



PRESIDENT JAS. D. McNEILL

NATIONAL FIREMEN MEET

PRESIDENT McNEILL PRESIDES

Over a Thousand Delegates Overlook Hotels and Boarding Houses of Roanoke—The Regular Programme Carried Out—Delegates Given Complimentary Trip to Salem and Norwich and Three-Hour Outing in the Mountains.

Special to The Observer.

Roanoke, Va., Aug. 14.—The National Firemen's Association convened here this morning with over a thousand delegates in attendance from every section of the United States. Every hotel, boarding house and many private residences are filled with the visitors. The events began early to-day and the Roanoke Machine Works Band gave a reception concert at the Ponce De Leon for half an hour before 9 o'clock, and at 5:45 the thousand delegates marched in a body to assembly hall, where the convention proper opened at 10 o'clock. President Jas. D. McNeill, of Fayetteville, N. C., presided.

After calling the convention to order, the Rev. Thomas J. Shipman, of the First Baptist church, offered an invocation. Mayor Joel H. Cutchin delivered the address of welcome to the visitors on behalf of the city and President Redwood, of the Virginia State Firemen's Association, on behalf of the State. From noon to-day the following programme was rendered:

1:30 p. m.—Topic "The Duties of the Hour," President Redwood, of the Virginia Association; general discussion by officers of the various departments and associations.

2:30 p. m.—"Outlook and Progress of the National Firemen's Association." Discussion. Complimentary trip to Salem and Norwich, for the lady guests; they took the electric cars at Hotel Ponce De Leon.

Complimentary excursion for delegates and guests to Blue Ridge Springs, train left Norfolk & Western Railway union station at 7:15, returning left the springs at 10:15. This was a three-hour outing in the Blue Ridge mountains.

BEAUFORT DEMOCRATS.

Two Representatives and a County Ticket Named—Convicts Worked on the County Roads.

Special to The Observer.

Washington, N. C., Aug. 14.—One of the largest Democratic county conventions in the history of Beaufort county convened here to-day in the court house for the purpose of nominating two Representatives to the next General Assembly and county officers. The convention was called to order by W. C. Rodman, chairman of the county executive committee. Mr. Rodman, in welcoming the delegates, sounded the keynote for a glorious victory of the party in the county campaign. W. B. Redditt, of Edwards, was named as temporary and permanent chairman and the following ticket was nominated: Representatives, W. K. Jacobson and Frank B. Hooker; sheriff, George E. Hicker; treasurer, Joseph F. Taylor; register of deeds, Gilbert Humley, clerk of court, L. R. Mayor; coroner, D. Joshua Taylor; surveyor, Edwin Tripp; county commissioners, H. G. Jordan, J. H. Oden, Thomas Green, W. A. Thompson, Fred Wolfenden, R. R. Warren and W. H. Stancil.

The convention was enthusiastic and harmonious. The following resolution was unanimously adopted: "Resolved, That the Representatives of Beaufort county in the next General Assembly be and are hereby instructed to secure the passage of a bill authorizing the working of convicts sentenced from the court in this county on the chain gang."

ELOPED WITH YOUNG GIRL.

Citizens of Big Ivy Township, Buncombe County, on Trail for John Williams, Who is Said to Have Deserted Wife and Three Children for 15-Year-Old Esther Carter.

Special to The Observer.

