The Charlotte Observer.

J. P. CALDWELL
D. A. TOMPKINS Publishers.

PUBLISHERS' ANNOUNCEMENT.

No. 34 South Tryon street. Telephone numbers: Business office, Bell 'phone 38; city editor's office, Bell 'phone 184; news editor's office, Bell 'phone 284.

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Advertising rates are furnished on application. Advertisers may feel sure that through the columns of this paper they may reach all Charlotte and a portion of the best people in this State and upper South Carolina.

This paper gives correspondents as wide latitude as it thinks public policy permits, but it is in no case responsible for their views. It is much preferred that correspondents sign their names to their articles, especially in cases where they attack persons or institutions, though this is not demanded. The editor reserves the right to give the names of correspondents when they are demandd for the purpose of personal satisfaction. To receive consideration a communication must be accompanied by the true name of the correspondent.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 1908.

MR. HOLTON ON THE RATES.

District Attorney Holton has written a letter, which is published in The Winston-Salem Journal, to ex-Judge W. P. Bynum, Jr., in reference to "the arrangement for the settlement of the rate question to be ratified by the Legislature at its extraordinary session," in which he begs "to state that as an organization we should not take a stand for or against this measure purely for political advantages but should do what we think is best for the business interests of the State." He says, and very truly, that there was no special demand for interference with the passenger rate but that it is the freight rate that pinches; but he would find difficulty in establishing his contention that "this settlement made between the railroad and the Governor leaves this great subject of discrimination in freight rates still in the hands of the railroads," and that "the secret of the whole matter is to allow the railroads to continue their discriminations in the way of freight charges and the war now will cease between the now dominant party and the railroads, but the people will continue to bear the same burdens." He sees in the difference in the price of straight tickets and mileage books a discrimination against the po' man who rides little and pays for the straight ticket at a higher rate, but forgets that this is no new thing but that the mileage book has been on sale from time immemorial and that it was always cheaper to ride on it than on straight tickets on the same principle that goods at retail come higher than at wholesale.

After a second reading of this letter we are possessed of a sneaking notion that the astute District attorney is thinking more of politics and of some possible advantage to accrue to his party from the passenger rate settlement than he is of the victims of freight discrimination or of the po' man who is to be victimized by paying more for his transportation than the other fellow.

NEED OF CONSERVATIVE ACTION

The Monroe Journal of the 14th says in the course of a discussion of the proposition to put the State under prohibition by arbitrary action of the Legislature at its special session beginnng next week:

"There are two or three serious objections to this idea that should have weight. The first is that no serious matter should be taken up by an extra session except the particular subject for which the session is called. Anything else smacks of bad faith. The second and kindred reason is that the interests involved in the primary subject, this time rate legislation, are likely to be jeopardized by the complications arising from bringing in an extraneous subject. The last reason is from the standpoint of prohibition itself. The cause is making too sure and steady progress now to be jeopardized by hasty and ill considered, though friendly legislation. We take it that there will soon be State-wide prohibition in North Carolina; but we are equally certain that the special session of the Legislature this month should make no attempt to enact such a law."

"The last reason," as stated above, reads as if it might have been written by the same hand that wrote the editorial on the same subject in yesterday's Observer, though written before that. In this connection we would reiterate and emphasize the menace to the Democratic party that inheres in this suggestion. We are not making the pretence of believing that this legislation would lose the State to the party at the next election for we do not believe it; but it would surely anger and alienate many Democrats, would lose to it some counties which the Democratic party now holds by narrow majorities, and a number of members of the Legislature, and it might open the way to ultimate defeat. Important as prohibition is in the eyes of many of our friends, few of them will deny that the continued supremacy of the dominant party is more important than any act of legislation not imperatively and immediately demanded by the necessities of any given case. Brethren, think on these things.

The Democratic press is making much of the following words from Judge Parker in criticism of Mr. Roosevelt:

"At a time, fortunately, when we could endure it he has taught us in practice the bitter lesson—that untutored idealism, that theory untempered by experience, that callow youthfulness of intellectual development, become dangerous when let loose upon an entire community."

Be careful, gentlemen. There is something in these words that looks very like a boomerang—which will return after July, if Mr. Bryan is nominated.

