

HELPED SETTLE TO A DECISION

The Project of Severance from Government Job Was Not Altogether His Own, but Suggested to Him.

DEMIGNITION INTRIGUERS WERE AFTER HIS GOAT

Or Else He Failed to Deliver the Goods—Would He Be Available as Candidate for Governor?

Special to The Gazette-News.

Washington, Feb. 29.—The initiated must, therefore, have been vastly amused over reports that have emanated from Raleigh, where republican leaders from all parts of the state have foregathered, to the effect that the Hon. Thomas Settle would resign his position as member of the Customs court in New York, to the end that he may run for governor on a wet platform. The idea was advanced with a noticeable degree of elegance, the statement being that Mr. Settle wished to be wholly untrammelled in his political activities.

The truth is that the government helped Mr. Settle to this decision. When John G. Grant, C. J. Harris and John Motley Morehead visited Washington a few days since the report was set about that the course of true Morehead politics was not running smoothly, and it was said that the department of justice had concluded to let Mr. Settle out of the service. It was noticed that Mr. Settle was decidedly unsettled as he and his friends fled to and from the White House, and those who had an opportunity of observing events from "the inside" were wondering whether things would be patched up, and whether Mr. Settle would be permitted to skate about on thin ice for awhile longer.

A Momentous Development. Whether Mr. Settle was to be regarded as the victim of high-class political intrigue, or whether his services had simply been unsatisfactory to the department of justice, was a theme that provoked no end of speculation. At all events, it was generally agreed that the development was of a sensational character, one that would have considerably to do with shaping future republican politics of this state. The elevation of Settle, it was recalled, had been the single noteworthy achievement of the Butler-Morehead faction. Without Settle the so-called victory of this triumvirate—Butler, Morehead and Settle—would take on the aspect of a hollow mockery, for the fight between this faction and that headed by National Committeeman Duncan, in the matter of controlling the minor offices, has been one long-drawn out dogfall, President Taft generally playing both ends against the middle, and now and then making promises to both sides which were usually honored in the breach.

That is why former Congressman Cowles, among others, opposed even the half-hearted and emasculated endorsement of the administration, and why Butler himself is urging an un-instructed delegation. The Butler crowd got their Settle—for a spell—but as an offset for this substantial recognition there was the appointment of Mr. Britt as third assistant postmaster general, an appointment made largely at the instance of Mr. Duncan, and Mr. Britt has made good. Never did a political organization win honors so empty, or win a fruitful victory so utterly lacking in fruit.

Moreover—and this is where the situation takes a somewhat sensational turn—it is a question whether the services of Mr. Settle as a candidate for governor, on either a wet or dry platform, will be readily available. In five minutes after the last republican state convention Morehead, Butler, Harris, Grant and others made it their chief end in life to secure recognition for Settle under the national administration. And now, after all that heroic and concerted activity the Asheville man has failed, for the reason, to hold his job. It is therefore considered quite likely that even those who like their liquor best, and those who like a wet platform would ordinarily outweigh even party affiliations, will be disposed to reflect deeply upon the wisdom of nominating for governor a man who has failed to make permanent his position under an administration presumably influenced by his immediate friends, and an administration thought to be predicated in his favor.

This Settle slight may help those who are looking for the why of the action of the state committee in tempering, or nullifying the resolutions endorsing the president by exchanging the words: "We endorse and recommend the renomination and election of President Taft by the republicans from this state, and the country at large."

The Associated Press is authority for the statement that Settle was the author of the resolutions, which originally included this endorsement of the president for renomination. If that is so, then it is probable that the trouble about Settle's job has been smoothed out, for at least this piping period of pre-convention disturbance. If some other man, with a firmer hold on his Federal salary, was the author of those kind words, which the committee failed to accept, then it is not unlikely that Mr. Settle had a hand in eliminating the distasteful indignation.

CONSUMERS' TAX ON SUGAR FAVORED

House Committee Probably Will Urge a 50 Per Cent Tariff Reduction.

Washington, Feb. 29.—Democratic members of the house ways and means committee, after many stormy conferences and differences, agreed yesterday to make a report to the democratic caucus on the sugar tariff schedule next Friday afternoon. To guard the exact terms of the revised schedule from publicity, Chairman Underwood and other members of the ways and means committee took an oath of secrecy.

