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## WITH HIS "AMERICA" ON LIPS COL. RODMAN DROPPED DEAD

Was Making War Savings Speech at the Time in Effort to Get His Township "Over the Top"—Was One of County's Wealthiest and Most Influential Men—A Leader in Every Respect.

Colonel J. L. Rodman of Waxhaw, one of the wealthiest, most prominent and influential citizens of the county, dropped dead in the Waxhaw school house Friday evening at 7 o'clock. His sudden death was due to heart trouble with which he had been suffering for several years.

Funeral services were conducted at the home in Waxhaw Sunday afternoon before a crowd such as is seldom seen at any funeral in this section. Services were conducted by Rev. C. E. Robinson of Waxhaw, assisted by Rev. H. M. Vestal and Rev. R. J. McIlwaine. The many and beautiful floral offerings from friends in Waxhaw, Monroe, and all parts of the State attest the universal love and respect held for this good man. Interment was in the Waxhaw cemetery.

One of the most pathetic scenes at the funeral was the tear-stained eyes of so many old colored men and women, mostly tenants of Mr. Rodman, who have lived on his farms practically all of their lives. To them he had been more than a friend; more like a guardian. He took special interest in their welfare, and no man has ever had more devoted employees than Mr. Rodman.

Jackson township and Waxhaw lacked a few thousand dollars of raising its allotment of War Savings Stamps. Mr. Rodman had taken the floor to present a plan to the audience by which the remainder of this allotment could be subscribed. A few minutes prior to this he had made a motion to Mr. C. S. Massey, chairman of the War Savings committee for Jackson township, that the canvassers render their reports. At this time it was noticed that he was suffering from the heat and he had told his daughter, Miss Ethel Rodman, who accompanied him to the meeting, that he was not physically able to address the meeting. His great patriotism buoyed him to a start, however. He began by telling the audience that it only lacked five days of being 142 years since our forefathers signed the Declaration of Independence. He proceeded to relate how we had grown to a great nation our wealth had increased accordingly. "The United States has more money to-day," he proceeded, "than England, Russia and France." After the word France he paused. Then as he uttered the word "America" his struggling heart refused to beat longer commanded by the noble spirit and slowly he began to sink toward the floor. His was the death of a soldier, battling until the last minute for his country. He knew that it was dangerous for him to speak that evening; he had expressed the fear to his daughter, but unselfish soul that he was, he risked and gave his life that Jackson township might measure up to its duty. History records the death of more than one soldier with the flag of his country in his hands. Such a parallel is the passing of Mr. Rodman. He had no flag in his hand, or clutched to his breast, but the last word he uttered in defense of his country was "America."

Friends rushed to his side from the audience and caught him before he completely collapsed. He had been addressing the audience from a position in front of the rostrum. On this he was placed while others rushed for medical aid. It happened that there was no doctor in town at the time, and he expired in about two minutes, before medical attention reached him. Among the first to reach his side after he collapsed were his daughter, Miss Ethel Rodman, and Messrs. Henry Clark and Henry Stephenson.

A gloom was cast over Waxhaw as soon as it was known that Mr. Rodman had died so heroically. Friends in Monroe rushed to Waxhaw to console the bereaved family. Regret was expressed on every face.

The deceased was born in Marshall county, Mississippi, December 17th, 1850. He was of Scotch-Irish descent and his people originally settled in South Carolina. When he was five years old his parents came back to South Carolina on a visit. Here they remained and when the War Between the States broke out his father joined the Confederate army. He was drowned while crossing a river while the army was in retreat following the battle of Chickamauga.

After his father's death, Mr. Rodman then a boy of only 11 years took the father's place. The property which his father had accumulated while in Mississippi had been confiscated and so the family continued to reside on a farm in Lancaster county.

During the dark days of reconstruction the late E. J. Heath and the deceased, who were boyhood friends, and remained friends until the death of Mr. Heath, did all in their power to free their state from the rule of the carpet baggers. Though boys, they were suspected of being members of the Ku Klux Klan. The action of an influential friend was all that saved the two youngsters from prosecution by the government for being members of the Klan.