OUR CHINA TRADE.

The letter written by Secretary Root to Mr. S. B. Tanner about the proposed new standards of weights and measures in China may give to some people some very erroneous ideas about the metric system. One might infer that it was in the Philippines and Porto Rico as a sort of progress of the system into United States territory. Those are Latin countries and the metric system is there because it is a Latin system. It is no more United States than the Spanish language in the same countries is United States. Neither the Spanish language nor the metric system is very deep-rooted in either country. We sent a shipload and more of school marms to the Philippines to teach the English language. Why press to supplant the Spanish language with our own and yet stand out of the way of the Spanish system of weights and measures in China against the development of our trade there? Much of the metric system on the decimal plan is part of the excess reform which the French undertook something over one hundred years ago. A very large proportion of the decimalization of things in the world failed and even so in France, as for example the ten-day week, the ten-months' year and in other instances.

The decimal system is a good thing where it is applicable and not further. The creation is not on the decimal plan and the French failed to even approximately apply the plan to many things to which it is not applicable. Herbert Spencer has said that more things in nature were in multiples of twelve than in tens. Therefore the English and American foot, divided into 12 inches or the yardstick divided into 36 inches, a multiple of twelve is more natural and useful. The yardstick and foot rule are binary which the French metre is not. The system of weights and measures which the Spanish introduced into the Philippines and Porto Rico is of little consequence to the commerce of the United States in China. If China could have the United States standards it would be of great consequence to us.

The statement of the Secretary that the metric system has been made legal in the United States, coupled with the fact that, though legal, it has never been adopted, is evidence that it has made no headway against the binary system now in use. If China wanted a new language and was looking about for one the United States certainly would not want to recommend the Spanish because it was found in the Philippines when we captured these. Nor do we want to push the metric system because it had been partly introduced in the Philippines and Porto Rico by the Spaniards. We should push to get the United States system of weights and measures and the United States system of money in China for the benefit of American commerce.

POINT FOR THE APPALACHIAN PARK.

The Wall Street Journal states that "over one thousand years ago Switzerland possessed a forest system, and had developed a scientific forestry by the fifteenth century. As early as Louis XIV France awoke to the fact that her forests and her life were draining away together. But it was too late. To-day she is spending $34 an acre to re-forest her water-sheds. The same experience is costing Italy $20 an acre." There ought to be instruction for the United States in these statements and they should constitute powerful arguments for the friends of the Appalachian and White mountain forest reservations. We are afraid that if these proposed reservations are not established the time would never come when the government would appropriate money to re-forest the water-sheds, denuded of their timber, nor to reclaim the lowlands, ruined by disastrous floods. France and Italy, as is seen above, are suffering bitterly for previous inattention to their forestry interests and parts of the United States will have the same bitter experiences unless early steps are taken to conserve their mountain forests. The friend who sends us the above quotation from The Wall Street Journal thinks that better argument can be made for preservation than for reservation, which is very probably true; but anything to accomplish the object.

The civil service commission recently issued an order barring from the postal service all men under five feet four inches tall. The order hit a negro in the district of Representative Overstreet, of Indiana, and he made a howl. The howl was effective, and the "five feet four" order was rescinded. Upon which The Savannah News makes the very sensible observation that "as a matter of fact it is a little difficult to understand why a man of five feet four shouldn't be as able to deliver a letter as a man of five feet eleven or over." Ain't it so?

The passenger situation on the Western North Carolina Railroad must, from all accounts, be bad. Lately two trains, known as 21 and 22, the most patronized trains on the line, were taken off and men and women on the remaining trains are standing in the aisles, so crowding them that the conductors have difficulty in getting through the cars. It is to be very much hoped that with the adjustment of the rate controversy this wretched condition will be remedied.

OUR WITHDRAWAL FROM CUBA.

Public opinion in this country was very much divided on the question of giving separate independence to Cuba after the island had been taken from Spain. But Secretary Taft's announcement that the soldiers and representatives of our government will be withdrawn in 1909, will be received with general approval; for the solemn word of the United States was given to the Cuban people that our occupation would be temporary and to the end of establishing more firmly their separate sovereignty. It is much to our credit that American administrative forces have been able so quickly to bring order out of chaos in Cuba; it is much more to our credit that we keep faith with these people.

