

GREAT FARMER  
SENDS MESSAGE

Secretary Wilson Tells Gazette-News That His Agents Have Found Their Work in This Section Most Enjoyable.

TRYING TO INTEREST WEST  
IN THE BIG ACRE RESULTS

Diversification, Is After All, What Is Aimed at—How the Secretary Runs His Own Farm—He Never Sells Feed.

Gazette-News Bureau, Hotel Hamilton, Washington, Dec. 30.—"YOU people are so delightfully responsive, and so intelligently interested down there that our agents have a great liking for their work in the south," was the way Secretary of Agriculture Wilson recently expressed himself to the writer, when the subject of farm life in the south was broached. Secretary Wilson talks about the corn contests conducted in the south during the past growing season with an enthusiasm that is evident in all that he says. He is confident in the belief that even more interest will be taken in the contests next year, and he is of the opinion that The Gazette-News and other southern papers have done a great deal toward reviving interest in the question of improved farm methods.

Looking Toward the West. Just now Secretary Wilson is chiefly concerned in arousing a like interest in the great corn growing states of the central west, where few tests have been made with a view to obtaining maximum yields. America's greatest farmer, as Secretary Wilson is sometimes called, has written to the heads of a number of the mechanical and agricultural colleges in the corn belt to suggest the wisdom of growing a number of prize acres, with a view to getting a line on their limit, so to speak. The secretary's way of arousing these western corn growers to action is to ask them if they really believe it possible to grow 225 bushels of corn on an acre of ground, or even 150 bushels. This set some of those western people to guessing, and it is believed a number of them, in different states, will try their hand at it next year.

Secretary Wilson thinks it may be found that the south's longer growing season, the action upon plant life of a sun whose rays are warmer in the spring and fall in the south, may make it plain some day that the southern states would find it profitable to set up a corn belt of their own. He thinks this great cereal may in time share with cotton a kingly position in the south.

Diversification. But after all is said, what the agricultural department is aiming at is to emphasize the importance, and teach the practicability of crop diversification. Secretary Wilson remarked to The Gazette-News representative that in cotton seed meal the south had a monopoly on the world's greatest nutrient. "Of course we of Iowa," he continued, "like to buy some of your cotton seed meal to finish off with after feeding corn to our cattle, but the fact that we need the meal should suggest to southern farmers the advisability and wisdom of keeping it at home to feed it to stock, as we do." Secretary Wilson has been running his farm in Iowa 50 years, dividing it up among his sons as they became of age, and in all these years he has been a family rule not to sell any grain; they feed it to stock, sell the stock, and make bigger crops every year. A man who runs his farm as does Uncle James Wilson does not have to concern himself greatly, as to the probable end of the German potato question.

The Potato Matter. Adverting to this potato matter reminds the writer of some observations recently submitted by a gentleman in position to be advised. He did not see the why of all this stir, he said; a feeling of excitement which had even found its way among members of congress, who have received so many telegrams on the subject. It had been known for long while, he said, that the German potato would in all probability be increased in price, and the contracts made by the American manufacturers contained a provision which shows they had anticipated the increase. In other words, the manufacturers had discounted this increased price in making their contracts, and there was little occasion for the present alarm. It is true, however, that this country depends solely upon the German mines for this commercial potato. There is potato in this country, generally found in granite stone, but a way has never been found to get it. Besides, the stone is worth more, in many instances, than the eight or ten per cent of potato would be, even if there were some way to extract it. Some potato has also been found over coal deposits—that is, the coal seems to form the foundation for the potato, but in most instances soil and stone containing the potato deposits has been washed away.

KNIFE, TO HILT,  
IN HIS RIGHT LUNG

John Davis of North Asheville Stabbed by a Young Man Named McMahon, It Is Asserted.

McMAHON AND DAVIS' SON WERE ENGAGED IN A QUARREL

The Father Was Investigating—Assailant Said to Have Gone to North Buncombe—Davis Expected to Recover.

With a knife blade stuck into his back and right lung to a depth of probably three or three and one-half inches, John Davis, a well known citizen of north Asheville, returned to his home about 7:30 last evening and informed his wife that he had been cut. The injured man did not know that the knife was still embedded in his lung. The wife, seeing the blade sticking into her husband, pulled it out and summoned a physician. The attending physician found that the man had been stabbed, that the knife blade penetrated the right lung but that, unless complications set in, the injured man would probably recover.

