

ONLY 3 SEEK SPEAKERSHIP

State's Lower House Race Narrows Again to Tri-cornered Affair.

Raleigh, Dec. 15.—The contest for the speakership of the 1931 house of representatives has again narrowed down to a three-cornered race between Willis Smith of Wake, Fred I. Sutton of Lenoir, and O. B. Moss of Nash, as a result of the decision of H. G. Connor of Wilson, not to enter the race. For a time it was understood that Connor might become a "dark horse" candidate in case neither of the three present contestants were elected on early ballots. But it is understood, that Connor has since written the three remaining contestants for the speakership that he will not be a candidate, but without pledging his support to either of the three.

According to present indications and to popular belief in Raleigh, this leaves Willis Smith in the lead again, with Sutton second and Moss third. Smith and his friends continue to maintain that he already has a sufficient number of votes pledged to insure his election on the first or anyway the second ballot. He maintains that many of the votes claimed by both Sutton and Moss are not actually pledged to them and will turn up missing when the matter comes to a vote in the Democratic caucus.

There is a growing sentiment among observers from outside of Raleigh and Wake county, as well as among several members of the 1931 house that Smith is not as strong as he and his friends would have it appear and that if Smith fails to be elected on the first or second ballot that he will not be likely to be elected at all, with the result that the real contest will be between Sutton and Moss. In order to substantiate the claim that Smith is not as sure of the situation as he seems to be, it is pointed out that he has so far failed to announce the list of those who have pledged themselves to vote for him, requested some weeks ago by M. B. McDevitt, representative from Madison county. This is taken to indicate that Smith's strength is not as great as he and his friends would like it to be.

Another thing becoming evident with regard to the speakership is that many of the representatives from the rural and agricultural counties are becoming increasingly wary of Smith and are leaning either to-

ward Sutton or Moss. This is apparently because Smith seems to have such strong backing from the business and industrial sections of the Piedmont, which always oppose the tax relief measures proposed by the rural counties. Still another factor that may later militate against Smith and reduce his strength is the fact that apparently all those state officials who would be deprived of office should the "short ballot" bill be enacted making them appointive instead of elective, as at present, seem to be supporting and working for Smith. The state officials that would be affected by the "short ballot" bill are the members of the corporation commission, Commissioner of Agriculture William A. Graham, Commissioner, Frank D. Grist of the department of labor and printing and Commissioner Dan C. Boney of the department of insurance.

The reason most of these officials are lining up back of Smith seems to be the assumption that Smith can be depended upon to look out for the general welfare of his father-in-law, who is Chairman W. T. Lee of the corporation commission and use his influence against any move to change the form of the present commission or the manner in which it is constituted, so that to be consistent he would also have to oppose any move to change any of the other offices. This would also apply to any move to change the state banking department or divorce it from the control of the corporation commission. However, it is admitted that if Smith has these state officials and their organizations, all with numerous state employes, working in his interest that he already possesses one of the most potent political organizations any man can have. It is also understood that Chairman R. A. Doughton is most sympathetic toward Smith's candidacy for the speakership and that he is using his powerful political influence in his behalf.

On the face of this set-up in Smith's behalf, it is difficult for his friends to see how he can fail to be elected speaker and it is true that in almost any other year he would seem to be elected.

But the friends of Sutton and Moss point out that the agricultural counties have become tired of being outmaneuvered by the big industrial counties and that this session is going to be one in which the rural counties are going to stand together for tax reduction on rural and farm property and greater state aid to the poorer counties. But in order to get this aid, it will be necessary to elect a speaker who will be in sympathy with this movement. Both Sutton and Moss are from agricultural counties and from the eastern part of the state where the agricultural depression has been the greatest. Recent reports here are to the effect that both Sutton and Moss have recently received considerable additional support from a number of the western agricultural counties.

Whether Sutton and Moss can get enough additional votes to beat Smith remains to be seen. But it is evident that in case either Moss or Sutton sees he cannot make the grade, that he will throw his support to one or the other rather than to Smith.

