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## SELECTION OF COLBY TO SUCCEED LANSING WAS A BIG SURPRISE

President Wilson Again Upset the Expectation of Official and Political Washington—Senators Were So Surprised at the Appointment That They Declined to Talk For Publication.

Washington, Feb. 25.—President Wilson again upset the expectations of officials and political Washington today by naming Bainbridge Colby, a New York attorney who left the Republican party with Roosevelt in 1912 as secretary of state.

The selection caused scarcely less of a sensation than the dismissal of Robert Lansing from the state portfolio two weeks ago and was received with such undisguised surprise in the senate where the President's choice must be approved before Mr. Colby can take up the duties of office, that none of the leaders cared to predict when confirmation might be voted.

Mr. Colby spent an hour with Mr. Wilson, announced that he would accept with a deep appreciation of the responsibility imposed upon him and said he would have no further comment to make until the senate had acted.

One before the senate had been called upon to act on a nomination of Mr. Colby and then confirmation was voted only after a fight on him had been made by Republican senators. That was in 1917 when President Wilson named him to membership on the shipping board.

Supporting Roosevelt. Actively supporting Theodore Roosevelt for the Republican presidential nomination in 1912, Mr. Colby was placed in charge of the claims of the contested Roosevelt delegates from various states who eventually were denied convention seats. He then became a delegate from New York to the first convention of the Progressive party and in 1914 he was the progressive candidate for senator from New York. In the 1916 campaign however he supported actively the campaign of President Wilson for reelection.

Colby in Accord With Wilson. New York, Feb. 25.—Bainbridge Colby, who was appointed secretary of state today by President Wilson, said in an interview here tonight that he was "thoroughly in accord with the league of nations and all other of the President's views on public interests."

Mr. Colby came to New York from Washington to be at the bedside of his daughter who is seriously ill. "My sympathies have been with the President and his work," said Mr. Colby. "This surely is clearly indicated by my appointment. There can be no other inference drawn from it."

## A TOWN BOY'S LETTER TO HIS COUNTRY COUSIN

And The Answer That He Received From The Sticks.

The use of verbs manufactured out of nouns is satirized in the story of the city boy who wrote to his brother on the farm: "Thursday we autoed out to the Country Club, where we golfed until dark. Then we trolleyed back to town and danced till dawn. Then we mortored to the beach and Fridayed there." The brother on the farm wrote back: "Yesterday we buggied to town and baseballled all afternoon. Then we went to Ned's and pokered till morning. Today we muled out to the cornfield and gee-haved till sundown. Then we suppered and then we piped for a while. After that we staked up to our room and bedsteaded until the clock fived.—Edw. B. Hughes, in The Writer.

## THERE ARE FIVE SUNDAYS IN THIS MONTH

The First Time Such a Thing Occurred In Forty Years.

The world will experience a five-Sunday February this year for the first time in forty years, and for the last time during the coming twenty-five years, unless the calendar in vogue at the present time should be modified.

In 1900 had been a leap year the five Sunday February would have occurred in 1908, but the one day that dropped out then put the five Sunday February off for twelve years.

Since 1800 there was a five-Sunday February in 1824, in 1852, in 1880, in 1920, and the next one will be in 1948. In other words, if the old world didn't slip a cog three centuries ago out of every four, there would be five Sundays in February every twenty-eight years.

## DOCTORS SAY AMERICA HAS PASSED FLU CRISIS

It Will Be Much Lighter Next Year. (Chicago Special)

The opinion that America will never experience another influenza epidemic as serious as the last was expressed by many physicians who gathered in Chicago this week for the American congress of international medicine. Reports on the progress made by medical science in the study of influenza and data on the incubation of the germ will be presented during the six-day session.

## MR. LEAKE, "DIRTY" NEW ORLEANS

Was a Son of the Late Capt. Gus Landis of Oxford—Funeral Services Will Be Held From the Residence of Major Will Landis This Afternoon at 4 O'clock—Interment at Elmwood Cemetery.

Mr. Leake Peace Landis died at New Orleans Tuesday morning of pneumonia. Mr. Landis was a son of the late Capt. Gus Landis, of Oxford, and a brother of F. O. Charles H., Edward G., Major William and Lieutenant Commander Arthur Landis, of the United States navy. He is survived by these brothers and several sisters.

Mr. Landis was 41 years old and a business man of great ability. He built a large fortune from the turpentine business and crowded into his youth the work of years. Rarely does one find a handsomer man or one of more splendid physique. His extraordinary physical strength made the unexpected announcement of his death all the more shocking.

Mr. Landis married Miss Dale, of New Iberia, Louisiana. She survives him. There were no children.

