

BRYAN HOLDS MASSES

Political Situation Undergoes Marked Change.

BOOMS OF OTHERS FALL FLAT

Conditions in Taft's State No Better for Him Than When He Left.

Hughes Continues Without Effort to Grow as National Figure and Could Command Campaign Fund.

The political situation has undergone a marked change in recent weeks.

Six months ago it was obvious that a shrewdly directed movement, prompted by selfish, rather than partisan interests, was under way, which contemplated the elimination of both Bryan and Roosevelt from the Presidential equation.

In the case of Bryan it failed. Booms for it developed that "good Southern Democrat" and that after a little time collapsed for want of any substantial support.

The South, though lacking in sympathy with some of the Nebraska's theories of government, was found to be steadfastly supporting Bryan the man. Whatever his shortcomings, that section still accepted him as leader, and realized that in voting-getting availability he was far better equipped than any Southern Democrat could possibly be.

Discussion of Gray, of Delaware; Woodrow Wilson, of New Jersey, and Johnson, of Minnesota, failed to shake Bryan's hold on the masses.

The boom for Lewis Stuyvesant Chanler, the young lieutenant governor of New York, who was elected on the Hearst ticket last year, attracted more than ordinary attention for a few weeks.

But when the managers of his boom adopted the poor tactics of assailing Bryan, the party quickly lost interest in the New Yorker. And now, some six months before the convention at Denver, the opinion prevails almost universally that Bryan will be nominated, probably by acclamation.

Efforts Against Roosevelt.

But the effort to eliminate Roosevelt apparently has been more successful. Certainly, for the time being, he is not personally figuring in the Presidential equation. It is not to be believed that the money famine, followed by depression, more or less widespread, was brought about to undermine the President, but about the fact remains that this condition, whatever caused it, has served the purpose, in a measure at least, of those interests inimical to Roosevelt.

The second announcement that Mr. Roosevelt would not accept a nomination for a third term was precisely the thing sought by those unfriendly to him and to his policies, and as a result of it the President-to-day unquestionably is at least a factor in partisan politics than at any time since he entered the White House.

William Howard Taft, home from his trip around the world, has been candidly simplified in that the renomination of Roosevelt is not now regarded as likely to happen, but it is doubtful whether the Secretary's chances of securing the nomination are now undiminished.

The conditions in his own State are no better than when he left, if as good. Senator Foraker probably is stronger there than he was two months ago. In the country at large, while the campaign against Roosevelt—which still means the masses—are evincing some disposition to take up the candidate bearing most unmistakable signs of the Rooseveltian or Rooseveltian.

With internecine war in his own State, which might even jeopardize its electoral vote, and the knowledge that organized labor would undoubtedly fight him bitterly in the campaign, Taft's candidacy is not impressing itself upon Republicans generally. They see weakness and danger in it.

Gov. Hughes, of New York, without any effort on his own part, continues to grow as a national figure, and his candidacy for the nomination is nowhere questioned. The corporations are not unfriendly to him. Even the Standard Oil influences seem to be willing to trust Hughes, because of his legal ability and the inherent fairness of the man. The campaign fund, in the event of his nomination, could be easily raised.

But the administration, while perhaps not absolutely frowning upon any aspirations Hughes may have, has no interest in his candidacy and clearly would like to see some other man nominated—if not Taft, then possibly Knox, or Cortelyou.

President Roosevelt, as a matter of fact, it is said, would rather see Elihu Root in the White House than any other Republican, not excepting Taft, and should conceding become more favorable as convention day approaches, it is even within the range of possibility that the administration may endeavor to force Root to the front.

To Sidetrack Cortelyou.

This, of course, would mean the sidetracking of Hughes and Cortelyou.

After all, there are countless Republicans who yet think that Mr. Roosevelt himself will be the nominee, his two announcements to the contrary notwithstanding. He will not become a candidate under any circumstances, and his party now generally accepts what he has said in its literal meaning; but if there should be an uprising of the people for him—a popular call prompted by a general belief that the country needed his services four years more, it is believed that he would feel it his patriotic duty to yield to such a call.

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OLD SOLDIER FOUND DEAD.

David Edwards Believed to Have Died from Natural Causes.