New Farm Activity For Eastern Carolina

During September, October and November of the present year, farmers in twelve eastern North Carolina counties purchased 1,900 head of beef animals largely from western North Carolina with some few coming from Virginia and Tennessee.

"This is indicative of a new enterprise in the east," says C. A. Sheffield, assistant extension director at State college, who secured the facts about the location of the beef animals. "One of the very valuable and significant things in this movement of cattle, is that 83 were of pure bred registered stock. Of this number 50 were cows and the other 33 bulls. These will be used for breeding purposes in building up herds of pure bred cattle in the east. Of the remaining 1,817 grade animals purchased, 503 were high-type cows that will also be used for breeding purposes. In most cases these herds of grade cows will be headed by a pure bred bull."

Mr. Sheffield says the remaining 1,314 grade beef cows and steers will be fattened and sold on the market.

In announcing this movement of beef cattle to eastern Carolina, Mr.

Smart Comfort In Winter Cottons



NOT so long ago it used to be thought that cotton's usefulness for wearing apparel was more or less limited to spring and summer.

Autumn fashions this year have well demonstrated that cottons can be made for other seasons. Now the enterprising designers have gone still further and brought out cottons for winter.

At the left is a skiing costume of navy gabardine designed with full regard for comfort and appearance.

The fabric is so closely woven that it provides comfort even in the coldest winter weather. The red and white pattern of the toque and scarf provide color contrast that brighten the entire costume.

Cotton corduroy is used in the skating costume shown at the right. The jumper frock and soft white sweater are features that mean comfort as well as smartly tailored appearance. The hat in contrasting black and white is one of the latest things in hats which are so popular this year.

Sheffield pays a high compliment to anywhere else in the State, says Mr. Sheffield.

Another significant fact is that 1,341 head of the cattle came from western Carolina breeders and growers, while only 559 head were from out of the State.

Eastern Carolina has an abundant feed supply this season and potential capabilities for a huge livestock industry. Legume hays and other feeds may be produced there more abundantly and economically than

Lightning never strikes twice in the same place. But this can't be said of the family slipper.

I saw more deer, bears and wolves in eastern North Carolina than I did oows.—Mr. Schilling.

Safest To Plant Certified Seed

The increasing importance of lespedeza as a soil building, pasture and hay crop in North Carolina makes it doubly important that planting seed be secured from certified stock.

This is the opinion of Gordon K. Middleton, seed specialist at State college, who says that at least 4,000 bushels of this seed will be certified or approved for 67 different growers in the State this year. Especially should prospective buyers get seed free from dodder. He tells the experience of one grower who paid about \$400 for seed and found that he had planted about as much dodder as he had lespedeza. He was intending to seed 18 acres of the land to alfalfa but so thick was the dodder that he had to put the field back into cultivation.

Similar experiences have been reported to Mr. Middleton from other growers, and those who have had experience in fighting dodder contend

that such seed are dear even though they been a free gift.

To be certified, lespedeza must pass two inspections, one in the field and one of the cleaned seed. At the first inspection, the field must be free of dodder and contain not more than a trace of any varietal mixture. After harvest, the seed are cleaned and a representative sample sent to the State Seed Analyst of the State Department of Agriculture for germination and purity tests. The sample must be 98 percent pure, and 80 percent germination, and be absolutely free of dodder.

The approved seed must meet requirements except that specified for purity. This must be from to 98 percent. The approved seed also may contain a little more than and common weed seeds than do certified seed, says Mr. Middleton.

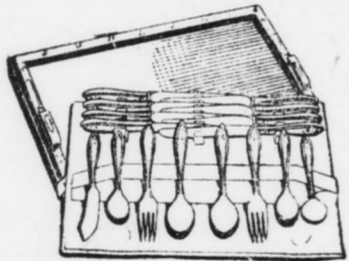
Economic conditions in North Carolina would have been worse had they not North Carolina increased its supply of food and feed stuffs by 19 million dollars in 1931.

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