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Tempest in a Twin-City Teapot

Or the Efflorescence Of a Schlitz Stein

Whence cometh all this hullabaloo out of Winston-Salem over the nomination of a Fifth district congressman to fill out the unexpired term of the late A. D. Folger?

A committee representing the seven counties of the district met at Reidsville May 6, according to the call of the chairman, and selected John H. Folger, brother of the late incumbent.

The committee voted unanimously in the choice.

But from Winston comes fierce and frenzied objection to the committee's autocratic action. The work of the committee was dictated by the Folger dynasty, which aspires to keep in power forever. John H. Folger is scored for "flagrant nepotism connected with his family." Forsyth is reported upset and very angry. There is discovered to be a "technique to build up rural resentment against Forsyth, and the existence of this diabolical scheme is proved by the defeat in the past of all candidates for congress from Winston-Salem, to-wit., Judge E. B. Jones, A. E. Sams, Allison James and Marshall Kurfees.

THE ALLIGATORS

Now who is it making these sensational allegations against the Fifth district committee, the Folger dynasty and the "technique"?

Not the able and fair and representative Winston-Salem Journal, which in an editorial says:

"Heading—John H. Folger is our new Congressman.—The Democrats of Forsyth will rally to his support in the special election soon to be held. The committee clearly acted within its authority when it decided to choose the candidate itself. John Folger will prove a worthy successor of his distinguished brother."

Not the Democratic party of Forsyth county whose chairman of the executive committee Walter E. Johnson, Jr., makes the following announcement:

"Clearly the committee had the right to select the party nominee under the law and plan of organization of the party. It has exercised that right and it is incumbent upon the Democrats of Forsyth county to stand by what they have done. Party loyalty requires that we support the committee's choice."

Not Mr. Shermer, one of the seven committeemen, representing Forsyth, who voted for Folger with the committee.

LET'S SEE WHAT THE COMMITTEE SAYS ABOUT IT

Gentlemen, you are arraigned here on a very serious charge. It is alleged you usurped the privileges of the free electorate, put up a candidate for congress of your own choice, and did not call a primary according to the suggestion of His Excellency, according to the wishes of those who deemed themselves better facilitated for the job, and—er—against the peace and dignity of political expediency. Let us know what you say about it.

Committee—Well, Judge, it was like this. You see we were called as committeemen representing each county of the Fifth district, to see about filling a vacancy caused by the death of the late incumbent, the Hon. A. D. Folger.

Now, we found out, first, that there was no clearly defined law about it, and second, that in case we should call a primary that the cost of the same would be several thousand dollars and that nobody would agree to pay the cost of the same, which would be heavy on each county.

Now, we got together and says each man to the other, who you for, anyway? And we found that six of us was for Folger not only that it would be,

we thought, agreeable to the wishes of the deceased incumbent, but that by naming John Folger we would be honoring one of North Carolina's ablest and most honorable citizens, and a man who has done as good service for the Democratic party as any other citizen of the State.

We immediately got together, and first Mr. Shermer offered a motion to have a primary. We was all six against a primary. What is a congressional committee for if they can't represent the wishes of the counties that elected them.

So, as Mr. Shermer's motion didn't get a second, Banks Horton moved for Folger and we carried it overwhelmingly, and in the rising vote for a unanimous ballot the Forsyth man came over with us.

Why didn't you obey the suggestion of the Governor for a primary.

Well, Judge, to tell the truth, we didn't think His Excellency was very serious. We thought maybe, being as how one of the candidates was his manager in the district in the late primary, that maybe Mr. Broughton was, on request, making a pleasant gesture to pay one of his political debts.

KURFEES' PRONUNCIAMENTO

He first gave it out he might take the independent role. Later he abandoned his independence and accepted outright the Republican nomination.

He was quite vehement in his announcement. He believed the Democratic congressional committee had "overstepped its bounds and threw off democratic principles when it nominated Folger and refused to give the people a primary where every citizen would have been allowed to vote for the candidate of his choice."

THE VENDETTA

Over the foaming seidels it is sworn that Forsyth, which has never had anything, no governors, congressmen, highway commissioners, nor nothing, will form a political machine born of continued disillusionment. Every shade of opinion and faction will be included in the principles or principals. It would demand for the county the fruits of its own plantings. Forsyth citizens are plenty fed up. There will be less conciliation and more aggressiveness in the credo. Marshall Kurfees, urged by a crescendo of voters all over the district, "will find some way to run for the seat in regular election." (Eureka—he has found it.)

The vendettists were then receiving a motion to adjourn when someone said:

"Wait a minute. You reckon Alec Hanes, our former road commissioner, will feel snuffed that we do not acknowledge him and his road system?"

The motion to adjourn carried amid clamorous din.

REPUBLICANS TAKE HIM ON

Kurfees was introduced in the Republican committee meeting by S. E. Hall, prominent Winston Republican, former State and national Republican committeeman.

Mr. Hall said:

"The autocratic manner in which the Democratic congressional committee has attempted to dictate to the people of the fifth district as to who should represent them in Congress, has made it mandatory that the Republican party give them a choice.

"The candidate the committee has selected (Mr. Kurfees) was born and reared in the district, is from a staunch and highly respected

lineage and has inherited strength, ability and those traits of character which command leadership."

KURFEES NOMINATED BY THE REPUBLICANS AND HE ACCEPTS

At the Republican committee meeting no good Republican was willing to take the chance.

"Let's try Marshall," someone suggested.

He was sent for.

Marshall arrived, breathless and visibly agitated.

"We have decided to make you our candidate," the chairman said. "Will you accept?"

"Yes, and thankee, too," quoth young Lonchnivar.

"But what about a primary?"

"To hell with the constitution."

MARSHALL

Somebody asked Tom Petree, a Stokes member of the Republican 5th district committee, if he was going to vote for his party's candidate June 14:

Tom said: "What'd you say?"

Marshall is a politician of adventures. Born in Stokes and rocked in a Republican cradle, he fell out, landed in Winston and became one of these—what have you? He is a boy of a big heart and generous impulses, smart, kind and honest—except in politics—but (none of us) politicians don't claim to be honest. Am I right, or do I slander a noble profession? Marshall loves the turmoil of conventions, delights when discord begins to foment among candidates, smiles when disaffection begins to brew, and is ever ready to step into the breach. He adores a seat on the bandwagon, and has been known to ask the driver where he was going.

If you think Marshall has not many warm and loyal friends in Winston, you have another think coming. They are galore. They are usually of that swagger crowd who like a chance, and don't give a—n. Sometimes, and to be frank, quite frequently, they are disappointees who are glad to utilize his brass-band capacities to "tell 'em," or to tantalize, while they sit in the shadow nursing their grudges. These fellows load Marshall's guns and hand to him the shots they are not brave enough to make themselves.

Nor does he lack publicity, but there are always fly-by-night scurrilous sheets of free distribution, glad to chase a break.

THE FOLGER DYNASTY

John Folger knew nothing about and had nothing to do with his draft for congressman to succeed his brother. It had been suggested to him, he persistently refused. Sunday evening, May 4, committeemen from several other counties visited Mt. Airy and pressed him to run. He finally consented only on condition that the people wanted him—he would make no gesture whatever.

Some very unkind things have been written about the situation, touching the death of the lamented A. D. Folger. One of these is that J. H. stepped out suddenly, "buried his grief" and said he would run.

But it was left for the Republican organ, the Union Republican, one of Marshall's sponsors, to say that "A. D. Folger was given a political burial." A large number of the dead congressman's political friends, including a delegation

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