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## POLITICS IN THE CRACKS STATE ARE AT WHITE HEAT

Tiller Says That Tom Watson is Ap- parently Strongest Man in Senatorial Race.

### IS FIGHTING AMERICAN LEGION

By THEODORE TILLER in Greens- boro News.

"There is political chaos in Georgia. You are responsible for it. Your efforts to hand-pick the candidates for the highest offices in the gift of the people of Georgia and your determination to dominate the politics of the state have caused feelings of intense resentment against you and your methods."

That is a mild paragraph from a letter written to Clark Howell, Georgia editor and democratic national committeeman, by John Holder, the speaker of the state house of representatives and candidate for governor. Mr. Holder's strictures are mild compared with other shoutings, denunciations, charges and claims now heard on the Georgia hustings. This story is intended to convey some idea about how worked up they get in a political campaign down this way.

"Liar," "traitor," "pro-German," "skunk," "fool," "hell to breakfast," "miserable coward," "rubber-stamp governor," "idiot," "kid-gloved boss"—these are some of the words and phrases in use in Georgia today as the candidates for governor and United States senator warm up for the primary election on September 8th.

A short time ago this writer attempted to describe from Washington the rumblings of Georgia politics as heard at the national capital, quoting mainly from the platform of Tom Watson, anti-administration candidate for senate against Senator Hoke Smith and Governor Hugh M. Dorsey. A long distance account cannot fill the bill. With a seat at the political ring-side in Georgia this week, let this same writer observe that this state and no other state has ever seen anything like it.

There should be sandwiched in here, before a round to round report of the battle, a few sentences from the campaign speeches:

#### Watson Against Legion.

"I am going to fight them (the American legion) from hell to breakfast."—Thomas E. Watson.

"The kinship of Clark Howell in Georgia is coming to an end. \* \* \* Howell is the tail, not the head of the Democratic party in Georgia."—Thomas W. Hardwick, former senator.

"The Atlanta Constitution hasn't told the truth about me since I defeated its editor for governor in 1906. Some folks have suggested the files of that newspaper, containing the poisonous lies on me, ought to be ground up and used to destroy the boll weevil on our cotton."—Senator Hoke Smith.

"The American legion is an organization of officers formed to dominate politics and their actions prove it. \* \* \* Stockbridge talks about how he was 'gassed.' He was not gassed. The wind simply blew his own breath in his face."—Tom Watson in a characteristic speech.

"I was the first candidate to defend you against the attack of Mr. Hardwick, and I expected nothing less than fair treatment at your hands, but instead you have given me a Brutus stab in an effort to accomplish my political assassination and to elect your candidate."—John Holder, in the same letter to Clark Howell.

"Howell's plain theft of the job of national committeeman from Georgia."—Thomas W. Hardwick.

"Hardwick violated his oath as senator. Then later he became the paid attorney of the bolshevik propagandist, Ludwig Martens, who was spreading dangerous doctrines for the overthrow of our government. In the senate he was an obstructionist and disloyal."—Clifford Walker, candidate for Governor against Hardwick and Holder.

"Any man in the American legion or out of it who says I am a 'red' or disloyal is an infamous liar."—Tom Hardwick.

"Hoke Smith is getting lonesome. He doesn't know it but he is a back number. He talks two hours about himself in his speeches and would talk two hours more if they would listen. Hoke has twenty-seven planks in his platform. Seventeen are about cotton and the rest about Hoke."—Tom Watson.

"I could have been in the United States senate to-day if I had been a rubber-stamp senator for the administration. If you want a rubber-stamp governor, don't elect me."—Hardwick.

These are but a few extracts from the speeches they are delivering daily in Georgia. No other constituency can understand the intensity of Georgia campaigns. Hecklers are in almost every audience, particularly those addressed by Tom Watson and Hardwick, and now and then a heckler is ejected from the hall, or run off the reservation if it's an outdoor speech. Recently Hardwick called one a "liar" to his face and folks expected a fight, but the crowd was so strongly pro-Hardwick the fellow just stood in the aisle and took it.

#### Hot Factional Fight.

The factional Georgia fight, revolving principally around Senator Hoke Smith, Clark and "Brother Albert" Howell, former Senator Hardwick and Tom Watson, is not confined to the stump. Almost every newspaper in Georgia has taken sides and columns are filled with the hottest sort of political charges, claims and denials. It's a poor day when some newspaper story isn't denounced as a lie, and Tom Watson especially goes up and down the state inveighing against the American legion, the "political bosses" and the "corrupted press."

And what of the situation. It's chaos, as John Holder says, but whatever folks may think about Georgia as an administration state truthful political observers say that both Watson and Hardwick are mighty near

election—and each is running on an anti-administration platform.

Money is being offered, with few bets taken, that Hardwick is certain to be elected governor over Holder and Walker. Watson is apparently the strongest man to-day in the senatorial race, with Senator Smith gaining ground. At Smith's headquarters they frankly say Watson is the man who must be defeated. Watson and Hardwick are getting the largest crowds ever assembled in the courthouse squares of Georgia and the "wool hat" followers of these dynamic candidates utter shouts of approval that can be heard for blocks.

