

## Coolidge Leadership Is Being Given Real Test

### President Assuming Prerogatives of Real Party Leader and Seems to be Getting Firmer Hand on the Helm of Organization Ship

By DAVID LAWRENCE  
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Washington, April 5.—Congress and the President have been getting closer together this week. Breakfast, luncheon and dinner sees some Republican leaders at the White House discussing the legislative program. Mr. Coolidge is beginning to exercise his influence on Capitol Hill.

First and foremost has been the President's intervention in the tax situation.

The Senate Finance Committee is virtually rewriting the tax bill passed by the House. And there have been so many changes that the Senate leaders have found it desirable to consult the President constantly. His decision against the levy of new forms of taxation is significant. The House repelled several taxes which Secretary Mellon did not recommend for modification at this time. As a consequence the House bill will not, in the opinion of treasury experts, get the needed revenue. This means that the whole scheme has to be reconstructed. The tax on radio sets was suggested as a profitable source of revenue. But Mr. Coolidge interferred. And now the Senate Finance Committee will revise the tax on telegrams and telephone messages which were cut out of the House bill but which were in the present law. Indeed, many of the so-called nuisance taxes will be reconsidered as the cutting of the Mellon plan in the House turned the whole scheme upside down and the Senate is compelled to rehabilitate the measure.

Mr. Coolidge finds that in summing the leaders for conference, he cannot depend upon their getting to the White House during the day because so many of them have important committee meetings. While the Republicans are not interested in investigating themselves, they must be present to watch that the Democrats do not turn the sessions into campaign carnivals asking questions that make damaging headlines and furnish political ammunition for the coming presidential and congressional contests.

The President has found that about the only time of day that he can get a number of men from Congress into conference is early in the morning. The breakfasts have not been numerous but they probably will be one of the features of the Coolidge administration henceforth.

The spirit of Congress at this moment so far as the legislative program is concerned is much better than it was a week ago. The agitation of the country against the alleged waste of time in investigations has aroused the Democrats who point out that the responsibility for the delay is on the Republican party. Nevertheless, the Democrats are so adjusting their campaign as to keep the investigation going but at the same time insisting upon legislative action. Senator Robinson, the Democratic leader, who is an unusually aggressive type will not let the Republicans attack his party for delaying legislation. He has been making speeches showing that the Republicans have not made much progress with their own program. In fact, he is likely to turn the occasion into an attack himself for almost everybody, including the President, knows that the Republican leaders have not been particularly energetic in handling the legislative program thus far.

The outlook is for a legislative jam just about the time most of the members of Congress want to get away from the national political conventions. The biggest fight of the season over the McNary-Haugen bill providing an agricultural expert corporation under Government supervision is yet to come. The farm bloc is almost solidly for the bill while the millers and grain exporting interests are fighting the proposal tooth and nail. The champions of the idea have for the moment switched their tactics and plan to get the bill through the House next week so that when the Senate acts the bill can shortly thereafter go to the President for signature.

The supporters of the Haugen bill feel sure that it will pass the House without difficulty. They are not certain what the President will do when it comes to him but, at the moment, it represents the outstanding piece of agricultural legislation for farm relief. There have been some alternative proposals made by Senator Curtis of Kansas, providing for a Federal marketing board, to coordinate all the co-operative organizations and arrange for more orderly marketing and distribution but until the McNary-Haugen bill is approved or rejected, no other agricultural proposals will get much attention.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Elliott and I. W. Hyatt of Portsmouth were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Elliott on Oak street Sunday.

## Tells Amazing Story



Al Jennings, one-time train bandit, now an evangelist, told the Senate oil investigating committee that the late Jake Hamon told him (Jennings) Hamon gave a million dollars in the last presidential campaign.

## GRAHAM MAKES ANNOUNCEMENT

### Throws Hat in Ring and Tells Why He Wants to be North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture.

Raleigh, April 7.—W. A. Graham, formally announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for Commissioner of Agriculture in a statement issued here Saturday night. Mr. Graham has been Commissioner of Agriculture for the past several months, having been appointed by Governor Morrison to fill out the term of his father, Major W. A. Graham, deceased.

