

MINORITY STANDING PAT

WILLIAMS ISSUES STATEMENT

The Minority Leader in the House... The House of Representatives...

Mr. Williams opened his statement by saying: "Some things in the President's recent message are so immediately important to the interests of the entire country as to pass the bounds of partisanship and to make it reasonable, if not necessary, for me to say something concerning them with the view of assuring the President himself and reasonably inclined Republican members of the House and the country of the support and endorsement, or the opposition of the Democratic minority. In so far as the things urged by the President are good things I would like the country to know that all he has to do is to deliver 20 or 25 Republican House votes in favor of them. These, conjoined with the solid Democratic votes, will put them through."

DRAWS THE DEAD LINE

To compel publication of campaign contributions... Prohibition of child labor in the District of Columbia and the Territories.

REMOVAL OF THE TARIFF ON WOOD PULP AND PRINTING PAPER

Imposition of a Federal charge for every water power right granted on a navigable stream.

THE RIGHT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO NOMINATE RECEIVERS WHEN A COMMON CARRIER IS THROWN INTO THE HANDS OF A RECEIVER

The modification of the Sherman anti-trust law so as to permit within its limitations the creation of trusts and the making of trade agreements between combinations of capital.

AS TO CHILD LABOR

Referring to the President's declaration that child labor ought to be prohibited throughout the nation, and his recommendation that at least a model child labor bill should be passed for the District of Columbia, Mr. Williams says:

EMPLOYER'S LIABILITY LAW

Commending the President for his recommendation for "the immediate re-enactment of an employer's liability law," Mr. Williams says: "There is no search for the delay on the part of Republican members of the House judicial committee to report an employer's liability law. Their delay at least arouses, if it does not justify, a suspicion that they are having a 'back seat' hearing simply for the purpose of using that bill as a buffer to prevent the serious consideration of other bills before the committee. For their time in the useless legislative orders and to temporary restraining orders and the various bills then pending to recognize the police powers of the States in dealing with alcoholic stimulants when introduced into prohibitory territory, I have given notice in the House that no legislation shall be enacted by unanimous consent until an employer's liability bill is at least reported for the consideration of the House."

AS TO INJUNCTIONS

Respecting pending bills to prevent the issuing of injunctions without prior opportunity for the enjoined party to be heard, the minority leader says: "Of course, I take it that nobody will understand the President or me to mean that there should be no limit upon temporary restraining orders when intended to prevent the immediate destruction of property, life or limb. When I say property I do not mean judicially constructed property rights."

SENATOR TILMAN IMPROVING

Feels That He Will Not Be Strong Enough to Resume Work This Session and Friends Are Urging Him to Take a Long Vacation

Columbia, S. C., March 26.—Dr. J. W. Babcock, of this city, who is Senator Tilman's closest medical adviser, returned from the Senator's home at 3 o'clock to-night. Just before he left, Dr. Babcock said that Senator Tilman dictated the following statement:

"I am improving, but improving slowly. While I do not recognize any indications of organic trouble, I feel that I will not get strong enough to resume work in Washington this session."

Dr. Babcock thinks that Senator Tilman is getting along as well as could be expected. When he reached there to-day the Senator had been out on the piazza and he did not seem at all exhausted from his exertion. He had no fever and his pulse is absolutely normal in every respect, being 73 to the minute, soft and regular.

The nausea and vomiting have entirely disappeared. His appetite is returning and the numbers has disappeared from his face and hands.

He is much less depressed than he has been and is taking a hopeful view of his case. His family and physicians have been urging him to take a long-needed rest, and he is reluctantly coming around to their way of thinking.

This afternoon he received a letter from his colleague in Congress begging him to take a rest of six months at least.

(Continued on Page Four)

BENTON'S SLAYER TO HANG

SAM MURCHISON CONVICTED

The Negro Who on Sunday Afternoon, February 25, 2003, Despatched the Chief of Police of Fayetteville Found Guilty of Murder in First Degree, But Sentence Has Not Yet Been Passed by Judge Long—Attorney Asked for Second Degree Verdict by Means of Single Stroke Beyond Doubt Premeditation of the Crime—The Details of the Shooting as Told by Witnesses on the Stand.

Special to The Observer.

Fayetteville, March 26.—Sam Murchison, alias Melvin, will pay with his life for the murder of James H. Benton, which crime he committed on Sunday afternoon, February 23, last. In Superior Court this afternoon he was found guilty of murder in the first degree after a trial extending over two days. The jury rendered its verdict in thirty-five minutes after retiring to the jury room. The accused showed considerable nervousness when brought back into the court room to receive the verdict, but after it was rendered he sank back into his seat without evidence of emotion.