The dead body of David Edwards, eighty-three years of age, an inmate of the United States Soldiers' Home, was found yesterday afternoon in Davidge's Woods, a short distance from Trinity College, Brookland. The remains of the ex-soldier were removed to the morgue and the coroner notified. It is probable that a certificate of death from natural causes will be issued.

The body of the man was found by Charles H. Ehrhardt, of 63 Sixth street northwest, who was tramping through the woods, and happened to pass in the vicinity of the spot where the aged veteran had fallen.

Edwards is said to have been in the habit of taking long tramps through the woods, and yesterday morning he started on one of his customary jaunts. Over-exertion is thought to have brought on the heart trouble, resulting in the man's death.

GOOD-BY TO MR. C. D. HURREY

Members of the Twenty-four-hour-a-day Club at Y. M. C. A.

Newly-appointed Representative to South America Will Sail on Tuesday Via Spain.

Members of the Twenty-four-hour-a-day Club met in the private dining-room of the Young Men's Christian Association last evening, and heard the greetings and farewell of their newly-appointed representative to South America, Mr. Charles D. Hurrey.

President John B. Slemann, Jr., in introducing Mr. Hurrey to the club members, stated that it had transpired that C. C. Rutledge, who for several years has been the Washington Y. M. C. A.'s foreign secretary in Hongkong, has been obliged to retire from the work and return to North America, and that Mr. Hurrey, by vote of the board of governors of the club, had become the fourth foreign secretary on the roll of the Washington association.

Mr. Hurrey, in outlining the present programme, said that he would sail on Tuesday, going by way of Spain, where he will spend some months in mastering the Spanish language and in a study of the history and customs of the people who have largely populated the South American republics.

There are at present six secretaries of Young Men's Christian associations in cities of South America, and the plan of the foreign work department of the international committee will be to establish associations at twenty points during the next three years.

Mr. John R. Mott, general secretary of the international foreign work, made a tour of several South American cities last spring, and has suggested Mr. Hurrey for this important national secretaryship.

Mr. Hurrey is a University of Michigan man, class of 1900, and has been a student secretary, traveling in the Middle West. He and Mrs. Hurrey were in the party of international secretaries and laymen, with Messrs S. W. Woodward and John B. Slemann, Jr., who visited the Orient last April, and Mr. Hurrey spent some time in Manila and the Philippines studying the Latin-Filipino-American situation there.

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ATTACKED BY NEGRO

Mrs. Jost Is Brutally Assaulted in Her Home.

Struck on the head and then choked until almost insensible, was the experience of Mrs. Ida Jost, a widow, twenty-nine years of age, last night.

Mrs. Jost, who conducts a dairy near Langdon, D. C., was the victim of a negro's brutality while alone in her house.

And although her head was badly cut and bruised and she suffered severely from shock, her injuries are not regarded as serious.

Her assailant escaped, and at a late hour last night had not been caught.

Has Lived Alone.

Since the death of her husband several years ago Mrs. Jost has been living alone near Sixteenth street and Brentwood road northeast. About two weeks ago the negro who is said to have made the attack was hired to help about the place in connection with the dairy work.

On Wednesday, because of a shortage of work, he was discharged, and after receiving the money due him, is said to have left the place. He had not been seen again until he appeared at the place a few minutes before 9 o'clock last night.

Mrs. Jost, as usual at night, was alone, another negro employed as a driver having finished his work and left for the night. She says her assailant came to the house in the hope of again obtaining employment, and talked with her several minutes in the kitchen. Without warning, she claims, he suddenly sprang at her, and picking up a milk bottle from a table, threw it with full force at her head.

Dodging behind chairs and other furniture, the woman attempted to protect herself. The man continued to throw dishes and other utensils, several of which struck the woman.

Although stunned and bleeding from gashes in her head, Mrs. Jost managed to get into the dining-room and lock the door. The negro rushed from the house, and getting an armful of milk bottles from a well house in the rear, bombarded the dining-room windows. Glasses were broken, and although Mrs. Jost tried to protect herself, several of the missiles struck her.

Her Screams Are Heard.

Her screams were heard by neighbors, and a number of men started in pursuit of the negro. When within a short distance of the house some one in a nearby residence commenced firing a revolver to attract the police, and, thinking this was an attempt to shoot the negro, those who rushed to the woman's assistance stopped short in fear of being mistaken for the black man.

