

# THE PILOT

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## MOORE DEMOCRATIC COUNTY CONVENTION

**Curious Influence Exerted by the  
Primary Election on Machine  
Work of American Politics**

(Bion H. Butler)

Last Saturday with Edwin McKeithan I went to Carthage to attend the democratic county convention, the two of us, by being there as much as through any other influence, representing our voting districts at Aberdeen. From other districts of the county came other representatives, and a certain routine business was taken up in a routine way, the principal work being to select a list of delegates to the state convention at Raleigh this week, the consideration of reports and registration of names of members of the executive committee appointed by the various districts, and such other duties as tend to hold together the organization of the party in the county. It was an interesting gathering, and an illuminating episode in the daily story of American life and American democratic government to that queer form of government we are passing through in our effort to establish the primary election system, which seems to be the climax of democratic rule.

I compared this convention with some of the old time conventions I have attended in the past. For instance the democratic convention in Nashville, Tennessee, almost forty years ago, at which Bob Taylor was nominated when he ran against his brother, Alfred, who was the republican candidate, and his father, who was the candidate of the prohibitionists. To get away from the story for a minute, that Nashville convention was an interesting one, not only because of the intense enthusiasm that governed it, and the quaint delegates from the mountains who came down in their jeans and long hair, and with their odd habits and customs, but also because at a meeting just before the convention Robert and Alfred held a joint discussion in the theatre at Nashville, and I was of a party that attended it. Two printers of us, friends from boyhood until death broke into the comradeship a few years ago, lived at a boarding house in which the daughter of the household attracted our attention. My friend asked her to go with him to the debate. She agreed. Then I asked her to go with me and she said she had already arranged to go with my friend. I told her that was all right and she could go with both of us, and after some argument that was the way we arranged. I bought her a red bouquet for Bob Taylor's edification, and my friend bought a white one to indicate their preference for Alf. She sat between us in the theatre and wore both of them. She was a nice girl. I have not seen her for nearly forty years. My friend and I left soon after Bob Taylor was elected.

I thought of that convention Saturday at Carthage. Also of a republican convention in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, which I attended as a newspaper writer, in which Quay stole the delegations from his rivals and had himself chosen chairman, and by that method tightened his grip on republican politics in Pennsylvania and the nation. Pennsylvania has not yet recovered from that convention.

The Carthage meeting was rather tame, but it had some of the attributes of a funeral. All the old-time interesting wire-pulling was missing, for there are no longer many wires to pull. I thought of Mr. Bailey and his diatribes against the machine as I sat there watching the efforts of the real patriots of the county trying to hold together their organization that we might have in Moore county some machinery for caring for the fall elections, and it occurred to me what a pitiful misconception we have if we allow ourselves to be frightened by the machine. On the contrary, the gravest danger that I can see in our political progress is that we allow the machine to die—not to be licked, mind

## Page for the Legislature

Henry A. Page, of Aberdeen, authorizes the Pilot to announce that he is a candidate for the legislature from Moore county, and that he will be on the firing line from today until the votes are counted at the finish.

Mr. Page will be no new hand at the state's work, as he has already had several years' experience in the legislature, where he was an active figure throughout his period of office. He is known to be one of the most versatile, courageous, and thoroughly sincere men in the state.

It is believed by some of the closest observers of local politics that the decisive announcement of Mr. Page will give him a clear field, as his fitness for the office is so generally recognized that it is not thought anybody will contest the race with him. Mr. Page started Tuesday to set his ducks in the proper row. It should be needless to say that he has the hearty approval of the Pilot.

you—for the gravest danger is that it may die of inertia. And in that case it occurred to me to wonder what would follow. The machine is so near death that I was impressed with the thought that if we could have some good, aggressive leader who would devote his time to rejuvenating the machine it would be the best thing that could happen to Moore county, to North Carolina and to the United States, for it was evident there at Carthage Saturday that were it not for the limited number who gathered there to take care of the coming campaign, that election in this county might see the day where it would go by default.

