

HAS HOPES FOR A PRIMARY LAW

Senator F. P. Hobgood of Guilford Expects a Primary Bill to Be Introduced This Week.

LAW SHOULD INCLUDE ASSEMBLY CANDIDATES

Senator Thinks They Are State Officials—He Talks of Other Possible Legislation—Legislature Uncertain.

Special to The Gazette-News.

Greensboro, Jan. 11.—F. P. Hobgood, state senator from Guilford county, who came home to spend Sunday and to look after certain business matters that could not be further postponed, says it is probable that during the next week questions will come before the legislature that will attract attention because of their nature. Among some matters which are expected to be brought forward are a state-wide primary bill, child labor bill, taxation, etc.

Few bills have been introduced up to this time that are of great importance, the first week or ten days of the general assembly being consumed principally with organization and other routine matters.

Mr. Hobgood is hopeful of a state-wide primary law that shall be all-inclusive, even to the members of the general assembly. In an interview on this and other subjects he gave out the following:

"It is very difficult to forecast the attitude of the general assembly towards the several problems which are generally considered to be those of greatest interest and moment to the people of this state. I have heard it stated by several that there is no doubt that a state-wide primary bill will be enacted into law. I entertained a similar opinion on a former occasion which experience showed to be without foundation and I therefore hesitate to hazard an opinion at this time.

"In view of the declaration of the state platform with reference to a primary I apprehend that there will be few who will openly oppose primary legislation. I have no reason to suppose that certain representatives and senators have changed their opinions upon this question. It may be that some will verbally favor state-wide primary legislation, that is to say, the principle in voiced, but will oppose any bill that may be offered looking to the fulfillment of the platform pledge upon the ground that the bill is for some reason not clearly appearing vicious. In other words, they will go their full length in favoring a principle, but will employ every effort to prevent the possibility of practice.

"However, I am still hopeful that before the general assembly shall have finally adjourned, there will be placed upon the books a state-wide primary law applicable to national, district and state officers, including members of the general assembly.

"It cannot be successfully contended that a member of the general assembly is not a state officer. Personally, I do not now think that I would vote for a primary bill whose provisions do not apply to members of the general assembly. Such a bill ought to apply to every officer voted for in our general elections, national, district, state and county. It may be that the fight will rage most hotly around the application of the provisions of such a bill to members of the general assembly.

"I understand that a child labor bill will be introduced next week. I have an idea that its provisions will mark an advanced step beyond the present laws in this regard, and I think it may be fairly assumed that the bill will become a law.

"Many think that the most important and interesting subject that will come before the general assembly is that relating to taxation. All of the members and senators have been furnished with copies of the report of the state tax commission and they are making more or less careful study of that body's recommendations. I have failed to find anything now in these recommendations, certain of which are not without considerable merit. The recent report of the state auditor seems to evidence a better condition of affairs than has been anticipated. There is much work before the joint committee on finance of the two bodies. I am a member of the senate committee and expect to bring to its attention certain measures which I think will be beneficial and of which I may have something to say later.

"More or less publicity has been given to the demand of certain short line railroads that the long and short haul clauses of the intra-state freight rate act be so amended as to vest in the corporation commission the power to exempt from its provisions any railroad that may show sufficient cause. Many can see no reason whatever for providing for the exemption of the large roads and doubt whether provisions should be made for the exemption of any, though upon this

SHIP PURCHASE BILL IS FOUGHT

Republicans Predict Biggest Filibuster Over Administration Bill Ever Precipitated in Congress.

THE FILIBUSTER NOW ALREADY UNDER WAY

Bill Would Make U. S. Majority Stockholder in \$40,000,000 Corporation—May Not Pass by March.

Gazette-News Bureau.
Wyatt Building,
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The congress of the United States has just undertaken what republicans are predicting will be the biggest filibuster ever precipitated upon the senate. Whether this claim will prove to be a good one remains to be seen, but the fight against the administration's bill to allow the government to become majority stockholder in a \$40,000,000 merchant marine which is to be a private concern has certainly started off with a show of strength in the opposition camp. The bill is a part of the president's program; part of the president's ideal conception of governmental duties in relation to the control of overseas and international trade. It has been stated that for years it has been Wilson's theory that a government owned merchant vessel service would solve many economic and diplomatic problems. It is a radical measure, thoroughly distasteful to the rank and file of republicans, who stick close to the doctrine of the party, and unless the republican minority weakens the democrats will scarcely have time to put it through by March 4. That will mean the president must call an extra session, which will throw the congress with a house of representatives showing a trifling majority only.

