Charlotte Daily Observer.

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OPENS FIRE ON TRUSTS

MAIDEN SPEECH OF JEFF DAVIS.

Senator From Arkansas, Who Promised to Return to His Constituents With Several Trust Scalps Dangling at His Belt, Cannot Longer Restrain His Impatience and Awakens the Senate Chamber With a Volley of Oratorical Pyrotechnics—The Senate and the Galleries Give Him a Careful Hearing—Vents His Spleen Upon Rockefeller and the Standard Oil Company and Declares That His Bill is a Dose Which Will Soon Put a Quietus on the Octopus.

Washington, Dec. 11.—Passionate oratory marked the proceedings of the Senate to-day. Senator Jefferson Davis, of Arkansas, who when elected declared that he would attack the trusts immediately after taking his seat, has fulfilled his promise, although he was a few days late in doing so. The speech was filled with sensational declarations and was given with that vigor for which the Arkansas Senator is famed in his own State. Quaint phrasing, pointed denunciation and evidences of intense emotion characterized his remarks. He was given a careful hearing by Senators and the galleries were well filled throughout the time he held the floor. Beginning shortly before 1 o'clock, he spoke for a little more than an hour. At the close of the speech the Senate went into executive session and at 2 o'clock adjourned. The House was not in session to-day.

NO PATIENCE TO WAIT.

Senator Davis began by declaring that it was not his purpose to retain his seat in the Senate until his hair shall have grown gray before taking up his work actively in that body. He proposed to present quickly, fearlessly and as intelligently as he might some of the living, burning questions before the American people. It was for that reason he had determined to speak upon his bill to suppress trusts, pools, combinations and conspiracies. After declaring that his bill, vigorously enforced, would kill the trusts, Senator Davis, with dramatic effect, challenged any Senator to step forward and contest the issue with him.

Speaking of the annual appropriations for the expenses of the government, amounting to $900,000,000, he turned to Senator Beveridge and added: "Pile it up on this floor and let my good looking young friend, the Senator from Indiana, start to count it. He would be as old as Methuselah before he could count half of it."

The Senator detailed appropriations made for maintaining the White House.

ONLY FIVE—AT HOME.

"And yet," he continued, "President Roosevelt has but five children—at home."

The inadvertence of speech brought laughter from all parts of the chamber.

"Everything," declared Senator Davis, "is in a trust except acorns and persimmons."

"Holy Writ admonishes us to go into the vineyard and work. I have found nothing in the Good Book that warrants any of us going into the vineyard to corner all the grapes."

"The President," he said, "has taken off the dollar the words 'In God we trust.' It's time to take it off. I wonder what the grand old party is going to put on the dollar?

"This panic was started by these trust magnates and stock gamblers in order that they might take from the cotton producers half of their property," he added.

FOR THE UNDER DOG.

"I am for the under dog, Senator McLaurin," he said, addressing the Senator from Mississippi, who sat before him. "Whenever you hear of a dog fight, just say 'Jeff Davis is for the under dog.'"

He read some statistics on the Standard Oil Company and, stepping out into the centre aisle, stamped his foot and said:

"The Standard Oil is the old hetrust of the country. It is the trust that has all the paraphernalia and earmarks of a trust. I dislike Standard oil. I hate the smell of coal oil. Petroleum makes me sick. Oh, sir, something ought to be done to curtail the great power of this monster trust—John D. Rockefeller's trust—the great Standard Oil trust.

"I undertake to say," he continued, "that if this bill is enacted into a law, and faithfully and honestly executed, trusts will be wiped from the face of the earth and no longer will we feel their grinding and destroying grip on the arteries of trade and commerce."

A domestic corporation found fixing the price of any article would, by his bill, he said, have its charter forfeited, and a foreign corporation guilty of such an act would not be allowed to do business in the United States.

PRESCRIBES THE DOSE.

"The trust evil," said Senator Davis, "is a cancerous sore upon the body politic just as upon the human body. The only remedy, the only successful treatment is the surgeon's knife. Cut it out by the root, destroy the virus before the whole body politic is affected and destroyed."

Congress should not hesitate in its work of destroying the trusts because of any fear of unsettling business, he continued. He spoke of the Sherman anti-trust law. "Has it proven effectual?" he asked. Has it destroyed a single trust? Under its operation have they not grown strong, defiant and arrogant? Almost for 17 years the Sherman anti-trust law has been upon our statute books, more than four times as long as it took the North to wear out the South upon the bloody fields of battle. Nearly seven years of Mr. Roosevelt's strenuous term has passed with all the machinery of the government at his back, with the great power of the Chief Executive in his hands, yet I ask will some Republican Senator upon this floor tell me one trust that he has even tamed, much less destroyed.

