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DEMOCRATS IN THE SUN; REPUBLICANS IN GLOOM

As Political Skies Brighten For Jacksonians, Dark Shadows Enshroud G. O. P.

GHOST OF BROKEN PLEDGES

Impotence of Special Session and Candidate Squabbles Disheartening Washington, D. C., Feb. 10.—The pessimism which has pervaded Democratic circles for several months over the approaching campaign is rapidly disappearing.

Three months ago there was a marked tendency to discount prospects for this fall. This was not confined to Republicans. In private conversations many Democrats in Washington expressed the feeling that the trend of events was unfavorable to Democratic success. There is now a pronounced feeling that Democratic prospects are "looking up." This feeling is found among Democratic members of Congress and administration officials generally.

Some of this newly-found optimism is due undoubtedly to the utter failure of the Republicans to formulate campaign issues which bear promise of receiving popular support. Another cause is the manifest inability of the Republican majority in Congress to do anything constructive. Since the Republicans took charge on Capitol Hill with the convening of the extra session of Congress, May 19, they have failed to put over any general legislation of note. With the approach of the Presidential campaign the leaders have been seized with a species of caution which has seemingly paralyzed their legislative efforts. Important legislation, such as the railroad bill, returning the roads to their owners, and which would have aided materially in bringing about normal conditions, has lagged for months. The leaders have been unable to get together on any constructive program and it now appears a certainty that only one or two items of general legislation will be enacted before Congress adjourns.

Promises Broken, Rely on Naggin.

Chairman Will Hayes of the Republican committee, and his cohorts, it will be remembered, called loudly last spring for the extra session, demanding that the newly-elected Republican leadership be given a chance to function. Mr. Hayes claimed that his party would quickly provide a "cure-all" for all the country's post-war troubles. It has been conclusively shown that the Republican promises were shams.

As Democratic leaders see it now, the Republicans plan to base their 1920 campaign upon showy promises and nagging criticism without having made good their 1918 pledges. As the Republican campaign for selection of a Presidential candidate unfolds, it is perceived that the boasted unity of the Republicans is a myth. There is the widest kind of division, for instance, between the supporters in the West of men like Hiram Johnson and General Wood and those who are supporting other prominent Republican aspirants, such as Senator Harding and Governor Lowden. Despite all the surface talk of a burial of past differences, it is becoming more apparent daily that the erstwhile Bull Moosers and the stand patters are in many instances far from becoming political bed fellows.

So pronounced has become the apathy among the Republican rank and file, in spite of the intensive propaganda campaign waged in behalf of the candidates already in the field, that already there is talk among organization men in Washington that the Chicago convention will have to look beyond the present field and find some one with a guaranteed capacity for getting the votes in November. In their desperation many Republicans in Washington are discussing Senator Lodge's availability. Six months ago any one seriously proposing the Massachusetts Senator for the nomination would have been laughed at by even the Republicans who hold the Senate leader's ability in high esteem.

May Even Turn to Lodge

Today finds many of them hoping that by some turn of events, such as the adoption in toto of the Lodge treaty reservations, Senator Lodge may become the popular hero among his Republican brethren, and thus become a formidable "dark horse." They entertain this feeling because Lodge, through his thirty years of service in Congress, is well known to the country, and his personal friendship with Roosevelt, would give him prestige among the followers of the latter. His public record makes him thoroughly acceptable to the old-line Republicans. He has reached that age of life where they have no fear of this developing any "new ideas."

Another feature which is threatening the Republican success, and which has been the subject of conferences at the Republican national headquarters this week, is the surprising sweep of the Non-Partisan League movement in Republican States such as Minnesota, Montana and elsewhere. Reports have been submitted here that all efforts on the part of local leaders to stem inroads on the Republican strength in several important Western States have failed. The situation has

THE DEATH ROLL

Rev. Ervine Smith died at his home in Asheville February 8th, of pneumonia, following influenza.

Howard S. Kirkman, the four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Kirkman, of Greensboro, died February 8, of pneumonia, following influenza.

Leon J. Brandt, a prominent citizen of Greensboro, and former mayor, died Monday night of influenza, following pneumonia.

Cutler Watkins, 27 years of age, a prominent business man, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Watkins, of Greensboro, died on the 9th of February, of pneumonia and influenza. Deceased was married and a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Watkins, of Ramseur.

Mrs. Jaunita Redding Wright, formerly of Asheville, a daughter of the late Allen Redding, died yesterday, of influenza, in Salisbury.

