

HOOVER WILL BACK MOST PROGRESSIVE PARTY

Former Food Boss Declares He Is Not a Candidate for Presidential Nomination.

REFUSES TO TAKE DEFINITE STAND

Says "I Am Able to Make Up My Mind When a Subject Is Clearly Defined"

New York, Feb. 8.—Herbert Hoover tonight issued a statement defining his attitude toward the Presidency. He announced that he is not a candidate for the nomination and that no one is authorized to speak for him politically. If the league of nations is made an issue in the election he will vote for the party that stands for the league. In response to requests that he declare allegiance to either one or the other of the great political parties, Mr. Hoover says he will wait until it more definitely appears what the party managers stand for, and will exercise a prerogative of American citizenship and decline to pledge my vote blindfolded. His statements follow:

"In order to answer a large number of questions all at once, let me emphasize that I have taken a day off from the industrial conference in Washington to come to New York solely to attend pressing matters in connection with the children's relief. I want to again say I have not sought and am not seeking the Presidency. I am not a candidate. I have no organization. No one is authorized to speak for me politically.

Interested in Situation.

"As an American citizen by birth and of long ancestry I am naturally deeply interested in the present critical situation. My sincere and only political desire is that one or both of the great political parties will approach the vital issues, which have grown out of the war and are new, with a clear purpose looking to the welfare of our people and that candidates capable of carrying out this work should be nominated.

If the treaty goes over to the Presidential election (with any reservations necessary to clarify the world's mind that there can be no infringement of the safeguards provided by our constitution and nation-old traditions) then I must vote for the party that stands for the league. With it there is hope, not only of the prevention of war, but also that we can safely economize in military policies. There is hope of earlier return of confidence and the economic reconstruction of the world. I could not vote with a party if it were dominated by groups who set aside our constitutional guarantees for free speech or free representation with hope to reestablish control of the government for profit and privilege. I could not vote with a party if it were dominated by groups who hope for any form of socialism whether it be nationalization of industry, or other destruction of individual initiative. Both these extremes, camouflaged or open, are active enough in the country today. Neither of these dominations would enable those constructive economic policies that will get us down from the unsound economic practices which of necessity grew out of the war nor would they secure the good will to production in our farmers and workers or maintain the initiative of our business men. The issues look forward, not back.

Believes in Tow Parties.

"I do not believe in more than two great parties. Otherwise, combinations of groups could, as in Europe, create a danger of minority rule. I do believe in party organization to support great ideals and to carry great issues and consistent policies. Nor can any one man dictate the issues of great parties. It appears to me that the hope of a great majority of our citizens in confronting this new period in American life is that the great parties will take positive sides on the many issues that confront us and will select men whose character and associations will guarantee their pledges.

"I am being urged by people in both parties to declare my allegiance to either one or the other. Those who know me, know that I am able to make up my mind when a subject is clearly defined. Consequently, until it more definitely appears what the party managers stand for, I must exercise a prerogative of American citizenship and decline to pledge my vote.

DYNAMITE A SURE STUMP PULLER

Mr. F. C. Thomas Writes of His Success.

To The Editor of The Times, Manning, S. C.

It is so seldom that the down-trodden farmer gets hold of anything that is as good as he expects it to be, and just about half as good as the price he paid for it, would justify—that I am led to ask your indulgence to allow me a little space to tell my farmer friends just how well I am pleased with my experience with dynamite in removing the scattering stumps in my farm. I have used the stump puller, and the shovel and axe, but all of the old methods are slow and tedious, and it would take years to get your farm free from stumps. About three weeks ago, I began to use dynamite, and I have cleared the stumps out of about fifty acres of land with four men, and I think I have sold about enough lightwood to pay for the dynamite.

Now as to the cost of each stump, that differs so much it is hard to say just what that would be, but I think my stumps will not cost any more than to dig them out, after you deduct the value of the lightwood, and the difference in the cost of handling them and filling up the stump hole.

