

The Charlotte Observer.

J. F. CALDWELL, Publishers. D. A. TOMPKINS.

Every Day in the Year

Subscription price table with columns for one year, six months, three months, and daily rates.

PUBLISHERS' ANNOUNCEMENT

No. 51 South Tryon street. Telephone numbers: Business office, Bell phone 74; city editor's office, Bell phone 154; news editor's office, Bell phone 24.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 1908.

AS TO THE RAILROAD MEN.

The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States this week in the Minnesota and North Carolina railroad cases certainly gives the railroads of the country assurance of a better footing. They cannot hereafter be dogged and bankrupted by their enemies, and those of them that are worth the bonds and stocks that are able to pay their operating expenses, interest and dividends upon honest investment, should be able to command money. It is seen that since this decision their securities have risen in the markets. The decision means stability. Its general influence upon the business of the country must be healthful. It will hasten the return of prosperity, and with the general revival will come, of course, and first, the return of normal railroad conditions. In view, therefore, of the assured reaction, we are encouraged to hope for a cessation of the talk of reduction of the pay of railroad employees and to hope further for the reinstatement of employees now laid off. If immediate conditions do not warrant these things, circumstances are such that the railroads can safely discount the future. Their men have stood by them very handsomely, even while themselves suffering hardship, and the roads, in view of the certain prospect of better times and of their own better credit, ought now to meet the reasonable expectations of the men.

WHY NOT TELL US WHY?

Railroads make a very great mistake in doing offensive things without rendering a reason. We have in mind this new regulation of the Southern Railway Company with regard to mileage books; that the purchaser may not after April 1st present his book to the conductor, as now and always heretofore, but at the ticket window, the agent pulling the mileage and giving a ticket in exchange. The advantages of the mileage book are two: it renders travel cheaper; but hardly inferior to this is the greater comfort and convenience, that the passenger may step on the train without the preliminary delay and annoyance of lining up at the window or taking his place in the line of those who wait to be served with tickets. It has been stated that the new regulation is in effect in many States. It may be so and if so there must be a reason or reasons for it. What we object to is that we should be subjected to this innovation without so much as the saying, "By your leave," or without any statement why. The mass of humanity is fairly reasonable. People will hear a reason for anything and if it is a good one will accept it. But they object to the inauguration of a new, arbitrary and distasteful rule upon them without a statement of the reasons for it, and in this they are entirely right.

Right it is in Miss Elkins and the Elkins family to scout any suggestion that the former might become the morganatic or left-hand wife of the Duke of the Abruzzi; right also is the decision, however reached, that he will not have to forego his present rank in order truly to marry her. These are good resolutions and we shall back up the parties concerned in every proper effort to render them effective.

As was to have been expected, the Aldrich bill passed the Senate yesterday. Senator Aldrich and predatory wealth are to be congratulated, though their victory was no surprise to them. The Standard Oil Company controls Mr. Aldrich and Mr. Aldrich controls the Senate. There you are and you see whose triumph this is.

Another North Carolina city showed up strong the other day when Salisbury obtained the equivalent of 192 for a \$100,000 issue of municipal bonds. Even financial and industrial troubles like those now prevailing cannot greatly affect credit as good as this.

If all the Hedins and Jeff Davises were locked up permanently it would be the better for the South. The story this morning about the shooting of a negro in Washington last evening by Representative Hedfin will not bear a head.

SOMETHING NEW IN CARS.

And now New York has pay-as-you-enter cars on its Fourth and Madison avenue lines. This service was put into effect the other day and is proving decidedly popular. The cars used are considerably longer than the regular type and have fenced-off enclosures for conductors on their rear platforms. Entering single file through a narrow passageway, car patrons pay fare one by one. The platform standing privilege is restricted to the front. Exit may be made from either end, entrance and exit sides at the rear having an upright bar between. The new features are naturally very pleasing to the conductors, whom they save much trouble and exertion, and possess important advantages for the public also. Tramping on corns, shoe shines and light-colored skirts is decidedly lessened. Only in one respect have the new cars proved a disappointment, and therein they merely failed to remedy an ancient trouble. Despite ingenious devices of an almost compulsory nature lovely women simply WILL NOT get off any way but backwards. Of course the backwards method is contrary to all the laws of physics and dangerous unless the cars stop considerably longer than otherwise necessary; it is awkward and ungraceful, not to mention the embarrassing as well as painful tumbles for which it occasionally becomes responsible no matter how careful the car crew; and not even a fanciful reason of dress can be cited in its behalf—yet at least nine women out of ten can neither be coaxed nor compelled to get off facing forwards. The failure of the designers in their efforts along this line is humiliating and complete. Otherwise the pay-as-you-enter car appears to have scored a decided success.

