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OUR RALEIGH LETTER.

Special Correspondence.

The echoes of the great Democratic State Convention are yet rolling. In all respects it was a model convention—in attendance, interest, harmony and enthusiasm it leaves nothing to be desired.

The Populist State Convention met today. It was small, only about a third the number of delegates at the convention of 1896 being present. It was completely dominated by Senator Butler, who openly dictated what it should do. It was noticeable that many of Butler's lieutenants were leading Federal office-holders, like United States Deputy Collector Wood, Deputy Marshal Brown, Garrett and Peace, whose wives were postmistresses at Henderson and Oxford. The convention was half-hearted for Bryan. When Harry Skinner of the platform committee made a minority report that Dan H. McLean and Lee S. Overman be named as candidates for Electors, he was hissed, particularly by Butler and State Chairman Cyrus Thompson. Skinner asked, "Do you want Bryan?" and the answers which came were mingled "No" and "Yes." It was very noticeable that the first cry in response to this ringing question was "No." There were between thirty-seven and forty counties not represented at all, so a delegate said this morning. There was but one representative from the Ninth Congressional District, and he is an ex-mossoy Republican.

Marion Butler was elected State Chairman, succeeding Cyrus Thompson. He was also elected a delegate to the National Convention and a member of the National Committee.

Harry Skinner openly charges that there is a deal between Butler and Pritchard. It is learned from J. C. L. Harris that at a conference at Washington Pritchard said he could not relinquish opposition to the amendment, because if he did that would be abandoning the negroes in this State, and then the negroes in New York, Ohio, Indiana and other States would abandon the administration. In other words, he chooses to let the Republican party be swamped in this State in order to save the administration. Harris says his voice will be raised against this in the State Convention, May 2d.

Populists deny that any nominees on their State ticket will be taken down. There are hints that the Republicans may not name a full ticket, but endorse some Populists. Z. V. Walser says R. Z. Linney is their logical candidate for Governor, and their strongest man. He is also Senator Pritchard's candidate.

Standard Oil Buys Union Mine.

SALISBURY, April 20.—The recent rumor that the Standard Oil Company was trying to secure a controlling interest in the Union Copper Mine was not altogether an idle one, for now they own all the shares of stock except 100,000 retained by W. G. Newman. This means that the Standard Oil Company will have the controlling interest in the mine in the future. Your correspondent hasn't been able to learn the amount Mr. Newman received for his stock, but those who know most about the transaction state that the consideration was enormous. Mr. Newman still owns the Gold Hill mine and will continue in the county looking after the working of the Union mine.

Needle Close to Her Heart.

A Trenton, N. J. dispatch says: "Bessie Finkle, the two-year old daughter of a Perry street dry goods merchant, had a narrow escape from a singular death. For several days the child complained of a severe pain in her chest. She was treated internally for the trouble, but got no relief. Finally Dr. R. R. Regers had her removed to St. Francis' Hospital, where he performed an operation and found a needle imbedded in her chest. It was three inches long, and had apparently worked its way in from the outside. It had penetrated the left lung and in its passage missed the heart by less than an inch. The parents of the child can not account for needle."

Mrs. James Roberts, of Goldsboro, while insane from jealousy, attempted to kill her two little girls with poison on the 23rd. Her plan was deliberate. She went to a store and bought laudanum, then returned home, called the children into her room, locked the door, gave them poison, made them lie down on the floor, took a revolver and sat down by them to see them die, and then take her own life. Her mother attempted to enter the room, but found the door locked, and notified Mrs. Roberts' husband. As the latter attempted to force an entrance, Mrs. Roberts shot herself in the breast and fell between the unconscious children. As she fell she cried out to her husband: "Don't wake the children; let us all go to Jesus together." Medical aid saved the lives of the children, after four hours of hard work. There is no hope for Mrs. Roberts.

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NEGRO FRANCHISE THE NATION'S BLUNDER.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., April 23.—"I regard the extension of the franchise to the negro to be the greatest blunder the nation ever made," said Rev. John W. Stagg, of this city, in speaking of the club, of New Bedford, Mass., on "The Race Problem in the South."

