

William R. Ballance Drowned By Negro Deckhand

It Is Anybody's Race Now For Democratic Nomination

McAdoo By No Means Eliminated But Others Now Feel They Have Even Chance With Him And Their Friends Are Redoubling Activities In Their Behalf

By DAVID LAWRENCE
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Washington, Feb. 29.—It is anybody's race now for the Democratic nomination for the presidency. While William Gibbs McAdoo, former Secretary of the Treasury, has by no means been eliminated and his supporters insist that the recent attacks on him for receiving large fees as attorney for corporations involve no wrong-doing, there is no question but that he has been injured politically. The friends of other contenders have quickened their pace and no longer may it be said that McAdoo or anyone else is in the lead—it's a free-for-all.

Again and again among Democrats the question is asked "who will be nominated if not McAdoo?" The search for new timber, or at least men whose names have not been brought forward prominently before, has led to an undercurrent of talk in favor of Louis D. Brandeis, of Massachusetts, now associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, and John H. Clarke of Ohio, former associate justice of the Supreme Court who is now at the head of the League of Nations Non Partisan Association.

Both men were close friends and appointees of the late President Wilson and both are of the progressive school in politics. In favor of Mr. Brandeis is the fact that he has been on the bench for several years and therefore not in any way mixed up in recent administrative controversies, that he is a liberal and commands the confidence of the Western progressives who want the next presidential campaign fought out on progressive lines as opposed to conservatism and what has been termed reactionary tendencies.

Against Mr. Brandeis is the fact that he was a progressive Republican rather than an old line Democrat before he became a Wilson man. Also he has no organization support in the Democratic party as a nucleus for the campaign, though this might prove an asset. Mr. Brandeis, of course, is not in any way a party to the political discussion and is not aware, probably of the gossip about his chances.

Former Justice Clarke's name has been continually coming up ever since he left the bench. As he is a native of Ohio and is held in high repute by the country at large as well as in his own state, the Democrats who favor him think a man who could carry Ohio is worth considering.

The mention of both these men is due to a desire to get candidates who have had no affiliations whatsoever which could be attacked and to carry to the people men of integrity as a pledge of good government, the theory being that the oil scandal will more than ever before put the political X-Ray on personal character and business affiliations.

Many Democrats are already counting on a victory by means of the Western and Southern electoral votes and to win the West they think candidates of the Brandeis and Clarke type will be necessary. The friends of John W. Davis of West Virginia have renewed their efforts in his behalf, arguing that if Mr. McAdoo's corporation law fees do not make him politically ineligible, they also cannot disqualify Mr. Davis. The latter was president of the American Bar Association and is considered one of the ablest lawyers in the country and his friends say that if he received large fees they would not be incommensurate with those received by Charles Evans Hughes after he retired from the Supreme Court bench and practiced law in New York or those of Elihu Root in his days of activity.

Besides the foregoing names, there is a noticeable rise in interest in the candidacy of Governor Al Smith of New York, whose supporters are counting a good deal on the "wet" atmosphere of New York to win over the Democratic delegates when the convention meets in the metropolis next June.

Newton D. Baker of Ohio, former Secretary of War, in the Wilson cabinet, is being talked of more and more and it would not be surprising if he won the Vice Presidential nomination. This would not be likely to develop, however, if an Ohio man—either James M. Cox or Justice Clarke—were to be named to head the ticket. Mr. Cox is getting into the race again and is expected to do a good deal of speaking in the primary cam-

TROUBLE MAY OCCUR AT CANTON MONDAY

Raleigh, March 1.—Major Smith reported yesterday to Governor Morrison that the situation at Canton is quiet and the Governor will not order troops there unless serious conditions develop. The trouble may take place when the Champion Fibre Company attempts to reopen on Monday on a non-union basis.

Revenue Compromise Measure Is Passed

Washington, March 1.—A revenue bill was passed yesterday which is half way between the Mellon plan and the Democrat substitute.