A SONG-BIRD'S ALTERED TRILLS

Col. John Temple Graves having left the Democratic party for the new aggregation of Mr. Hearst, expressions of grief and rage are everywhere. "The last issue of The New York American," eloquently mourns The Asheville Citizen, rending its garments and casting ashes upon its head, "contains an editorial by John Temple Graves which should make every Southerner blush for the shattered hopes and blight of disappointment which now rests over the halo of ripe promise once set. Read that editorial, you men of Dixie, and shed the tear of regret, because the man looked to and fondly named to follow in the footsteps of the glorious Grady has subserviated his personality, his country and its traditions to the elusive glamor of Hearst's money barrels. We sat at the same banquet board and saw the cheering hundreds place the laurel of Democracy on the brow of the departing editor who, to use their own language, 'was leaving Georgia for the metropolis of the nation to lift aloft the banner of the South.' And how does this once beloved John Temple Graves do it? By renouncing the political creed of his fathers and running after the strange idols of William Randolph Hearst and his ilk. Oh, the pity of it! The son of Georgia, Democratic Georgia, whose soul was drenched with the blood of patriotic Democrats, pleads for allegiance to a band of traitors united under the shallow title of 'The Independence League.'"

UNEMPLOYED AND OUTLOOK.

A canvass covering twenty-one States and having some claims to approximate accuracy shows 1,200,000 men out of employment, including 250,000 in New York, 100,000 in Philadelphia and 99,000 in Chicago. This showing of idle men is made in spite of the great and still continuing reflux of immigrants to Europe. No one who gives it any intelligent consideration can fail to recognize two causes for wonder. One is the manner in which combinations of capital and labor, operating on every scale from village to national, have artificially kept the cost of living and doing business almost as little declined from the boom level as if the natural law of supply and demand did not exist; and the other is the manner in which the South has resisted shock far better than any other section, even though full allowance be made for the fact that few large cities are found down here. This depression is certainly no petty affair; but unless cotton prices drop below the remunerative figures until recently so well maintained—as they unfortunately show some inclination to do despite tenacious and organized holding—the South will weather it with-out much injury. If crops throughout the country are fair and presidential campaign developments not too disturbing, the spasmodic signs of convalescence now evident should be succeeded without serious relapse by general and assured recovery.

Store Robbed and Then Burned.

Spartanburg, S. C., March 27.—Fire last night destroyed the store building and stock of general merchandise of A. O. Simpson at Glenn Springs, entailing a loss of about \$4,000. The fire occurred between 12 and 1 o'clock. Within one hour's time after the fire was discovered the store and stock were in ruins. That the building was broken into and robbed and then set on fire there can be no doubt. The front door of the store was found to have been broken open and the stock of goods badly disturbed. Evidence of kerosene oil having been poured on the floor was also seen. There was no fire in the store all during yesterday.

DENIES SLANDER CHARGE

MICHAEL MAKES REPLY.

The Editor of The Madison Herald, Regarding an Editorial in Whose Paper, Mr. Locke Craig Recently Gave a Statement, Says He Did Not Slander Mr. Craig, and That Mr. Craig's Alleged Inconsistency—Quotes From a Speech Delivered at Last State Convention by Mr. Craig as Temporary Chairman.

In your paper of date March 26th, 1908, was an interview from Hon. Locke Craig, one of the candidates for the nomination of Governor before the next Democratic convention in which he attacks an editorial written by me and published in my paper, The Madison Herald, in which he claims that I slandered him and did it deliberately for the purpose of injuring him and his good name. This is a charge which I do not intend to make in the article that can be construed by any fair man to be in anywise slanderous and, second, that it was done through any ill will towards Mr. Craig. I do not intend to injure the people of North Carolina that know me and know that I would not intentionally do any man an injustice. In the article referred to by Mr. Craig it was my intent to emphasize the fact that Craig would not meet Mr. Kitchin in joint discussion; and to lay stress on the fact that this was not a question of men but of issues and to show that Kitchin stood for the people and that Mr. Craig had the solid backing of the trusts, railroads and special interests in the State. I do not assert now that Craig stands for these interests; but I merely stated that they stood for him and it is for the public knowing the history of how these things work in politics and placing their own estimate on the man from his own acts and public utterances to form their own conclusions as to which man would be the safer to entrust with the affairs of state. I assert again, and Mr. Craig cannot deny it and did not deny it in his interview, the Southern Railway with all its parasitic influence, the American Tobacco Company and all its satellites and apologists and the other special interests of the State are solidly behind him for this nomination. This is a reason for this. Let us see if we can find it!