## Funeral Arrangement.

The remains of Mr. Landis will arrive from New Orleans this morning at 10 o'clock and will be escorted to the residence of Major Will Landis on Raleigh street, where a brief funeral service will be held at 4 o'clock this afternoon, conducted by Dr. F. H. T. Horsfield, rector of St. Stephen's Church, assisted by Rev. Stuart R. Oglesby, pastor of the Oxford Presbyterian Church. The interment will follow at Elmwood Cemetery.

## Announcement.

The pallbearers as announced are: Active—A. H. Powell, Dr. I. H. Davis, F. M. Pinnix, Helan Connor, Col. Sidney Minor, Harry Williams. Others will arrive with the remains.

Honorary—Dr. Booth, Pete Bullock, T. Lanier, J. B. Powell, Gen. E. S. Royster, J. M. Baird, F. W. Hancock, Jr., Hon. W. A. Devin, R. P. Taylor, John Gooch, Dr. E. T. White, M. B. Booth, W. Z. Mitchell, R. H. Lewis, B. K. Lassiter, J. C. Taylor, A. A. Hicks, J. J. Floyd, A. L. Capehart.

## WHAT WILL RELATIVES SAY?

They Say He Was Always Good To His Family.

The Charlotte Observer reminds us that grade crossings are still part of the scenery in all of our forty-eight states. Four thousand people were killed on these crossings last year. A man we know took a day recently, rode out into the country to an average crossing and watched the behavior of automobile drivers approaching the tracks. The conclusion he reached is that the average driver holds the view that the "stop-lock-listen" sign means less in his life than in his obituary. Some drivers roll their eyes a little to one side; some do not even do that. The confirmed taker of chances has tested the speed of his car and has found that it can "go some;" he hears the fast flyer whistling, but why wait to watch the train go by? Two hundred feet from the crossing? Speed up! It takes a fast train only fifteen seconds to travel the quarter of a mile from the whistling post to the crossing. . . . They say he was always good to his family.

## REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Filed in the Register of Deeds Office This Week.

F. B. Veasey and wife to J. W. Barker; consideration \$1000.

Lionnie A. Ridley and wife to J. M. Taylor, 1 lot in Oxford township; consideration \$150.

Baker Newton and wife to Henry S. Cox, tract of land 44 3-4 acres; consideration \$850.

Henry S. Cox to H. T. Norwood, tract of land 44 3-4 acres; consideration \$901.

U. M. Roberts and wife to J. P. Roberts, tract of land 88 acres; consideration \$7000.

S. V. Morton to Charles Jones, 103 1-2 acres; consideration \$3340.

F. H. Currin and wife to Z. M. Overton Jr., two tracts 56 acres and 44 acres; consideration \$5000.

H. J. Thurman and wife to D. Y. Cooper, timber contract, \$7500.

W. S. Suit and wife to E. C. Daniel, 2 tracts; consideration \$500.

G. N. Daniel and wife, to Lester F. Currin and wife, 2 tracts, \$1500.

## CHURCHES TO BE REOPENED SUNDAY

AFTER BEING CLOSED FOR THREE WEEKS ON ACCOUNT OF INFLUENZA ALL THE CHURCHES OF OXFORD WILL HAVE SERVICES NEXT SUNDAY.

You are urged to make a special effort to be present at these services:

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** (Stuart R. Oglesby, Jr., Pastor) Services at eleven A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Subject of morning sermon: "The Look of Jesus." In the evening the subject will be: "The Unsinkable Ship." Sunday School at 9:45 A. M. A cordial welcome awaits you at these services.

**METHODIST CHURCH** (Rev. R. C. Craven, Pastor) Sermon at 11 a. m.: "A Man After God's Heart." At 7:30: "The Man Who Meant No Harm." Sunday School at 9:45 a. m. "I was glad when they said unto Lord."

## JUDGE W. A. DEVIN CALLS OFF VANCE COUNTY COURT

It Is Said That Oxford Telephone Operator Delayed Court Matters Two Days.

(Henderson Daily Dispatch) Acting upon the recommendation of the Vance County Bar Association the suggestion that the March term of superior court be called off, and has ordered that due notice of this action be given.

In accordance with the Judge's decision, Clerk of the Court Henry Perry and Sheriff John S. Royster have issued notices to all jurors and witnesses summoned to appear that they need not attend. The term is not only postponed, but cancelled entirely, and all of the criminal and civil dockets will go over to the June term.

Colonel Perry explained Tuesday the reason for the delay in getting into touch with Judge Devin. He called Oxford for "Judge Devin" the day the bar acted on the recommendation for cancelling the court. Again Saturday he called, but with no answer, as usual. Monday he called again, and the operator wanted to know who is "Judge Devin that you are trying to get."