There is something very impressive in the fact of a nation's laboring to bring an infant republic to maturity and genuine independence. Although mere expediency might dictate a more selfish policy, a certain sentiment, a thing very necessary to the life of a people, will approve of Mr. Taft's handling of the situation. There is something very becoming in such action by a nation set to teach and practice the doctrine of self-government. This achievement of the United States will make a luminous page in the history of the world.

DOINGS AT GOLDSBORO.

Chamber of Commerce Sends Committee Before Aldermen in Interest of Street Improvement—The City May Be Advertised in Manufacturers' Record—Union Passenger Station Soon to Be Ready to Use.

Special to The Observer.

Goldsboro, Jan. 15.—Many affairs of public importance were considered at the monthly meeting of the chamber of commerce last night. Among other things was the appointment of a committee to meet with a like committee from the Woman's Club and go before the board of aldermen in the interest of the improvement of streets. Five years ago the city issued $110,000 of bonds for lights and water to fall due in 10, 30 and 40 years. The amount to be set aside each year for a sinking fund was calculated, using as a basis the valuation of the property at that time. Since that time the valuation of property has greatly increased and the expense of the lights and water system has decreased gradually until now the latter is found to be self-sustaining, and the sinking fund has already reached about $40,000. Even at this rate of increase by the time the bonds are due the sinking fund will have reached about three times the original indebtedness. The chamber of commerce realizes that improvement of the streets is an absolute necessity, and it was suggested that it might be a good idea to buy back the bonds already issued and make another issue to include street improvement. This committee was further instructed to go before the board of county commissioners at its next regular meeting and insist upon the improvement of roads leading into Goldsboro.

The idea of putting a full-page advertisement in The Manufacturer's Record, setting forth the many advantages offered by Goldsboro to homeseekers and investors, was suggested and favorably commented upon.

A letter was read from the secretary of the chamber of commerce of Tampa, Fla., inviting the Goldsboro chamber to send a delegate to the immigration convention, which is to meet there in February. The letter stated that representatives from Spain, Italy and other foreign countries were expected to be there, in addition to leading mn from all Southern States.

Mr. George Royall was called by telegraph to Raleigh on account of the sickness of the manager of the Royall & Borden Furniture Co., of that place, of which Mr. Royall is president.

A series of meetings is being conducted at the Presbyterian church by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Farries, assisted by Mr. McIntyre, of Faison. The preaching is of a very high order, large crowds are attending every night and much interest is being shown in the services.

Work has been resumed on the new union depot, and it is being rapidly pushed to completion. The track of the Atlantic Coast Line around by the new depot has been completed, and it seems now that in a short while the passenger trains will cease to run through town and passengers will not have to get off and on in the middle of the street.

Clerk of Court Green Injured.

Special to The Observer.

Durham, Jan. 15.—Mr. C. B. Green, Durham's popular and greatly beloved clerk of Superior Court, is confined to his room as the result of a slight accident that befell him yesterday. He was walking through the court house when his foot caught beneath a broken edge of carpet and his knee was sprained. He is not seriously hurt, but he is confined to his room until the sprain is cured.

A Game Warden Fired Upon.

Greensboro Record.

Secretary T. Gilbert Pearson, of the State Audubon Society, has received word that Game Warden W. S. Evans was shot on Currituck sound Saturday night by two pot hunters, who were being pursued by him. Fortunately, Mr. Evans was wearing some very thick clothing and the shot from a shotgun did not penetrate his flesh. He did not stop chasing the men and they were identified and will be given a trial this week. These pot hunters, who persist in shooting ducks at night in violation of the Audubon laws give the Audubon Society officers more trouble than any other offenders on the coasts.

A Year's Good Record.

Monroe Journal.

From the 1st of December, 1906, to the 1st of December, 1907, Mrs. W. L. Biggers, of Goose Creek township, sold produce as follows: Eggs, $17.74; butter, $19.26; vegetables, $24; chickens, $49—total, $110. Mrs. Biggers lives some 15 miles from market, and her record is therefore fine. It would probably have been a great deal more had she been convenient to market.

