LaFollette And Not Ford Is Real Idol Of The West

La Follette Responsible for Election of Radicals in West Who Will Hold Balance of Power in Next Congress and May Make Trouble for President

By DAVID LAWRENCE

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This is the last of a series of time articles by David Lawrence on presidential possibilities and impossibilities giving an appraisal of the political assets and liabilities of the men most talked about today for the Republican and Democratic nomination. Mr. Lawrence has just finished a tour of the Western part of the United States with President Harding and is now enroute to Europe to make a detailed survey of reconstruction problems there. At the conclusion of this series, Mr. Lawrence's dispatches from Europe will begin exclusively in The Advance.

Senator Robert M. La Follette of Wisconsin is the real Henry Ford of the Western political situation.

Shrewdly keeping in the background at this early date because he knows how easy it is to spoil one's chances by premature action, the Wisconsin Senator is the man who fits in exactly with what the Western farmers really want. They talk about Henry Ford because his name is a symbol of their craving, but what they mean is a La Follette.

Take the remarkable victory which Mr. La Follette won in Wisconsin last year when he swept the Republican primaries and then easily won the race for re-election. People wondered at that situation and attributed it to all sorts of causes, mostly local, mostly La Follette himself.

But then came the Brookhart episode in Iowa and after that the Shipstead victory in Minnesota and in a few days there will be another demonstration in Minnesota of La Follette strength in the selection of a successor to the late Senator Knute Nelson. North Dakota worships La Follette. The triumph of Lynn Frazier last autumn was a La Follette victory.

It is too early perhaps for the general public to begin thinking of what is going to happen in the December session of Congress.

But Senator La Follette has already begun to do his thinking and his opponents have begun to do their worrying.

The so-called Republican majority in the next Senate will be about 10. Of this number nearly all are radicals of the La Follette type who have in common with the old Republican party only the name Republican. In the House, Mr. La Follette's 10 or 11 henchmen from Wisconsin will hold the balance of power because the majority of the Republicans has been narrowed to a mere handful.

Under these circumstances, Mr. La Follette will have the stage to himself for an old-fashioned Bryan-like appeal. He will be in the Senate where avenues of publicity will be open to him daily. His war record is little mentioned nowadays for it only proved a boomerang to those who emphasized it in Wisconsin. The alleged persecution of La Follette for daring to express his own views was one of the principal factors in his last victory in Wisconsin.

Mr. La Follette is by no means a "dry." But he probably would avoid prohibition as an issue for he believes other things are more important to the West just now. Nor is his voting strength confined to the West.

Large numbers of votes in Eastern cities would be found in the La Follette column if he were on the ballot. Many of the foreign born voters of the Eastern states who sympathize with the views held by La Follette about the war would bolt the two regular party tickets to help La Follette if he ran independently.

The farmer labor groups of the nation would be tempted to throw their strength to La Follette if the two major parties nominated men who were known as liberal conservatives or even progressives. Radicalism is on the upgrade in the West. Agricultural discontent is the dominant characteristic of the whole electorate. That's what gives rise to the talk of Henry Ford who is looked upon as the exponent of agrarian socialism.

But Senator La Follette hasn't opened up yet. When he does he will supplant Ford and become a factor in the Republican race giving Mr. Harding the only real opposition.

Senator Hiram Johnson of California, Governor Gifford Pinchot of Pennsylvania, and others identified with the "Bull Moose" party are back in the regular fold. Mr. Johnson, who is now in Europe, was expected to make a fight on the World Court, but the concessions made by President Harding in his St. Louis speech have deprived the California Senator of any substantial ground for opposing the renomination of the President. Senator Borah of Idaho has already discouraged talk of his own candidacy and he is supporting Mr. Harding on the World Court.

Attorney General Daugherty said in Florida last March that Senator La Follette would be Mr. Harding's only opponent. Much has happened since then to confirm his prediction. The West is aching for a La Follette leadership and the Wisconsin Senator will try his hand at it in the next session of Congress.

Fire Loss Less in State During June

But June of Last Year Had Lowest Loss in Record, Says Commissioner Wade

Raleigh, July 16.—The total fire loss for North Carolina for June was $397,093 as compared with $642,002 for the preceding month and $105,908 for June 1922, the latter being the lowest on record, Insurance Commissioner Stacey W. Wade announced today. Property at risk last month was $3,408,411 with an insurance value of $2,322,200.

The number of fires, 95, is the smallest on record, next being that of June 1922, with 96. Of these 95 fires, 11 ran up a loss of $357,800, leaving a loss of only $39,293 for the other 84. The principal single fires of these eleven were: Chair factory near Hickory, $128,000; lumber plant near Marshville, $50,000; granite quarry near Mount Airy, $41,000; store and contents at Wilmington $40,492, and a business block at Kinston $37,540. There were 85 fires in towns, and only 11 in the rural districts, the heavy losses from these 11—$111,833—being due to the lumber plant fires and the granite quarry fire.