From all that could be learned about the conclusions of the warring factions in the committee, the plan of revision most favored contemplates a duty reduction of more than 50 per cent, fixing the tariff at about 30 cents a hundred pounds on refined sugar, a cut from the present duty of \$1.20 and the assessment of a consumers or internal revenue tax on all manufacturers of sugar of from 7-16 to 1-2 a cent a pound. The committee has been considering increasing the duties on silks, crude rubber, laces and other things that might be classed as luxuries to make up revenue that would be lost by deducting the sugar duty.

Sugar brings in between \$56,000,000 and \$60,000,000 revenue a year. In the committee the fight has been between the champions of free sugar and the advocates of reduction who favor a tariff for revenue only. Chairman Underwood, chief of the latter faction, has urged a big cut in the duty on sugar and the creation of a consumers tax to be paid by the manufacturers on every pound of sugar sold.

The advocates of free sugar have urged that the revenue loss be made up from goods that might be classed as luxuries. Upon this difference the fight has been waged and, insofar as the committee is concerned, was settled yesterday. The current report was that the Underwood plan had been adopted.

"I can say nothing about the decision," said Mr. Underwood last night, "until the question is submitted to the caucus."

FAST SOUTHERN TRAIN WRECKED IN ALABAMA

Engineer Killed, Six Injured When New York Limited Leaves Rails.

ANTHRACITE MINERS CONCLUDE CONFERENCE

Formulate Demands Which Will Be Presented to Operators March 15—No Strike Expected.

SIX FIREMEN HURT

Incendiary Starts Blaze in East Side Tenement Which Imperils Scores of Lives.

Carlide Sentence Held Up.

PERISH IN BLIZZARD

Seven Texas Cattle Men Victims of Great Storm Which Sweeps the Panhandle.

A DISTINGUISHED EDITOR-CANDIDATE



MR. THEODORE ROOSEVELT AT HIS DESK IN THE OUTLOOK OFFICE.

TAFT SOON STARTS ON SPEAKING TOUR

Will Leave Washington to Further His Candidacy for Presidency.

Washington, Feb. 29.—President Taft will soon start a vigorous speaking campaign to explain his position on current questions and further his candidacy for re-nomination.

Before the republican national convention meets in June, the president will spend many days on the road and is expected to deliver scores of speeches. He will travel as far west as Chicago, as far north as New Hampshire and south at least as far as Georgia. Other engagements may be made in the next few weeks. The president's political advisers believe he is their best orator.

Ever since the Taft renomination, headquarters were opened here some time ago and Representative William H. McKinley was put in charge, republican leaders have urged the president to get into the campaign. He began following this advice when he accepted an invitation of a year's standing to attend the fiftieth annual dinner of the Swedish-American republican club of Chicago. The acceptance of that invitation was followed by the announcement that the president had consented to stop on his way west at Toledo, O. Invitations to visit Youngstown and Massillon have been received and probably will be accepted. A few days ago the White House let it be known that the president would go to Savannah in April or May and might stop at Pinchurst, N. C.

OUTBREAK IN PRISON

Six Killed in Mexican Riot and 23 Ringleaders of the Disturbance Executed.

Laredo, Tex., Feb. 29.—Thirty-one lives paid the penalty for yesterday's riot in the Monterey (Mexico) penitentiary. The incoming train passengers state that six prisoners were killed during the outbreak, and 23 others regarded as ring leaders were executed later. Three thousand prisoners were in the prison.

PERISH IN BLIZZARD

Seven Texas Cattle Men Victims of Great Storm Which Sweeps the Panhandle.

Dalhart, Tex., Feb. 28.—Seven persons in northwest Texas and eastern New Mexico have lost their lives in a storm which is sweeping across the Texas panhandle. All the victims were on ranges caring for cattle which are suffering in the blizzard.

Seek Mysterious Letter Brandt Sent Mrs. Schiff

New York, Feb. 29.—The district attorney is searching for a letter written by Folke E. Brandt to Mrs. Mortimer L. Schiff as one of the big factors in the Brandt case. The authorities say the letter was written to the bankers' wife just before Brandt was sent away on a 30 years term in prison. The district attorney will not comment to the appearance of Schiff and the grand jury is continuing its investigation of the charge that there was a conspiracy whereby Brandt was sentenced to 30 years for burglary. The mysterious letter is reported to be in Schiff's possession. His attorney, Howard Gans, before the grand jury unless it is judicially decided that they would not thereby gain immunity.

