

BYRNES FOR THE SENATE.

Will Oppose Nat. H. Dial in Campaign This Summer.

Washington, Feb. 23.—There is quite a buzz of interest among members of the South Carolina delegation in Congress at the news that Congressman James F. Byrnes would be a candidate against Senator Dial for the Democratic nomination for the senate. That Senator Dial will be a candidate for renomination has been understood for some time, and this means that there will be a warm contest between the Aiken representative and the Laurens senator. Both have warm supporters and there is promised a lively campaign. The statement of Congressman Byrnes as to his candidacy issued today reads as follows:

"In the approaching primary election it is my intention to be a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the United States Senate from South Carolina.

"With my experience of more than thirteen years as a member of Congress, and my intimate acquaintance with many members of the Senate, with whom I served for years in the House, it is my hope that if elected to the Senate, I can be of real service to our state."

A biographical sketch gives the following information as to Mr. Byrnes: Representative James F. Byrnes resides at Aiken, S. C. At the age of fifteen, in order to contribute to the support of his mother, he left night school and entered a law office as office boy. At night he studied shorthand and later served as stenographer in the same office. In 1900 he entered a competitive examination and won the appointment as court stenographer of the second circuit. While serving in this capacity he studied law. In 1908 he was elected solicitor and after serving two years was elected to Congress.

In the House he first served on the banking and currency committee and took an active part in framing the federal reserve act, offering the provision in the House bill granting the privilege to rediscount agricultural paper. He was one of a committee of five that framed the first bill to pass the House granting federal aid in the construction of roads. During recent years he has been a member of the appropriations committee and has been active in framing legislation reported by that committee and in the debates on the floor of the House.

Mr. Byrnes was a delegate at large to the last Democratic national convention, and represents South Carolina on the Democratic congressional committee. He is a member of the Episcopal church, is a thirty-second degree Mason and a member of other fraternal organizations.

Mrs. Shuford Dead.

Mrs. Mary A. Shuford, widow of the late Rev. Jacob L. Shuford of the South Carolina conference, passed to her reward February 12, 1924, in the 83rd year of her age. Her funeral services were conducted in the Bishopville Methodist church by her pastor, Rev. M. L. Banks and Rev. W. V. Dibble, of Sumter. Her body was laid to rest by the side of her husband in the cemetery at Summerton, and her grave was covered with beautiful flowers.

Living here years ago as a pastor's wife she made many devoted and loyal friends who rejoiced to have her return, after her husband's death to spend the remaining years in their midst.

The Woman's Missionary Society has lost a beloved and honored member. Her church and her community are deeply grateful to God for her long life filled with so many Christian virtues.

Mrs. Shuford is survived by the following children, all of whom were with her in her last illness.

Mrs. J. C. Baskin, Miss Jessie Shuford, J. L. Shuford, of Bishopville; Mrs. H. W. Scarborough, of Florence; Mrs. S. D. Hope, Jr., of Norfolk, Va.; R. P. Shuford of Georgetown, Mrs. H. A. Richbourg of Summerton, and also two step-children, Mrs. Chewning of Summerton and W. H. Shuford of Florida; eighteen grandchildren and one great-grandchild.—Bishopville Messenger.

N. J. Hammond, supervisor of tracks from Rock Hill to Marion, of the Charleston division of the Southern Railroad, died at his home at Blacksburg, last Sunday night at 11:30 o'clock after a lingering illness of that dreaded malady tuberculosis. He was a native of Branchville, S. C., and had lived here only five months. Before his health failed three years ago, he was roadmaster of this same division. He was 52 years old and left a wife and four children.

Since her marriage Hope Hampton movie star, has come to the conclusion that she can appear in the spoken drama to a better advantage.

A car load of sweet potatoes recently shipped by J. C. Terrell, G. A. Sherrell and R. J. Little, of Chesterfield, brought them the tidy sum of \$1,030. A carload was shipped last week from Morven, bought by the South Carolina Sweet Potato Growers association. This association has bought three carloads from North Carolina recently. In this connection Mr. Tiller, Chesterfield, county, demonstration agent, states that had Pageland and Mt. Croghan grown potatoes this year for shipping they could have sold out at \$2 per bushel. A. W. Love, popularly known among his many friends throughout the Carolinas as "Lex" Love is dead at his home at Oakland, Cal., where he has lived for some time. Mr. Love was a former secretary of the South Carolina Fair Association and was a graduate of the University of South Carolina.

Decision was made at a meeting of the Marion County Poultry Association Friday night to undertake to ship a carload of poultry out of Marion Monday, March 3.

The John Wilkes Booth Mystery.
(Greenville Piedmont)

Was John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Lincoln, shot and killed by Boston Corbett, a union soldier 12 days after the historic tragedy, or did he escape and live for many years under an assumed name?

An absorbingly interesting article upon this mystery appears in the January number of the "Scrap Book" published by Miss Mildred Rutherford, historian of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, who for 29 years has been gathering data about Booth's escape. The information she has collected raises some doubt as to the truth of the generally accepted version that Booth was captured and killed in Virginia.

