

The Asheboro Courier

PRICE ONE DOLLAR A YEAR

Wm. C. HAMMER, Editor.

"WON'T LET IN BELL."

Our good friend, the editor of the Greensboro Daily Record, in a recent issue of the Record says he does not understand why it is the Bell Telephone Company has a franchise in High Point and can come in with a local line at any time, but does not care to do so, preferring to make some arrangement with the local company whereby its long distance line can be used to better advantage and with this end in view proposes to furnish the proper instruments and pay the local company for looking after the work a handsome bonus, and yet not interfere in any way with the local service. But from some cause the home concern has not yet agreed, evidently fearing a negro in the wood pile. Two things about it are inexplicable—why the North State does not accept the contract and why the Bell ever made it; why it does not put in a line of its own.

If the Record will call on Mr. Hayden and ask him to show the proposition the Bell made the North State, the editor will learn that the Bell does not offer to change the instruments, but does require all phones connecting with the Bell to take off and throw away the transmitters and receivers and use the transmitters and receivers furnished by the Bell Company for which the Bell charges \$2.50 a year rental. The actual cost of the transmitters and receivers for each phone is \$1.50. So it is clear that the amount the Bell wants to charge is a bonus and not a rental. It is true that the Bell suggests that the independent lines connecting with the Bell can raise the price of service \$5.00 a year after connecting and by this means get back the increased prices twice the outlay for the bonus paid for using transmitters not a whit better than those the Bell seeks to displace by theirs.

Take the city of High Point with something like 500 phones. By connecting with the Bell Company, the High Point company would have to pay \$2.50 a year for the use of transmitters and receivers which cost the Bell only \$1.50.

The way the Bell desires to reward the independent lines is to charge their patrons an increased price for their service.

Talk about the Southern Express Company and unfair freight rates. "Tis all well and good" but there is nothing operating in this State which charges such exorbitant rates as the Southern Bell Telephone Company.

The Greensboro Record would do a great public service if it would inaugurate a campaign requesting the permission of the Bell to permit the North State lines to enter the Central office of the Bell in Greensboro. The North State has a line to Greensboro from High Point. Why not permit the wires to connect with the switch board of the Bell? The Bell could let the connection be made either in High Point or in Greensboro. If it is preferred the Bell could be permitted to run its wires into the High Point Central office upon such terms as could be easily agreed on.

Since the disclosure in regard to the \$100,000 paid by the Southern Railroad to Senator John C. Dancy of the Raleigh Evening Times, the attorneys for the State have been anxious to make a more extensive examination of the Company's books from 1904 to 1906.

Judge Montgomery ruled against the state in this matter, and an exception from this ruling was taken to be argued before Judge Pritchard in the case on Thursday.

It is believed by those who ought to know—Mr. Wm. H. Hearst that he is frank and candid and you can tell where he stands on all public questions, that he is honest and has no taint of graft about him. People in these days vote for men they can trust, and they will trust no man who is afraid of them. A man must have moral courage and must

not slip and slide round. In short he must not be of the gum shoe variety. While many do not agree with Mr. Hearst on his political ideas, yet all must admire these traits.

Governor Comer, of Alabama, has called the legislature of his state together for the purpose, he says, of determining who controls the state, the people or the railroads.

John Sharpe Williams, the Democratic leader in the House of Representatives, recently having been selected in a primary in Mississippi, to succeed Senator Money, and whose term does not begin for more than two years yet, has decided to take two years off before entering on his Senatorial duties. He will not run for the House next fall. He says he is behind and will take two years off to read the stores of literature, which have accumulated since he entered the House of Representatives. During this time Mr. Williams will take time to write a life of Thomas Jefferson.

CONDENSED NEWS.

A new brick block is being built in Thomasville by Mr. E. W. Cate.

The Misses Hearn, of Norwood, have been assumed charge of the Central Hotel at Albemarle.

Alberta, the 2-year-old daughter, of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Ingold, died at Albemarle last week.

Mrs. Mary Beeson, aged 60 years, died at her home near Pleasant Garden recently.

C. L. Bagby, a prominent merchant of Yadkin County, has moved to Winston-Salem.

The Glenn Anna Milling Company is the name of the new roller mill in Thomasville.

A. M. Varner and others are erecting a large brick building at Troy for the manufacture of bugles.

All children under twelve years old will be admitted free on the first day of the Salisbury Fair.

One of the largest fairs in the State will be held at Salisbury Oct. 29, 30, 31 and Nov. 1.

At Mt. Airy 130,000 pounds of dried apples have been marketed this season, bringing only 6-12 cents.

Rev. A. H. Mendenhall, D. D., pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Raleigh, died Saturday. He was born in Canada in 1852.

The new rate law in Virginia has gone into effect; the fare there is two cents a mile, the legislature having reduced it to this amount during the session last winter.

A High Point citizen has proposed to take \$25,000 in the cotton mill at that place. The business men of that town are called upon to rally to the cause.

