

# The Messenger.

## LOOKS LIKE DEFEAT FOR THE PRESIDENT.

Several days ago there appeared in the Washington Post a communication on the railway rate bill over the signature "Dickinson." The writer said it looked then as if the president had lost his fight for federal regulation of railway transportation charges; that a week previous it was announced that the Hepburn bill would pass the senate practically without amendment. Of course, said Dickinson, contingencies may arise which will swing the balance again in his favor, but at that moment there could be no doubt that the battle was going against him. Dickinson thus summed up the situation in the senate as it stood at the time of writing his letter:

A week ago the chances were all in his (the president's) favor. That was before the breach on the democratic side of the senate chamber had begun to widen. Now it seems almost certain that if a vote on the main proposition should be taken today, at least five democratic senators would vote with the forty or forty-two republican senators who are opposed to the president's contention for a limited court review.

It has been pointed out in this newspaper often that without a virtually unanimous democratic vote the house bill, amended so as to strengthen it in accordance with President Roosevelt's views, could not get through the senate. At no time has there been a maximum of republican vote for it of more than fifteen. With thirty of the thirty-three democratic votes in the senate, this would give just the number of votes needed to carry the amended measure through the senate. All along it has been known that at least three democratic senators—Messrs. Morgan, Pettus and McEnery—were opposed to the proposition of a limited court review. In point of fact, these three veteran democrats are more nearly in accord with Senator Foraker's outspoken antagonism to the entire policy of empowering the interstate commerce commission to fix railroad rates than they are with the contention of the overwhelming majority on their side of the chamber that the relief sought from the actual or the imaginary exactions of the railroads can be obtained only in the manner indicated by the president's programme.

Commenting on the above the Charlotte Observer has the following to say, which holds out no greater hopes for the president's success than does the article by Dickinson:

It is further stated that the names of two other democratic senators who have joined the ranks of the so-called "conservatives" have not been given out, and the fact that Wall street is satisfied that no drastic legislation will be enacted is also cited as evidence of the real situation. The defeat of the rate bill would indeed be a severe blow to the president, who has apparently staked nearly everything on that issue, letting the Philippine tariff measure and the statehood bill, which were evidently dear to his heart, go by the board in an effort to get the "paramount issue" through, and a complete defeat would come near placing something in the nature of a gulf between the White house and the capitol. The situation, with its kaleidoscopic changes and peculiar aspects, is an interesting one, and there is no predicting the final outcome with any sort of certainty. The rate bill has hardly started on its voyage through the senate and before the end it may encounter smooth sailing where only storm and disaster now seem to await it.

The turn affairs have taken in the senate in the last day or two do not by any means indicate that the balance has yet begun to swing back toward the president's side or that plain sailing for the bill is in sight. On the contrary, matters seem to be getting more complicated, the waters rougher and the pendulum moving with increased speed to the other side. It seems the success of the bill depends on thirty of the thirty-three democratic senators voting for it and that at least three are known to oppose the feature most urgently supported by the president. This shows how slim are the chances of success for the bill. It looks like the president is destined to another defeat at the hands of his own party though supported by such a large proportion of the democratic senators.

With five million tons of coal stored in New York city at the opening of spring, what do the coal mine operators care if the mines are closed down for a few months? They know who will suffer the most from a strike, or rather who will be the ones to suffer at all.

That Chicago woman who willed all her property to her attorney knew how to save her heirs from trouble.

The fact that a fish dealer of New Bern had to ship from cold storage in New York twenty barrels of trout in order to supply his customers shows how scarce are fish in the waters of eastern North Carolina. Very probably these very fish had been caught in the neighborhood of New Bern.

"Judge" Hamilton should not keep those insurance men in longer suspense. He should come out with all he knows and let the agony be over. May be he does not know as much as they think he does.

A Raleigh newspaper says Governor Glenn is at his desk "preparing matter for his message to the next legislature." He must be trying to rival President Roosevelt as to the length of his message.

## THE POLL TAX.

The News and Observer comes out in an editorial in favor of abolishing the municipal poll tax, claiming it is a hardship on the man who has no property on which to pay tax. Considering the fact that The News and Observer was a strong advocate of the amendment to the state constitution requiring a man to pay his poll tax before he could vote, one of that paper's arguments against the injustice of the poll tax is quite peculiar. Speaking of the combined state, county and city poll tax it says that "naturally the effect is to foster general discontent, to reduce the suffrage among a class fitted in every way for the exercise of the ballot and, in many instances, to work real hardship and suffering." One day that paper says a man should be made to pay his poll tax before he can vote. The next it calls for the abolition of the poll tax because it keeps that man from voting.

Because in some cities and counties the poll tax is too high is no argument against the principle. Every man should be willing to pay something toward the support of the government, state and municipal, which gives protection to his life and his property. If he has no property on which to pay his proportional part of the governmental expense he should be willing to pay a reasonable poll tax for the privilege he enjoys and the protection he has under that government.