His meager education, which along with his natural ability made him later a peer among men, was received at the old Wolfesville Academy near Weddington. He attended this academy along with Mr. C. N. Simpson, Sr. and Hon. R. B. Redwine of Monroe. At a meeting of the alumni of this academy several years ago an or-

ganization of the former students was formed and Mr. Rodman was elected president of it. Later in life he studied book-keeping in Baltimore.

On April 5, 1877, he was married to Miss Hattie J. Hyatt, who survives him. To this union eight children were born, six of whom survive. They are: Mrs. L. E. Brown of Chester, S. C.; Mrs. Roy Walkup of Lancaster; Miss Ethel Rodman, Miss Pearl Rodman and Miss Lola Rodman, of Waxhaw, and Mr. J. L. Rodman, Jr., of Waxhaw. Miss Lola Rodman had been undergoing treatment in Dr. Proctor's hospital in Chester for some time. She was unable to attend the funeral services. One brother, Mr. S. A. Rodman of Rodman, S. C., also survives.

After his marriage he moved to a farm about five miles south of Waxhaw. In March, 1885, while on a visit to his brother in South Carolina, he suffered the misfortune of losing one leg in a saw mill accident. This accident did not discourage him, however, and after taking a course in book-keeping at Baltimore he moved to Pineville where he entered business with Mr. E. J. Heath. He engaged in the mercantile business here for three years and then moved to Waxhaw in 1888, where he made his home until the time of his death.

Mr. Rodman took more than a father's interest in his children. His battle with life had shown him the necessity of one having a college education, and he insisted on his children securing a degree from a reputable college. The diplomas his children received were his especial pride, and he kept them all in his room.

At the time of his death Mr. Rodman was probably the richest man in Union county. Roughly estimating his property, it is valued at about \$500,000.

In 1897 he organized the Rodman-Heath Cotton Mills, of which he owned a controlling interest. He was interested in the mercantile establishments of Rodman-Clark Co. of Waxhaw, the Rodman-Walkup Co. of Lancaster, and the Rodman-Brown Co. of Chester. He also owned stock in a number of Monroe corporations, among them the Gordon Insurance & Investment Co., and the new hotel company. He was president of the Waxhaw Banking & Trust Co., which he founded. He also possessed stock in a commission house in Philadelphia. He owned much land around Waxhaw.

There was one phrase which Mr. Rodman in his life of 68 years kept constantly before him and endeavored to guide his life by. This phrase was: "Truth, honesty and industry." In his endeavor to guide his life by this phrase he succeeded better than most men.

The deceased has a number of tenants on his farms surrounding Waxhaw, white and black, who loved the man on whose farm they worked. All day Saturday these tenants came with griefed hearts for a last look at the face of their beloved landlord. The action of these people in showing their love and respect for the deceased speak more eloquently than words in his praise.

Last winter a strike was threatened by the workers in the Rodman Cotton Mills. The Superintendent was unable to reach an agreement with them. Mr. Rodman went out and made them a talk in which he promised that all differences between the mill and themselves should be adjusted, and that he would see that they were fairly treated. The employees showed what value they placed on his words by returning to their work.

The deceased was a great lover of children. A prominent young Monroe woman, who formerly lived in Waxhaw, relates that her first recollection of Mr. Rodman was when as a little girl she met him on the street one day he gave her a nickel. Especially was he drawn to children who had lost a father or mother. Mr. Rodman was a member of the Presbyterian church, and lived the life of a consecrated Christian. He was not narrow-minded in his religion, however. Every church in Waxhaw received a donation toward their building fund from him. He is best described by the words of Shakespeare. "He was a man. Take him for all in all, I shall not look upon his like again."

## Eugene Debs Arrested For Violation of Espionage Act.

Eugene V. Debs, four times socialist candidate for the presidency of the United States, was arrested at Cleveland, Ohio, Sunday by United States Marshal Charles W. Lapp and Deputy Marshal Carlos Boehme as he was about to deliver a socialist address. The arrest was made on a federal warrant in connection with Debs' speech at the socialist state convention in Canton, Ohio, June 16 last. The arrest was made on a secret indictment returned yesterday by the federal grand jury. It is understood the indictment contains ten specific counts under Section three of the espionage act, as amended by the passage of the addition bill on May 16 last, which provides a penalty of five years in the penitentiary and a fine of \$10,000 and costs, for each violation.