NOT TRUCKLING YET.

"Ah Mr. President, it was stated by the metropolitan press before I entered this august body, flippantly, too, that before I had been in the Senate six months the trust magnates would have me feeding out of their hands. I may snare crumbs with a Lazarus, but I swear to you to-day, by every God in the calendar, that I shall never eat from the hands of a mammon.

"I want to say to you, sir, and to the members of this Senate that you need not lose any sleep about a corporation getting its rights. You need not lose any sleep About unjust discriminations against them. They will take care of themselves. But rather should our solicitude be for the man who bears the burdens of the government.

"This is an age when men have gone mad in their frenzied efforts for the dollar. This is an age when money is placed above man; when gold is placed before God. When we would sell our souls, our government, our all for one bright smile from the god of mammon. What is money, Mr. President, that it is held so priceless. You cannot eat it. You cannot wear it, your shroud has no pocket in it and St. Peter will not receive it for admission into the golden gates.

CAUSE OF WEALTH.

"When we look to the leading cause for this great wealth upon the part of these great corporations, and the causes leading to their formation, to the formation of trusts, we are compelled to go no further than Republican authority itself and take the sworn testimony of Mr. Havemeyer, the great sugar king, who has gone to his reward, be it good or bad, who has gone to that land and that clime where St. Peter does not take 'sugar in his,' and where money is of no value."

He recalled Mr. Havemeyer's statement before the industrial commission that "the tariff is the mother of trusts."

"Under the operation of this system of government," he said, "fifty one men in the United States, multi-millionaires, if you please, have amassed a total fortune of $3,295,000,000. Of this 51, John D. Rockefeller, the oil king of the world, leads with $600,000,000, Andrew Carnegie, the steel king of the world, follows with half this amount."

The Secretary of Commerce and Labor has calculated, he said, that all of the property owned by 89,000,000 American citizens is $107,000,000,000, so that these 51 citizens own one thirty-fifth of the entire wealth of the nation.

MONEY IS KING.

"What an alarming concentration of wealth; what an alarming concentration of power," he declared. "In this day and time money is king; money is God. Without it the doors of opportunity are closed, the doors of society are shut. Yea, even in some instances the doors of the church do not welcome so enthusiastically the man in rags and tatters as the man with millions. How shall this condition be changed? How shall this government be saved? One way and one way only, that is to kill, destroy, annihilate the source of all this evil—the trusts."

He explained that his bill would not permit corporations to sell their products in one part of the country at a less price than they sell such products in another part.

"What is needed to-day by the trust magnates of this union in order to make them respect the law and obey its solemn mandates," he said, "is that they be treated like ordinary felons; that the strong arm of the law be laid against them just as it would against a horse thief or any one else charged with a crime. Land them in the penitentiary; place felons' stripes 'the doxology of a misspent life,' upon them, and you will see the trusts are busted and the people will get relief. Ah, sir, one trust magnate in the penitentiary of the United States, one trust magnate with felons' stripes, one trust magnate as a living example and object lesson that the law is greater than any man, that the law is above and beyond us all, that the law protects the weak and punishes the strong alike, would be the most wholesome example that could be set in this republic to-day."

NOT AN ANARCHIST.

He declared that while he is an alarmist he is not an anarchist or a socialist.

"There is too much gold," he declared, "there is too much glitter; there is too much gloss; there is too much of tinsel, and I say, sir, that unless times and conditions change, it will not be long before the American statesmen will be wearing knee breeches with brass buckles and powdered wigs and bowing to semi-royalty."

He spoke of the great expense of the government.

"Our President," he said, "and I speak of him in the most respectful terms, besides his salary of $50,000 a year, and I say that is not excessive, is paid by this Congress $25,000 a year for traveling expenes, and approximately $113,000 annually for living expenses. Ah, Mr. President, this is enormous. This is unreasonable. The President of the United States has five children, I believe. It is true that he should live in accordance with the dignity of the position which he occupies—the greatest executive upon the face o the earth, but Mr. President, I have the President 'skinned a city block' in the matter of family. I have eight children and it don't take $113,000 for my living expenses. No, sir the greatest President that ever lived upon this earth, that was ever inaugurated in this capital, in my judgment, was 'old blue jeans, old Hickory Jackson,' who rode his horse to the White House dressed in a suit of blue jeans."