The newspapers of New Bedford have widely advertised Dr. Stagg's appearance in that city, and it is expected that a large crowd will greet him.

He will begin with the Missouri compromise, in 1821, and, reviewing all important events to 1854, will undertake to show that the opinion on this compromise in the north and in the south was the same. He will contend that the tremendous effort put forth to arouse the country on the subject of slavery, which resulted in the formation of the Republican party, was concerned with every question before the country until 1861.

"I regard the extension of the franchise to the negro to be the greatest blunder the nation ever made," said Dr. Stagg. "It was like putting a stick in the negro's hand and compelling him to break his own backbone. The crisis is now upon us, when the southern states must take measures for the protection of both the whites and the blacks. If the national government were to remove the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments from the constitution, a bright day would dawn for the nation and all friction between the two races would finally cease."

"Slavery was a damnable wrong against God and man, and the same arguments taken from the Bible to justify slavery, justify polygamy likewise, for the Scriptures simply give a history of both."

"The question of franchise does not involve right. It is not any one's right to vote. I accepted Herbert Spencer's doctrine of right and held that the franchise is a question of expediency. It was expedient for free negroes to vote in North Carolina prior to 1855, after 1855 it was not expedient."

Dr. Stagg was asked what he would say about the proposed amendment to the North Carolina constitution for the restriction of the franchise, and replied:

"I hold that the adoption of the constitutional amendment is the only solution of the race problem. If adopted it will be recognized as a great good for the negro himself, as a wise measure for the nation, as a religious act by the world."

The Pops Against Bryan.

Raleigh Post.

The Populist State convention Wednesday instructed the delegation to the National convention to vote for Wm. J. Bryan for president, but this action was taken under the lash, so to speak. Butler and his henchmen realized that there was strong anti-Bryan sentiment in the convention and Dr. Cyrus Thompson was brought forward to stampede the convention, which he did and cleverly at that. When Harry Skinner asked the delegates if they really wanted Bryan the shouts of "No" were equally as numerous and demonstrative as those of "Yes." At one time the "Nays" appeared to be greater than the "Yees."

T. E. McCaskey, of Martin, one of the leading lights in the convention, frankly said yesterday morning before taking the train, "I don't believe the convention was really for Bryan. The result might have been different."

Rev. Dr. T. W. Babb said along this line: "The convention was really against Bryan, and only wanted an opportunity to say so. If Harry Skinner had shown judgment he could have knocked the Bryan instruction higher than a kite. He proceeded in the wrong way. Butler forced the Bryan instructions on the convention, and I have no idea that the delegates want him nominated."

Reflections of a Bachelor.

New York Press.

Man proposes; woman disposes of him.

When Cupid wants a vacation he goes to a woman's rights convention.

The average Easter hat looks most like last year's bird's nest with a big bouquet stuck in it.

When woman is getting married or converted it is said of her by the other women that she looks "unusually" happy.

Married men are thinner than old bachelors because every spring they sweat their fat all off waiting till their wives will let them take off their heavy underclothes.

What a man seweth, that shall he also rip.

How foolish an angel would look with an Easter bonnet on!

The man who gets to be famous too easily is the only one who knows how hard it is to stay famous.

Whenever a man kisses his wife anywhere except in church, he runs the risk of kissing hairpin.

No man knows the strength or weakness of his own will till it butts its head up against a woman's won't.

Freight train No. 74, northbound, was wrecked at Thicket, S. C., on the 23rd just before daylight. The accident was caused by a washout on the track, but fortunately the engine passed over safely. Several box cars were piled in the opening which is forty feet long and twenty deep. Nobody on the train was injured.

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GENERAL NEWS.

The Washington Post declares officially that the next national Republican ticket will bear the names of William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt.

The novel request goes to Congress from the National Confectioners' Association that the copper cent be withdrawn from circulation and be replaced by a coin made of aluminum. The argument is that "aluminum is lighter, cleaner and less dangerous to the negro than copper, which accumulates verdigris, gathers microbes and so transmits contagious diseases." To this is added the argument that the copper trust has doubled the price of copper, which has now become an expensive product, and that when this can be done it is time to replace it with another and cheaper metal.

