

20 Leading Hotel Men of East to Be Entertained Here

Fontelle Owner Was Host at Reception Last Night For Party En Route East From Long Tour.

Omaha hotel men were hosts to a party of 20 prominent hotel owners and managers of eastern hotels last night.

The party is en route east from an extended tour of the south and west coast. It arrived in Omaha last night from Denver where three days were spent in the mountains.

An automobile ride over the city in the early evening was made, followed by a reception and banquet at the Hotel Fontelle, with E. C. Eppley, new owner of the Fontelle and other Nebraska hotels, as the host.

John J. A. Medlar presided as toastmaster at the banquet, after which the party left for Kansas City at 11:30 p. m. After a day in Chicago, the party will return direct to New York City.

J. P. McCann in Charge.

Leading middle western hotel men invited to attend the entertainment here included W. F. Miller of the Fort Des Moines hotel, and F. G. Warden of the Chamberlain, Des Moines; Dick Lane of the Blackhawk, Davenport; Jake Livingston of the Russell-Lamson, Waterloo; Frank Donohue of the West, R. N. Koenigsberger of the Chicago House, and Joseph McCaffery of the Jackson hotel, Sioux City; Jerry Bacon of the Dacotah, Grand Forks, N. D.; Simon Kruse of the Radisson and H. A. Roguski of the Andrews, Minneapolis; Walter Pocock of the Frederic and Charles, Roth of the St. Paul hotel, St. Paul, Minn.

Travel in Special.

Members of the party include Charles E. Gehring of Hotel Review, New York City; Elmore C. Green of Hotel Iroquois, Buffalo; Thomas D. Green of Hotel Woodward, New York City; W. E. Hawk of Hotel Gibson, Cincinnati; Conrad Klein of Reed house, Erie, Pa.; Louis Lukes of Chelsea, N. J.; J. P. McCann of McCann's tours; A. T. Moore of Hotel Virginia, Staunton, Va.; Fred J. Odenback of Hotel Hayward, Rochester, N. Y.; L. C. Prior of Hotel Lenox, Boston; H. H. Randall of Randall's hotel, North Conway, N. H.; John Revell of Hotel Lutes, Easton, Pa.; W. N. Robinson of Hotel Baltimore, Kansas City, Mo.; E. M. Tierney of Hotel Ansonia, New York City; J. G. Boggs of Hotel Laurelton, New York City, and James Woods of Hotel Belmont, New York City.

The party is traveling in a specially constructed steel compartment car.

Woman, 83, Taken to Smallpox Hospital

The oldest person ever confined to the smallpox hospital on the West Center street road was taken there yesterday afternoon.

She is Mrs. Margaret Finney, 83, 2559 Dodge street.

Three generations of her family are at the hospital, including her son, James, 58; his wife, 56, and their son, Thomas, 15.

Five members of another family are also confined to the hospital. They are Mrs. Mary Mattox, 33, 2640 Chicago street, and her four daughters, Gladys, 9; Mildred, 6; Ruth, 4; Mary, 3.

Dr. J. F. Edwards, city health commissioner, stated the Mattox mother was vaccinated recently, but came down with the disease later.

Dahlman to Speak at Mass Meeting Tonight

The United Seven will hold a mass meeting in the Brandeis theater tonight at which time all will speak.

The meeting, according to Jim Hanley, will mark James H. Dahlman's first public utterance since the campaign opened. Dahlman has promised to make an address.

Keith Neville, former governor, Harry B. Fleharty and Francis Gaines will be other speakers. The meeting will start at 7:30. Harry S. Byrne will be chairman.

Suit for Divorce Filed by Man Who "Kidnaped" Boy

Suit for divorce was filed in district court yesterday by Herman H. Saalfeld against Eileen Viva Saalfeld on allegations that she has become estranged from him since she went to Hollywood, Cal., in March, 1920.

Pacific coast police were reported searching for Saalfeld last week on the ground that he kidnaped his son, Harold, 10. Saalfeld denies that he kidnaped the boy, but says in his petition that when his wife's letters became cold and infrequent he went to Hollywood; that she declined to see him and he then took the boy and brought him back to Omaha.

Burglars Loot Farnam Street Billiard Parlor

Burglars almost "moved out" the Sun billiard parlor, 1414 Farnam street, according to police reports, getting away with \$1,000 worth of cigars, cigarettes, tobacco and 15 ivory billiard balls Tuesday night.

C. J. Carlson, 1514 North Twenty-fourth street, reported \$150 cash and several pairs of shoes stolen from his store Tuesday night.

Bond Bid Accepted.

The bid of the Omaha Trust company to dispose of \$2,500,000 Omaha school district bonds for a compensation of \$17,975 was accepted by the Board of Education at a special meeting yesterday. The bonds will be dated May 2, will run 30 years and bear 5 1/2 per cent interest. They are half of an authorized issue of \$5,000,000.

Mysterious "S. W. Davidson" in Reality Admiral Sims, Chosen for Secret Trip Despite His Sentiments Says Daniels

By JOSEPHUS DANIELS.

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One day in the second week of April, 1917, a passenger liner, having safely negotiated the U-boat perils on a voyage from New York, put into an English port.

Among those who walked the gang plank and landed on the dock to run the gauntlet of officials and secret service men, was a fairly tall, slim, trim figure with wind-tanned face and grizzled beard, whose civilian garb could not wholly conceal a certain distinction.