Asheville, Aug. 14.—The people of Big Ivy township, in the northern portion of Buncombe county, are said to be considerably excited over the elopement Saturday night of John Williams and Miss Esther Carter. Williams is a white man 26 years of age, and has a wife and three children. Miss Carter is a very pretty girl, 15 years old, and the adopted daughter of N. E. Anders, of Big Ivy. Mr. Anders, accompanied by his brother and two other citizens of Big Ivy, were here this morning on a hunt for Williams, and declare that they will camp on his trail till they catch him. Mr. Anders, in referring to the affair to-day, said that Williams had been working for him and lived within a short distance of his home. He said that the elopement was an utter surprise to him; that Williams had never attempted to pay Miss Carter any attention and that he would have Williams captured if he cost him every cent he had. "Williams," said Mr. Anders, "has a wife and three children. We never suspected that he and Esther had any intention of eloping until after they had gone. Then we found that they had been writing to each other and that the whole thing was well planned and executed. The couple eloped shortly after 8 o'clock Saturday night and I think they have gone to Spartanburg." Mr. Anders said that Miss Carter left the supper table while other members of the family were seated and, complaining of not feeling well, went out of the room. After 10 or 15 minutes a search was instituted. A little girl of the neighborhood told Mr. Anders of the plan the couple had for eloping. Mr. Anders went to Williams' home and found that he was gone. Mr. Williams is said to have found the letters that Miss Carter had written to her husband. Mr. Anders and his brother followed the eloping couple to Asheville Saturday night, but were unable to locate them. They returned to their homes Sunday and this morning again came to Asheville to secure the aid of Sheriff Reid. A warrant will be sworn out for Williams charging him with kidnapping, if he is apprehended. The officers at Spartanburg were notified and asked to apprehend Williams if he reached that place.

DARK HORSE AT WENTWORTH.

Stampede for R. D. Reid, Supporter of Regular Candidate—Democrat Name County Officers by Acclamation.

Special to The Observer.

Reidsville, Aug. 14.—The Democratic convention held at Wentworth to-day was a big affair. Every precinct was represented. The contest for the Senate was the most interesting. C. O. McMichael, had a handsome vote, but after the first ballot a stampede was started for R. D. Reid, who protested. His nomination came on a third ballot. Reid was a McMichael supporter and made a great fight to have him nominated. It is said Forsyth county's action in nominating Buxton, caused the Reid stampede. It is generally thought both will be candidates for Congress. Two years from now Mr. McMichael and Mr. Reid were neither candidates for the place, but both were highly complimented. R. P. Price and J. L. Sharp were named for the Legislature, M. F. Pinnix for sheriff and J. T. Smith for clerk by acclamation and J. A. Scales for register on the first ballot.

WORKING ON DOUBLE TRACK.

Mammoth Ballast Crusher Installed Near Spencer—Personal and News Notes.

Special to The Observer.

Spencer, Aug. 14.—Lane Brothers Company, of Lynchburg, contractors on the double tracking of the Southern Railway near Spencer, have just installed a mammoth McCollough ballast crusher at the company's quarry, two miles from this place and the plant is being operated night and day. The new machine, which is one of the largest in existence, has a capacity of twenty car loads per day and it is difficult to get men enough to handle the stone.

Mrs. A. C. Van Campen, wife of General Secretary Van Campen, of the Spencer Y. M. C. A., is critically ill with fever and has been confined to her bed for nine weeks. Little hope is entertained for her recovery.

Mrs. Annie Pennington, wife of Mr. J. R. Pennington, is seriously sick at her home here. A sister, Miss Kate Thomason, died here last month of the same malady.

The family of Master Mechanic W. S. Murrian, of the Southern shops at Spencer, with the exception of Mr. Murrian himself, left last night for a visit to Wisconsin, the former home of Mrs. Murrian. The father of the latter still resides in that State and expects to return with his daughter to North Carolina in a few days for the purpose of making his home here.

The Salisbury township Sunday school convention convenes in Spencer Wednesday night for a two days session. The principal speaker of the occasion will be Prof. Geo. H. Crowell, superintendent of the public schools of High Point. A large attendance of Salisbury and Spencer people is expected.

SICK PRIVILEGE ABRIDGED.

Southern and Other Railways Will Refuse to Extend Time Limit on Tickets Because of Holder's Illness.

Correspondence of The Observer.

