

Watauga Democrat.

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, N. C., THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18, 1909.

NO. 39.

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R. ROSS DONNELLY.

WASHINGTON LETTER.
Regular Correspondence.

A Senatorial filibuster is on in the upper house of Congress and in order to kill time until the trap in which the Southern Senators have planned to catch Mr. Taft shall catch its prey they are holding a debate on the merits of the automobile. Crum the negro collector of the port of Charleston, S. C., has been renominated but the Southern Democrats led by Senator Tillman have determined to hold up the confirmation until Mr. Taft assumes the Presidency when they will be able to revive the old race problem to his discredit. The automobile furnishes the subject of discussion by which they hope to postpone action in the Crum case until after the Fourth of March and as the relative merits of the horse and the automobile have never yet and never can be finally settled the discussion seems likely to be inadequate for the purpose of delay. There may be a few pragmatic people sprinkled thro' the country who would in the spectacle of a number of Senators engaged in a wrangle over the automobiles with the object of wasting time see something objectionable, not to say dishonest.

A great many measures are before Congress which should have the attention of that body. If every moment of every day until the inauguration were to be fully occupied by diligent work on those measures there would still be much left undone. Mr. Taft is elected and will be President for the next four years no matter what sentiments he holds in the race question and the trick of making him declare himself in the Crum case is for the small purpose of embarrassing him. It may be that Senators are elected and paid their \$7,500 a year with the understanding that they have the right to work off their small grudges and grind their axes in Congress but at least they should be constrained to wait for these gratifications until they have finished the more important work of making and revising laws upon which the prosperity and progress of the whole country are depending. It is neither inspiring nor reassuring to feel that Senators will evade their obvious obligations in the face of urgent national necessities to indulge in cheap political trickery and that they are so far unmindful of the dignity and responsibility of their position as to use it in spiteful bickering and deliberate pettiness.

It is believed that an attempt will be made by Congress to pass over the President's veto the census bill which the President regards as a measure looking toward the return of the spoils system. Just as quietly and adroitly as possible a clause was slipped into the bill which provides that three thousand census enumerators and clerks for the coming census-taking of the country should be appointed outside of the Civil service and Mr. Roosevelt who is an uncompromising civil service advocate, is determined to balk at the clause a veto the entire bill. Congress so jealous of its lately crippled prerogatives declines here and there that it will pass the bill anyway, and there is promise of an exciting contest when it comes to the point of raising the two-thirds vote of that body which will be necessary to pass it over his veto. Congress, of course, has something more than the vindication of its dignity in mind in this matter. Three thousand places ready made into which hungry constituents may be slipped with

out civil service qualification and its embarrassing requirements is quite a nice little pork barrel and it is not strange that our Representatives should be inclined to reserve the privilege of dipping into it for themselves. They are arguing that it will be difficult if not impossible to fill these places under the civil service since the appointments are temporary and will last for only two years but the President will not lose sleep over that contingency. As a matter of fact if the appointments were only for a month there would be hundreds of applicants for each place and a two years job at Government pay is attractive enough to bring out at least ten times as many aspirants to it as possibly can be required. Another objectionable clause in the bill which the President may be trusted not to overlook provides that the printing of the census reports shall be done outside the government printing office which means some more juicy plums for Congress to distribute, but the President does not propose to let either of these propositions slip through over his signature and a lively fight is expected. I have just received information that the bill has been vetoed.

That hell has no fury like a woman's hat seems to be well proved by that once-time interesting woman, Mrs. John A. Logan, whose daughter has achieved national notoriety by the vindictiveness with which she has followed up the charges against her husband, Col. William F. Tucker, Mrs. Logan, the widow of "Black Jack" of war time fame and later vice-President is an old woman now but she has never parted with her amazing energy and ambition and when Col. Tucker and his wife came to some misunderstanding over the Colonel's alleged friendship for a widow school teacher in the Philippines, Mrs. Logan assumed generalship of the campaign against the Colonel and has made Washington and especially the War Department thunders with her cannonading. Mr. Taft while Secretary of War stood the bombardment of Mrs. Logan, Mrs. Tucker, and all their friends without flinching or even the semblance of retreat.

The Secret Of Long Life.

A French scientist has discovered one secret of long life. His method deals with the blood. But long ago millions of Americans had proved Electric Bitters prolonged life and makes it worth living. It purifies, enriches and vitalizes the blood, rebuilds wasted nerve cells, imparts life and tone to the entire system. It's a god-send to weak, sick and debilitated people. "Kidney trouble had blighted my life for months," writes W. M. Sherman, of Carbig Me., but Electric Bitters cured me entirely." Only 50c. at all druggists.

When it was proposed to increase the governor's salary there was an awful howl from republicans, although it costs a governor more than his salary. When the president's salary was increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000 and the common district Federal Judges' salary increased to 9,000, there was no republican objection. A reasonable increase to poorly paid State officials is awful in the sight of a republican, but an extravagant increase of an extravagant salary of a republican Federal official is the thing. -Wilkesboro Chronicle.