He denounced stock gambling and said he would do away with gambling in cotton, grain and the necessities of life.

SHIPPERS BEHIND IT?

Cases Against Southern Railroad For Alleged Coal Rate Discrimination Lose Some of Their Interest and the Reason Why.

Bristol, Va., Dec. 11.—Strong intimations were made by Special Examiner J. Edgar Smith, in the investigation under direction of the inter-State commerce commission, in the cases filed by the City of Bristol against the Virginia & Southwestern and Southern Railways for alleged discrimination in freight rates on coal, in Bristol to-day, that the city was not the real complainant, but that coal shippers in the Black Mountain field were behind the proceedings.

"I am opposed to seeing the processes of the commission prostituted and I have seen tvidences of it in these cases. If the Black Mountain people have a complaint they should come out in the open and not hide behind the cloak of the city. The city attorney takes no part and it has begun to appear way he does not."

J. M. Barr, former president of the Seaboard Air Line, as well as other prominent railroad officials were witnesses at the hearing, which was concluded this afternoon.

DAVIS IS CRUDE AND RUDE

HE KEEPS A CAMPAIGN PROMISE

Arkansas Junior Senator Rends the Air and Paws the Floor While the Perspiration Flows—His Friends Excuse His Conduct by Saying He Promised His Constituents to Introduce This Bill—With All Its Rankness and Rabidness It Disappoints Every One and Many Leave the Galleries After Listening to Him a Short Time—His Climax Reached When Hell on Earth is Predicted—Some Men, Champ Clark Included, Believe He Will Tone Down—Free Mail Delivery For Gastonia and Hickory—Dobson Gets Goldsboro Postoffice.

BY H. E. C. BRYANT.

Observer Bureau,
Congress Hall Hotel,
Washington, Dec. 11.

The blow has fallen; Jeff Davis has delivered himself of one of the most remarkable speeches ever made in the United States Senate. The effort of the man from Arkansas was disappointing to every one. There was nothing original in his speech but its crudeness and rudeness. People who do not know are trying to know why a new member to the dignified law-making body in this country should do a thing so unseemly so uncalled for; but those who are close to Mr. Davis claim for him that he promised his constituents in his campaign for the Senate to make just such an oration when he got to Washington. He vowed on the stump, if elected, he would introduce a bill, which, if it became a law, would put John D. Rockefeller and others of his class in the stripes of a felon. The bill was the excuse for the performance of to-day. His speech was nothing of an argument, but all of what one would expect in a cheap, demagogical stump speech. Those who had heard that the Jeff Davis, of Arkansas, was a kinsman of the cultured gentleman who led the Southern Confederacy hoped to see in him some relic of the sweet nature, the refinement and the gentility of the great Jeff Davis; but they were disappointed, for there is a lack of all of these in the young Cicero from the Southwest. In the rugged Tillman, who set the Senate on its ears ten years ago, there was manliness, brains and power; but in the freak from Arkansas there seems to be little more than physical energy and virility.

ON HAND VERY EARLY.

Mr. Davis was the first man in the Senate chamber to-day. He came almost an hour before the appointed time and took his seat near the rear door, just at the end of the middle aisle, and began to run over a lot of papers that covered his desk. He was getting together his thunder. Hearing that the man from Arkansas was alone in the great hall, Senator Overman, of North Carolina, went in to pass the time of day with him. The scattering spectators in the galleries had no trouble in locating the man who was to take a rank hold in the Senate this day. Much to the surprise of newspaper men, the crowd had not begun to assemble. There seemed to be a lack of interest up to 11:30 o'clock, thirty minutes before the Senate was called to order. Finally, however, the gallery and all except that set aside for the diplomats and their families became crowded, and many seeking admission stood in the corridors. Many members of the House and clerks of Senators occupied space on the rear of the floor of the chamber.

STANDS LIKE A GHOST.

Forty-five minutes after Vice President Fairbanks rapped his gavel and Rev. Edward Everett Hale, the chaplain, had said his prayer, Jeff Davis introduced an anti-trust bill and asked the unanimous consent of the Senate for permission to speak. The Senators turned in their seats and faced the man on the floor and every one in the galleries leaned forward to see and hear. Clad in a gray frock coat, with white shirt, black tie and neatly polished patent leather shoes, the junior Senator from Arkansas squared himself to pay his respects to the octopus. In his apparent embarrassment at facing such a distinguished body of men, the blood left his face for a moment and he stood there like the ghost of a departed giant; but soon he regained his nerve and began to beat the air. He thrust out with his right hand and pawed the floor with his left foot. When he had been speaking a few minutes the part on top of his massive brow disappeared and his black hair, wet with perspiration, stuck to his forehead.

