NEW ENGLANDERS PLAN TO HONOR PILGRIMS

Taft to Speak When 'Down East' Men Hold Banquet in Commemoration of 1620 Landing

The landing of the Pilgrim forefathers on New England's shores two hundred and ninety-six years ago will be fittingly commemorated when the members of the New England Society of Pennsylvania assemble for their thirty-sixth annual banquet in the Bellevue-Stratford next Friday night.

The society was organized in 1881 as a means of perpetuating New England ideals in history, its traditions and the character of its early settlers. Since then its members have met every December 22, a day celebrated throughout the nation as "Forefathers' Day," to commemorate the landing of the Pilgrims.

The principal speaker will be ex-President Taft. Other prominent speakers will be the Rev. Dr. Nehemiah Boynton, of Brooklyn, N. Y., and ex-Congressman J. Adam Bede, of Minnesota. It had been originally announced that Senator William E. Borah, of Idaho, would be a guest, but the Senator has sent word that, much as he would like to be present, he will be unable to attend.

At every one of its banquets the society has presented an array of speakers renowned in politics, literature and in many walks of life. Among the distinguished men who spoke before the society in years gone by were President McKinley, Mark Twain and Wu Ting-fang.

One of the unusual features of the banquet this year is the invitation extended to the wives of members, while an invitation has also been extended to Mrs. C. Howard Clark, Jr., president of the New England Ladies' Society.

The committee having the entertainment features of the evening's program in hand have promised a varied and altogether novel assortment of features for the diners. The services of well-known vocalists and instrumental performers have been engaged. Furthermore, the guests are promised a surprise, the secret of which has been closely guarded. It has been intimated, however, that Harry T. Jordan, manager of Keith's Theatre and a member of the society, is at the bottom of the affair.

At present the officers of the New England Society of Pennsylvania are: Cyrus H. K. Curtis, president; Lincoln K. Passmore and Arthur W. Sewall, vice presidents; Edward W. Mumford, secretary; George Irving Merrill, treasurer; the Rev. Dr. Floyd W. Tomkins, chaplain, and Dr. Samuel D. Risley, physician. Mr. Curtis was preceded in the presidency by Alba B. Johnson, president of the Baldwin Locomotive Works.

When first organized the society held its meetings in the old Continental. Later they were held in Horticultural Hall, but of recent years they have been held in the Bellevue. It is one of the most prominent and widely known societies in the country.

H. S. Meeds, Jr., Exonerated

Holliday S. Meeds, Jr., son-in-law of General T. Coleman du Pont, was exonerated today by the coroner's jury of the charge of causing the death of Ernest Forbes, nine years old, of 5230 Chester avenue, with his automobile.

Blight of Rum Set on Young Legislators

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an investigation of impure liquors being sold in Pennsylvania. He said he had this investigation nearly completed when, at the behest of the liquor interests, Governor Hastings called off the probe.

"I bought samples of wine, whisky and beer," said Mr. Moore, "in drug stores and saloons all over the State. These samples were subjected to chemical analysis by Prof. A. T. Ashman, of Pittsburgh, then State chemist. The conditions I uncovered were very bad. I found that the stuff which was being sold as whisky was not whisky at all, but a concoction well calculated to send the user, after a brief period, to the insane asylum. Of twenty-three samples of wine analyzed, only one sample contained any grape juice. The beer was not beer at all, but a mixture which could not fail to harm the health of the strongest man.

"I started to prepare a bulletin on the investigation, and while I was getting it ready I happened to speak at a farmers' institute in the central part of the State. I was full of the subject, and I just let loose at the unscrupulous liquor dealers for placing such poisonous stuff on the market.

GOVERNOR INTERFERED

"The Pittsburgh papers used my address with big headlines, and the next day I received a telegram from Governor Hastings summoning me to the capital.

"When I arrived there he placed an arm over my shoulder and said:

"'See here, Frank, we can't have any more of this; we can't injure our friends, you know.'

"The Governor was referring to my address before the farmers' institute.

"I replied, 'Governor Hastings, I have been told that the liquor interests contributed $500,000 toward your campaign, and I hated to believe it. Now whether this is so or not I want you to understand that I don't number the liquor interests among my friends.'

"The Governor told me not to do any more work on the impure liquor bulletin. In fact, he insisted that I turn the work I had done over to him. This I did, but not before I had made a copy of my work. This I have at home now.

"The sinister influence of the booze ring has held back the wheels of progress in Pennsylvania, and Pennsylvania is not going to get out of the mire into which it has wallowed until we have driven liquor from the State.