There has been more than the ordinary amount of sub-surface activity regarding this ship purchase bill. All that has been done for and against the bill hasn't been printed in the newspapers by a large margin. Delegations of shipping men and financial men have slipped in and out of Washington and have held conferences at odd times and in odd places.

Secretary McAdoo of the treasury has voiced the administration's reasons and wishes for the quick passage of the measure, and this has been looked on as a strange sight in Washington, as the matter is naturally one that would fall under the jurisdiction of the secretary of commerce. Internal strife has broken out in the ranks of the senate and house democrats alike, and there are rumors of differences of opinion in the cabinet over this radical departure from existing rules regarding the ancient trade of making commerce by ships. Altogether, the democratic party is asked by the president to enact one of the strangest laws ever devised, and one which republicans say will place the United States in more entangled positions in the ports of the world than any open breach of international confidence could possibly accomplish.

The senate filibuster is already on. The ranks are clearly defined. On the first vote a preliminary skirmish on a motion to make the measure the unfinished business of the upper house, four senators voted with the democrats. They were La Follette, Poinsett, Kenyon and Norris. It is probable that no help can be expected of them from the republicans, although if they consume will bring March 4 and the end of this congress nearer. The old fashioned senatorial habit of talking a bill to death is still in existence and that will probably constitute the backbone of the filibuster.

This measure provides that there may be created a \$10,000,000 corporation; that the United States may be a 51 per cent stockholder; that the United States may further subscribe to the remaining 49 per cent of the stock. The measure further provides that the United States may sell \$30,000,000 worth of merchant vessels. Up to this point there are two distinct parties to this strange transaction—one being the shipping corporation, and the other being the United States which owns the \$10,000,000 of ships. However, the bill creates a "shipping board," composed of cabinet officers. The shipping board will then automatically decide that it will turn over the newly purchased merchant marine to the government.

score they are open to argument. I do not know what the temper of the members generally upon this question is.

"With regard to the matters to which I have referred and others of vital interest only time can tell what will be done. No man can say whether this is a general assembly that will do much or little. There has not yet been discovered either dividing rod or other contrivance of magic by which one can discover in advance what is in the breast of a legislature."

United States Is Not Entirely Satisfied With British Reply

Sir Edward Grey's Note Answering President Wilson's Protest Does not Please Administration Officials on Certain Points. Britain's Actual Practices Do Not Square With Her Acceptance of Rules.

Washington, Jan. 11.—The United States government, it became known today, is not entirely satisfied with the note of Sir Edward Grey, British foreign secretary, giving Great Britain's preliminary reply to President Wilson's note of protest against interference with American commerce by British fleets.

While Great Britain admits the justice of practically all the principles of international law cited in the American note, officials here today reiterated their contention that the chief difficulty was England's neglect to make her actual practices square with her previous acceptance of the rules of international law. It is realized

that the newly formed corporation; the shipping board will then do the voting for the stock held by the United States. The government controlled merchant marine is then ready to look for business. The only thing left is the insurance of four per cent gold bonds of the corporation. These are issued to pay the United States for the thirty million dollars worth of ships. The entire program, as will easily be seen, is a legal method whereby the United States owns a shipping system but legally is but a stockholder in a corporation.

Now the opposition to this bill is not actually confined to the republicans although the democrats may be counted on to vote as a party for the measure. However, the republicans find more than one ground of objection to the bill. For years the republicans or some of them, have urged a ship subsidy, whereby American built ships would receive government bounty on a scale made out in accordance with their speed and tonnage. The ship subsidy plan would need about five million dollars a year for its maintenance and is commonly supposed by republicans to be the only means of placing American shipping in a position where it can command the respect of the nations of the world. Democrats have fought it because of the theory that it is feeding the ship trust and because of the expense. The objection to the present ship purchase bill is that it takes at least ten million dollars out of the treasury at one bite and places the government in the position of being a big competitor to active American concerns.

Of course all the objections that are made to public ownership of anything are to be made against the public ownership of steamship lines; and briefly these are: 1. Subtraction from the field of personal endeavor. 2. Destruction of individual initiative and motive for effort. 3. The constant tendency to maximum costs. 4. Multiplication of government employees and officials. 5. Increased opportunities for corruption. 6. Labor problems. 7. Administrative and executive inefficiency. 8. Restriction of the motive to invent and improve the facilities of service.