"Toiling masses" was among the first of his stock expressions that he used. "The trusts must be suppressed," soon followed. "May the image of God fade," he said, "if something did not happen." As Davis warmed to his subject he forgot his bill and swung into a regular Arkansas speech, saying the same things he did in his campaign.

The Republicans were challenged to show where they had even winged a trust, much less destroyed one. His bill, he declared, would wipe the octopus off the face of the earth. "This bill shall not sleep in the committee room as other bills have done," said the speaker. "I shall see that it comes back here and is discussed on the floor."

"I shall quote from Havemeyer, 'the great sugar trust man who has gone to his last reward'—I hope to the best place, but I fear that is not where St. Peter says he will take sugar in his'n." Soon after this, when the speech had been under way about 15 minutes, the people ceased to be entertained. Groups here and there left the galleries.

MOST IMPORTANT SECTION.

Davis said Section 25 of his bill, which provides for terms in the penitentiaries of the country for trust magnates, struck him as being the most important. It was in this connection that he declared that John D. should wear stripes.

At times the Senator was as solemn as a preacher. He roared, charged and whispered. He went from bad to worse until he predicted hell on earth. He said that this country had drifted so far from the ways of Andrew Jackson that he would not be surprised to see it take more money to run the government than Beveridge, whom he addressed as his "good-looking young friend from Indiana," could count if he lived as long as the oldest man.

"Why, it costs the President more than $100,000 to live," cried Davis, "and I understand he has but five children—that is, at the White House." Here the galleries became almost rowdy, men and women laughing boisterously.

"I have eight and we can live on much less," he added.

As the speech progressed the crowd broke. Senators sneaked out to lunch and representatives of the press went elsewhere. Those who had gone to hear something brilliant or unique felt that hey had been regaled on a very ordinary speech that would have sounded better at a backswoods barbecue. When it was over well-known Southern Senators shook their heads and laughed when they met their associates. But there are men who believe that Jeff Davis will tone down and make a good Senator. Mr. Champ Clark, of Missouri, is of this opinion. He knows the man.

WEBB GETS FREE CITY DELIVERY.

Congressman Webb, of the Charlotte district, has asked for mail delivery service for Gastonia and Hickory and will get it about May or June, when the appropriations are made. These North Carolina towns have reached the growth that Uncle Sam requires.

Senator Overman has introduced a bill asking that Davenport College at Lenoir be reimbursed $3,000 for property destroyed by Stoneman after Lee had surrendered.

Certain citizens of Elizabeth City have asked that he appointment of Isaac M. Meekins as postmaster at that place be held up until they can file charges against him. Dobson, the old man, gets the Goldsboro postoffice instead of Grant, who was recommended by the President at the last session of Congress.

MR. GODWIN AND WATERWAYS.

Representative H. L. Godwin is very much interested in the movement to improve the rivers and harbors of the country. In talking with The Observer correspondent to-day he said:

"The session of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress just adjourned was the most interesting and far-reaching in its effect held since the organization of the congress. The American people are deeply interested in the improvement of our rivers and harbors. I was glad to see such a full representation from our State. The day is not far distant when we will have an annual appropriation of $50,000,000 for the work.

"According to the best authority the traffic of the country is growing at the rate of 12 per cent. a year. To meet this constantly increasing growth the railway facilities are developing at the rate of only 2 1-2 per cent. To handle adequately the present traffic 75,000 miles of new rails should be laid down immediately. To do this is out of the question.

"Congress will do well to consider that the life of trade is the ability to handle it promptly. So vast is the country, so rapidly is commerce building up, that under existing conditions we shall soon find ourselves in a serious predicament. Surely we have already had a most expensive experience with congestion of traffic, and something must be done to lighten the burden. We cannot depend on the railroads, for no matter how rapidly they make improvements the growth of traffic is surely to keep far ahead of them. There is but one other outlet and that is through the waterways. It will not do for any member of Congress to belittle this waterway question, for the moment he does so he will write himself down as incompetent to understand or to grasp the situation. It is a great question—one of the greatest with which the country has to deal.

NO UNREASONABLE DEMANDS.

