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Col. Gardner's "Opening"

Col. Fred D. Gardner, whose candidacy for Governor appears to be a very exclusive affair, almost separate from the rest of the Democratic campaign, had his own little "opening" at Chillicothe on the 23rd. On this occasion, the colonel, who got his title from Gov. Major, made a carefully prepared speech. Not being an orator, he writes out his speeches and either reads or commits them to memory. He takes no chance on side-flights. What he says, he says deliberately. There is no explanation of impulsiveness, of inadvertence or of momentary nervousness.

Under the circumstances we confess to some surprise at the Gardner opening speech, especially with reference to his pet land loan law. Mr. Gardner assumes to have given this subject close study. If that is true, he ought to be able to answer objections to his law readily, clearly and satisfactorily. He does not do that. Indeed, an intelligent stranger, reading the Chillicothe speech, would promptly reach the conclusion that Gardner does not believe in his own land loan bill. Not now, at least. He may have thought it at one time a good campaign card among the farmers for use in connection with the primaries. It did work pretty well in that connection, but that was before Judge Lamm uncovered it.

The Republican candidate for governor, asked Gardner a number of important and legitimate questions about his measure. He didn't answer any of them fairly, for the probable reason that he couldn't. Not without giving his whole case away.

Judge Lamm asked Mr. Gardner, first of all, where he was going to get the million dollars to start the state in the loaning business. The coffin manufacturer didn't answer that directly at all, but he said the state didn't have any trouble getting a million dollars for the St. Louis Exposition and another three million for the new state capitol. The people of the state were taxed directly for the first and issued bonds and went into debt for the second. It is evident from this that Gardner proposes either to increase the farmer's tax and get this money or to add to the debt of the state, which the farmer will have to pay later on, for it's the farmer's outdoor property that pays the bill of the tax. However, the "colonel," following the tradesman's method of putting his victim to sleep by means of the installment plan, says he would only use \$250,000 each year for four years, thus making it easy. Surely Mr. Gardner can't be serious about a proposition to replace the \$113,000,000 farm loans of the state and to meet the new loan demands which he himself pretends to foresee and want to provide for in addition, with a measly little quarter of a million dollars. He must be kidding us. But whether this money comes straight or in installments, it comes, now or hereafter, in increased tax-s from the farmers.

So the very important charges that this is a political measure, that it was for the creation of an unlimited number of soft jobs with incalculable expense accounts that it is so constituted that the banking powers of the state will naturally be prostituted, through the agency established, to the use of primary and general politics, that vast responsibility and a great trust are given into untrained hands and that a tremendous burden will be loaded onto the farmer taxpayers, with no real relief in compensation, Gardner makes no answer. He confesses by evasion.

To the charge that the Gardner law is a step toward single tax through the exemption of debenture bonds and its consequent increase of tax on land, he replies that the exemption is in the interest of a lower rate of interest for the farmer. But the lower rate of interest is neither assured nor probable after the first half million of loans. The basis of the hope for it is theoretically beautiful but practically impossible

considering the political machinery in the banking process provided.

To the charges that the plan proposed gives money to the man who can easily borrow it at a low rate of interest elsewhere, but none to the man who needs it most, that it does not provide for inevitable losses, that it threatens the financial honor of the state and that it is logically conducive to social unrest in that it taxes all classes for the presumed benefit of one, Mr. Gardner answers never a word. This is more confession by evasion.

The man who read and heard Mr. Gardner's speech are not surprised that the Democratic gubernatorial candidate declined to debate the land bank proposition with Judge Lamm. His political health forbade. He wouldn't have lasted ten minutes by the town clock in such a debate, and he knows it.

On a Hobby.

