

The Charlotte Observer.

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PUBLISHERS' ANNOUNCEMENT.

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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 1907.

THE LEGISLATURE AND ITS WORK

It was said in the editorial columns of this paper on the 21st of January that it takes some time for a Legislature to find itself, that in the body then sitting at Raleigh were a number of wild-eyed men with wild ideas, but that it is the history of such bodies that they become more conservative toward the close or when the actual enactment of important legislation begins.

This statement and forecast have been amply justified by the Legislature just adjourned. A number of the propositions advanced at the outset and which seemed to find favor, were alarming, and it was with good reason said that this Legislature was a menace to the State.

Happy under reflection and consideration, more sober counsel prevailed. The extreme radical measures were put to sleep, and regarded by and large, it can be said that the general results were rather good than bad—no thanks to the radicals who persisted in their malevolent purposes to the last.

We shall never think that the railroad passenger rate was fairly adjusted. It is not worth while to discuss the subject now further than to say that a fare of 2-1/2 cents on the main lines would be enough, with the right left the small roads to charge 3 cents, and that the abolition of second-class fares was a mistake.

It is not now nor at any time claimed that our own people are entitled to exemption from burdens laid upon aliens who have money invested in the State, but of itself it is not fair that the Aberdeen & Asheville Railroad, running through a poor and sparsely settled country, should be put upon the same basis with the Atlantic & North Carolina, the Norfolk & Southern and Norfolk & Western.

The powers of the corporation commission were wisely enlarged. Why the fixing of passenger fares on the small and remote roads, and the adjustment of freight rates are referred to, we do not understand. It is composed in the conservative judgment, of able and upright men, but if the commissioners are not equal to their responsibilities, they should be held out and replaced by men who are.

Returning, however, we have passed almost the only criticism we have to make upon the work of the General Assembly. Its bark was terrifying; its bite does not hurt. In its legislation upon liquor it was smilingly inconsistent, drying up the community where the people had voted for license, letting down the gap in that one where the Watts law had obtained, according to the right to vote when in corresponding cases it had been denied, and disobedient to petitions when in corresponding cases they

had controlled its action. Local self-government was not in the mind of the legislators as a principle to be observed or denied, but what most Democrats regard as a thing fundamental, by it as a thing to be played with, regarded or not according to the locality desired or what might happen to be the view of the person representing it.

This General Assembly was not afraid to spend the money of the dear people. That goes to its credit. It was mindful of the great interests of North Carolina, and went far to advance the welfare of the institutions, some of which are the State's glory, for all of which it is responsible. Not a dollar of this money will be misapplied, and for the liberality and discriminating judgment with which it is to be expended the people have primarily to thank those wise and thinking men, Senator Neil Archie McLean, the chairman of the Senate committee on appropriations, and Representative J. R. Gordon, chairman of the like committee of the House—good citizens both are.

To repeat what has been said in previous issues, the people of North Carolina will never cease to remember this Legislature with gratitude for what it has done for their inane people, and, concluding, there is more on the credit side of its account than the debit.

SQUARE DEAL ON IMMIGRATION.

That is really very good of the administration to exert itself to make the new immigration act bear as lightly as possible upon the South, and cordial appreciation should not be lacking. Since it became evident that Southern Senators had been deluded regarding the purport of the act we have had very little hope in the matter, and Attorney General Bonaparte's recent opinion appeared to make the ruin of present plans certain. In effect, Mr. Bonaparte took the position that the new law barred individuals from promoting immigration in any manner and restricted States to mere advertising abroad. The hand of the enemy in the measure became apparent, and whose should it prove to be but Senator Lodge's? This great and good friend of the South had, it appears, imposed upon the innocence of Southern Senators. Thus the bill, which could have been easily defeated by a filibuster just as the ship subtly bill was, went through unopposed. Such papers as The New York Times are roundly denouncing Mr. Lodge for the assurance which he had not hesitated to give.

But even though the Massachusetts Senator may have been merely maintaining his record of unscrupulous hostility to Southern industry, it is fortunately true that there are other considerations involved. Mr. Lodge is an old enemy of the President, and the view of the fact that he has always been the Roosevelt administration's Senate spokesman, assurances by him regarding an important administration measure—the avowed purpose of the act was to promote a settlement of the California-Japan controversy—could not fail to possess great force. Doubtless Southern Senators were the more easily influenced because the Brownsville affair had naturally left them disinclined to antagonize the President unnecessarily—witness the ratification of the San Domingo treaty after previous failures.

