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Sounding The Depths

SOUNDING THE DEPTHS—
WASHINGTON, Sept. 15—It is said that Bob Reynolds, dynamic candidate for Democratic nomination for United States Senate, reports the receipt, during the few weeks of his candidacy, of several hundred times the number of letters he received during the entire campaign in 1926, when he opposed Overman and was defeated. Since Reynolds claims that he made a more than fair showing in that race, and since he also says that Senator Overman was the most popular man in North Carolina at that time, Reynolds claims now that this definite increase in fan mail indicates a tendency of the people to approve his platform and swing over to him.

On the surface this conception of the situation is more than logical. But probably Senator Morrison and Tam Bowie are not worrying over it, nor Reynolds, except as a minor attraction of votes which will help make necessary a second primary. For if Mr. Reynolds is as astute as one would believe, he realizes, despite his optimistic analysis, that the picture is not so bright as it seems. And the reason is that he has included in his equation as positive, a factor which is decisively negative; and this is sufficient to reverse the outcome of any problem. This negative factor may be defined with the one word: Prohibition.

If memory serves, Mr. Reynolds said in his statement that the majority of his approbatory letters were from people opposing prohibition. This, of course, coincides with the candidate's platform. So naturally, since Mr. Reynolds is the sole wet candidate, he will receive the solid wet support. This accounts for his surfeit of letters. For regardless of what they themselves say, the wets are the real fanatics, and they are therefore enthusiastic in their commendation of Reynolds. This enthusiasm is enhanced by the fact that it is unusual for a North Carolina politician to seek footing on a damp platform. So the wet faction lets off the steam by writing friendly letters to Reynolds.

But North Carolina is surely dry. No candidate will be able to stand victorious on a wet platform, particularly Bob Reynolds. It is doubtful that he will even receive many more votes than Estep, if that disillusioned gentleman makes good his statement to again enter the race. In the first place Reynolds has not the semblance of an organization, which will count on election day. In the second place, his opponents are not taking him seriously, and amusement from this quarter is difficult to beat. And lastly, Reynolds is not the type of man North Carolina will elect; people just can't imagine him as senator.

As to the remainder of the candidates, the present view is that no one capable of defeating Senator Morrison has yet announced. If Hoey had tossed his hat into the ring, it is possible that he would have split the vote of Morrison, thus leaving the field to Bowie. But the shrewd Mr. Hoey decided that the end did not justify the means, so it looks now as if Morrison is leading the field.

AND WILL THE KICKS ROLL IN?
The most sensational recent news is Gov. Huxy Long's campaign for restricted cotton planting next season. The campaign, however, is now beyond control of Louisiana's volatile governor, with every portent indicating the passage of such prohibition laws by South Carolina, Texas and Georgia, thus supplementing and effectuating Louisiana's already passed law. Despite the fact that the various legislatures who must pass these bills are apparently already beyond argument, the controversy is increasing, rather than abating. Friday Pres. Hoover added his voice to the general clamor, impotently opposing any forced restriction. It is significant of his policy that he offered no substantial substitute, merely saying that the farm board advocated voluntarily restricted acreage in both cotton and wheat.

Undoubtedly it would be well if the acreage were cut, even by force, if it were possible. But anyone familiar with the so called independence sometimes called stubbornness of the American farmer will recognize the futility of passing laws against the planting of cotton. If he cannot be reasoned with as a whole, then he certainly cannot be forced. The farmer is a curious human. Where he should be fighting for his life, he is lying apathetically, waiting for someone to pick him up. And when someone comes to his aid, he will not help himself. He will not cut the acreage of cotton, tobacco or wheat. He continues to hope for the Utopia which he knows will never come of its own volition. When he is told that if he will help himself he may have it, he lies inert. But the chances are that if he were told he must work to get it, he would pull the other way.

