

LEADERS OF BOTH PARTIES EAGER TO "DRAFT" HOOVER AS PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE

Former Food Controller Figures in an Interesting Situation in National Politics.

KEEPS THEM GUESSING.

Men Behind the Guns Uncertain as to Just Where He Stands.

By David Lawrence.
Special Correspondent of The Evening World.
WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 (Copy right, 1919).—Said a Democrat so prominent in the Wilson Administration that were his name to be mentioned he would be instantly recognized as a power in the politics of his party:

"If I were not pledged to McAdoo I would openly work for the nomination of Herbert Hoover for President on the Democratic ticket."

Said a prominent Republican, whose position must necessarily be neutral at present but whose desire for Republican success in 1920 is equalled by no one else in the Republican Party to-day:

"If we only knew where Herbert Hoover stood, if we could make sure of him—why, we would win in a walk if we nominated him for President."

INTERESTING SITUATION IN PRE-CONVENTION POLITICS.

These two quotations—unfortunately their authors cannot at this time be disclosed—represent one of the most interesting situations in pre-convention politics in the United States. On the surface, the workers and organizers are sincerely laboring tooth and nail for their favorites. Standing apart from the active workers are certain wise leaders who pull the strings at the last moment and swing delegations into line, so that the real nominee emerges after the favorite sons have been balloted out of consideration.

The men behind the gun, so to speak, are looking Hoover over. The Republicans and the Democrats will tell you the same thing—that Hoover is about as well advertised a personality as there is in America and perhaps in the world; that he has the international vision and the engineer's scientific mind in handling large problems of a domestic character.

MUST ADOPT HIS PLATFORM TO GET HIM.

It is significant that Herbert Hoover hasn't said which party he would affiliate with in the next campaign. But if you will glance at the leading article in this week's issue of the Saturday Evening Post you will find what may be regarded as the Hoover platform. Whitefever political party adopts that platform can have Hoover. That's about the long and the short of it. Hoover is not seeking the nomination, nor is he permitting his closest friends to start any boom or organization or political machinery going in his behalf. He is simply exercising his right as an independent citizen to say what he thinks on public questions, and if either political party wants to draft him, his terms are contained in the doctrines he has set forth in print. And if neither political party cares to take an independent type of citizen like that, Hoover will not be in the least offended but will continue to work independently in the public service.

MAY BUY NEWSPAPERS TO EXPLAIN HIS IDEAS.

There are rumors that some day he may purchase newspapers and express himself on public questions from time to time, but the former Food Administrator has denied this. The one interesting fact is that after a close contact with Government during the war, and after an executive job that made him respected by every Government in Europe, Herbert Hoover has enunciated some ideas about reconstruction that apply directly to the economic ills of the country to-day.

In his magazine article, it will be noted that Mr. Hoover comes out flatly for the right of collective bargaining and also for the right of wage earners not only to organize in trade unions but to employ counsel and representatives of their own in dealing with capital. It was on this point that the first Industrial Peace Conference was wrecked. Mr. Hoover is at present a member of the Industrial Council which was appointed by the President to endeavor to work out a programme to submit to the

employers and the employees of the country.

OPPOSES DOMINATION BY LABOR OR CAPITAL.

Mr. Hoover points out in his article, however, that no combination of workers or capitalists ought to be permitted to dominate the community and dictate social and political measures. Where the combinations are so large both of trade unions and capital, as in coal, transportation and similar necessities of life, Mr. Hoover discussed the need for compulsory arbitration, or, alternatively, the delay of strikes and lockouts, until some independent body can determine the right and wrong and submit it to public opinion. He also speaks of the necessity of holding unions liable for damages for failure to fulfill contracts once entered upon.

The former Food Administrator takes up successively the problems involved in the control of corporations, plans for a better distribution of wealth and co-operative methods in production between capital and labor, control of speculation and profiteering, and while expressing an opposition to the nationalization of industry because Government ownership does not furnish enough initiative and efficiency, he points to the need for Government control to the extent that enterprises made to serve the community do not violate the fundamental principles of equality.

Other pronouncements of policy are bound to be issued from time to time by Mr. Hoover. It is an altogether novel way of serving the public interest. Mr. Hoover permits no one to organize any boom for him, but he is having his say. If any considerable number of the people think his ideas and experience can be useful to the country, they are entitled to draft him.

