

WEATHER

Partly Cloudy Tonight;
Saturday local showers.

THE EVENING TELEGRAM

READ WANT
COLUMNS

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ROCKY MOUNT, N. C., FRIDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 14, 1922.

PRICE 5 CENTS

BRINSON'S DEATH LIKELY TO CAUSE POLITICAL FIGHT

Number of Prospective Candidates Already Mentioned in Third District

GOLDSBORO MAN IS TO ENTER THE FIGHT

Matt H. Allen Mentioned as Candidate—Former Congressman Hood May Again Seek Honor—Real Political Fight Likely

Raleigh, April 14.—The death of Congressman Sam Brinson of the Third district, which occurred yesterday morning at 6:30 o'clock, will throw this district into another political imbroglio for when the condition of Mr. Brinson's health became such that it was evident he would be unable to make the race, there were definite though unofficial announcements that a number of men in the third would offer for the place. Prominent mentioned among those who will run are Matt H. Allen of Henderson, the junior who also reached Raleigh that former Congressman George E. Hood of Goldsboro, whose retirement last year threw the district into one of the bloodiest legislative fights, and also getting answers along this same line, attention is called to the fact that the taxes they the candidates or most of them have voted on themselves. Special attention is being paid to these points.

Three Salient Points

The country may levy for general purposes and necessary expenses in connection with the county government up to fifteen cents on the hundred dollar value.

2. Counties may levy up to 30 cents on the hundred dollars for school purposes. The rate is fixed at 30 cents on the hundred because it is estimated that with what aid the state now sends, the weaker counties will have to incur a substantial increase in freight rates from points west of Pittsburgh to Carolina points by reason of increased interest on the part of Rock Mount shippers as well as the decline of the Merchant Association in recent years. The tax will be imposed annually.

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The contrast of four years ago will long be remembered in the political history of the state, for it was attended by many that few that have never before been witnessed in North Carolina. Congressman Hood announced that he would return at the end of the term he was then serving in Congress, and immediately Col. William T. Douthit, United States Marine, for the eastern district, and Charles L. Abernathy of New Bern offered for the place. The contest was one of the most bitterly fought primaries ever conducted in an eastern district, which finally resulted in the nomination of the Goldsboro man. Abernathy contended that there were errors in the counting of the ballots and demanded a recount, finally carrying his appeal to the state board of elections.

New Doctrine Evolved

It was a thin time that the state board evolved the new famous political doctrine of not going behind the returns, and declared the returns as indicated that Col. Douthit had been nominated. He was consequently declared the nominee. Abernathy then tried to get a judicial determination of his case through mandamus proceedings in the courts, but the courts sustained the decision of the state board of elections that it had no right to go behind the county election returns, and consequently the mandamus was not continued to the hearing. The New Bern men then threatened to run for but finally decided not to do this.

Just before the election Col. Douthit's death still further complicated the matter. It was up to the state executive committee to name a nominee to run against the republican nominee in the general election. Some of Abernathy's friends contend that he should be named by the committee, but the fight in the district had been so bitter and it was so soon after the primary that the old sore had not had time to heal, that the committee decided to offer the nomination to S. M. Brinson, of New Bern, who was at that time and had been for many years superintendent of the county schools of Craven county.

Brinson accepted, of course, and was elected by a majority of a little over 3,000. The effects of the fight were reflected in the reduced democratic majority. The following election Mr. Brinson lifted this majority to 5,200. The death of Congressman now again throws the way open for another contest in this district, which promises to be as hard fought, though possibly not as bitter as was the one four years ago.

Brooks Action On Closing of Schools Brings Letters of Protest from Over the State

Letters Question Dr. Brooks' Position if County Commissioners Must Levy as Much Money as Educational Superintendent Says They Must

Raleigh, April 14.—The action of Dr. E. C. Brooks, superintendent of public instruction, in calling attention to boards of county commissioners who wanted to close schools before the six months term was up because of a lack of money, to the fact that there was no constitutional or other provision which allowed a school to close before six months term has been provided, has brought many letters of protest to Raleigh. Some of these letters are coming from influential, but uninformed men in counties, to members of the administration whom they happen to know personally.

Letters Ask Questions

Some of the letters want to know if the county commissioners have to levy as much money as Dr. Brooks says they must, because Dr. Brooks has the right to make up a budget and send it to the county commissioners and then force the adoption of this budget.

The answer to all of these letters, of course, is to the negative to all of the questions relating to the power of the state superintendent of public instruction. He has the right to force a county to adopt a budget he suggests, and no right to order the levy of a particular rate of tax or any county to do the same.

In fact he has nothing to do with the levy of tax and absolutely nothing to do with the expenditure of money raised by the county for school purposes.

All Dr. Brooks has to do with the school system of North Carolina is to see that the constitutional provisions are carried out under the state and regulations will be the business of the county and shippers which officials of the commercial organization have entitled.

Mr. Beaman's acceptance was contained in a letter received from him this morning by Secretary Norton V. Chinnocks. Mr. Beaman has taken the lead in the state's rate fight and is probably better versed in the freight rate situation than any one else in the state. He has spoken here several times in the past and is expected to be present by a large and interested gathering of business men Monday night. The called meeting will be held in the chamber of commerce as soon as possible.

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