

At the CAPITAL

By M. R. Dunnagan, The Pilot's Raleigh Correspondent

Persistent and insistent reports, coming from or through what may be considered authoritative sources and channels, say that Josephus Daniels, Raleigh editor, is planning to run for Governor and that his announcement for the Democratic nomination may be expected soon.

Democratic leaders have discounted these reports all along, saying Mr. Daniels would not risk his nation-wide reputation with the voters of his home state in a race for Governor. However, they are beginning to give some credence to the reports, many not without fear, and to speculate on what may happen if Mr. Daniels does enter the already three-cornered contest. It is not a possibility they contemplate with satisfaction.

"It would be one of the meanest campaigns in many years" is the almost universal expression, followed by a shaking of the head, indicating that it would do the Democratic party no good. That he would wield his pen in his behalf is considered certain. That he would take the stump and give voice to the criticisms he has expressed of the legislative and executive branches of the State government almost inevitably follows. Forces of the state would line up in two distinct camps and fight it out to a finish.

One of his planks would undoubtedly be a luxury tax, for which two of the present and prospective candidates are only luke-warm. He would ask for a kilowatt hour tax on electricity, an increase of tax on the tobacco companies and power companies. He would demand a tax on stocks in foreign corporations. Schools would be supported in full from these and other sources "where the money is" rather than that any would come from land.

Mr. Daniels would line up a strong following from land owners of the east and probably good support in the mountains. He would have the real estate boards with him. The "moral element" would give him a good vote. Many, in fact, who have been against him in many of his stands in the past would be with him. The industrial and commercial forces would fight him to the last ditch. It would be Agriculture vs. Industry, in a sense.

Belief is pretty general that if Mr.

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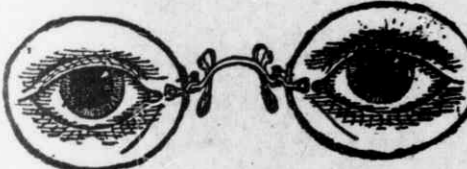
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Daniels enters the race, Attorney General D. G. Brummitt will not become a candidate. Mr. Brummitt, it is certain, is depending largely on the support of Mr. Daniels, and it is not likely that both will be candidates. Also, the assertion is made that if Mr. Daniels runs, Lieutenant Governor R. T. Fountain might as well retire. Mr. Daniels undoubtedly would cut deep into his vote.

The opposition to Mr. Daniels would be found in Revenue Commissioner A. J. Maxwell and J. C. B. Ehringhaus, both of whom are looked upon as strong men, either able to cope with the editor under normal conditions. Running at the same time, they would weaken each other. The stronger man of the two would survive a first primary and probably contest with Mr. Daniels in the second primary.

Mr. Maxwell is looked upon as probably the best posted man in the state on tax matters. While achieving that information and experience, he has in several instances raised up groups of enemies. While he might get aid and comfort from the tobacco companies, the power companies would oppose him, in all probability. He has practically alienated the 23,000 school folks in the state, but may have annexed a larger support thereby. Whether he wins or loses from these contrary forces remain to be seen.

Mr. Ehringhaus has been out of public life for several years. While he has not been in position to make friends with large groups, through public or official contact, at the same time, he has not laid himself open to criticism from other groups. In contract bridge terms, he is not as "vulnerable" as some of the other candidates. Whether he will lose by not having been in official position, or gain by having come more direct from the people, also remains to be seen.

Mr. Daniels still has them guessing. A man who had read a letter written by him within the last 10 days to a close friend of long standing said he would be in the race. And Democratic leaders have still other information that his entry is not far away. If so, a fight to the finish is sure.

Governor O. Max Gardner heard for two hours a delegation of about 50 men from 11 cotton growing countries in their requests for a special session of the General Assembly to take action looking toward reduction of cotton and tobacco acreage next year. The delegation, here Thursday, presented resolutions from the 40 or 50 mass meetings of about 145 called to urge the special session. It was headed by E. G. Bartlett, secretary of the Eastern Carolina Chamber of Commerce.

Governor Gardner assured them they had a right to petition for a special session, that he would give their request serious consideration and would arrive at a conclusion that seemed to him best for the people of the state as a whole. He reminded them that North Carolina produces only 5 per cent of the cotton grown in this country and 3 per cent of the world supply, and that this state has cut acreage in cotton more than 500,000 acres in two years. "We must look carefully before we leap," he said, stating that he would seek an opinion of the Attorney General as to the constitutionality of the acreage reduction law.