It is easy to see how natural and proper it is that the President, even though he may not have authorized Mr. Lodge to give any assurances, should feel it incumbent upon him to do what he can to make them good. The conference held at the White House Monday by the President, Attorney General Bonaparte and Secretary Straus with the South Carolina immigration official appears to have had important results. Mr. Bonaparte explained his opinion in detail, doubtless mollifying the harshness. In the words of ex-Governor Heyward, "The construction of the law as given by the Attorney General today is absolutely satisfactory to the movement for immigration to the South. It has never been the purpose of this movement to bring in contract or cheap labor. The question of the rights and powers of the States as to preparation of the passage of immigrants will doubtless be set forth later by the Attorney General. It seems certain that the new law will not deprive the States of any rights conferred by the former or present laws. I was very much gratified at the interest shown by our movement to uphold the South on practical lines and I feel that they all may have a clearer idea of its economic value to the entire country."

This is highly gratifying. Even should all Mr. Heyward's expectations may not be realized, the apparent certainty that the law will be construed and enforced liberally instead of harshly is most welcome. There is no reason whatever in morals why this should not be done, for the language of the act was so obscure as to puzzle even that lawyers and it is the very custom of courts to decide in favor of liberty and what public policy requires whenever they can see their way clear to do so. In short, the President has promised us a square deal. This bright outlook which a few days ago things looked dark is matter for very high gratification indeed.

The inventor of the machine for making horse-shoes, which has yielded millions to other men, died a poor man at his home in Connecticut the other day, aged 55 years. If his case were one of the rare exceptions to the well-established rule instead of being well within it we should have some comment to make.

IN THE MATTER OF THE OMBON.

We pass this on to The Charlotte Observer: "Has an Ombon a legal right to smell?"—Rock Hill, B. C. Record.

This important question has circulated in these parts for some little time, but thus far without an answer. The Record's request for information is preferred to the proper quarter and shall not be made in vain. Yes, the ombon has an indefeasible legal right to smell, and this right, while never conferred either by statute or royal grant, is none the less well established. It rests upon the open, notorious and hostile possession of the smell by the ombon family during countless generations thereof; in fact, since the memory of man runneth not to the contrary. Beyond even this title is another, upon which, in the last analysis, it is found to be immovably based. The smell belongs to the ombon just as a distant cousin belongs to the skunk, quills to the porcupine, power to the chameleon, briars to the berry, burrs to the chestnut and hard outer shell to the nut—in the providential scheme of things it is designed to serve as a partial protection. Every one knows how formidable a thing is the smell when first encountered. Had that been an ombon instead of an apple in the Garden of Eden Eve's woman curiosity would hardly have persisted in seeking full gratification; and even supposing the contrary, Adam, instead of being led astray by her, would have refused a bite with more energy than politeness. Wondering if her new breath was to be permanent, he would have elphged for a divorce, and lamented that he had not been permitted to remain a bachelor. In its wild state the ombon owes even more to its excessive pungency. This protective function of the smell vindicates its right to a place in the economy of nature and thus secures the sanction of science. The two-fold nature of the legal title thus becomes apparent. Originating in natural law and fully justifying itself for all time thereby, it has become firmly imbedded in human law likewise. Of the three forms of law enumerated by Blackstone, it has the sanction of two and meets with no prohibition from the third. The conclusion of the whole matter is that the legal right of the ombon to smell cannot be disputed. We trust that nowhere will a voice make itself heard in opposition to the manifest justice of this decision.

Since Willie Hearst, evidently in despair of dethroning King Bryan, has read himself and his white cohorts entirely out of the Democratic party, he can hardly expect to elect his presidential ticket next year. Instead of running himself he may prefer to put up a Hearst-owned candidate. If this is his intention we should like to suggest a candidate whom he could not only manipulate with eminent satisfaction but even abolish at will. We rise to place in nomination the Hon. Happy Hooligan, of New York.

BRYAN TO RAILWAY JUGGLERS.

"If Driven to Municipal Ownership, They Will Be to Blame." Lincoln, Neb., Dispatch in N. Y. World. If J. Bryan will say in his Commoner to-morrow:

"The argument against the government ownership of railroads has been that the roads can be managed more wisely by private hands. Yet, during the last few months the public has been forced to the consideration of the question, 'Do the railroad managers manage wisely?' The coal, famine-stricken and the people say, 'Why are the railroads unable to furnish coal to the people who need coal?' There has been coal shortage, grain has waited in the elevators, and thousands of people have starved for want of food. The railroads have stood for weeks upon the side tracks.

