

## THE REPUBLICANS ATTACK THE ABSENT VOTERS' LAW

APPLIED TO JUDGE KERR TO DECLARE LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL; HEARING ON CASE NEXT THURSDAY; APPEAL IS DECLARED POLITICAL TRICK.

(By LLEWYAM.)

Raleigh, Sept. 9.—Although Judge Kerr has issued an order directing the members of the board of elections and the state auditor and state treasurer to appear before him at Raleigh next Thursday, 16th instant, and show cause why the injunction sought by the republican "machine" in North Carolina to stop the distribution of ballots for use by absentee voters should not be granted, the whole proceeding is regarded as a political stroke, pure and simple, on the part of the state republican management to gain an advantage they are not entitled to.

The application as it came before Judge Kerr was made through legal representatives of J. J. Jenkins, republican candidate for state treasurer, ostensibly. The claim is made that the absentee voters' law, passed by the legislature of 1917 is unconstitutional. Judge Kerr declined to grant the injunction asked for, but made the order referred to above.

The move has failed to throw any scare into the Democrats and leading lawyers here today stated that the claim of unconstitutionality could not stand; that the judiciary committee of the legislature that perfected and reported the bill was composed of a number of the best lawyers in the state and that many other states now have the same law and no one has attempted to attack its constitutionality there.

It is generally believed that Judge Kerr will dismiss the application on next Thursday, in which event it is probable the republicans will appeal to the supreme court and it would be possible to get a decision on the appeal before the November election.

In the meantime, Chairman Warren of the democratic state committee is advising all who are entitled to the benefit of this law to go right ahead as though Jenkins and his suit did not exist. Mr. Warren calls special attention of citizens (school teachers particularly, male and female) who do not expect to be at their homes during the registration period, Sept. 30 to Oct. 23, to the fact that under the absentee voters' law they can register now, before leaving home, by applying to the chairman of the board of elections of their respective counties. Without this law all such voters would lose their vote at the election in November.

As a matter of fact, the absentee voters' law operates to the advantage of voters of both parties and there is no good reason why its repeal should be desired. Indeed the only people who desire its repeal is the republican state management, and they are impelled by the hope that the democratic party would have more members to lose their vote than would the republican party.

The suit brought by one of the republican candidates now will not act in the end to deprive any citizen of his or her vote. So, Chairman Warren's advice is good. Go right ahead and register under its provisions if you do not expect to be at home during the registration period, as indicated above.

## "SING" TO BE HELD ON THE COMMONS

Sunday next at 4.30 in the afternoon, the Rocky Mount Community Sing orchestra will stage another Community Sing and it is hoped the people will take a distinct interest in the affair, to the extent at least of bringing their hymn books with them and joining in the popular sacred melodies that nearly all know by heart.

Dr. L. G. Shaffer will conduct the orchestra and he will be assisted by a song leader. The local ladies also have been active in making preparations for this sing, which ought to go with life and enthusiasm.

## FRENCH BLUEBEARD DOES NOT WEAKEN

Paris, Sept. 9.—Henri Landru, whom the police call the Gambais Bluebeard and hold responsible for the disappearance of eleven women to whom he had promised marriage, shows no sign of weakening under the continual and grueling eighteen months' examination and preliminary investigation which Judge Bonin has conducted.

"You seem worn and tired today," he said to Judge Bonin, solicitously, when he last appeared before the judge. "Don't you think you will be able to take a vacation this season?"

It was fine a bit of irony as ever delivered by Landru, as last summer Judge Bonin after six months' examination of the alleged bluebeard, gave up in despair and went to the country for four weeks.

In the jobbies of the courthouse the other day, Landru, accompanied by his lawyers, met Madame Bessarabo, who is being examined by Judge Bonin, concerning the disappearance of her husband, and the subsequent finding of his body in a trunk at the Nancy railroad station. The lawyers introduced them. Saluting with a flourish of his weather beaten hat and bending low, Landru said simply: "My homages, madame."