It was 5:45 o'clock when Judge Long gave the case to the jury and 6:30 o'clock when that body announced that a verdict had been reached.

The judge had adjourned court for the day and the court room was deserted when news of the agreement came from the jury room. His honor, the solicitor and the attorneys were recalled by telephone and the court room was again thronged. Sentence has not yet been passed on the prisoner, but probably will be at tomorrow morning's session of court.

The murder of which Murchison was convicted was noticeably atrocious. The story of the tragedy as rehearsed by the witnesses to-day was in essential details the same as that with which newspaper readers became familiar at the time of its occurrence. The murder was committed in the early afternoon of a beautiful Sabbath day at the home of the police chief who was the victim of the assassin's bullet.

The narrative told to-day was in brief, John Murchison was committed to the murder of Benton with several negroes in the neighborhood of Chief of Police Benton's home, that he shot and slightly wounded John Murchison, who threatened the life of another, Ida Johnson; that the Johnson woman fled to the house of Officer Benton for protection; that the latter heard her complaint and started out of his house in search of Murchison; that he met the negro in his (Benton's) back yard and that Murchison at once shot Benton without the exchange of a word, inflicting a mortal wound, from which the officer died within an hour; that Murchison then made his escape, but was shortly captured by one of the many possees which started in pursuit of him.

The attorneys for the accused did not ask for an acquittal, but only for a verdict of second-degree murder in order to spare their client the death penalty. His attorneys, Messrs. Davis & Brothers, are highly commended for their able defense. The charges against Murchison are of premeditation too strong for them to overcome.

BRYAN AT THE CAPITAL

He Acknowledges the Charge of a Money-Making Profession

Washington, March 26.—William J. Bryan arrived in Washington to-day from Richmond and addresses the Ancient Order of Hibernians here. Mr. Bryan spent some time during the afternoon at the Capital among his friends in the House and Senate.

Mr. Bryan's appearance in the lobby of the House was the signal for a throng of well-known magazine writers that he had reduced the business of political campaigning to a practical money-making profession, Mr. Bryan said:

"There is really very little in the article that I have combined paid lecturing with practical politics and that I have made money by lecturing and otherwise speaking in public. But I have not made nearly as much as I had no fear and his pulse is absolutely normal in every respect, being 73 to the minute, soft and regular.

The nausea and vomiting have entirely disappeared. His appetite is returning and the numbers has disappeared from his face and hands.

He is much less depressed than he has been and is taking a hopeful view of his case. His family and physicians have been urging him to take a long-needed rest, and he is reluctantly coming around to their way of thinking.

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(Continued on Page Four)

PRESIDENT HIS TARGET

MR. BEALL, OF TEXAS, SEVERE

In an Impassioned Speech, Replete With Epigrams, a Representative From the Lone Star State Makes a Bitter Attack on the Chief Executive, Charging That He is Usurping the Power Delegated to Him by the Constitution—Declares That the President Has Repeatedly Attempted to Influence the Judiciary and Cites the Instances—A More Disgusting Situation, He Says, Was Never Witnessed by the People of Any Nation.

Observer Bureau.

The Holleman Building.

Washington, March 26.

This afternoon the attorneys for the State and the corporation commissioner met at the office of the latter and conferred as to the hearing to be held by the Inter-State commerce commission to-morrow, beginning at 10 a. m. in the United States Court room before Judge C. Clements. This gentleman is the Southern member of the Inter-State commerce commission and is from Georgia.

At the one of the State Labor Commissioner it is learned that there is some increase of work in the State. It is said that the sawmill people are more complaints about the panic than perhaps any other class, saying it is the real thing and has hit them hard and caused a big drop in prices.

The number of volumes in the Supreme Court library is now 17,136, this being a gain of almost 600 a year on an average for the past four years. The number of volumes in the State Library is 41,000, and counting books which the United States sends the gain is something like 1,000 a year.

A charter is granted the Leaswell Light, Power and Milling Company, to furnish electric power, etc. The amount of the capital stock being \$40,000 and E. B. King the chief stockholder.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction has issued a very well prepared and illustrated pamphlet with designs for public school houses, this taking the place of one which was issued some years ago.

The United States Department of Justice is trying to get the capture of Jim Staley, the negro moonshiner who shot Deputy Marshal Henry Reese. It ought to be easy to identify and capture Staley as he is well known in the neighborhood of him at Sanford the evening of the day on which the shooting occurred. United States Marshal Dockery says that moonshining is certainly increasing here, and that the moonshiners are becoming bolder and more desperate. Not so much is going on now as in the winter, but more than at this time last year.

