

# Senator Wheeler Becomes Factor As A Compromise

### Montana Presidential Possibility, Long Mentioned as Long Shot, Gathers Strength; Once a Decided Leftist, He Shows Conservative Streak.

By CHARLES F. STEWART  
Central Press Columnist



Senator Wheeler

Montana, Feb. 5.—In the course of the presidential campaign, the name of Senator Wheeler, Republican of Montana, developed from a mere possibility for the Democratic presidential nomination into quite a formidable candidate. He has been mentioned all along, but only as a long shot, not heretofore. Now it appears that he is to be reckoned with seriously. To say that he is the leading probability would be an exaggeration at present. Nevertheless, he is somewhere in the leading group anyway.

Of course this is leaving out of consideration the chance that President Roosevelt might be drafted for a third term in the White House. If he does so, the best political betting is that he will be drafted. The question whether or not he can be re-elected is a question of opinion, but it generally is conceded that he can be re-nominated if he really wants to be.

Senator Wheeler himself agrees that F. D. Roosevelt may not choose him for his own successorship, undoubtedly can choose against any other Democrat whom he may object to.

Yet it doesn't follow that the president can pick his preferred candidate and make his party's convention agree in his selection.

Much earlier in the game the popular political impression was that F. D. Roosevelt would have to be elected by a landslide. He hasn't gone into the limelight. He hasn't made particularly good. Today he doesn't look to be as safe a gamble as Wheeler—not with the public, whatever F. D. may think about it.

Garner and Hull.  
Then there are John N. Garner and Cordell Hull.

Whoever believes that Garner can be acceptable to the New Dealers, Hull is an old-fashioned democratic (small "d") liberal. No New Dealer conscientiously can balk at Hull, but he isn't a Rooseveltian New Dealer.

Now, is Senator Wheeler a liberal? He is—and "then some." He's been a rampant radical. He's fought for the Leninist revolution in Russia. He's been a darned sight more advanced than over the New Deal has been. Once he seceded from the Democratic party to run as a candidate in sec-

ond place, on the presidential ticket with the elder Senator Robert M. LaFollette.

He was a rip-snorting leftist. But presently he turned against the New Deal on the Rooseveltian supreme court packing proposition. He led the campaign, indeed. The New Deal's story was that he'd transformed himself into a reactionary. I don't think so: I think he simply was a good democrat (small "d") on that issue. Perhaps he isn't as far to the leftward as he used to be, but he's not a rightist by any means.

However, I suspect that he'll be criticized both ways—by New Dealers as a conservative; by conservatives as an ultra-liberal.

All the same, John L. Lewis is very friendly to him and Senator George W. Norris approves of him as a presidential candidate, with the qualification that F. D.'s candidacy (if the latter's a candidate) comes first in his favor Lewis and Norris certainly come under the liberal heading. Senator Alva B. Adams of Colorado also speaks well of Burton K. I wouldn't call Adams a pronounced conservative, but neither would I call him a violent liberal, like Senator Norris.

Somewhat a Compromise.  
As remarked, Wheeler is likely to be objected to by both liberals and conservatives — by some in both groups.

Yet in a queer fashion he also is a sort of compromise. There are liberals who take to him because of his past record. There may be conservatives who will endorse him on the theory that he's flopped over in their direction.

At all events, Lewis and Adams have given him a lot of excellent advertising. He's at least twice as presidentially noticeable today as he was two or three weeks ago. His state of Montana isn't particularly good geography. It doesn't cast votes enough. Still, the Butte solon is pretty popular in many other western states—as witness the utterances of Norris of Nebraska and Adams of Colorado. And labor likes him, if John L. Lewis speaks for a sizable aggregation of it. He was a great political crony of the late Senator William E. Borah, too.

This is a mixed-up crowd—Borah, who coined himself a Republican; Adams, a Democrat; Norris, an Independent; Lewis, the C. I. O.'s chieftain.

In dicates that Burt has plenty of all-around appeal, though.

## New Lights Are Put Up On Streets

Work by the Carolina Power & Light Company is well under way here in replacing all 400-watt street lamps in the city with 600-watt lamps, and new center suspension hangars are also being installed for street lights in many sections of the city.

The work has already been completed on Garnett street and is in progress on Chestnut street. The project is being carried out in agreement with the City Council, and the 200-watt increased lighting power of the new lamps will cost the city nothing extra. It means better light for many sections of the city. The white way section of Garnett is not affected by the changes being made.

