

Watauga Democrat.

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NO. III

WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our Regular Correspondent.

Senator Mason fired an unexpected bomb-shell into the ranks of the Philippine annexationists when he offered his resolution, starting with a quotation from the Declaration of Independence—"Whereas, all just powers of government are derived from the consent of the governed"—and declaring that the United States will not attempt to govern the people of any other country without the consent of the people themselves or subject them by force to our domination against their will. Unless the attitude of Aguinaldo and his followers changes wildly from what the latest official advices state it to be, we have got to govern them by force or not at all.

Representative Bailey won his constitutional fight without a report from the House Judiciary Committee, although the members of the Committee are understood to be unanimous in the belief that the acceptance of a commission in the volunteer army, by a Representative, vacates his seat in the House. Czar Reed won Mr. Bailey's fight for him, by refusing to certify the vouchers for the pay of the three members of the House who hold commissions.

The mail of Southern Senators and Representatives is full of protests from ex-Confederate soldiers against the proposal of Senator Butler, of N. C., to give them United States pensions. Senator Pascal presented a formal memorial to the Senate against the Butler idea, from the Confederate veterans of Ocala, Fla.

The House has administered its annual scare to the Civil Service Commission, and it was more real than usual. This time, the House, sitting as a Committee of the whole actually voted to strike out the appropriation for the Civil Service Commission, in the Executive, Legislative and Judicial bill. When the yeas and nays were taken, however, the appropriation got a small majority, and this year's scare was over.

Senator Caffrey, of La., and Representative Swanson, of Va., made speeches in support of Senator Vest's resolution, declaring a colonial system to be prohibited by the United States Constitution. Mr. Swanson, after pointing out that, in his opinion, the trade advantages we would secure by the annexation of the Philippines, would not begin to balance the expense of keeping them, stated his belief that the main support of the imperialistic policy came from those who are working to bring about an offensive and defensive alliance between the United States and Great Britain. Senator Caffrey's speech was a reply to that made before the holiday recess by Senator Platt, of Conn. He said: "Here the

bold proposition is advanced that the right to govern is broad and imperial and without limitation by our constitution. If the argument advanced by the Senator from Connecticut be true and sound, then the individual right of man are to be held by the United States under a Congressional despotism. Our Constitution knows no despotisms; it sedulously provides against despotism; but right here is a despotism of the most flagrant character possible."

No one doubts that the treaty of Peace, which went to the Senate last week, will in due time receive the necessary number of votes to ratify it, with a number to spare, but it does not necessarily follow that the Senate will, in the meantime, consent to be muzzled. This was fully demonstrated when the Senate adopted, over the vigorous protest of Senator Davis, Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations, and late a Peace Commissioner, Senator Hoar's resolution calling upon the President, if not incompatible with public interests, to send to the Senate copies of all instructions given to the Peace Commissioners, and of all correspondence with the Commissioners during their stay in Paris. The Senate took the ground that it ought to have this information before voting on the treaty.

The boys who tried to eat the "embalmed" beef issued to them in Cuba and Porto Rico will have to read the testimony of Alger-controlled army officers in order to find out what elegant beef that was, and how mistaken they were in finding fault with it. A man who was in both places and who knew what he was talking about remarked: "The testimony of some of these officers is quite nauseating to me as that embalmed beef was."

There are reasons for the belief that his dickering with Aguinaldo cost E. Spencer Pratt, the position of United States Consul at Singapore, at which Robt. A. Mosley, of Alabama, has been nominated. Pratt was largely responsible for Aguinaldo's being taken to Manila by Admiral Dewey, a fact of which he boasted in recently published official correspondence. It is stated that Pratt resigned his position, but he was probably officially invited to do so.

As a rule, democrats in Congress decline to discuss, for publication, the statement against silver and in favor of expansion, made by Mr. Richard Croker, head of the Tammany organization, further than to say that they accept Mr. Croker's assertion that the statement was made as his individual opinion; and that as such it is worth no more than the opinion of any other individual democrat of equal prominence. Privately, a number of them have expressed the opinion, that so far as anything he can accomplish by going to the Democratic National Convention, is concerned, Mr. Croker might just as well stay at home.