Thomas S. Rollins, of Asheville, is appointed a member of the central campaign committee of the State Anti-Saloon League.

SENATOR SIMMONS TO SPEAK

Senator Simmons will speak as often as he can in the coming session of the General Assembly, A. D. Watts, who is here for a day or two.

Capt. Jack Beasley, of the police force, and Automobile Club, who are trying to get the city out of the hands of the common, Early this morning a well-dressed young white man about 20 years old stole a bicycle from a store of a man named Carroll, who lives on a new one.

The thief had an hour and a half the start of them and had covered over 12 miles when they came up with him near Apex, just as he was on the point of starting the engine of the machine to a negro.

The thief was about pumped out and he had nothing whatever to say when he was bagged. He gave his name as 'Tommy' and said he was from Atlanta, but that he came here from Norfolk. Beasley and Brewer brought him back and he was stowed away in the station house.

A charter is granted the Johnson-McCubbin Company at Salisbury, which will deal in real estate, build houses and factories, etc. Capital stock \$130,000, the stockholders being Thomas P. Johnson, J. S. McCubbin and G. H. Vand-rord. Another charter goes to the Carolina Paper Box Company, of Winston-Salem, \$25,000, the stockholders being W. B. Hemingway and others, all of Norfolk.

A commission is issued to Willey C. Rodman, of Washington, D. C., as major of the Second Regiment, vice Sellers, resigned.

The resignation of James S. Lewis, first lieutenant, Company E, Second Regiment, Goldsboro, is accepted, he having removed to Rocky Mount.

Weather Bureau Seismograph's Recorder an Earthquake Shock

Washington, March 26.—A slight earthquake was recorded on the Weather Bureau seismograph at Washington, D. C., on March 25, 1908, beginning at 2 hours, 1 minute, 5 seconds p. m. 75th meridian time. While the disturbance was of comparatively small intensity, the principal shocks and characteristics of earthquake records were very sharply defined. It would appear from the records that the origin of this disturbance was not over 2,400 miles from Washington. This would place the epicentre in the Pacific ocean west of Mexico or in northern South America, or possibly within the western portion of the United States.

Mr. Scott, however, maintained that all of them were placed in the bill on the recommendation of the secretary of agriculture and the chief of the weather bureau.

On a point of order by Mr. Perkins, of New York, the several new stations were struck from the bill. These stations were proposed to be located in Texas, Kansas, Virginia, Michigan, Vermont, Missouri and Indiana.

UNITED STATES PLAINTIFF

LUMBER COMPANY IS SUED

Uncle Sam Brings Suit Against Lumber Company For Possession of Big Tract of Land in This State—Judge Pritchard Issues Temporary Order Restraining Trespassing on Lands of Onslow County, N. C., and Granting to an Electric Power Concern at Leaswell—Supreme Court Library Now Has 17,136 Volumes

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SMITH'S RIGHTS DEBATED

SENATE FINALLY ADMITS HIM

Many Senators Object to the Seating of the Senator-Elect From Maryland on the Ground That His Election Was Irregular—Mr. Bayner Makes an Earnest Plea For His Colleague, and He is Finally Admitted, Though the Question of His Right to the Seat is Not Finally Disposed Of—The Senate Again Takes Up the Aldrich Currency Amendment Proposed and Debated.

Observer Bureau.

The Holleman Building.

Washington, March 26.

Although Senators went to the Capitol yesterday expecting to devote their time to considering the currency bill their attention was diverted to the credentials of Senator-elect John Walter Smith, of Maryland. The result of a long debate was the admission of Mr. Smith to his seat.

The currency bill was then taken up and amendments were considered. At 6:12 o'clock the Senate adjourned.

Washington, March 26.—Although the Senate met to-day to devote the entire session to the currency bill, the result was a long debate on the credentials of Senator-elect John Walter Smith, of Maryland, became the subject of a discussion that consumed nearly four hours of the day.

The result of the extended debate on the propriety of swearing in Mr. Smith was a vote of 34 to 29 in favor of receiving his credentials and leaving the regular order of election to be considered by the Senate committee on privileges and elections and by the Senate later.

Mr. Bayner presented the credentials of his colleague, Mr. Smith, that he be sworn in. Mr. Burrows, of Michigan, chairman of the committee on privileges and elections, objected to the admission of the Senator-elect, and suggested that the law requires that two Tuesdays shall intervene between the time notice of a vacancy in the Senate is given and an election. As the late Senator Bayner died at 10 o'clock on Tuesday and his successor was chosen on the following Tuesday, Mr. Burrows claimed that the law had not been complied with, and suggested that he be not allowed to take his seat.