Every time the authorities attempt to reduce railroad rates, whether passenger or freight, a cry goes up from the railroad managers, but every protest made against the reduction helps to open the eyes of the public on the selfishness that characterizes railroad management. Competition is being throttled, small roads are being bought into great combinations, and the manipulators of the railroads are piling up their fortunes by juggling with railroad securities.

An important question arises, namely: Can railroad management be made honest while in private hands? The railroad managers are doing their best to force the people to answer 'No.' Will the railroads be honest if they are common carriers and undertake to perform their duties in a reasonable way for reasonable compensation? The railroad managers are not yet prepared to answer 'Yes.'

If the people are driven reluctantly to seek in public ownership a remedy for the evils of private management, the blame will not be upon the reformer, but upon the railroad manager."

SPOONER'S SOUVENIRS.

To Take Name Plates Attached to Desk When He Entered Senate. Washington Dispatch in N. Y. Sun. Senator John C. Spooner, of Wisconsin, whose name will become effective in the upper house will become effective in May. Spooner will take with him to private life two souvenirs that will doubtless be long remembered by his constituents. Mr. Spooner retired from the Senate in 1891 the name plates attached to his desk on the floor of the Senate, and a waltz locker in the cloakroom were put away in a cupboard by Alonzo Stewart, the assistant sergeant-at-arms, whose name, according to tradition, has been on the payroll of the Senate since the time when Senator John Tyler Morgan and Edmund Winston Pettus as boys played marbles on the streets of Selma, Ala.

"JOKE" ON A NEWSPAPER.

Man Who Wired for a Reporter Asked About That Trial. Pittsburgh Dispatch in N. Y. Times. The curiosity of R. R. Mills, a manufacturer of St. Louis, to learn how the trial was progressing caused great excitement in the office of a Pittsburgh newspaper early yesterday morning. Shortly after midnight a telegram was received from Mills saying that he would be aboard the Pullman car Manhattan attached to the Pennsylvania Railroad train due to arrive at 6:30 o'clock that morning, and asked that a reporter be sent to meet him at the station. A reporter was assigned to meet the train, and the paper held back its last edition in expectation of a big story.

When the reporter finally dug Mills out of his bunk, the man explained that he merely wanted to know whether Stanford White's sign had been placed on the witness stand.

HIS WAISTCOAT TROKED 'O. S.'.

Ghost Story From a Lonely Telegraph Office on a Railroad. New York Sun. "Bill Stokes was night operator up at Higbie Depot," said the talkative railroad telegrapher. "Higbie Depot was a little hamlet where the Chinese plank line had one of its block stations. There were only about two trains a year that stopped at Higbie, one up in the spring and one down in the fall.

"Bill was the only man the company could get to remain as night operator at Higbie, and they got him only because his folks lived on a farm near there. One day Bill up and died without giving the railroad company any warning, and the chief ordered me there as a relief until he could get somebody to stay there steady.

"The principal duties at Higbie were to block trains. A train never stopped there unless the block ahead wasn't clear. Messages or train orders at Higbie were about as scarce as all-wedding anniversaries in polite society.

"I'd got so lonesome sitting there nights and listening to the instruments clicking off their messages to other offices that sometimes in sheer desperation I would go out on the station platform and holler, 'Ho, a drink!' up the mountain side just to hear the echo get sociable.

"Bill Stokes' individual sign was C's and everybody along the line knew old C's by the slow and deliberate way he made his Morse characters. Only one person in a thousand could transmit C's in the same style as Bill.

"One night as I sat by the telegraph table, after the wires had elapsed into the usual midnight stillness, I was startled to hear the train dispatcher's wire open and C's, slowly and deliberately, came Bill Stokes' sign over the wire. Nobody but Bill Stokes himself could write C's like that.

"Well, sir, it wasn't long before the S. R. O. sign was hung out on every half of my head. It was either Bill's ghost practicing or his ego had been left behind.

"Then some other person on the wire broke in with, 'Don't know what you're dead.' He, too, had recognized Bill's fine Italian hand behind the C's. But the mysterious person paid no attention to the interruption and kept right on grinding out C's, monotonously.