The primary election system is probably in the line of progress, but it is sadly and dangerously defective in many respects. It was apparent there at Carthage that much interest in county organization has been

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### COUNTY SCHOOL FIELD DAY AT CARTHAGE

The following is a list of contests to take place at the County School Field Day, Friday, April 18th:

#### Literary A. M.

1. Writing (Palmer or Zaner Method.) Palmer Drills 21, 22, and 23.
2. Recitation—High School (seven minute limit).

3. Declamation—High School (seven minute limit).
4. Story Telling—Grammar Grade (seven minute limit).

5. Story Telling—High School (seven minute limit).
6. Oral Spelling—Grammar Grade (seven minute limit).

7. Oral Spelling—High School (seven minute limit).
8. Athletic, P. M.

1. Physical Culture — Grammar Grade. Physical Culture—High School Boys. Physical Culture—High School Girls.

2. Running—Boys up to fourteen—100 yards. Running—Boys over fourteen—100 yards.

3. Running—Giris, any age, 50 yards.

4. Pole Vault.

5. Ball Throw—Giris.

6. Pole Vault—Boys.

7. Shot Put—Boy—12 No. Shot.

8. Shot Put—Girl—eight No. Shot (Pre-adolescent).

9. Running High Jump—Boy.

10. Running High Jump—Girl.

11. Standing High Jump—Boy.

12. Standing High Jump—Girl.

13. Running Broad Jump—Boy.

14. Running Broad Jump—Girl.

15. Standing Broad Jump—Boy.

16. Standing Broad Jump—Girl.

17. Relay Race 220 yards—Four girls.

18. Relay Race 440 yards—Four boys.

19. Tennis Tournament—Doubles for girls.

20. Tennis Tournament—Doubles for boys.

21. Quoits (Horseshoes)—Girls and boys.

Prizes will be given in all contests.

A special prize—North Carolina Flag to the school winning the most points.

Note: A school to be eligible to special prize must have as great a percentage of contestants in literary as in athletic events.

Each school allowed one contestant in each event.

## CHARLES J. JONES JUSTIFIES BAILEY

### Thinks His Friend is Logical Man for Governor of North Carolina

I appreciate your courtesy in allowing space for the article regarding Mr. Bailey. I am not now coming back so much in the nature of a reply as to make a few further explanations and observations, then, so far as I see now, I will not ask your indulgence further.

I am glad to see the editor does not place himself exactly as opposing Mr. Bailey. He seems to take exception to some things said and done by Bailey. Of course it would be impossible to please everybody or that all would like one man of his methods or politics. There are two sides to every great and small question, and it is well that there is, but I do not like to be misunderstood or to see a friend misunderstood, and I believe that this is at the bottom of much of our troubles now.

So far as Bailey's tilts with the newspaper correspondents are concerned, I do not believe myself that folks care for this. They want issues and principles discussed and not personalities. So far as I have known these have been provoked and carried to such an extent that while one's friends may understand there might be those who would not, and there are times when a man must give some kind of explanations. It is a well known fact that some of the leading papers and newspaper correspondents in the state had a pick at Bailey for some time, and at last he simply wanted to let the folks know that these or some of them were on the pay roll of the administration and that this accounts for their attitude concerning his candidacy. They had a right to oppose him, but Bailey also had a right to let the folks know the facts in the matter.

Now as to freight rates. I am not capable of discussing a matter of this kind, or even taxes from a technical standpoint, as I know very little, except that taxes are high and that there has been a great deal of complaint as to freight rates being the same. I know this from having to pay a great deal of it when I was in the hosiery mill business and now in the berry business. How to remedy it I know not, and as I say I am not capable of discussing it, but there are those like Bailey who are, and I have confidence enough in him to believe that he knows what he is talking about and is in a position to suggest possible remedies. It is a significant fact that as he states the Southern Railroad clears over two million a month and that the Coast line is making more than twenty per cent net profits on its capital, it would seem that the state could have them reduce their rates without any hardships in wages or dividends. It is a well known fact that we have too many millionaires and too few well to do and prosperous farmers, whatever you say as to the other callings in life.

As to taxes, his position is that we are taking too much taxes from the land, and that we ought to look to other sources for a large part that

land is now paying. The small farmers are not prosperous. Some took serious and bitter exception to Bailey because the Roxboro Courier printed McLean's war finance record, but they seem to have been and are now silent when certain matters are being circulated through an advertising medium signed by Mull and Oliver attacking Bailey's personal character. It would seem to Bailey's friends that those who denounced the former course should now condemn the latter. The Oliver letter was printed in the News and Observer and at least a dozen other papers, and the Mull letter has been circulated all over the state. If Bailey has attacked the personal character of McLean I have not seen it.