Prof. Horace D. Taft, principal of the Taft School, of Watertown, Conn., and brother of Secretary of War William H. Taft, candidate for the Republican nomination for Governor of New York, left for Washington this afternoon, after spending several days in the city. Professor Taft, before leaving for Washington, was asked relative to his brother's candidacy for Governor that he could give only his personal views since he is not in politics. "In New England," said the educator, "former's prospects seem to be very favorable and, in the popular opinion there that he will win out at Chicago on the first ballot. Of course New York will go for Hughes, Indiana for Fairbanks and Pennsylvania for Knox, but nevertheless brother is far in the lead."

Professor Taft does not in the least resemble his War Secretary brother. As one man to-day laughingly expressed it, "Taft being very tall, standing fully six feet and four inches in his stocking feet. Professor Taft is an entertaining conversationalist with a ready wit and an abundant supply of humor.

ROAD'S POSITION STATED

A. B. Andrews, Jr., of Raleigh, who has been several days interested in the suit of the Southern Railway against the county tax collector of Burdette, which was to-day sought to make plain the railway's position in the matter, saying that involved in these two suits (the Burdette and Mockenburgh) is the sum of \$15,000, which he has claimed to be illegal, surely any taxpayer has the right to ask the court to decide that question for it before saying such a large sum of money is due to the railway. The Southern Railway Company has been forced to lay off quite a large number of its employees, particularly train men, and the amount it has involved in these two suits, \$15,000, represents approximately all expenses and charges of a train for making 100 trips from Asheville to Salisbury, N. C., and when a tax is reduced to cut down operating expenses."

MR. WEBB'S STATEMENT

County Attorney Charles A. Webb to-day in a statement relative to the matter declared:

The Southern Railway is simply trying to get the advantage of what may be termed a technical error on the part of the county, if it is an error. If the Southern gains the case it cannot possibly benefit them, for they will continue to have to pay these taxes to make up the deficit at some future time, but they will have succeeded in putting an additional tax on every poll tax, which will increase the poll tax to \$1.50 upon any citizen of the county who resides in the City of Asheville."

Mr. Webb, who resigned as special counsel for the Southern when this suit was brought, said that the county will fight the case in the Supreme Court.

TO BE ASKED TO REVOKE ORDER

Attorneys Representing the Complainants in South Carolina Dispensary Suits Will Appeal to Judge Pritchard to Revoke the Injunction on the Ground That It is a Violation of the Eleventh Amendment to the Constitution.

Atlanta, Ga., March 26.—At a conference here to-day between attorneys representing the complainants in the suits against the South Carolina dispensary commission and Attorney General Lyon, of South Carolina, it was decided to ask Judge Pritchard, of Washington, D. C., to revoke the injunction of his order enjoining the South Carolina dispensary commission from disposing of the \$300,000 in its possession and appointing receivers for the dispensary.

The petition for a revocation of Judge Pritchard's order will result from a decision of the Supreme Court of South Carolina to the effect that the act creating the commission constituted that body the agents of the State, and, therefore, any suit against the commission is a suit against the State, which is contrary to the eleventh amendment of the constitution of the United States.

The application for the revocation of the order is made upon the established rule that Federal courts will recognize the decisions of the highest courts of the State construing its own statutes as binding upon Federal courts.

Attorney General Lydon, who for Asheville to-night, where the petition will be laid before Judge Pritchard to-morrow.

BROOKS CLEANS UP HOLT

A RED-HOT JOINT DEBATE

An Immense Crowd at Greensboro Sees Solicitor A. L. Brooks Overwhelmingly Defeat in Joint Debate Prof. J. Allen Holt—Every Charge Brought by Holt Successfully Met by Brooks—Hearing of Alleged Influence of Machine Candidates for Governor of North Carolina—Manager of Prohibition Campaign in Guilford Says the County Will Go "Dry"—Annual Meeting and Election of Officers of Lodge of Elks.

Observer Bureau.

The Bevil Building.

Greensboro, March 26.

An immense crowd filled the court house to-night to hear what was advertised to have been a joint debate between Prof. J. Allen Holt and Solicitor A. L. Brooks, candidates for Governor of North Carolina. The hearing was opened by a speech of an hour's length, the burden of which was that Solicitor Brooks had taken excessive fees that belonged to the school funds. In reply Brooks read letters from Associate Justice Brown, Judge Ward, Solicitor Graves and others sustaining his position in relation to fees in such cases. Professor Holt charged that Brooks had taken fees in Durham and Guilford counties that he was not entitled to receive, whereupon the solicitor established that the docket had been settled in Durham and read a letter from the clerk of Guilford court to the effect that he had taken fees in that county. He was entitled to receive. The crowd was with Brooks throughout and gave him one of the greatest ovations any man has ever received here. Professor Holt was left in a pitiable plight.