Colonel Perry informed her that he was the most distinguished citizen of Oxford who held the highest office of any man in that city. She said that she had no man by the name of "Judge Devin" on her records, but that the only name even approximating that was "W. A. Devin." Colonel Perry informed her that "Judge W. A. Devin" was the distinguished citizen wanted, and communication was quickly established.

The judge will come here Monday morning and open court as usual. But the procedure will be merely an informal one, and as soon as the session is called to order adjournment will be ordered.

## JUDGES IN STATE ARMY ESSAY CONTEST NAMED

The North Carolina judges in the national essay contest on "What are the Benefits of an Enlistment in the U. S. Army" have been selected, according to an announcement from the district recruiting officer at Greensboro. Those selected are Dr. E. C. Brooks, state superintendent of public instruction; Colonel Fred A. Olds, president of the North Carolina Historical commission, and R. B. House, state historian, all of Raleigh.

The essay, which the judges will pass on, are to be written in school, but may be written at home and turned in to the teacher.

The best essay will be selected from each school by the teacher and the superintendent of schools for each city will appoint a local board to award local prizes. The best from each school is to be forwarded to the district recruiting officer, where the three judges above will award the state prizes and select the essay which is to be sent to Washington to compete for one of the national prizes.

There are three handsome national prizes, a loving cup, a gold medal, and a free trip to Washington for the winner and one of their parents, offered by the sick soldiers of Walter Reed hospital. There are a number of state prizes and these are likewise supplemented with local prizes in many communities.

A paper from one child may compete for all prizes and there will be a large number of essays written in the homes of the school children and schools, it was said.

## Interesting Facts.

"One bale of cotton which the farmer sells for \$250 if manufactured into finest fabrics by skilled Belgian lace makers will realize \$250,000 or more. A carload of lumber shaped into carved or sculptured, or made into furniture by the ingenious artificers of France and Switzerland, would yield a thousand times its crude value; while 30 pounds of special steel costing few dollars, if converted into Swiss watch springs, would pay a million dollars of Europe's debt to us."

—Comptroller Williams. —State Senator Earl Humphrey, of Goldsboro, is mentioned as a possible successor to corporation commissioner Maxwell.

## HOEY MAY QUIT CONGRESS WHEN TERM IS FINISHED

The Gubernatorial Situation Is Said to Be Behind Contemplated Action.

The Charlotte Observer contains this interesting bit of political gossip from H. E. C. Bryant, Washington correspondent: "Representative Clyde R. Hoey may not stand for re-election from the ninth district. He is seriously contemplating quitting and will make an announcement within the next day or two.

"The gubernatorial situation is said to be behind the contemplated action of Mr. Hoey.

"Since the election of Mr. Hoey the Gardner boom for governor has slowed down.

"The situation in Mecklenburg county where demand for representation in Congress was made, caused a slump in the Gardner stock.

"If Mr. Hoey withdraws from the race for Congress he will do so because of the Gardner contest.

"The dropping out of Mr. Hoey would make a big hole in the North Carolina delegation, for he is a man of ability and fine character.

"His short stay here has convinced those who have come in touch with him that he is a fine fellow and would make an excellent congressman."

## HOW EX-CROWN PRINCE SIZES UP SOLDIER FORCE

Pays a Glowing Tribute To the Doughboys.

Here is how Frederick Wilhelm ex-Crown Prince of Germany, in his book, "The Soldiers of the World Wars," sizes up the soldiers of the principal belligerent nations in the great war:

The doughboy—An improvisation, but one must admit a highly successful one. Good hand-to-hand fighter because trained in sports, a brave warrior.

The Tommy—A mixture of soldier, sportsman and Colonial pioneer. Fought with conspicuous valor, though badly led. Splendid, thoroughly serious opponent, brave and tenacious.

The Poilu—Has greater clan, initiative and independence than German soldier, but also more sensitive and temperamental. Inferior to German as hand-to-hand fighter, but all-round brave opponent, deserving all respect.

Austrian-Hungarian—Did great work, behaved heroically, was handicapped by army's racial diversity. Officers were too polite.

German—Under-nourished and badly supplied, fought heroically against overwhelming odds. Not until history of war is written will he get full credit.

## YOU CAN NOT ESCAPE YOUR INCOME TAX

The Prudent Man Will Get His Figures in the Best Possible Shape.

For the next three weeks government representatives will be at various points throughout the State to help the people make out their income tax returns and determine whether they are liable for tax and for how much. The prudent man will get his figures in the best possible shape and be ready to submit them when the agent arrives. It will be wise to have as full a statement as possible for the government requires accuracy in the report. It is not only folly to try to escape making the correct return, but is an offense against the law which will invite a severe penalty. The government is kindly disposed toward the fair-minded citizen who needs help in making his report, but Uncle Sam has little patience with those who would try to dodge. The simplest and easiest way is to meet the representative when he arrives, have him help you straighten out matters.

