

Watauga Democrat.

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Lenoir Topic: The "war for humanity" has degenerated into brutal wholesale murder of defenceless people. McKinley's administration is not only piling up an enormous debt, in addition to the iniquitous stamp tax which is draining the resources of the people, but it is staining the fair name of this country with the innocent blood of fellow beings. The blood of Able is "crying from the ground," and this nation may be justly branded with the mark of Cain for this butchery of the helpless Filipinos. If this inexcusable butchery is not stopped our people will find themselves an outcast among the nations of the earth crying out "My punishment is greater than I can bear."

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CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT.

Following is the full text of the Constitutional Amendment Bill as it passed the House on the 18th inst:

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. That article VI of the Constitution of North Carolina be, and the same here by abrogated, and in lieu thereof shall be substituted the following article of said Constitution:

ARTICLE VI.

Suffrage and Eligibility to Office.

Qualifications of an Elector.

Section 1. Every male person born in the United States and every male person who has been naturalized, twenty one years of age and possessing the qualifications set out in this article, shall be entitled to vote at any election by the people in the State, except as herein otherwise provided.

Sec. 2. He shall have resided in the State of North Carolina for two years, in the county six months, and in the precinct, ward or other election district, in which he offers to vote, four months next preceding the election: Provided, that removal from one precinct, ward or other election district, to another in the same county, shall not operate to deprive any person of the right to vote in the precinct, ward or other election district, from which he has removed until 4 months after such removal. No person who has been convicted, or who has confessed his guilt in open court upon indictment, of any crime, the punishment of which now is, or may hereafter be, imprisonment in the State prison shall be permitted to vote unless the said person be restored to citizenship in the manner prescribed by law.

Sec. 3. Every person offering to vote shall be at the time a legally registered voter as herein prescribed and in the matter provided by law, and the General Assembly of North Carolina shall enact general registration laws to carry into effect the provisions of this Article.

Sec. 4. Every person presenting himself for registration shall be able to read and write any section of the Constitution in the English language; and, before he shall be entitled to vote, he shall have paid, on or before the first day of March of the year in which he proposes to vote, his poll tax, as prescribed by law, for the previous year. Poll taxes shall be a lien only on assessed property and no process shall issue to enforce the collection of the same except against assessed property.

Sec. 5. No male person, who was on January 1, 1867, or at any time prior thereto, entitled to vote under the laws of any State in the United States wherein he then resided, and no lineal descendant of any such person shall be denied the right to register and vote at any election in this State by reason of his failure to possess the educational qualification prescribed in section four of this ar-

article: Provided, he shall have registered in accordance with the terms of this section prior to December 1, 1908. The General Assembly shall provide for a permanent record of all persons, who register under this section, on or before November first, one thousand nine hundred and eight; and all such persons shall be entitled to register and vote in all elections by the people of this State, unless disqualified under section two of this Article: Provided, such persons shall have paid their poll tax as required by law.

Sec. 6. All elections by the people shall be by ballot, and all elections by the General Assembly shall be viva voce.

Sec. 7. Every voter in North Carolina, except as in this Article disqualified, shall be eligible to office, but before entering upon the duties of the office he shall take and subscribe the following oath: "I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and maintain the Constitution and laws of the United States and the Constitution and laws of North Carolina, not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as _____, So help me God."

Sec. 8. The following classes of persons shall be disqualified for office: First, all persons who shall deny the being of Almighty God. Second, all persons who shall have been convicted, or confessed their guilt on indictment pending, and whether sentenced or not, or under judgment suspended, of any treason or felony, or any other crime for which the punishment may be imprisonment in the penitentiary, since becoming citizens of the United States, of corruption or malpractice in office, unless such person shall be restored to the rights of citizenship in a manner prescribed by law.

Sec. 9. That all of the provisions of the Constitution relating to suffrage, registration and elections, as contained in this act, amending the Constitution, shall go into effect on the first day of July, 1902, if a majority of the qualified voters of the State so declare at the next general election.

Sec. 10. This amendment shall be submitted at the next general election to the qualified voters of the State, in the same manner and under the same rules and regulations as is provided in the law regulating general elections in this State, and in force May 1, 1899; and at said election those persons desiring to vote for such amendment shall cast a written or printed ballot with the words "For Suffrage Amendment" thereon; and those with a contrary opinion shall cast a written or printed ballot with the words "Against Suffrage Amendment" thereon.

Sec. 11. The said election shall be held and the votes returned, compared and counted, and canvassed, and the result announced, under the same rules and regulations

as are in force for returning, comparing, counting and canvassing the votes for members of the General Assembly, in force May 1st, 1899, and if a majority of the votes cast are in favor of the said amendment, it shall be the duty of the Governor of the State to certify said amendment under the seal of the State to the Secretary of State, who shall enroll the said amendment so certified among the permanent records of his office.

Sec. 12. This act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

Mr. Council, of Watauga, who voted for the foregoing amendment, made the following statement:

"Mr. Speaker: In casting my vote for this amendment I am influenced by the highest considerations for the future welfare of every citizen in North Carolina. I am a firm believer in the truth that good government can only be attained through the exercise of intelligent suffrage, and the adoption of this amendment looks to this end.

"If, Mr. Speaker, any question of wisdom of submitting this amendment should be made, I point to the conditions through which Eastern North Carolina has passed within the past few years as a complete answer as to its necessity.