The Bailey Whiskey Co., of Salisbury, was chartered last week with a capital of \$3,000, by C. M. Bailey, J. R. Bias and S. B. Wallace.

It is said that there is a probability of most of the mills in Greensboro and at Proximity contracting with the Whitney Co. to furnish power for operation.

The Normal and Collegiate Institute, of Albemarle, opened in its handsome new brick building last week. It has an enrollment of 60 young ladies.

John Peoples, an esteemed citizen of Greensboro, age 35 years, died at St. Leo's Hospital in Greensboro, of typhoid fever one day last week, where he was under treatment.

Mr. Howard Banks, formerly of the Charlotte Observer, has been engaged by the Anti-Saloon people of Asheville to edit an Anti-Saloon paper during the prohibition fight in Asheville.

Burglars robbed the bicycle shop of E. G. Hagley in Greensboro last week and stole five watches, several pistols, and several boxes of cartridges.

Mrs. M. L. Alfred, age thirty-six years, died Oct. 17 at her home on South Main Street at High Point of apoplexy on Wednesday October 2nd. She leaves a husband and ten children.

Rob Allison, colored, of the Amity neighborhood of Iredell County, charged with whipping his wife, who died three days thereafter, is still in jail in Statesville under charge of murder.

RISE OF PROHIBITION

Cause of Antiliquor Legislation in the South.

THE NEGRO IS RESPONSIBLE.

Whites Fear the Drunken Black Man. Free Access to Intoxicants Cause of Racial Wars—Hearst and His League. The Oklahoma Constitution.

By WILLIS J. ABBOT.

In the October Review of Reviews appears an article by the Washington correspondent of the Atlanta Constitution, putting the first time into complete form the record of the spread of prohibition, local or state, throughout the south. The article is too long to summarize, but it is well worth the careful attention of the people who still cling to the old conception of the south as the home of the toddy and the julep. As a matter of fact, by far the greater part of the south is now under stringent prohibitory laws. Under local option 90 per cent of the counties of Virginia are now dry, and a prominent editor in Richmond told me there only a few weeks ago that that city would be carried for prohibition if the matter were brought to a vote—something that I do not believe could be said for any city of equal size in the north. The political foundations of Senator Tillman's eminence were laid upon his dispensary system in South Carolina, but only recently the governor of that state told me that the dispensaries would have to go, not because they regulated too strictly the sale of liquor, but because complete prohibition was demanded by the people. The greater part of Texas is "dry" under local option, and the editor of one of the most prominent newspapers in that state told me that the time is near at hand when it will have state prohibition. Meantime its lawmakers amuse themselves with such a statute as one making it a misdemeanor for a man to take a drink on a railroad train, and only within a week or two the sheriff of a county in another state who unwittingly committed this offense was dragged off a train and fined by a country squire. Georgia of course has state prohibition, adopted by a vote so large that Governor Hoke Smith, personally disapproving the bill, felt himself obliged to sign it. Kentucky, which makes more whiskey for the delectation of its sister states than any other commonwealth, permits the sale in barely a tenth of its own counties. Moreover, state laws adopted in many of the southern communities prohibit railroads, under severe penalties, from carrying liquors of any sort into a local option county. This applies only to freight originating within the state, but this year a bill in congress will be pressed for national legislation which shall stop interstate railroads from carrying liquors into prohibition states. It is to be supported by southern congressmen, who in this cause seem ready to forget their ancient state rights convictions.

The Explanation of This Phenomenon.

Curiously enough, while the south has made this prodigious advance in the cause of temperance, if prohibition means temperance, which some doubt—the north has progressed little, if at all. Since Maine led off with constitutional prohibition and Kansas followed there has been an almost entire cessation of agitation for state temperance in the north. Why should the south, whose public men are always preaching individual liberty and state rights, have been so ready to wink at violations of both when the suppression of the liquor traffic is involved? There is the answer as given to me the other day by the mayor of one of the largest cities of Virginia.

"It's the negro," said he. "The right of the negro to vote and his use of his vote have kept southern white men voting the Democratic ticket for nearly twenty years after they had come into sympathy with Republican policies. Now the black men are turning the Democratic party of the south into a pro-temperance party. Every man who has lived long in the south knows that in districts with a large colored population the whites live in constant dread of riotous outbreaks. They dislike the negro voter; they fear him drunk. Much of the great majority given to prohibition in the city of Atlanta, a majority that could not have been obtained in any northern city of like character and size, was due to the Atlanta race riots of a year or more ago. These riots hardly would have occurred except for the free access to intoxicants possessed by both whites and blacks in the home. Mark my words as long as the negro is a potent element numerically in the life of the south as it is, any prohibition will endure and will be extended."

Hearst's National Programme.