## PORTUGAL FEELS COAL SHORTAGE

Lisbon, Sept. 9.—A coal shortage is being keenly felt in Portugal owing to the prohibition of coal exportation from England and the absence of any good coal producing district in this country.

All coal for industries was imported chiefly from Cardiff and Newcastle and since that has ceased and orders placed in the United States have been cancelled, the situation threatens to become serious and people are looking forward with alarm to the coming winter. Abnormal conditions exist as a result, all restaurants, cafes and places of amusement must close promptly at midnight and external illuminations are prohibited.

## SUGAR DIVIDEND OF 100 PER CENT

San Juan, P. R., Sept. 9.—Dividends declared by the South Porto Rico Sugar Company and the Pajardo Sugar Company, which it was announced recently in New York would reach 100 per cent, are not the only large sugar dividends that are being declared this year.

The Santa Isabel Sugar Company has declared a cash dividend of 100 per cent, which is probably the highest dividend that will be paid by any sugar company in Porto Rico this year. Other sugar properties may yield a return equal to or in excess of the Santa Isabel dividend, but so far they have not been reported as having been declared in the form of dividends.

The Santa Isabel dividend is all in cash, while the dividend of South Porto Rico Sugar Company has been declared in the form of a stock dividend, new common stock being issued for each share of common stock now outstanding. The 100 per cent dividend of the Pajardo Sugar Company amounts to 30 per cent in cash and 70 per cent in stock.

Most of the sugar companies in the island, it is believed, will declare dividends that will probably reach 50 per cent.

## AMERICAN SWIMS ACROSS CHANNEL

Ramsgate, England, Sept. 9.—Henry Sullivan, of Lowell, Massachusetts, who started last night from Dover to swim the English channel, was reported six miles from the French coast this morning.

## DEATH LIST GROWS FROM EARTHQUAKE

Over 500 Already Accounted For In Three Towns.

10,000 ARE HOMELESS

Florence, Sept. 9.—The number of dead from Tuesday's earthquake is steadily growing.

Four hundred and thirty-two have already been noted as killed at Fivizzano, and one hundred and twenty-four at Vignatta. One thousand injured in these two cities are being cared for.

Serious damage has been done in three score of Italian towns, and it is estimated that more than ten thousand people are homeless.

London, Sept. 9.—Fifty dead were taken from the ruins in the town of Barga, in the Italian earthquake zone, says an Exchange Telegraph news dispatch, the message adding that many more are buried in the debris.

Rome, Sept. 9.—A violent shock in the Emilia district this morning caused additional loss of life and important damage. The quake was more violent than that of Tuesday.

## FARMERS PROTEST TO CREDIT RESTRICTIONS

Washington, Sept. 9.—Representatives of farmers and livestock producers' organizations are preparing to present protests to the Federal Reserve Board against the alleged credit restrictions, according to a statement issued by the Farmers National Council.

## SOCIALISTS HOOT AT LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Chicago, Sept. 9.—The big issue in the Socialist campaign this fall is as usual private ownership of the means of production, Otto Bramstetter, national secretary and campaign manager of the Socialist party, said here today, discussing the Socialist campaign.

The League of Nations issue was viewed by the Socialists as "largely camouflage," he said. The party felt that the league question had been introduced by the old parties largely to cloud the issues and keep the people's attention off domestic issues.

Eugene V. Debs, the Socialist presidential candidate, in prison at Atlanta, Ga., was not advising in the conduct of the campaign to any extent. Use was being made in party literature of what he said to Socialists visiting him.

The chief speaker in the campaign is the vice-presidential candidate, Seymour Stedman, of Chicago, reinforced by 40 speakers or more under the national organization.

## KING GEORGE QUARRELS WITH QUEEN MOTHER

London, Sept. 9.—A dispute has arisen between King George and Queen Alexandra regarding lettings which have been made by Her Majesty on the royal estate at Sandringham.

The Queen let a number of building plots on ninety-nine year leases at very low rents, but received fees in cash in each case varying from \$2,500 to \$10,000. The King claims that as Queen Alexandra is only tenant for life on the royal property, she cannot appropriate these sums herself.