Barfoot, Mrs. Jost ran from her home to the residence of Shlums Norris, about 200 yards south of her house.

Dr. Pliskorn, of 1242 Newton street northeast, was summoned, and accompanied by a trained nurse and Mrs. Jost's sister, Mrs. Cora Whitaker, went to the aid of the injured woman. Her injuries were dressed, and in a few minutes she was able to talk to Detective Evans and policemen of the Tenth precinct who were eager to get a description of her assailant.

A search was made in the vicinity, but no trace of the negro was found. Neither Mrs. Jost nor her neighbors was able to furnish the police with the name of the negro. Mrs. Jost, however, was able to

furnish a good description of him, and this was telephoned to police stations.

Mrs. Jost was positive the man was not under the influence of liquor. The negro left undisturbed Mrs. Jost's pocket-book containing about \$30, which she dropped on the kitchen table when the man started his bombardment with milk bottles.

REV. T. L. MURPHY DEAD.

Prominent Episcopal Clergyman in New Jersey Passes Away.

New York, Dec. 22.—Rev. Thomas Logan Murphy, for many years one of the most prominent Episcopal clergymen in New Jersey, died to-day in Plainfield, following a few days' illness.

Mr. Murphy was born in Pittsburg, October 20, 1829. He attended the Philadelphia Divinity School, and on December 29, 1855, was ordained a deacon by the Right Rev. William Bacon Stevens.

He afterward served as rector of several churches throughout the country. His last rectorship in this country was that of the Church of the Holy Cross, in North Plainfield.

REVIVES ANCIENT SWINDLE

Old Story of Spanish Dungeon and Seized Valuables.

If you happened to be shut up in a dungeon away over in Spain—it isn't necessary to say why you are shut up and saw Christmas and your wife's new mantilla and castanets staring you in the pocketbook, you'd be pretty apt to get busy, wouldn't you?

Maybe you'd sit down in your little prison cell and write a letter to some one in America who would address you in some dumb manner. Perhaps you would tell him how he could get rich in an amazingly short time, and when you had done it all you would probably dance about in the prison cell, and have some first-class Spanish air castles.

Offers a Temptation.

And, perhaps, if that letter came to an American who wasn't John D. Rockefeller or a Thomas W. Lawson, with a million or two rolling loose in his vest pocket, he would be tempted to get in on the divide. Because it's a very tempting offer to make to a man, particularly an American, when you tell him that you'll let him in on a third of 1,200,000 francs for a song.

All the American has to do—there isn't a bit of animus left in Spain; they are ready over there even to receive assistance from this side of the Atlantic—is to be real soft and quiet, and cable over that he's going in on the scheme. Then it's sort of understood that there will be more letters, and in the end 400,000 francs—a good round sum for small trouble—will be his.

The Letter Itself.

Dear Sir: A highly important matter compels me to write you. I need the cooperation of an honest man for receiving francs 1,200,000. (I have within a trunk deposited in a railway station of England, and also a check for francs 40,000, payable to bearer, being this check, together with the railroad receipt of my trunk hidden in a secret drawer of a hand valise, forming part of my baggage seized in Spain.)

I am into prison for bankruptcy. If you are disposed to help me, it shall be necessary you advance the sum mentioned to pay the railroad charges. In recompense of the great service you will render me, I will reward you with the third part of the amount, and if you accept my offer I will send you full particulars.

I am sending you my reply at prison, please address it to my servant by a cable, never by letter, as following:

Felipe Garcia, Mayor, 42 Cuatro, Madrid. Instead of your name, for precaution, sign this one, "Faroal."

Awaiting your reply, I am, sir, your faithful one, R. D.

THE LETTER FROM THE INCARCERATED SPANISH GENTLEMAN WHO LOOKS LONGINGLY ON AMERICAN DOLLARS, AND SORT OF CARESSINGLY AT AMERICAN SUCKERS, IS AS FOLLOWS:

Madrid, December 2, 1907.

Dear Sir: I need the cooperation of an honest man for receiving francs 1,200,000. (I have within a trunk deposited in a railway station of England, and also a check for francs 40,000, payable to bearer, being this check, together with the railroad receipt of my trunk hidden in a secret drawer of a hand valise, forming part of my baggage seized in Spain.)

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