"Col. Gardner at best is a man trying to ride into office on a hobby, and that hobby is a very wobbly land bank bill. The fact that every Democratic candidate in the primary attacked the bill does not speak well of it as a Democratic measure. The very fact farmers must pay more taxes to raise money for the state to loan shows it a political trick which does not appeal to intelligent farmers themselves. The necessity for increasing greatly the number of state employees at Jefferson City to receive pay out of the state treasury supported by farmers' taxes help make the scheme odious, when the intention has been to discontinue the extravagant misuse of funds at Jefferson City. The Gardner scheme will conduce further to the present financial embarrassment of Missouri. If these appointees were to be appointed upon merit tests, that would relieve matters some but the attorneys who are to examine abstracts and the men who are to value the securities and all others necessary for the operation of the plan are subject to partisan appointment and control. This means enlarged pork barrels—the very things that farmers do not want."—Jno. E. Swanger in Sedalia Capital.

Senator Reed, who is a candidate for re-election, though nearly a hundred thousand Democrats indicated their opposition to him on primary day, is calling on the people to stand by their president. Only about a year ago, Reed's ears were warm at what the Democrats of Missouri and particularly the Democratic newspapers were saying about his own opposition to Wilson because the latter hadn't given some of his henchmen jobs for which they were fit. Under the circumstances to vote for a high-class business man, Walter S. Dickey, for Senator, in the belief that most of the problems and ought to be solved on a business rather than a political basis by patriotic business men.

The Democratic newspapers are pointing to the defeat of Gov. Colquitt in the Texas Democratic primaries as a victory for Wilson. Colquitt has taken occasion to sharply criticize the Mexican policy of the administration—an exercise of Lese Majeste which federal office holders could never forgive. But isn't it rather remarkable that a Democratic governor who would flout the policies of a Democratic president should get over 100,000 votes in a Democratic primary? Surely that means something.

The people of the cities of Missouri haven't forgotten the free soup-houses and the charity bread-lines of 1914, following the enactment of the Wilson-Underwood tariff. But for the protective condition that came with the war is over, we will have them again if we haven't in the meantime returned the party of protection to full power.

The report that instructions were given to the band at the Democratic "opening" at Joplin to begin playing if anybody mentioned state affairs, may or may not be true, but in any event, the band had no occasion to play on that account. "Mum" was the word.

An Interesting Point In The War.

The force and extent of the first German drive into Northern France can be best understood by consulting the map for ascertaining the relative positions of the armies in and around Combles. The objective point of the Germans in the first great rush was the channel seaport of Calais. How near they came to reaching it is seen in the fact that now after losing Combles, they are still in the province, or what the French call the arondissement of Calais, although now on its extreme southeastern edge, and not likely to remain there very long. They have fallen back from points north and west of La Bassee, during the two offensives made by the allies within the past year such a distance as plainly shows how near they had come to Calais itself.

Further consultations of the map is likely to remove any optimistic impression one may have had that the war is because of the falling back of the Germans in France, nearing a speedy close. The Germans have been falling back very slowly, so slowly in fact both in point of time and of distance, that now, after the loss of Combles, map measurements taken by scale of miles to the inch of map surface, show them to be still almost as near England, including the distance across the English Channel between Calais and Dover, as they are to the nearest German frontier. A realization of how near the Germans came to Calais leads naturally to speculation of what would have happened to Great Britain had they actually got there. Speculation along that line can now be seen to be useless, there being no longer a prospect left of such an occupation. We may however speculate that Calais in German hands might have proved as disappointing as has Antwerp of which Von Moltke once said: "Antwerp is a dagger aimed at England's heart."

An interesting and more practical speculation is as to what the German plan of campaign is to be along the western front from this time onward. It is plain that the allies are now so thoroughly organized and so well equipped with artillery and munitions that they can sustain the offensive indefinitely, and that it is their purpose to do so. The German retirement will in all probability, have to be maintained, and following the fall of Combles it will be interesting to watch the development of the new German strategy. This cannot wholly be discounted by assuming that it will consist mainly of a practical abandonment of the siege of Verdun and a consequent shortening of the German line. That is a probability but a possibility in the case is that the Germans may retire on Belgium and make Antwerp a base of action. We are at one of the most interesting points in the history of the war.—Globe Democrat.