The matter has been referred to the Home Secretary, who is supposed to settle any such dispute between the sovereign and any member of the royal family. This is the first occasion in seventy years that a dispute between two members of the royal family has been referred to the Home Secretary.

## RIFLE STRENGTH IS REDUCED ONE HALF

Washington, Sept. 9.—The rifle strength of the Bolsheviks on the Polish front has been reduced over one-half as a result of the Polish counter-offensive.

According to reports from official circles here the unapprehended deserters in Russia are estimated at one million men.

## TROTSKY'S SON IS KILLED IN BATTLE

London, Sept. 9.—The son of Leon Trotsky, war minister of Soviet Russia, was killed in the fighting on the Polish front, according to a Central News dispatch from Cracow, Poland, quoting the information to the paper, the Cracow Kurjer.

## ORANGEMEN HANG MAYOR INEFFIGY

Belfast, Sept. 9.—Fist fights and brush with stones occurred here, when Orangemen hanged Lord MacSwiney in effigy on the street lamp-posts. Most of the figures representing him had breadcrusts stuffed in the mouths. The authorities induced the "hangmen" to take down their handiwork.

## 'RED ROSE' TIGRESS IS TAKEN BY POLES

Paris, Sept. 9.—After a desperate hand-to-hand struggle with four Polish soldiers, Soviet Russia's exquisite "Red Rose," a youthful maiden with face of a nun and heart of a tigress, has been captured.

And with her removal as "real general of the Russian Legion," according to news dispatches, has gone the will to win of the Soviet army.

## WAS SOVIET GENERAL

No figure in all the long turmoil of Russia has been as picturesque as that of the lovely eighteen-year-old girl, aristocrat by birth, but now the most proletarian of proletarians. Her story, which sooner or later will find its way into history, is one of almost incredible ferocity. She is said to have been responsible for more than four hundred deaths of anti-revolutionists, her methods being those of a female Judas. Nevertheless, so potent is her personality that her very captors have fallen victims to her charm, and the Russian women and men captured with her treat her as a kind of queen.

Her story goes back to 1912 when with her parents, the Count and Countess Ivanovsky, she returned from a long exile in London to Moscow. However, Rasputin, then at the height of his power, became infatuated with the Countess and enticed her to the house in Moscow where his affairs were accustomed to commence. From that time she never again was seen. And although the Count carried appeal for help to the very steps of the throne itself, he continually was put off till finally he shot and killed himself upon the steps of the Kremlin, while his little daughter clung to his hand.

This is the tragedy which furnished the motif of revenge which the "Red Rose" determined to turn loose upon the mass of insidious, immoral intrigue which was the court of Russia. The revolution gave her the chance. According to Jean Reich, a French man, recently returned as a refugee from Soviet Russia, she was the Charlotte Corday of the Russian revolution, with the soul of a patriot and the heart of a savage.

## H. M. BLAIR ADMITS GOV. COX'S CHARGES

Chicago, Sept. 9.—After hearing from William O. Farlow, of Augusta, Illinois, farmer, of an alleged attempt by Charles S. Boeschenstein, democratic national committee man from Illinois, to solicit funds from postmasters, the senate campaign investigating committee recalled Harry H. Blair, assistant to Republican Treasurer Upham, for further questioning.

Governor Cox's charges that the republicans fixed quotas and planned intensive fund raising drives in at least fifty-one cities and that the national committee had a part in the assessing of the cities' quotas, was admitted today by the senate committee today by Harry M. Blair, assistant to Republican Treasurer Upham.

## DISAPPOINTED, BUT ORDERLY SALES

Opening Displayed Weakness And No Disposition To Buy.

PRICES WILL IMPROVE

The tobacco market which opened yesterday displayed a weakness, so far as bidding was concerned, and good grades were bid in at less than the buyers themselves acknowledged the worth, at the same time, it was announced, the buyers for the manufacturers and exporters had no definite instruction and they were but feeling out the market yesterday. It will be several days, they say, before the market will steady and orders issued buyers of the needs of their various clients.

