**\$30,000 Loss by Minersville Fire**  
Pottsville, Pa., March 6.—The Exchange Hotel, one of the largest buildings in Minersville, was destroyed by fire yesterday. The business houses of Paul Flitstor, photographer, and Samuel Brown's cigar store, located in the building, were also destroyed. It was valued at \$30,000.

## WIRELESS PHONE SUCCESS AT SEA

**Troopship Fleet Doctors in Close Contact When Influenza Develops**

**100 CASES ON POWHATAN**  
**Col. D. J. McCarthy Among Many Pennsylvanians Back From War Zone**

A consultation at sea by wireless telephone, during which medical advice was freely transmitted back and forth, is described by physicians just returned from overseas. Among the doctors who took part in the consultations was Lieutenant Colonel D. J. McCarthy, of 2025 Walnut street.

Colonel McCarthy arrived in New York aboard the steamship Sierra. He was one of the physicians consulted by the doctors of the troopship Powhatan, when more than a hundred cases of influenza suddenly developed aboard the ship and threatened the safety of the crew and returning troops.

The Powhatan was one of several troopships coming to the United States. Physicians aboard six of these ships were in close enough contact with the imperiled vessel to take part in the consultation. The case was discussed at length by the doctors who gathered in one room expressing their opinions on the disease and the best methods to combat it.

As a result of the consultation was that the Sierra set about thirty-two coats on board a big raft. The Powhatan was about fifteen miles astern of Sierra and experienced no difficulty in picking up the contents of the raft. The consultation was interrupted while the safe arrival of the needed coats was announced over the wireless telephone.

**Consultation Successful**  
The consultation was a complete success, the doctors say. When the Powhatan arrived in port yesterday only a few of the stricken men were still confined to bed and no fatalities were reported.

It, however, was not the only instance in which the Sierra's physicians rendered advice to those caring for the sick. While in mid-ocean the wireless operator picked up a radio from the British steamship Pollac, signed by the captain, which stated that one of the members of the crew was violently ill. The message gave the symptoms and requested a diagnosis and method of treatment. This was gladly given, and hourly reports on the man's condition were sent by the merchantman's captain to the physicians more than 100 miles distant. In two days the patient showed marked improvement, and when reported last had passed the crisis and was doing nicely.

**McCarthy Visits Front**  
With the arrival of the Sierra Lieutenant Colonel McCarthy completed his fourth round trip since the beginning of the war. In 1914-15 he was with the French army in the medical corps, and upon his return was designated to go to Berlin and join Ambassador Gerard's staff. While there he visited and inspected German prisoners in camps, and then, when the United States entered the war, he came back, only to leave again for Russia as a chief medical officer of the American Red Cross. There he had an opportunity to obtain a thorough grasp of Russian politics, so many developments since he was there he could not comment on the present situation or make any prognostications as to the outcome of the Bolshevik regime.

On his last trip to France, Colonel McCarthy was a consultant for the A. E. F. He said he had a roving commission and visited the war base hospitals at the front.

Enlisted men on the Sierra who were in a convalescent detachment in Bordeaux included James M. Mullen, Home-

## EX-GOVERNOR'S SON KILLED IN PLANE FALL

**Lt. John Stone's Machine Crashed Through Roof of Overbrook Officer's Hut**

Lieutenant John Stone, son of William A. Stone, former Governor of Pennsylvania and now prothonotary of the state Supreme Court, fell to death with his airplane near Is-Sur-Tille, France, on January 23.

Details of the young officer's death have just been received in letters to his father. The mishap which caused his death occurred during a blinding snowstorm as Lieutenant Stone was flying from Tours to Valdaon.

Lieutenant Stone had been ordered to deliver the airplane, a G-2 Caudron, to the supply officer at Valdaon. He winged away from Tours on January 19, accompanied by Sergeant George Miller as his mechanic.

Several minor mishaps occurred during the flight which caused delays. On January 23 a heavy snow storm whirled about the machine. Lieutenant Stone was compelled to land at Is-Sur-Tille, but returned to the air at once. The accident occurred minutes later.

Observers saw the plane tilt down as though to make a second landing. Then the machine collapsed. It was through the roof of a hut, the one of Lieutenant William Simpson, of Overbrook. Lieutenant Simpson, a brother of Lieutenant Stone, was in the hut before had stepped out of the hut. Lieutenant Stone was badly crushed and died the following morning.

The former Governor's son was engaged to Miss Catharine Carr, of U. town. He was a graduate of the Regie Institute of Technology.

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