"In submitting this amendment we do not disfranchise any citizen of this State. We simply allow the people to say whether or not any standard of suffrage shall be fixed, by which future government in North Carolina is to be influenced.

"It will doubtless be urged by some that the adoption of this amendment means the disfranchisement of white citizens of this State.

"Such a position, Mr. Speaker, is unfounded and I assert that it will only be made by those who are the natural enemies of good government.

"If I felt that in voting to submit this amendment to the people that I was voting to disfranchise any white citizens of this State, however lowly in rank, I would unhesitatingly cast my vote against the amendment, but feeling that I do not, and feeling that the brave, true, and intelligent constituency I represent will sustain me in doing what I believe, and what I think they believe, to be right, I cast my vote for the amendment."

I have been afflicted with rheumatism for 14 years and nothing seemed to give any relief. I was able to be around all the time, but constantly suffering. I had tried everything I could hear of, and at last was told to try Chamberlain's Pain Balm, which I did and was immediately relieved and in a short time was cured. I am happy to say it has not yet returned.—JOHN EDGAR, Germantown, Calif. Sold by M. B. Blackburn.

Andrew Carnegie has given \$100,000 to found a public library in Atlanta, Ga.

Letter from the State Capitol.

Editor Democrat.

The legislative proceedings for the past week have been of a very interesting nature, as matters of general importance have been dealt with. One measure of interest to the State at large and especially so, to the people of Richmond county is the bill passed making a new county out of the eastern part of Richmond county to be called Scotland, with Laurinburg as the county site. The native population of this section is largely of Scotch descent therefore the county is to be called for their ancestral home over the seas.

The investigation of the case of the Wilsons who were removed from the office of Railroad Commissioners by Governor Russell also attracted attention. The committee on the part of both houses, charged with looking into the matter and reporting to the legislature, has taken all the evidence to be offered, and made a report to the effect that both Maj. J. W. Wilson and S. Otho Wilson were wrongfully deprived of their offices and should be reinstated which of course carries with it their salaries for the past eighteen months since they were removed. Action on the report was postponed until next Tuesday when it will come up for final action. I find that there is considerable opposition among the members to adopting the committee's report and there may be a lively fight over it.

A Road law applying to Watauga, Ashe and Alleghany counties was passed during the week. It is the old law substantially, with some amendments, but without any special tax feature. The greatest interest was taken in the discussion of and final action on the constitutional amendments. The act submitting the amendments to the people was voted on yesterday, and the galleries and lobbies were crowded by intensely interested spectators. All the democratic members had been urged to be present, and as many were sick, and some known to be opposed to the bill, its supporters were very careful to be sure of a sufficient member being present to secure the required three-fifths vote in favor of the measure. Some very strong and touching speeches were made by advocates of the bill, notably Rountree and Winston, and they were loudly cheered by the spectators and members. Several republican members spoke against the bill, among them, Isaac Smith, and two other negro members from eastern counties. The roll call showed 79 votes in favor of the measure which was 7 more than actually required to submit to the people. The result was greeted by great demonstrations of enthusiasm in the crowded hall. Only a very few democrats voted against the bill, while nearly or quite all the populists voted aye, but the republicans were solidly against it. To-day the bill went to the Senate and after

a very interesting discussion it was passed by the very decisive vote of 42 to 6. Senators Glenn, Fields and others made strong speeches, and again the galleries were packed, many ladies being present both days and taking a lively interest in the discussions.

Next week will be a busy one as a great many important measures are yet to be acted upon, and the legislators seem anxious to get through and go home. It is thought now that the new Board of Directors will get control of the Penitentiary Monday as Capt. Day has agreed to surrender to them but reserves the right to bring suit in the courts to test the legality of the new board, and for the office of Superintendent and the salary belonging thereto. Much interest is manifested here as the final result, as Capt. Day is considered a hard hand to deal with when he gets stirred up.

CORRESPONDENT.

Feb. 18th, 1899.

For Turn-pike Charters.

Editor Democrat.

Why not get W. B. Council, while at Raleigh, to see about charters for turnpike roads in Watauga county? No county can have too many good roads, and we need a turnpike leaving turnpike at W. D. Edmisten's down New River to Three Forks church, from there following the Wilkesboro road to Wilkes county line. Then one from Boone via J. P. Council's to connect with Elk Park turnpike at Taylor's on Watauga River. Twenty per cent. on the hundred dollars worth of property, and 60 cents on the poll will build these roads in two years. All roads leading to turnpikes should be greatly improved, and the people of our county would have good roads leading to Lenoir, Elk Park and Wilkesboro. Hope these improvements can be made, Yours truly,

A. J. CRITCHER.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

This remedy is intended especially for coughs, colds, croup, whooping cough and influenza. It has become famous for its cures of these diseases over a large part of the civilized world. The most flattering testimonials have been received, giving accounts of its good work; of the aggravating and persistent coughs it has cured; of severe colds that have yielded promptly to its soothing effects, and of the dangerous attacks of the croup it has cured, often saving the life of the child. The extensive use of it for whooping cough has shown that it robs that disease of all dangerous consequences. Sold by M. B. Blackburn.

President McKinley has sent a message to Congress asking that provision be made for a submarine cable telegraph between this country and the Philippine Islands, by way of the Sandwich Islands, and Guam. It is probable that such a bill will be passed by this or the next Congress.

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