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ROMANIA MAY FILL THE MISSING LINK IN EASTERN CHAIN

Should She Join Battle Front Would Stretch 1,300 Miles From Sea To Sea

BULGARIA MUST BE SATISFIED FIRST

If Macedonia Is Given Bulgars, Then Rumania Will Not Likely Hesitate To Join With Russia, Serbia and Montenegro In The Longest Battle Line of History; Greece Far From Satisfied and Italy Still Hestitates; Poland and Galicia Have Become a Sea of Mud

London, Jan. 9.—(9:35 p. m.)—Should Rumania, now that the Russians are on the border, if not actually in Transylvania, decide to join the allies, her army will provide the missing link in the chain of troops, 1,300 miles long, winding from the Baltic to the Adriatic. This battle-line would be composed of Rumania, Rumania, Serbia and Montenegro on the one side, and Germany and Austro-Hungarians on the other. The allies believe Rumania soon will take the plunge. Other developments are expected. Relations between Greece and Turkey have reached the breaking point over the alleged treatment of Greeks in Asia Minor. Italy is growing restless over Turkey's delay in giving satisfaction for the violation of the Italian consulate at Hodeida, from which the British consul, who brought refuge, was forcibly removed.

Bulgaria is a Thorn. It is reported, has agreed that Serbia should be granted a port in the Adriatic. Rumania and Greece, it is thought, may delay taking up arms until Bulgaria, which is anxious for a part of Macedonia, is satisfied for a while Bulgaria on their borders would compel them to do so.

While there are no reports of starting battle field developments, extremely important operations are progressing in both east and west. The Germans, simultaneously with renewal of their attacks on the left bank of the Vistula, are developing a new offensive from the direction of Hlava on the Eastern Prussian frontier. Some German attacks on the Russian line which runs along the Baura and Itawka rivers and thence southward to Opoceno, and along the Nida to Opoceno, have been particularly severe, but according to Russian report, all have been repulsed.

The thaw which has set in in Southern Poland and Galicia has converted the country into a sea of mud and even cleared the snow from the Carpathians, so that fighting in this region is impossible.

French Advance Fronts. The French, after a heavy bombardment of the German positions between the Oise and the western end of the Argonne, and after suffering several repulses, have advanced their fronts at several points, particularly east of Rheims, where their progress has been slow but steady.

In Eastern Argonne the Germans have been advancing. The French again report progress in the vicinity of Flires, in the Woerw district, which is of particular importance, for should it continue they will cut the road linking St. Mihiel with Metz and may compel the Germans to evacuate St. Mihiel, which they gained long ago at great cost.

The Germans have sent reinforcements to Alsace, where the French advance has threatened to cut off Muelhausen from the rest of the German line, and have occupied Burnhaupt-Le-Haut.

Sea of Mud on East. Vienna, Jan. 9.—(Via London 9:12 p. m.)—The Austrian war department today gave out the following official statement dealing with the military operations in Russian, Poland and Galicia.

"A continuous thaw, accompanied by torrential rains, has converted the whole theatre of the war in Poland and Galicia into a sea of mud. Quiet prevailed along the whole front from the lower Vistula to the Carpathians. Even the Carpathian mountains are free from snow and swollen mountain streams pour from the summits, flooding the valleys. These conditions, combined with the dense fogs, have completely stopped all military operations."

Much Rain in Montenegro. Cetinje, Via London, Jan. 9.—(9:15 p. m.)—The Montenegrin war office issued the following official statement tonight:

"Torrential rains and continuous bad weather have rendered all military operations most difficult, but the Montenegrin troops have firmly held all their positions, notwithstanding the fierce artillery fire of the Austrians. The King and Queen are visiting the troops at the front."

Flight at Moghly Farm. Petrograd, Jan. 9.—An official bulletin issued tonight from general headquarters says:

VILLA WILL STOP BORDER WARFARE

He Orders Maytorena To Sign The Agreement Drafted By General Scott

NACO WILL BE NEUTRAL

Nogales and Agua Prieta Shall Not Be Attacked; Those Who Want To Scrap May Get Out of Range and Help Themselves; Trouble Started Four Years Ago

(By the Associated Press.) El Paso, Tex., Jan. 9.—Gen. Villa today gave Brigadier General Scott his word that he would prevent further border fighting, which, since the Madero revolution in 1911, has been a menace to residents of American border towns. The Mexican leader promised he would order Governor Maytorena to sign an agreement which had been drafted by General Scott at Naco. It would prevent a recurrence of the fighting there, which during the last two months has caused the wounding and killing of more than fifty persons on the American side. General Hill, commander of the Carranza garrison defending Naco, Sonora, who has signed the agreement.