The cotton mills around Abbeville, S. C., are experiencing some trouble with some of their operatives. Some weeks ago the cotton mills at Greenwood went through a period of agitation. The representatives of some labor organization attempted to organize a labor union, to which the directors objected and turned off all who had joined who would not abandon the union, and quiet was eventually restored by a number of them returning to work and the places of others were filled by the employment of new hands. The Abbeville Mill is now going through the same experience. About 60 of the employees were turned off several days ago on account of their joining the union.

The most serious scandal that has yet developed in connection with the War Department under the present administration is that American army officers in Cuba have been drawing two salaries—one from their own government and the other out of the revenues of Cuba. Over and above their legitimate salaries, they have been taking bonuses amounting to \$5,000 to \$8,000 apiece, and this with the knowledge and consent of the authorities at Washington. The defense offered for this by the administration is that their salaries from the United States government are not sufficient to maintain them in becoming style, and when the fact is cited that army officers are forbidden by law to receive two salaries, the strange answer is made that the laws of the United States are not in effect in Cuba, but that the will of the President is law there.

Reason Enough.

Chicago Post.

"So your engagement is broken?" said the girl in gray.

"Yes," replied the girl in brown, frowning at the reflection.

"What was the matter?"

"He basely deceived me," answered the girl in brown. "You see, it was this way: I asked him one day to promise me that he never again would smoke cigarettes, and he promised. Then I asked him to refrain from the use of tobacco in any form, and he promised to do that. Later I told him I had a horror of anyone who touched liquor, and he agreed to never touch it. After I suggested that I thought clubs had a bad influence on young men and I should expect him to give them up, and he said he would. I also took up the subject of gambling and made him promise he would stop playing poker and buying pools on the races."

"Well, you didn't demand anything of him, did you?" said the girl in gray. "I suppose he deceived you in the matter."

"He did."

"Broke his promises, did he?"

"Oh no; I could have forgiven that. But just when I was congratulating myself that I at least had reformed one young man I found that he didn't need any reforming. He wasn't addicted to a single one of the habits I made him promise to break. It was a terrible shock and I broke the engagement right away. There was no longer anything in it to make it interesting."

Pointed Paragraphs.

Chicago Daily News.

The perfumer is always a man of scents.

Millionaires are always capital fellows.

The front door mat is frequently crossed in love.

All the pictures in the rogues' gallery are not steal engravings.

A father should always be known by the company his daughter keeps.

The wise farmer leaves no stone unturned—especially the grindstone.

Corn in the field is shocked, but when it is made into whiskey it is shocking.

The price a woman pays for a complexion improver is always a handsome sum.

Occasionally when fortune knocks at a man's door he is in a neighboring saloon.

The counterfeiter may have been brought up well but he always turns out queer.

Hon. Matthew S. Quay was on the 24th refused a seat in the United States Senate on the appointment of the Governor of Pennsylvania, by a vote of 32.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

Baltimore Sun, 21st.

Lord Roberts is at last prepared for decisive moments in the Orange Free State, but the elements are against him. It has been raining 10 days in the Free State and the roads are deep in mud. The rivers and creeks are high. The necessary supply of horses and equipments has arrived at Bloemfontein and all the infantrymen are supplied with tents.

Conflicting reports continue as to the situation at Wepener, on the Free State's southeastern border. There 1,500 British troops have been hemmed in by Boers. The nearest point reached by the British relief column, so far as known, is De Wet's dorp, 24 miles from Wepener. General Brabant, who commanded part of the relief column, has returned to Aliwal North.

Gen. Sir Frederick Carrington, who is to command the British troops in Rhodesia, has arrived at Beira, Portuguese East Africa, whence he will proceed to his destination and organize his force. Weeks will probably elapse before his men are ready to move.

Baltimore Sun, 23rd.

Severe fighting seems about to follow the period of comparative inaction in the Orange Free State. The British relief columns, of about 20 thousand men, have reached and attacked the defensive positions of the Boers on the road to Wepener and it has become evident that if Colonel Dalgety's 1,500 besieged troopers at Wepener are to be rescued hot opposition from the burghers will have to be overcome.