"The fields of service of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture is very large, there being 14 different lines of work already assigned to it in as many different divisions," Mr. Graham stated, "and it shall be my purpose to see that each of these different divisions is developed and kept at its maximum capacity."

"I realize that we have reached a point in the development of the State where co-operative effort is essential to the accomplishment of any work of importance; and it is my intention, in carrying out the work of the Department of Agriculture, to co-operate closely and sympathetically with the A. & E. College, the State University, the North Carolina College for Women, and all other institutions and agencies established for the promotion of the welfare of all the people."

"One of the leading lines of work of the department is that of carrying out the police control measures passed by the Legislature. These measures exist for the protection of the whole people against the imposition of the on part of any commercial companies who might seek to palm off upon us inferior goods of one kind and another; and it shall be my purpose to see to it that the machinery placed in the Department to prevent such illegal transactions shall be used to its utmost capacity."

"Perhaps the most vitally important matter before our people today is the discovery of additional money crops and the further development and extension of our markets for the farm products already produced."

"To secure for our farmers better average prices for their products I shall consider my most important problem; and I purpose to bring to bear upon it all the necessary forces of the Department of Agriculture, realizing that the prosperity of the farm home lies at the foundation of the prosperity of the State. Wider markets, better prices, co-operation, and protection shall be the leading thoughts in my administration of the Department of Agriculture."

## ONE RAILROAD ADMITS IT'S MAKING MONEY

Washington, April 7.—The Interstate Commerce Commission received the first payment to be made from a class one railroad under the recapture clause of the act providing that a carrier should remit half of its net operating income.

The payment was made by the Richmond, Fredericksburg & Potomac railroad, which turned in \$69,343 for the calendar year 1923.

## COOLIDGE COMMUTES RUMELEY'S SENTENCE

Washington, April 7.—President Coolidge commuted to one month in prison the sentences of one year imposed upon Edward Rumeley, former publisher of the New York Evening Mail, and S. Walter Kaufman and Norvin Linheim, convicted of violating the trading with the enemy act.

## DOHENY CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEMOCRATS UNDER SCRUTINY

Washington, April 7.—Questions of contributions to the national campaign funds of various oil interests were under scrutiny today when Wilbur Marsh, former treasurer of the Democratic National Committee, was questioned about contributions by E. L. Doheny to the Democratic war chest.

Marsh said that he had no recollection as to specific contributions by Doheny in the 1920 campaign and that it would be necessary to consult his records at Washington headquarters before he could answer. He was excused.

## New World Peace Assembly Sought

Washington, April 7.—A joint resolution proposing a new world peace conference was introduced today by Senator Pepper, Republican, of Pennsylvania.

The Senate, under the resolution, would advise the President that the time is ripe for assembling a conference similar to two held in the past at the Hague.

## MOTHER AND THREE PERISH IN FLAMES

Hillsboro, Ill., April 7.—Mrs. Torney Hill and her three children were burned to death when a gasoline explosion today set fire to their home. Mr. Hill had mistaken gasoline for kerosene.

## Ku Klux Klan Out To Nominate A Governor

### Negro in Indiana Politics Probably Responsible for Movement on Part of Ku Klux to Get Control of the Republican Party Machinery in Indiana

By ROBERT T. SMALL  
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Indianapolis, Ind., April 7.—The Ku Klux Klan is out to elect the next governor of Indiana. It is an avowed test of Klan political strength in a state which is said to have more klansmen than any other American commonwealth.

Some persons have estimated the Klan membership in Indiana at 600,000. The hooded organization has entered the Republican primary fight and its activities are giving the regular Republican organization no small amount of worry.

The aspirant for the Republican gubernatorial nomination openly endorsed by the klansmen, is Ed Jackson, the present secretary of state, and a very popular official. Mr. Jackson is said not to be a member of the Klan. His indorsement by the Klan grows out of the fact that it was through him that the organization first received its charter in this state. The secretary of state openly is known as the Klan candidate and the fight for and against him in the primary battle is being waged along those lines.

This is the first serious bid in a Northern state for political control by the Klan, and it looks today as if there was at least an even chance for victory on the part of the white knights. This is particularly true of the Republican primary contest. Just what will happen after that, if Mr. Jackson is nominated, is the puzzle that the politicians have to solve.

