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THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1930

DEMOCRATIC TICKET

For United States Senator
(Long Term)
MILLS M. LOGAN

(Short Term)
BEN WILLIAMSON

For Congressman
FRED M. VINSON

The Farmers' Best "Relief"

Progress of the drought "investigation" to date tends to convince one that an editorial by Host Moore, of the Fulton Leader, reprinted in The Mercury last week, did not exaggerate concerning the manner in which Federal "relief" usually moves.

"For days and weeks," writes Mr. Moore, "the bokum is poured out in increasing amounts. For days and weeks conferences are called in Washington, governors and congressmen and senators hurry in to confer with the president and millions of people begin to talk of how a great and benevolent government is going to do something to correct conditions. And then, after weeks and months, reports begin to be made, and thousands of letters are sent out and millions of questions are asked and answered. Finally, after the machinery has ceased to exist, the government gets under way and finds out that the crisis has been passed long before, and that things are improving."

Secretary Hyde, in an unexpected week-end visit to Kentucky finds the blue grass growing. Mr. Robsion, representative through political exigency of Governor Sampson at Washington, finds "reports much exaggerated," our Governor allows that "Kentuckians will not beg." The rains have fixing themselves into the breach, while the conferences and committee-appointing, investigating and ballyhoo go on unabated.

"Probably it all makes people feel better," writes Editor Moore, "to believe that the Federal government is going to do something, and in fact some small results may be effected by the present semi-chaos. But the Federal Government can't do much in this emergency. Federal Government can't do much in any emergency. The problem is too acute and the government is too tied up with tradition and red tape to render any effective relief possible."

This view is not out of line with that to be gathered from a summing up by Time, newsmagazine of the hopes of "John Farmer" in the drought-stricken areas. Says Time:

"What John Could Do. John Farmer studied these plans for relief. He tried to figure how they could be carried out when nobody seemed to have the ready cash to finance them. He finally calculated he might do four things: 1) Join a special co-operative. It said do four things: 1) Join a special co-operative. It said where it was formed in his community to get feed to him on credit from the Federal Farm Board.

2) Go to a county agent for a certificate that he was hard hit by the drought and on the strength of that certificate get the beef freight rates would give him a 50% rate reduction on feed and hay to be shipped out to him or on his livestock to be shipped out to pasture pastures.

3) Apply for work as a day laborer on the roads being built with Federal funds and in an farm go to work.

4) Go to the Red Cross, say he and his family were starving and get some cash for food.

While John Farmer was wondering which of these things to do, the best thing possible for him said for him by Governor and President Hapwood. It rained a little. Tina watered John Farmer's short but could not give him back his lost crops."

"It rained a little," and in that rain was more relief than may be afforded by the best-intentioned Federal government "tied up with tradition and red tape," as government "tied up with tradition and red tape," as government always is. If it rain a little more and then the frost holds off, John Farmer will manage to muddle through without any government "relief."

Extraordinary rains pretty generally fall after great battles," wrote Plutarch. May we not as reasonably expect a clod-soaker following the great ballyhoo?

A Timely Warning

There is published elsewhere on this page an editorial from the Elizabethtown News, in which Editor Sommers warns Kentucky Democrats against over-confidence. Mr. Robsion is as busy as the proverbial bird dog in a rye patch. The Sampson-Robsion organization is well perfected. Mr. Harrison, of Louisville, is practically agreed upon as the candidate for Governor and will work valiantly for a large Robsion majority this fall in Louisville, with an eye to a return of the favor from eastern Kentucky, in his gubernatorial race. All this the News points out. The News is quite right about it. The Flemingburg combination is working day and night to offset the unpopularity of Mr. Sampson with a perfect organization.

If Democrats would rid the State of Sampsonism, today is not one minute too early to begin the work of perfecting a thorough State-wide organization.

A Whisper Of The Change

Three late-fledged purple martins yet amble about the perches of the bird house in our garden. They are lonesome, plaintive-voiced little fellows, left by the migrating flock, which winged its way toward the tropics early in August. A closer observer than the writer says there is an old bird left with these orphans, who occasionally feeds and keeps up the morale of the youngsters.

One wishes it were possible to observe the moment of departure. Is there a strong urge for the long flight and that unerring instinct—or chemical change in the blood, as scientists have recently claimed—sets anxious beating southward. For the first time these swallows will see the white of the surf, will wing across leagues of open water to Central America and Brazil. Dauntless travelers they must be, who now in the gray, late summer peace of a backyard garden are but baby birds.

Though in normal years, Nature luxuriates in the quiet calm of a gorgeous fecundity in August, though field and woodland are green and there is yet no hint of the chill breath of the frost, there comes for us always, with the passing of the purple martin, a warning of the approaching change. What a silence now in gardens that rang in his sunny chatter, his piping whistle, that in April breathed the spring. Winter comes on apace.

Tobacco "Comes Out"

The Mercury's prophesy that it would rain in time to make the tobacco crop does not seem such an exactly brave act to fit in the particular days of mid-July. He who rides may see the renaissance of the pale, wan little leaves, appearing into the healthy green of the days of old. Pitchforks that were anxious, "sporty," are showing level rows of green after two brief weeks and if frost is late in coming this fall there will be enough of the stalky weed trundled over our roads to market this winter to keep us nurse to the purchasing agents at prices indirected already by the Carolina markets.

Given no August rain, the tobacco crop was bad from the start, as we have always feared, and tobacco will "come out." The Mercury was gambling on the coming of that August rain in its early optimism. Now we are glad to say that this year we come to bring a false prophet!

"It's Much Exaggerated"

The closing of the farmer banks in Tom of Flemingsburg seldom produces of poetic frenzy, but when John went to Washington to represent Flem afraid to come the State bank, grandfather of Flemingsburg while Jim Breathitt lives and moves and has his being, and when the aforesaid John told Mr. Hoover that the plight of Kentucky farmers had been "much exaggerated," then Marse John Allen's muse went to work and embalmed the incident in verse.

With such a subject, no better verse we venture to say has been written.

Flies Flam and Jonathan.

Flem Sampson has a little pet.
He's got to while as tame
As that dear one that Flem gave
Jonathan came to me.

It follows him to everywhere,
It follows him to everywhere,
It follows him to everywhere,