However, the opponents of the measure after carefully considering all the pro and con arguments on the subject of public ownership of everything else, find an especial objection to this proposal of the president's, and this is briefly set forth in a report by Senators Burton, Nelson, Perkins, William Alden Smith and Oliver.

"The bill provides merely a plan by which the government may become a competitor in the shipping business with private ship owners. . . . Only one of two results could follow: If the government could go into the business expecting to earn a reasonable profit, such as the minority stockholders, as provided by the measure, could reasonably anticipate, and could fairly subject itself to all the economic conditions of the trade in buying, maintaining and operating a fleet of merchant ships, making adequate provision for depreciation and obsolescence and the present extraordinary risks and losses, it would not materially change the existing status. If on the other hand the government should pursue the policy of operating its boats on a no-profit basis, it would of course have the result of driving private competition off any route it chose to invade. It would also check or stop the investment of private capital in the shipping trade. In short, instead of increasing tonnage it would very soon reduce it, eventually doing more harm than good."

One of the fears of the democrats who do not like the bill is that the country will ask this question: "If the time is not ripe to raise money by the sale of bonds when the war revenue tax was enacted, why is it ripe to sell bonds to purchase ships?"

by officials in Washington that prolonged the diplomatic correspondence concedes the principles in the American case but does not actually meet the complaints of the American shippers, and pending the arrival of the other note supplementing the present note, which will be more of a detailed reply, it is understood, American officials will push vigorously the individual cases which in the meantime may arise.

While administration leaders are keenly appreciative of the friendly tone of the reply and of the promises of redress for unwarranted injury to commerce, it is pointed out that the note's citations of statistics does not take up one of the chief points of the American argument. The British state-

ment puts forward the argument that American commerce has not suffered as seriously as was represented, but the administration officials contend that one of the chief purposes of the protest was to prevent the depletion of American commerce by the continuation of British practices. The figures cited in the British note, in the view of officials here, are misleading, because much of the non-contraband goods which ordinarily go direct to Germany and Austria are shipped to neutral countries. Similarly, the decision of Germany and Austria to use all their surplus products has deprived the contiguous countries of a great deal of raw material which they are now compelled to import from the United States.

ARMIES ACTIVE IN SPITE OF WEATHER

Turks Again Are Attacking Russians—Allies Continuing to Push Forward in Spite of Rain and Mud—Germans Report Gains in East, West.

London, Jan. 11.—There are increasing indications of Roumania's early participation in the European war, thus bringing into play another party to the combination against the Teutonic powers contemplated by Great Britain, France and Russia. The obstruction which has hitherto blocked the full mobilization of Roumania's army has been removed with the arrival of the requisite equipment provided to put 600,000 troops in the field. Arrangements have been completed to finance the Roumanian operations.

Lack of stirring battle news is attributed by the British observers largely to the determination of the allied commanders to hold their present positions until the projected ring around the Germans is sufficiently strong to strike a blow which they hope will be decisive. The British idea that the present operations are simply in preparation for big events fits in with gossip from British headquarters to the effect that Lord Kitchener, asked concerning the probable duration of the war, said, "I don't know when it will end; but I know when it will begin—in the month of May."

Petrograd, Jan. 11.—The Russian general staff has just issued statement concerning the eastern war situation, which is as follows:

"On the left bank of the Vistula front, at the villages of Soukha, Metairie, and Mongheli the fighting is assuming a more and more desperate character. The Germans, notwithstanding their great losses, continue their obstinate attacks at different points. In many places, the enemy succeeded in provisionally occupying certain of our advance trenches, but vigorous counter attacks by us, followed ordinarily by bayonet charges, compelled them to let go their hold. Thus, in the region of Metairie and in the region of Mongheli on January 7, we drove away the enemy who had rushed our advance trenches and captured seven officers and more than 100 men.

"In Bukovina, on January 6, we occupied Kimpulung, near the Hungarian border, after advances and fighting for eight days. Our troops covered over 120 yards (about 60 miles)

and finally crossed the mountain frontier of Bukovina and Hungary.

"In our operations in the Carpathians, we took about 1000 prisoners and much rich spoils.

"On other points of our front, nothing worth noting transpired. In the Black sea, on January 3, our torpedo boat discovered a Turkish cruiser of the Medjidieh type which was followed by a transport sailing east and approaching Sinope on the north coast of Asia Minor. Seeing that they were pursued, they turned west, but our vessel followed and sank the transport. The cruiser escaped."