Asheville, Aug. 12.—Rumor has had it for several days that the Southern Railway Company and other railroads would shortly refuse to extend tickets for patrons whose illness prevents the holder of the ticket to travel within the time limit. Asked concerning this rumor to-day, District Passenger Agent Wood, of the Southern, said that the rumor was well founded and that on and after August 27, of this year, the Southern and other roads would be forced to discontinue this courtesy extended to sick patrons of the roads. Continuing, Mr. Wood said: "Under the present inter-State commerce bill introduced in and passed through Congress this privilege has been barred and we can extend no tickets later than August 27, when the bill goes into effect, or until the commerce commission meets and passes on the point."

This prevailing custom of the Southern, which will end the later part of this month, has been most advantageous to visitors coming to Asheville and Asheville people. Heretofore when a party holding a ticket became ill and was unable to travel within the time limit of the ticket, a proper statement from attending physician that the patient could not travel was sufficient to secure an extension of the ticket for 30, 60 or 90 days.

BURNED BY SULPHURIC ACID.

White Man and Two Negroes Victims of Unusual Accident at Greenville.

Special to The Observer.

Greenville, S. C., Aug. 14.—While being carried from the storage room to the bleaching of the local plant of the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Company to-day a four-gallon can of sulphuric acid burst, saturating the clothing of two negro men who were carrying it, and sprinkling the face of Mr. Leon Pichon, who was directing the movements of the negroes.

The acid was strong and the room was soon filled with the fumes of the oily liquid. The clothing of the men was quickly removed and a neutralizing agent applied to the burns on the flesh. The two negroes were carried to their homes, suffering intensely from burns on the shoulders and chest. Mr. Leon Pichon was severely burned about the face and is unable to see out of one eye. It is hoped that the sight it not destroyed, though it is too early yet to make the examination, as the face is raw from the effects of the acid.

TROUBLE AHEAD FOR HOLTON?

Pressure Being Brought to Bear to Induce Investigation of His and Marshal Milliken's Part in the Indictment of Blackburn by the Department of Justice—Matter Being Carried to the President, It is Hinted.

Special to The Observer.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 14.—An investigation of the conduct of United States Attorney Holton and United States Marshal Milliken, in connection with the recent indictment and trial of Representative Blackburn may have to come at the hands of the Department of Justice. It is at least known that pressure is being brought to bear at the Department to have the whole story of the connection of these men with the Blackburn affair carefully and thoroughly investigated from beginning to end. Whether the demand will be complied with will probably not be known for a month or so until the matter has been placed before Attorney General Moody and possibly President Roosevelt. The charge is made to the Department of Justice that Holton and Milliken are guilty of conspiring to do harm to a citizen, and that they violated the oath of their office in the matter of indictments. The statement is made that both Holton and Milliken visited different people and attempted to get them to write letters against Blackburn to the Department of Justice more than a year before the indictment of the Representative. It has leaked out that they are charged with having gotten one man at Greensboro to sign certain letters against Blackburn's character as far back as February 5, 1905, more than a year before the indictment.

This letter has been on file in the Department of Justice since that time. Blackburn's friends are said to point to this as conclusive evidence, with the facts that they have in hand, that Holton and Milliken began a conspiracy against Blackburn long before indictments were sought. It is asserted that even if the charges of conspiracy against these men cannot be shown before a jury they are guilty of reprehensible conduct such as should disqualify them from service with the government. Holton and Milliken are expected to get busy to offset the threatened trouble, if they can do so.

TOO OLD TO MARRY BLOPER.

Age of Justice of Peace Makes Ceremony Illegal and Bride Has Husband Arrested.

Derby, Conn., Special 13th.

James G. Billings, of Thomaston, and Miss Grace Smith, of Somersville, eloped to Stafford two weeks ago and Justice of the Peace Washburn married them. They returned to their respective homes to keep the marriage a secret.

When Justice Washburn returned the marriage license to the town clerk he was informed that because of his age—more than seventy years—the ceremony was illegal. The Billings home was called by telephone, and the father, answering the call, learned the secret. Young Billings wished to be legally wed, but his father sent him out of the State under threat of disinheritance. Miss Smith traced him to Vermont and had him arrested and brought back on a charge of non-support. He gave \$500 bail for his appearance in court Wednesday.

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