"Do you believe it, every midnight that C's business would start up and whoop it up for an hour or at least to the expiration of the train dispatchers and wire chiefs, not to mention frightening me out of about seven years growth. The experts traced the mysterious characters as emanating from the vicinity of Higbie Depot, but I swore up and down and all around that it wasn't my office, and everybody was getting scared, thinking that Bill Stokes' shade was haunting the wires. It got to be a serious business with me.

"I sat there night after night right on the ghost plant, as it were, with the cold chills playing ring-around-rosy up and down my back. One night I got so frustrated that I could stand no longer and jumping to my feet, I shouted so that it reverberated through and through the little waiting room.

"Say, you miserable little shrimp, I shouted, 'If I can find out who you are or what you are I'll go to the mat with you, speak or no speak.' "I started a systematic search of the place. I finally came to an old unused closet and burst the door open.

"Hanging on a nail in this closet was an old office waistcoat of Bill Stokes, which he hung there the last night he worked. This waistcoat was swinging in the breeze, which came through the half-raised window of the closet, so that the brass buttons would be drawn across the wires which led through the closet to the instrument table in the ticket office.

"The third button on the waistcoat was missing, and the space between the second and fourth buttons would make the space the same as the Morse character 'C'—thus, two dots, space, dot, and the three remaining buttons formed the letter 'S.' "The insulation on the wires where they ran through the closet had worn off and the metal buttons made a connection with the wire, causing the letters C-S to be transmitted on the wire. It's strange, though, how they could be formed almost exactly the same.

Pleas Guilty of Sending Lottery Matter. New Orleans, March 12.—James A. Pierce today pleaded guilty to sending lottery matter to New Orleans, was cast over the country. Pierce, now an aged man, was an employee of the Louisiana Lottery for many years. Sentence was postponed.

PEOPLE'S GOLD.

The American District Telegraph Company delivers packages, parcels, notes, invitations, furnishes messengers for errand service at a very small cost. The Observer will send our messengers, without charge, to your residence or place of business for advertisements for this column. Phone 78. Office with Western Union Telegraph Company, Phone 78. All advertisements inserted in this column at rate of ten cents per line of six words. No ad taken for less than 20 cents. Cash in advance.

WANTED.

WANTED—A bright young office boy, for promotion. Willing to work good chance for promotion. Address in own handwriting giving his age. Address C. care Observer.

WANTED—A registered pharmacist at once. Call or write H. B. Maxwell, M. D., Whiteville, N. C.

WANTED—Position as clothing salesman in large clothing establishment. Have had ample experience. Can furnish best of references. Address Box 172, Lexington, N. C.

WANTED—Nicely furnished room, centrally located, by traveling man and wife. State terms. Address A. F. C., General Delivery.

WANTED—A boy for office work. Good chance for promotion. Address in own handwriting giving his age. Address C. care Observer.

WANTED at once, first-class bushman, best price to good man. The Tate-Brown Co.

WANTED at once, four first-class coat makers and two trouser makers. The Tate-Brown Co.

WANTED—At once, competent foreman for planing mill. Must be familiar with building material and must be able to handle machine. Address, apply with references and salary asked, P. O. Box 242, Morganton, N. C.

WANTED—Experienced salesman to sell our line of picture and room moldings in the vicinity. Give references and experience. A. A. Kern Co., Chicago.

WANTED—Middle-aged white nurse for care of children, and willing to do upstairs work. Must be well recommended. Mrs. Jno. F. Wiley, Durham, N. C.

WANTED—Motormen and conductors for the Jamestown Exposition. Must be sober, honest and able to furnish first-class references. Write or apply with references to R. A. Shirley, Room 302 Law Bldg., Norfolk, Va.

WANTED—For U. S. Army, able-bodied, unmarried men, between ages of 21 and 35, citizens of United States, of good character and temperate habits. Who can speak, read and write English. For information apply to Recruiting Officer, 15 West Trade St., Charlotte, N. C.; 254 South Main St., Asheville, N. C.; Bank Building, Hickory, N. C.; 47th Liberty St., Winston-Salem, N. C.; Glenn Building, Spartanburg, S. C.; Haynworth and Conyer's Building, Greenville, S. C.; or Kendall Building, Columbia, S. C.

WANTED—Good hand compositor and make-up man. Address J. C., care Observer.

WANTED—Man to run cross compound Carter engine, 100-horse-power, night time, \$200 for five nights. Only man wanted. New mill, fine location, in North Carolina. Address, with references, Z. Y. Z.