[For The Observer.

A TOAST.

My idol, my queen
Thou art!
Noble and true
But, sometimes cold at heart,
I'll drink to you though
And have you to know
That cupid has yet a dart,
And if he but knew
Here—I love you
I'm sure he'd think twice,
Yes, plan a device
To put into practice
His art!

E. N. I.

WILL ESCHEW POLITICS

(Continued from Page One).

information called for by the resolution of the Senate, with reference to the kind of securities which are received for public deposits, which the Secretary is obliged to make public—"

Clay continued:

"Would the Secretary not be required to make public the amount of the deposits and show where the money is deposited and the amount deposited in each bank?"

Aldrich added:

"I think not; not by the law. He is required to make public before the 1st of January a description of the securities which have been received to secure public deposits. There is no provision of law as to how they are to be made public; but I have no doubt, as they were asked for by the Senate, they will be included in the communication which the Secretary will send to the Senate."

MR. TILLMAN GETS IN.

It was at this juncture that Senator Tillman became interested. He said:

"Mr. President, I should like to have the Senate dispose of the two resolutions which I offered on December 9th last and which went to the Calendar. They relate to the matter of the issuance of the 3 per cent. certificates of indebtedness and of the Panama bonds. I suppose that it will be best to let those resolutions go to the committee on finance without undertaking to vote on them, as undoubtedly the Senator from Rhode Island will object to them. Therefore I ask that these two resolutions be referred to the committee on finance. I should like to have them appear in The Record.

"The first resolution submitted is as follows:

"'Resolved, That the committee on finance be instructed to investigate and report to the Senate—

"'First. Whether the issue of the certificates of indebtedness, bearing 3 per cent. interest, bids for which were invited by the Secretary of the Treasury on November 18, 1907, was for the purpose of borrowing money to "meet public expenditures," as provided by Section 32 of the act approved June 13, 1898; and if not, whether there is any warrant of law for the issue of said certificates.

"'Second. Whether the issue of fifty million of bonds of the Panama canal loan, bids for which yere called for by the Secretary of the Treasury on November 18th, 1907, was required to "defray the expenditures" on said canal, there being, at the time when both of these loans were made, upward of $200,000,000 in the Treasury for current expenditures.

"'Third. Whether there is any legislation necessary to protect the people and business interests of the country from the issue of unlawful money, if clearing house certificates are such, and to prevent the illegal increase of the public debt in time of peace.

"The second resolution:

"'Resolved, That the committee on finance be instructed to investigate and report to the Senate as soon as practicable—

"'First. Whether clearing house certificates with which the country is now flooded have been issued under authority of law or contrary to the same.

"'Second. Whether the issuing of such certificates by an association of banks, both State and national, and the use of the same as money subjects such certificates or notes to the tax of 10 per cent. provided in Section 3412, United States Revised Statutes.

"'Third. Whether it would be permissible under the law as it is for an association of banks, warehouses, and elevators to issue certificates based on cotton, wheat and tobacco stored in such warehouses and elevators and fully insured, to be used as money in marketing said crops in the same way as clearing house certificates are now used.'"

Mr. Tillman added:

"In connection with this matter, as showing the necessity for an investigation, I wish to have read some correspondence which I have received relating to this subject, so that the necessity for some action by the finance committee shall be more apparent."

The first letter, which is from Mr. George J. Kloberg, of Wilmington, Delaware, reads:

"Noting in the public press the various resolutions of Mr. Culberson and yourself regarding the operation of the Secretary of the Treasury 'under a square deal Administration' concerning the recent Panama canal bond issue, I am sending you a letter received from the Treasury Department in response to my inquiry as to why I was not awarded any of the bonds, which I think is one of the most remarkable. I bid for a block of these bonds at various prices, ranging from 104.6145, highest, to 104.375 low, averaging 104 50 (about) for the lot. There is little to wonder at the length of time which was required from the opening of the bids to the announcement of awards when one considers the possible jugglery necessary to eliminate certain bidders to favor others, which seems most likely. You perhaps are already in possession of some or all of the facts in the matter, but send you these, if of any use.