"From nearly all the States in the Union delegates were in session in Washington for several days, endeavoring by their unity of purpose to impress Congress with its importance. These delegates do not demand anything unreasonable. They have been studying the conditions. They know what is wanted and precisely what the people expect of Congress. They want to improve our system of waterways, which will eventually relieve the congestion of traffic. They do not antagonize the railroads. They believe that there is plenty of room for water transportation, and that as a matter of fact the railroads themselves will be benefited when the heavier freight, the non-perishable stuff, can be sent to its destination by water. But if we are to depend upon the present policy of Congress in granting appropriations, to a limited extent at irregular intervals, little practical progress can be made. There should be a fixed plan; a definite sum set aside annually for this work; $50,000,000 a year for the next ten years is one of the objects aimed at by delegates. No member of Congress will plead poverty. The country is not poverty-stricken. It is ridiculous to argue that so many other things need attention that we cannot afford to expend $50,000,000 a year. The answer is that there is nothing of more importance than the development of the waterways, for the growth of business is at stake and without free facilities for business any country comes to a standstill.

"A regular plan and $50,000,000 a year as a positive figure is a policy which Congress must adopt if it is to consider first of all the vital interest of the country."

The waterways of the seventh, Mr. Godwin's district, are very important. The Cape Fear section is very prosperous at this time, even more so than it was years ago before railroads were so plentiful as they are now. The great Cape Fear river runs through Mr. Godwin's district. It needs attention. Mr. Godwin is very much interested in it.

TALK OF PROHIBITION.

There is considerable talk about prohibition for Washington, but no resident here takes the agitation seriously. If Congress should take any action, it would be to let the people vote and the capital has too many citizens who like to do as they please. Then, too, the negro would be permitted to vote and no town has ever gone dry where the darky could vote. Congressmen are very wary about expressing themselves on the subject, but when a fellow is pinned down he talks for home consumption. A dry district makes a dry Representative. The general impression is however, that Washington will be wet a long time yet. I have seen a number of tipsy persons since I arrived here a week ago. Youngsters wearing Uncle Sam's uniforms seem to be the most frequent offenders on Pennsylvania avenue.

The question of prohibition is not a live one here at this time. Other things take the time of Congress.

Boy Plays With Dynamite; Four Funerals Follow.

Cincinnati, O., Dec. 11.—A Times-Star special from Bristol, Tenn., says:

Four persons were killed and cremated to-day on the farm of John Duff, whose son, William, was playing with a stick of dynamite. The dynamite exploded, killing the boy and Mrs. Nathaniel Barnes and Mrs. Elijah Moody and her child. The house caught fire and cremated the bodies.

GOV. GLENN'S PROPOSITION

SOUTHERN AND S. A. L. ACCEPT IT

Governor Glenn Gives Out the Exact Terms of the Proposition He Made, Subject to the Approval of the Legislature, Which Are Accepted by the Seaboard and the Southern—The Coast Line and Other Roads Refuse and That Calls a Halt to the Settlement—President Finley and Vice President Andrews Confer With the Governor—Supreme Court Files Big Batch of Opinions—Directors of Central Hospital Meet—Other News Gathered at State Capital.

Observer Bureau,
The Holleman Building,
Raleigh, Dec. 11.

To-day your correspondent interviewed Governor Glenn regarding the status of the passenger rate matter. The Governor said that, as was well known, the only proposition he had made to the railways in the first instance, was to obey the law and, if they found the new rate worked a hardship and made it appear as entailing great loss, he would convene the Legislature in special session. To this proposition the Southern Railway made a counter one, asking him to recommend the same terms accepted by the Governor of Alabama. The Governor, not thinking these latter terms sufficient, declined to do so. He was then asked if there was any proposition he would make to the roads, subject, of course, to the approval of the Legislature. After consulting the Council of the State, the corporation commission and the State attorneys he made the following propositions: That he would recommend to the Legislature an increase of the flat rate from 2 1-4 cents to 2 1-2, provided the railway change the inter-State rate from 3 and 3 1-4 to 2 1-2, making it uniform in all States, and in addition give mileage books for firms and employes, not over five in number, for 2 cents, these to be both inter and intra-State and interchangeable; also 1,000-mile books at 2 cents, and family books of 500 miles at 2 cents; the railways to pay the cost of the litigation to date. As to the family mileage books the railways gave good reasons why they could not afford to issue them, so this part of the proposition was so amended as to make the rate 2 1-4 cents. Those terms were accepted by the Southern and the Seaboard Air Line, but the Atlantic Coast Line and a few other roads declined to accept them and it was useless to call the Legislature together to submit the matter unless it was acquiesced in by all the roads. Nothing further was done. As to calling the extra session, Governor Glenn said the terms he proposed, subject to approval by the Legislature and acquiesced in by the Southern and the Seaboard Air Line, would have been best and that he greatly regrets that all the trouble cannot be amicably settled by the agreeing of the other roads.