But the truth is, Herbert Hoover himself doesn't think the politicians of either party are even interested in him, and he has told persons who have broached the idea to him that he believed it ridiculous and hoped they would not cause him embarrassment by giving any encouragement to the notion. Wherein Herbert Hoover is mistaken. For the truth is, the politicians are watching him carefully, and it would not be surprising to see overtures made to him from both sides before the two Nominating Conventions meet, with the chances not altogether remote that one or the other of the two parties will consider him seriously for the Presidential nomination.

GERMAN LINERS GO TO ENGLAND TO-DAY

Seven Ships Given Over by Wilson Are All in New York Harbor.

The seven former German vessels President Wilson ordered the Shipping Board to turn over to Great Britain were formally transferred here at noon to-day to the local representative of the British Ministry of Shipping.

There was no ceremony about the transfer. The documents incidental to the affair were to be exchanged at Washington. Here it was simply a matter of the American crews leaving the ships to British crews which were in readiness. Then the lowering of the American flag and the raising of the British, and all was done.

THREE ARRESTED AS SILK THIEVES.

Three youths, arrested early this morning as they were leaving a tenement house at No. 552 West Broadway, will be arraigned in the Jefferson Market Court on a charge of burglary. When arrested each of the three carried a bulging bag in which the police found silks valued at \$3,000.

Cousin Eleanor and Actors in "The Wishing Ring" Who Entertained Members of the Kiddie Club



THOUSANDS ENJOY 'THE WISHING RING' IN SECOND SHOW

The Evening World Kiddie Klub 1919 Performance a Great Success.

To-day's performance of "The Wishing Ring," by and for the members of Cousin Eleanor's Evening World Kiddie Klub, at the Manhattan Opera House, wound up the 1919 Kiddie Klub holiday celebration in a wave of enthusiasm. The attendance to-day was even larger than at yesterday's performance. The vast auditorium was packed from the orchestra rail to the back wall of the top-most gallery.

The performance this year was of surpassing splendor and interest. Theatrical managers said the show was the most interesting and the smoothest amateur presentation they had ever seen.

At the home it was said "Rise" had been courting Nina for some time, but that the mother strongly opposed the match.

THREE U. S. SHIPS LAUNCHED TO-DAY

Newark Bay Shipyard Has Delivered Ninety-Five Vessels This Year.

Three 2,350-ton steel cargo vessels were launched at the Newark Bay Shipyard to-day. With them the submarine Boat Company will have delivered to the United States Shipping Board during 1919 ninety-five complete ships, with an aggregate deadweight carrying capacity of 592,260 tons.

GOV. SMITH'S NEPHEW WEDS.

Staff Attends Marriage of Mercedes Maguire and J. J. Glynn.

The ceremony was performed at the church of the Assumption by the Rev. William B. Farrell. Mrs. Emma Rubenstein, sister of Mrs. Maguire, was the bridesmaid, and Frank Coyle, law partner of Mr. Glynn, was best man.

"SH!" POLICE TELL VICTIM OF BANDITS.

Broadway Clerk Hit Over Head, \$200 Taken—No Arrests Reported.

Samuel Prutkin, who keeps a small stationary and confectionery store at No. 3313 Broadway, was just closing his place at midnight Christmas Eve when two men entered. One asked for a package of cigarettes. As Prutkin turned to get them the man hit him with a blackjack.

MISSING GIRL, 18, RAN AWAY TO WED

Letter Reaches Her Home Asking Parents' Forgiveness—Mother Critically Ill.

With a general pollen alarm out for Miss Nina Stephenson, a pretty eighteen-year-old clerk living with her mother and sisters at No. 2311 Broadway, a message was received last night signed "Nina and Ray" announcing their marriage in Hoboken and asking parental forgiveness.

POLICEMAN KILLS HOLD-UP MAN IN "KAMERAD" ROLE

Fugitive Had Tried to Fire After Throwing up Hands in Surrender.

Policeman J. J. Wimmer of the Old Slip station, walking Washington Street at 6:30 o'clock this morning heard a buzzing which he thought was made by a partly muffled burglar alarm. He ran to Rector Street and then through to Greenwich Street without being able to locate the sound.

HIT BY "L" TRAIN

Leaving Over Station Platform, Man Is Knocked Unconscious.