What the Penitentiary Cost—Under Democrats and Radicals—A Contrast.

News and Observer.

The action of the Democratic caucus makes it certain now that the penitentiary will shortly be under a Democratic Superintendent selected by the Democratic members of this General Assembly. The rotten condition of the institution, together with the responsibility that rests upon the party in power, makes such action necessary.

The penitentiary can be made self supporting under economical, careful and prudent management, but it is a very hard thing even then to do so. Under the efficient management of Mr. Leazer, the expenses of the four years were as follows:

1893.....	\$ 137,061.29
1894.....	137,741.36
1895.....	131,625.26
1896.....	140,504.91

Total.....\$ 546,932.82 or an average of \$136,733.20 per year.

What the penitentiary cost under John R. Smith is as difficult to answer as the old query "Who struck Billy Patterson?" In his recent report, ex-Superintendent Mewbone tells how much the penitentiary cost in 1898:

Audited bills paid.....	\$ 107,713.21
Audited bills unpaid.....	62,670.39
	170,383.60
Democratic average.....	136,733.20

Excess by Mewbone \$33,550.40

These figures are from the official reports. Why did Mr. Mewbone spend in 1898 the sum of \$33,550.40 more than Mr. Leazer averaged during the four years he was at the helm? One answer is that Mr. Mewbone had a gang of second-class politicians, an incompetent board, and is a poor manager.

The Legislature must make its own investigation under oath. The experts appointed by Capt. Day cannot get at the true condition because they have no power to administer oaths. The people want to know the exact condition of the penitentiary to a cent even if there has been no stealing. If there has been any stealing, they want to send the thieves to the penitentiary, no matter who they are. If the loss is due to incompetence and extravagance, they want to know the exact amount that has been wasted. It is probably true that the Legislative Committee cannot complete the investigation during the sixty days' session but they can ascertain enough to make reasonably certain what the true condition is, and, has been suggested, if they do not finish the work before sixty days expire, they can be authorized to sit during the recess. There is plenty of evidence if it can be secured, to make an other Fraud Commission Report to stand as a perpetual reminder of Radical rule.

An exchange says: "We live in a land of high mountains, high taxes, low valleys and low wages, big crooked rivers and big crooked statesmen, big lakes, big strikes, big pumpkins, big drunks, big men with big pumpkin heads, silver streams that gambol in the mountains and pious politicians who gambol in the night, roaring cataracts and roaring orators, fast trains, fast horses, fast young men, and girls, fast, fast, sharp lawyers, sharp financiers and sharp toed shoes, noisy children, fertile plains that lie like a sheet of water, and thousands of newspapers that lie like thunder, and these thousands of newspapers have thousands of delinquent subscribers who lie like blazes and won't pay a cent."

A Legalized Primary.

Asheville Citizen.

The Citizen believes that the Legislature should enact what is known in other States as the primary system, and put it in operation in North Carolina.

There has been a feeling in the minds of many of our citizens, and ordinarily it is found in the better class, that the great mass of the people—those who do not hold office, or expect to hold office—do not have a sufficient voice in the naming of the candidates for the various offices they are called upon to fill from time to time.

And this feeling has been very much intensified now that the better element of our citizenship feels that in the future the colored vote will not play the prominent part in politics that it has in the past. Hereafter the most important part of politics in North Carolina will be the nomination of candidates. The candidates nominated by the white people will be the ones elected, and in naming them the white people be given a chance to participate.

Now a primary that has no more significance than mere party policy is not what is wanted. There should be system of primaries adopted having about it all the legal safeguards that ordinarily attach to elections. Then the conflicts will be for nominations and the people will express themselves at the point where the greatest care should be taken. It is impossible to have bad officials if none but the best men are nominated.

The time is near at hand in North Carolina when it will not do to make nominations by manipulating meetings and conventions and then expect the nominees to be elected whether fit or unfit. If Democracy is fit to rule North Carolina it must show that fitness by nominating for office only those men who are known to be capable of making good officials.