HEARING POSTPONED

Hardin Germany, the young mill operative committed to jail Saturday charged with sending through the mail an infernal machine addressed to Mr. Cesar Cone, president of the Proximity and Revolution Cotton Mills, was to have been given a preliminary hearing before United States Commissioner Wolfe this afternoon, but on account of the absence of District Attorney Holton the matter was postponed until next Tuesday afternoon. The hearing against the prisoner is very prominent among the Proximity and White Oak employes, many of whom were present when the case was called this afternoon.

Judge Boyd to-day signed an order directing F. W. Thomas, of Asheville, referee in bankruptcy, to call a meeting of the creditors of Charles Maccart, bankrupt, of Asheville, for the first instant to consider a proposition to compromise the debts of the bankrupt at 50 cents on the dollar. The referee is to report to the court on April 6th.

Mr. John C. Kennett, who is to manage the prohibition campaign in this county, to-day opened his headquarters in the law office of Thomas J. Murphy, Esq. In a talk with The Observer correspondent Mr. Kennett expressed his confidence in the success of the prohibition cause in Guilford, saying it was only a question as to the size of the majority. When asked as to the probable majority Mr. Kennett said it was too early to make anything like an accurate estimate. He thought the county should give prohibition a majority of anywhere from 1,000 to 2,000. In the State election of 1881 Guilford gave a majority of 1,487 against prohibition.

The county board of elections has been organized and Judge Boyd appointed the prohibition judges to conduct the prohibition election in the 27 precincts in this county.

The annual meeting of the Greensboro lodge of Elks was held last night, when the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: John N. Wilson, exalted ruler; G. S. Bradshaw, esteemed leading knight; W. T. Gayle, esteemed loyal knight; F. P. Marshall, esteemed lecturing knight; W. L. Underwood, secretary; J. A. T. L. M. Underwood, treasurer; J. C. Chisham, Tyler; Garland Daniel, trustee; D. H. Collins, representative to grand lodge; L. J. Brandt, alternate representative. The business session was followed by a social session. The lodge now has a membership of 250 and is in a most flourishing condition.

NAVY NEEDS MORE MONEY

Secretary Metcalf Calls For \$2,000,000 Deficiency Appropriation Which the House Committee Agrees to Report Favorably

Washington, March 26.—Secretary of the Navy Metcalf to-day made a statement to the sub-committee on deficiencies of the House committee on appropriations in support of his recent request for a \$2,000,000 deficiency appropriation to be made at once by the House. He said that the battleships now building might not be interrupted. He enlarged upon his recent communication to the committee, showing that the department is already in debt to the extent of \$500,000 to contractors and that such a serious result would follow if the money was not appropriated. The deficiency is due to the fact that the last appropriation bill carried two million dollars less than was called for by the department's estimates.

The sub-committee voted to report favorably to the full committee to increase the \$2,000,000 deficiency estimate.

LUMBER MILLS MAY CURTAIL

That Course is Recommended at the Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Pine Association—Officers Elected For the Coming Year

Norfolk, Va., March 26.—The North Carolina Pine Association, controlling all the leading lumber mills in eastern Virginia, Maryland, North and South Carolina met in annual session here to-day with an attendance of about 100 leading lumber manufacturers and mill men in the four States present.

The reports showed more than one-half of the mills of the association are closed down as a result of present conditions with the normal output of lumber cut in half. Prices, however, are reported to be better than in the last few months.

The following officers were elected: President, E. C. Fosberg, Norfolk, Va.; Vice-president, J. A. Brown, Camp, North Carolina; Vice-president, J. A. Brown, South Carolina; Secretary, J. G. Cherry, secretary, W. D. Roper, Norfolk, treasurer, R. S. Morris, North Carolina. This association was organized at Norfolk, Va., in 1884, but no statement was given out. It is declared that a careful consideration of the output for the summer was recommended.

First Solid Car of Truck Shipped

Washington, March 26.—The first solid car of lumber and railroad ties from the east Wilmington section was forwarded to-day and was from the farms of Messrs. William E. Springer, D. F. Kilne and W. H. Mills & Sons. The car was loaded with 21 to 2.5-cent lumber and railroad ties from 2 to 2.5-cent a bunch. The outlook for the crop is very promising in all this section.