One would suppose from reading The News and Observer editorial that the poll tax was a device designed by the enemies of the wage-earner and the poor man solely for the purpose of robbing them of their hard earned money; that it was especially instituted to bring hardships upon them; that it was iniquitous class legislation aimed by the rich against the poor.

The object of that editorial may not be to pander to a certain element of our population or to stir up class animosity; but its tendency most surely is in that direction. No good can come to any one by such attempts to create discontent and ill feeling between the different elements of society.

If it is dangerous to pedestrians for vehicles drawn by horses to turn certain corners of the city streets faster than a horse's walk is it not equally so to automobiles? The city ordinance as to the former should be amended so as to include the latter class of vehicles. They are frequently seen to turn street corners at a speed which would result in the arrest of the driver of a horse were he to go at the same speed. We saw this done twice yesterday afternoon by the same machine in the course of passing from Market to Princess street by way of Second.

A school district committeeman in Mecklenburg county so far forgets his manners and good breeding as to abuse a lady teacher and refuse to hear her side of the case when she had whipped one of his children attending her school. The board of education very properly dismissed him from the board. The young lady may have been in the wrong; but if so that did not justify the man in acting in an ungentlemanly manner toward her. Had it been somebody else's child no doubt the committeeman would have told her she had done exactly right.

The Gastonia News says that if President Roosevelt does appoint Marion Butler secretary of the interior he will not raise himself in the estimation of the people of North Carolina. The Winston Sentinel says in reference to the same report as to the president's intentions that it can well be supposed it was circulated for advertising purposes. Few North Carolinians are pleased at the idea of Butler being thus honored by the president.

Wonder if it makes Marion Butler feel any bigger to have the papers of his state criticizing the president for even thinking about giving him a cabinet position. The comments of the state press on this rumor have not been at all complimentary to the ex-senator; but we suppose he had rather have the papers abuse him than not to be before the public at all.

Extra Session of Kentucky Legislature. Frankfort, Ky., March 14.—The extra session of the legislature which called after midnight by Governor Beckham convened today. According to the governor's message, the extra session was called to pass a law assessing a tax on rectifiers of spirits, a tax which the legislature failed to include in the revenue bill passed by the session which ended last night. The governor places the blame for defeat of the rectifiers' tax section to the alleged whiskey lobby.

CASTORIA. The Kind You Have Always Bought  
Mayor Gibbs Re-elected. Columbia, S. C., March 13.—T. Hazel Gibbs, mayor of Columbia, was re-elected today by a substantial majority, defeating State Senator J. Q. Marshall.

According to Senator Foraker the Hepburn bill is no good, any way you may look at it. He says it is unconstitutional; but if it is not, then it is a cheat and a fraud and will not give shippers the relief they have been led to expect from its provisions. Senator Tillman declares himself as being "suspicious of the paternity of the bill, even of the brat itself." Hardly any two senators agree entirely in their views of the measure. The natural result of such conditions is defeat of the bill.

In order to get even with the Ohio legislature for passing the bill fixing all passenger rates at two cents a mile the railroads in that state will no longer issue round trip tickets at reduced rates or give special rates for conventions or any kind of public meetings. Clergymen will be charged full fare and rates for excess baggage will be raised fifty per cent. It looks like the people are going to get the worst of it in that fight with the railway companies.

## HOLTON SEEMS SAFE

Sub-Committee to Make Favorable Report—Blackburn Wants Matter Postponed—The Goldsboro Post-mastership.

Senator Foraker, chairman of the sub-judiciary committee to which was referred the charges in opposition to the confirmation of District Attorney Holton, has notified Representative Blackburn that a meeting of the members will be held Tuesday to take action with regard to reporting the nomination. Belief prevails that the sub-committee will report favorably on Holton's nomination to the full judiciary committee, Senator Foraker and members of the committee have indicated as much in conversations with the North Carolina senators recently.

The nomination would have been reported favorably last Monday, and that was the program, but for the fact that several of the members were very much occupied with reference to the railway rate discussion. Mr. Blackburn wants the committee to make a further investigation and would like to have witnesses examined. The members of the committee feel that the district attorney has completely answered Blackburn's charges, though it is possible that action may be deferred to give Mr. Holton time to answer the congressman's latest contribution, which is said to be a repetition of former accusations.

If the sub-committee decides in favor of confirmation, it is said that Blackburn will have his attorneys come to Washington to join in a request to the full committee that confirmation be delayed until after Blackburn's trial.

Ex-Judge W. S. O'B. Robinson talked to the senator today about defeating Grant's confirmation. He had no charges against Grant, but said he thought Dobson should be given another term. Senator Simmons said he could not ask that the confirmation be held up longer without a more important reason than the one assigned. Judge Robinson also met Senator Carter, of Montana by appointment made by ex-Senator Butler with reference to the Grant nomination. The judge did not receive much satisfaction, and left for home tonight—Washington Special to News and Observer.