"Kindly return the Department letter if you do not need it."

Mr. Tillman:

"It will be seen by the letter of this gentleman, who signs his name and who is easily to be found, that he bid for some of the Panama bonds more than 104, while as I recall the press statement—at least the impression is very strong on my mnid—a very large number of these bonds have been sold to banks at about 102.50 and the question how the Secretary of the Treasury gets authority to refuse a bid for 104 and then sells for a little over 102 is and will be an important one. So I thought it worth while to remind the Senator from Rhode Island, who is chairman of the committee on finance, that there is something for his committee to do in the way of investigation.

"Here I have a letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. J. H. Edwards, which I will myself read, as it is very short:

"Treasury Department, Office of the Secretary, Division of Loans and Currency.

"Washington, December 20, 1907.

"Mr. George J. Kloberg,
620 West Fourth Street,
Wilmington, Del.

"Sir: In reply to your inquiry of the 17th instant, you are informed that individual bidders whose bids were greater than $10,000 were not allotted any Panama bonds.

"Respectfully yours,
"J. H. EDWARDS,
"Assistant Secretary."

Mr. Tillman continued:

"The mere statement, Mr. President, that the banks were made favorites, while private citizens were ignored and pushed aside, is one which is worthy of our consideration. In connection with that I have here a postal card from some personal friends of mine who are engaged in merchandising in Augusta, Ga., which is very pertinent. It is as follows:

"'How is this for graft? The Secretary of the Treasury places vast sums of currency in the New York banks to relieve "financial stringency." These same banks are now charging from 1 to 1 1-4 per cent. premium on this money to Southern Banks. The "panic" is a source of profit to some. Respectfully,

"'MURPHY & CO.'

"These two communications, the one from the acting Secretary of the Treasury and the other from this mercantile firm, speak for themselves."

YIELDS TO BAILEY.

On request, Mr. Tillman yielded to Senator Bailey, of Texas.

The South Carolinian had interested his associates and the galleries. He has a way of compelling attention. All who know him are afraid to miss one of his speeches lest they miss one of the rare treats of a lifetime. Aldrich compels admiration as any man does who succeeds so wel' that he accomplishes great results. His words are few and short but to the point. He is like the President's good gunner whose "shots hit and count." Senator Bailey is so gifted, so powerful mentally and so magnetic that all those who know him expect something out of the ordinary when he speaks. The newspaper men look to him for good copy. In interrupting he said, in a low, melodious but clear voice:

"I should like to inquire if the Delaware citizen who wrote the letter which has been read is the same man who instituted suit against the Secretary of the Treasury in respect to these bonds?"

Mr. Tillman:

"I am not prepared to answer that question, for I did not charge my memory with the name of the citizen who brought that suit. I think, however, it is a New York man who has a case pending in the court here calling for an injunction, and we know very well how far he will get."

Mr. Bailey:

"My understanding is that a suit has been instituted to test the power of the Secretary of the Treasury to make this arbitrary and, as I think, indefensible discrimination against individuals and in favor of the banks. It is all the more arbitrary and is all the more remarkable in view of the fact that the principal purpose of the issuing of these bonds was to attract money from its hiding places. Now, you might attract it from the place where an individual had hidden it, but you could not very well attract it from the hiding places in the banks.

"More than that if it be true—and I take it that it is true—that a part of the understanding under which these bonds were allotted to the banks was that 90 per cent. of their purchase price should be left on deposit with the banks, then the banks would be receiving from the government interest at the rate of 30 per cent. per annum; in others words, the government sold these bonds to the banks at the price of 102.50. It then deposited in the banks 90 per cent. of the purchase price; so that on an investment of $10 the bank would be drawing $3 interest, or at the rate of 30 per cent. per annum. I should myself like to know where the Secretary of the Treasury derives his authority to sell bonds, when there was no pretense that the money was needed or that the government intended to use it at that time in the construction of the Panama canal. It was generally understood that it was one of the measures to relieve the financial pressure; and when the Secretary advertised these government securities, it was upon the theory that the people who distrusted the financial institutions had not lost their faith in the government, and that the money which they had hidden would be taken from its hiding places and invested in the securities of the government. Yet under that kind of a plan and with that kind of a profession on his lips, the Secretary of the Treasury seems to have declined the money which the individual citizen was willing to take from his trunk or other place of hoarding, and to have turned the bonds over to the national banks under an arrangement which will yield them 30 per cent. per annum."

