WILL PRESIDENT RENEW FIGHT ON PEACE TREATY?

Leaders Hold Contrary Opinions on Probability of Wilson Opening Guns at Jackson Banquet.

By David Lawrence
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Washington, Jan. 8.—Should President Wilson discuss the treaty fight in his letter to the Jackson day dinner of the Democratic party, which is being held here coincident with the meeting of the Democratic committee?

Two views prevail—those who believe that the silence which the president has maintained since the pact failed of a two thirds vote in the last session of congress should not be broken at a purely partisan gathering, but to the senate; those who sat in at the Republican banquets and political meetings recently, including the Ohio society dinner at New York, and have given the impression that the president is standing out against the so-called Americanizing of the treaty and league by reservations and should use the occasion to explain his position.

DEMOCRATS ARE ACTIVE

Just what the president will say is a secret for the people that he will reserve till the last minute. For a supposedly declining party, the Democrats are putting up an even livelier front than the Republicans when they were here for their national committee meeting recently. Possibly it is because the Democrats have a sort of free for all contest on, and perhaps because there are to be present such veteran figures as William Jennings Bryan and Senator Oscar Underwood and Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock and Attorney General Palmer, all of whom have made the nominating conventions of recent years very interesting.

Anyway, the Democrats have managed to work up considerable interest in the national capital and each and every candidate for the presidency or his friends are on the job talking about issues, personalities, treaty fight and what not.

FORGET BIG ISSUE

In contrast to the Republican meeting, where it was considered better strategy to suppress talk of individuals and concentrate on party harmony, the Democrats reveal the very opposite—a talkativeness about everything. Judging by the number of speeches—nearly four hours of it—which is planned at the banquet, which, by the way, is to be held in two separate hotels to accommodate the overflow—there will be plenty of politics released before the convention politics released before the week is over.

But while Mr. Bryan talks about government ownership and argues against any reduction of taxes on big business and hits at the proposed abolition of the right of railway employes to strike, there stands in the background the biggest issue of all—the League of Nations.

President Wilson is treading on delicate ground. There are Republicans in the senate who would like nothing better than a pronouncement from Mr. Wilson which would enable them to say he is making a party matter of the treaty controversy and that the best thing to do is to settle it in the next campaign.

WELCOME LEAGUE FIGHT

Senator Lodge himself has said that while the Republicans would not take the initiative in making the treaty a party issue he and his colleagues welcomed the opportunity to carry the matter into the campaign. "Irreconcilables," as the group is called which is intent on killing the treaty and league altogether, are striving hard to get the treaty into the campaign, being confident that as time goes on and the people become familiar with the intricacies of the question they will vote for the men who openly favor rejecting the treaty.

On the Democratic side one finds the other kind of confidence and analysis of the status of public opinion. There are Democrats who say that while they are admittedly weak on domestic issues and that the people are irritated over various instances of mismanagement and inefficiency revealed by members of the Democratic administration, the desire to get the treaty ratified and normal business conditions established would give the Democratic strength from large numbers of the American people who, if voting on domestic affairs alone, would not think of supporting the Democratic ticket.

It is, therefore, slowly becoming evident that on both the Democratic and Republican sides there is not such a reluctance to let the treaty become an issue, unfortunate as the result may be for Europe and the world at large. But as remarked before in these columns, the two old line parties are considerably more interested in their own partisan success this year than in anything else.

The move being made by the Democrats to compromise the treaty has its elements of camouflage. The Republicans smilingly call the Democrats' offer a "surrender" but at the same time hesitate to say they will accept it. There is some suspicion that the Democrats would be surprised and dumbfounded if the Republicans did accept it and that they are hoping that the Republicans will pile up a record of refusing to compromise so as to make good material for the campaign outcry that the Republican party is delaying peace.

On the other hand, there are mild reservationists and progressives on the Republican side who are sincerely anxious to keep the treaty out of the campaign and to get it ratified at once.

Were it not for the aggressive tactics of the other Republican group who want to kill the treaty, reservations, league and all—which group is making life miserable for Senator Lodge in his effort to preserve a solid front in the ranks of his party—the best Republican move would be to accept one of these compromise offers, get the treaty out of the way, and focus attention on Democratic mistakes on domestic questions that touch more closely the pocketbook of the householder and his vote than anything else.

But on the subject of strategy in both parties, much remains to be learned. The Republicans have evidently not been instructed by the campaign that nearly elected Charles Evan Hughes in 1916 and the Democrats have not yet cleaned house and purged themselves of the Burlesons and the others in their ranks who helped lose the Democratic campaign in 1918. But the speechmaking and promising and condemning and pledging and praising and pointing with pride stuff is uppermost nowadays while the treaty lies unacted upon and countless measures needed to help America weather the storm of war reconstruction are serenely and leisurely sidetracked.

Early Day Oregon Resident Is Buried On Old Homestead

Forest Grove, Jan. 8.—John C. Miller, aged 71 years and for 43 years a resident of Northern Washington county, died suddenly at his home in North Plains Christmas day.

Mr. Miller was born near Columbus, Ohio, April 29, 1848. The family came to Oregon in 1876, settling in the Arcade district in the fall, where they continued to reside until a year ago, when they moved to North Plains.

He is survived by his wife and one son, George E. Miller of Portland.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Andrew Carrick of Portland under the auspices of Washington grange No. 313, of which he was a charter member. Interment was in the Arcade cemetery, located on the old homestead.

It is said that all the world loves a lover, but the proof is missing.