Gastonia Gazette: We have read somewhere a hint that the law [for separate cars for the races] would make it permissible for a colored nurse with white children or prisoners in charge of white officers to ride in the white folks' car. It is a vicious suggestion and ought never to be considered a moment. We are against it first, last and all the time. We are unalterably opposed to it. One practice that did more than any other to set the fashion of negroes riding in the same car with the white people was this thing of uppity white folks taking their uppity negro nurses into the cars with them. If we are to have a jim-crow car law, have it out-and-out. Let white folks ride with white folks without any admixture of colored nurses or stuffy convicts forced on people who enjoy riding without them.

La Grippe Successfully Treated. "I have just recovered from the second attack of la grippe this year," says Mr. Jas. A. Jones, publisher of the Leader, Mexia, Texas. "In the latter case I used Chamberlain's cough remedy, and I think with considerable success, only being in bed a little over two days against ten days for the former attack. The second attack I am satisfied would have been equally as bad as the first but for the use of this remedy as I had to go to bed in about six hours after being 'struck' with it, while in the first case I was able to attend to business about two days before getting 'down.' For sale by M. B. Blackburn.

CASITORIA.
Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*
The Kind You Have Always Bought

A Proposed Railroad from Cranberry to Lincolnton.

Newton Enterprise.

Gen. R. F. Hoke, of Raleigh, is at the head of a syndicate of capitalists that will make application to the present Legislature for a charter for a new railroad from Cranberry to Lincolnton. Cranberry is on the other side of the Blue Ridge in Mitchell county, near the Tennessee line, and is famous on account of the great mountain of iron ore of the same name. There is also an abundance of the finest quality of coal in the vicinity. The object of building the road is to get a short line to Wilmington, as an outlet by water for the coal and iron.

We understand that the plan is to build a broad gauge road across the mountains from Collettsville to Cranberry, a distance of 20 miles, and change the branch narrow gauge line from there to Lenoir, then make arrangement with the Carolina and North Western Company to change the gauge of their road to the standard gauge to Lincolnton and use the Carolina Central from Lincolnton to Wilmington. This would make a great railroad, and its building this summer would put out a great deal of money along the line. The fact that Gen. Hoke is at the head of the movement leaves little doubt of its success.

Is Biltmore to be Closed?

The following interesting bit of gossip about George Vanderbilt and his bride appeared this week in the society columns of the New York Journal:

The George Vanderbilts have sailed. They made a short stay in New York. Mrs. Vanderbilt dislikes America, but New York most of all. She has been brought up abroad and she prefers the life over there.

I hear Biltmore will be closed after this year for good. Mrs. Vanderbilt finds it too gloomy and she prefers a French chateau. What will become of it I do not know. Perhaps George Vanderbilt may give it to the state for a museum of some description. He used to be devoted to the place. But he leaves it just now in the height of its glory. There were house parties and private theatricals and heaven knows what all. But all of them seemed to bore the new Mrs. Vanderbilt, who besides, did not seem to take very kindly to her Vanderbilt relatives. At least, there were not many large family house parties during the first year of reign.

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Sure Cure for Colds

When the children get their feet wet and take cold give them a hot foot bath, a bowl of hot drink, a dose of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, and put them to bed. The chances are they will be all right in the morning. Continue the Cherry Pectoral a few days, until all cough has disappeared. Old coughs are also cured; we mean the coughs of bronchitis, weak throats and irritable lungs. Even the hard coughs of consumption are always made easy and frequently cured by the continued use of

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral

Every doctor knows that wild cherry bark is the best remedy known to medical science for soothing and healing inflamed throats and lungs.

Put one of Dr. Ayer's Cherry Pectoral Plasters over your lungs

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NOTICE.

Having qualified as Administratrix of L. L. Greene, deceased, late of Watauga county, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of the deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned within twelve months from the date of this notice or it will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. Dec. 15, 98. MATTHEW J. GREENE, Adm'r.

NOTICE.

Having qualified as administrator of Pinkney Underwood, deceased, all persons having claims against his estate are notified to present the same duly authenticated within 12 months from the date of this notice, or it will be plead in bar of their recovery. This Jan. 2, 1899.

C. J. COTTRELL, Adm'r.