It is alleged that a young fellow named McMahon stabbed Mr. Davis. It seems that a son of Mr. Davis and McMahon or some of his connection became involved in some trouble and Davis went to see about the matter. It was while he was investigating the trouble that he was stabbed. McMahon, after the cutting, left, and it is said, went to north Buncombe this morning on the first out-bound car. At any rate he was captured in the Flat creek section by former Police Officer Frank Blackstock this morning and brought to Asheville this afternoon. Just what led up directly to the stabbing is not learned. The knife used by McMahon was a keen-bladed weapon. It is now in the possession of the police. The blood-stained blade is at least three inches in length. It is said that the knife was driven to the hilt in Davis' right side and left sticking there. It was reported this afternoon that Mr. Davis was suffering considerable pain and that his condition was not at all favorable. Thus far, however, there has been no symptoms of pneumonia.

Catamount Scared Him. McMahon, who was brought to town this afternoon at 1 o'clock, remained in the city last night under peculiar circumstances. After stabbing Davis, it appears, he made an effort to escape and would probably have done so but for the appearance of a catamount. McMahon is alleged to have declared that when he reached the "coffin factory" of the National Cash company a catamount suddenly darted across his path; that he was a bit frightened and turning ran back home. The "coffin plant" and the catamount combined was simply a bit too much for the fleeing man. McMahon left on the early car for Weaverville this morning, it is said, and was arrested by Frank Blackstock during the forenoon. The man, however, had no intention of returning to Asheville if he could help himself and while under arrest succeeded in breaking away from Mr. Blackstock. He ran for perhaps 300 yards when the former Asheville police officer overtook and recaptured him.

ADMIT, WITHOUT SHAME,  
THEY SOLD THEIR VOTES

Dozen Men Trapped Into Court—West Union Today and Plead Guilty—1071 Indictments.

West Union, Dec. 30.—A dozen men trapped into Judge Blair's court room and without evidence of shame, confessed they sold their votes for trifling sums. Seventy-three true bills were reported by the grand jury today, bringing the total indictments up to 1071. Three hundred and seventy-seven have already pleaded guilty.

NEW PALESTINE BANK  
IS ROBBED OF \$6000

Broken Into Last Night and All Available Cash Taken—Apparently There Is No Clue.

Indianapolis, Dec. 30.—The state bank of New Palestine, 14 miles south-east of Indianapolis, was broken into. The safe was robbed of \$6416. There is no clue.

Frenchman Breaks Aviation Record for Distance.

Buc, France, Dec. 30.—Maurice Tabuteaux, contesting for the Michael cap, broke the world's aviation record for distance, covering 862.66 miles in a continuous flight of seven hours and 45 minutes.



THE OLD YEAR OUT AND THE NEW YEAR IN AT OLD TRINITY.

INDUCE TAXPAYERS  
TO PAY UP PROMPT

Important Meeting of Commissioners and Tax Collector Held Yesterday to Devise Means.

An important meeting was held at the court house yesterday at which some of the old county commissioners, with a part of the new board, Tax Collector R. C. Crowell, and others were present. The question discussed was one that has been giving considerable concern to the county authorities for some years past—that is to devise a scheme to induce the people to pay their taxes earlier.

For several years it has cost the school fund from \$1500 to \$1500 a year for interest on borrowed money with which to pay the teachers; and the general fund has also been frequently depleted with the result that money had to be borrowed to meet the expenditures as they came due.

As the matter now stands there is no reason why the tax payer should pay his taxes in September when he can pay them just as well in May and have the use of his money during that time. It was thought that if an inducement was made to the people it would serve better than to have to pay interest on money borrowed. It was suggested that the tax payer be allowed a discount of two per cent in September, one per cent in October, and no interest or discount in November and December; while one per cent would be charged on taxes in January, two per cent in February and so on until May—at least a schedule something like this was thought to be advisable and it is probable that a bill will be presented at the next term of the general assembly looking toward the enactment of some such measure.

It was pointed out that the city now allows two per cent discount on taxes paid in September and the plan seems to work well, and those who studied the question think that it would work equally well with the county taxes. Even if it cost the county money—that is, if the discounts amounted to more than the interest received by the deferred payment, until after December, it would go to the people instead of to the banks. But for that matter it is expected that the discounts will not more than equal the interest.

A RISING IN PORTUGAL  
THREATENS; MUCH UNREST

Disaffection Among Working Classes May Result in Overthrow of the Provisional Government.

London, Dec. 30.—Private advices from Lisbon confirmed published statements about decided unrest and dissatisfaction there among the working classes. A rising against the provisional government, established after King Manuel was deposed, is threatened.

Jumps From Train Running 35 Miles an Hour.

Hazleton, Pa., Dec. 30.—As Charles Wallace, aged 45, a prisoner, who was arrested on a manslaughter charge, was being taken to Jaserne for trial, he went into a retiring room of the North Wilkesbarre and Hazleton railway car, which was running 35 miles an hour, and jumped out of the window at Nesquehanna Pass and escaped.

