

THE DAVIDSON POT BOILS.

MR. VARNER MAKES CHARGES.

In a statement from the platform he says he has been repeatedly threatened. Mr. Walser declares that a certain statement is published in the States' News-Tribune grows out of the failure to connect on a joint discussion plan.

Correspondence of The Observer. Lexington, Oct. 22.—The political situation in Davidson is getting warm. Several days ago the Democrats declined a challenge for joint discussion with the Republican candidates. On Wednesday, Mr. Varner, county chairman for the Democrats, being informed that the Republicans were saying in their speeches over the county that the Democrats were afraid to meet the Republicans, and seeing this published in the North State, the local Republican paper sent a challenge to Mr. Z. I. Walser, chairman of the Republican county committee, for a joint discussion between the opposing candidates to begin to-day, State and nation in the court house, and to continue next week in the county. To-day at the appointed time, the Republicans did not show up. The Democratic candidates were on hand, and addressed about 100 people. Chairman Varner read the challenge, and made this statement:

A PLAIN STATEMENT. I have owned and published the Dispatch since May 4, 1898. I have been chairman of the Democratic executive committee for Davidson county since September 1897. I have done all in my power in a legitimate way to forward the interest of the Democratic party and good government in Davidson county. I have been fair and courteous to my opponents (which they admit). I have never circulated slanderous lies about the opposition's candidates. Yet I have denounced the record of this party in county, State and nation in an uncertain tone, all of which every intelligent citizen of the State knows it richly deserves. I have been so friendly and courteous to these men that I have been criticised by some of my other party associates.

During the campaign of 1896 some of the Republican henchmen made threats against me for the county of hildagoing. Again, in 1900, I received various communications from this same crowd threatening to blow up The Dispatch office with dynamite, one threatening to kill me, and others of a threatening and slanderous nature. Again, in 1902, because I published the occupation of the candidate for sheriff on the Republican ticket, it came to my ears that said candidate threatened to beat me up or kill me. During the last year The Dispatch has received anonymous communications which were too indecent to publish. I think I know the Republican friend (?) who wrote them. I could have published many things of my neighbor enemies, but I have refrained from all this because I feel peace more than strife and "bad" feeling.

I am personally opposed to joint debates between county candidates for the reason that it is not for the moral uplifting and betterment of the county. But on account of the manner in which the Republican campaign has been conducted, so far, in this county, I felt it my duty to challenge the opposition for a joint discussion to commence to-day, Saturday, at 12 o'clock, in the court house. Z. I. Walser, the Republican chairman, took exception to the following sentence in my letter: "You and your candidates have been circulating a report throughout the county that the Democratic candidates were afraid to meet your candidates in joint discussion. This, of course, you do not do believe."

Walser informed me that if this was published both of us could not live in this town, which I understood to mean that if I published the letter he would kill me. I am not a "bully" and do not have fights or make threats. I do not carry a gun or arm myself in any way. I am opposed to killing people (and especially in this case), and am opposed to all kinds of lawlessness. Walser or some of his henchmen may whip me, kill me, or blow up my office, but they cannot scare or prevent me from doing my duty as a free citizen, editor of The Dispatch or chairman of the Democratic executive committee. I am running a newspaper for the greatest good to all the people and expect to stay in Lexington. I would be ashamed to run a dirty campaign and stand by my neighbors whom I expect to live after the election. I want peace with everybody.

Mr. G. F. Hankins, candidate for the Legislature, made a ringing speech, and said some very warm things about his opponent, Mr. E. Hunt. He read an affidavit of Goodman, which attacked Hunt's habits. He also attacked Hunt's record while he was clerk of the Superior Court of Davidson county.

MR. WALSER TALKS.

Your correspondent saw Mr. Walser in reference to the joint discussion and he to Mr. Varner's charges. Mr. Walser said that when he received the challenge, he went to see Mr. Varner, and that Mr. Varner charged him with writing slanderous editorials in the North State, and that he told Mr. Varner that he was not editing the States' News-Tribune. That if Varner published that he (Walser) had been circulating a report as stated, then they could not live in the same town. Mr. Walser said further that he would reply to the challenge that he had been in Statesville on business and did not have time to notify the Republican candidates, so that they could arrange to be here to-day, but that if Mr. Varner desired, he would arrange dates for a joint debate to suit both parties and candidates. Mr. Walser said, however, that they would not divide time with Mr. Cameron Morrison because it would take too much time, but that he or J. R. McCrary, Esq., would discuss the issues with him, apart from the county candidates at any time and place.