L. L. Matthews, superintendent of the schools of Sampson county, was found dead in a bath tub at his home at Clinton Sunday. It was evident that he took his own life, as the door to the bath room was locked and had to be battered down. A razor which had severed his jugular vein was found on a shelf beside the bath tub.

Serve abroad or serve at home. Buy War Savings Stamps.

## HUSS SINK HOSPITAL SHIP; MORE THAN 200 ARE MISSING

Canadian Vessel, Used in Carrying Sick And Wounded From England to Canada Was Attacked Without Warning—Fourteen Nurses Abroad

London July 1.—A German submarine 70 miles from the Irish coast on the night of June 27 torpedoed the 11,000-ton hospital ship Llandovery Castle, which had been chartered by the Canadian government and had been in the service of carrying wounded and sick from England to Canada for many months past. The ship was then on her way to England. She had on board 255 persons, including 89 men of the Canadian army medical corps and fourteen female nurses.

Up to the latest reports only 24 of those on board, including the captain, have survived the treacherous attack, which came without warning.

The submarine commander who ordered the captain of the Llandovery Castle, several of the officers and Major T. Lyon of the medical corps aboard declared that he had sunk the ship because she was carrying American aviation officers and others in the fighting service of the allies. He added to this later by asserting that the vessel was carrying munitions stores, because of an explosion which had occurred aft.

All lights were burning when the Llandovery Castle was torpedoed. These included a huge electric cross over the bridge and strings of white and green lights on either side. The red crosses on the sides of the vessel were also illuminated by electric lights.

According to Red Cross information, many men were killed in the engine rooms. As the engine men were either killed or left their posts, there was no one to shut off the power, and the ship kept on her way, notwithstanding the great holes torn by the torpedo, not beginning to slow down until the water rushed into the bow-rooms extinguishing the fires.

This added to the confusion in launching the life-boats. There was no panic, however, and by the time the Llandovery Castle lost her momentum most of the boats were over the side. Those above deck began climbing into them in good order. But many were unable to reach the boats, and the ship was sinking rapidly. They jumped into the sea and a few of them were picked up.

According to information received by the Canadian Red Cross here, Major T. Lyon from the Llandovery Castle was forced to stand in the conning tower despite an injured foot, while the German submarine officers questioned him. The Germans insisted that Major T. Lyon was an aviation officer, notwithstanding the officer's strenuous denials. The Germans even threatened to shoot Major Lyon, contending that he was an officer of the fighting unit, not a medical officer.

The admiralty report on the sinking describes the cruel treatment of Major T. Lyon and declares that the submarine, after sinking the vessel, shelled an unknown target, which the reports indicate might have been the missing boats.

The captain's boat containing the survivors, was picked up by the destroyer Lysander, the commander of which has reported that he had found no trace of the remaining five boats.

## YOUNG WAXHAW MEN IN AUTO WRECK; HAD NARROW ESCAPE

Got Off With Light Injuries, But New Car Is Big Loss—Were Racing for Doctor for Mr. Rodman.

Messrs. Olin Massey, W. B. McDonald, Jr., and Winchester Helms of Waxhaw had a narrow escape from death Friday evening about 7 o'clock when the automobile in which they were racing to secure medical attention for Col. J. L. Rodman turned turtle. All escaped with minor injuries.

The accident happened in front of Mr. F. E. Taylor's residence on Broom street. The young men were endeavoring to secure medical attention for Mr. Rodman in the shortest possible time. Just as the car rounded the curve entering Broom street, a tire blew out, causing it to turn completely over. It is said by some that the car turned over three times. All the young men were more or less tangled in the top of the car. Mr. Olin Massey was pinned under the steering wheel. When it was found impossible to turn the car off him, a younger brother seized the steering wheel and broke it off, freeing him. The steering wheel had probably been cracked in the accident.