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## To Take Human Life to Prevent suffering.

A doctor in the Ohio legislature has introduced a bill requiring physicians to take human life in cases in which there is great suffering and death is certain to result and also to prevent the rearing of children who are hideously deformed or hopelessly idiotic. In speaking of his bill he rightly said: "My measure is a humane one. It may be that it is too revolutionary to pass this legislature, but the time will surely come—and that, too, within the next 20 years—when some such law will be on our statute books." We doubt it. We don't believe the time will ever come when such law will be placed upon the statute books of this country.—Charlotte Chronicle.

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In Ladies' Dress Goods, for those who want nice pretty things, you can find them here.

To name over the styles and prices too, would be far too much for us to do.

We have bought and received today, a beautiful line of Ladies' Hand-Made Hats for the early Spring wear.

We have these goods in all prices from 98c, \$2.00 and \$3.00 each.

Ladies' Tailor-Made Skirts—we have some surprising values. Some of them of Mohair, made in the new style-box plait and handsomely made up, at \$3.98. We have other styles at \$4.50 and \$5.00 each.

Ladies' Muslin Underwear—we are showing some very good values we have a nicely made corset cover lace trimmed at 10c, 25c, 45c, 60c, and a beautiful garment for \$1.00.

All styles of night robes, white skirts as well as colored ones and a full line of black Sattene Petticoats that we sell for 48c, 60c, and something extra nice for \$1.00.

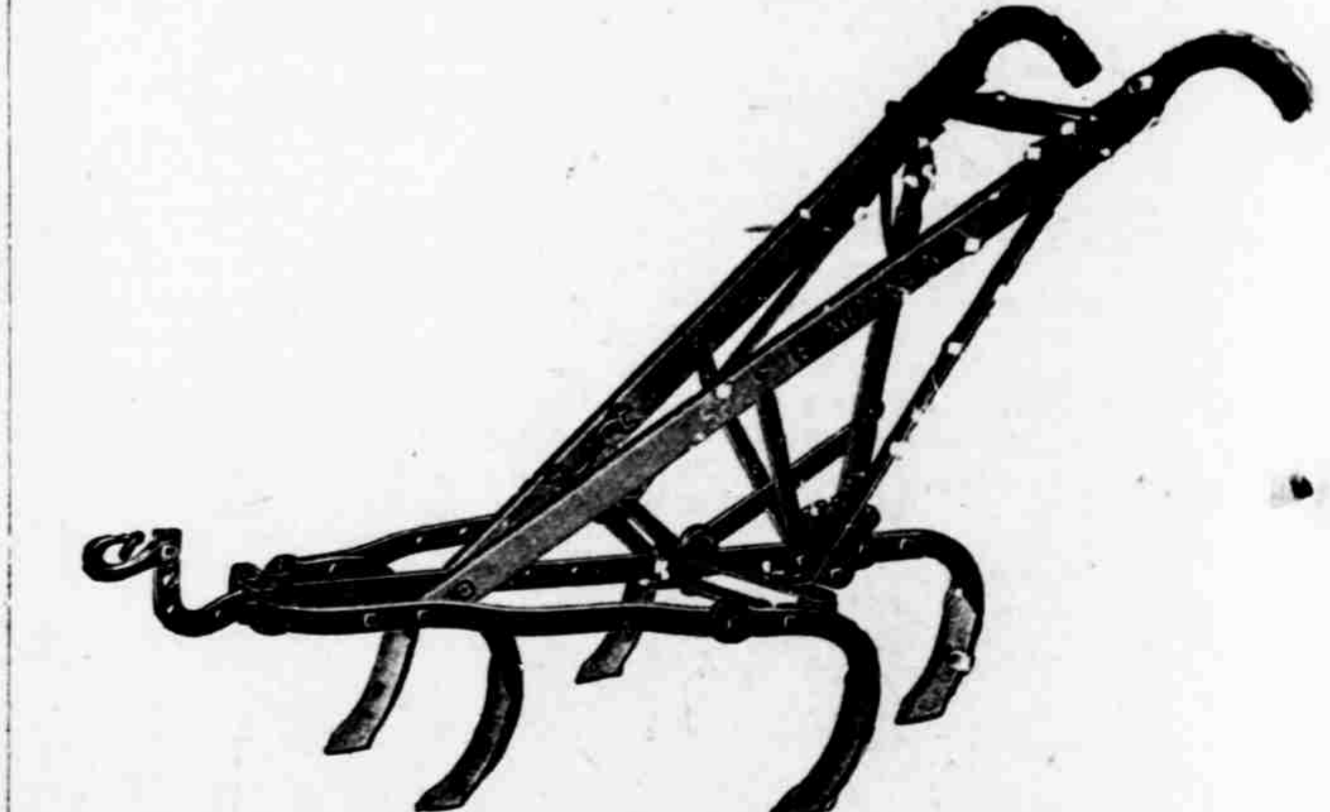
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