

THE HEADLIGHT.

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J. H. WALSH, W. H. COVINGTON, PUBLISHERS.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES. One dollar per year, strictly cash in advance.

Entered according to act of Congress at the post office at Rockingham, N. C. as second-class matter.

WEDNESDAY NOV 12, 1901.

NOT TO BE INTIMIDATED.

This is a Free Country Hear Both Sides.

With a grand flourish of trumpets in the form of a big scare head, double column, filled with editorial cullings from the Headlight and comments thereon, the Anglo-Saxon "goes for us" in a measure so characteristic of the management of that paper.

Well, somehow it affected us variously. The first sensation was one of extreme curiosity—wondered what was the matter. Having read it carefully, the following reflections resulted. That we were reminded of Aesop's fable of the mountain and the mouse. The rest was a desire to acknowledge it as the first compliment since the announcement of its advent the Headlight had received from its neighbor, which had so long affected not to know of its existence.

Is the Anglo-Saxon immaculate? And does it arrogate to itself a degree of wisdom which entitles it to sit both as judge and jury over matters political in the county? Does it set itself up as authority in its discussions as to party loyalty? If not, then it assumes this attitude without right.

Now it undertakes to file so many complaints against the Headlight, that it will require a number of issues to answer them all, and, besides, we are not to be so easily baited into a trap. It is not best to turn the light on everything at once, as

there are some things that will keep until the proper time comes to bring them to light. When this time will arrive, depends upon circumstances. When we started the Headlight, we knew full well, that unless we drifted in a certain channel we would encounter opposition.

Well, if our voice is to be stifled and our pen directed by anybody, we are willing to go down in the fight for equal rights for every man in Richmond county, friend or foe. The voices of three, if not four fifths of Richmond county are clamorous for primaries, and had the Anglo-Saxon, the mouth-piece of the controlling element of the party guaranteed these to the people, but little would have been said by the Headlight upon this subject.

The Headlight has said nothing it proposes to retract, and it claims to be as loyal to the county organization that now exists or may hereafter exist as the Anglo-Saxon, but it has not been, and will not be controlled by individuals. It has never advocated insubordination, but always acquiescence in whatever is done by the organization, National, State and county. Its record will prove this, and yet the Anglo Saxon charges the Headlight with making insinuations against such men as the "brave, generous, public-spirited Capt. W. I. Everett, our popular sheriff, our popular and efficient sand-hill Democrat, Walter Thomas, register of deeds, our excellent board of county commissioners, W. C. Leak, Squire Terry and Mr. Whitlock, our one-legged coroner, Daniel Gay, and our excellent surveyor, Mr. Graham."

In our first issue the following write-up of these gentlemen appeared:

"RICHMOND'S COUNTY OFFICERS."

"Richmond may well be considered as having a good set of county officers.

Our commissioners, Messrs. Leak, Terry and Whitlock, are all excellent men, who discharge their duties impartially and wisely, without regard to party or race.

"Capt. Everett, the C. S. O., is one of our ablest and best citizens, and with the aid of his deputy, John L., his son, keeps a neat and well-regulated office. For a long time (though we would not call him old) he has served his people well in every position he has been called to fill.

"Walter S. Thomas, the new register of deeds, is a model young man, both as to moral character and business capacity, and his official record thus far, is without spot or blemish.

And what shall we say of our "preacher sheriff," Rev. T. S. Wright. We haven't space to say it all, but we will say that he is the right man in the right place; and all he does is "Wright." While he makes a model sheriff, he is still faithful to his ministerial calling, and when he is not signing papers or collecting taxes, he is uniting happy hearts in

wedlock, burying the dead, calling sinners to repentance, or comforting sinners.

"That gallant old Confederate veteran, who left one leg on the battle ground, Daniel Gay, is our coroner, a natural born coroner, a good coroner, a good citizen.

"If you want your lands accurately surveyed, or a claim of title made dating back to Noah's flood, Neill Graham, our efficient county surveyor, is the man. Like his good father, he knows more about the landmarks between the roaring Pee Dee and Drowning creek, than any man in the State.

"These are our county officers we are proud of."

In our issue of the 30th October we said:

"We are glad that our county officers, in Richmond county, are good men, and are quietly, but faithfully discharging their duties."

Now the Anglo-Saxon must stand condemned by the record and to act in good faith, it should acknowledge its error.

The Saxon says: "Amendment or no amendment, negro or no negro, common decency, if nothing else, suggests that men who go into a primary or convention to select candidates shall honorably support the result of that primary or convention." Here our contemporary is exactly right, and we'll prove our loyalty in a primary or convention. Will our neighbor make the same promise? Whatever part we may take in political matters previous to the nominations for office, we'll vote the ticket nominated.