No one knows why this is. We only know it has been made sufficiently clear that the farmer can be saved if he will. And we know he has re-

fused. He says he is dissatisfied, but does nothing about it, even though he holds the whip hand. His commodities are absolutely necessary to the well-being of the country. And yet he is down-trodden and spat upon. And he allows his condition to become worse. He makes no effort to better it. He plants crops he knows he will lose money on. He will not plant the necessities for his family. He had rather be the martyr and watch himself sacrificed. He evidently does not know that he can raise food, food to furnish a well-balanced diet for his family. He only knows he can raise cotton and tobacco and wheat and plunge into debt. And have no food and clothing.

So he is the country's modern martyr. He is perishing from the earth, he says. Tobacco prices are terrible, he says. Cotton is worse, he says. And yet he grows them. Invariably he grows them. No psychologist on earth can say why. But he does. He climbs on his funeral pyre and lights it. He is the country's martyr. No one knows why, but he is. He is...

REDUCE COST OF GOVERNMENT MAXWELL SAYS

(Continued from page one)
General Assembly and fostered by this administration. He would, when practical, remove the 15c levy on property for schools, but would emphasize proper spending rather than seek new sources of increases of present sources of revenue.

Opposes Sales Tax
The general sales tax is unjust and unfair, in part for the unequal competition which it would impose on domestic business, particularly near the borders of the State, and because it violates the traditional policy of the Democratic party that taxes should be measured by ability to pay. A luxury tax has most of the objections of the general tax, with another peculiar to North Carolina. Three-fourths of the proposed revenues would come from tobacco products, its adoption inviting other states to do likewise, thus cutting down materially the market for a commodity manufactured and grown primarily in this State.

The program of the present administration has stopped and turned backward the rising tide of governmental costs. Unless rigid economy is used in State and local government, the relief given by the last General Assembly to property will be restored to the former high levels because of demands for increased spending, as was done 10 years ago when the State tax on property was removed entirely, Mr. Maxwell states. Although believing firmly in local self-government, he advocates protection against abuse of power by all public officials.

Relative to the quadriennial revaluation, Mr. Maxwell recalls that he was busily preparing for that assessment—had a school in Raleigh for assessors—when the General Assembly interrupted preparations. He favors revaluation, but asserts that revaluation will not relieve from the excessive tax burden. "The only actual relief is in actual readjustment and reduction in the size and volume of our spending," he states.

Mr. Maxwell thinks the people should have a period of thought before an active campaign is opened, thus opposing a long-drawn-out fight. He states that his statement is what he believes, not colored for campaign purposes, is based on intimate knowledge gained over a long period of years in close study of the State's problems and tax resources. Whether he wins or not, he feels that North Carolina will be better off for all classes of citizens in his use of his candidacy to carry this issue to the people.

Relief Meeting Called
Governor Gardner has called a meeting of leaders in many fields of activity in the State for next Friday in Raleigh to outline a State program

for relief operations in the North Carolina this winter.

Pointing out that the activities of administration last year were largely to aid the unemployed in securing work, Governor Gardner states:

"This year it will be the policy of the administration to emphasize relief and to undertake to arouse the consciousness of the State to a proper realization of the obligation to provide for the unfortunate in this period of depression."

Stuart W. Cramer, North Carolina member of the Federal Commission on unemployment, has been invited to meet with State leaders here Friday.

"Almost every day brings the story of indictment of officials in some county for having embezzled or stolen public funds which they were sworn to safely protect," Governor O. Max Gardner told representatives of various enforcement groups in session in Chapel Hill Thursday.

"We have got to stamp out stealing in North Carolina and let the people know that the man who breaks his faith will be punished as an ordinary felon and let him, like the ordinary thief, learn that the way of the transgressor is hard," Governor Gardner said, adding that the full force of his administration will be used to aid in stamping out stealing and to turn the public thought from stealing to honest work.

Insurance Commissioner Dan C. Boney has inaugurated a schedule of times and places for holding examinations of applicants desiring to sell insurance in North Carolina. Weekly tests will be given in Raleigh, two a month in Asheville and one a month in Greenville, Fayetteville, Wilmington, Charlotte and Greensboro. Agents licensed before April 1, 1931, are not required to take the test, but those desiring to sell insurance, life, fire or casualty, and not licensed at that time must be examined and pay a \$10 fee. About half of the first 53 taking the tests in four cities failed, Mr. Boney said.



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