The farmer that sticks to the old plan of trying to farm with a fourth of his land taken up with stumps will surely go broke under the weevil conditions that will surely prevail in this country from now on.

Let your slogan be, stump your land; drain your land; make all the corn, and hay that you can possible use on your farm, and above all make as few debts as possible, pay off all the old debts possible, and then you will be in shape to stand the period of stress that we will surely have, to adjust ourselves to the boll weevil conditions.

F. C. Thomas, Manning, S. C.

HOOVER'S RELIEF SHIPS ARRIVE

Berlin, Saturday Feb. 7.—The plans of Herbert Hoover for alleviating some of the suffering in Poland, Czecho-Slovakia, Austria and Germany are nearing completion by the constant arrival of ships at Hamburg bearing condensed milk, beans and bacon, and, for Jewish beneficiaries, cottonseed oil instead of bacon. The food is gradually being piled in the Hamburg storerooms and when all of it has arrived careful distribution to avoid illicit trade will be begun. Major Goldsmith, agent of the American food relief, who has been superintending the operations at Hamburg, has returned to Berlin to take control of transportation of the foodstuffs, being succeeded at Hamburg by Francis C. Wickes, formerly of the American Relief Commission in Belgium.

Drafts Against Food.

According to Major Goldsmith drafts against the food stores are already circulating in the United States in multiples of \$10. Available forms of subscriptions include a \$10 one for Christians and another of the same amount for Jews and a \$50 subscription for Christians and another for Jews. The first provides 24 1-2 pounds of wheat flour, ten pounds of beans, eight pounds of bacon and ten tins of condensed milk. For Jews the provision is the same, except that one gallon of cottonseed oil is substituted for the bacon.

The \$50 subscription for Christians includes 140 pounds of wheat flour, 50 pounds of beans, 16 pounds of bacon, 15 pounds of lard, 12 pounds of corned beef and 48 tins of condensed milk. The same subscription for Jews eliminates the lard and bacon but includes six gallons of cottonseed oil.

STERING GEAR FAILS

Charleston, S. C., Feb. 10.—With her steering gear disabled the steamship Watowan is helpless in a strong southwest breeze, 170 miles southeast of Charleston, according to reports reaching here. The steamer Knoxville is reported to be standing by the Watowan. Attempts to tow the disabled vessel to this port resulted in the breaking of several tow lines, it was reported. Her position was given at latitude 30 degrees 47 minutes north and longitude 77 degrees 49 minutes west.

"I am not unappreciative of the many kind things that my friends have advanced on my behalf. Yet I hope they will realize my sincerity in not tying myself to undefined partisanship.

BOLL WEEVIL FUND KILLED BY HOUSE

Resolution for \$150,000 Recently Approved by Senate

RECORD VOTE NOT TAKEN

Principal Argument Used by Opponents Is, It Would Be Waste of Money.

Columbia, Feb. 9.—The House of Representatives tonight without a record vote quickly sat on and crushed the life out of a concurrent resolution pledging the General Assembly to vote for an appropriation of \$150,000 to be expended under the direction of Clemson College extension department in an effort to neutralize the effects of the boll weevil. This resolution was passed by the Senate two weeks ago without a dissenting vote.

It was the purpose of Prof. W. W. Long, in charge of the extension work and his assistants to produce the services of about thirty boll weevil experts and send them into the infected counties and teach the unskilled farmer, who knew nothing but the planting of cotton, to diversify his crop. The appropriation was not asked by the college, but by the business interests of the State, which claim that the economic fabric of the State is menaced by the advent of the parasite.

The principal argument advanced against the resolution was that it would be a useless waste of money, as there has been no method found to eliminate the destructive pest. The fundamental element underlying the request for the appropriation that of giving scientific instruction in diversification, was left almost untouched. Debate on the resolution was begun with the motion of Mr. Owens, of Marlboro, to strike out the resolving words of the measure.