Mr. McDonald suffered a wrenched back and slight bruises. Mr. Massey was badly bruised about the arm and his leg was cut by a piece of metal which had broken loose from the car. For a time it was thought that he might have suffered internal injuries. Mr. Helms suffered a severe cut on the leg. The car, which was almost new, was badly damaged.

Walter Murphy, candidate for Congress in the eighth district, and Chas. L. Abernethy in the third, were late in filing their expense accounts but Washington correspondents say there will be no charge against them for this technical violation of the law. Mr. Murphy, who missed it badly, did not match expenses with his eastern colleague in defeat.

Back up those who are offering their all—buy War Savings stamps.

## TRIBUTE TO MR. J. L. RODMAN

Mr. Beasley Points Out Some Lessons of His Life and Ideals of Patriotism—A County Which Can Turn Out Such Products Is Worth Fighting For.

By R. F. BEASLEY.

Raleigh, July 1.—Dem. (By) — I believe that this was the first thought that jumped to my mind to-day on learning of the sudden death of Mr. Rodman with the name of his county last upon his lips.

We can't say that he died for his country in the sense that a soldier dies in battle, but the circumstances surrounding his death, and the certain knowledge that he would have died for his country under any circumstances that seemed necessary, invest his death with an interest almost as great as if it had occurred on the front in France.

The intense patriotism of Mr. Rodman was so well known to me that I thought I would say a few words in his honor. I am a country boy, and I believe that the right will men will give their all for their country in any emergency. The test of democracy is that it produces men worthy of democracy.

The Germans and Austrians are brave soldiers and what their rulers tell them to do, but nowhere have we yet seen a line which indicates that these soldiers know anything about the spiritual exaltation and consecration which everywhere reigns among the soldiers of France, England and America.

The American spirit was deeply imbedded in the heart of Mr. Rodman. If it had become necessary to go to some man and ask him to give his entire fortune to the necessary needs of his country, I should have as soon called upon him to do it as any one I know. I am well aware that this is not the usual opinion of men who have been successful in business, but that is because we do not always understand such men, nor the impulses that guide them. There are successful men and successful men in a business sense, just like there are rich men and rich men, poor men and poor men—it all depends upon the individual man.

You see we are not measuring men today by small standards or by details of individual judgment. I do not know many of the details of Mr. Rodman's life. For instance, I do not at the moment happen to know whether he was a member of any church. I don't know what he thought about party politics. I don't know how he managed his private business. I don't know what he thought about party politics. I don't know how he managed his private business. I don't know what he thought about the war before we were pulled into it and the issue became clear.

But I know that he was a Democrat in the same sense that Washington and Jefferson and Robert E. Lee and Abraham Lincoln were Democrats—that is that no one should ask a right for himself that he was not willing to grant all other men equally.

I know that he was a religious man in that he thought humbly and seriously on his relation to God and his place and duty in the world and recognized Jesus as the transforming influence in mankind.

I never heard a man who knew Mr. Rodman well who did not speak of him with the most profound respect for him in every way—his honesty and fair dealing were matters of general understanding.

Now, when you know these things about a man, what else is there to know? Of one it will be said that "He did this or he did that," while of another it will be said that "He did not do so and so, as he should have done." Now what are all these things but matters of detail, the great mass of personalities and opinions which make up the differences of men, such differences as will always exist and which should exist. Men can be men with or without them, but no one can be a man in the truest and highest sense unless he has the spirit of equality, a serious attitude toward God, plain honesty, and moral courage. These are the foundations. Upon these the structure of full flowered manhood must be built, and that structure may possess many degrees of polish, grace and agreeableness. These latter depend upon opportunity and circumstance.

Mr. Rodman was an interesting man in any company. His mind was keen and always on the alert. He was a successful business man but I never thought of him as "a plain business man," and perhaps a great many who knew him never thought of him at all as I did—a man of imagination. With all his hard common sense and his busy life of business struggle from a poor boy to wealth, and his lack of early school advantages which the rigorous days after the war deprived him, Mr. Rodman was essentially an idealist. He had something of the hero worship about him. You could tell it from the way he referred to the great men of history. That is why I said above that you could have asked him as well as any other man to give everything he had to his country if it was needed. That is the kind of men who do such things.