Just here, our neighbor charges that the Headlight (I suppose he means the editor) with being a candidate for office, does not say what. Well, this is amusing indeed. We don't have any idea that any office will run after us, and it is a clear case we will not seek any nomination.

Now listen to the Anglo-Saxon:

"No one connected with its editorial or business management has ever held, or now holds, or is a candidate, or expects to become a candidate for any office at the hands of the Democracy of the county—of the county? This was well said, but say, Bro. Editor, how about that little job you had as secretary of the senate, during the sessions of the last legislature, that paid you five dollars a day? Of course you don't want any office from the county—no indeed.

But, we have overlooked our "sore toe"—really, is it "our toe" that is sore? If so we have not made the discovery. Possibly you may find yourself in the condition of a ducky, who was quietly sleeping with his feet to the fire. He arose suddenly, exclaiming, "sum nigger foot burning—golly, its mine"

Watch your own toes neighbor. Again we say, it won't do my friend, to turn on all the light now, as a more propitious opportunity will be presented later.

The result of township primaries will regulate everything. Will the Anglo-Saxon which assumes to be the mouth-piece of "the powers that be," guarantee the adoption of the primary system

by the executive committee of the county.

We have valued friends, good Democrats, who do not agree exactly, with us in some matters. For these we have the highest personal regard and best wishes, and we do not intend that anything we may have said, or may say, shall apply to them. We know exactly who are fighting the Headlight, and how they are doing it, but it will not deter us from enjoying the fullest liberty of speech consistent with law, propriety, and true Democratic principles. Nor will the double column scare-head of the Anglo-Saxon, in any degree disturb our peace, or barricade our progress in the course we intend to pursue. We have advocated free speech, primaries, et cetera, ad infinitum. Doesn't the Anglo-Saxon advocate the same? If so where is the trouble and why should he suffer from a "wrenched leg kicking at nothing."

There is a spirit of unrest throughout the county, but if the people KNEW they would have primaries, all would be calm and serene. Now if the Anglo-Saxon is so concerned about the multiplicity of the Headlight's "insinuations" let it say positively, that the primary system WILL be adopted and the mists will clear away.

And now, contemporary, let me inform you that this editor's record in the grand battle for white supremacy is well known in Richmond by you or any of your connections, to make any unfavorable impressions upon the people in reference to him. They know full well, that he staked everything he had, which though little, was his all, and even his life, in his efforts to secure white government to the people. These matters are too fresh in the minds of his county-men to allow any doubt of his willingness to secure for them, any favors they may desire of him, all "without hope of reward, or dread of punishment. But if the Anglo-Saxon thinks it can turn the tide, we are free to exclaim with the immortal bard, "Lay on McDuff."

UNUSUAL FORBEARANCE.

If the Headlight has been "insinuating and word-mincing for nine months, as the Anglo says, it commenced the business a month before its birth. If it has been doing this for even eight months, against the "peace and dignity" of good government, and the Anglo Saxon is the "watchman upon the wall" clothed with the power of a censor, why has it not long ago raised its voice against it. If there was no foundation for these so-called insinuations, why should they disturb anybody? The very fact that they have raised a row in the camp, is evidence enough to satisfy any unprejudiced mind that something is wrong somewhere.

Further, if the Headlight boasts of its "disinterestedness and unalloyed devotion to the people, always capitalizing the word people," it did it because it felt that it was pleading the cause of ALL the people, and to them we are willing to leave the result.

But, neighbor, in all kindness, we ask, do you represent the people? If not, then pray, who do you represent?

HOT TIMES AT STEELE'S MILLS.

A Rousing Meeting of Citizens. They Discuss Their Grievances, and Indorse The Headlight.

Publishers Headlight, Gentlemen:

Inasmuch as we, the citizens of Steele's Mill, are loyal people and are true Anglo-Saxons and tax-paying Democrats, and have followed the flag of White Supremacy from the darkest days of negro domination, until victory had perched upon our banner, and are yet true and loyal Democrats, ready and willing at all times to respond to duty's call. Now, under all these facts, we feel that a great injustice has been done us by the present Board of County Commissioners, whom we have thought, until recently, to be our friends. Now we purpose, before entering a discussion of this matter, to let the people of Richmond county know the facts, and why we complain. We have a public road from here to Rockingham. This road was suggested as the route laid out by the late Robt. L. Steele, the father of the cotton mill industry around Rockingham. This road was opened and bridges built by the Steele's Mill Company and put in excellent condition, then the road was turned over to the County Commissioners and was made a public road. This road has since that time, been kept up by the operatives of Steele's Mill, up to Midway mill. They paid their money to keep the road in good condition. Now in May, of this year, the bridges were washed away, as were most of the other bridges in the county. The County Commissioners have promptly rebuilt other bridges, but ours were not; and upon these facts, we have gotten up a petition, signed by over 100 of our citizens, and presented said petition to said Board. They postponed the matter until their next meeting, and at the next meeting it was still postponed, they claiming that the expense would be too heavy upon the taxpayers of the county. Now this was done, notwithstanding that we had representatives at each meeting. Messrs. W. C. Webb and A. S. Dockery, labored hard in our behalf, but without avail. Now with these facts before us: we are loyal citizens; we are true Democrats, not kickers or sore heads; we work for as good a company, as good men and as large taxpayers as there are in the county; doctors who come here necessarily have to charge more mileage; our way to the county seat is much farther. And, inasmuch as the Board is claiming economy, yet they have built all other bridges in the county, and in their present action have failed to save an item in the matter of public printing. Now, are they sincere in their claim of economy?

Now with all these facts before us the citizens of Steele's Mills held a large and enthusiastic meeting at the Academy Hall on Friday night, November 8th. W. C. Webb was made chairman and D. F. O'Brien was elected secretary. The situation was discussed by many present, and the following committee was appointed to draft resolutions and report at a meeting to be held Monday night, Nov. 11th:

- W. C. Webb, Chm.
L. A. Hall,
E. J. Webb,
H. O. Mattox,
T. L. Brown,
S. T. Morse,
E. P. Gaddy,
D. F. O'Brien, Sec.

At the meeting Monday night a large crowd being present, the committee submitted the following resolutions which were unanimously adopted:

PREAMBLE.

Whereas, inasmuch as we have been unjustly treated by the Board of County Commissioners in the

matter of Road Petition, therefore be it

Resolved 1st, That we deplore the action of said Board and think they have failed to show their sincerity in the matter of economy, inasmuch as other bridges in the county have been rebuilt.

Resolved, 2nd, That we thank Rev. W. C. Webb for meeting continually with the Board in our behalf.

Resolved 3rd, That we thank A. S. Dockery for his efforts for our cause.

Resolved 4th, That we endorse the views of the Richmond Headlight in the issue of November 6th, and in its efforts to secure a Primary System.

Resolved 5th, That a copy of our proceedings and resolutions be sent to the Richmond Headlight for publication.

Committee.

A WORD IN SEASON.

In conducting our part of the controversy with the Anglo-Saxon, we desire to say that, what we may say to that paper, will not be intended to reflect upon the stockholders, who are men we highly esteem, nor upon the editor, personally. The controversy will be conducted in a courteous manner, or not at all. We shall reserve the right to fight in such style as may suit us best, as it is contrary to the rules of military science to allow the enemy to choose the battle ground, or plan of battle, but when he strikes, to parry his blows, and lunge our spear into his vital parts. The Anglo-Saxon has brought on this controversy without provocation. The Headlight has done nothing it did not have a right to do and it has said nothing to which anybody has a right to object, but as the Anglo-Saxon has assumed the position of dictator, and general interpreter of what is and what is not Democracy, and a defender of the ruling element of the party,—we both love so well, and trust we shall be able to satisfy it, that it, is what the people well know, the representative of a very small portion of the true Democrats of Richmond. In our next issue, we will give it a little catechism lesson which, if it recites, will show the people how its stands on matters that are not satisfactory to all the people or even a large minority. We hope the "council of war" will give the Anglo-Saxon unrestricted liberty.

T. S. Wright Declines to Enter Congressional Race.

To the Editor of the Headlight, Dear Sir:

I want to thank my friends through the columns of your valuable paper, for the kind expressions they have made in regard to myself being a candidate from this District, for Congress. I want to say that I am perfectly satisfied with the honor they have already bestowed on me in making me Sheriff of the good old county of Richmond, and will want to serve the people until they can find a public servant that will do better than I have done, and am doing. To be a candidate for Congress, I would have to resign several churches, composed of as good people as any country can afford, that have stood by me and I love to serve them as their pastor. While they are financially weak, I would not quit them for a seat tendered me in the U. S. Congress, at this time. Truly,

T. S. Wright. Please come and pay your tax, as I need money to run the county on cash basis. Sheriff.

Efficiency is the measure of power. The French has a proverb which says that soon or late, the strong need the help of the weak. This is merely to say that the strong are in some ways weak, and the weak are in some ways strong. One can help the other, and the helper is always a power. —Sunday School Times.