CONFERENCE WITH GLENN.

These are days full of human interest for Raleigh and the State for big things are going on. Early this morning President Finley, of the Southern Railway, arrived, went to Vice President Andrews' office and the two made their way to the Capitol, entered the office of Governor Glenn and a conference immediately began. All day yesterday there had been talk about the imminence of a special session of the Legislature. One State officer talked about it quite freely, saying he saw no other way out of the situation; another said he hoped an extra session would not be found to be necessary; a third said never a word, but simply pinched his lips with his fingers, this being the sign language to show that he could not talk. It was very evident that underofficials and persons connected in any capacity with the railway rate case thought an extra session was coming and was the solution of the great question of the day.

Before the corporation commission the various attorneys, including E. J. Justice, Guthrie, Manning, Foushee, and Herbert Norris met and submitted the draft of the complaint which is to be at once put before the inter-State commerce commission in the matter of alleged discrimination in freight rates by the Norfolk & Western Railway against North Carolina towns, notably Durham and Winston-Salem. Other cases against other roads will come along later; in fact, may be said to be now pending. It is not known, of course, when the inter-State commerce commission will take action in the matter, but it will be urged to expedite it as the importance of the question is felt by every one and it is really a test case, which will have a far-reaching result.

PRITCHARD WANTS CONCLUSION.

Judge Pritchard, it is learned, is very desirous to expedite the conclusion of the Southern Railway rate matter—that is, as to the injunction. The standing master will lose no time in making final report on the case, but is now only waiting for the rebuttal evidence which the Southern is to file and which will be in the main a mass of figures. It now seems that quite early in January the standing master will be able to make his report to the judge who will lose no time in placing the case before the United States Supreme Court, and it seems that the latter will be asked to advance it so that a great question can be passed upon by the highest tribunal. Judge Pritchard's friends say that he is entirely confident about the accuracy of his position in this matter. Time will alone tell whether he is right or wrong.

SUPREME COURT DECISIONS.

The Supreme Court to-day filed an extraordinary large number of opinions, as follows: State vs. McDowell, no error; Latta vs. Power Company, from Gaston, no error; Hall vs. Railway Company, from Person, appeal dismissed; State vs. Hooker, from Moore, no error; Abee will case, from Burke, no error; Aiken vs. Manufacturing Company, from Burke, new trial; Williams, entry from Burke, modified and affirmed; Land Company vs. Lang, from Buncombe, error; White vs. Southern Railway Company, from Buncombe, reversed; Loftis vs. Duckworth, from Transylvania, affirmed; Kesterson vs. Southern Railway, from Buncombe, no error; Lambert vs. Express Company, from Buncombe, affirmed; State vs. Bossee, from Transylvania, action dismissed; Davis vs. Martin, from Rutherford, affirmed; State vs. Keebler, from McDowell, appeal dismissed; State vs. Walker, from Polk, no error; McNeill vs. Allen, from Wilkes, error; Hasty vs. Charlotte, affirmed; Freeland vs. Southern Railway, from Mecklenburg, affirmed; Henderson vs. McLain, modified and affirmed; McCulloch vs. Railway, from Guilford, appeal dismissed in defendant's appeal; plaintiff's appeal in same case, error; Daniels vs. Homer, from Dare, affirmed; State vs. Phillips, from Madison, per curiam, affirmed; State vs. Strickland, from Buncombe, per curiam, affirmed; State vs. Young, from Guilford, both appeals dismissed for failure to print.

A charter is granted the Amity Telephone Company, of Iredell county.

HOSPITAL DIRECTORS MEET.

The annual meeting of the directors of the Central Hospital for the Insane here was held to-day. The executive committee looked over the accounts of the institution, which are kept in the office of the State Treasurer. The report for the year is a very good one. It shows that the average daily number of patients during the year was 514. The number to-day is 496. During the year there have been 46 deaths, of which 23 were of men and 22 of women, the death rate being 6 per cent. A great many improvements had been made both as to buildings and grounds. Work is beginning on the new annex for males. Part of the new farm, bought this year, has been put in cultivation.

Your correspondent has mentioned the fact that the Bickett commission- created by the last Legislature, which early last spring at a meeting here voted upon motion of Mr. W. A. Erwin to locate the new department for epileptics and other mental deficients on the property bought from the Grimes estate for that purpose, at a meeting in August, at which Mr. Erwin was not present, but the other four members were present voted to rescind this action. So nothing has been done in the way of building, though it is said the plans for the building have been finished and are ready for submission. As a matter of fact it is said that the people in the State are impatient for the board to take action. Epileptics are daily applying for admission. Of course, the logical place for this colony is on the 1,300 acres of land which the State bought for $65,000 for this purpose. It is said, however, that the State officials who really have supervision of this matter will not assent to any change in the original plan and that the colony will be established here.