While there were 66 fires in the nine largest cities of the State, the total loss from them was but $74,979, and of this, one fire in Wilmington contributed $40,942, or more than half that of the other eight leading cities. Raleigh leads this group of cities with three or more fires with a loss of only $50, with Asheville a close second with a loss of $140. Winston-Salem $3,595, Charlotte, $9,450. Cities like Durham, High Point and Hamlet had two fires with small losses, with one fire only at towns like Greenville, Mt. Airy, Wilson, New Bern, Kinston, Henderson and Burlington, Wilson leading this group with a loss of only $15, with Greenville $25 and Henderson $35. East Spencer had the smallest loss, it being only $5.

Other important towns had no damage whatever, the honor roll comprising the following: Rocky oMunt, Salisbury, Statesville, Clinton, Washington, Lumberton, Louisburg, Sanford, Huntersville, Pinehurst, Marshville, Wake Forest and the counties of Caswell and Davidson.

Of the 95 fires, 41 were dwelling fires, with a loss of $20,299, valued at $348,375, on which there was insurance of $182,975. There were but three rural dwelling fires with a loss of $6,335.

Other principal classes of property at risk were: Stores, 11; industrial plant, 10; barns and stables, 6; garages, 4, and three each of cafes, office buildings and lumber plants.

The list of causes of fires were given as follows: 28, unknown; 22, defective flues; and shingle roofs; 11, carelessness; gasoline, 6; smoking, 5; spontaneous combustion, 4, and three each from overheated stove, oil stoves and short circuit.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA.

ELIZABETH CITY IRON WORKS AND SUPPLY COMPANY,
vs.
GAS SCREW, WITHOUT NAME, NO. 3159-T.

NOTICE OF SALE

By virtue of an order of sale made in the above cause, I will, on the 3rd day of August, 1923, at 12 o'clock Noon, aboard the said Gas Screw without name "No. 3159-T," lying at the wharf of the Elizabeth City Iron Works and Supply Company, Riverside Avenue, Elizabeth City, N. C., sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, the Gas Screw without name, "No. 3159-T."

This notice dated and posted this 14th day of July, 1923.

R. W. WARD, U. S. Marshal.
J. W. WILCOX,
Deputy Marshal.

W. A. WORTH,
Proctor for Libellant. 7-16,19-21,26-30 A-2

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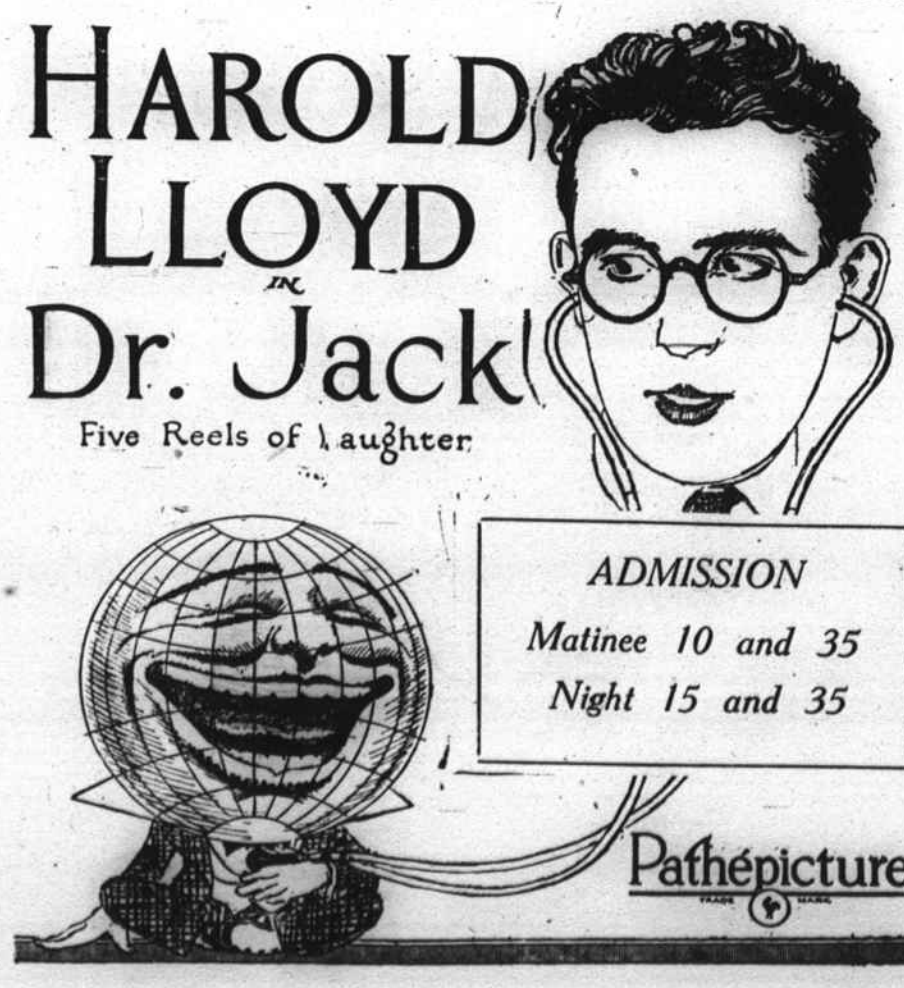

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