The 4,000 Villa troops, passing through Juarez on their way to Naco, will be sent, Villa said, to Nogales, on the California gulf, and not to participate in fighting along the border.

Naco Shall Be Neutral. The agreement also provides that Naco shall remain neutral territory and closed to commerce until some constitutional government is established in Mexico and recognized by the United States and until one of the contending factions in Sonora entirely dominates the other. Nogales, held by Maytorena and Agua Prieta, held by Hill, shall not be attacked for any reason whatsoever.

Maytorena's troops shall retire to Cananea or Nogales, and Hill not to molest the movement of the Hill forces from Naco to Agua Prieta.

This last clause is opposed by the Maytorena faction. Naco is between Nogales and Agua Prieta. General Villa is expected to return soon to direct personally the campaign against Carranza forces in the east. General Scott will return to Washington, perhaps after a brief visit to Naco.

Villa's force will be detached to hold General Hill's force at Agua Prieta, but it is understood not to attack him.

General Villa announced tonight he would welcome the return to Mexico of all former regular army officers, many of whom were reported in a destitute state in the United States and who are being repatriated by the United States government.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 9.—The War Department today had no official report of arrangements made by General Villa and Brigadier General Scott to avoid further fighting on the border. The Mexican government, advised by Juarez officials as follows:

"The today's conference between General Villa and General Scott everything has been arranged satisfactorily. General Villa has ordered General Maytorena to sign the agreement proposed by General Scott. Herewith the Naco incident is closed."

General Scott's proposal was that Naco be declared neutral and that both the Maytorena and Hill forces withdraw from its territory.

Convention Fails to Meet. Mexico City, Jan. 9.—(Via El Paso, Texas.)—The national convention, called to meet at Saltillo, Coahuila, failed to meet today. Sessions have been suspended indefinitely. Southern delegates, however, met today. Those present represented only the Kapata forces.

Sensation Follows NEAR RIOT CHRISTMAS AT BLACK MOUNTAIN

(Special to The News and Observer.) Asheville, Jan. 9.—Sensational statements made in the superior court yesterday came as an aftermath to the trouble at Black Mountain on Christmas Day. Hall Johnston, of the Asheville, has been retained by Black Mountain citizens who fear that their lives are in danger and who feel that the town is being done great harm by reason of the spirit of lawlessness which has been in evidence for some time past. Mr. Johnston referred to the fact that the home of the chief of police recently was dynamited and declared that there are many respectable citizens of the town who feel that the strong arm of the law should bring certain violators to the realization that they are not stronger than the law. The statement of Mr. Johnston followed the conviction of Roy Little of participation in an alleged near-riot and the entering of a plea of guilty by C. B. Gibson. True bills have been returned against Frank Wendall and Jim Teague. The trouble is said to have started with the arrest of an intoxicated man by the police and the subsequent efforts of friends of the prisoner to take possession of him. Judge James L. Webb declared that he intends to assure the people of Black Mountain that the law shall not be disregarded.

NEGRO KILLED BY FALL. Tinner at Greensboro Conscious After Skull Crushed. (By the Associated Press.) Greensboro, Jan. 9.—Alfred Hount, a negro tinner, fell 40 feet from the roof of Greensboro College for Women this afternoon and died an hour later at the hospital. He was conscious when picked up, though his skull was crushed and a leg broken.

ARMED GROUPS IN MEXICO CONFER

Gutierrez Reports Agreement is Now Almost Certain at Convention

ALL FACTIONS PRESENT

Carranza, However, May Have Started Something He Cannot Stop By Ordering All Oil Fields Closed; Hill Summoned To Vera Cruz To Render an Account

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, D. C., Jan. 9.—An agreement of "all the armed groups" in Mexico, by which "the problem of pacification practically is solved," has been reported to the convention in Mexico City by General Gutierrez, according to State Department advices today from Consul Silliman. Details of the plan were not made public. General Gutierrez's statement to the convention was in substance as follows:

"It may be considered that the problem of pacification practically is solved. As it would be inopportune to publish at this time the decisions recently arrived at, I refrain from giving their details and must limit myself to the statement that there have been in touch with the government over which I preside all of the armed groups operating in the country. Some of these have been dispatched special commissioners. The demands of these groups have been reduced by them to two propositions. These propositions, which will be stated publicly in due time, probably will be satisfied."