In the three warehouses 175,000 pounds of tobacco were sold, and, though the farmers were naturally disappointed at the low prices it was an orderly crowd that attended the selling and practically no ticket turning was resorted to.

In discussing conditions and prospects after the sales were over the tobacco men and buyers felt that the prices for the good leaf would revive and that the farmers would receive higher prices as the season progressed. So far as the poor tobacco was concerned there were none who prophesied much improvement in price as the market was already stocked on low grades.

## LONE STAR TRAIL TO BE PERFECTED

Winnfield, La., Sept. 9.—Organization necessary to assure building of Louisiana's share of the Lone Star Trail has been perfected and efforts will be made to have similar action taken by other states through which it is proposed to route the road.

The highway is to pass through North Central Louisiana, the objective points being St. Augustine, Fla., and Los Angeles, Calif. After Louisiana is completed the organization of Texas will be taken up and pushed a thousand miles or more across that state and then the east end will be taken up through the states of Mississippi, Alabama and Florida and finally the great western division will be completed through New Mexico, Arizona and California.

Other east and west highways through Louisiana are the Dixie Overland along the line of the Vicksburg, Shreveport and Pacific railroad and the Old Spanish Trail along the Southern Pacific, both far removed from the proposed Lone Star Trail.

## MRS. THRASH SPEAKS AT PETTIGREW UNVEILING

Friday next, twelve miles north of Winchester, Virginia, the dedication of the Pettigrew Memorial takes place at Boyd House, Bunker Hill, to which place General James Johnson Pettigrew was removed after receiving his mortal wound in the vicinity, he dying July 17, 1863.

Elaborate preparations have been made for the event next Friday afternoon, and a large number of North Carolinians will attend. General Jas. I. Metts, commander of the North Carolina division, U. D. C., will preside. The address of welcome will be made by Hon. Charles James Faulkner, former United States senator from West Virginia, and the response will be made by Mrs. Jackie Daniel Thrash, of this city, chairman of the tablet committee, U. D. C.

Chief Justice Walter Clark will speak on the life and character of General Pettigrew and General Louis G. Young, captain on Gen. Pettigrew's staff, will give his personal recollection of Gen. Pettigrew.

## GREEK TROOPS LAND AT ISMID

Constantinople, Sept. 9.—Five transports of Greek troops have landed at Ismid, on the Gulf of Ismid, replacing British forces.

Senators have asked the Grand Vizier to come to some agreement with the nationalists before the Greeks find some excuse to occupy Constantinople.

## MACSWINEY CASE CAUSES GOVERNMENT DISRUPTURE

### RAILROADS ASKING PUBLIC FOR HELP

New York, Sept. 9.—Cooperation of the public is meeting the nation's rail transportation requirements is asked by the Association of Railway Executives in announcing its program to secure maximum service from existing transportation facilities.

The association urges cooperation of the public and shippers to attain: An average daily minimum movement of freight cars of not less than 30 miles per day.

An average loading of 30 tons per car. Reduction of bad-order cars to a minimum of 4 per cent of the total owned.

An early and substantial reduction in the number of locomotives now unfit for service.

More effective efforts to bring the return of cars to owner roads.

### NO INFLUENZA RETURN THIS WINTER

Washington, Sept. 9.—The Public Health Service says there has been no indications of the return of last year's influenza epidemic this winter.

Although there are certain to be a number of cases in each year between November and May, they are not expected to be as widespread or virulent as last year.

## TOM WATSON HAS BEEN NOMINATED

Atlanta, Ga., Sept. 9.—The Journal figures on an unofficial and incomplete count from one hundred and seventeen out of one hundred and fifty-five counties gives Thomas E. Watson one hundred and ninety-seven unit votes, or more than enough majority for the nomination for United States senator.

Dorsey was given sixty-seven and Hoke Smith forty unit votes. The total county unit vote, instead of the total popular vote, determines the result in Georgia democratic primaries, which are considered equivalent to election. Each county has twice as many unit votes as it has representatives in the lower house of the legislature.

