BAILEY DENIES CHARGE BROUGHT BY GARDNER

Brands Statement As False And Calls For Source Of Information

To the News and Observer:

I read with astonishment the following paragraph in the News and Observer report of Hon. O. Max Gardner's speech at Rocky Mount June 26:

"The Lieutenant-Governor stated that he was in receipt of information which led him to positively believe that the revenue officers of North Carolina had been called into conference for next Thursday to make arrangements to work en masse for the election of Cameron Morrison on Saturday and give their time on advice of machine leaders to the defeat of O. Max Gardner.

I request of Mr. Gardner that he give to me the "information which led him to positively believe" this foolish and utterly false libel upon myself. Meantime I denounce as absolutely false this information, and put it up to Mr. Gardner either to give its source or to make the retraction and apology that a gentleman will not withhold.

It is true that nine of my deputies were on last Wednesday directed to report to my office at Raleigh this week. The object in calling them to Raleigh was to prepare them for their work in connection with the sales tax.

When I was about to send out the letter calling these deputies to Raleigh one of my office deputies suggested that I ought to delay calling these officers to Raleigh until after the primary—as my action might be used by Mr. Gardner or his friends to make political capital. I met the suggestion with the remark that this office must proceed with its business regardless of political scandal-mongers; that we should not fear to proceed with our duties; and that I would assume entire responsibility for my action in the event any one sought to make capital of it.

It must be obvious that if I were desirous that these men be active in the contest for the Democratic nomination for governor, I would keep them in their own respective localities in this final week of the campaign. It must be equally obvious that if I had anything of a political character to say to them, I would not call them to Raleigh, but would send some one to them with my message. Mr. Gardner at least may be credited with knowing this; and his readiness to "positively believe" that I had called a conference for political purposes is accordingly a reflection upon him.

I do not even know how these nine deputies stand with respect to the candidacies of Messrs. Gardner and Morrison. I know that at least one of them is a strong Gardner supporter. Surely I will be credited with having more sense than to summon him to a conference that had for its purpose the mobilization of the Revenue forces against Mr. Gardner. The conference will be public and Mr. Gardner and his friends are invited.

I have not been inadvertent to the many reports emanating from Mr. Gardner, his headquarters and a certain Raleigh correspondent, whose indisposition to treat me with any sort of justice is too widely advertised by himself to require comment on my part, to the effect that the Internal Revenue forces in this State are moving in a body against Mr. Gardner; but not until now have I thought it necessary to give attention to these reports—as their motive, that of endeavoring to make sentiment and sympathy for Mr. Gardner, seemed all too plain.

The facts of the matter are, that a number of the deputies are for Mr. Gardner. How many I have not troubled to inquire. Nor do I know how many were for Mr. Page, nor how many are for Mr. Morrison. I have respected their rights and their manhood as I respect other men's. They have had no orders or suggestions from me; and the man who thinks they would take orders deserves only to be judged according to his judgment. One of the heads of the revenue system in this State is for Mr. Gardner. No one knows these facts better than Mr. Gardner and his managers.

Speaking of the deputies as a whole, there are 50—with duties under Mr. S. R. Brame, of Richmond, Va.—operating in this State as prohibiton agents. If Mr. Gardner or his manager have any charges to make against any of these, they ought to make them to Mr. Brame. He surely cannot be suspected of having any special interest or of being subject to any partiality in North Carolina politics. The fact that Mr. Gardner and his manager have set up a general hue and cry instead of making complaint to Mr. Brame will convince the reader of their object to create sympathy rather than to obtain justice.

A large number of my deputies are young ladies. Many of the others are civil service appointees who vote—if at all—in other states. They have neither interest nor influence in North Carolina politics. This leaves only a few to account for—mainly the men attached to the division offices. They are North Carolina Democrats and men of standing. I have seen only one or two of them in two months, and had only official communications with them. My letters are on file, and I invite investigation. They would scorn to obey any man's efforts to tell them how they shall vote or whose cause they must espouse. If they are indignant at Mr. Gardner's unjust attacks upon them, I cannot blame them, nor can any other man.

Finally, Mr. Gardner recently offered to buy a hat for any man who would show him evidence that any of the revenue men had destroyed a distillery in the six weeks prior to the primary of June 5th. If he will stand to his promise, I will take from him one hundred and fifty hats at least! One of the deputies broke up 20 distilleries in the month of May and three more between June 1st and June 5th. The docket of United States Commissioner Batchelor at Raleigh will show about eighty warrants by our deputies in the period mentioned by Mr. Gardner. I will show him the records upon demand for other parts of the State. I think he is due each of the deputies three hats on his promise—not to mention his apologies which would be more acceptable. They are deserving men and none too well paid. I claim for them the hats, though I do not promise that they will wear them.