Morgan's Art Treasures Are Crossing the Atlantic

New York, Feb. 29.—The first consignment of J. P. Morgan's European art treasures is being unpacked today in the storage rooms of the Metropolitan museum. It arrived on the liner Celtic and is appraised at \$700,000. Almost every incoming liner now will bring a consignment until the great collection of treasures, valued at more than fifty million dollars, has been transferred to this side of the water.

SNEED MURDER HEARING RESULTS IN A MISTRIAL

Fort Worth Jury Stands Seven for Acquittal and Five for Conviction.

Fort Worth, Tex., Feb. 29.—Standing seven for acquittal and five for conviction, the jurors who tried John Beal Sneed for the murder of Capt. A. G. Boyce, an aged cattle king, were discharged today. Sneed, a wealthy banker, believed that Captain Boyce had tried to assist his son, Al Boyce, in abducting Mrs. Sneed and shot Capt. Boyce in a Fort Worth hotel. The jury was out 112 hours.

Southern Merchants Denounce Parcel Post.

Nashville, Tenn., Feb. 29.—At its concluding meeting, the Southern Merchants' association adopted strong resolutions denouncing the proposed parcel post and urging members of congress to vote against the measure. W. H. Carter of Columbus, Miss., was elected president of the association. The association adjourned to meet again next year in this city.

Troops Revolt in Peking.

Peking, Feb. 29.—In a revolt among Yuan Shi Kai's troops today, a number of houses were fired and wrecked and paraders shot up the streets indiscriminately.

INDORSE TAFT WITH RESERVE

GREAT LABOUR WAR BEGUN IN ENGLAND

By Night a Million Miners will Be Idle—Government Still Active.

London, Feb. 29.—Three quarters of a million coal miners laid down their tools and went on strike this afternoon when the day shift in the mines ended. The army of striking colliers swelled hourly throughout the morning when it became known that no settlement was reached in the strike situation.

The premier, his colleagues, board of trade officials and others having influence with mine owners and miners are continuing their efforts to avoid the national coal strike in Great Britain with only a faint hope of success. Unless an unexpected change comes in the situation, one million men and boys employed in the mines, and thousands in other trades will be idle by tonight.

PATRONAGE AGREEMENT IS DENIED BY DUNCAN

No Understanding Between Committeeman and Chairman as to Withdrawals.

Gazette-News Bureau, The Hotel Raleigh, Raleigh, Feb. 29.

"No agreement has been entered into by me or any authorized representative of myself as to the withdrawal of the ten North Carolina appointments sent to the senate for confirmation by President Taft, of recent date," was the statement most emphatically made by National Committeeman E. C. Duncan of Raleigh, when his attention was called to an article in the Washington Star, and other papers, which said that those nominations had been withdrawn by virtue of an agreement between National Committeeman Duncan and State Chairman John Motley Morehead.

Mr. Duncan asserted he had never been a party to such an agreement at the White House, that he had never unduly influenced himself upon the valuable time of the president in attempting to secure patronage favors for his friends in North Carolina, and that he had never traduced the fame and good name of North Carolina republicans.

This statement was made by the national committeeman after an extensive trip to Louisiana, where he, Williams of Oregon and Hayward of Nebraska settled the factional party controversy in that state, and from his attendance at Chicago upon a meeting of the sub-committee on arrangements for the national convention in June.

SECRETARY KNOX VIEWS WORK ON PANAMA CANAL

Leaves This Afternoon for Port Limon and Thence Proceeds to San Jose.

Panama, Feb. 29.—Secretary of State Knox left at 8 o'clock this morning on a leisurely trip to Colon with frequent stops, en route to inspect the Panama canal. Secretary Knox, before departing, told a party of government officials that he was immensely pleased with the cordiality of the welcome he had received. Knox and party return and board the cruiser Washington this afternoon. Anchor will be weighed and the warship will proceed for Port Limon, Costa Rica, where the party arrives tomorrow. The journey to San Jose will be continued immediately.

WILEY DENIES REPORT THAT HE WILL RESIGN

Believes Enemies Responsible for Rumor—Will Not Attack the Administration.

Washington, Feb. 29.—Dr. Harvey Wiley, chief chemist in the department of agriculture, today denied that he intended resigning from office. He characterizes as "preposterous and pure fiction" rumors that he was considering such action or that he would come out with a statement attacking Secretary Wilson and the administration. Dr. Wiley declared the rumors really came from "enemies" who recently attacked him in other ways.