CONTINUING FEE  
CHARGES ILLEGAL

Decision of Supreme Court Interesting—Effects Clerks of Courts in Many Counties—The Issue.

The recent Supreme court decision affecting the costs for the continuance of cases which the clerks of Superior court have been accustomed to charge is exciting no little interest and comment. The test case on which the point was decided was that of Luther and Webb vs. Southern railway, and the Supreme court held that it was not legal for the clerk to tax these costs for continuing cases unless such continuance is by order of the judge upon motion and recorded in the minutes of 30 cents is allowed. The case in consideration had been continued 10 times and the costs for continuing amounted to \$3.00. It was not this amount which caused the attorneys for the Southern to appeal but they have hundreds of such fees to pay, and it amounts to a considerable item in the aggregate.

The office of the clerk of the court in Buncombe is a salary office, consequently it will not now affect the clerk here, and it has been some four years since he received the benefit of such fees. The practice of charging these fees has been the custom from time immemorial and the costs were taxed in every case regardless of the fact that the papers might be on file and were never disturbed by the clerk or anyone else but were continued by the inability of the court to reach the case.

The gist of the decision is to the effect that costs for continuance that can be taxed must be such continuance as is made by the judge upon motion and recorded in the minutes by the clerk and not such continuance as are brought about by the inability of the court to try the case. As for the costs that have been collected heretofore it is hardly likely that they will be refunded, but it is generally considered that the change will date from the time of the decision.

MRS. STETSON'S STATEMENTS  
ARE GIVEN LITTLE CREDENCE

She Believes That Mrs. Eddy Will Manifest Herself After Death—Others Do Not.

Boston, Dec. 30.—The statements of Mrs. Augusta E. Stetson that in her belief Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy, founder of the Christian Science denomination, would manifest herself after death, occasioned little comment among leaders of the denomination.

Alfred Farlow, one of the Christian Science leaders said: "I do not see why I should give attention to various statements concerning 'resurrection' of Mrs. Eddy, from persons not representative of Christian Scientists."

Stuart Appointed Chief Engineer of B. & O.

Baltimore, Dec. 30.—Francis Lee Stuart is appointed chief engineer of the Baltimore & Ohio railroad with headquarters at Baltimore, vice A. W. Thompson, promoted to general manager.

Railway Strike in Prospect in Rome.

Rome, Dec. 30.—Railway men are today holding a secret meeting, planning the next maneuver in the war against state-owned railways, for a promised increase of four million dollars in total annual wages.

STATE ELECTIONS  
SOON TO BE HELD

Rhode Island, Ohio and Maine Legislated Will Each Choose a Senator in Coming Month.

Providence, R. I., Dec. 30.—A deadlock may result from the legislature's attempt to elect Senator Aldrich's successor. A compromise candidate may be chosen. The senatorial situation remains here practically unchanged. The legislature convenes Tuesday.

Democrats of Ohio to Caucus January 5.

Columbus, O., Dec. 30.—Annual caucus is shown by members of the legislature arriving today in the democratic caucus called for January 5 when the question of their nominee for United States senator will be settled. Eighty-nine democrats will be in the joint caucus. As the legislature is democratic, their choice will settle who will be Senator Dick's successor. Edward W. Hanley of Dayton and Albee F. Johnson, lieutenant governor-elect, are the leading candidates.

Maine Will Elect on January 17.

Augusta, Me., Dec. 30.—Interest in the selection of the democratic candidate for United States senator to succeed Eugene Hale, whose term expires in March, increases as the time for opening the legislature approaches. The nominations of the two parties will be made Tuesday or Wednesday, and a vote will be taken January 17. The democrats control the legislature. The friends of Charles F. Johnson of Waterville claim that he will win the democratic nomination.

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A strike prospect is menacing.

FORTY-TWO BELOW  
ZERO IN WINNIPEG

Weather Forecasters Give Warning of Severe Cold Throughout Entire Country.

Washington, Dec. 30.—Cold and storm throughout most of the country will prevail during the next 48 hours, according to weather forecasters. From Florida to Maine along the Atlantic coast storm warnings are snapping in a rising grade. Winter's icy grip is tightening in the northwest. The mercury stands 20 below zero in Duluth, Minn., and Devil's Lake, N. D. These conditions, forecasters say, are traceable to the passage northward of the storm that centered in the south. In Winnipeg, Man., the thermometer stands 42 below.

Akron Car Service Out of Commission

Akron, O., Dec. 30.—Street car service on all Akron lines and lines connecting with nearby towns are at a standstill. The cold wave and storm, which swept Ohio, caused scores of poles to fall. Power was shut off.