The State Department here issued a statement declaring Gutierrez's announcement apparently "carried over" in an initial report of the strengthening of the general conventionalist party without the domination of any particular leader or faction.

A dispatch dated yesterday from Mexico City said the convention had decided to hold daily sessions.

Carranza Stops Oil Men. As to the recent Carranza decree regarding oil lands, the State department issued the following statement:

"The department is in receipt of a telegram dated January 3 from Vera Cruz, stating that on January 7 an executive decree was issued by Carranza, ordering the development of all oil lands in Mexico as well as their operation to cease immediately, unless such development and operation are carried on with the consent of the constitutional government. It is provided in the decree that the work on these oil lands shall remain suspended until there can be enacted new laws governing the matter."

It is alleged by Carranza that the properties have been operated to the detriment of the nation and to the exclusive benefit of the owners. Carranza claims that the properties are operated by foreigners the privilege they possess of appealing to their governments for protection gives occasion for danger of complications in the international character which would prove embarrassing to the government in any work of revising the oil laws.

"It is stated that the right to destroy 'dark' under the pretext of the right to regulate the situation is regarded by the constitutionalist government, which also claims the right to charge the expenses thereof to the managers or owners. Any wells sunk or brought into operation after the date of the decree shall be considered national property."

"Practically all the Mexican oil lands are in territory which Carranza still controls."

Carranza Recalls Hill. Naco, Ariz., Jan. 9.—The American State Department has granted permission to General Benjamin Hill, Carranza's representative in the north, to travel through the United States on his way to Vera Cruz. Hill will depart tomorrow under orders to report to General Carranza on the killing and wounding of persons on the American side of line during the siege of Naco, Sonora.

It is said that Hill will not return and that Colonel P. Elias Calles will succeed him.

LADY SHOCKED BY CURRENT. Electric Hair Dryer Knocks Davidson Woman Unconscious. (Special to The News and Observer.) Davidson, Jan. 9.—Mrs. M. G. Fulton was the victim last night of what looked at first to be a very serious accident in the way of a shock by an electric current. Before retiring for the night she undertook to use a new electric hair dryer. For some reason the apparatus did not work properly and she sustained a severe shock under which she fell to the floor. Her scream, as she fell, brought Professor Fulton quickly upstairs to see what was the trouble. He found her lying on the floor and unconscious. Giving what relief he could, he then hurried over to the residence of Dr. Lingle, and summoned a physician. It was a half-hour or more before Mrs. Fulton regained consciousness. For a long while she was in danger of a nervous collapse, though no further injury was in evidence. One of her fingers was painfully burned.

TRIAL IN SECOND DEGREE. E. M. Jarrett Won't Have to Face Trial for His Life. (Special to The News and Observer.) Asheville, Jan. 9.—Solicitor J. Ed. Swain yesterday announced that E. M. Jarrett, alleged slayer of William B. Grant at a store in the depot section several weeks ago, will not be placed on trial for his life in the prosecution deciding to ask for a verdict of murder in the second degree. The case will be called in the superior court next Tuesday morning. Summons were issued today for 80 witnesses who will take the stand during the progress of the hearing. They reside in all sections of the county and of the large number summoned the vast majority are character witnesses. But few have been summoned to tell of the actual circumstances surrounding the killing, less than a half dozen men having witnessed the tragedy.

BRITAIN HAS NOT MET ALL DEMANDS

Though Officials Won't Comment On Reply This Much Seems To Be Certain

NEUTRALS SYMPATHETIC

If British Fleet Should Now Disregard The Safeguards Promised, It May Call Forth Some Very Vigorous Language; Controversy May Require Much More Talk

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, D. C., Jan. 9.—While no formal arrangement has been made by neutral countries for common action in respect to contraband and shipping during the maritime warfare, it became known tonight that the United States is receiving the sympathetic support of virtually all neutral nations in the negotiations with Great Britain.

