

## HOOVER BOOM GROWS; COFFIN MOVE PUZZLE

Pre-Primary Developments in State Confuse Political Sages.

BY ROBERT BEARD

Complications which "set in" this week on pre-primary politics in Indiana added to the confusion of political sages who are attempting diagnoses and advocating remedies in a dozen campaign headquarters.

Two developments of the week were given the "credit" or the "blame," depending on the viewpoint:

1. Progress of the Hoover-for-President movement, which, despite expressions of "good humor," strikes directly at the Republican State organization because of its endorsement of Senator James E. Watson.

2. Scramble for precinct committeemen as George V. Coffin, Marion County and city Republican chairman, announced that he neither will seek nor accept the county chairmanship again.

### Hoover Sentiment Grows

Although backers of Senator James E. Watson, in the race for Indiana's presidential preference vote, scoff at Hoover men's predictions of a victory at the primary for the cabinet member, Hoover's candidacy is taken with a great deal more seriousness than even a week ago.

Oscar G. Foellinger, Hoover's Indiana manager, believes Hoover sentiment so strong in northern Indiana that if a line were drawn east and west through Indianapolis, to include this city, Hoover today would be in a position to outstrip the Senator.

The Sixth, Eighth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Districts are counted by the Hoover supporters as theirs, while Watson forces dissent loudly.

Hoover enthusiasts in touch with conditions in the Seventh District (Marion County) expect a Hoover success here. They are banking on an aroused populace to regard Hoover as the means of redemption from the organization that they say, has given them Jackson, Duvall and the spectacle of corruption.

### Settle Leaves Opening

They believe Indianapolis will go to the primaries in larger numbers | sors campaign ammunition when he

## Flapper Mud Guards



This loose nut invention means loss of money to the laundry, but it means \$2 to Vina Garner, 322 Harris Ave.

Of course the renders can be taken off and used to spank the baby, and they could be used as snowshoes.

Anyone can win \$2 by submitting an idea for a Loose Nut invention to the "Loose Nut Editor" at The Indianapolis Times. Just write to your idea, and Lee Williams, Times cartoonist, will illustrate it.

than ever before to register a protest against corruption and that Hoover, as against Watson, will be their choice.

Watson forces vigorously disavow any connection with Indiana's off-color record and resent implications that the senior Senator was to blame in any way. They denounce with equal fervor all who are so bold as to assert that Watson is not, in truth, a presidential candidate, but ambitious only to obtain control of Indiana's thirty-three delegates to the National Republican convention for trading purposes.

In this connection, William H. Settle, Farm Bureau Federation president, afforded Hoover's spon-

tored a body of farmers at Lafayette that Watson was custodian of Indiana's delegation rather than a nationally recognized candidate.

The statement was made to in-

arrayed against him will get to

duce the agricultural vote to go to Watson for transfer eventually to Lowden or Dawes, the more favored candidates among Indiana farmers.

### Watch Convention Delegate

The concern in both factions over State convention delegates, who in turn, name the national convention delegates, brings the whole field of Republican candidates into the picture.

Had Hoover not entered the Indiana primaries, observers point out, delegates to the State convention probably would have been by default. Watson adherents, for the ten gubernatorial candidates had not intended to engage in the tedious and costly task of building rival organizations "from the precincts up" to give them favorable delegates.

The same delegates, it is pointed out, who come to the State convention to elect national convention delegates, will be called upon to nominate a candidate for governor, if none of the ten attain a majority in the primary, and for United States senator, if none of the three now in the field attains a majority in the primary.

Although no open alliances have been made between figures in the gubernatorial or senatorial race, and either Watson or Hoover, the matter has possibilities that keep the ears of candidates and politicians to the ground.

The opportunity becomes apparent for the presidential aspirants to do a bit of trading in this respect at the State convention, and this may influence some second choice votes at the national convention.

### Question Confuses Move

Coffin's announced intention of not seeking the county chairmanship has been received with the "mixed sentiments" usually accorded his utterances.

A minority believe it a sincere intention to get out of the boss's seat. Others regard it as a three-shell move to take the district chairmanship instead. Still others believe the Republican re-organization league is coming to be regarded as a serious threat to Coffin's control, and that Coffin is becoming passive so that the various factions

gather against the common enemy—the Reorganization League which numbers leaders in the city manager movement, a cause that went over with a five to one majority, as well as many "organization Republicans."

Coffin, under indictment, may be getting out of the picture while directing the selection of a chairman to be his pawn in the political game, another set of political critics believe.

And while Republicans build rival organizations, rant and scratch their heads, Democratic candidates with some semblance of harmony are perfecting their organizations and directing public attention to the distress in the G. O. P. ranks, with unending tirades against Stephensonism, corruption and the Republican machine.

Therefore, it has happened often to travelers from the provinces to ask for a room there only to find themselves practical prisoners in a room like a prison cell until the doctor comes from the institute to look them over.

Even then, on their release, they are certain to get a visit from a police inspector to make sure the provincials have not been bitten by mad dogs.

Visitors to Pasteur Institute Often Detained.

PARIS, March 23.—Near the Pasteur Institute here there is a hotel where the patients under treatment for rabies are lodged before the treatment is begun. There is nothing to distinguish this from any other second-class hotel.

Therefore, it has happened often to travelers from the provinces to ask for a room there only to find themselves practical prisoners in a room like a prison cell until the doctor comes from the institute to look them over.

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