

CONVINCING ARGUMENT.

(Continued From Third Page)

necessity to beat about the bush, it took the Judge a full hour to give these reasons.

I will endeavor to state them to you. I can give them to you in three or four sentences with more force than he stated them. Certainly with more directness and frankness.

First, because the Aycock and Glenn administrations have spent more money than Russell spent.

Second, because in 1890 some of our white people got so mad they put on red shirts.

Third, because after the election in 1898 Aycock had the courage to defend certain registers when the Republican party tried through the Federal Courts to send to the penitentiary because they had done their duty in defense of white civilization.

Fourth, because a few lawless fellow lynched the negroes who murdered the Lyster family.

I will not answer the red shirt argument of Judge Adams. I will not notice the alibi he leaps upon Governor Aycock and the Democratic party for defending the State officers, when his party attacked them in the Federal Courts. These charges need no answer in North Carolina. The people answered them at the ballot box in 1892 and in 1901.

I will not answer his claim at the Democratic party because of the lynching of the negroes who murdered the Lyster family further than to say that the information that there has been more lawlessness and crime under Aycock and Glenn than there was under Russell, is known to be false by every intelligent man in North Carolina.

The difference between the Democratic and the Republican party, in this matter is the Democrats prosecute crime and punish the criminal, while the Republicans ignored both. Trials and prosecution do not show more crime, they show that more crimes are punished. The charge against the Republican administration in this matter was, and the charge is true, that it gave a free hand to crime and criminals, especially when the criminal was a negro or Republican.

STATES MONEY WELL SPENT.

To the charge made by the Republican Chairman that Aycock and Glenn spent more money than Russell spent, we plead guilty and rejoice in our guilt. But we say to the Republican Chairman and the Republican party that for every dollar the Democrats have spent under Aycock and Glenn they gave the people something to show for it.

We have squandered not a cent. We have stolen not a cent. We have spent enormous sums of money for schools we have spent a million dollars more last year for schools, we have raised the rate of general taxation for schools not a farthing, and we have covered the land with school teachers and school houses.

What man in North Carolina would tear down the more than fifteen hundred school houses which Aycock and Glenn have built during the last four years in order to recoup the State for the cost of their construction?

What man in North Carolina would smother the fire of hope and extinguish the light of knowledge which burns as a result of this expenditure in the minds and hearts of the one hundred thousand school children who have been able to the school rolls by the Democrats, in order to recoup the State for this cost?

We have spent more money for the insane asylums at Raleigh, Morganton, and Goldsboro than Russell spent, but we are maintaining today five hundred more patients than Russell maintained during his administration.

What man in North Carolina would take these unfortunate out of these asylums and send them to the common jails of the counties from which they came to save the State the expense of their keep?

We are spending \$150,000 a year more for the Confederate Soldiers and for Soldiers' Homes than Russell spent.

What man in North Carolina would take these decrepit old heroes out of the comfortable homes we have provided for them and send them back to the poor homes in the counties from which they came?

If there be any such man in North Carolina, in God's name, he ought to belong to the Republican party. Is it fitting that a man should vote for a party which has never shown any friendship or sympathy for the South? Is it fitting that such a man should vote for a party which enjoys the bad distinction of having only a few years ago nominated two men for the legislature who declared on the stump in their canvass that every Confederate Soldier was a traitor and perjurer and that these soldiers instead of abusing their party for disfranchising them after the war should be thankful that they were not sent to the gallows or penitentiary.

For these and further like things, the Democratic party has spent many hundreds of thousands of dollars, yes, even millions of dollars more than was spent under Russell, but we have done it all without adding one farthing to the tax upon any man's head, without increasing to the extent of a farthing the rate of taxes upon the property of the citizens for State purposes.

We have raised this additional amount of money partly from franchise and poll-tax, but largely by taxing the great public service corporations in this State—the railroads, telegraphs, gas and insurance

companies, pay in nearly their just share of the taxes.