Mr. Varner said that it is the Republican who are so anxious that joint discussion, and that they can either accept or reject the proposition made.

RALLY AT SCOTLAND NECK.

Judge Winston Makes a Great Speech on the Issues. Pays His Respects to Roosevelt and Contrasts Him With McKinley. Correspondence of The Observer. Scotland Neck, Oct. 22.—Last night was the first time there has been a public speaking in Scotland Neck during this campaign. Besides the general announcements in the papers that Hon. F. D. Winston, the Democratic nominee for Lieutenant Governor, would speak here, the local committee had

MR. NEWELL OUTCLASSED.

His townsmen with one-voice and at 8 o'clock the people filled the opera house to hear Judge Winston speak. Dr. A. E. Livermon, chairman of the township committee, called the meeting to order. Mr. Albion Dunn, a rising young lawyer, introduced the speaker in a most happy manner. He referred to the great State Democratic convention in Greensboro, which nominated E. B. Glenn for Governor and told how the convention turned to the east, asking for a man to run on the Democratic ticket with Glenn from the west. Easton, Carolina answered the call with Hon. Francis D. Winston, whom he gladly presented to the Democrats of Halifax county.

Judge Winston arose amid hearty cheers, for the great audience gave him a round of applause which bespoke their appreciation of his presence. Judge Winston then thanked the Republicans in North Carolina who had put before the people a ticket composed of men almost unknown in the State, and argued that the people of North Carolina will be slow to take their government out of the hands of experienced men and place it in the hands of those unknown and without experience. The people of North Carolina are now independent and free and in some parts of the State the Republican party calls upon the people to vote as they drink, while the Democratic party asks the people to vote as they think.

Paying compliments to the Democrats of Halifax county, Judge Winston said he could not see why a Democratic meeting was needed here, unless to appoint a committee to go out and see if there is any opposition in this county. Referring to past days he said the Democrats of Halifax county are still ready to do their duty now as in the past. He said that the Watts law is about the only thing the Republicans have against the Democratic administration, and if a Democrat does not feel entirely satisfied with the Watts law, he can say that there is as much good and so little bad in the Democratic party, and so much bad and so little good in the Republican party, he will trust the Democratic party to keep safe the interests of the State.

The speaker contrasted the peaceful and happy condition of the people of North Carolina to-day with their condition of misery and unrest under Russellism. Speaking of our representation in Congress, he said that the people of the second district wish to continue in Congress Hon. Claude Kitchin, who gives the Republicans much trouble when he gets after them; but that it is the threat of the Republican party to reduce the representation of the Southern States in Congress.

Contrasting Roosevelt with McKinley, the speaker said: "It took a great and bloody war to separate the North and the South, and it took another war to bring us together again." McKinley was peaceful and desired peace and when Roosevelt came into office by the death of McKinley, he declared he would follow and continue the policy of McKinley, but he soon proved false to his own declaration. Roosevelt will be honest about some things, but he is very wrong. In thundering things Judge Winston said, "Perhaps dining with Booker Washington is what Roosevelt thinks is right, but it is not what I think is right. But that is the difference between Democracy and Republicanism this year." In any light, social or governmental Roosevelt's attitude is to break the peace of the South. Judge Winston boldly declared that in communities where Republicanism is dominant there is more of misery, discord and unrest. In Massachusetts there is trouble from strikes in cotton mills; in Pennsylvania the troubles are over iron; in Illinois it is over meat, and in Colorado over coal—clothes, meat, coal and iron, the four things which are the basis of our life. The things over which there are troubles in Republican States, "Where do you find better conditions amongst the people than in Democratic North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Texas?" exclaimed the speaker. "I defy," said he, "any man under Democratic rule that is not a garden of peace."