Mr. Hearst, who has led or perhaps thrust his independence league into preparation for national activities, does not read history, but he has through his stands a chance of making some history himself. Last week he held a meeting of national sympathizers coming to New York from nearly half the states of the Union and filled with such enthusiasm that, as his own newspaper said naively, "many even paid their own expenses." Who paid the expenses of the remainder can only be conjectured. But in explaining his reasons for making a national organization out of the independence league, which in turn he had made a state organization out of the Municipal Ownership

league, Mr. Hearst through his newspaper had this to say:

"It was Lincoln who in the early stages of the Republican party advised against submerging the movement in each locality to mere local issues."

The Republican party was a national organization before Lincoln appeared as its prophet. It was founded on a national issue, that of slavery, and was the outcome of the prolonged agitation of the abolitionists, the decadence of the Whig party and the general breaking of all party organizations opposing the historic Democracy. It was not originally organized locally to nominate a candidate for mayor, nor was it made a state organization to nominate the same candidate for governor. Nor indeed did it enter the national field to nominate—but Mr. Hearst says he will never again be a candidate for elective office.

The Republican party had its first inception in the minds of a number of members of congress. They, after long discussion, called the convention which met under the oaks at Jackson, Mich., and created the party which has been the only successful opposition to the Democratic party since the days of Jefferson. It sprang from a popular unrest and a popular agitation, not from the ambitions, the mind and the money of one man. How far the independence league falls short of either the Republican or Democratic idea of self government is fairly indicated by the fact that the state leagues are all incorporated, control of the corporations being vested in Mr. Hearst himself. As for the national league, it is enough to call attention to the fact that the committee in providing for a national organization authorized Mr. Hearst personally to select all of its members, to appoint all of its officers and even to determine whether it should or should not call a convention and put a ticket in the field. That is hardly the American method of proceeding toward a popular political movement.

The President and Oklahoma.

It is matter of official and newspaper etiquette, not to say rule, that the president is not to be interviewed unless he invites the interview. Indeed, a good many unfortunate persons, both political and journalistic, have had cause to bitterly regret the promulgation of an interview which was offered, but repudiated when it was found not to touch the right point in the public mind. Yet presidential opinions do leak out from the White House. Some of these were given me the other day by a gentleman who spent much time in Oklahoma during the recent campaign and who saw the president almost immediately after its close. It is proper to say that he was not in accord with the endeavor of the administration to deny statehood to the people of the territory. The interview was had on the day that the news had been given out that the president would issue the proclamation of statehood and not, as had been expected, veto the action of the people who adopted the constitution by 40,000 majority. In view of the fact that Secretary Taft was sent to Oklahoma to fight the constitution and that every territorial official holding his office by grace of the power in the White House had fought it, one may be permitted to wonder whether it was not the size of the majority more than any other consideration that led Mr. Roosevelt to abandon his supposed programme.

However, my informant told me that the president had said that he was hot in fact strongly opposed to the initiative and referendum feature in the constitution. He thought that for counties and cities the system of direct legislation has been shown to be practicable. He doubted whether it would work out successfully in a state and was absolutely certain that it would fail if tried as a national device. Yet the people of Oklahoma had a right to test it in their commonwealth if they so desired. Nor did his bitter attack the so-called gerrymander which has been the staple argument of Republican opponents of the constitution. In fact, he remarked with philosophical humor that he had had some experience in New York politics and had seen Republican gerrymanders there and was reliably informed that they existed in other states, of whatever political complexion. This and the system of taxation adopted he thought matters for the people of the state to pass upon.

Curiously enough, not one of the arguments advanced by Mr. Taft in his speech has been upheld by President Roosevelt in the numerous interviews he has had with public men since the Oklahoma vote. As the story of these interviews passes from one to another Washington is buzzing with speculation as to whether the faithful Taft was not one of those trial balloons sent out to test the current of popular sentiment. If Taft won, the administration would be in a position to back him and to claim the glory for all its officers were repeating his argument to the people of Oklahoma. But Taft lost. To say the distinctly Roosevelt paper are printing editorially approving the president's action in appointing what they call the conspiracy of federal officeholders to defeat the will of Oklahoma people. The Washington Post, for example, finds in his action ground for denouncing him as the next president.

The Philadelphia North American thinks that Oklahoma owes its statehood to Taft, the same Taft that was sent there to fight against it. All papers of the kind that in an earlier administration were called "cuckoos" are applauding Mr. Roosevelt for doing what a 40,000 majority of the people of the territory asked him to do. The applause is sweet to him, but how must it sound to Secretary Taft, who did only what he was sent to the southwest to do.

A New Orleans woman was thin. Because she did not extract sufficient nourishment from her food. She took *Scott's Emulsion*. Result: She gained a pound a day in weight.

ALL DRUGGISTS: 50c. AND \$1.00

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Fair Held in the State
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This Will Be the Largest and
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Gov. R. B. Glenn Will Introduce Mr. Bryan,
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Wednesday Oct. 16.

They Are Coming From All Over the State and Adjoining
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