Mr. Buckingham, of Aiken who opposed the resolution, referred to the recommendation of Governor Cooper for some such appropriation, stating that he thought the executive was ill-advised.

Mr. Evans of Newberry, thought the money, if appropriated, would be wasted.

Mr. Bradford, chairman of the ways and means committee, warned against pyramiding appropriations unless the General Assembly desired an excessive levy.

Mr. Morrison, of Charleston, opposing the appropriation, was fearful that "if twenty-four additional demonstration agents were put in the field it would rend Clemson College." He said that the cotton seed oil interests and the South Carolina Cotton Seed Crushers' Association not Clemson College, was behind the appropriation because the cotton seed oil men wanted peanuts to crush for oil when they could not get cotton seed.

He stated that J. S. Wannamaker of St. Matthews in the presence of several members of the House today, in discussing the appropriation said "we want none of it."

Mr. Leopard, of Pickens, likewise was opposed to the measure on the ground that the government had been trying to find some means of eradicating the boll weevil for sixteen years and had not succeeded yet.

Mr. Dennis, of Darlington, made a strong plea for the resolution. Mr. Lide of Marion, said he would be afraid to vote against the resolution, and not for political reasons, either, but on account of the economic cataclysm the State faces if the effects of the weevil are not eradicated. He pleaded with the members of the House not to be precipitate, but they would not listen and quickly adopted Mr. Owen's motion, which rejected the resolution so far as this General Assembly is concerned.

After considerable debate the House tonight passed the Folk bill providing a penalty and preventing children under twelve years of age to operate motor driven vehicles on the highways of the State, and sent the measure to the Senate.

FEDERAL INVESTIGATION

Memphis, Feb. 10.—Federal investigation of the deaths here within the past five days of seven persons, attributed by physicians to botulinus poisoning due to the eating of ripe olives alleged to have become infected with the poisonous bacilli, was begun today with the arrival of an inspector for the United States department of agriculture.

PHYSICIAN GIVES NEWS OF WILSON

Nothing to Conceal, Declares Dr. Young.

VERY MUCH BETTER

Baltimore, Feb. 10.—The Baltimore Sun today published a copyrighted dispatch from Washington in which was given an interview with Dr. Hugh H. Young of Johns Hopkins hospital at Baltimore on the condition of President Wilson. Dr. Young has been one of the physicians in attendance upon the president. Dr. Young, in part, said:

"From the very beginning the medical men associated with the case have never had anything to conceal. When I first saw the president in October, a crisis had arisen of such gravity, owing to the development of prostatic obstruction that an emergency operation to relieve this situation was contemplated, but by a fortunate and wholly unexpected change in the president's condition the obstruction began to disappear.

"The improvement in this respect which has been steady is now complete. The president was organically sound when I saw him first, and I found him not only organically sound when I visited him last week, but further, all the organs were functioning in a perfectly normal, healthy manner.

"The president's general condition and especially the slight impairment of his left arm and leg have improved more slowly, it is true, but surely, steadily.

"There have been no setbacks, no backward steps, and rumors to this effect are rubbish.

"As you know, in October last, we diagnosed the president's illness as cerebral thrombosis which affected his left arm and leg, but at no time was his brain power or the extreme vigor and lucidity of his mental processes in the slightest degree abated. This condition has from the very first shown a steady, unwavering tendency toward resolution and complete absorption. The increasing utility of the left arm and leg greatly impaired at first, have closely followed on this improvement. The president walks sturdily now, without assistance and without fatigue. And he uses the still slightly impaired arm more and more every day.

"As to his mental vigor it is simply prodigious. Indeed, I think in many ways the president is in better shape than before the illness came.

"You can say that the president is able minded and able bodied and that he is giving splendid attention to affairs of state and that we have every assurance that he will become progressively more active in these matters with the advent of spring and sunshine, which can not now be long delayed."