Bailey has been a consistent contender against extravagance in both public and private life. A few years ago he wrote for the papers a notable article against the craze in buying cars and spending money freely for those things usually classed as luxuries, calling attention to the issuing of long term bonds and in many cases making no provisions for a payment of them, but issuing new bonds at expiration of the terms. There are among us those who do not like to hear about this, but it is today a well known fact that people are spending money for cars by the wholesale who need new roofs on their houses and other improvements, and going in debt for them, and in many cases refusing to pay just and honest debts. It is a fact as I believe many will agree that this is not an index to true prosperity, and that when a nation begins to decay it is when they get to living the soft and easy life that many in this nation are doing today—that our

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### LOOKS LIKE A WATER PLANT FOR VASS

On Monday R. W. Beadle and J. B. Warren, of Brockwayville, Pa., met with several of the Vass people and discussed the prospects of a water plant for Vass and Lakeview. Mr. Beadle and Mr. Warren plan to build a plant if conditions will justify and if public sentiment will be favorable, and will supply the water to the village and to the people at a fixed annual rate or on such terms as can be agreed. This met the approval of the people who talked with the Pennsylvania men, and they left for home on Tuesday with the assurance that samples of water would be furnished at once, and that details of the survey recently made would be forwarded as soon as the figures are in hand from the Atlanta engineers.

Mr. Beadle had already talked over the matter with Tom Kelly at Southern Pines, who spoke with much encouragement as to the likelihood that Lakeview would also be glad to have water supplied on the conditions proposed for Vass. Mr. Beadle said one plant could take care of the two villages. If the information given him looks attractive it is certain that he will be back this way before long to go over the situation in detail, provided the sentiment of the community is in favor of a water system.

Samples of water were sent to Mr. Warren for analysis on Tuesday, and this phase of the inquiry will be taken care of at once, as Mr. Warren is the head of a chemical laboratory at DuBois, Pa., and will have the samples tested out as soon as they arrive.

## SANDHILL POWER COMPANY PLANTS

### Entire Property Looked Over by Representative of the Pilot to See What is Doing

Last week the Pilot put in two days looking over the plants of the Sandhill Power Company, covering the entire layout from the dam at Chandler's, around by Carbonton and the steam plant at the Carolina coal mines at Coal Glen, down through the Little River section, and winding up at Thaggard's. This action was taken to see what is doing and what has been done, for no extensive statement of the property has ever been given to the people who are interested in the service.

The company has been an evolution, for it was never designed at the beginning to be what it has become and what it is destined to expand into yet in the future. Mr. McQueen began to develop electricity to supply Pinehurst. Mr. Chandler had already built his small plants to provide for Southern Pines. But the towns had a fashion of outgrowing the facilities provided, and no matter how fast the men extended their plants the demand kept still ahead. The Lobelia dam was followed by the lower dam on the river, and when finally the Chandler interests passed into McQueen's hands, it was found necessary to build the Carbonton dam. But Pinehurst and Southern Pines grew, as well as the rest of the towns, and Knollwood came along and more power was essential. The steam plant at Lakeview tried to help out, but it was too little before it could be fairly installed.

Then came the 1,800 horse-power steam plant at the mines, and as this is written the company has sufficient water power to care for all its customers, and the steam plant is in reserve. Today the Sandhill Power Company can care for all its business. Today John McQueen can draw a long breath for the first time since he commenced to monkey with electric power. How long this will last is another story, for demands for more power come every time a new house is built in the territory served, and new houses are many. The new cotton mill at Hemp has already sent in the call for relief and others are filing requisitions for power, and presently it will probably be necessary to double the capacity of the steam plant and to build another dam. But that is for tomorrow, although tomorrow is coming as sure as Christmas is.

At Chandler's, where the investigation started, is a good dam of a couple of hundred horse power, equipped with good machinery, which is the case at every operation. It was plain to see that what John McQueen installs is the right kind. Three or four miles below is the Thaggard's plant, somewhat bigger than that at the Chandler dam, and of the same type of modern equipment, all the machinery at every point being Westinghouse or General Electric, the standard types of their kind. Down the river below Vass are the plants at Lobelia and the lower dam, capable between them of affording around 1,500 horse-power, and both in excellent condition. Over at Carbonton is the biggest water power, the last dam built, and one that can take care of ten or twelve hundred horse-power. A few miles down the river is the steam plant at the mines. This is rated at 1,800 horse-power, and is modern in all its features, with steam turbine engines, condensing plant, a stack 150 feet high, and three of the biggest boilers in this section.

All these plants are tied in together, with a good system of lines, and all the necessary transformers to handle the 5,000 or more horse-power that can be generated. The lines run to the score of villages and settlements that are served, and practically all the points are also connected with a telephone system which gives instantaneous communication with everything on the property. Besides the plants

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