## Danville Chief Of Police Is Ousted

Danville, Va., Feb. 6.—(AP)—James Hannibal Martin, for the past 12 years Danville's chief of police and for 31 years a member of the force, was removed by the police commission early yesterday afternoon as the climax of an interdepartmental inquiry starting January 15.

George W. Price, former police lieutenant, retired last September, was recalled to succeed Martin "until the commission can make other arrangements", to use the words of Stanley Cunningham, secretary of the commission.

## REORGANIZATION PLAN FOR RAILWAY OFFERED

Washington, Feb. 6.—(AP)—The Interstate Commerce commission heard testimony today in support of a proposed plan to reorganize the Norfolk-Southern railroad by reducing the line's capitalization from \$38,652,000 to \$18,509,000.

No objection was raised at the hearing and early commission approval of financing arrangements was indicated. The road has been in receivership since 1932. The proposal would set up a new corporation, the Norfolk-Southern Railway, to acquire property of the old company at a foreclosure sale and to issue necessary securities. Committees representing principal bondholders intervened before the commission in support of the plan. The I. C. C. was told that so far as was known there was no objection from bondholders.

GRANVILLE COURT OPENS  
Oxford, Feb. 6.—Judge W. C. Harris, of Raleigh, opened Granville Superior court for February term with a strong charge to the grand jury. Speaking of accidents he said he did not think any of them are "unavoidable". This will be a one-week term.

# Emergency Relief \$309 In January

## Activities of Welfare Department Broadened in Report Submitted to Commissioners Monday; Many Items Listed.

Emergency relief costs for the county in January amounted to \$309.66, Miss Clara Mae Ellis, welfare superintendent, advised the Vance Board of County Commissioners Monday afternoon in her monthly report. Burial fees amounted to only \$5, while \$331.15 was spent for hospitalization.

According to the report, welfare and relief activities were broadened during the month, with many more items than usual listed. One expense item was for \$127.39 for clothing for one year for five children at the State Blind School in Raleigh, while another item was for \$18 for glasses for three children at the institution.

Old age assistance during January was listed as \$631.19, and ran the total for seven months of the fiscal year starting last July 1 to \$2,524.75. Aid to dependent children was listed at \$202.25 for January, and ran the seven months total to \$809, while aid to the blind was \$42.03 last month, and for the seven months period was \$172.12.

A total of 265 have been accepted for old age assistance in this county, with six cases closed by death. Aid to dependent children was approved for 157, with five cases closed. The number of blind persons aided remained at eleven.

Sixty-nine cases were listed under the heading of child welfare service. Three juveniles are at a training school, one on probation, four juveniles are on parole from institutions, 18 juveniles are under supervision of the department, and 34 have been placed in foster homes. Seven adoptions are under investigation, and seven were listed under cripple children services. Four children have been dismissed from active supervision. Other child welfare services were listed at two, State parolees are 14.

Commodity clothing only was provided for 13 families during January, and general relief was furnished to 44 families, while at the end of the month 34 families were receiving general relief. Hospitalization was provided for 13 persons, and eleven applicants for aid were turned away.

At the end of the month there were 15 in the county home and eleven patients in the Scott Parker Sanatorium for tuberculars. Ten were being cared for in the tubercular ward of the Jubilee hospital for the colored. Served but given no financial aid were 43 persons. Ninety-seven persons were certified for WPA work, 22 for NYA aid and nine for CCC camps.

Two child labor certificates were issued in January, and 75 investigations and visits were listed. The department staff traveled 1,232 miles in the discharge of duties during the month, and seven trips outside the county were reported.

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# Madden Deplores Labor Split



J. Warren Madden, chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, dons his glasses as he testifies before the House committee investigating the N. L. R. B. Madden attacked the National Association of Manufacturers and deplored the split in organized labor, saying it placed the board in "the ungracious position of being umpire in a civil war."

# Home Agent Emphasizing Living At Home On Farm

Necessity for making home food and feed and other supplies on the farm is being emphasized at home demonstration club meetings held in the county. Mrs. Hattie F. Plummer, home demonstration agent, told the Vance Board of County Commissioners in her monthly report submitted Monday afternoon. The people are being told that they must add to the farm income, she said, and some are already doing that.