It is Merely A Memorandum

Patient paper has been seldom worse abused than when the Gardner land bank proposal was printed upon it. It does not even resemble a law. Where it is not a stump speech it is a mere memorandum on which a law might be drafted, by long work and liberal exercise of discretion. Much mention is made of foreclosures, but there is not a word about the vital thing. It does not say when any loan shall be in default. There is no specific authority granted anybody to collect a single interest or amortization annual payment and no provision as to how long such payment may be deferred or as to whether they shall bear interest while deferred. There is not a word about payment of taxes or liens or judgments on lands after the loan has been made. There is not a thing about who shall bear the expense of foreclosure be possible prior to the lapse of the entire loan period. There is no provision as to who shall pay the bondholders the annual payments, in case of default. The possibility of defaults of annual payments never seemed to occur to the author. The only specific power to collect annual payments is given with reference to the annual charge of

one-half of one per cent for the "reserve fund" and the proposal is even silent as to defaults of these payments.

The land bank may as a last resort, to save itself from loss, acquire lands under foreclosure. These lands, as assets of the bank, could be exempted from state, county and municipal taxation, under the proposed amendment but are not so exempted under the act sought to be validated. The bank is not required to sell these lands. It is not even authorized to sell them, or anything else for that matter, except its own debenture bonds. It is not even empowered to sell the bonds of Missouri, of other states or of the United States or the "other safe securities" in which the "reserve fund" shall be kept invested, in so far as practicable. There is not a word as to commissions, prices, etc., in making these investments. The act does not provide what disposition or use, public or private, the land bank shall make of the acquired lands. There is no provision that the land bank shall keep any cash or other liquid assets on hand to pay bond coupons as presented. There is no provision as to method of paying coupons at all. The federal act makes provisions for all these things on which the Gardner proposal is silent. Col. Gardner should drop his monstrosity.—Globe Democrat.

Fall Management of Bees

It is not generally known that the Missouri bee collects and stores under favorable conditions nearly a million dollars worth of honey each year. According to the records of the Missouri Beekeepers' Association there are approximately 200,000 colonies of bees in the state owned by 40,000 beemen and beekeepers. There is a distinction between a beekeeper who cares for his bees and a beeman who merely owns bees, and unfortunately the latter are in the majority. Those who are in the latter class probably have a few prehistoric gums of boxes with cross sticks nailed inside or possibly even movable comb hives tilted over on one side and without shade except for that furnished by weeds which are allowed to grow up around them.

Even with all the neglect which the bees receive they help materially to increase or rather save the products of the state to say nothing of their immeasurable value to horticulture and agriculture in the pollenization of fruits. In proportion to size there is no comparison between the value of the products of the Missouri bee and the famed Missouri hen and at the same time the bee feeds itself. However, the bee is a more delicate creature than the hen and cannot withstand the too often inexcusable neglect which it receives.

If you are a beeman now is the time to consider plans for getting your bees ready for what may be a long cold winter. With the first killing frosts the bees' chance to store further supplies is ended and if through neglect the colony is weak and unprovided with supplies and a suitable home for the winter, see to it that these necessities are promptly provided. For winter they must have plenty of honey, not to exceed thirty or forty pounds for a strong stand, a dry home or hive, and protection which will prevent sudden changes of temperature. Make sure of these three points immediately and then plan to become a real beekeeper, if only in a small way, next spring by introducing necessary up-to-date methods and equipment. There is nothing on the farm which returns as much value and profits for the small capital that need be invested as a dozen well cared for colonies of honey bees.

A candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor of Missouri said in the recent preprimary campaign that the state was living too much in the past and was satisfied with the same sort of little schoolhouses that their grandfathers attended fifty years ago. If this candidate, who was not nominated, will watch the Missouri vote on November 7, he will hear something good on the subject of Missouri progress.

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