Carey K. Dufrey former broker, was sentenced to State's Prison for eight to ten years for embezzling \$116,800 from the Tucker estate by Judge Walter L. Small, in Superior Court last Friday. The aggregate of the terms in 11 counts was from 25 to 38 years, but the sentences are to run concurrently.

Wade Marr, partner in the brokerage firm of Dufrey & Marr, had been acquitted the day before on charges of collusion with Dufrey in handling funds of the Tucker estate, of which Dufrey was executor. Dufrey, an involuntary witness in the Marr trial, said he never discussed the Tucker funds with his partner, and doubted if Marr knew of his shortage in the funds. Marr is to be tried later on the brokerage firm shortages, charges being embezzlement from funds of customers.

Ed Hugh Lee, former city tax collector, charged with embezzling \$48,000 in Raleigh funds, had his case postponed because of the illness of his mother.

Moore County Asks No Additional Funds

Not Among Those Seeking to Supplement Budgets Approved by Board of Equalization

Moore is among 46 counties of the state which have not asked for permission to supplement the budgets approved by the State Board of Equalization on the State standard basis.

The State allotments for the 54 counties asking for supplemental budgets amount to a total of \$8,898,450, while the supplemental budgets asked for these counties amount to \$692,771, or 8 per cent more than the amount on the State basis. Four counties, Durham, Guilford, New Hanover and Mecklenburg, account for more than one-half of the amount in the 54 supplemental budgets. Durham would increase through local taxes the State allotment by 57 per cent; New Hanover by 39 per cent; Guilford by 14

per cent, and Mecklenburg 10 per cent, or \$61,399 more than the State approved budget of \$562,529.

Forsyth county, richest in the state, increased its budget about 2 per cent, asking for \$10,914 more than the State standard basis of a budget of \$476,809. None of the supplemental amount asked will go for increase in the salaries of teachers or for additional teachers, the budget shows.

Numbers of the counties calling for relief in the last General Assembly have filed supplemental budgets, increasing the amount for schools and thus increasing the local taxes for schools, in addition to the 15 cent State ad valorem tax for the six months term.

Among the 46 counties from which no report has been made and for which no additional amounts have been asked so far are Buncombe, Burke, Cleveland, Carteret, Davidson, Montgomery, Moore, Rockingham and Transylvania.

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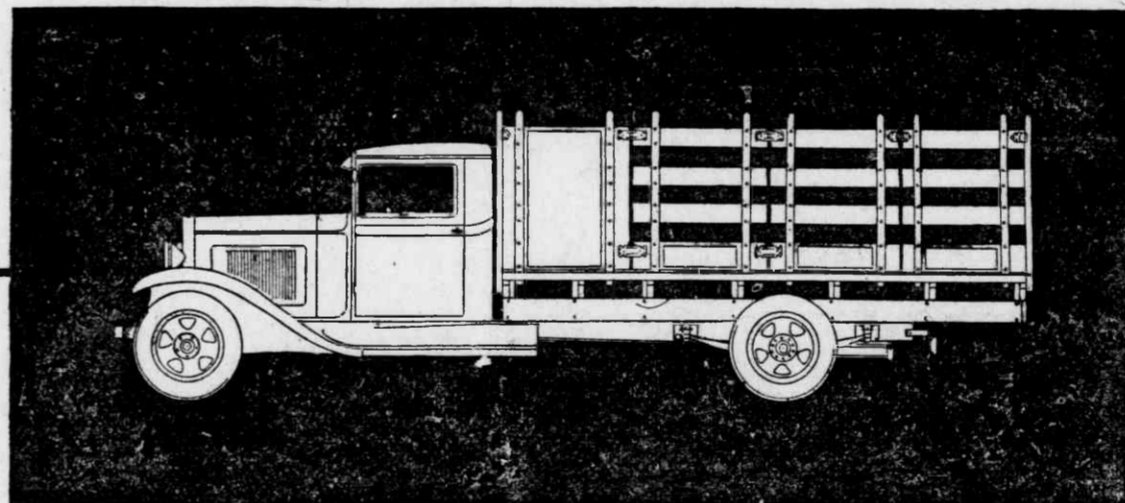
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