Rev. J. C. Rowe Dead

Rev. J. C. Rowe, pastor of South Main Street M. E. Church, Salisbury, died February 9th, of pneumonia at his home in Salisbury. He was a native of Providence township, Rowan county, and was 71 years of age. He was one of the most distinguished ministers of the Methodist denomination of North Carolina. Surviving him are the widow, five children, Mrs. A. M. Frye, Bryson City; Dr. Gilbert T. Rowe, Winston; Dr. Henry Rowe, Mt. Airy; Mr. C. W. Rowe, New York; and Miss Eugenia Rowe, Asheville.

Mrs. Julia B. Smith, aged 40, died Saturday at her home in Greensboro, following an illness of 13 days of influenza and pneumonia.

John W. Clapp, of Greensboro, died Thursday morning of influenza and pneumonia. Mr. Clapp was a brother of Grant Clapp, of Julian, this county.

Lonnie S. Brady died at the emergency hospital in Greensboro, Saturday, of pneumonia.

MR. LEVI B. LOWE DEAD

Mr. Levi B. Lowe died Sunday at his home on Asheville Route 2, after an illness of three weeks of pneumonia.

In the passing of the Mr. Lowe the county has lost a prominent citizen. He is survived by his widow, three daughters, Misses Grace, Ora and Ione, and one son, Nate. One son, Ross, preceded him to the grave about a year ago.

Funeral services were conducted on Monday, after which he was laid to rest in Back Creek cemetery.

Miss Alice Birkhead, Popular Young Lady, of Asheville, Dead

Miss Alice Birkhead, aged 23 years, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Birkhead, died Friday. She had not been well for several weeks, suffering from severe cold, and Tuesday of last week she was taken seriously ill with pneumonia.

Deceased was a very attractive and accomplished young lady and had a large circle of friends, both young and old, among whom she will be greatly missed. She was much admired by the older citizens of the town.

Deceased is survived by her parents and three sisters, Mrs. C. B. Griffin and Misses Jessie and Mildred Birkhead, and six brothers, Messrs. L. D., G. F., Carl, Arthur, Jim and Dick Birkhead.

The funeral was conducted Saturday afternoon at her home by Rev. A. C. Gibbs, pastor of the M. E. C. church, of which the deceased was a member, after which interment followed in the local cemetery. Misses Fay Ferree, Alice Phillips, Ruth Cox and Kate Brittain were flower bearers and Messrs. Eugene Morris, Jr., Robert Bunch, Curry Loflin, Edward Cranford, Clifford Morris and Fred Stanback acted as pall bearers.

The many floral designs showed the high esteem in which this young lady was held.

Dr. W. S. Rankin, North Carolina's superintendent of Health, has been selected by Surgeon General Blue of the United States Public Health Service, to help eradicate malaria by the extermination of the mosquito in the Southern States. It is estimated that anti-malaria campaign within two years will eradicate the mosquito and eliminate malaria as a present day problem.

now been put up to Washington. Several Republican members of Congress have told Chairman Hays that they are in a dilemma where they must make terms with the Non-Partisan League or be defeated. This movement, which has many of the aspects of the old populist organization, now threatens to send a score of its adherents to Congress. The Republicans are doing all the worrying over it right now, because it has broken out entirely in Republican territory.

On top of the difficulties mentioned there is the "irreconcilable" group headed by Senators Johnson and Borah who are viewing with some satisfaction the mess which those whom they regard as reactionaries are making of the party leadership. Whether the Johnson-Borah element will be found inside or outside the fold next November will depend on the developments of the next two or three months.

RALEIGH LETTER

(By Maxwell Gorman)

Raleigh, Feb. 10.—All meetings of whatever description which were planned to be held in Raleigh during this week and next have been called off till further notice, because of the stringent orders issued by the city commissioners closing all places of public assemblage, and placing a bar on all public gatherings for at least ten days.

No religious service in any of the many churches of Raleigh was held Sunday, even the prayer meetings will be omitted Wednesday nights, except in private homes.

Among several meetings cancelled is that of the merchants, labor representatives, club women another of which was set for February 10th. Fair Price Commissioner Page will make known the deferred date latter on.

Flue of Milder Character

Reading of the above precaution might cause undue anxiety with out explanation. As a matter of fact the influenza situation in Raleigh is not nearly so serious as last year. There are many people sick, in many cases whole families, but there have been very few deaths. The bad weather of the past week it could hardly have been worse) was largely responsible, some people with deep cold have imagined they "had the flu" and have added to the general anxiety. With the return of better weather, the ban may be lifted on entertainments, and before another week the movies and the schools will probably both be wide open again.