The American legion of the state has denounced both Watson and Hardwick as "disloyal" because they opposed conscription, the espionage law and certain other wartime policies. In return the candidates have bitterly answered that the local branch of the American legion has degenerated into a political organization and that it is dominated by a few officers, who in turn are dominated by Clark Howell "and his henchmen."

Of course, the long standing feud between Clark Howell and Hoke Smith is revived in all its bitterness. Howell's newspaper has branded Senator Smith as "pro-German," a "straddler," a "faker" and a lot of other things. Senator Smith retorts that the truth hasn't been published about him in that paper for years; indeed, since Hoke walloped Clark years ago in a gubernatorial race.

#### League of Nations.

The League of Nations is one of the major issues, particularly in the senatorial race. Watson is dead against any sort of a league. Senator Smith who voted for the Lodge reservations in the senate, stands on his record. Governor Dorsey says he is for a league, but of course doesn't want it to go outside of the safe of constitutional safeguards.

Ex-Senator Hardwick joins Watson in denouncing the league. The other candidates, for governor having never been in public life in a national sense, are talking mainly about local issues, and "bawling out" Hardwick for accepting a fee from Ludwig Martens, self-styled soviet ambassador, who was investigated by a senate committee.

Hardwick retorts that even a murderer is entitled to counsel and he represented Martens in a legal capacity, without believing in his doctrines. Hardwick brings cheers by saying that if Cliff Walker, one of his opponents, was being tried for idiosyncrasy he would defend Walker if engaged as counsel, although he might believe he was "nuts." Furthermore, Hardwick bitingly says Cliff Walker will never be offered a thirty thousand dollar fee by anybody, because "Cliff hasn't got sense enough to earn that big a fee."

Mr. Holder's lambasting of editor Clark Howell followed Howell's efforts to get Holder to withdraw from the gubernatorial race so that the opposition to Hardwick would be centered on Walker. With three men in the race, Howell argued, the "disloyal Hardwick" is certain to be elected. Holder retorted by saying he was in the race first and had expected Howell's support. He added that he wouldn't withdraw unless Clark Howell pulled down his hand-picked candidate for the senate, Governor Dorsey. The situation in the senatorial field, Holder said, was just as bad as that in the gubernatorial, and Watson was about to be elected to the senate.

#### Georgia Never So Bessed.

Altogether it's a terrible mess. Georgia is at white heat, with nearly everybody calling somebody else names. One of the country papers observes that in all her history of political turmoil the state has never been so bessed. It added that there are more lies, half-truths, garbled quotations, silly charges and demagogic rantings being used in this campaign than ever before.

Perhaps the most remarkable feature of the whole business is the come-back of Tom Watson, onetime populist idol; a state, if not national, celebrity; caustic critic of almost everything connected with the Wilson administration; a master in satire and vituperation and the most feared man in Georgia politics. It is practically certain Watson's strength is so great there must be a run-off primary if he is to be defeated. He carried the state in the presidential preference primaries last April and since then has been "feeling his oats" again.

With Hardwick and Watson speaking from the same platform and drawing tremendous crowds—greater perhaps than all other candidates combined—the so-called administration, Democrats in Georgia are genuinely alarmed.

Other states may think they display heated politics and bitter political feuds. Folks down here who are accustomed to the methods and vocabularies of Georgia political campaigns wouldn't even walk across the street to see the dull way they play the game elsewhere.

The full census of fist fights, cracked heads, dangling political scapls and ensue words will be furnished September 8th.

## WAR SLACKER IN TROUBLE

Morgan Not Only Deceived the Govern- ment, But His Wife Too.

W. S. Morgan, a white man, was arrested at Schoolfield, Va., the past week, taken to Lexington, N. C., and given twelve months on the roads by Recorder John H. Moyer. The charges against him were abandonment, fornication and adultery, and after he gets through this sentence he may face more serious trouble in the U. S. court.

Morgan, it is alleged, left his wife and children here some years ago and went to Alabama. There he was divorced, but the wife here did not know of the decree, she testified. About the time the war broke out it is alleged that Morgan came trooping back to Lexington and assumed the headship of his abandoned family. The former wife made affidavit, at his insistence, she swore, that she and children were dependents of Morgan and he was given exemption from the draft on that ground.

Everything went along very well, until the news of the armistice reached Lexington, when Morgan is alleged to have invited his former wife to "go to thunder," or words to that or more positive effect, told her about his divorce and left. In the meantime he had married again. It is alleged. A child now about eight weeks old was born to Morgan and his former wife.

According to Federal laws it was a serious offense to falsify a questionnaire and Morgan may be in for quite a spell of trouble.

People believe what they want to believe—notice how they accept as accurate the thermometer that records the lowest temperature on a cold day.

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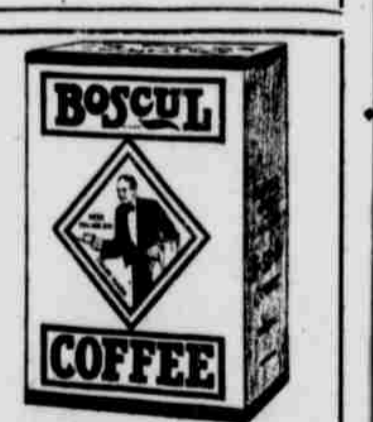
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