Secretary Bryon ordered copies of the British reply to the American note delivered to diplomatic representatives of neutral nations. When the first note was sent, there were many formal requests for copies and it was regarded as significant that the British note has been voluntarily sent to them.

A day's study of the British communication failed to develop any compromise from administration officials. The text will be made public simultaneously in both Washington and London tomorrow.

It is known the British note does not finally dispose of the questions raised, but is in the nature of a preliminary argument. Just how far a long drawn out correspondence is foreshadowed, officials here refused to say.

Another Protest Likely. In authoritative quarters it was stated that another note, perhaps more vigorous than its predecessor, would be sent to Great Britain, should the safeguards which Great Britain herself has advised for American commerce be disregarded by the British fleet, as the American government claims has occurred heretofore. While the United States is anxious to reach amicably points in dispute, its chief cause of complaint has been against the alleged incursion of British authorities in applying their own rules.

The controversy centers about the question of length of time required for a thorough search of a merchant vessel. The United States claims detentions and examinations have been entirely too long. England asserts that the size of vessels necessitates conveying merchant men to ports for detailed search.

Williams Gave Compliment. Commander Bradham says that Captain Williams on several occasions spoke to him in very complimentary terms of his division. He admits that the men were not thoroughly familiar with the work on a battleship, but that the results had been most satisfactory. After the fire at Salem, Mass., last June, when nearly 4,000 factory operatives were thrown out of employment, the Labor department succeeded in finding work for many of them.

In a coincidence, he said, Secretary Wilson of the Department of Labor, approved only yesterday, the date of the President's speech, the final report made to him by Mr. Caminetti, announcing completion of the plan.

Unfilled Steel Tonnage. New York, Jan. 9.—The unfilled tonnage of the United States Steel corporation of December 31 totalled 2,845,643 tons, an increase of 517,051 over November.

Two Young Men Quit Progressive Leadership. Theodore Douglas Robinson, nephew of Theodore Roosevelt, has resigned his place as chairman of the Progressive State Committee of New York, and Francis W. Bird, son of Charles Sumner Bird, of Massachusetts, the millionaire who ran as candidate for governor of his State, has stepped out from the position of chairman of the New York County Committee.

Mr. Robinson had held his place for two years. Mr. Bird has gone to Boston to be publisher of the "Advertiser" and the "Record," two newspapers owned by his father.

No Harm Intended. Berlin, Jan. 9.—By wireless—Cardinal Mercier, Archbishop of Malines has given the German governor-general of Belgium verbal and written assurances, according to the official Press Bureau, that he intends in his pastoral letter to calm the population and to exhort them, without hurting their patriotic feelings, to submit to German authority. The Cardinal agreed that circulation of the letter be stopped.

NAVAL MILITIA IN REPLY TO ARTICLE

New Bern Officer Says Correspondent Gave Williams' Report in Part

POSTOFFICES WILL AID

Captain Bradham Alleges Mr. Yelverton Did Men an Injustice; Tar Heels Claim Poor Treatment On Cruise, Yet Made Best Record in Target Practice

(Special to The News and Observer.) New Bern, Jan. 9.—Feeling that he has been unjustly treated, that a report that is false in its meaning and which will do them incalculable damage has been circulated and denying the assertions in every detail, the officers of the North Carolina Naval Militia are preparing to send a written protest to Secretary of the Navy, Josephus Daniels, against an article appearing in Friday's issue of the News and Observer.

The report in question "rips up" the record of the North Carolina Naval Militia for alleged incompetency and inability to do their duties while on board of the U. S. S. Rhode Island during a cruise in the summer months. The report in question is from extracts of a report made by Captain C. S. Williams, commander of the Rhode Island, but only in part fact-giving and the full report shows the best records of any of the eight divisions on board.

Captain C. D. Bradham, commander of the North Carolina Naval Militia, gave out an interview last night which throws a different light on the subject. In the first place Captain Bradham declares that there were fifty-two men on board of the Rhode Island, there being eleven hundred when there should have been only eight hundred and that it was impossible at time to find men. At times, he said, they were in great discomfort. He claims that the men were not given enough water to drink, were not supplied with proper sleeping quarters and that the North Carolina Division got the worst of all of the many hardships, yet they made the best record of any of the other divisions.