MILLIONS AS GOAL IN DARING PLOT

New York, Feb. 10.—After the arrest today of three young men charged with the theft of \$2,500 in securities from a messenger, the police gave the details of what they said was a plot to steal \$5,000,000 worth of bonds in a single cleanup, to be followed by flight to Canada and lives of luxury for the plotters. According to detectives who made the arrests, the plot involves a "ring" of dishonest Wall street messengers. The plotters, the story went, were to await until large sums of securities were entrusted to their care, pool them and then dash across the international line.

Edward J. Furey, a chauffeur one of the prisoners, has been under observation, the police say, ever since his name was associated with the case involving David W. Sullivan, member of the Consolidated stock exchange, now under indictment on charges of attempting to negotiate loans with false securities. Furey was described by Deputy Police Commissioner Lahey as the "master mind" in the conspiracy.

Joseph Gluck, 23, of Mount Vernon, N. Y., another prisoner, wore a diamond ring set in platinum valued at \$1,600. His brother, Irving Gluck, 19, made a full confession the police announced, in which he stated in the last year he had stolen \$2,000,000 worth of bonds and securities from Wall street firms and had disposed of them with the assistance of his brother.

CL. SMITH DIES AT ORANGEBURG

State Warehouse Commissioner Is Ill But a Week.

Orangeburg, Feb. 9.—Col. Wattie Gilliard Smith, State warehouse commissioner of South Carolina, died at his home on North Railroad Avenue here at 11 o'clock this morning after an illness lasting about a week. Col. Smith was in good health until about a week ago when he was stricken with an attack of influenza developing rapidly into a serious case of pneumonia.

Funeral services will be held from St. Paul's Methodist church here tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. The funeral services will be conducted by the Rev. T. C. Odell, superintendent of Epworth Orphanage, assisted by his pastor, the Rev. G. E. Edwards, and the Rev. J. L. McLees, Mr. Smith's long time neighbors.

Orangeburg Commandry No. 9, Knights Templars will be in charge of the services at the grave.

The active pallbearers will be: W. E. Atkinson, A. L. Dukes, John Cart, Thos. W. Dantzer, J. Stokes Salley, W. L. Glover, A. H. Marchant and M. O. Dantzer.

The honorary pallbearers will be Governor Robert A. Cooper, and all of the State officers: J. Sumter Moore, Columbia; L. A. Carson, Holy Hill; Charles Carroll Sims, Barnwell; H. C. Folk and G. Frank Bamberg, Bamberg; Ex-Governor D. C. Heyward, Columbia; G. W. Brackett, New Jersey; Dr. T. A. Jeffords, R. H. Jennings, G. L. Salley, Dr. J. L. Stokes, Adam H. Moss, John M. Sifley, Sumter Salley and Havelock Eaves.

Col. Smith is survived by his widow who before marriage was Miss Lucia C. Weathersbee, of Williston, and four children: Henry G. Smith, LaGrange, G. A.; Whiteford Smith, Lancaster; Mrs. W. J. Ligon, of Anderson, and Mrs. R. B. Gieger, of St. Matthews.

He was elected State warehouse commissioner in 1917 and had served continuously since. He was one of the best posted men upon the subject of warehousing and marketing cotton in the South.

Col. Smith's death at this time is a great loss to the State and to the cotton farmers generally. He had greatly developed the warehouse business of the State. Col. Smith was one of the leading citizens of his county and State. His marked ability and his genial personality made him a host of friends throughout the State to all whom his death will come as a personal bereavement.

He was a member of the Masons, Knights of Pythias and Elks.

TO OPEN BIDS MONDAY

Washington, Feb. 10.—Sale at auction of the 30 former German passenger liners, for which bids were recently requested but not accepted, was set for Monday by Chairman Paine of the shipping board today. The sale will be conducted in Washington and the ships will be sold with the provision that they remain under the American flag and that a certain number of them may be recalled for army transport service in event of an emergency.

DOES ANYONE KNOW?