To the charge by the Republicans that the Democratic party is run by a machine, Judge Winston showed by a graphic description of the great contest in the State convention at Greensboro that there should be the Democratic nominee for Governor what heroic work it took to nominate the great Glenn. Through hours and hours the contest was kept up—all through the night—but the Republicans nominated their ticket in his mind. The crowd in Dallas in Dallas this afternoon. Yesterday he spoke at Cherryville. Both appointments were attended by intelligent crowds, the size of the audience at Cherryville especially being complimentary to the speaker. The crowd in Dallas to-day was diminished by the circus in Gastonia, but was still large enough to interest the speakers and to be interested in turn. A generous attendance of ladies graced both occasions.

MR. NEWELL OUTCLASSED.

These two debates at Cherryville and Dallas were sufficient to give an impartial observer a just estimate of the comparative merit of the two candidates for Congress as debaters and as representatives of their people. While it is difficult for any partisan writing of these debates to claim absolute writing impartiality, still the present writer while differing in political faith with the Republican candidate, believes himself capable of feeling extreme regret if he should do Mr. Newell any injustice in making a report of these joint debates and believes also that in this report or any other report he should rather give an accurate and indisputable young candidate for public favor too much credit than too little.

With this it had just as well be said that as an expounder of political issues Mr. Newell has not shown himself in either of these two debates to be in the same class with his opponent. For F. D. Winston, the Democratic nominee for Lieutenant Governor, would speak here, the local committee had

MR. NEWELL OUTCLASSED.

what he had undertaken to do as the representative of his people. He discussed Mr. Roosevelt, quoting from his books passages upon tariff the Southern people, and the cowboys; he kept his word that he would discuss the issues as matters of argument, that he would wound no man's feelings by his speech or manner of speech; he did not mention Mr. Newell's political record, save in the last sentence he uttered: "I have told you my record; I hope Mr. Newell will tell you his for he has a record and it is a beauty." Mr. Webb said down amid applause.

At the debate Mr. Newell's record is a mighty sore spot with my opponent. If he didn't have that to talk about he would have almost nothing to say." Newell then went to relate his changes of political faith and to give his reasons therefor, but in view of Mr. Webb's speech and thorough dealing with the issues that divide him in politics from his opponent, and his absolute omission of all reference to his opponent's record save as mentioned above, the opening remark of Mr. Newell made a distinctly unfavorable impression.

On two occasions further along in the debate, Mr. Webb called Mr. Newell to book for manifestly unfair inaccuracies of statement and did it in such a straightforward manner as to increase alike the admiration of his followers and the respect of his opponents. At the debate Mr. Newell spoke first. He anticipated the arguments of Mr. Webb and was on the defensive even in his opening speech. He did not measure up to the standard established in his Bessemer City speech last August, though it should be said perhaps that after a hard campaign his physical condition is not so good now as then. He can make a much better speech than he does, but his choice of weapons of ridicule and sarcasm are not welded by a master and do not affect the good impression made by his opponent's more dignified manner and methods of discussion.

LINNEY PRAISES GLENN.

Republican Orator Makes an Interesting Speech at Newton. One Characteristic of the Man—Severe on the Watts Law. Special to The Observer. Newton, Oct. 22.—Hon. Romulus Z. Linney spoke here this evening to a small crowd. His speech was characteristic of the man, and such as to please his followers, and entertain those who do not believe as he does. Linney is always interesting—always has some new idea that he pursues until it becomes a hobby—but interesting all the same. To-day Doliver was the greatest orator in America. Roosevelt the greatest military hero, W. D. Turner the best Democrat in the State, C. A. Reynolds the greatest patriot (Republican) in North Carolina, and Glenn one of the best Democrats and campaigners in the State. He is most highly commended Bob Glenn, both in private and public life. Referring to the Glenn-Butler canvass he said: "Glenn stood up to the great axe of Butler, and Glenn was about the only Democrat that could canvass with Butler." After this bitter campaign, he said, when the Democrats were courting the Populists, at a State convention, Glenn was making a speech, when some one interrupted to ask about the alliance with the Populists, Mr. Glenn replied, "I am a loyal Democrat. I am not here to give orders, but to receive orders, and go home and execute them." This the speaker said was a noble expression and should live forever. This is what the speaker's action in being "dumb until nominated, and then kicked the platform over," and said Glenn ought to vote for Roosevelt. He said all this talk about trusts was hush—that everything was in or connected with trusts. "Trust, you know, is a contract, a marriage was a trust, you could join the Church except under a trust, etc."

