

## Mebane Leader

J. O. FOY, Editor and Owner

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Thursday, March 9 1911

### THE PRIMARY.

The Senate of North Carolina yesterday covered itself with glory by passing the State primary election law. The Senate of the United States disgraced itself by seating Lorimer, the recipient of purchased votes.—Raleigh Observer.

This remains to be sure, we have grave doubt that the primary election law as passed by the Senate will prove a panacea for all the political ills complained of. Our opinion is that it will prove one of the most irritating elements that could be injected in the party. It may have been the purpose of its framers to safe guard it from perversion by excluding rigidly any Republican from participating, but it contains no features to obviate the possibility of disgruntled Democrats from voting the Republican tickets, which despite all of the poh-pohs is a grave possibility.

It is not a forgotten fact of the extreme bitterness engendered in this state over the Simmons-Carr race in the primary for a seat in the Senate. It took years to heal it. Under ordinary conditions the man with the heaviest bank account and his willingness to freely use check enjoys a decided advantage, not only that but a man of moderate means would find it extremely embarrassing to attempt to run for office. There are some men who were anxious for this bill who may think it will give them easy skating, but wait there is a good deal of thin ice to go over before they reach the goal. If you can not stop men from spending money to corrupt a regular election, in which both sides are watching, you will hardly be able to do so in one where only those of our political faith have their eyes open.

"Senator Bassett enflamed primaries fore and after. He considered the bill fraught with great danger to the majority party in North Carolina. In the county of Edgecombe they have returned to the system which now prevails, and it is the unanimous belief in that good Democratic county that it contains far less of menace to the party and the common good. In Nash, his neighboring county, a primary law identical in many respects to the Hobbs good bill has been annulled as a thing of danger, and a modified bill passed. The law contemplated will rule votes and outrage the sense of right everywhere.

Section 8 Senator Bassett said, was one for which the Democratic party cannot stand sponsor. It strikes at the voter's constitutional right. This provides that none but official ballots shall be counted—a restriction which is placed on a freeman, renders him no longer free. It is contrary to the spirit, if not the letter, of the Constitution, thus to force a man either to vote for the candidates whose names are printed, or else not vote at all.

The question is one which should be acted on by the State convention rather than the General Assembly. Such ill-considered legislation, in nowise a response to a popular demand."

Mr. Daniels, may think the primary will prove a panacea for all political ills, but we are under the impression it is going to open a Pandora box of dissatisfaction that the Republicans have vainly tried to open for years. The Democratic party is the dominant party, and it is so by a very large majority. The appetite for office will be keenly whetted, a multitude of candidates which the primary makes possible, will result in a multitude of defeats, disgruntled office seekers, a good many of these will not hesitate to carry a knife up their sleeves to stab the old party wherever an opportunity opens.

### IF THIS WAS TRUE?

"Every friend of Senator Simmons in North Carolina will regret that he put a black mark on his own record when he tried to put a white mark on Lorimer's tainted one."

But is the expression of Mr. Daniels, an unfriendly, and unfair censor to pass final judgment in the last court of appeal in this case? We opine not. We talked with a gentleman who stands high in the states esteem, one of whom has been favorably mentioned in connection with the Governors office of North Carolina, who stated to us personally that they had written Mr. Simmons prior to the vote on the Lorimer case that under circumstances he should stand by Lorimer.

"In this speech to the Senator giving his reasons for his vote, Senator Simmons said: 'I have read the report of the committee appointed to investigate the charges against the Senator from Illinois exonerating these charges. That report is signed by six of the seven Republicans and four of the five Democrats on this committee. The ten Senators signing this report are all lawyers, some of them have been judges, trained and educated in weighing and applying testimony and they are as pure and able men as sit in this body.'

"I have read practically in the evidence adduced before this committee. I have heard nearly all the speeches that have been delivered on both sides of this controversy. I heard the speech of the junior Senator from Illinois in his defense. A speech which in logical symmetry and force in inherent evidences of sincerity and truth, in simple and unconscious paths will ever live in the memory of all who heard it as one of the most remarkable deliverances ever uttered in this chamber.

"When that speech was concluded my inner consciousness said to me, as many people who heard it have since said to me, if the Senator from Illinois had been guilty he could not have conceived that speech and delivered it as it was delivered by him.

"Giving due weight to the report of the committee, the evidence and the arguments under my oath I do not feel that the evidence is sufficient to justify me in voting that the Senator is not entitled to the seat in this body to which the certificate of the great State of Illinois, under the common seal of that common wealth, declares he is elected.

"That various fraudulent schemes to promote and defeat legislation were organized when the Senator was at his home sick night unto death, organized long before he became a candidate for the Senate and when he was supporting another candidate I have no doubt; but that the Senator from Illinois bribed any one to vote for him or had knowledge of anyone's being bribed to vote from him I do not believe and I do not think there are many who do believe it, nor do I believe the evidence satisfactorily proves that anybody was bribed to vote for him.