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

Death of an Aged Minister.

Rev. Wm. Wilcox, the subject of this sketch, was born Dec. 7, 1818, and died Jan. 30, 1909, aged 90 years, 1 month and 23 days. The burial service was conducted by Rev. B. F. Wilcox on Feb. 2, 1909, in the presence of a large concourse of weeping friends and relatives. The casket containing his remains was then consigned to its last resting place, and will hereafter be a calm, peaceful rest for, for more than sixty years, he faithfully preached the gospel of Jesus Christ.

His untiring work for the Master through the long period of his public service, upon which no shadow of discredit ever fell, gained the confidence, love and admiration of all who knew him. He was a member of South Fork Baptist church, where he joined by letter 52 years ago. He spent the last three years of his life at the home of his son-in-law, Mr. C. Tucker, of McGuire, N. C.

If one could possibly reach a state of sinless perfection in this life, Bro. Wilcox surely reached its highest heights. His character was pure and unselfish, frank and courteous. He never used the weapons of ridicule or slander; never grew impassioned or angry; never allowed himself to take any part in the rumor of gossip of his neighbors. He fully believed in a "religion that would not govern the mouth and bridle the tongue, and make men beneficent and holy, was not the religion of Jesus Christ and would not secure salvation."

In his private relations as husband, father, friend, he was one of the most loyal and lovable of men. In the pulpit as a minister he gained the attention of his hearers by his pleasing and attractive personality and convinced their understanding by his candid and logical manner of reasoning.

Bro. Wilcox doubtless conducted more funeral services than any other minister in Western North Carolina, always carrying a message of comfort and consolation to the surviving friends weeping around the casket of the dead, with the blessed assurance that as they part with their loved ones, at the door of the tomb, they would meet again at the door of immortality. As he descended the western declivity of life, he never grew childish or impatient; always the same jovial, great-hearted gentleman that characterized his home life fifty years ago.

He delivered his last sermon just one month before he died at New River church, from the text, "Therefore be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh." [Matt. 24-44.] The sermon was most impressive, emphasizing the importance of being ready, and the dreadful consequence of procrastination postponing the day of salvation.

His death at a score of years beyond the allotted life of man, is an irreparable loss to the church and home. "He was not only a preacher among preachers, but a man among men." "Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright; for the end of that man is peace." He bequeathed to his friends the priceless fruits of his life's work, and gone to receive his reward in "the land beyond the blue," but his name and virtues will be cherished in the affectionate memory of his many friends as long as they continue in the pious belief that God's greatest gift to the people of His care, is a wise and good man.

Z. T. WATSON,
Riverside, N. C.

Better Than the "Greatest Show."
(Columbia State.)

Where did they get these jurors and talesmen whose "doings" daily enliven the press reports from the scene of the Carnack-Coopers trial in Nashville? Was there ever before such a weird and woolly bunch?

First one juror announces to the court that he is accustomed to his morning toddy, and that he had suffered greatly the morning in question in consequence of being deprived of it. Could not he have it? The judge declared he could.

Juror Number 2 remarks to the judge that time was beginning to hang rather heavy on their hands: Couldn't they play cards? The judge declared they could, and added that they could shoot craps on the floor if they had a mind to.

Juror Number 3 is challenged on the ground that he was drinking when selected, and he admitted that he had been "a little drinking" but that he was not drunk. Questioned as to the matter of degree, he gave as his opinion that he never regarded himself as drunk so long as he was conscious.

The need of prohibition seems to have been urgent in Tennessee. Juror Number 4 was challenged for drunkenness. He was a blacksmith and a witness brought in to testify swore that the juror "would put a shoe or two on a horse, collect for the work and go three miles to a saloon for a drink before he would finish the job."

Another juror, so it was testified, or it may have been this same bibbling blacksmith, had not been sober for twenty-five years.

A talesman was excused from appearing before the court on the ground that he was celebrating his one-hundredth birthday.

Another talesman could not read "but his wife could;" lived within two miles of his brother but had not seen him in three years, had heard that there was a killing, but was not certain as to who was killed and who did the killing.

And finally we have the talesman who approached the judge, "accompanied by a buxom young woman" and complained that he had been summoned to appear in court at 10 o'clock and "had an engagement" to get married to the young woman at the same hour. What was he going to do about it? The judge appeared inclined to hold the talesman, until the near-groom explained that "it's dangerous to put it off," when he was excused.

This Cooper jury and talesmen is a wonder—and a joy. Where did they get it? It's a pity that Barnum is dead.

Washington Once Gave Up.

to three doctors; was kept in bed for five weeks. Blood poison from a spider's bite caused large, deep sores to cover his leg. The doctors failed, then "Bucklen's Arnica Salve" completely cured me," writes John Washington, of Besqueville, Tex. For eczema, boils, burns and piles its supreme. 25c at all druggists.

To Snuff Users.

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You must take life; the only chance is how.—Beecher.

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