Regarding a report that after resigning he would be a candidate for vice president on the democratic ticket, Dr. Wiley laughed and said: "I could not run on that ticket. I am a whole democrat, that is, the others are only semi-democratic. I believe in the equal rights of man, and the right of women as well as of men to vote; wherefore I am a whole democrat."

Wickersham Defends Lewis.

Washington, Feb. 29.—Attorney General Wickersham is seeking to prevent the American Bar association from ousting W. H. Lewis, his negro assistant, from membership. Lewis was elected a year ago but the bar association's executive committee passed a resolution rescinding the negro's election.

Settle Resolution Unqualifiedly Sustaining President Modified and Passed by Republican Committee.

MOREHEAD AGAINST BINDING DELEGATES

Tells Hearers at Banquet Republicans of State Should Show They Cannot be Corraled.

Gazette-News Bureau, The Hotel Raleigh, Raleigh, Feb. 29.

It develops today that Marion Butler strongly opposed the Settle resolutions endorsing Taft and fought them before they reached the committee. It is said here that Butler has long been a Roosevelt sympathizer and the breach between himself and Morehead was expected.

C. R. Wheatley of Beaufort said today that the committee yesterday unseated W. A. Mace as chairman in Carteret county and held in favor of Dr. George Davis, a Butler-Morehead man. This fight was before the last convention and the action of the committee was not surprising.

Finding that a resolution by Thomas Settle unequivocally indorsing the administration of President Taft met with great opposition, the Republican state executive committee yesterday by a 12 to 6 vote adopted a resolution the most significant paragraph of which embodies the suggestion that the administration of President Taft be the subject of thought of the people of the state.

The action of the committee was in line with suggestions in this correspondence that Roosevelt sentiment among the mass of the people was assuming such proportions that the Taft leaders were beginning to feel scared.

One of the developments of the three members. Those who voted for committee was the announcement by Hon. Thomas Settle of his resignation as prosecuting attorney in the customs court at New York, a position Mr. Settle has held for about a year.

Original Resolution Withdrawn. The meeting was attended by all but three members. Those who voted for the endorsement of President Taft's administration as embodied in the modified resolution were Dan Patrick, E. A. Edmonds, Thomas Settle, Harry Skinner, J. R. Gaskill, James D. Parker, R. G. Campbell, I. B. Tucker, J. S. Lewis, Dr. J. J. Mott, C. J. Harris, and J. Motley Morehead. Those who voted against this were C. C. Van, C. H. Cowles, George Butler, L. M. Meekins, T. W. Hanes, and J. J. Jenkins. Those speaking against the resolution were Messrs. Van, Cowles, Butler, Meekins and Hanes. Those who spoke for the original Settle resolution were A. E. Holton, Thomas Settle, J. M. Morehead, Judge Gaskill, and Mr. Harris.

When it was apparent that the original Settle resolution was meeting with such opposition that its passage was endangered, Secretary William Grissom came to the front with a suggestion that a committee be appointed to draft another resolution that would not be so objectionable. This committee, composed of Thomas Settle, C. C. Van, George Butler and like Meekins, retired and after some labor, brought forth the following resolution, which was adopted by a 12 to 6 vote.

Resolution Adopted. "We hereby endorse and commend the administration of President Taft. "Confronted from the beginning of his administration until today with a series of difficult, complicated and embarrassing questions many of them calling for legislative remedies, he has met the situation with firmness, tact and judicial temperament, and largely through his personal ability has secured much needed legislation from congress when he has at no time during his administration been able to invoke the aid of a cohesive, firm party majority.

"There has not been an hour during his administration when the republicans in congress could pass a strict party measure.

"We especially commend his position on the tariff.

"His insistence that the tariff should be dealt with scientifically, with the aid of accurate knowledge of conditions and details, rather than in a partisan, theoretic and speculative manner, and in the absence of authentic information and knowledge, is fundamentally sound.

"This is practically admitted by the conduct of the democrats in congress. If the wool, the cotton and other bills Continued on page two.

MY CHOICE FOR PRESIDENT. If I could select the man I would name. Name, Address. Cut this ticket out and mail it to The Gazette-News, or hand it in at this office. If you do not care to write your name on the ballot, you can write it in a registry book provided at the office. Results will be published from time to time and in no case will the name of the voter be given out unless so requested.