Interest in poultry is increasing in many farm homes, and efforts are being made to get better flocks through a hatchery recently established in the county.

Mrs. Plummer reported that the heavy snows and severe weather interfered to some extent with the work during January, but in spite of this several meetings were held, and discussions centered around pruning and fertilization. The 1940 conservation program was stressed at a meeting held at the court house one day during the month, with an address by Mr. Mangum, district field agent.

Mrs. Plummer and her staff traveled 690 miles in January, and 25 meetings were held, with an attendance of 626. Thirty letters were written, 229 bulletins sent, there were 56 office and telephone calls. Eight days were spent in the office and 17 in the field, and 27 days were worked in January, the report said.

# Japan's Army Is Source Of U. S. Concern

By CHARLES F. STEWART  
Central Press Columnist  
Washington, Feb. 6.—In sizing up what the Japanese government says and what the Japanese army says it always is necessary to take into account the fact that it always is the Japanese army, not the Tokyo government, which decides Nippon's peace-or-war questions.

The Japanese-American commercial treaty having now been terminated, by Uncle Sam, against the mikado's wishes, relations between the two countries are pretty critical. The Washington State Department certainly doesn't want physical troops. Neither does the Tokyo foreign office. Tokyo has warned Nippon's military command in China to avoid

friction with the United States in the militarists' region of activities on the Asiatic mainland. The militarists, however, already have begun to make themselves unpleasant in Occidental spheres of interest in China.

News dispatches quote a Japanese army spokesman to this effect: "If we are going to die, we will die fighting—against America, or anybody."

From that source this remark is exactly what was to have been expected. Japan's civilian diplomacy is rational. Its military group is cuckoo. It doesn't care much what the fight's about, but it proposes to win or perish, no matter what the issue is.

Army and Navy.  
American naval experts take the situation more seriously than American army men do. The reason's obvious. If there's a Japanese-American conflict it will be a sea war. Naturally, we shan't send an army expeditionary force to the Orient if there's a war it necessarily will have to be fought off the Hawaiian and Guam islands and in Asiatic waters. Professionally speaking, our land scrappers don't worry. The thing if any, will be none of their business. Nor is our navy crowd afraid that

# Streamlining Of U. S. Army Multiplies Fighting Power

Fort Benning, Ga., Feb. 6.—(AP)—They've streamlined about everything except the human element in the modernized United States Army. The mobility and fighting power of Private Joe Doakes has been multiplied by mechanization. Simplification of organizations, revamping of drills and new style uniforms permit shorter training periods for recruits.

That is proved in winter maneuvers under way at the 97,000-acre infantry school reservation here and some 250 square miles of adjacent timber, cotton and pasture lands upon which the army obtained "trespass rights".

How does the soldier of 1940 compare with the soldier of 1918? Officers still report "it depends upon the man."

The 70-pound pack under which the doughboy marched in France is lightened now and carried aboard a truck. The 1940 infantryman who walks to work has the advantage of arriving on the job fresher. But the hiking time of infantry remains unchanged—two and a half miles an hour.

Technical experts create illusions to give effects of wartime conditions to the war games which involve forces of more than 16,000 officers and men—the regular command of the infantry school, the army's First division, concentrated here from northeast forts, and most of the nations tank units.

Buried packages of T. N. T. make a noisy but harmless substitute for shellfire and landmines in cases where the real articles would endanger troops or vehicles. A hunk the size of a half-pound of butter will do. It is fired by electrical wiring.

Guns shoot blanks in sham combat. Smoke bombs may be fired. The truth is that Japan's supplies come mainly from the United States. It's been true hitherto, even in the Japanese campaign against China. With all such American supplies cut off, as they would be by an embargo, Japan would be in "hell's own hole," to quote a vulgar expression.

In short: Suppose the Japanese were to fight the United States. In order to fight, they'd have to get their raw fighting material from the U. S. A., which naturally wouldn't let them have it. And they can't produce their own.

The nub of it is that the Japs couldn't last long. Nevertheless, it would be a nasty mess. The State Department doesn't like the idea. The Tokyo government doesn't like it, either.

It's a contest between the State Department and Japanese militarists—not between Washington and Tokyo diplomats. So—we might have a war with Japan!

By the time most of us are old enough to know better, we are too old to do better.

# Wife Preservers



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Geraldine Fitzgerald in "A Child Is Born" — Stevenson Wednesday Only.

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