The majority of the white vote in Indiana virtually always has been Democratic. There is, however, a tremendous colored vote in the state, increasing year by year, which has swung the tide of victory to the Republicans every time they have won an election.

If an avowed Klan candidate

## KU KLUX KLAN TRAIN IN FIGHT AT LILLY

Lilly, April 7.—Two were killed, several were seriously injured and others sustained minor injuries here Saturday night when a special train of K. K. K. had a fight with citizens of the town.

Johnston, Penna., April 7.—Immediate prosecution of all responsible for Saturday's killings at Lilly will be instituted, county officials announced here Monday morning.

## WARREN HAS EARLY START ON POTATOES AND PEAS

Jordan Warren, colored, of 311 Spellman street, who specializes in early truck for market now has Irish potatoes up about finger high and May peas more than a foot. Jordan will be in New York City for the next ten days on a business trip. He is quite a connoisseur in antique furniture as well as a skillful gardener.

## FASCISTI WIN

Rome, April 7.—Parliamentary elections today indicated an overwhelming victory for the Fascist government. Fascist candidates appeared to be leading in nearly every region.

## HAVE TO MOVE MORE FREIGHT

### Railroad Replacement Costs Have Outdistanced Freight Rate Increases, Which Means More Ton Miles.

By J. C. ROYLE  
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New York, April 7.—The railroads of the country seem destined to move more freight this year than ever before. They will have to do so in order to pay for the new equipment now going into commission and in prospect. In the last month, there have been numerous fires in the railroad centers of the country which have not needed an appeal to the local fire departments. The railroad companies have been burning up thousands of old freight cars to recover the iron and steel contained in them.

Orders for new cars were of tremendous volume in 1923 and have held up remarkably so far this year, but they have not exceeded the number of replacements required. There are now in operation about 2,400,000 freight cars. Taking the average life of a car as 20 years, the country requires at least 120,000 new cars annually. The increase in population automatically requires an additional supply. It is extremely probable, therefore, that between 130,000 and 140,000 new freight cars will be ordered and built this year.

Some of the roads have provided for their requirements. Others have not. There is no car shortage in prospect but many roads will require additional cars of particular types. Nearly 75,000 cars have been ordered since January 1. Improvement in operating efficiency, increased car mileage, increased car capacity, better loading and fewer bad order cars will help the situation but the industries involved in the railroad equipment industry are anticipating good business.

This attitude was expressed by William H. Woodin, president of the American Car and Foundry Company, who declared the outlook for the industry was bright.

"There has been quite a bit of business placed for the car equipment companies," he said, "and it has not been completed. I do not expect the total orders for equipment to be as big as last year, but we are looking forward to good business. There is a very sound financial basis at present."

The cost of the new equipment and the freight to be moved to make it pay has been strikingly illustrated by C. J. McDonald, superintendent of perishable freight of the Southern Pacific.

"A Pacific type locomotive in 1915," he said, "cost \$25,584. It would take gross earnings from hauling 92 carloads of fruit from Fresno to Chicago to pay for it. Now the engine costs \$64,244, and even at the increased freight rate, 154 carloads would have to be hauled to pay for it. We paid \$13,124 for switch engines nine years ago, the equivalent of the sum received for hauling 55 cars of cantaloupes from Brawley, California, to El Paso. Now it would be necessary to haul 130 car loads to earn the present cost of \$36,623."

"In 1915 we had to haul five carloads of oranges from Los Angeles to El Paso to pay \$1,200 for a box car. The same car now costs \$2,300. For cross ties which we could buy for 35 cents then, cost \$1.12 a piece in 1923, making the total for ties for one mile of track \$3,225, as compared with \$1,018."

Increased activity in the railway signal industry has followed the order of the Interstate Commerce Commission requiring 45 of the large carriers to install train control devices.

It has been estimated that such system already ordered will cost the railroads upwards of \$150,000,000. George D. Morgan, vice president of the General Railway Signal Company said today.

"In all probability it will be impossible for all the licensed signal companies of the country to complete the vast amount of work ordered by the commission within the time prescribed. In this event, it is anticipated that a reasonable extension of time will be granted by the commission, as was done in the case of the installation of the automatic coupler and the air brake."