Farmer-Labor Co-operation
The movement making for closer cooperation in the United States generally took a local coloring at a joint conference held here by representatives of the National Farmers Union, the American Federation of Labor and of the Railway Brotherhood organizations. While it is announced that the principal reason for closer Farmer-Labor cooperation is Economy and designs to relieve the high cost of living and rescue mutual protection, it is thought by outsiders that politics will also figure in future developments of this plan.

This action, it is believed, will not be partisan, as political parties are now organized, but will be, rather bipartisan in that the interest involved will exert themselves to secure the nomination and election of friendly

Hoover Not a Candidate

Nor Tied to Any Party

Will Not Line Up On Either Side Until He Has Heard Definite Statements From the Managers of Each Great Organization—Will Vote For League if It Becomes an Issue at the Polls—States Principles He Holds.

Herbert Hoover has issued a statement defining his attitude toward the Presidency. He announced that he is not a candidate for the nomination and that no one is authorized to speak for him politically. If the League of Nations is made an issue in the election, he says, he will vote for the party that stands for the League. In response to requests that he declare allegiance to either one or the other of the great political parties, Mr. Hoover says he will wait until it more definitely appears what the party managers stand for, and will "exercise a prerogative of American citizenship and decline to pledge my vote blindfolded." His statement follows:

What Hoover Says
"In order to answer a large number of questions all at once, let me emphasize that I have taken a day off from the industrial conference in Washington to come to New York solely to attend pressing matters in connection with the children's relief. I want to say again:

"Have not sought and am not seeking the Presidency. I am not a candidate. I have no 'organization.' No one is authorized to speak for me politically.

"As an American citizen by birth and of long ancestry, I am naturally deeply interested in the present critical situation. My sincere and only political desire is that one or both of the great political parties will approach the vital issues, which have grown out of the war and are new, with a clear purpose looking to the welfare of our people and that candidates capable of carrying out this work should be nominated.

Will Vote For League

"If the treaty goes over to the Presidential elections, with any reservations necessary to clarify the world's mind that there can be no infringement of the safeguards provided by our constitution and our national traditions, then I must vote for the party that stands for the League. With it, there is hope not only of the prevention of war, but also that we can safely economize in military policies. There is hope of earlier return of confidence and the economic reconstruction of the world. I could not vote with a party if it were dominated by groups who seek to set aside our constitutional guarantees for free speech or free representation, who hope to re-establish control of the government for profit and privilege. I could not vote with a party if it

were dominated by groups who hope for any form of socialism, whether it be nationalism of industry or other destruction of individual initiative. Both these extremes, camouflaged or open, are active enough in the country today. Neither of these dominations would enable those constructive economic policies that will get us down from the unsound economic practices which of necessity grew out of the war nor would they secure the good will to production in our farmers and workers or maintain the initiative of our business men. The issues look forward, not backward. I do not believe in more than two great parties. Otherwise combinations of groups could, as in Europe, create a danger of minority rule. I do believe in party organization to support great ideals and to carry great issues and consistent policies. Nor can any one man dictate the issues of great parties. It appears to me that the hope of a great majority of our citizens in confronting this new period in American life is that the great parties will take positive stands on the many issues that confront us and will select men whose character and associations will guarantee their pledges.

"I am being urged by people in both parties to declare my allegiance to either one or the other. Those who know me, know that I am able to make up my mind when a subject is clearly defined. Consequently until it more definitely appears what the party managers stand for, I must exercise a prerogative of American citizenship and decline to pledge my vote blindfolded.

"I am not unappreciative of the many kind things that my friends have advanced on my behalf. Yet I hope they will realize my sincerity in not tying myself to undefined partisanship."

NEWS ITEMS

Fearful tragedy enacted in Burke County Mountains on February 9th resulted in two deaths and others fearfully injured. Seven men, all related, but and battered each other, using knives, axes and guns. The Britains, Mulls and Lafavers all blockaders met and fell out while drinking. The scene was in the mountains. Dozens of men were sent to the chairgang at last term of Superior Court in Morganton and number have been sent by Federal courts. This tragedy, will probably result in a further effort to break up illicit distilling.

Alias K. Huff, a prominent citizen of Kernersville, died on last Saturday night. He was a painter.

Mr. W. H. Howie, aged 45 years, died at his home in Moore county, of pneumonia, last Saturday.

More than fifty-seven varieties of motor cars are on exhibit at the big auto show in Charlotte this week.

Bessie Shepherd, a negress of Hickory or Salisbury, a negress of Hickory on the French Broad River, was fished out dead on February 8th.