Mr. Linney paid an eloquent tribute to York's grammar, going so far as to say "the grandest book that ever blessed this world." He said the Democrats had confiscated it, barred it from the schools and the people are not allowed to study it. He intimated that some folks got money for securing the adoption of certain books, but he would not allege fraud. He said the State administration was extravagant. He exclaimed: "God knows Russell's administration was worse, but this one is \$1,500,000 worse." He was severe on the Watts law, alleging that by it the orchards of the State was confiscated, and that it destroyed the Lord's Prayer. He said there is more debauchery under it than before; that it is not a law to make a man, but a law to allow a man to be drunk out of his aples, but the environments are such that he cannot sell it, and he is tempted to drink more of it.

SPEAKING AT WILKESBORO.

Messrs. Harris and Settle Discuss the Issues—County Candidates Take Stump—Court to Convene To-Day. Correspondence of The Observer. Wilkesboro, Oct. 22.—A crowd of enthusiastic people heard the addresses of Mr. F. J. Harris, Republican candidate for Governor, and Hon. Thomas Settle, at the court house yesterday afternoon. This is Mr. Harris' first visit in the county, but Mr. Settle was on his "old hunting ground."

Mr. Harris, who spoke first, is not an orator and makes no pretensions along that line. He spoke in a conversational manner, stating briefly his views on matrimonial and State issues. "I know of no State," said the speaker, "that needs Republican policies more than does North Carolina." Mr. Harris gives the appearance of being an experienced business man, and his address was delivered from a Republican business man's viewpoint.

Mr. Settle is a winning and polished speaker and one of the best political orators in the State. As an eloquent speaker of choice, he is well suited to the occasion. Mr. Settle's effort, last evening, was excellent, as a political argument for the purpose of winning votes it was superb.

MR. HARRIS AND SETTLE DISCUSS THE ISSUES.

The county candidates, who have been canvassing the county and meeting in joint debate for more than a week, say everything is passing off lovely and all are enjoying a rest picnic. Mr. F. A. Linney, Republican candidate for State Auditor, and Mr. C. F. McKeason are billed to speak here Monday, October 24.

A two-week term of court for the trial of civil cases only, will convene Monday with Judge O. H. Allen, presiding. No cases of special importance were put on the calendar for trial.

Cotton.

New York, October 23, 1904. I am repeatedly asked why I am so bullish on cotton. The following, briefly stated, are my reasons:

(1) That the world's visible supply of American cotton at the end of the first six full weeks of the season is the largest on record at that time for the past five years, and actually the largest ever carried in the history of the trade at this time of the year at over nine cents per pound.

(2) That the stocks of cotton at the United States ports and interior towns at the end of the sixth full week of the season are actually the largest ever carried in the history of the trade at this time of the year at above nine cents per pound.

(3) That with the issuance of the Government crop estimate on the 31 of December the world will continue to be heavy on cotton, and at least 11,500,000 bales, and may largely exceed that figure.

(4) That as compared with the quantity of cotton that has come into sight during the first six full weeks of the season, trade takings are relatively the smallest of the past ten years, being only 28,547,400 lbs. as against 82,200,000 lbs. last year, and 85.6 per cent. in the year of record consumption.

(5) That therefore, there is no indication that the consumption this year will exceed, if it reaches the previous maximum, which was attained in the season of 1899-1900 upon the basis of an average price of 7 1/2 cents, and 10,950,000 bales.

(6) That spinners taking during the first six weeks of the season, 10,950,000 bales more than last year, when the consumption was 10,950,000 bales; are 28,500 bales less than in 1902, when the consumption was 10,950,000 bales; and 10,950,000 bales less than in 1903, when the consumption was 10,950,000 bales.

These figures I submit do not point to any uncompleted demand for cotton, and assuming a crop of 11,500,000 bales, and the maintenance of present prices, the accumulation of a large and burdensome surplus of cotton for the season should have no further progressed seems inevitable.

Proof of the above statements can be had in the following figures:

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