We have not only done this, but the State has, during the last few years, begun to pay back to the counties more than half of all the money they pay directly into the State treasury. Last year the State paid back to forty-one counties for use by them for schools and for pensions for their old soldiers, and for the care of their insane and deaf, dumb and blind, more money than those counties paid into the treasury.

There is one thing for which we have not spent as much money as Russell spent. We have not spent as much for the penitentiary as Russell spent by something over four hundred thousand dollars. Under Russell the penitentiary cost the people of this State about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars. Under Aycock and Glenn the penitentiary has not cost the State one cent, but after paying all expenses, has cleared two hundred and nine thousand dollars.

We have had to issue some bonds since we took the State out of the hands of the Republicans in 1900. We and our children will have to pay the interest on them. They were issued to make good Russell's mismanagement of the penitentiary and to pay the South Dakota judgment which Russell and Butler secured against the State. These bonds are a black memorial to the profligacy of the late Russell administration and the treasury of Russell and Butler. Until the last one of these bonds are paid, no taxpayer in North Carolina will be able to forget the extravagance and corruption of this party and the treasury of the Governor and Senator for the next five years he will have to contribute something out of his earnings on account of that extravagance and treasury.

There is another thing the Democrats have done since they came into power in North Carolina of which the Republicans' champion and in all sorts of underhanded ways, try to take advantage. It is what we have done for the cause of temperance. It is what we have done in closing up breweries and shutting up distilleries.

There are men in North Carolina in both parties, who are opposed to this legislation, but I have never heard of a woman worthy of the name of woman, who was opposed to it. I have never heard of a mother, nor a wife, nor a sister, who was opposed to it. There may be fathers who want free liquor for themselves, but I have never heard of a father who wanted free liquor for his boys. There may be people in North Carolina, good people, who do not believe in anti liquor legislation, but there are no good men in North Carolina or elsewhere, who believe that drunkenness is a good thing and who want to see it unrestrained.

The Watta and the ward laws have closed several hundred grog shops in North Carolina and shut down between four and five hundred distilleries. It is natural that the Republican party should feel that the closing of these grog shops and distilleries is a bad thing for it. The abolition by these laws of three or four hundred Federal offices is a serious thing to a party who live upon Federal patronage, whose leaders are either officeholders or office-brokers. But whatever the Republican party may think of the closing of these distilleries and grog shops, there are not many other people, whatever their opinion of summary laws may be, who believe that either the social, the material, or the

moral welfare of the State has been crippled by this decrease in places where drunkards are made, fortunes spent and lives wrecked. As I said before, the Republicans in an ambiguous sort of way, complain of these laws and seek underhandedly to make capital against the Democratic party out of them, but while doing this that party has not to this day had the courage to take an open and manly position upon this question. Upon it they blow both hot and cold. Where it is thought that more votes can be made by being for liquor, it is for liquor; where it is thought that more votes can be made by being for temperance. It is doing, with reference to this great question what it has done with reference to many other grave questions that have confronted the people of the State in the past and that now confront the people like a coward and a sneak, it sets straddle of the fence and tries to play with both sides.

I challenge the Republican party in this State to come out in the open upon this question and tell the people if they are put in power whether they would repeal our legislation and again set liquor free in North Carolina.

UNBROTHERLY CONDEMNATION.

The Republican Commission, as well as the Republican party generally, criticizes the Democratic Corporation Commission and finds fault with our platform declarations against railroad interference in politics and for lower freight and passenger rates. In view of the record of that party upon the subject of Commission regulation of railroads in the State, we had no right to expect any sympathy from it, either for the Commission or for the advanced position which the Democratic Convention at Greensboro took, either upon the subject of railroad interference in politics or the reduction of railroad rates.

That party has always been opposed to a railroad commission. It has never stood with the people of this State. In their struggles with the railroads, when the Democrats proposed a Railroad Commission, it opposed it. When the Democrats passed the bill establishing the Railroad Commission, it voted against it.

What has been accomplished in North Carolina in the way of railroad control and regulation has been accomplished without the help of the Republican party.