Three hundred and sixty thousand galax leaves were shipped in one day by a Lenoir dealer last week. More than seventeen and one-fourth million leaves were shipped last year. The galax leaves in the Blue Ridge Mountains are larger than those in this section.

Herbert Huntley, aged 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Huntley, of Lenoir, accidentally shot himself last Friday and died a few minutes after the accident.

Meyer's Department Store, of Greensboro, has recently released several girls who have volunteered to do nursing during the flu epidemic. The girls still draw full pay.

Candidates for public office. Candidates for Congress and the legislature of the various states, are likely to receive special attention, with the view of larger representation for the agricultural and organized labor in the law-making bodies of the state and nation. The conference here took action toward defeating the pending session bills claiming the laws are already ample and railroad measures were pending in Congress, and took a stand for continued government control of railroads for at least two years more, and a committee will present these matters to the N. C. Students and congressmen this week.

TAXES LOWERED BY REVALUATION ACT

Governor Bickett Points Out Where Taxpayers Are Saved Money

ONE YEAR'S SAVINGS TO BE FORTY-FIVE PER CENT

Taxes This Year To Be Paid On Re-valuation, After Legislature Has Fixed New Tax Rates, Based On All Property, and Eliminates Increase On Old Re-assessment

Applying pure mathematics to the workings of the revaluation act, Governor T. W. Bickett reasons in statement given out Saturday that the property owners in North Carolina will be netted a saving of 45 per cent. in their 1920 taxes, 25 per cent. in the elimination of the old re-assessment and 20 per cent. that it is contemplated will be effected through having all property in the State listed for taxation. The state ment follows:

"The re-valuation act makes a good start by saving every property owner forty-five per cent. on taxes he otherwise would have paid.

"Every one who studies the re-valuation act should at the outset give the act credit for saving of forty-five per cent. In the year 1919 and 1920 every property owner pays forty-five per cent. less taxes than he would have paid if the General Assembly of 1919 had not touched the subject of valuation. This is not an argument it is a statement of a fact.

"Under the old law there was a re-assessment every four years, and if the General Assembly of 1919 had done nothing with respect to valuation the re-assessment would have been made in 1919, and the taxes for 1919 and 1920 would have been paid on its re-assessment. This law has been in force for about twenty years, and every four years there has been a substantial increase in values. The average increase has been 25% per cent. There is not a man in the State, outside of an institution for the insane or the feeble minded, who does not know that the actual increase in property values during the last four years has been greater than in any four years period since the re-assessment law has been on the books.

"No mortal man will deny that if the old law had been allowed to stand without the dotting of an 'i' or the crossing of a 't' the values in 1919 would have been increased as much as they have in any four year period. Just knock off the 1% per cent. and say that property values would have been increased 25 per cent. Then in 1919, the property owners would have paid twenty-five per cent. more taxes on the same property than they paid in 1918. Under the revaluation act they did not pay a cent more.

"A similar amount would have to be paid in 1920 but under my recommendation to the General Assembly this twenty-five per cent. increase in 1920 will be reduced to five per cent. this for public schools. This makes a net saving to property owners in 1920 of 20 per cent., and added to the 25 per cent. saved in 1919, makes a total saving to the property owners on account of the re-valuation act of 45 per cent. The worst enemy of the re-valuation act to enter this credit of 45 per cent as the first item in every calculation made in regard to the act.

"Of course, the taxes in 1919 are higher than in 1918, but this is not because of but in spite of the re-valuation act. The increased taxes for the year 1919, are due to two things:

"1. The public school term was by a practically unanimous vote of the people of North Carolina increased from four to six months. Of course, when the people vote for increase of fifty per cent. in the length of the school term they understood that it would cost fifty per cent. more money, and no fair-minded man can complain on account of this increase in the taxes. He voted it on himself.

"2. The General Assembly of 1919, increased the salaries of teachers in the public schools 50 per cent. This was done because the General Assembly reached the conclusion that it was not only unwise, but positively indecent to starve the young women of the State who were devoting their lives to teach our children. Before this increase the average teacher in the public schools got \$45.00 a month for teaching four months, her year's work netting her \$180.00. Under the constitution the term was lengthened to six months and the legislature increased her salary to \$67.00, which makes her earnings for the year 405.00 an increase of more than 100 per cent. If a man is opposed to this increased tax to give to the children a longer school term, and pay the teachers wages that will keep them off the outside pauper list, let him come out boldly and say so. Please do not charge up these increases to the re-valuation act, which, as heretofore stated, reduced the taxes paid in 1919 and 1920 forty-five per cent."