As he was leaning over the platform of the elevated station at 125th Street and Eighth Avenue this morning an unidentified man was struck by a south-bound train and knocked unconscious in view of a crowd of waiting passengers.

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The man is about forty-eight years old, five feet ten inches tall, 150 pounds, fair complexion, blue eyes and partly bald. His clothing indicated he might be a laborer. Attached to his coat was a metal tag with the inscription: "M. C. 141 N. Y." A paper tag in his pocket was inscribed "Dodge, 15, 318."

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CALEB VAN HAMM DIES IN FLORIDA; ILL FOR A MONTH

Had a Long Career as a Newspaper Worker and Managing Editor.

Caleb Marsh Van Hamm, managing editor of the New York American, died early to-day at Miami, Fla., after an illness of a little more than a month. Mr. Van Hamm left New York for Florida on Dec. 18, accompanied by his wife and his only child, a daughter, and Louis Seibold of The World, his most intimate friend. Mr. Seibold returned on Christmas Eve with the information that there was little hope for Mr. Van Hamm's recovery.

Mr. Van Hamm was born in Cincinnati on March 11, 1861. He was educated in Chickering Institute and the University of Cincinnati and after a brief career in the practice of law entered the newspaper profession, becoming managing editor of the Cincinnati News-Journal. He came to New York in 1892, and after acting as city editor of the old Journal and the Recorder joined the staff of The World in 1895. He was managing editor of The Morning World from 1906 until 1910 when he entered the Hearst organization as managing editor of the American.

In his chosen profession Mr. Van Hamm ranked with the leaders. He was noted for his cool, accurate judgment and for his ability to rise to any news occasion with a minimum of effort and a maximum of efficiency. No more popular newspaper executive ever made his mark in New York journalism. To his associates and his subordinates he was always a sincere friend and a wise counselor.

For many years Mr. Van Hamm lived on the upper West Side. He was one of the founders and president of the Andron Club. His home was in the Apthorp Apartments, 79th Street and Broadway. In 1894 he married Amy M. Perkins of Cincinnati.

The death of Mr. Van Hamm is a particularly sharp shock to his friends for the reason that up to the time when he was stricken with his last illness he had been the picture of good health and good nature. Only once before in his fifty-nine years had he suffered ill health and on that occasion the attack was brief and mild.

Arrangements for the funeral will wait upon consultation between Mrs. Van Hamm and friends of the family in this city and Cincinnati.

OWNERS SEEKING TRAINLOAD OF GIN LOST EN ROUTE

18,697,453,012 Rickeys, Worth \$7,543,800, Disappear on Way to Cuba.

Nobody ever thought it of Cleveland, but it is a fact that after being reported as Cleveland there has been no trace of the Peoria, Ill., Gin Special of twenty-seven heavily guarded and tightly locked freight cars, en route for Havana via an Eastern port, believed to be New York.

Nobody yesterday seemed to know what had become of the 18,697,453,012 potential gin rickeys, valued in the market at \$7,543,800.

The white palate salve passed safely through the regular inspection at Mineral Water Springs and other way stations, and probably would have got past Niagara Falls without a drop leaking through had it not struck Cleveland.

Col. Daniel L. Porter, who soods at Prohibition Law violators and put them in the cooler, told a reporter that Deputy Income Taxer Stempson knew all about the special whereverabouts. Stempson said there was less than nothing doing. He allowed that Deputy Collector of the Port Stewart ought to have a few of the facts up his sleeve. Stewart pooh-poohed the idea.

The buck took a second start and made for the railroads. The New York Central was horror stricken at the very idea and said the gin special was just the kind of thing that the Pennsylvania would have delight in handling, but never the New York Central. The Pennsylvania shrugged a shoulder and pointed to the West Shore. The West Shore handed the buck the address of the Erie. The Erie shooed the reporter and buck off to the H. and O.

Another Dansey Boy Dies.

HAMMONTON, N. J., Dec. 27.—Edward H. White, whose son, Charles S. White, is out on bail on a charge of having killed "Bibi" Dansey, today announced that he had received a letter from the Chief of Police of Collingwood, N.J., stating that the Chief had under surveillance a man and woman who had in their care a boy answering the description of the Dansey boy. The Chief of Police stated that the child had a mole on the left breast and slight affection of the eye, which was the case with the Dansey boy.

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