A charter is granted to Aaron's Pharmacy, Inc., at Mount Olive.

Every day or so some new rumor comes out about the alleged sale of the Norfolk & Southern Railway to the Atlantic Coast Line. These are denied as fast as they come out.

NOVEMBER TOBACCO SALES.

The leaf tobacco warehouse report made up by the Agriculture Department shows that during November the sales by farmers aggregated 20,629,943 pounds, this being an increase of about two million pounds over the October sales. Winston-Salem again leads in amount of sales, Wilson continuing to stand second. Thirty-six places file reports. Greenville comes third in sales, Kinston fourth, Rocky Mount fifth, Oxford sixth and Durham seventh.

The tate board of education at a meeting to-day completed the contract for the publication of the North Carolina history written by Prof. D. H. Hill, of the A. & M. College, for use in the public schools, the contract being made with Stone & Barringer, of Charlotte.

The State board of education at a clerks of courts a number of warrants for $120 each, being the amount of pension to totally disabled soldiers per annum. There are nearly 100 of such disabled men and about 40 warrants for them fall due in December, the others being scattered during the year. The clerks pay out this money to these pensioners at the rate of $10 a month.

PENITENTIARY FINANCES GOOD.

The penitentiary ends a very successful year in a financial way. The management by Supt. Julius S. Mann continues to be of the very highest class and of the greatest credit to that gentleman and to the able board of directors. There are contracts which call for about all the available convicts, and these contracts are continuous ones so that there is no change in the status of the convicts. Some of these contracts are with railways. A great deal will be done next year in pushing the work on the roads into Asne and Hyde counties, which are both new fields.

Governor Glenn has received and accepted the resignation of two captains of companies in the First Regiment of Infantry of the National Guard—J. D. Terry, of Company C, Winston-Salem, and W. S. Charles, Company D, Charlotte. These officers give as a reason for resignation the demands of private business.

Adjutant General Robertson has returned from Washington, D. C., where he had an interview with General Oliver, the acting Secretary of War, regarding the National Guard of this State and the conformity by it to the requirements of the Dick bill. General Robertson says the interview was entirely satisfactory and that he thinks that with co-operation of all the officers of the guard the force can be put in such shape as to be acceptable to the War Department in time for the spring inspection.

HOSPITAL DIRECTORS MEET.

The Fiscal Year Ends With a Deficit of $10,000 in the Support Fund, Due to Several Causes—Superintendent McCampbell Suggests Erection of Nurses' Home and Some Changes in Order to Provide More Room—Colony Building For Men Also Recommended.

Special to The Observer.

Morganton, Dec. 11.—A meeting of the board of directors of the State Hospital was held here to-day with Directors Davis, Caldwell, Tate, Shuford, McMinn, Sawyer and J. K. Norfleet, who was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Joseph Jacobs, present.

A deficit of some $10,000 in the support fund for the fiscal year ending December 1st, was reported. This was caused by a cut of $5,000 in the amount of the appropriation asked for, the advance in the cost of wages and supplies and the fact that from the great pressure for the admission of patients the board filled the hospital to its utmost capacity. This result forced the board to order no more admissions in the future than the funds in hand will care for.

A committee consisting of Messrs. Shuford, Tate, Armfield and McCampbell was appointed to meet with a committee of the board of the North Carolina School for the Deaf and Dumb upon the matter of a road between the institutions.

The matter of the erection of special wards for tuberculosis patients, for which an appropriation of $5,000 was made by the last Legislature, was taken up, discussed, and upon motion it was ordered that the work of erection be proceeded with as early as possible.

The superintendent, Dr. John McCampbell, in his able report, suggested as the most economical way to relieve the urgent demand for room, the erection of a nurses' home, and the utilization of the old laundry building for industrial purposes, stating that he conversion of the rooms used by the nurses on the wards, the sewing rooms, and one or more of the day rooms into sleeping rooms for patients would make room for about one hundred more patients, and estimated the cost of the nurses' home and other changes necessary at $15,000. He also suggested the erection of a new colony building for one hundred men, the cost of which he estimated would be $30,000.

The wards were examined by the board and they, together with the other buildings and grounds, were found in their usual excellent condition.