Miss Maggie Barber recently died at her home in Greensboro from wounds received in a collision between a Southern switching engine and an automobile truck in which she was a passenger.

MR. D. H. LAMBERT DEAD

J. D. Lambert, of Coles Store, died February 8th, aged 84 years. He was buried at Brush Creek, Monday, February 9, Rev. Mr. Cook, of Concord M. E. Church, and Rev. Mr. Johnson, of Brush Creek Baptist Church, officiating. Mr. Lambert leaves a wife, three living sons, J. R. Lambert, Mt. Airy; W. F. Lambert, Coles Store; J. T. Lambert, Moffitt, and one daughter, Mrs. J. E. Spence, Coles Store. One son, Dr. W. L. Lambert, preceded him to the grave some years ago. He had 22 grand children and a number of great grand children. He was a loyal member of the Brush Creek Baptist Church. For many years one of the deacons of the church. He had suffered for years with rheumatism which finally ended his life. His mind was as clear as a crystal almost to the last. He died with full faith that as soon as he should cross over the river that his suffering would be no more and that he would ever be with Him whom he had served so long. Mr. Lambert was one of the original promoters of the Enterprise Manufacturing Company, Coleridge Telephone Company, and Coleridge Manufacturing Company, of Coleridge. He served as president of these corporations up to the time of his death. He was a very valuable man and one of Randolph county's best citizens. He was quiet and unassuming. His life was a benediction to all his associates in business and to all of his many friends.

RAMSEUR NEWS
Mr. and Mrs. K. H. Kirkman and children visited friends near White Chapel Sunday.

Mr. J. E. Covington, of the road, spent Sunday with his family here.

At this writing the few cases of influenza at this place are under good control, we think. We hope to escape a bad seige since the lid is on until conditions are better.

W. E. Marley spent several days in Greensboro with his sister, Mrs. C. C. Dorsett, this week.

Mr. J. S. Wylie, who makes his headquarters at Charlotte, spent the week end here. Mr. Wylie has recently built a beautiful bungalow on Liberty Street and will soon move his family into it.

The announcement of the death of Mr. Charles C. Dorsett, of Greensboro, came as a great shock to his many friends of Ramseur and community. He was reared five miles south of Ramseur, at Buffalo Ford and spent a few years at Ramseur, where he married Miss Ina Marley. They located at Greensboro; where they spent 15 happy years together. To them were born five children, four of whom are living, two girls and two boys, one infant boy being dead. His wife and these four children and his many friends are so deeply grieved over their loss that life broken and gloomy to them. Yet in his going away he left to them a heritage worth more than gold or jewels, a clean, Godly life, and a hope eternal. Mr. Dorsett was a consistent member of the Centenary M. E. Church, of Greensboro, where he filled many responsible places. He was also a member of several other organizations in all of which he was faithful and loyal to every trust. Funeral services were conducted by his pastor, Rev. A. W. Plyler at his residence, his wife and children being ill with influenza. He was buried in Green Hill Cemetery February 4th. May God bless and strengthen the family in this great loss.

PREVENTING INFLUENZA

Columbia State.

Dr. Schayer, professor of hygiene and sanitation at the University of South Carolina, recently issued the following syllabus to the students on means of prevention of influenza:

"If you catch the influenza, it is your own fault. There is nothing mysterious about the influenza," Dr. Schayer asserts. "You do not have to have it. You are very apt to catch it by eating it, or by permitting some one to cough it or sneeze it into your mouth or nose, or again he coughs or sneezes it on your books, desk, pencil, etc. You handle them, pick up the influenza germ with your fingers and the next time you touch your food or your lips, if your hands have not first been thoroughly cleaned, you will catch the influenza microbes. Clean hands thoroughly including your finger nails before eating. Clean and peel any fruit before eating it. Don't let any one talk, cough or sneeze the 'flu' into you. Keep your nose, mouth and throat 'flu' free.

"A good cleansing wash for your nose and throat is: Ten drops of carbolic acid, one teaspoonful of table salt and two teaspoonfuls of baking soda to half a pint of water. Rinse your mouth and throat and sniff from your capped hand through your nose two or three times daily. Drink a glass of water every hour. Ventilate your rooms well. Don't sit or stand in drafts. Don't let your feet get wet. If you have a 'bad cold' have it attended to at once. Don't cough or sneeze the 'flu' into the class room. Be fair to your fellow students. Don't eat 'flu'. Don't let any one cough or sneeze it into you."

Card of Thanks

We wish to express our sincere thanks for the many kind deeds shown us during the illness and death of our daughter and sister, Alice.

MR. and MRS. J. F. BIRKHEAD and Children.