

Robert C. Rivers,

EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

THURSDAY, Feb. 4, 1904.

Banner Elk Letter.

Mr. Editor: After looking over the political field, it seems to me that the Republican party is about out of Presidential timber. The party hasn't got a man that it is willing to fully trust. What ever objections may be made to the candidacy of Mark Hanna for the nomination in 1904, it must be acknowledged after a full and thoughtful consideration of the subject, that he is the logical candidate of his party. Politically he is acknowledged to be the butt cut of original sin, and the embodiment of all for which the degenerate Republican party stands. He is the accepted apostle of the first article of faith in the Republican creed, which holds that the dollar is superior to the man. He is the expounder of the doctrine that rich men must be made richer by making poor men poorer. As between God and mammon, he stands for mammon to a finish. He is the teacher of the demoralizing belief that American politics should be run on the huckster basis of barter and sale. He is the incarnate illustration of the right of the strong hand. He is the antagonist of popular government and a scuffer at the idea that a victory of honest principle is more to be desired than the gaining of material and selfish ends. Hanna has shaped the Republican party of his day into the likeness of his own image. The party under his captaincy has ceased to weigh the right and wrong of any public question. It took the sordid side of every issue. It put forward the bold and unscrupulous political adventurers who hailed Hanna as a leader after their own hearts.

But after all this, the Republican party will be false to itself if it fails to nominate Mark Hanna for the Presidency in 1904. It will not have the courage of its convictions. It will confess in effect that it's chosen leader and master is of personality vile and contemptible to make a winning race before the American people. This is a humiliating attitude for the party, but it should brazenly accept the logic of the situation and nominate Hanna in 1904.

PHANTOM.

The announcement that Congressman Klutz will not again be a candidate came as a sudden surprise. Who will be his successor, will now agitate the minds of the people. Different ones have already agreed to make the race, and most of the district yet to hear from. Say, it appears to us that some of the western counties in the district ought to furnish his successor. We have them plenty of these counties who deserve the position.

Belva Lockwood, the only woman that ever ran for the Presidency, is still practicing law in Washington and is now conducting an important case in behalf of the Cherokee Indians.

A man often has a powerful influence over a good woman.

An Interesting Letter from Horton.

MR. EDITOR: Within the memory of men now living no such winter as this have we had. The ground has been frozen since early in November, and traffic and mountain commerce has been entirely suspended during a greater part of that period, entailing a great loss on some of our merchants who, not being able to get goods from the depot, could not supply their customers. Several of our merchants lost money on game bought before Christmas with the hope of getting it on the holiday market. One firm that I know of had about one hundred dollar's worth on hand as late as Jan. 20.

But it is indeed an ill wind from which no good comes; so on the other hand, while it has been a very severe winter on man and beast, still it has been a healthy one. When the winters are accompanied by much snow and freezing you can generally look out for a good crop year to follow. Now the reason for that is simple enough and any farmer who understands anything about soil and atmospheric conditions, will tell you that it is because the snow brings down from the air, as does also rain, an element or essential of plant life called nitrogen which makes up four-fifths of our air. Now while this very necessary plant food is so abundant in the air, it is very high in the form of bought fertilizer, but the farmer has two other ways to get it besides buying it in sack. One is by rain or snow as it is brought down from the air and deposited in form of acid on the earth, and while the ground is frozen and "spewed" up or after plowing is the best time of course to absorb it; the other way, (notwithstanding Steeple's Chemistry to the contrary,) is through the leguminous plants, such as peas, clover, beans, vetches, etc.

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ter a hard winter your land would turn over as soft and mellow as an ashe-bank, and that if no washing rains came to wash away your soil you made crops? I would like to hear through these columns from some farmer who has had experience along this line. I know the editor would be glad to give you space to say anything you would which might help the farmers, for I expect the majority of his subscribers are farmers.

"H. A. D." who, by the way, is a good farmer and an intelligent gentleman, asked me through these columns some time last summer where he could buy a complete fertilizer, as he did not want to stick to the ruinous practice of using acid phosphate alone. Now this writer was away at the time or should have done his best to get the information desired. I should say he could get complete goods—that is to say, phosphoric acid, potash and nitrogen from any of the fertilizer works either at Durham, Roanoke, Richmond, Norfolk or Charleston. Possibly he could get either or all of the ingredients from T. B. Parker, State Business Agent of the Farmer's Alliance at Raleigh N. C.

By the way, why can't we organize Alliance in Watauga? The entire State is being organized very rapidly by Mr. Cates, State Lecturer. Every other profession bands together for protection, why not the man who feeds them all? What is your view, brother farmer? Write it.

HAY SEED.

The case of the State of South Dakota against the State of North Carolina has not yet been decided, and may not be for two or three months yet. This is the opinion of Judge J. H. Merrimon. The case is one of much importance, and is watched with interest, as it is the first time that one State has ever been known to sue another, and it will take the Supreme Court much time to deliberate and decide on so important a matter.

An Austin, Texas, Dispatch says that Col. W. S. Burleson from this, the 10th Dist., arrived from Washington, having traveled 3,000 miles to pay his poll tax, \$1.75, that he might retain his privilege as an office holder in the State of Texas. He tried to pay it by proxy, but found that under the present law he would have to day in person.

It is said that Mark Hanna had a dream recently, in which he saw himself sitting in the Presidential chair. Yes, but you must always reverse a dream.

At Madison Square Gardens a few nights ago William J. Bryan declared that he was only a private citizen and could prove it. Admitted.

This is leap year, the first one we have had for eight years. Any one born the 29th of Feb. 1896 can have a birthday dinner the 29th of this month.

J. R. Burwell, a prominent man of States, dropped dead at that place on the 26th ult. He was for a number of years President of Peace Institute, and one among the state's best educators.

Congressman Klutz Will Retire. Washington Special 26th ult. to the Charlotte Observer.

Congressman Klutz today announced that he will not be a candidate for re-nomination, as he desires to retire at the end of his present term to resume the practice of law, and to give necessary attention to his private interests.

"It would seem premature," said Mr. Klutz, "to decline a nomination which has not yet been tendered me, but as I have been three times nominated to Congress, twice by acclamation, and each time without personal effort or solicitation on my part, and as I know of no opposition to my renomination, I feel that this announcement may be made without immodesty, and that it is only fair to the voters of the district as well as to gentleman who may wish to stand for the nomination. The district, though one in which the opposition will probably always make a strong fight, is, I carried it last election by 1,474 majority over my strong opponent, who was amply provided with the sinews of war and who was then in Congress, and backed by the most powerful influences of his party. The district is rich in material and every county in it has more than one citizen who would make a most creditable representative in Congress. My service here has been pleasant and I shall always appreciate the honor which my people have conferred upon me. I realize, however, that the end of almost every political career is disappointment and defeat, and I think it better for one to quit while his friends want him to continue than to continue until his friends want him to quit."

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