Mr. Gardner can make his campaign according to his desires, but he will not be permitted to disgrace the Internal Revenue forces in the interest of his ambition.

J. W. BAILEY,
U. S. Collector Internal Revenue.
Raleigh, N. C.

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HANNIBAL L. GODWIN

For Congress

The Man Who Stands On His Record For Having Secured More National Appropriations For The Sixth District Than All The Other Ten Congressional Districts In The State Combined For The Five Year Period of 1914-1919.

To The Democratic Voters of The Sixth Congressional District:

Remarkable as it may sound in the light of the facts in the case, the charge has been made that Congressman Godwin should be turned down at the polls on July 3 because of his inactivities and having failed to accomplish for his district anything worth while. I am free to say that if this charge could be sustained I would regard it as sufficient justification for his removal and would join the people in retiring Mr. Godwin from public life as the Representative in Congress from this district.

But now let us see what the facts are, for in reaching conclusions people should in all cases base their action on truth and facts, and not fiction or campaign thunder. According to the records, and the records are what I am going by, it has been through the efforts of Congressman Godwin, assisted by Senators Simmons and Overman, the Sixth Congressional District secured more National and State appropriations during the five year period from 1914 to 1919 and more recognition by the Federal government at Washington than all the other ten congressional districts in the State of North Carolina combined, and the challenge is hereby thrown at any man's feet to disprove this assertion. Does this look like a do-nothing Congressman has been representing the Sixth Congressional District during all these years? I don't think so, and I don't believe anybody else thinks so after they know the facts. In other words, what other district in the State can approach the records of the "Bloody Sixth" in this respect?

The two big government shipyards in Wilmington, Camp Bragg and its environs at Fayetteville, together with the additional appropriations for the military camp at Fort Caswell during the world war, the new lightship, dredge boat, etc., at the mouth of the Cape Fear, to say nothing of the appropriations for the new custom house at Wilmington, postoffices at Fayetteville, Lumberton and elsewhere in the district, appropriations for the upper and lower Cape Fear, running into the hundreds of thousands, and other different appropriations which could be cited, all establish Mr. Godwin's activities in Congress during the past.

Neither Mr. Godwin nor his most enthusiastic friends and supporters contend that he secured all these appropriations single-handed and alone, for such is not the case, but it is a matter of record, known and read of all men, that Mr. Godwin was on the job by day and night, championing the cause of his people, co-operating with Senators Simmons and Overman as well as the departments at Washington for appropriations and the establishment of government industries in the Sixth Congressional District, and the results are here to speak for themselves. Deny it if you will, but like Banquo's ghost, they won't down at any man's bidding. It would be unfair to the public and unjust to Mr. Godwin did I not refer to his valuable work in securing appropriations with which to survey the drainage districts among his constituents and further farm demonstration work and likewise his work in behalf of good roads and public highways throughout the district and the entire State of North Carolina, soil surveys, new postal and rural free delivery routes, etc.

To Mr. Godwin's credit it must be admitted that he has been active and industrious in securing national appropriations with which to augment State appropriations for good roads and public highways, connecting every county seat in the State. No more valuable service could have been rendered by anyone, and every man in the State recognizes this fact. To this should be added his work of securing appropriations for waterways in his district and in all this way strengthening shipping interests generally for the good of all the people.

But time and space forbid my going into detail with all of Mr. Godwin's services and activities in the past. By the side of the charge, however, that he "has done nothing and accomplished nothing," I wish to submit the above facts, thus proving to the contrary, all of which go to show that the Sixth Congressional District has been well represented by a man who has been on the job morning, noon and night and has the results to show for it.

Acknowledging that we are now passing through the period of reconstruction that must inevitably follow in the wake of all wars, I for one think that the Sixth Congressional District would commit a serious blunder to make a change at this stage of the game in her Congressional Representative, whereby a trained and experienced Congressman, familiar with every detail of national and international legislation, would be retired, and a new and inexperienced man substituted in his stead.

It goes without the saying that the Sixth Congressional District will some day make a change in its Representative, but in the light of the facts as given in the foregoing I believe the thinking people in this district will agree that the present is no time for swapping horses in mid-stream. In other words, I contend that the public should be the first consideration with all people, and if this principle or idea is adhered to, then Godwin will be retained for another term at least. It now remains for the people to speak out and say whether they want to hold fast to that which is good and uphold the hands of a man who has accomplished results, and have them to speak for themselves, or listen to the siren song of ambitious politicians in following untried men in a critical hour like the present. Surely the public weal would not sanction a change at this time.

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