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OUR RALEIGH LETTER

By M. L. Shipman

Raleigh, March 3.—Politics crowded to the center of the stage this past week in Raleigh and refused to give way to other matters. With the formal opening of Bailey headquarters, discussion of activities of state employes in politics, plans for the Jackson day dinner, a session of Simmons campaign heads, talk concerning the forthcoming Democratic convention and other matters it indeed was a busy week politically. However, this did not prevent other important matters from receiving some consideration. Chief among these was acceptance of the resignation of the welfare commissioner of the state and appointment of her successor, serious study of a successor to Dr. H. W. Chase as head of the University of North Carolina and receipt, with regret, of news that Dr. Francis P. Gaines had decided to retire from the presidency of Wake Forest. The prison board also met during the week. A call also was sent out for a meeting of the state Democratic executive committee.

C. L. Shuping of Greensboro opened headquarters for the campaign of Josiah W. Bailey for the senate, and immediately issued a short statement expressing his belief that Mr. Bailey would be elected. A statement was issued on behalf of Mr. Bailey to the effect that Republicans could be prevented from voting in the Democratic primary. This was taken as a move on Mr. Bailey's part to insure domination of the Democratic party in state affairs, and especially to insure that no Republicans will jump into the Democratic primary to defeat Mr. Bailey in order to repay Senator Simmons for his help in 1928. It was regarded locally as shrewd politics.

On Saturday the leaders of the Simmons campaign met and laid their plans. Led by Charlie Hines of Greensboro, the Simmons managers are busily but quietly engaged on thoroughly organizing the state so that the Senator may be returned to the post which he has held for so long. Simmons stock gained ground, his supporters said, when folk read of the active way in which he is exerting his influence at Washington for the good of the people.

Announcement that Sprague Silver, head of the motor vehicle department of the department of revenue, would head the fourth district campaign for Senator Simmons was met with a statement by Allen J. Maxwell, revenue commissioner, that no employee of the department would be allowed to manage the campaign of anyone. Mr. Silver thereupon withdrew from active participation. Mr. Maxwell expressed the belief that it was unwise for a office holder to actively work as campaign manager.

While plans for the Jackson Day dinner went forward, Odus Mull, Democratic chairman, called a meeting of his executive committee for this coming Thursday night to arrange a time and place for the Democratic convention. Sentiment was expressed that the convention should be held after the June primary, so as to center attention of beating the Republican candidate rather than on settling the differences between Simmons and Bailey, as would be the case if it were held before the primary. This seems to meet with general approval of all Democrats from the governor down, and appears to be the wisest course in the opinion of the candidates for office.

During the week Mrs. Kate Burr Johnson, efficient head of the department of welfare of the state, resigned her job to accept a New England post. Expressions of regret were heard on all sides and the board moved to elect Mrs. W. Thomas Bost to the position. Mrs. Bost is well known and highly regarded and her selection meets rather general approval. While this resignation was being studied another was heard of with regret, though the state has no interest in its filling as it is a denominational proposition. Dr. Francis P. Gaines, liberal leader and president of Wake Forest, resigned to take the presidency of Washington and Lee, from which another North Carolinian, Dr. Henry Louis Smith recently resigned. Dr. Gaines has been in the state but three years but has impressed all with his ability and the Baptists will have a hard time replacing him. And while resignations were in the air talk of a successor to Dr. Chase as president of the University of North Carolina was heard. He also has recently resigned and the board meets tomorrow to consider selection of a successor. Professor Frank Graham has been considered, but he let it be known he would not accept. Professor R. W. D. Connor of the University also is under consideration. The meeting of the board will be awaited with interest.

The Jackson Day dinner of the Democrats will be a Live At Home affair in accordance with the Governor's campaign it was announced. Everything possible will be North Carolina products. All of the speakers will be home grown also except Joutett Shouse, the national Democratic chairman. Mr. Bailey, senatorial candidate, will attend. Mr. Simmons, senatorial candidate, may attend but feels that the public affairs at Washington should not be neglected and therefore may not be able to get away. In addition to Mr. Shouse there may be another out of town speaker if former Governor Byrd of Virginia accepts an invitation tendered him. The affair is to be held March 15 and arrangements have been made to accommodate at least 600 leading Democrats.

Charles M. Johnson, secretary of the County government advisory commission, has called attention of county commissioners of the state to the fact that the law now requires that the valuation of real and personal property be stated separately on the tax receipts. It is also pointed out that tax listing time has been

changed from May first to April first and this law becomes effective this year.

During the week William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, came to the state this week and stopped by to have conference with Governor Gardner. Plans are being made for the second annual fire college to be held under the supervision of the state insurance department at Wilmington on April 22. Firemen from all sections of the state are expected to attend the lectures and demonstrations designed to increase their efficiency. Captain Farmer of the state highway patrol this week called attention to the fact that many of the school busses in use in North Carolina have defective brakes which his men are insisting be repaired at once. In each case 48 hours is being allowed to repair the brakes he said. State aid to the counties for schools and roads will exceed nine million dollars this year. If this were raised by general property tax it would be necessary to levy thirty cents on the hundred dollar valuation.

King Kelley, widely known baseball manager, died here during the past week. He was a familiar figure in sporting circles of the southeast. The local orchestra was incorporated this week after operating successfully for the past three years. It is to be known as the State Symphony orchestra and is expected to be even better in the future than in the past, and to be a valuable addition to the musical life of the state. The prison board met during the week and decided not to spend the \$400,000 set aside by the legislature for the purchase of a prison farm. It was deemed inadvisable to buy a farm at the present time. At the same time the prison heads took cognizance of the growing population of state's

prison, 250 men being added in the portion of 1930 which has passed. The U. S. Bureau of Plant Husbandry has given up hope of saving the native chestnut which is so well known to the western section of the state and will make efforts to develop another type of chestnut brought from Asia which may be strong enough to throw off the chestnut blight which has denuded thousands of acres in Western Carolina in recent years.

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