

STREET CAUSES OF DEFEAT. WILLIAMS TAKES POLITICAL

Democratic Floor Leader Makes His Public Speech Since the National Election at Wofford College—Summarizes the Situation and Calls the South to be Good Cheer—An Exhaustive Treatment of the Republican Plan of Reduction of Representation.

Correspondence of The Observer. Spartanburg, S. C., Dec. 3.—John Sharp Williams, of Mississippi, Democratic floor leader in the House of Representatives and one of the party's national figures, delivered most interesting, instructive and patriotic address before the Wofford College Lyceum last night. Mr. Williams' subject was "Politics," and as the address constituted his first public utterance since the election of November 8, his expressions were notable and important.

Mr. Williams was introduced by Congressman Joseph T. Johnson, as one of the few men who can hold the attention of the American people. Mr. Williams is a slightly undersized man, with a neat, clean-cut appearance. He wore a common brown suit of clothes, a collar opening wide in front, around which was a narrow string tie, which was somewhat wrinkled. His hair was full and bushy, although it had recently been trimmed. Mr. Williams would scarcely be used by a stylish tailor as a fashion plate.

A GOOD SPEAKER. His voice is clear and strong and commands instant and undivided attention. He makes no pretensions to oratory, but as a clear, convincing speaker, he has few equals in American politics. He uses the right word in the right place without having to stammer and halt while hunting for it. He gives every evidence of scholarship and a status in the living evidence of having a man may accomplish by application and will. Notwithstanding his topic was at times somewhat heavy, he held the close and interested attention of his audience for more than an hour and a half, and he never heard heard much longer without fatigue.

He told the South to be of good cheer, that it control its own destiny and should not dispose in any way of its birthright. The Democratic party is not my enemy, dead, and it had on several occasions gone to national victory in an election immediately succeeding one in which its defeat had been as great as that of the present year. The speaker stated as the three causes of the overwhelming defeat suffered by the Democrats the following:

THE THREE CAUSES. First, the association in the public mind of panic and soup house commercial and industrial conditions with Democratic control of the government. This was not justified. Mr. Williams said, for the same conditions existed in other countries during the same period, but on the surface it appeared so, and the people of the country did not examine very deeply into such things. Second, the division of the North throughout a spirit of sectionalism to cut down Southern representation in Congress. This spirit is even felt by some Northern Democrats, and they failed to support the South in the recent campaign. The third cause, Mr. Williams said, was the fact that the Democrats had lost the personal popularity of President Roosevelt.

Referring to the newspaper reports that President Roosevelt intends to have the tariff revised and reduced, reciprocity established with Canada and other countries, and the trusts curbed, the speaker said that if the President entertained such intentions and purposes, which he (Williams) believed he would, he would be the support of all the Democrats that he could influence. This statement was warmly applauded by the audience.

INTERESTING SUIT SETTLED. Stock in Davis & Wiley Bank, Acquired by the Late Mr. Tobias Kessler, Goes to His Grand-Daughter—The Elks' Lodge of Sorrow.

Salisbury, Dec. 3.—The late Tobias Kessler, a Dutch farmer who amassed the largest fortune of all Northmen, was a great character. Notwithstanding his large wealth, he dressed in homespun and copperas clothes and lived as a poor man. He invested much of his wealth in the cotton mills here, bearing his name, had bank stock in abundance and carried mortgages in great numbers. The old man was eccentric in almost every way, and such a unique character died when he passed away, that it was accounted a public misfortune, by those who never expected to see him die again, that he left no pictures of himself. He would not allow his photograph to be made, but some camera field stole upon him once, took a snap shot of him, and this picture is the only one extant.

Well, Tobias Kessler was always and he began preparing many years ago for the disposition of his property. There have been the usual law suits attending this division, but the most interesting one was settled today by the Supreme Court. This case was Earlhardt against Kessler, executor, wherein \$7,500 of the capital stock of the Davis & Wiley Bank of this city, were involved. In 1898, Mr. Kessler agreed with his granddaughters, Jessie Tresler, that if she would come to his home in miles from Salisbury and live with him and his wife as long as he should live, and take care of his home and nurse him when was sick, he would will her the above stock absolutely in his own right to do with as she pleased. He was then 55 years old and his granddaughters 15. She therefore parted from her father, mother and the family and went to her grandfather. She fully performed her part of the contract in his death, the will made named her as the executor of his estate, and she was named in his will. Her attorney on the other hand, contended that she was accepting only that to which she was entitled, that no one was prejudiced by her accepting her dividends to which she was doubly entitled under the contract and the will. The Supreme Court ruled that she was accepting those dividends, she was a minor, and a married woman, that she was therefore not estopped in equity to claim under the contract as against the will. The Supreme Court also decided, and this after the trial, that she transferred the stock to her in her own right.

The granddaughter, who is now Mrs. Jessie Earlhardt, is the wife of Cleo Earlhardt, a prominent and young business man. He, by bank and industry, cleared \$1,500 yearly, has accumulated quite a lot of property and has now two children. They were married in 1898.

SOUTHERN PINES GROWING. Another Visitor Becomes a Permanent Resident—A Representative of the Sunshine Society—Removal of the Postoffice—Personal.

Special to The Observer. Southern Pines, Dec. 4.—Mr. Jas. Gregory, who came to Southern Pines early in the fall for his health, is so well pleased and benefited that he has decided to make this his permanent home. He has bought a house in block K-2 and will erect a very handsome cottage for himself and two children. For the last week in November there were registered 35 people at the Southern Pines Hotel, against 23 for the same week last year. Mr. E. M. Mabeck, of Guilford, N. C., has been named as the operator of the station here in place of G. W. B. Thompson, who goes to his home in Aberdeen.

AS TO TRADING STAMPS. Mr. Norman H. Johnson Defends the Utterance He Made in Charlotte—The Resolutions Adopted by the Merchants.

To the Editor of The Observer: I beg to say in issue of the 2nd instant an article written by Mr. E. M. Andrews of Greensboro, in which he throws a little sarcasm at my utterance in Charlotte before the Retail Merchants' Association when I advised the members to refuse all gift devices, trading stamp schemes and fake advertising, but to invest their money in legitimate newspaper advertising because the newspaper is the trade the greatest inducement to purchase the merchants wares, and besides, the support of money is essential to the growth and development of a community. I hardly deem it necessary for me to take issue with Mr. Andrews as the majority of the towns of North Carolina have already either driven trading stamps out or refused to allow them to enter their community. In view of the fact that Mr. Andrews was one of the principal incorporators of the Southern Trading Stamp Company, recently incorporated with headquarters at Greensboro, I hardly deem it necessary to explain that trading stamps meet with his hearty disapproval. It would hardly be consistent for him to disown the use of trading stamps and then organize a company with a capital stock of \$25,000.

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THE WEATHER. For North Carolina: Rain Monday and Tuesday; northwesterly winds.

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IF YOU ARE NOT PLEASED WITH the meats you are getting from our market give us a trial. We are giving the selection of the cattle we butcher very close attention. The very best in fresh meats is offered by us. The finest roasts, steaks, veal, mutton, etc. Home-made lard and all-pork sausage a specialty. You vote here in the Food Library. T. H. AUSTIN.

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