

# Watauga Democrat.

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**A Sample of Republican Rule.**  
Charlotte Observer.

With surpassing impudence the Republican State convention arrogated to Republicanism—and Republicanism leavened with fermenting rottenness of Populism at that—the exclusive ability to govern North Carolina decently. In view of this statement, it may not be amiss to cast an eye upon one—just one—phase of Republican rule in North Carolina, the immaculate penitentiary management. To mention it calls up visions of guards asleep at the posts of duty, of convicts' escapes being openly winked at, of John R. Smith's convict strawberry festivals, of the horrible scandals that penitentiary physicians have become involved in and all that dark history which we would like so much to forget. But this is not all. The financial management of the penitentiary is being kept secret. If Republicanism is the only means of governing North Carolina decently, why suppress the report of the penitentiary management? There appears to be "something rotten in the State of Denmark" here. The News and Observer publishes a little incident of a meeting of the penitentiary board that is interesting. It says:

"Sometime after that date when the law requires the rendering of the annual report from the penitentiary authorities, Mr. Claudius Dockery, chairman of the penitentiary board, wrote something and presented it to the board as the report. After he had read it, there was a profound silence. Nobody seemed to know anything about it. Some member of the board asked, 'What shall we do with it?' Another member remarked, 'I am not going to do anything with it. I don't understand it and I am not going to do anything with a report I do not understand.'"

Thereupon another member of the board moved to recommend it to Dockery, which was done, and the so-called report has never been seen since. It is rumored that Dockery said he gave it to Smith, and it is likewise rumored that Smith said at one time that he carried it to Goldsboro, and at another time that he left it in the Treasurer's office.

The question is, in the language of Tom Watson, "Where is it at?"

The Greensboro Telegram, commenting on this disgraceful state of affairs, takes the most charitable view possible. It says:

The last report made by the State prison authorities was the one made in December, 1896, by Hon. A. Leazar, who was superintendent of that institution. That report showed the penitentiary as not only self-sustaining, but with a neat balance in the treasury. This was accomplished under the Democratic rule. The superintendent was not ashamed to make this report. Now, under Rep.-Pop. rule, how is it?

The Governor has swapped off John R. Smith and allowed him to go without making a report, when the law plainly requires a yearly report to be made and sworn to by the superintendent.

Well, it makes little difference. For the time being the law requiring a report to be made should be repealed. It would be a pity to require John R. to perjure himself, which, in all probability, he would have to do in order to make a report fit for decent and respectable people to read. We hear enough scandals and disgraces about the present administration without requiring the officers to make them out and swear to them. Afflict us not with a sworn report from the penitentiary!

Well, there is something in the idea. A published report would doubtless be such a disgrace, that it would be a blot upon the fair name of the State, which is already blotted enough.

#### GEN. SHAFER'S ARMY.

Washington, July 25.—Rumors of various kinds have been in circulation as to disposition of Gen. Shafter's army, but the War Department has not come to any conclusion as yet in the matter. A sufficient force is to be kept at Santiago to maintain the position the United States has taken and to preserve order. While there is yellow fever in the army no attempt will be made to bring the troops to the United States. The War Department, it may be stated, is now bending every effort to secure for General Shafter's army an ample supply of nutritious food and also will see that the soldiers have a rest and careful attention so they may get in the very best condition. The medical corps is now making a careful examination of the army with a view of advising the Department as to the best methods of restoring the sick to health and preventing any further spread of disease. It is not believed at the Department that any large number of troops will be necessary at Santiago after the Spanish prisoners have been deported.

Raleigh Post: Commissioner John R. Smith and chairman of the executive committee Julius Caesar Lignumvita Harris of the agricultural department, given "plenary" power to "employ as many fertilizer inspectors as they may deem necessary" at \$75 per month each "and expenses," is a glorious thing for the boys. Rally round the flag, and hasten to the headquarters, all ye who hungered for pie and mourned because ye have found it not. The millennium dawns at last. All whom Collector Duncan and Marshal Dockery and the Governor have not as yet provided for, let them come forward. Call on or write at once to Col. Julius Caesar—he is the "Big Injun" of the pie-distributing pair.

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**THE REPUBLICAN STATE CONVENTION.**  
Charlotte Observer.

A statement of the personnel and a report of the proceedings of the Republican State convention, held Wednesday, if read by every voter in the State, ought to be enough to seal the doom of that party in North Carolina. The convention was composed almost exclusively of negroes and white office-holders, and the gush of its orators and the effrontery of its platform were sufficient to turn any ordinary stomach. There could be nothing more grotesque than the declaration of Temporary Chairman Blackburn that it had been shown that Republicans alone are competent to govern North Carolina, unless it be the absurd declaration of Permanent Chairman Linney—whose weakness is hyperbole—that President McKinley is the equal of Washington, Jefferson and Monroe. The train of scandal, incompetency and extravagance which began at the beginning of the present administration and has followed it down to this day, is the answer to Blackburn, and the fact that the convention endorsed it is evidence of the perfect hopelessness of the Republican party of North Carolina. It is bad enough to have made such a record as it has since Russell took office; it is infamous to boast of it. Such a boast is proof of a moral perversion for which there is no cure. Note this passage from one of the resolutions: "We hereby commend the administration of the State, because, firstly, the finances have been wisely, economically and honestly administered; second, the laws have been ably, fairly and impartially administered." This was read before the convention, and was presumably, written by Mr. Richmond Pearson, the Congressman from the ninth district—a man well born, well reared, well educated and whose associations have been good. If he could bring himself to father such a sentence as that, it is hardly to be wondered at that he got endorsement for it from the gang of sleepy negroes and white office-holders before him. That he could bring himself to it shows what Republicanism will do for a man, of whom something is by right expected.