And so the president decided that it was the part of wisdom to discover discreetly the thought and plan of the British admiralty, in order that our co-operation might be of a kind to deal the enemy the heaviest possible blow.

In March I got into communication with the British admiralty through Ambassador Walter H. Page, and on March 22, 1917, he sent a message saying:

"Mr. Balfour (then first lord of the admiralty) has shown me an informal suggestion conveyed by the Navy department regarding closer relations and his reply."

Mr. Page said Mr. Balfour had assured him the British government would fall in heartily with any plan which the United States should propose as long as relations could be established.

Mr. Page further said he had discussed the matter with Mr. Bonar Law, the prime minister; Admiral Jellicoe and others and that all had assured him of their cordial assent to any proposals the United States would be likely to make.

Ready to Tell Secrets.

Mr. Page recommended that we send a United States admiral to London to whom the British admiralty would communicate all the inside information as to British plans and methods of operation.

All the doors would be opened to him, he said, and a sort of special staff assigned to give him the results of the whole naval work since the war began.

Many things, he thought, which could not be committed safely to writing could be disclosed in this way.

The president directed that word should be conveyed at once to Ambassador Page of the purpose of the United States to avail itself of this proposal.

The ship's passenger list showed the name, among others, of "Mr. S. W. Davidson." By this name the gentleman had been known to his traveling companions. It may be questioned if any of them had suspected that he was other than an American citizen engaged in some matter of urgent private business, which induced him to run risks at a time when nobody was sea voyaging who lacked the compelling motive of duty or necessity.

Sims Alias Davidson.

Mr. Davidson went through the routine procedure, and finally emerged from the grip of officialdom, to take train for London.

Within 24 hours after his arrival he was housed in the British capital with the highest authorities in the British admiralty.

Then his disguise was cast aside, and he appeared in his proper person as Rear Admiral W. S. Sims of the United States navy.

When Admiral Sims reached London we were already in the war.

The news of action on the part of the congress reached him while he was still at sea. He had left under orders in anticipation of the impending decision, and the story of how we came to send him is one of the most interesting chapters in the earlier stages of our participation.

When the diplomatic break had been made with Germany it was evident that no long period could intervene before we would find it necessary to assume the role of a belligerent.

The president was anxious that in such event the navy should be ready to do its part without a moment's delay. In every detail of preparation within the power of the secretary of the navy's department, and the officers of the navy, it had been ready for weeks.

But it was essential that there should be complete understanding with the allied powers, and particularly with the naval authorities of Great Britain, before its preparedness could be utilized effectively.

Thus we planned to establish an early liaison with the British admiralty so that our Navy department might be kept thoroughly informed as to developments and contemplated undertakings. The British and French, naturally, had been most secretive. While our neutral-

ity might find its way into enemy hands.

So it was considered of primary importance to organize a patrol force to guard our coasts and shipping, and to protect allied interests in the sources of oil supply. No duty seemed better fitted for this than Admiral Wilson; hence it was decided to assign him to this task, and to find someone else to undertake the secret mission to London.

Admiral Sims was president of the war college at that time, and our second choice fell on him. On March 26 I telegraphed him to come to Washington. He arrived on March 28 and came to the Navy department the same afternoon.

I opened the interview by telling him, in confidence, that it was our belief the time was near at hand when America would enter the war. In such event, I said, we must prepare for the fullest measure of co-operation with the British navy. I commented on the fact that hitherto our information concerning the allied plans and methods of naval warfare had been limited; that we knew little or nothing of what they were doing to combat the U-boat.

I informed him as to the communication we had received from Ambassador Page and the announced readiness of the British admiralty to take us fully into its confidence in order that we might be prepared intelligently to offer immediate and effective co-operation when we entered the war.

The president, I had decided to act on the proposal that an American admiral be sent to London to receive the confidences of the British admiralty and to keep us informed on all matters of importance.

In Spite of Guildhall Speech.

And then I said to him: "Admiral Sims, you have been selected for this task."

In the course of the conversation that followed I recalled the speech that he had made some years before at a banquet in the Guildhall, London. In that speech Admiral Sims had said:

"If the time ever comes when the British empire is seriously menaced by an external enemy it is my opinion that you may count upon every man, every dollar, every drop of blood of your kindred across the sea."

Referring to this utterance, I said to him: "You have been selected for this mission, not because of your Guildhall speech, but in spite of it."

I added that he had been selected because he had enjoyed intimate associations with the British officers, and it was to be expected that they would be more readily reposed confidence in him and disclose their secrets, and that, after we entered the war, their co-operation would be heartily given.

I reminded him, however, that the United States was still neutral, and that until congress should declare war his mission must be a secret and confidential one.

Must Baffle U-Boats.

Finally I told him that there were two things on the mind of the president which he would like to have urged upon the consideration of the British admiralty. These things arose out of the belief, based upon such information as we had been able to obtain from our naval attaché and from Ambassador Page, that the submarine menace was more serious than the allies were willing to admit, and that no adequate means had yet been found for dealing with this peril. They were:

1. That every effort should be made to prevent the U-boats getting into the Atlantic; that they should be bottled up in their own ports; and that some heroic method should be devised to prevent their ingress and egress.

2. That all ships ought to be convoyed. I told him that the president had been of this opinion for a long time, but that there was a division of opinion on the matter among naval officers of influence in the department, most of whom seemed to agree with the British admiralty, which was unfriendly to the idea. But the president, I assured him, felt the British objections were unsound, and was firmly convinced the only real protection for shipping lay in convoying.

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