Berlin, Jan. 11.—The German army headquarters has given out the following war communication:

"In the west, there have been heavy rains which seemed almost like cloudbursts. There was thunder all day yesterday. The Lys at some places has overflowed its banks. Several attacks have been made by the enemy to the northeast of Soissons, which have been beaten back with severe losses to the enemy. The French attacks also to the north of Châlons were repulsed with severe loss to them.

"In the eastern section of the Argonne, we have successfully stormed the French positions, taking 1,200 prisoners, some nine throwers and a bronze mortar. A Lorraine battalion and the Hessian landwehr particularly distinguished themselves in this fighting. One of our advance trenches which we were not occupying at the time, was entered by French troops near Flirey and was immediately blown up. All the French in the trench were killed. Both to the west and to the south of Senheim (Cernay) there has been nothing to report. The French were driven out of Burnhaupt-le-Haut and were forced to occupy trenches in their old positions. Some 190 prisoners fell into our hands.

"On the eastern front the bad weather continues. The number of prisoners taken on January 7 was 2,000, and we also took seven machine guns."

Paris, Jan. 11.—The French war office gave out the following report of the war situation in Paris:

"South of Ypres, we have damaged the trenches of the enemy and reduced to silence the mine throwers of the Germans.

"In the region of Arras and in the vicinity of Amiens, there have been artillery engagements which have resulted to the advantage of our batteries.

"In the region of Soupir yesterday, we occupied brilliantly Hill 425. Three times the enemy delivered violent attacks, but they were repulsed by our counter attacks. Our guns here represented three lines of trenches on a front of about six miles. The enemy, not having been able to recapture that which they had lost, bombarded Soissons and set fire to the Palace of Justice.

"South of Laon and Craonne, our artillery has demolished a camp of huts covering machine guns of the enemy, reduced to a silence the ar-

GARRISON URGES PHILIPPINE BILL

Secretary of War Tells Why Administration Is Insisting on Greater Measure of Autonomy.

MEASURE IMPROPERLY TERMED INDEPENDENCE

Merely Step With Safeguards Toward Self Government in Line With Promises Held Out for Years.

Washington, Jan. 11.—Why the administration is insisting upon passage of the pending bill to enlarge the measure of self government of the Philippine islands was explained to the senate Philippine committee today by Secretary Garrison.

In a long prepared statement, he declared the measure had been improperly termed the "Philippine independence bill" and that it was merely a step with proper safeguards, towards self government and exactly in line with promises held out to the Filipinos for years by the United States.

"What the next step should be," he said, "when it should be taken, what conditions would properly surround the grant of absolute independence, and other like speculations, it seems to me are idle and their consideration at this time would only be confusing."

In view of the "recent exaggerated accounts of petty disturbances in the islands," the secretary said it was particularly interesting to note that former President Taft, when Governor-General of the islands, had said that as a result of the attitude of the American press and of the American merchant in his hostility to the Filipino, "every small Ladronne fight, every discomfort the constabulary suffered, was exaggerated and made the basis for inference that conditions in the islands were retrograding rather than improving."

"What the United States should do concerning the Philippines," said Mr. Garrison in opening his statement, "can only be determined properly by keeping two things constantly in mind. One, the duty of the United States to itself; and the other, its duty in view of the pledges and assurances it has made to the Filipino people."

Must Discharge Duties.
"The United States has assumed responsibilities with respect to the Philippines, which, in the highest spirit of self respect, it must discharge faithfully at whatever cost. It is a useless waste of time to discuss whether we should have acquired the Philippine islands or whether having acquired them, we should have set out upon the course of improving the material prosperity of their people, educating them, introducing means of communication and transportation and building up commerce, internal and external, as we have done. It is equally fruitless to discuss whether those who spoke on behalf of the United States should have made the repeated statements concerning our attitude with respect to the Filipino people, which statements are in their nature assurances or pledges concerning our intentions. We have done these things and must abide by them. We have no right now to measure our duty by our obligations by what would have been our rights had we not pursued the course we did pursue.

"We deliberately chose to assume an enormous responsibility, with a self-sacrificing unparalleled, as far as I know, save in the somewhat similar case of Cuba. It was wisely conceived and it behooves the nation to see that it is faithfully carried out. Ignorance and prejudice increase the difficulty, and attempts to reap partisan advantages add to it.