Dance Hall Manager In Wide Open Days At Marshfield Dies

Marshfield, Jan. 8.—Word has been received here of the death in San Francisco of J. C. Wilcox, formerly a resident of North Bend and one of the first settlers in that city when it was founded. In the wide open days he conducted a big dance hall, saloon and gambling room here which was known all over the Coast. The fortune he made was lost when he fought prosecutions which ended in a sentence of a year in jail. He was pardoned by Governor Chamberlain just before the latter left the executive chair to become United States senator. The passing of Wilcox's place in North Bend was one of the last changes in this locality from the wide open days to the new condition of affairs.

City Hall Hours to Remain Unchanged

Mayor Baker withdrew his ordinance providing for the opening of the city hall at 7 a. m. and closing at 4 p. m. when the city commissioners Wednesday at a meeting of the council expressed themselves as opposed to any change in the present schedule of hours from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m.

Milovich to Remain; Finds Siberian Trade Interests Portland

Having filled 25 appointments with Portland manufacturers, jobbers and shippers during the first two days of his stay in this city, Boris Milovich, commercial attache of the Siberian government, has decided that Portland is sufficiently interested in the Siberian trade to justify his remaining here the rest of the week.

A luncheon has been arranged for Milovich by the Chamber of Commerce to be held this noon. Reservations are being made for those wishing to attend.

Candy Debauch Makes High Cost of Sugar

Washington, Jan. 8.—(I. N. S.)—"The people of the United States are indulging in a candy debauch," declared Secretary of Agriculture Houston today when asked what his department would consider a fair price for sugar now on the market. "Let the people decrease the present consumption temporarily and see what will happen to sugar prices," he added.

Salaries Increased For Number of City Employes by Council

Salaries of 11 gatemen in the bureau of water were increased $5 a month by an emergency ordinance passed by the city council Wednesday. The salary of chief clerk of the health bureau, held by Ruth Carter, was fixed at $175 a month, although Commissioners Bigelow and Pier voted against the ordinance.

Salaries of Dr. James Walsh and Dr. R. W. Sipple, quarantine officers, were raised from $190 to $200 a month. Dr. John Abele, assistant health officer, received a salary increase from $225 to $250. Commisioner Bigelow voted against the ordinance providing for the latter three increases.

Noted Tacoma Rose Culturist Speaks at Chamber on Friday.

Plans for a great street carnival of roses as the official rose show in Portland next summer will be made in a meeting of the Portland Rose society at the Chamber of Commerce Friday evening at 8 o'clock. The Rev. S. S. Sulliger, a noted rose culturist of Tacoma, will be the principal speaker. He will tell Portlanders what to do with their roses in order to remedy damage done by the recent cold weather. As evidence that the Rev. Mr. Sulliger, though of Tacoma, recognizes Portland's rose supremacy the title of his address is "Portland, the Rose Mecca." Admission is free and open to the general public.

S., P. & S. Officials to Meet Jan. 15 on Plan For Return of Lines

Officials of the so-called Hill railroad lines will meet in St. Paul, January 15, to confer on final organization plans for the return to private control March 1, according to information received in Portland. W. F. Turner, president, and A. J. Davidson, federal manager of the S., P. & S., will leave in a few days to attend the conference. The S., P. & S. is owned jointly by the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroads.

One matter likely to be decided at this meeting will be the appointment of a president for the S., P. & S. during private control. L. C. Gilman was president prior to the war, resigning to accept a government railroad position. Turner took the presidency during the absence of Gilman, but it is not known whether he will return to the S., P. & S.

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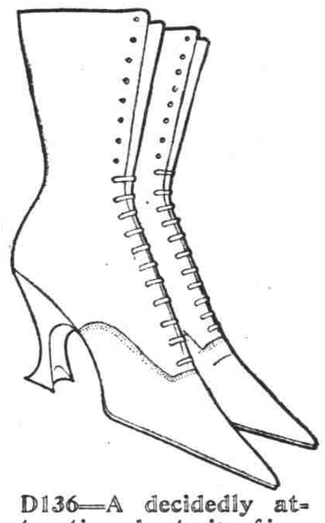

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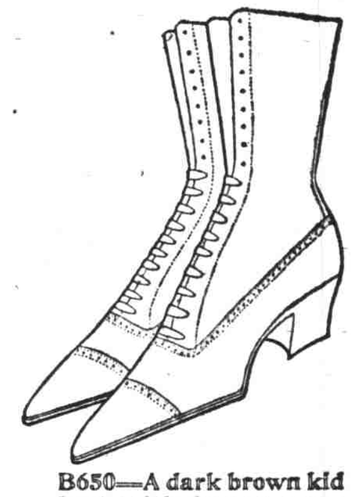

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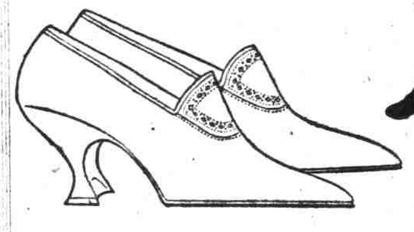

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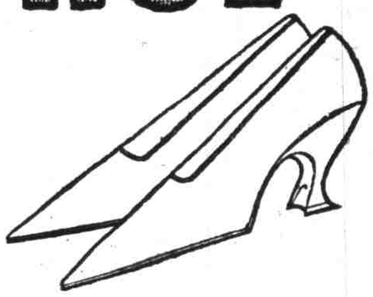

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