## LITTLE BOY IS SHOT BY UNKNOWN PERSON

William Carter, 13 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Carter on 231 West Fearing street, while playing ball Sunday on the Main street lot opposite Dr. R. L. Kendrick's home, was shot through the right jaw, while running toward Panama street, by an unknown person. William Carter was hurriedly taken over to Dr. Kendrick's home and the shot was taken out on the inside of his jaw, which was found to be from a shot gun. Antitoxin was administered to prevent blood poisoning or lock jaw. William complains with his back some, but it was reported that he was doing nicely this morning.

TWO KILLED IN EXPLOSION  
Oklahoma, Illinois, April 7.—Two workmen were killed and one was seriously injured when a boiler exploded here late Sunday night.

## Martial Law In Albania

### Killing of Americans Followed by Prompt Action on Part of Authorities, It Appears.

Rome, April 7.—Martial law has been proclaimed in Albania following the murder of two American merchants waylaid on the Tirana-Scutari highway, according to advices from Albanian quarters.

A Stefani agency dispatch says that the Americans killed were named Coroman and DeLong, but gives no particulars.

The American embassy gave the names as Robert Louis Colman of San Francisco and George DeLong of New York.

Rome, Italy, April 7.—Two American merchants were murdered Sunday on the Albanian road, according to dispatches received here.

## N. C. AUTOMOBILE IN WRECK NEAR McBEE

McBee, S. C., April 7.—An automobile bearing a North Carolina license tag 202,828 which was issued to D. S. Sams of Hoffman, went over the bridge into Black Creek near here Sunday night. No bodies were found by a searching party and it is not known who was in the car when the accident occurred.

## CAN BAR ALIENS WITH DANGEROUS CONTAGIONS

Washington, April 7.—Aliens afflicted with dangerous contagious disease and incapable of naturalization can be debarred from admission into this country, the Supreme Court held today.

## STATE CAN'T TAX INDIAN LANDS HELD IN TRUST

Washington, April 7.—The states can not tax lands held in trust by the United States for the Indians, the Supreme Court announced today.

## DAUGHERTY PROBE HEARING HAD NO THRILLS TODAY

Washington, April 7.—Dry details of the Miller Brothers land fraud case in Oklahoma were reviewed by the Senate Daugherty Committee today. A bundle of letters passing between the Department of Justice and the Department of the Interior were read into the record and several witnesses were questioned as to why criminal prosecution in the case resulted only in the imposition of fines and why no civil suit to recover the land in question was ever filed.

## SCHOOLS TO OBSERVE JEFFERSON DAY SOON

Raleigh, April 7.—A. T. Allen, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, has issued a statement to all principals and teachers of the schools of the State calling upon them to cooperate in the holding of exercises daily during this week preparatory to the observance of Thomas Jefferson Day on Friday, April 11. A number of schools over the state have already signified their intention of carrying the proposed program of essays, talks, history readings.

On Friday voluntary collection will be taken to go toward the funds for the Memorial Foundation and the purchase of Monticell, Jefferson's home, as a perpetual shrine to the man, the life, and the work of the organizer of the Democratic party.

Mr. Allen also advised the principals and teachers to request that pastors of the churches in their communities assist in carrying out the program and making the foundation fund a success.

## BURIAL MISS RAPER

The burial services of Miss Lina Raper, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Raper formerly of this city but now of Swannanoa, was conducted at Hollywood Cemetery Monday morning at ten o'clock by Dr. N. H. D. dist Church. The body arrived here Wilson, pastor of the First Methodist Sunday afternoon. The floral offerings were many and beautiful.

Miss Raper died at her home at Swannanoa Friday. She is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Raper of Swannanoa; by two sisters, Mrs. Dan Midgett of Washington, and Miss Mary Raper of Swannanoa; and by two brothers, Henry Raper of Norfolk and Tom Raper of Hertford.

## COTTON MARKET

New York, April 7.—Spot cotton closed quiet this afternoon. Middling 29.75, a decline of 90 points. Futures closed at the following levels: May 29.45; July 28.29; October 24.84; December 24.49; January 24.07.

New York, April 7.—Cotton futures opened this morning at the following levels: May 30.10; July 29.95; October 25.20; December 24.65.