LEFT ME FOR ANOTHER  
WOMAN, WIFE DECLARES

Joseph M. Green Found Dead While Nearby Was His Wife Holding a Revolver.

Boston, Dec. 30.—Joseph M. Green was found dead in a downtown insurance office this morning. Nearby was his wife, Lillian Green, holding a revolver. She told the police Green left her for another woman.

WOMAN BURNED TO DEATH, OTHERS FATALLY BURNED

The Sleeping Occupants of Eight Flats in St. Paul Barely Escape, Scantly Clad.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 30.—One unidentified woman was burned to death, three women were fatally burned and ten other persons were injured in a fire destroying the three story Concord flat building today.

The fire spread rapidly and the sleeping occupants of eight flats barely escaped, scantily clothed. Most of the injuries sustained were by jumping from windows. The loss is \$20,000.

Fourth Death in Garment Workers' Strike.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—The fourth death in the garment workers' strike occurred today. Ferdinand Weiss, aged 19, was shot by Edward Keane, a policeman. A formal murder charge will be brought against the policeman.

No Fatalities; Considerable Property Loss.

Athens, Greece, Dec. 30.—No fatalities attended the series of earthquakes in Ellis province yesterday, but the property loss is considerable.

THAT MEETING  
NOT LOVE FEAST

Congressman Cowles' Ideas Ran Counter to the Powers That Be at Republican State Executive Meeting.

HOLTON-BROWN ENDORSED FOR PLACES THEY NOW HOLD

Settle's Resolution Endorsing Taft Adopted—Cowles Voted Down on Every Proposition—Dockery's Resolution.

THERE are certain signs which indicate that the meeting of the state republican executive committee at Greensboro was not altogether a love feast; there was one person there whose mind and ideas ran counter to that of Chairman Morehead. That was Congressman Cowles who was voted down on every proposition. The appointment of the committee of five to pass upon the distribution of offices of state-wide importance, being to the front once again, the question, "Has the referee system been abolished?"

The abolition of the referee system was one of the planks upon which Chairman Morehead and Butler were able to control the state convention last August and another plank which appealed especially to the "outs" was the promise of a new distribution of the federal offices. Yet, according to reports of the meeting at Greensboro, this new state executive committee recommends that George H. Brown be reappointed as collector of internal revenue for the Western district of North Carolina and that District Attorney A. E. Holton be reappointed for the fourth term as district attorney for the Western district.

The committee appointed to have charge of the distribution of state offices in H. C. Dockery, R. G. Campbell, George Butler, Thomas Settle and J. G. Gaskill.

Of the recommendation of the reappointments of Brown and Holton the Greensboro Daily News says:

The committee then took up the matter of appointments to the collectorship and district attorneyship of the western North Carolina district. Mr. Cowles made a motion that these and other matters of statewide importance be deferred until a future time to be fixed by the chairman. The motion was voted down. Mr. Cowles then entered a protest against action in regard to these matters at this time, stating his reason as being that no notice had been given of the proposed action, and that the committee were wholly unprepared to deal with the questions at this time. The protest was overruled and the committee recommended the reappointment of George A. Brown to the western collectorship and the retention of A. E. Holton to the western district attorneyship. The following resolution as to the retention of A. E. Holton, was adopted.

"Resolved, by the state executive committee of the republican party, this day assembled, That we endorse and commend the administration of Hon. A. E. Holton, district attorney for the western district, and hereby recommend his retention in office."

Congressman Cowles Speaks.

Speaking last night of the action of the committee, Mr. Cowles said: "After passing the Dockery resolution, which provides a committee of five to pass on the distribution of offices of statewide importance, and that the two executive committees for each of the several congressional districts should dispense the postmasterhips and other offices of local interest, the committee immediately proceeded to violate the resolutions by recommending the reappointment of Brown and Holton and others, including several postmasters. I believe the point that the action was entirely out of order and called attention to the resolutions just passed. But the chairman, of course, ruled against me."

"The full committee was not in meeting, and none of our national committeemen were present. In dealing with these matters they should be considered."

"Instead of getting away from the referee system the action today was extending it."

The following is the full text of the resolutions introduced by Thomas Settle and adopted:

"Whereas, The present republican state organization in North Carolina was brought into existence by the rank and file of the party as a result of widespread approval of and general response to the utterances of President Taft in his Greensboro speech, in which he declared that the old Southern referee system was the greatest handicap to the building up of a militant and successful republican party in the south; and

"Whereas, The state chairman, in a speech accepting from the state convention a unanimous election to the State chairmanship, declared for an open-door policy, and also further declared that he construed the meaning of the action of the convention as an endorsement of President Taft's southern policy against the continuation of the referee system; and

"Whereas, It is the desire of the president to co-operate with the majority of the party, represented by the

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