These outcroppings serve to forecast what will follow. The Democrats have nothing to lose and much to gain. The Republicans in Congress are on the defensive. John Sharp Williams and his allies in the House are going to make it interesting for Speaker Cannon. John Dalzell, Serreno Payne and others as the days go by. Culberson has already begun the fight in the Senate.

[For The Observer.

OLD LUMBER RIVER.

Yes thou art old, and generations past,
The Red man's home was in thy forest's vast,
Along thy current shot his swift canoe—
He knew each cove, and vapid-swamp and' slough.

And in thy swamps, did he the wild game chase,
And in thy swamp, did he the wild game chase.
Arts of the finny tribe, he wisely knew—
And many well rewarded casts he threw.

Alone with nature dwelt these Redmen there—
Hunting their game, the 'possum, deer and bear—
While for some fancied cause, in vengeful wrath,
Their council held; they strike the dread war-path.

Years pass—and now we see the Scotchman come,
To build along thy banks a thrifty home—
The Redman sees with awe, great clearings made—
Upon the sandhills sloping to the glade.

The hunting grounds, now yield rich crops of maize—
And sheep and cattle in new pastures graze—
Before the woodman's ax, the Redmen flee,
Seeking some spot where white men may not be.

Vain hope! for savage men must now give place
To men of brawn, and brain, a sturdy race.
The poor Indian fades from mortal view—
No more to seek the haunts, that once he knew.

In all these changes, Lumber River flows
Her quiet way! And as each season goes
More people settle on her thrifty sod,
Rear homes, and altars for Almighty God.

Flow gentle river, onward to the sea.
The good folk on thy banks are loving thee.
True men and sages on thy sandhills dwell—
Not would some highland home suit them as well.

A son of thine, oft sweetly sung of thee,
And now he sleeps by creeping vine and tree
He lov'd so well: and thou shall hear no more—
The magic cadence of his skillful oar,
No more will he of "Lumber River" sing,
No more his soulful voice shall tell of spring
Along thy banks: or in thy "bonnie braes,"
Or charm us, with his sweet "October days."

But now, as thou art flowing to the sea,
Thy voice is gently whispering to me,
Of him who sung those songs to nature true,
Songs rich with sympathy, and ever new.

Old River, ever dear to him—to me,
We loved thy lily pads, and every tree
Along thy shady banks, nor would we sleep,
Where thou couldst not o'er us thy vigil keep.

—WILLIAM LAURIE HILL.

Floral Manse, Jan. 14th, 1908.

The Little-Long Co.
DEPARTMENT STORES, CHARLOTTE, N. C.

NO EVIDENCE OF PANIC

The two first days of our Mill-End Sale showed no signs of panic so far as money is concerned. One of our stores took in more cash the first day of the sale than it has ever done in our history, holidays, circuses or anything else not excepted.

What Does This Mean?

It means simply this: That the people have confidence in the Mill-End Sale as a mighty money-saver; and then, too, we have marked goods with a deeper cut than ever before.

Adding Reserved Stock

Every day and the prices must bring the people and turn loose the money. If you haven't been here yet, don't doubt longer; come see for yourself, and if you haven't brought your purse you'll certainly go for it. We know lots of customers that do this very thing.

10:30 O'Clock

A Penny Sale. It's really a surprise sale. You don't know what you'll get. There'll be most anything from 10c. to 50c. It costs one cent, but look at the fun you have—cheaper than a picture show, and you get something.

4 O'Clock

For 15 minutes we shall sell Lonsdale Cambric worth 12 1-2c., in short lengths, at 7 1-2c. a yard; 10 yards to a customer.

Where Will You Be at 10:30 and Then Where at 4:00

No goods charged at Mill-End prices and none sent on approval.

The Little-Long Co.
DEPARTMENT STORES, CHARLOTTE, N. C.