FATALLY INJURED IN AUTOMOBILE SMASH

Columbia, S. C., March 1.—Capt. Phillip J. O'Brien, commander of Camp Jackson, was fatally injured in an automobile accident here last night.

CONFESSED MURDERER RETURNED TO STATE

Gastonia, March 1.—Arthur Crowder, confessed murderer of John Ford three years ago, was returned here from Decatur, Alabama, yesterday, and three companions of Ford on the night of the murder were arrested and held without bail as material witnesses.

LABOR LEADER HAS HIS SAY ON CHURCH

Pittsburgh, March 1.—Warren S. Stone, president of the National Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, in a speech to the council of the Methodist Episcopal Church last night, declared that labor does not like the church because the church does not like labor and looks to the capital class for its support.

RATES ON GRAIN DECLARED RIGHT

Washington, March 1.—Rates on grain moving into the Southeastern quarter of the United States from the Missouri valley to the Atlantic Coast are reasonable as the stand, the Interstate Commerce Commission decided today.

J. Wesley Foreman Is Ill at His Home on West Main Street

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DIRECTOR FORBES SAYS HE WON'T RUN

Washington, March 1.—Charles Forbes, former director of the Veterans Bureau, today declared in a statement that he welcomed the indictments returned against him yesterday in Chicago.

He said he looked upon them "with a clear conscience because they will permit me to present my case before a fair court of justice and jury of my peers."

He characterized the accusations as "hell engendered conspiracy against my honor and integrity."

Forbes said he would interpose no technical objection to the trial but would go to Chicago voluntarily, adding that he was "not going to Florida" despite the fact that "other men now charged publicly with crimes against the Government have been reported hiding behind the screen of ill health."

POTATO EXCHANGE IS ENLARGING QUARTERS

The entire office at 14 South Poinceter street has been turned over to the Carolina Potato Exchange and workmen are busy altering the interior arrangement for the exclusive use of this company. The office will be painted and put in first class shape. A stenographer and extra typewriter will be provided for those engaged in the potato business and the office will be thrown open for the convenience of men from out of town who will come to Elizabeth City during the harvesting season, according to the manager, N. Howard Smith.

The Grice-Whitehurst Insurance Agency, who have until this week occupied half of the office with the Carolina Potato Exchange, have moved to the second floor of the Savings Bank & Trust Company Building. The new office has been made attractive with furnishings and judicious use of varnishes and paint. The moving of the big steel safe of the insurance firm to the second floor location attracted no little attention Friday.

SUNDAY LAST DAY FOR ANNUAL DINNER TICKETS

Sunday is the last day to secure tickets for the annual dinner of the First Methodist church to be held next Thursday night. The committee of ladies in charge must know how many to expect at the dinner and those who are going to attend are asked to get their tickets from members of the Men's Bible class not later than Sunday.

Massachusetts Starts Drive Against Billboards On Roads

Scenic Beauty of Driveways Destroyed or Impaired by Huge Billboards That One Can Not See Over or Under and State Noted for Culture Is Tired of Them

By HENRY K. WENDELL
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Boston, Mar. 1.—Massachusetts, grand old seat of culture, has stepped to the fore again. This time it is a state-wide drive against the billboards that line her highways.

No longer will the tourist along the Springfield highway have the delightful view of Mount Tom cut off from him by huge billboards that he can't see over, under or around. No longer will the Sylvan beauties of the Mohawk trail be obscured by glaring boards in primary colors extolling the virtues of this, that and the other. And no longer will the farmer collect a free coat of paint for his barn for the mere privilege of granting the latest patent medicine advertiser to screech his wares in fire-foot letters on its walls.

The state department of public works, recently empowered to regulate bill board advertising by the simple process of licensing that industry, has served notice on its licensees to get in line by July 1 or prepare to separate themselves from a lot of money. Violation of the new regulations is punishable by a fine of \$100 for the first offense, and \$500 for the second.