The Boer force in the vicinity of Wepener is said to number 4,000 men. It has been separated into three detachments, one of which continues the siege and the other two deal with relief columns.

Brabant has gotten as far as Bushman's kop, 20 miles south of Wepener, and has been held up there by the Boers. He began an attack on them early Sunday morning, but is not reported to have made any progress. Meanwhile the Boers have renewed their attack on Dalgety's men, but without success. The Boers, it is reported, have prepared a series of defensive works on the way to Wepener and the British must take these in succession if they are to relieve the garrison.

The London Times, which throughout the war has estimated the Boer forces at figures far beyond those of almost any other English newspaper, has a dispatch from Lorenzo Marques stating that according to "information from reliable sources" the Boers now have 80,000 men.

A late dispatch states that Lord Roberts has ordered Methuen to retire from Boshof, probably toward Kimberley. This indicates that Methuen's operations have signally failed.

In Natal the Boers do not seem to be retiring, as was reported, but on the contrary they are showing aggressiveness. They have made an artillery attack on Elandslaagte and have attempted feints in several directions. The object of their tactics is not clear to the British.

Baltimore Sun, 24th.

At last the relief of Wepener—the town in the Orange Free State, 60 miles southeast of Bloemfontein, where Col. Dalgety and 1,500 British troops are besieged, seems near. The relief it appears, is to be accomplished by General Brabant, who was but eight miles from Wepener last night. He has about 6,000 men.

General Rundle fought indecisive engagements last Friday and Saturday, and on Sunday the opposing forces were still confronting each other near De Wet's dorp. Twenty-five of Rundle's men were cut off and captured by the Boers, as were 11 men of the Seventh Dragoons.

The column under Pole-Carew and French, sent to assist Rundle, has advanced 18 miles from Bloemfontein and is 42 miles from Wepener. The Boers delayed this column for a short time by making a stand at Leeuw's kop, a high hill southeast of Bloemfontein, but were forced to retreat when almost encircled by the British.

Exciting developments in the next few days are probable. The overwhelming force of the relief columns is expected to crush opposition.

The Boers, who forced Lord Methuen to retreat to Boshof, 70 miles northwest of Bloemfontein, are closing in on him and may isolate him unless he quickly retreats to Kimberley. Methuen has about 10,000 men.

The Cape Town correspondent of the London Daily Mail says that General Carrington's force is the only one going to the relief of Mafeking, and that no force of any kind is operating from the south. It will be weeks before Carrington, who is to proceed by way of Portuguese East Africa and Rhodesia, can reach Mafeking.

The agent of the Computing Scales Company, of Dayton, Ohio, has brought suit against a merchant of that city for using an infringement on their scale. It is called the National Computing Scale. The purchasers are being prosecuted because the company can't find the manufacturers of the infringement.

Three buggy whips were worn by a negro at Hagerstown, Md., on Saturday.

TART, TERSE AND TIMELY.

The Republican state conventions held since the Porto Rico tariff bill became a law have not dared to toss any bouquets at that measure; but the Democrats will see that it isn't forgotten in the campaign.

When Senator Daniel, in reply to the Republican contention that the President could do as he pleased in Cuba regardless of Congress, said, "I deny that the President of the United States is above law," he voiced the sentiment of a large majority of our people.

In ordering large payments to favored army officers from Cuban revenues, without semblance of legal authority, Mr. McKinley and Secretary Root got ahead of the imperialistic program and made themselves liable to impeachment. Mr. Taylor of Kentucky, has such a poor case that he finds it difficult to obtain prominent counsel to appear before the United States Supreme Court in his behalf. Hon. John G. Carlisle and Hon. Benjamin Harrison have both refused.

Senator Butler says the North Carolina delegates to the Populist national convention were instructed to vote for the nomination of Col. Bryan, and that he will get the electoral votes of the State.

Democratic harmony in the State of New York is making the McKinleyites very uneasy over those 72 electoral votes.