SAW BLIGHT OF BOOZE

"I headed the temperance forces while I was in the Legislature, and I saw enough of the work of the liquor ring. I saw the liquor ring ruin scores of young legislators who came to the capital with a desire to serve their constituents honestly. The booze lobbyists work rapidly when they find that a young legislator has a taste for liquor; if that legislator has not such a taste then they do their best to create one for him. They fill his system with booze until his will power is weakened, and then they try to place him in compromising positions with women, so that their hold on him will be complete.

"It is along these insidious lines that the booze ring is working every day in Pennsylvania. They barter in the souls and honor of young men to protect their interests so that the brewers, the distillers and the saloonkeepers throughout the State may get their profits.

"I am a thorough believer in national prohibition, but until we do get prohibition I want to see laws enacted and enforced which will compel the distillers and brewers to make pure liquor. The adulterations in the liquor of the present day are filling our prisons and insane asylums."

Democrats Hold Speakership Key

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a demand made for his resignation yesterday by Governor Brumbaugh, and is said to be the result of his failure to support Brumbaugh candidates for delegates to the Republican National Convention last spring.

The Governor's demand for Pomeroy's resignation was looked upon as the first blow struck by the Governor in the present factional fight and the forerunner of the retirement of other Penrose officeholders from Capitol Hill.

BLOW AT PENROSE

Pomeroy is a Penrose lieutenant, and his resignation was asked for in the interests of the program of legislation the Governor wants enacted during the coming session. That he was virtually discharged for political reasons was alleged by Pomeroy in his letter of resignation to the Governor. He said:

> I appreciate the statement made by you to me in requesting this resignation; that it was not any malfeasance in office or inefficiency on my part that prompted your request, as the Department of Printing and Binding had been most satisfactorily conducted under my administration, but because I had failed at various time to agree with you on matters of a political nature.

Eugene J. Lafferty, of Philadelphia, is one of the three men most prominently mentioned to succeed Pomeroy. The others are A. Nevin Detrich, of Chambersburg, former chairman of the Washington party State Committee, and a progressive leader in the State, and Howard Butz, of Huntingdon County, a close friend of the Governor.

The Governor followed up the swinging of the ax by issuing a statement declaring his confidence that Cox would be elected. Capitol Hill now looks to see the ax swung over the heads of other Penrose leaders still holding office under the State administration.

Governor Brumbaugh's action marked the actual beginning of the speakership conflict, so far as the Vare-Brumbaugh alliance was concerned, and the Cox supporters were elated.

At the same time, the Penrose-McNichol leadership, it was learned, is compiling official data to show from their point of view the "small amount of actual constructive work done in the last eighteen months by Governor Brumbaugh and Attorney General Brown." The results of this investigation will shortly be announced, and, it was hinted, may be preliminary to a formal legislative inquiry.

While the anti-Brumbaugh leaders have not decided definitely as to the advisability of impeachment proceedings, based on the Oliver check, they realize, it was admitted, that any investigation of the Governor's activities may precipitate that issue into the forthcoming State Legislature. For example, Representative Isadore Stern, one of the McNichol floor leaders, is ready, as he has announced, to press for impeachment.

Attorney General Brown is accused of being back of the move of the Governor to get rid of Pomeroy, and if his advice is followed other "heads will roll off the chopper's block" soon, it is said, unless there is a decided change in the sentiment in favor of Cox. Penrose men at Harrisburg still say that Baldwin will have at least 103 out of the 169 votes in the Republican caucus, and Brumbaugh backers have not yet made public any figures.

Germans Capture Ninety in Raid

BERLIN, Dec. 15.—The capture of ninety Russian prisoners in a trench raid was the only action reported from the eastern front by the War Office today.

Missions May Benefit

An estate valued at more than $100,000 is left in trust to the widow and son of the testator, by the will of George K. Reed, Eleventh and Pine streets, admitted to probate today. The will provides that in the event of the son's dying, leaving no issue surviving, the estate is to be held in trust for the benefit of a nephew, at whose death the principal goes to the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church of the United States.

Other wills probated were those of Frank Burdsall, 2119 South Ninth street, which, in private bequests, disposes of property valued at $27,000; Joseph Brenner, [illegible] North Sixth street, $23,000; Elizabeth T. Troth, 3605 Baring street, $23,000; Charles G. Du Bois, 401 South Fortieth street, $16,500; Mary A. Dorsey, 1306 Marlborough street, $10,500; Mary C. Churchman, 4936 Hazel avenue, $9500; Thomas F. Leonard, 2317 North Twenty-seventh street, $6200; William Baker, 4361 Penn street, $5035, and Martha Fresl, who died in Collingswood, N. J., $2900.