In 1894 Miss Rutherford received a letter from Gen. James Gordon, of Mississippi, who met and knew Booth in Canada during the war between the states. General Gordon said that five years after the assassination of Lincoln he visited Memphis and there met a friend who was also an intimate friend of Booth. He showed Gordon a letter from a mutual friend who had been absent since the close of the war and who was then in the Rocky Mountains trapping and hunting. "He said in his letter that his companion and friend could not send his name, for he bore a dead name, yet sent him his

photograph to let him know that the original was still alive, and sent his kindly remembrances to him and to myself. This photo was a true likeness of John Wilkes Booth," Gordon declared.

Miss Rutherford says that Booth's motive for killing Lincoln was not because the slayer was a sympathizer with the south, but because he was a warm friend and college roommate of John Yates Beall, who was captured in the north, tried as aspy and hanged. Some evidence is offered by Miss Rutherford to show that Booth pleaded with Lincoln to save Beall's life, that Lincoln promised to do so, but later upon objection of Secretary Seward, declined to interfere, with the result that Beall was hanged. Lewis Payne, who was also a strong friend of Beall's attempted to kill Seward at the same time that Booth shot Lincoln. Miss Rutherford says she has discovered that Booth and Payne took an oath to kill Lincoln and Seward because of their responsibility for the execution of Beall. From her account it appears that, up to the time that he refused to save Beall, Lincoln

was friendly to Booth, while the latter admired him. Beall was an officer in the Confederate navy who seized a steamboat on Lake Erie, converted it into a war vessel, captured and sunk a boat, attempted to release the Confederate prisoners at Johnson's Island, produced a panic in many of the cities on the lakes, especially at Buffalo and terrorized commerce. He was betrayed, captured, denied a just trial, and, although he was not a spy, he was tried, convicted, condemned to death and executed just 44 days before the assassination of Lincoln.

When the supposed body of John Wilkes Booth was carried to Washington, no one who saw the corpse had ever seen Booth in life. It was secretly buried. Why? Reports and testimony vary as to the burial place. One account has it that the body was buried under a brick pavement in a Washington prison and that it was later transferred to the Booth burying ground in Baltimore. Another report is that the corpse was buried on an island in the Potomac river. A third is that it was buried in the Navy Yard. A fifth is that the body was taken at night from a warship in the Philadelphia Navy Yard and its disposition never divulged.

Did Booth escape to the west? If so he must have used several assumed names, among them John St. Helen and David E. George. Pictures of a

PURE PERUVIAN GUANO.

It has recently come to my attention that parties have stated that there was no such thing as genuine Peruvian Guano. Being the representative of the Nitrate Agencies Company, of Wilmington, who are distributors of Genuine Peruvian Guano, I feel called upon to correct this statement and offer below the following certificate from the Treasury Department United States Custom Service at Wilmington, N. C.:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT
United States Customs Service
Wilmington, N. C.

October 17, 1923.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This letter will certify that the Finnish Bark, PENANG, now discharging a full cargo of Peruvian Guano at this port, came here direct from the Peruvian Islands with this cargo, and that, according to her papers and documents, her cargo is the Genuine Peruvian Guano, as advertised by the Consignees, the Nitrate Agencies Company.
(Signed) WILMINGTON CUSTOMS HOUSE
Per A. L. McCaskill, Collector of Customs.

I am prepared to sell you genuine Peruvian and genuine Peruvian Mixtures, and will meet all prices.

W. R. HOUGH, Agent
Camden, S. C.

man going by this name were recognized as likenesses of him by personal friends and relatives. Miss Rutherford asserts, adding that Gen. Albert Pike recognized him in a hotel when he was under the name of David E. George and that Joseph Jefferson, the actor, recognized him in a picture of John St. Helen, as did his nephew, Junius Brutus Booth. David E. George committed suicide at Enid, Okla., in 1903, declaring on his deathbed that he was John Wilkes Booth, a confession he had previously made twice.

A Washington investigator wrote Miss Rutherford that, after making an extended inquiry, he could find nothing to prove that any money at all was paid to the captors of Booth's supposed dead body, but that some years after the assassination of Lincoln, the congress asked Secretary of War Stanton to report what had been done by him to reward the captors of Booth and he sent in a non-committal report which was laid on the table and never considered by the congress. Miss Rutherford adds: "Over \$100,000 was offered for Booth alone. It is never paid." Why? One of the pallbearers who served when the supposed body of Booth was buried in the family plot in Baltimore had known Booth and said that the

corpse did not resemble him.

Finally, Miss Rutherford produces what purports to be Booth's own account of his escape. It was received from one of her friends in Memphis who "asked that neither her name nor that of the friend who gave it to her should be used as it had been given in confidence." A most singular circumstance is that this account, although believed to have been written by Booth, was signed with an assumed name which was neither of the two aliases mentioned above. As this account lacked corroboration, Miss Rutherford at first paid little heed to it, but later she found other statements which tended to verify it. In his narrative Booth gave the circumstances of his escape in much detail and asserted that he made his way to the Indian Territory and remained there a year and a half, later going to Texas.

Miss Rutherford's conclusion is: "There can no longer be any doubt that John Wilkes Booth lived long after the man was killed at Garrett Farm, April 26, 1865."

Nevertheless, the evidence as published by her is not convincing proof that Booth escaped. It would be possible for a man looking like Booth to claim to be Booth even though the latter were dead.

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