When the Democratic Convention at Greensboro made its declaration in favor of lower rates, it was not un mindful of the fact that the present Corporation Commission had made many material reductions in both freight and passenger rates in North Carolina. It was not un mindful of the fact that as a result of these reductions both freight and passenger rates on domestic business are today lower than any State in the Union, except in Ohio, which recently, through its first Democratic Legislature in a decade, has passed a law establishing a lower passenger rate than prevails in this State. When it made that declaration it was not un mindful of the fact that the present Corporation Commission has greatly increased the assessment for taxes of the property of our railroads and public service corporations and as a result of these increased assessments the three great trunk lines running through this State—the Southern, the Seaboard, the Coast Line, are assessed higher per mile for taxes than any other State through which they run, and that the State Counties and towns are now receiving from these corporations something over \$700,000 a year taxes \$430,000 of

which did not pay a cent under Republican assessment.

The Democratic Convention did not intend by their platform declaration to rebuke this good work, but it intended to say that while rates are lower in this State than in any other State, they are still too high both here and elsewhere.

The Democratic party not only promises that through the joint action of the Legislature and the Commission will secure lower passenger and freight rates, but that the railroads of this State shall be made to take their hands out of politics and to obey the law as other people have to obey it.

The people of North Carolina are not interested in the Republican criticisms and slurs contained in the Republican platform on the Railroad Commission. What the people of North Carolina want to know, is what is the position of the Republican party in the State upon the question of reduction in freight and passenger rates, and upon the still greater question of railroad interference in the politics of the State.

Is that party in favor of a reduction in freight and passenger rates? It does not say so in its platform.

Is it opposed to railroad interference in politics? It does not say so in its platform.

I have already talked too long about State matters. I wanted to tell you of the wonderful impetus the wise laws and good government we have given, has given to the material development of the State but I have not the time now to do so.

But upon this subject I want to say that in my judgment the chief asset of the Democratic party in North Carolina consists not in the things it has done for the material but rather for the things it has done for the spiritual well being of the people. Especially is this true of its record of achievements for the last six years. The good government, the low taxes, the wise and frugal administration, the prosperity and growth which it has given to the people make up a record of which that party should be proud and for which the people should be grateful, but the mind power and the soul power which Democratic legislation has awakened and brought into being in North Carolina in the last six years is an asset which in every one of the long years to come will overflow the coffers of the people with ever-waxing dividends upon every dollar we have spent to make better and stronger the mind and heart of both man and child.

For the humble part I have taken in all this work I am proud. It shall be the proudest heritage I shall leave to my children. But the part of this work for which I have the greatest pride is that which has brought to the people treasures which neither moth nor rust can corrupt.

I deny that the financial and tariff legislation of the Republican party has brought prosperity to the people. But if they have brought prosperity in dollars and cents, they have also through the greed and oppression of the trusts and monopolies whose laws have cheated and filled the hearts of the people with bitterness and hatred with a corroding sense of wrong and injustice, and enthroned in the highest temple of the people the Mammon of civic unrighteousness.

God knows I want to see the people of North Carolina prosperous and happy. I want to see them with comfortable homes and well filled purses, but there is something in life higher than dollars and cents and whatever else may happen to North Carolina, I pray to God we may never bend the knee to mammon, or worship at the shrine of Divos.

I call upon the Republican party to point me to one single thing for which that party in the State or Nation stands or which it today proposes which makes for the moral and spiritual betterment and uplift of the people. I call upon them to show me one thing that party has done or proposes which makes for the purification of the stream of our natural life which its laws have polluted by the defilement of the dollar and the enslavement of the man, not the man into whose hands these laws have juggled these dollars but the man whose nose and brain, whose sweat and toil and

whose skill and energy and talents have made us a dollar.

When you go to the polls think of the party who puts you into office, think of the school house on the hill and the church in the valley, think of wife and children at home and fire side and then think of the party in the State whose legislation in recent years has been so largely based on the home, the school and the church and God, and your conscience will show you your duty.

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