To nominate, 195 unit votes are required in the senatorial and gubernatorial races. For the gubernatorial race the returns from same counties give Hardwick one hundred and seventy-two, to Clifford Walker's one hundred and thirty-eight.

## SHIPPING BOARD EDUCATES SAILORS

Washington, Sept. 9.—More than 13,000 merchant marine officers have been graduated from the Shipping Board's training schools since their establishment three years ago, and 72 per cent of the graduates have been licensed for service at sea on records of the board's recruiting service.

Officers for the government-owned merchant marine are trained at Camp Stuart, Va., San Francisco and Seattle. Four wooden ships operate on the Atlantic coast as combination training ships and cargo carriers. Each has a capacity of 200 apprentices and 1,200 tons of cargo.

On the Pacific coast one wooden ship carrying 1,800 tons of cargo and 115 apprentices and a new 1,800 ton steel vessel with space for 146 apprentices operate on the triangular run between Seattle, the Hawaiian Islands and San Francisco.

Extension and development of its system of training Americans to command the craft of the merchant marine is planned by the Shipping Board. It is suggested that shore station be maintained where men from all sections of the country can be assembled and given instruction in steamship, boat drill and other preliminary work.

### BRITISH CABINET MAY BE FORCED TO RESIGN IF HEROIC MAYOR DIES; PREMIER SHOWS SIGNS OF WEAKNESS.

London, Sept. 9.—The tenacious hold on life of Lord Mayor Terence MacSwiney, of Cork, hunger-striking in Brixton prison, has started to split the British coalition government asunder.

How great the rift is no one knows. Whether it will be healed before it becomes a public matter cannot be foretold, but there are unmistakable signs that it is started.

The prisoner himself may wipe out all possibilities at any moment by dying. But the pressure of world sentiment, generated by the hot courage of the Mayor—giving up his life for the principle of self-determination—is making itself felt.

Last night he was in extreme pain. He is physically weak beyond the point at which his physicians thought he could live, but he is still clear-headed and he is still fully determined to die rather than acknowledge British sovereignty over Ireland.

There is the rub for the British government. It had decided to inaugurate an iron policy against Ireland. The arrest of MacSwiney and his comrades was the first big stroke. The hunger strike was anticipated and the decision to stand pat on the death sentence was in.

But the government had reckoned on the Lord Mayor being dead some time ago. It felt that it could ride on the storm of disapproval that his death would bring. But with the passing days the sentiment from the dispatches received here, is steadily rising against the "death sentence."

Now some of the officers of the government are politically and perhaps some personally afraid.

The first crack in the solid front of the cabinet came when Premier Lloyd George, an absolute master of political expediency, gave out that the Lord Mayor and the other hunger strikers could be released if guarantees were given that the murders of the police in Ireland should cease.

### COX SUPPORTING LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Helena, Montana, Sept. 9.—Governor Cox argued in behalf of the League of Nations here today and adapted his speech to the needs of the west, declaring the cost of one battleship would reclaim two million acres of land.

### \$100,000,000 LOAN OVERSUBSCRIBED

New York, Sept. 9.—J. P. Morgan & Company announced today that the new hundred million French loan was oversubscribed in an hour after the books were opened.

### "THE LAST DAYS OF POMPEII"

Sunday night the movie picture at the Opera House, which is now a regular event on each second Sunday night, arranged by Rev. Bertram E. Brown, will be "The Last Days of Pompeii," which will be put on the screen immediately following the religious service, which also will be given on the screen. The service will start promptly at eight o'clock. There will be a collection during the evening to cover the actual cost of the picture.

### KIDNAPPED MAN MADE ESCAPE

Mexico City, Sept. 9.—Bertie C. Johnson, a British subject, kidnapped by the bandit Zamora, together with an American, who also escaped last week, escaped from his captors and is in the hands of government troops, the War Office announced.

### MAYOR REFUSES ORDER TO EAT

London, Sept. 9.—The Irish Self-determination League quotes Mayor MacSwiney's sister as saying that MacSwiney will not obey the order from the Irish republican authorities to cease his hunger strike.