ROOSEVELT OUT OF RACE

ISSUES OFFICIAL STATEMENT

Following Upon the Call of the National Committee For the Meeting of the Republican Convention the President Issues an Official Statement, Declaring That Under No Circumstances Will He Be a Candidate For the Office He Now Holds—Repeats the Assertion He Made Immediately After His Last Election to the Presidency—His Declaration Leaves the Field Open to Other Avowed Candidates—What Leading Senators and Congressmen Think of the Statement.

Washington, Dec. 11.—In view of the issuance of the call of the Republican national committee for the convention, the President makes the following statement:

On the night after election I made the following announcement:

"I am deeply sensible of the honor done me by the American people in thus expressing their confidence in what I have tried to do. I appreciate to the full the solemn responsibility this confidence imposes upon me, and I shall do all that in my power lies not to forfeit it. On the 4th of March next I shall have served three and a half years, and this three and a half years constitute my first term. The wise custom which limits the President to two terms regards the substance and not the form, and under no circumstances will I be a candidate for or accept another nomination."

I have not changed and shall not change the decision thus announced.

LEAVES FIELD CLEAR.

It appears that the President had been awaitinig the call of the Republican national convention to afford proper opportunity for making his position clear and unmistakable and thus leaving the field clear for Fairbanks, Taft, Cannon, Knox, Foraker and other declared or receptive candidates for the Republican nomination.

The announcement that the President would not accept the Republican nomination if tendered, came at too late an hour to become generally known in political circles, but among those who learned of it—Democrats and Republicans alike—the feeling was general that it left no element of doubt in the presidential situation, so far as relates to the third term talk and that it definitely eliminates Mr. Roosevelt from the contest. Some Democrats, however, express a belief that a Roosevelt stampede in the Republican convention would shake his resolution, and that he would prove no exception to the historical precedent in that no American citizen ever refused a presidential nomination.

THE TAFT BOOM.

Administration Republicans declare that the annauncement gives great impetus to the Taft boom, while the Democrats, many of the leaders of which are here, are shouting that it means "Bryan in a walk."

Speaker Cannon, when shown the President's statement, said:

"The President speaks for himself. It would be useless and inappropriate for me to attempt to interpret the President's words."

Senator Foraker, the only other declared candidate who could be seen to-night, said: "That has been his position all the while, I suppose, but I don't care to discuss the matter, thank you."

Senator Richardson, of Delaware, said: "I fancy the announcement will be pleasant news to several persons. I need not name them; they are too numerous."

NO DOUBT OF SINCERITY.

Senator Hansbrough, of North Dakota, said: "There is no question at all about the President's sincerity at this time and before. If conditions should demand his nomination the convention would nominate him and I do not see how it would be possible for him to decline, however earnest he might be."

Senator Long, of Kansas, said: "The Taft boom will be the only one worth considering, after this announcement."

Senator Dick, of Ohio, said: "Nothing else was to be expected."

Among the Democrats who commented on the President's statement was Senator Tillman, who said:

"This is by way of documentary evidence that the President has been handwriting on the wall. It means that Bryan will be the next president of the United States. Roosevelt is the only possible Republican candidate who could be considered formidable."

Mr. John Sharp Williams, leader of the minority in the House, said:

"I believe I am one of the few Democrats in public life in the country who has said all along that the President would not run for a third time. I believed he had too much knowledge of history to run the risk of threatening Republican institutions with perpetuity of tenure in the presidency. I also thought he was a man of so much pride that even if he had come to regret his after-election utterances he would still stand to his word. I think the third term issue would have made Mr. Roosevelt the weakest man the Republican party could have nominated, notwithstanding the fact that he is personally the most popular Republican in the country to-day."

CHANCE FOR DEMOCRATS.

Representative Hardwick, of Georgia, said: "I think it means a triumph for the reactionary element in the Republican party and a good chance for the Democrats to win."

Representative Bartlett, of Georgia, said: "It means a different candidate and a different platform. I think the Republicans will nominate a man on an entirely different platform and put into the platform those things which would not have been put in had Roosevelt stood for the nomination."

Mr. Bryan Tranquil.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 11.—When told to-night that President Roosevelt had made positive declaration that he would not be a candidate for re-election, William J. Bryan expressed no surprise. He declared that the position of the President was as he had thought it to be. Mr. Bryan said:

"I have assumed from the beginning that President Roosevelt would not be a candidate. The statement that he issued the night of election left no room for misunderstanding and I have felt that his friends were doing him an injustice in suggesting that he would change his position on the subject."