Citizens Know Little.
"Our citizens know so pitifully little about this great problem. They do not realize, save in a very vague way, how the honor of the nation—which is collectively their honor, a thing which they individually hold so dear—is vitally involved in a proper consideration and treatment of this matter. If they did so it would require great effrontery to attempt to divert them from its proper settlement by paltry lies and shameful misrepresentations. That such do now affect the public mind is due entirely to lack of knowledge on the part of the public.

"The terms and provisions of the bill you have before you are not known or understood by our people. They would laugh in derision at those who suggest that it is inadvisable to consider this bill now because of the existing war. The very slightest consideration of the actual provisions of this bill would convince any inquirer that there was nothing whatever in it which made it inadvisable or inappropriate to consider the matter at this time. It is not too strong a statement to say that were every nation

REV. J. M. WELBORN IS DEAD IN CANTON

Methodist Episcopal Minister of Asheville, Aged 73, Succumbs to Heart Trouble.

News was received by relatives in the city this morning of the death last night in Canton of Rev. J. M. Welborn of Asheville. The deceased was spending the winter there with his daughter, Mrs. A. Graybeal, and was found dead in his bed this morning. The cause of his death is given as heart failure. He was 73 years old and had been in declining health for several years. The news of his sudden passing, however, came as a distinct shock to relatives and a large circle of friends.

Rev. Mr. Welborn was a Methodist Episcopal minister and was on the western North Carolina circuits for many years. On account of ill health, he was forced to retire from active duties several years ago, but he was remembered and loved by hundreds of people throughout all this section for the great work which he accomplished among them while he was in the active service of the church. He was a man who quickly gained the respect and esteem of his congregations; and his accomplishments in western North Carolina will stand as a monument to his memory in the hearts of those who knew him intimately. The news of his death will be painfully learned by these many hundreds.

The deceased is survived by two daughters and one son: Mrs. Graybeal of Canton, Mrs. T. W. Burton of Warren, Ind., and Charles W. Welborn of Asheville, foreman in the coming room of The Gazette-News. The latter left this morning for Canton, immediately following the receipt of news of his father's death. Mrs. Burton has been notified in time for the funeral. Arrangements for the funeral have not yet been perfected, but it is thought that services will be held here tomorrow afternoon in a local undertaking parlor, in order to follow at Riverside cemetery.

Mrs. Welborn, wife of the deceased, died here early in November, and since that time Rev. Mr. Welborn's health declined very rapidly. His passing, apparently, completely broke his spirit.

JAP. CRUISER SIGHTED IN NORTH ATLANTIC

New York, Jan. 11.—A cruiser, which Captain Williamson of the steamship Curacao believed to be a Japanese warship, was sighted off the Azores during the Curacao's voyage here from Havre. The man-of-war did not give her name. This is the first report of the presence of a Japanese warship in the north Atlantic since the outbreak of the war.

on earth, including our own, at war there is nothing in this bill which would make its consideration inappropriate on that account.

"The bill is so framed as to provide another step along the line of self government. The wisdom and propriety of it can only be determined by keeping in mind the two viewpoints first adverted to and by considering the history of our relations to the Philippines and the present situation therein."

Traces History of Islands.
Here Secretary Garrison traced the history of the Philippines—some 34 islands with a total population of between eight and nine million, mostly of Malay origin—pointing out that the revolution against Spain and later, the rising against the United States were the only occasions which had tended to produce homogeneity among the islanders.

Quotes Taft.
Mr. Taft he quoted as saying in a message in 1912:

"We should . . . endeavor to secure for the Filipino economic independence and to fit them for complete self government, with the power to decide eventually, according to their own largest good, whether such self government should be accompanied by independence."

In pursuance of the policies thus enunciated, Mr. Garrison said the various administrations in this country had from time to time enlarged the extent of the participation of the Filipinos in their government, replacing the military regime by a civilian commission giving the islanders control of their local municipal governments and gradually of their provincial government, placing Filipinos on the commission, in the Supreme court, and at the head of executive departments and finally, in 1907, establishing the assembly composed entirely of natives elected from the various districts.

"It is difficult to see what proper objection can be made to the provisions of the bill itself," said the secretary in conclusion. "If we considered it, as I have insisted before that we should, in view of our duty to ourselves and to the nation and in view of our obligations to the Filipino people, as made on our behalf by those speaking up for us, we find that it fully measures up to our obligation in each respect. Good faith to those to whom we have pledged ourselves requires us to stay as long as we must and good will to the islanders, in accordance with our pledges and assurances requires us to stay no longer than is necessary to test and reach conclusions as to their capacity in managing their own affairs."