"We endorse the Dingley tariff bill," says this platform further, "made necessary by the enormous expenditures incident to the war"—when all the world knows that the Dingley tariff bill was framed and enacted into law before there was any war or any prospect of war. Nothing could be more unandid than this, nor anything more unworthy than a phrase following in which it is sought to give the administration and the Republican party the glory for the success of the war thus far.

But, as men do not gather grapes of thorns, nor figs of thistles, neither do they get candor and straight-for-

ward dealing, any more than good government from Southern Republicanism.

Away with it! A man might believe in every tenet of the Republican party, and yet if he were well regulated and meant well by his people he could not afford to connect himself with the Republican party in North Carolina on account of the conscienceless association into which it would bring him.

#### Butler Not Communicative.

News and Observer.  
Senator Butler came up from his home at Elliott yesterday afternoon and began operations very shortly after his arrival. The amiable and pious Mr. Stowd waiting for the train to take him out and when the Senator laid the Congressman by the arm for a minute's conversation there was one of those sharp contrasts in which recent North Carolina politics has so abounded. The Congressman is as soon and guileless as any little lamb; the Senator is not as open and guileless as any little lamb.

The Senator repaired to the office of his newspaper and turned in a batch of warm stuff for that lamp to the feet and then went to make a tour of the Capitol in tow of Dr. Thomson, and incidentally to advise as to the lay of the land.

Mr. Butler was seen later at his hotel. The point blank question was put to him:

"Do you favor fusion with the Republican party in this State?"

It was plain and simple enough, but the Senator is not good at answering questions. He replied: "I prefer not to answer that now; I have virtually answered it in an editorial in the Caucasian which appears tomorrow."

The Senator also preferred not to give the nature of his answer in the Caucasian. He could not undertake to say either whether there would be fusion between Populists and Republicans in the counties and Congressional districts generally. How should he know? He really could not tell what "the people" would do. They managed their own affairs. In some places, he said, Democrats and Populists were trying to fuse. As to the Judges to be elected this fall Mr. Butler was equally in the dark. He could only say that generally the Populists favored a nonpartisan Judiciary. He declared that they were willing to vote for fearless, able and impartial men like Judge Hoke regardless of party.

As to the recent talk of the Western Union Telegraph and Pullman Car Companies in denying the jurisdiction of the railroad commission the Senator paused in his walk up and down the room long enough to utter the one word "rot," which he did with emphasis and evident satisfaction. Then he hurried away to keep an urgent appointment.

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#### A Protest and Suggestion.

Do we correctly understand the Washington Post to propose that the name of the Maria Teresa, if she can be recovered and rebuilt, shall be the Maine? The Post says:

"All see a certain poetic justice in the fact that the Vizcaya and the Oquendo, the two Spanish ships which lay in Havana harbor gloating over the wreck of the Maine, have been utterly destroyed. But the Spanish flagship is almost certain to be saved, and it is the universal sentiment that she should replace the lost Maine in the United States navy. Although designated as a cruiser, the Infanta Maria Teresa is practically a battleship of the second class."

We beg to enter a modest protest. The Maria Teresa was a Spanish ship, of foreign make, sent to our shores to make trouble for us. We can properly take her into the navy, but she should be given a name that will forever mark her as, in a way, not of our inner circle, while at the same time recalling the victory in which she was won. The name Santiago will do.

As for the battleship or cruiser that receives the name Maine let her be American from keel to the top of her military masts—built of American stock.—Asheville Citizen.

#### Threatening to Take Mott Down.

It seems that "hot times" and "hot stuff" still grow out of the Republican convention here, when Linney's appointee to office nominated him. We get it reliably that chairman Holton, of the Rep. Ex. Com., said just after the State convention that if Marsh Mott didn't draw in his horns, make sufficient apologies to Linney and "the powers that be," and give Linney his heartiest support, his (Mott's) name would be taken down and some other name put in its place. Holton says the Linney office holders and the kickers amount to nothing, and that the State convention put Linney in as chairman as endorsement of his nomination and the methods used to secure it, and also for the purpose of humiliating Mott. He says they are going to teach these obstreperous fellows that they must bow to "the powers that be."

Holton says they've got Mott in a hole and he'll have to do their bidding or stay in the hole.

We shall see what we shall see.—Chronicle.

A subscriber at Henrietta, N. C., writes us a lengthy letter, closing with the following:

Me and my wife raised ten children and all is alive and all is married and about 80 grandchildren and I think that you could afford to give an old man your paper free. Right again soon and I will answer it. I have something to tell you next time, says an exchange.

News and Observer: The political skies brighten daily. The Republican State convention helping along. Its manipulation by office-holders, its applause of White's vicious speech, and its endorsement of all the villainies under Republican rule gave cause for pause to white men of all parties. The truth about the mismanagement of county affairs, the elevation of the negro over the white man, the growing assurance and impudence of negro officials are turning the stomachs of honest white men. One speaker in the meeting of the Wake county Democratic executive committee said he knew five white Republicans in one township who would vote for white supremacy this year.

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