## IMPORTANT POINTS ON THE NEW RAILROAD LAW

The compromise railroad bill which has passed the house and the senate guarantees to the carriers in each group an operating income equal to 5 1-2 per cent of the aggregate property value. The Interstate Commerce Commission may add one-half of 1 per cent for improvements. Earnings exceeding 6 per cent will be divided equally between each carrier's reserve fund and the federal railroad contingent fund.

Under the labor provisions a tribunal of nine members will have jurisdiction over disputes threatening interstate commerce. Permissive consolidation of the roads into a limited number of systems is provided for.

Mrs. Blackwell Dead.

Mrs. Mildred Blackwell, aged 83 years, died at her home on Calahan street Thursday morning. She is survived by three sons and two daughters, namely: John, Luther and William, all of Oxford, Mrs. Caleb Knott, of Wendell and Mrs. Hester of Stovall. The interment will be at Hester Church at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

—North Carolina automobile license tags for 1920-21 will be blown plate with white raised letters and figures. The order was placed for 140,000. This is twenty thousand more than was ordered last year.

## YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE DESTINY OF A MAN AFTER HE IS DEAD

There Are Certain Fixed and Immovable Laws, Says Mr. Sam Daniel.

Mr. Sam Daniel, Superintendent of the Home of the Aged and Infirm, is a man of wide experience. Besides looking after the material wants of the inmates he exercises good judgment as to their spiritual welfare.

Some time ago he had as one of the county's guests an old man who had lost all hopes and was very profane. After cursing and bewailing his condition, Mr. Daniel took the old man to one side and told him that it was high time for him to turn over a new leaf and ask God to forgive him of his sins.

With Mr. Daniel's admonition fresh in his mind, the old man wrote to a priest and invited him to come to see him. The priest arrived in due time and the old man became reconciled to God.

The priest gave the old man a scapular, which is made of two small pieces of cloth and connected by cords and worn beneath the garments as an act of devotion.

The old man wore the scapular and seemed to be happy as he approached the end of time. While on his sick bed, the scapular became unfastened and separated from the old man's neck. No one seems to have noticed that the scapular was missing, and the old man died and was given christian burial.

Several weeks after the burial of the old man, some one found the scapular and called Mr. Daniels attention to it. It was suggested to Mr. Daniel that the remains of the old man could not rest in peace unless the body was exhumed and the scapular placed upon the breast.

"Now, see here," said Mr. Daniel, "there are certain fixed laws. The old man was given christian burial, and it is impossible to change the destiny of a man after he is dead."

## DO NOT DELAY CONSTRUCTION WORK ANY LONGER

Prices of Building Materials Not Likely to Decline For Some Time.

The National Housing Conference estimates that one million homes are needed now by the country, and deplores the tendency that is still evident in many quarters to delay construction work with hopes of lower prices later. The conference says: "Waiting for a reduction in construction prices is wasting valuable time. Prices of building materials are not likely to decline until there is a reduction in wage scales. Since the price of labor is made up of labor cost, plus the cost of raw materials, and since the production and transportation of raw materials is essentially a labor problem, there can be no drop in selling prices without the corresponding drop in production and transportation costs."

The delay in Oxford seems to be that the constructors can not get an abundance of skilled or common labor at any price. There would be much building here this spring and summer if there was not a shortage of labor, it is said.

## INTIMATE VIEW OF PRESIDENT WILSON

"He's Got a Grip Like a Prize-Fighter," Says Railroad Union Chief.

(Washington Post)

"Don't make any mistake about the President; we found him cocky." So one of the three railroad union chiefs who recently saw the President on the White House portico told his associates here from the outside districts to attend the wage conference.

"He sat there with a blanket around him; we didn't see his left hand. He had a golf cap perched on one side of his head. He sure looked cocky. Lee told him the profiteers were making all of the trouble. He told Lee he would like to get a good chance at them. 'I'd like to put them in the front line trenches,' he said.

"The President is thinner than he was. He has lost a lot of weight and his face looks longer, but he seemed to be coming along all right. And I said we didn't see his left hand, but I'll tell the world there was nothing the matter with his right. He's got a grip like a prize fighter!"

## UNIVERSAL MILITARY TRAINING GOES OVER

The Republicans Are Fighting Shy At the Measure.

A Washington special says that universal military training will be omitted from the house army reorganization bill and be the subject of separate legislation at the next session of Congress, beginning in December. This was agreed upon by republican leaders and Chairman Kahn, of the house military committee, after two days of informal conferences.

Members of the republican legislative steering committee, including Representative Mondell, the floor leader, and Speaker Gillett were understood to have largely based their objections to action at this session on the political aspects, it being their recommendation that consideration be deferred until after the conventions.