FOR SALE—10 40-in. revolving flat cards. Flatts, Chandler-Taylor engine, 60-h. P. 1 25-h. horizontal boiler, vertical boiler, 9 railway heads, Petee's 1-60-h. head, Mason's 4 Lindsay-Hyde rael. All second-hand but in good running order. 4 1/4-broad sheeting looms, Mason (new), 100 doubles 18 harness, Mason (new). The D. A. Tompkins Co., Charlotte, N. C.

FOR SALE—Cow peas, 400 bushels; beef cattle, chickens, etc. For particulars write W. M. Patrick, Woodward, S. C.

SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION—The remainder of the stock recently owned by M. S. Burch & Co., will be sold to-morrow, sale beginning at 4 o'clock p. m. Over 1000 cases of goods will be sold in two hours, to the highest bidder without reserve. By order of the trustee.

FOR SALE—A paying newspaper and job office in Piedmont, N. C. Is growing town of 6000. Address "Newspaper," care Observer.

FOR SALE—300.000 standard laths A. A. James Laurinburg, N. C.

FOR SALE—Veneer machinery, 1 7/8-inch Titus veneer machine, 1 6-inch Bagmore veneer machine, 1 6-inch Bagmore veneer machine, with attachment for cutting basket stock. 1 Clipper, one 30 inches, one 60 inches; one 10 inches, one 20 inches. Lot of shafting, pulleys and belting. J. H. P. Erie City engine, 40-h. P. Erie City engine, with stack. All sizes of laths and fixtures for manufacturing balusters. We offer the above for sale at a low price. Address, Box 197, Richmond, Va.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WALL PAPER at 4c a roll and up at the new store of the House Furnishing & Decorating Co., 20 N. Tryon.

500,000 SECOND-HAND and rebuilt soda fountain at 25 and 50c on the dollar. Must be sold in next 30 days. Address Manufacturer, care Observer.

SEE CITY TAX NOTICE.

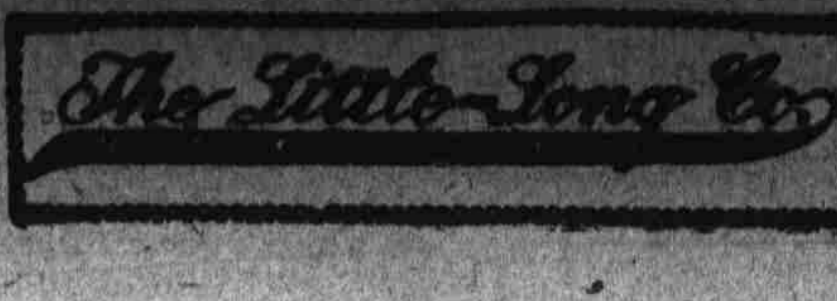
I HAVE for sale a number of volumes of my book, "Life of Stonewall Jackson," by His Wife. Address Mrs. M. A. Jackson, Charlotte, N. C.

THE WORK we are now turning out since enlarging our plant surpasses all our former standards of excellence. City Dyeing & Cleaning Works.

DRUMMERS—We wish to notify you that we have made arrangements with Everts Transfer Co. to haul your baggage at old price. We ask you to support him. Phone 137. U. C. T.

MACHINERY for sale, 100 looms, slasher, and clothing room machinery, almost new. O. A. Robbins, Charlotte, N. C.

SELWYN BARBER SHOP, most complete barber shop in the city. Five first-class barbers, prices the same as local barber shops. L. Glanone, Mgr.



Beautiful Beyond Description

Is that big line of silks that came to our stores yesterday. We shall not attempt to fully describe these for we can't. They are here in quantities and qualities and in every conceivable pattern, suitable for shirt waists, kimonos, draperies, etc.

SILKS

19-inch shaded stripes, in all the new colorings, at the yard 75c

19-inch Roman stripe silks, for beautiful dressy waists, at the yard, \$1.00, \$1.50, \$1.75

40-inch silk voiles for dinner gowns, colors: reseda, lilac, champagne, navy, black and white, price the yard \$1.00

36-inch taffetas, in all the best shades at the yard. \$1.00 and \$1.25

24-inch satin Foulards, in the large polka dots, brown and white and navy and white, price the yard \$1.00

A large assortment, 32-inch drapery silks, beautiful patterns and colorings, at the yard, 50c

27-inch Oriental work silk, a large range of colors, also black and white, the yd, 50c

36-inch black Oriental silk, the yard, \$1.00