In his report on the cruise and in readiness for the North Carolina Division Captain Williams said: "This organization displayed great interest in gunnery and made the best score on target practice. The commanding officer is able and energetic and a gunnery officer is a retired officer of the Navy and is highly efficient."

Williams Gave Compliment. Commander Bradham says that Captain Williams on several occasions spoke to him in very complimentary terms of his division. He admits that the men were not thoroughly familiar with the work on a battleship, but that the results had been most satisfactory. After the fire at Salem, Mass., last June, when nearly 4,000 factory operatives were thrown out of employment, the Labor department succeeded in finding work for many of them.

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THE MAN AND THE JOB WILL UNITE

National Employment Bureau Will Go Into Operation This Week

POSTOFFICES WILL AID

Notices Posted in Every Lobby Advising Where Work Can Be Had; Suggestion of President Most Timely, As Commissioner Caminetti Had Plans Ready

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, D. C., Jan. 9.—A national employment bureau reaching into every section of the United States will be put in operation by the Labor Department next week. It will be operated along the lines of President Wilson's suggestion in his Indianapolis speech for "a systematic method of helping the workmen of America."

Preliminary work for the bureau has been completed. It was announced tonight by Commissioner Caminetti, of the Immigration Bureau, and instructions sent to postmasters and rural mail carriers through the country for work on nearly 200,000 field agents of the agricultural department, who will co-operate with the Labor department in bringing the jobless man and the manless job together.

Postmaster Will Help. The general plan was outlined by Mr. Caminetti as follows: "Notices will be posted in all post-offices announcing that applications by the postmaster will be received with forms to be filled out and forwarded to the labor department agent in charge of the zone in which the office is located. The distribution branch of the immigrant service will handle that part of the work and it also will give reports of the agricultural department agents as to sections where laborers are needed. Applicants will then be informed of the nearest point where they can obtain work of the kind they seek."

Commissioner Caminetti said the plan had been tried out in a small way and the results had been most satisfactory. After the fire at Salem, Mass., last June, when nearly 4,000 factory operatives were thrown out of employment, the Labor department succeeded in finding work for many of them.

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NOT MUCH DOING IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Senator McRae Introduces Bill To Establish Home For Fallen Women

MR. PAGE GETS BUSY

Representative From Moore Not Favorably Impressed With State Furnishing Convicts To Build Railroads Taking Stock in Payment For Their Labor

It took the House exactly thirty minutes yesterday to decide the question of the abolition of the boxes placed near the Speaker's desk for the receipt of bills but having got this seemingly important matter out of the way business rushed off with a vim and when adjournment was taken some two hours afterwards a good many bills had been started on their journey toward becoming incorporated into the laws of the State.

Representative Page introduced five separate bills the aim of which is to prevent the hiring out of convicts to railroads in State, taking as pay for their services, stock in said roads upon which it is claimed the State will never realize. Two of the bills introduced by Mr. Page takes away the charter of the Matanuska Railway and that high sounding corporation known as the South Alaskan Transcontinental Railroad. The three roads will have to cash for the services of the convicts in cash if Mr. Page's bill gets through. At the rate of one dollar per day.

Mr. Page does not believe in the junketing trips heretofore made by legislative committees to Morganton, Goldsboro and other points where the State institutions are located and introduced a resolution to abolish these trips.

Mr. Hutchinson of Mecklenburg does not see the necessity of kissing the Bible when taking the oath in the State House, and for this reason will before the House abolishing this time-worn custom.

State Purchasing Agent. Another bill introduced yesterday was by Representative Morgan to create a State purchasing agent. It is understood that this official would buy all the supplies for the penitentiary, asylums, hospitals and anything else for the State. This State purchasing agent was a dream of former Governor Glenn and he recommended some to the Legislature while he was Governor but that body did not take kindly to the suggestion, deeming it best to let each institution buy its own supplies.

Home For Fallen Women. Senator John A. McRae of Mecklenburg launched the first bill of the General Assembly looking toward the care of the fallen women of the State. Senator McRae's bill would establish a North Carolina Home of Refuge by the appropriation of \$250,000 and the annual appropriation thereafter of \$5,000 for maintenance.

