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OUR RALEIGH LETTER

By M. L. Shipman

Raleigh, April 16.—The meeting of the Republican State Convention Wednesday and the Al Smith rally on Thursday evening furnished the big headlines for the Capital City during the week and set the political pot close to the boiling point. The North Carolina Republicans made their plans for the fall campaign and the Smith adherents perfected an organization with which they hope to capture the Democratic State Convention for their candidate on June 14th.

Taking the center of the State at eleven o'clock Wednesday morning the State Republican organization first listened to a rousing speech by Congressman Theodore E. Burton and then got down to the business of adopting a platform, naming a State ticket and four delegates at large to represent North Carolina at the National Republican Convention soon to be held at Kansas City. The platform calls for a uniform ballot law "which will grant to every qualified voter the right to vote as he pleases and have that vote counted;" for the enactment of "uniform tax laws which will not destroy our industrial or agricultural life;" "proper safe guards and limitations for bond issues;" drastic "reduction in the number of State office holders;" strict "enforcement of prohibition laws;" and declares for a State-wide uniform tax in every county for the support of the public schools supplemented by such a State equalizing fund as will give each county the Constitutional length of school term, at the same time maintaining a tax rate and school facilities that will be equal and uniform through out the entire State.

The following State ticket was named to oppose the Democratic nominees without a dissenting voice: Governor, Herbert F. Seawell, of Moore County; Lieutenant-Governor, W. H. Fisher, of Sampson; Attorney General, J. R. McRary, Davidson. State Auditor, John W. Yaeger, of Catawba; State Treasurer, John H. Johnson, of Wayne; Secretary of State, Mrs. R. J. High, of Buncombe; Superintendent of Public Instruction, I. G. Greer, of Watauga; Commissioner of Revenue, N. A. Pitts, of Burke; Commissioner of Labor and Printing, J. B. Goslin, of Forsyth; Insurance Commissioner, A. E. Hampton, of Transylvania; Commissioner of Agriculture, D. A. Patterson, of Scotland; Justices of the Supreme Court, Thos. J. Harkins, of Buncombe, and Walter B. Love, of Union. Delegates to National Convention, Brownlow Jackson of Henderson, David H. Blair of Forsyth; W. G. Bramham, of Durham and Chas. A. Jones, of Lincoln. The convention was largely attended and harmony characterized the proceedings from beginning to end. Frank Linney responded to the call of a speech and said nothing complimentary to the Democrats.

The "Smith-for-President Movement" in North Carolina is no longer imaginary. It is a going concern, if the assembling of more than 3,000 people at the City Auditorium here on Thursday evening to hear George Gordon Battle, prominent New York attorney and native North Carolinian, pay tribute to the character and ability of the Governor of his adopted state, may be considered significant. Call for the meeting had been widely heralded over the State and brought to Raleigh leading Democratic supporters of the New York Governor from practically every section. Mr. Battle was introduced by Congressman John H. Kerr of the second district, the lone congressman from the State to declare for the nomination of Governor Smith in answering the inquiry of Col. Sanford Martin, of Winston-Salem, who recently put the question of Smith or anti-Smith to a list of forty Democratic officials and prominent leaders in the party. The Congressman declared in his introduction of Mr. Battle that Governor Smith is Democracy's best bet for this year and the only Democrat who has a chance to win the presidency from the Republican nominee of the Kansas City Convention. Mr. Kerr ridiculed the idea of North Carolina falling into the Republican column in the event of the nomination of Governor Smith, regardless of his church alignment and the reputation for wetness attributed to him.

Mr. Battle began his address by paying high tribute to North Carolina, his native State, and then proceeded to his subject "The life and character of Governor Alfred E. Smith," whom he declared has never hesitated to express his views on any public question because they might injure him in a political way. He traced in a long tedious way the public career of Governor Smith from the day he entered the New York State Assembly on down to the day Mr. Smith and his party boarded a special train in Albany for the Baltimore Country Club, Asheville, N. C., for a brief vacation. The Governor has served his State in that capacity four terms, said Mr. Battle, and can continue to do so as long as he wishes, declaring that his experience and demonstrated capacity ample, in every way, to justify his promotion to the Presidency. Admitting the alignment of Governor Smith with the Roman Catholic church, Mr. Battle assured his audience that this would in no way interfere with the duties expected of the President of the United States; that in the Governor's Executive Council of sixteen at Albany, Mr. Smith had appointed thirteen Protestants, two Catholics and one Jew, showing that he clearly stands for the separation of church and state. The speaker also promised strict enforcement of the Eighteenth Amendment and Volstead Act.

Another batch of old bonds issued in 1863 and 1866 by the North Carolina carpet bagger legislature has recently bobbed up and Governor McLean is interested in preventing suit to recover from being brought by the State of Connecticut which has asked

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ON THE BUSY CORNER

LOUISBURG, N. C.

permission from the Supreme Court to take the necessary legal action to exact from this State the sum of \$200,000 for claim said to be due on railroad bonds sixty years ago. How the State of Connecticut happened to acquire these ancient securities is not clear and the Governor decided to go up and learn more about it. Application to start the suit was made Wednesday last by Frederick Couderd and Howard Kingsbury, attorneys, in the Supreme Court of the United States and the outcome is awaited with keen interest here. A while ago bond holders in London sought to induce the cooperation of New York State and the Republic of Cuba in collecting some of these same repudiated bonds, but on investigation the

tender was declined. Early in the week Governor McLean received a delegation protesting the manufacture of cement pipe by prisoners at the State's Prison and promised to take the matter up with prison authorities and the Highway Commission who have been in agreement relative to the output of the prison plant to be used in road construction work. The Governor also joined the Mayor of Raleigh in extending an invitation to the Southern Federation of College Students to hold its 1928 convention at State College here. The organization is meeting in Tuscaloosa, Alabama this week and the North Carolina delegation went armed with credentials to bring the meeting to Tar Heels next year. Another official act

of the Governor during the week was the appointment of A. E. Cline, of Kings Mountain, to the vacancy on the County Government Advisory Commission caused by the death of J. E. Woodland, of Morehead City. Mr. Cline is chairman of the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners and county manager of the same county. This is one of many appointments Governor McLean has made since he came into office three years ago. He has named eleven Superior Court and three Supreme Court Justices.

The National Bureau of Economic Research finds that the average current income per capita in North Carolina in 1926 was \$430, while the

(Continued on Page Nine)

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