You see I have not attempted to eulogize Mr. Rodman at all. I don't believe that he would have liked that. I believe that he would wish to be written of just as a man saw him. He always looked at a man as if he could see straight through him

and was willing to have the same scrutiny turned upon himself. Like Oliver Cromwell, if there was a wart on the nose he wanted the picture to show it.

It is a pity—so far as we can see on our limitations—that Mr. Rodman died at this time. I believe that this war and its after work would have displayed a great light on his character which had not yet been marked. It brought out in so many men who have before been devoted almost wholly to private business—a profound love of country and a conviction to few and great idea regarding the general welfare and the uplift of mankind. That is low the war is making the nation over and putting men upon their mettle. It is the fire that is burning away the non-essentials. It is the furnace through which such men as Mr. Rodman come unscathed. That is the direction that patriotism is going to take after this war, a new idea of public service. The particular public service to which the fathers were devoted challenged the admiration of Mr. Rodman. The new kind, different in outward appearance, but the same in principle, would have certainly challenged his action.

Waxhaw may some day become a London town, but it can never be the Waxhaw it was when A. W. Heath and J. L. Rodman were there.

## TILLMAN ILLNESS MAY MAKE COLLIE L. BLEASE A SENATOR

Lever, Probably Strongest Man in South Carolina Next to Tillman, Can't Enter Now—Bleasure Isn't Wanted at Washington—South Carolina Folks Don't Really Relish The Idea of Senator Bleasure.

(By THEODORE TILLER in Greensboro News.)

Washington, July 1.—Senator Ben R. Tillman, South Carolina's veteran political war-horse, is gradually sinking, and his death may come during the night. Friends who went sorrowfully to the Tillman apartments this afternoon came away believing it was only a matter of hours.

With Senator Tillman in a dying condition there was inevitably quiet discussion here today of the effect his death would have upon the troubled politics of South Carolina. By a strange freak of politics, Representative Asbury F. Lever, regarded as Senator Tillman's strongest opponent before he withdrew from the race about three weeks ago, will find himself barred from re-entering the race should Senator Tillman die. This developed here today.

As matters now stand the Washington belief is that Cole Bleasure, the radical former governor of South Carolina, stands the best show of becoming Senator Tillman's successor. All this political talk, of course, is predicted upon the theory that Senator Tillman's condition is hopeless and his most devoted admirers, praying for his recovery, nevertheless do not shut their eyes to the potentialities of the situation.

So far as Mr. Lever is concerned a queer Democratic party rule, which can only be abrogated by a specially-called party convention, prevents his becoming a candidate again. The South Carolina practice is that if only two candidates are in a nominating race and one of them cannot finish the race because of death, disability or any other reason, the nomination entitles may be re-opened and other candidates may enter. Where there are two or more candidates left in the race, however, the entries may not be re-opened after a certain date. This date, according to friends of Representative Lever, fell on June 18, and Lever is now barred from re-entry because there are three candidates left—Cole Bleasure, Nat Dial and Henry Rice. The race apparently must be run out by these three.

The only chance for Lever's re-entry is an arrangement wherein Dial and Rice will withdraw, leaving only one candidate. Then the entries might be re-opened and all candidates could start over again. It is admitted, however, that this would be a cumbersome proceeding, with the chances against the acquiescence of Messrs. Dial and Rice. A party convention to change the Democratic rule is also regarded as a roundabout and almost impossible method.

So it seems that Representative Lever is out of it and Cole Bleasure, with his strong following in South Carolina, has the bulge on the nomination if Senator Tillman dies. Washington has heard much of Cole Bleasure including many of the harsh things his enemies have said about him, and the politicians here are watching developments in South Carolina with considerable curiosity and other feelings difficult of diagnosis.

The position of Representative Lever is an unusual one. He got out of the primary race because the President asked him to do so. Now even the President cannot put him back, although it is believed the President would like to see Lever in the Senate if Tillman is to be removed by death. The President could hardly stand in Mr. Lever's way, regardless of the value of his services in the house, with the situation so materially changed in South Carolina. Yet Mr. Lever appears to be out of it and the whole thing has happened within a few days. The most unusual situation has given house something to talk about while making anxious inquiries meanwhile as to the possible recovery of Senator Tillman whose condition did not justify their hopes of a comeback.