Washington, Feb. 10.—Representative Wingo, Democrat, Arkansas, declared in the house today that "nobody knows where the Republicans stand on universal training" and that the Republicans themselves did not know whether they were following Floor Leader Mondell, an opponent of universal training, or Chairman Kahn of the military committee, a supporter.

ISSUE IN CAMPAIGN

Richmond, Va., Feb. 10.—The abolishment of the state prohibition department will be made an issue in the next political campaign. After an all-day wrangle on the bill and a series of amendments the state senate tonight passed an amendment which calls for the abolition of the department in 1922.

CHARGE OF ADULTERY

Sumter, Feb. 10.—Dr. George S. Lee a homeopathic practitioner who has resided in Sumter for several years, was presented by the grand jury yesterday afternoon on the charge of adultery and was arrested by Deputy Sheriff McKagen.

NEW TURN TAKEN IN DECORATION FUSS

Conversation in Paris, Subject for Yesterday.

IN RE BYRNES' SPEECH

South Carolina Congressman and Senator Glass Appear Before Committee.

Washington, Feb. 10.—The controversy over naval war decorations took a new turn today before the senate investigating committee, the question of just what was said in conversations between Rear Admiral William S. Sims and a trio of members of congress in Paris during the war, displacing to some extent inquiries into changes made by Secretary Daniels in decor. — recommended by Admiral Sims — Sec. Daniels before the committee, had referred to a speech in the house by Representative Byrnes in which the South Carolina representative asserted that Admiral Sims had told him the armistice was forced on the allies by failure of the American army to break through the German lines, the failure being due to a collapse of the American service of supply. Admiral Sims today denied that he had made such assertions, except as to repeating rumors then current in France and which, he said, he warned his visitors not to believe. He denied flatly other statements attributed to him by Representative Byrnes, said to belittle the part of the American navy in the war, and asserted he had not told Byrnes and his associates that the American merchant marine should not be developed and the seas be left to Great Britain.

Chairman Hale asked Representative Byrnes and Whaley and Senator Glass to come before the committee. Representative Byrnes, the first of the three to be heard, not only reiterated all he had previously said, but added that he had personally reported his conversation with Admiral Sims to President Wilson before Mr. Wilson made his first trip to Paris.

Senator Glass, who was a member of the lower house at the time, while recalling the conversation with Admiral Sims much as Byrnes reported it, put a somewhat different interpretation on what the officer had said. He did not understand Admiral Sims to wish to "discredit the army," he said, adding:

"I rather believed that he was simply telling us what he had heard and thought to be true."

Representative Whaley did not appear today because of illness. He asked to be allowed to testify Monday but Chairman Hale fixed no date for resumption of the investigation.

HOTEL REGULATION BILL HAS PASSED

Columbia, Feb. 10.—The South Carolina Senate today passed a bill to regulate the operation of hotels in the Palmetto State. It would require that hotels post their prices in conspicuous places, that they provide fire extinguishers and fire escapes and sanitary sewerage facilities; that hotel kitchens and dining rooms shall be screened; that sheets of hotels be large enough to cover the mattress, at least ninety inches long; that sheets and pillows be washed before allowing their use by a second guest; that beds shall be kept clean and free of vermin; that a room occupied by a person suffering with contagious disease shall be disinfected before being used again; that guests be furnished with clean towels and individual soap and that sanitary conditions shall be maintained. The bill puts hotel inspection under the State Board of Health.

WILL NOT WALK OUT

East Liverpool, O., Feb. 10.—Despite the strike call issued by railway maintenance of way employees, workers in the Wellsville, Mingo Junction, New Philadelphia, Kinsman street (Cleveland) and main Cleveland shops will remain at work after February 17 President W. W. Lambert of Wellsville local, No. 470, International Brotherhood of Firemen and Oilers, said here tonight.

Lambert declared 2,500 men in Cleveland and Pittsburgh railroad shops, over which he has jurisdiction, will not answer the walkout order.