While there have been other measures proposed from various parts of the State looking toward this end, this particular bill had its origin in a sermon preached just about 13 months ago in the Second Presbyterian church of Charlotte by Dr. A. B. Meacham, immediately after the sermon in which the preacher dealt with the problem of the fallen woman, the leading members of the church met and determined to launch a movement having as its aim to lose an object the State's attention to a State reformatory or refuge home for the women of the State who have been outlawed by the rigorous rules of society.

The movement was taken up by the ministers of Charlotte, by the press of that city and other cities. Governor Craig sent a telegram of commendation to the movement. Dr. Clarence I. Brown, the State Commissioner for Social Service, also commended it.

Board of Managers. The bill as presented by Senator McRae yesterday calls for the appointment of a board of managers, one of them being a physician of at least ten years practice, three of them being women and the remaining members men. This board shall be appointed by the Governor and shall have authority for not less than two years and not more than four.

To this home should be sent women who are habitual drunkards, or common prostitutes, who are not inmates of any of the State's institutions, and who have the physical qualifications, and they should not be sent for any definite term. The judges of the superior court, the recorder's court, and the police courts of cities and counties shall have power to commit a woman to this home.

On the other hand, the woman who has fallen away from the path of rectitude of law, and who, if she should have an opportunity to enter this home. The requirement is that she put in writing a confession of offenses which before a court of justice would result in commitment to the institution.

The idea of the institution besides moral reformation is to teach these women, or such of them as are willing to be reformed, the means by which they may reasonably expect a livelihood. During the time of their terms in the institution they will be paid wages, reasonable sums over and above the cost of their maintenance.

SENATE. President Pro Tem O. Max Gardner called the Senate to order at 11 o'clock. Prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Potter, of the Epworth church, Raleigh.

The committee on counties, cities and towns reported favorably the following bills: No. 10, filling vacancy on board of commissioners Pasquotank county. No. 11, increasing powers of commissioners of Hoke county. No. 12, authorizing city of Raleigh to issue bonds. No. 13, relating to tax on dogs in Duplin county. No. 14, certifying certain bonds of Winston-Salem. (Continued on Page Five.)

BOTH SIDES CLAIM SALTILLO BATTLE

Villa Says He Whipped The Carranzistas; Villereal Says He Did Not

(By the Associated Press.) Washington, D. C., Jan. 9.—Conflicting reports were given out tonight by Carranza and Gutierrez agencies here concerning the fighting near Saltillo.

Gutierrez's Washington representative said he received the following telegram from General Villa at Juarez: "After capture of Saltillo, General Angeles pursued the enemy, attacking them finally at Remos, Arizpa, Coahuila, and engaging in a big battle there. The Carranzistas were commanded by Generals Antonio Villalera and Luis Gutierrez, Monclovia and Governor Arana. Our forces completely defeated them, capturing all their artillery and numerous prisoners."

"We regret the death of general Sarvin in this battle." The Carranza agency issued the following: "Information received tonight from A. C. Villalera, collector of customs at Laredo, Mexico, states that a force of Villalera's was defeated last night between Cardenas and Colotan, and driven into Saltillo, where fighting already was under way and continued today. The Villaleras at Saltillo are being led by Emilio and Raoul Madero, brother of the late ex-President. It is reported that there has been further fighting in the vicinity of Victoria. The Constitutionalists, continuing to push the enemy back, Villalera states that recent victories in the northeast indicate prospect for the Constitutional cause."

NEGRO COMMITS SUICIDE. Charles Hargrove Shoots Self and Falls Into Creek. (Special to The News and Observer.) Wakefield, Jan. 9.—Charles Hargrove, colored, who lived about three miles north of Wakefield, committed suicide Wednesday by shooting himself with a shotgun. He borrowed shells from a neighbor, took his gun and walked to the edge of Moccasin creek, a short distance from his house. Standing with his back to the water he dealt the fatal blow, falling backward into the creek. His body was not found until the following day. No reason for the rash act has been learned except despondency over financial affairs.



Theodore Douglas Robinson, nephew of Theodore Roosevelt, has resigned his place as chairman of the Progressive State Committee of New York, and Francis W. Bird, son of Charles Sumner Bird, of Massachusetts, the millionaire who ran as candidate for governor of his State, has stepped out from the position of chairman of the New York County Committee.