Give up your luxuries that the Kaiser may be made to give up his ambitions.

## TUESDAY'S WAR SUMMARY

Offensive of Italians in Mountains Apparently a Success.

Success has apparently crowned the offensive of the Italians in the mountains north of the Venetian plains. Launched on Saturday, the attack on the Austrian lines has gained rugged heights where the enemy was strongly entrenched, and the fighting is still going on. Vienna admits a retreat to "prepared positions," which is the expression used in official statements to mean that the enemy blow has gained important ground.

After three days of struggling in the mountains, the Italians are still hammering hard at the most powerful and threatening positions of the enemy. They have not only gained ground, but have held against desperate counter-attacks by the Austro-Hungarian forces, which were mown down by the artillery fire and completely checked by the Italian infantry.

Detail maps of the area in which the fighting is going on do not show distinctly some of the places mentioned in the official statements. The Vienna admission that the new Austrian line runs through "Stempe wood" is, therefore, without significance, but as the positions held by the Austrians before the Italian attack began were above the forest line, it would seem that the enemy has been ousted from the higher ground he formerly held and thus placed at a disadvantage in the fighting to come.

The Italian attack was seemingly planned with care. On the right flank of General Diaz's forces in the Brenta river, which affords some protection against a flanking attack. On the left there are two deep valleys which also lend themselves admirably to the tactics adopted by the Italians.

An official statement issued at Berlin claim that 191,454 un wounded allies prisoners have been captured since March 21. Of these 94, 929 were British, 89,099 were French and the rest were Portuguese, Belgians and Americans. Six allied generals and 6,200 officers are said to have been taken by the Germans.

In France there have been local attacks at various points north of the Marne on the west side of the salient driven into the allied lines by the German offensive that was begun May 27. The French have advanced their line north of the Clignon river, once more and have passed the railroad line running from Chezy to Vincy.

Further north the French have taken strong positions along ridges to the east of Villers Cotteret forest.

There have been no unusual engagements along the British or American fronts but there is a tenseness along the whole line from Ypres to Rheims and even to the east, along the French and American sectors, there is belief that the breaking of the storm may come at any time. In front of Amiens this feeling is especially marked. There the German began a great bombardment, but so far as reported have not sent their infantry into action.

There was intense activity in aerial fighting on Sunday. The French brought down or put out of action 21 German airplanes, while the British shot down 22 and drove 14 out of control.

## Man Meets Death At Wedding Hour.

Robert L. Temple, a traveling salesman of Chicago, was shot and killed at Memphis, Tenn., Saturday within an hour of the time set for his marriage to Miss Lena Graham, of Meridian, Miss., by J. R. Graham, father of the young woman. Graham a railway conductor, surrendered after the shooting and according to the police, claimed that he was forced to kill Temple in self-defense.

The young woman was standing within a short distance of the men and one of her fingers was shattered by a stray bullet.

According to a police statement, Graham declared after his arrest that Temple, just before the ceremony was to have taken place, admitted he previously had been married, and that his wife, from whom he had not been divorced, was still living. After this admission, Graham is said to have told the police, Temple leaped toward him and the shooting followed.

A coroner's jury after an inquest tonight returned a verdict of "justifiable homicide."

Graham and his wife came to Memphis this morning from Meridian and a conference was arranged between Temple, at which, it was stated, plans for an immediate marriage were made. A license was secured and a minister summoned when Temple's alleged disclosures brought the ceremony to an abrupt end.

Temple was apparently about forty years of age.

George Creel, head of the bureau of publicly, has accepted the invitation of President Sanford Martin to make the annual address at the state Press Association July 24 and 25. Mr. Creel released his rule this time, following a determination to speak no more in public, and accepted because he likes North Carolina cordially.

Judge Frank Carter, who has purchased the Albemarle Enterprise, notifies Governor Bickett that the judge will resign his office August 3 after having completed the term of court to be held in Hertford county. Judge Carter will then begin regularly his editorial duties.

Become a stockholder in the United States—buy War Savings Stamps.