"Mr. President, I cannot vote to deprive this man of his property and destroy his character upon the evidence of four men, three of whom were offered immunity from prosecution for high crimes and misdemeanors, and who accepted that offer upon condition that they would resent their statement denying that they had been bribed, and one man who admitted that he sold his story of confession to an inveterate enemy of the Senator for \$3,000. I cannot accept the testimony of men of character, especially when the three members of the Legislature who they say bribed them have each sworn that there was not a word of truth in their statement, and that they have never paid them, or either of them, any money for their votes for the Senator from Illinois. I cannot accept as the basis of my vote to destroy the character of a man who has always maintained an irreproachable character evidence of men of the character of these men, especially when the three members of the Legislature who they say corrupted them, and who under oath flatly contradicted these statements, have been victoriously re-elected to the Legislature of Illinois and now hold seats in that honorable body, one of them having been elected Speaker of the House of Representatives.

"We must decide this question on the evidence and the law."

This is only a portion of Mr. Simmons able defense of his vote. Mr. Simmons yielded to a high sense of conscientious duty, with full knowledge of what his vote implied. Mr. Daniels is pursuing the narrow path, that of an avowed enemy.

### SENATOR PHARRS POSITION

Senator Pharr Chairman of the committee on insurance while discussing the matter of legislation in regard to investigation of insurance companies Saturday remarked that he was opposed to railroading this matter through, that it was of too great importance. This is one among many of the secrets of delays of the measure, and its final death. Senator Pharr knew us well as others who were interested in this measure that the bill for this investigation was introduced

## THE SHOES THAT FIT!



No well dressed, well bred lady or gentleman will wear, a common fitting shoe if it is possible to avoid it, because they recognize it is a badge of bad taste. Refinement and good taste suggest a neat well fitting shoe. Every man in our thoroughly equipped, and well supplied shoe emporium is a professional shoe fitter, and never permits, a man or woman to go out of our store without having given them the neatest and most comfortable fit possible. We carry a line of shoes from which every class can be fitted, and pleased, and they embrace the most popular, and substantial makes of this country. Shoes that look well wear, and give perfect satisfaction. See us, we don't live far.



**Pridgen & Jones,**  
Durham, N. C.

in the early days of the present session of the legislature, and that it has been persistently pushed from that time to the closing days of the Legislature by Representative Koonce. There has been ample time for the most thoughtful and careful consideration of the bill, and Mr. Pharr remarks that he did not care to railroad such a measure through furnishes reason for the grave suspicion that if Mr. Pharr is not Chairman of this important committee at the suggestion of the insurance companies friends, he at least has their hearty approval.

It is this that has been the matter with the present Legislature from start to finish, there has been entirely too many friends of corporate and allied interest in that body and too few friends of the people.

### Opportunities.

In one of the Greek cities there stood, long ago, a statue. Every trace of it has vanished now, as is the case with most of those old masterpieces; but there is still in existence an epigram which gives us an excellent description of it, and as we read the words we can discover the lesson which those wise old Greeks meant that the statue should teach to every passer-by.

The epigram is in the form of a conversation between a traveler and the statue.

"What is thy name, O statue?"

"I am called Opportunity."

"Who made thee?"

"Lysippus."

"Why art thou standing on thy toes?"

"To show that I stay but a moment."

"Why hast wings on thy feet?"

"To show how quickly I pass by."

"But why is thy hair so long on thy forehead?"

"That men may seize me when they meet me."

"Why, then, is thy head so bald behind?"

"To show that when I have once passed, I cannot be caught."

We do not see statues standing on the highways to remind us of our opportunities for doing good and being of service to others but we know that they come to us. They are ours but for a moment. If we let them pass, they are gone forever.—Ex.

### Is This Your Person?

An epitome of "why I buy at home" has been furnished by the Trades Journal and is now going the round of the press. It is good enough to keep going, because it is short, point and true. Read it:

"I buy at home—

"Because the community that is good enough for me to live in is good enough for me to buy in.

"Because I believe in transacting business with my friends.

"Because I want to see what I buy when I pay for it.

"Because my home dealer carries me when I am run short.

"Because every dollar I spend at home stays at home and helps work for the welfare of the city.

"Because the man I buy from stands back of the goods.

"Because I sell what I produce here at home.

"Because the man I buy from gives value received always.

"Because the man I buy from helps support any school, any church, my lodge, my home.

"Because when ill-luck, misfortune or bereavement comes, the man I buy from is here with his kindly expressions of greeting his words of cheer, and his pocketbook, if needs be."

"Here I live and here I buy."

They never taste who always talk who never think.—Prior.

Of all the paths that leads to a woman's heart pity is the straightest.—Beaumont.

## ORGAN BARGAIN!



Mr. W. C. Blagg has been seriously sick for sometime and unable to continue business.

The Miller Organ Co. closed out his stock of organs to us for spot cash at: MUCH LESS THAN COST; and we SAVED FREIGHT ON 17 ORGANS. We offer you those \$85. Miller organs at

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