This doesn't mean, however, that bill boards are to go altogether in the Bay State. Massachusetts is taking it by degrees. The present regulations merely restrict the size and the placing of signs. How long it will be before the boards are entirely eliminated—if ever—is a question. But the civic organizations and individuals who fought the scenic "degradation" to the point of getting it regulated, are carrying on, with a clean sweep as their goal. The bill board men, of course, are carrying on a tremendous fight in the other direction.

The regulations so far promulgated provide: That no bill board exceeding 32 square feet in area shall be erected within 100 feet of a public highway. That no bill board exceeding 25 feet in length or 12 feet in height

shall be erected within 300 feet of a public highway. That is no event may a bill board exceeding 50 feet in length and 12 feet in height be erected, save that the department of public works may in its discretion authorize erection of boards 15 feet in height provided they are not more than 40 feet in length.

The Cape Cod district probably will be the first battle ground in the bill board war. There the bill board interests have capitalized the popular summer playground, not only of New Englanders, but of a substantial representation from all over the United States. The industry never has flourished extensively in the picturesque, hilly sections of Massachusetts, largely because the state has acquired, and banned to bill boards, large strips of territory on both sides of the road.

The Boston Post Road, leading from Boston to New York by way of Springfield, probably will be the scene of another war, as it is literally lined with advertising. In this connection it is noteworthy that when Henry Ford acquired the historic "Wayside Inn" in Sudbury, which Longfellow celebrated in verse, he took pains to acquire a substantial acreage from which he banished bill boards and hot dog counters.

The present regulations of the highway department certainly would seem to represent an important step toward bill board control, but curiously enough they have failed to please anybody. While the bill board interests have denounced them as an "invasion of private rights," opponents of the industry contend that they do not go far enough. Those who do not insist on complete elimination demand that a uniform bill board be prescribed, which shall not exceed eight feet in length and four feet in height.

Hurled Into River Over Rail Of Tug Clay Foreman

Deed Done as Vessel Was Leaving Harbor Friday Night at About Half Past Ten O'clock and Victim Disappeared Under Icy Waters of River to be Seen Alive No More

Elwell Overton, 28-year-old negro deckhand on the tug Clay Foreman, is in jail on the charge of having thrown overboard and drowned William R. Ballance, 41-year-old marine engineer, 619 Hunter street, as the tug was leaving the harbor Friday night with Captain M. M. Morrisette, 609 North Road street, in charge.

"The thing happened in three seconds," said Captain Morrisette Saturday morning, "so quickly that I had only time to yell at the men once before it was all over."

"When my first attention was attracted to the two men, Elwell was after Ballance with his fists while Ballance was trying to ward off the blows with a broom handle held in both hands and in front of his face and body."

"One of the negro's blows must have broken through the white man's guard, however, and have found its mark squarely, for I saw Mr. Ballance, who had been retreating, fall back against the rail."

"Then quick as a flash, before I could utter more than an exclamation of horror, I saw the negro pick the white man up and throw him overboard."

"Immediately I stopped my engines and turned my searchlight back over the waters where Ballance had disappeared, but I never saw him again. In my opinion he was stunned by the blow the negro had struck him when he hit the water. If not, the water was so cold that it would have benumbed him in a few minutes and I have no idea but that he drowned almost immediately."

Unable to find any trace of Mr. Ballance, Captain Morrisette put his vessel back to port to turn the negro over to the police. As the tug touched the dock, however, in order for a messenger to the police department to disembark, Overton sprang to the dock and disappeared. Police picked him up, however, about midnight at the home of Pearl Riddick, Poplar street, Night Captain Winslow making the arrest.

Overton bore the reputation of being a dangerous negro. When little more than a boy he was convicted of burglary and served a 11-year sentence in the State prison at Raleigh for that offense. Since his discharge from prison, he has been in trouble in police court on more than one occasion. In fact, the only things in Overton's favor seem to be that he was in the Army for 14 months during the World War and has held one job, that of deckhand under Captain Morrisette, ever since he came back home following his discharge after the signing of the Armistice.

The spot where Mr. Ballance went overboard was off against the dry dock of the Iron Works & Supply Company on Riverside Drive, said to have a depth of 35 or 40 feet—one of the deepest spots in the harbor.

A crowd was on hand in front of the Kramer building and the Hinton building to hear the evidence at the preliminary hearing, which was expected to be held Saturday morning, but County Prosecuting Attorney Sawyer and Trial Justice Spence decided that it would be better to defer the hearing until the body could be found.

"Mr. Ballance fell overboard when he jerked a broom from my hands," is Overton's version of the drowning as given to an Advance reporter who saw him in his cell Saturday morning.

"The argument started 'cause I was 20 minutes late. Mr. Ballance cussed me and I cussed him back. Then he up and hits me with a broom and I grabbed the broom and hit him in the face with my fist. Then he jerked the broom from me and fell overboard. If he hadn't been so heavy I could have hit the broom and saved him."

"The captain stopped the boat as soon as Mr. Ballance went overboard but we didn't see any more of him after he went under the water the first time."

"The argument started, Overton says, when Ballance overheard him make a remark that it wasn't 'nobody's business what time I gets down to work.'"

"What's that?" Mr. Ballance asked, according to Overton.

"I up and told him the same thing and then he cussed me and I cussed him back and the fight started."

Aydlett Is Happy Over Endorsement

Gives Out Statement Conveying Thanks to Fellow Townsmen for Unsolicited Action

A happy man was E. F. Aydlett Saturday morning when he reached home after a tour of Hertford and Pitt counties in the interest of his candidacy for Congress. In a signed statement handed to this newspaper Saturday morning he says:

"It was upon reaching Williams- ton on my way home Friday afternoon, that I learned for the first time of the action of the business men of Elizabeth City endorsing my candidacy and their publication of that endorsement in the Elizabeth City newspapers."

"The surprise, however, was of course a mighty pleasant one, and I was deeply gratified at it—more deeply gratified than words can tell. However, I wish through your paper to acknowledge my deep and heartfelt appreciation of the action taken by my fellow-townsmen and I want to convey to each and to all of them my cordial thanks for this public expression of their confidence and their esteem for me."

"Friends such as they have shown themselves in this unreluctant action on their part are what make life worth while."

"E. F. Aydlett."

But there was another reason why Mr. Aydlett was happy. The favorable reception that had met him and the exceedingly optimistic reports brought to him by his friends everywhere he went in Pitt County had been most encouraging to him.

"I fully believe," he said Saturday, "that I am going to carry Pitt. Dr. Biggs will get a good vote in Pitt County, and Warren will take most of the remainder that do not come to me; but I believe I will get more votes in Pitt than both of them."

WILLIAM J. BURNS DRAGGED IN NOW

New York, March 1.—The New York World in a copyrighted story today making public what it terms a paraphrase of code messages sent to Edward McLean from Washington to Palm Beach, says "One of the messages to McLean reveals William J. Burns, director of the Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, as an active informant of McLean on the development on the Teapot Dome inquiry, and is the first direct link except for one message from E. S. Rochester between the department and any of the principals in the oil lease scandal."

Washington, Mar. 1.—Chief Burns of the Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice, will be summoned by the oil committee to explain whether the code messages sent McLean employes in Florida were in the cipher used by the department's secret agents and whether McLean is not carried on the book as a secret agent.

Washington, March 1.—John Major and other employes of Edward McLean were questioned today by the oil committee in its search for further details of the communication that passed between Washington and Palm Beach during December and January.

It was Major who signed most of the telegrams already put in the record.

Copies of the messages sent on McLean's private wire have been destroyed, Major said.

The purpose of the leased wire between Washington and Palm Beach, the witness said, "was to keep McLean in daily touch with events in this country and Europe."

"To the best of my recollection, no," Major said when asked if Fall ever sent or received any messages over the wire.

His recollection refreshed by Chairman Lenroot, Major said he had shown the chairman a telegram from Fall relating to McLean's appearance before the oil committee.

Excusing McLean temporarily the committee went into executive session to examine additional telegrams and records of long distance telephone calls.

He looks older than that and appeared nervous but willing to talk at the jail.