Now let us see about Mr. Craig's consistency; and thus if we can arrive at a just conclusion of the question as to whether The Herald is right or not and whether or not there is any ground for our position that he would be more favorable to the special interests than would Kitchin. Mr. Craig says in his article, "It is an attempt to injure me for the benefit of another by vile and groundless accusations. For many years I have been before the public. The people know me. I defy any accuser to produce the slightest evidence of my disloyalty to principles for which I have always stood or any complicity in any part with the American Tobacco Company, the Southern Railway Company, or any other special interest." I accept the challenge. As I said before every man in our State and trusts are standing practically solid for him. Their array of attorneys, with a few possible exceptions, and all their newspaper organs and trusts and newspapers have been considered sufficient evidence for Democratic speakers and papers to justify themselves in charging Republicans with being for the trusts and trusts for the Democrats. How strong for Craig if they expect nothing and have no right to expect nothing from him should a critical test be made of his election to the United States Senate in 1912? Let him answer. Why this charge now? Who has changed? Has Craig quietly gone over to the other side and notice to the people or have they quietly come over to him? He says he has been loyal to principles. Let's see. In the campaign of 1900 and in the debate with Alton B. Parker in 1902 and in the campaign of 1904 Craig was the most rampant "trust-buster" in our State. He hurled as many and as violent denunciations against trusts and monopolies as any man in the State. He wanted to put stripes on the trust magnates, etc. His language against them was the most extreme and intemperate of any man in the State. He wanted to regulate the trusts and to regulate the trusts by legislative corporations, passed by the Legislature of 1907 and no doubt but that he was the most radical character of the same acts making any corporation that went into a trust guilty of a conspiracy. And on account of these acts and utterances against trusts and monopolies as he has been called a traitor to the State by the people of the State in 1907. He has since changed his position on this question and now he is for the trusts and trusts for the Democrats. Does he suppose that the wretched Democracy of North Carolina has forgotten his speech, and set speech after speech temporarily charging the State convention of 1906 when he laid down his platform and made his first public bid for the office that he now claims he is entitled to? A man may sometimes be excused for hasty utterances that he might make in a heated discussion, but not when he takes a rest and writes his speech and speaks it to the State papers in advance. If any of the voters of North Carolina think I am doing Mr. Craig an injustice, let him get the copy of The News and Observer of July 25th, 1904, and see for himself! In this well-prepared and well-studied speech he openly declared himself in favor of the establishment of monopolies and the destruction of competition. In other words he then and there publicly surrendered to the trusts and monopolies and now hows slandered when we state the simple truth that these interests that he declared in the speech above referred to are supporting him and are fighting Kitchin, a man that hits an unlawful combination every time it puts its head up and will never live to see the day when he will apologize for or justify monopolies. We will quote some of his utterances in justification and defense of monopolies and the destruction of competition. Hear this jewel of consistency: "In defiance of the common law and the statutory law both State and Federal, the competition system has been destroyed by the trusts (monopoly) has been built on its ruins. Under the old order there developed an attractive civilization, an individually, strong and comprehensive system of modern life would never develop and materialize."

Kenansville, March 25th. Mr. Harshaw Appreciative. To the Editor of The Observer: Allow me to thank you for publishing my letter in your paper of the 19th inst. I send a copy of this letter to The Industrial News at Greensboro the same day I sent it to you. The Industrial News refused to publish it and did not even inform me why they would not do so, notwithstanding I sent a copy of this letter to the holder in the paper and a Republican who has at all times and under all circumstances voted the Republican ticket. M. N. HARRHAW, Lenoir, March 25, 1908.

ject to control monopoly. They (monopolies and trusts) have been built up in accordance with the law of association and co-operation. This is the source of their vigor, the genesis of their power, and the reason they would not destroy them. I would not impede the march of progress. And now listen at the whine of the apologists. "You cannot destroy the monopolies. They are integral elements of our civilization itself." And how does the farmer and the mechanic like this? "The concern that has been for stifling competition and monopoly in the production of a necessity of life is an essentially in the service of the public, a public necessity, as is a railway or a telegraph company." And so on the lines: "The evil of monopoly is not in the fact that it has no competition."

Search the history of our country, the history of the Republic, the magazines and newspapers and you will fall to find such doctrines announced by any Democrat or any Republican as for that. He has outstaged the party and the people who slandered him when we called the people's attention to these things. No Democratic platform, State or national, has ever breathed a line or word in favor of trusts and monopolies. On the contrary, the very convention in which he announced this new, startling and abhorrent policy, condemned trusts and monopolies and denounced them for stifling competition. I suppose the new convention should so far forget themselves and what they owe the toiling masses of the people as to nominate this man for governor of this great State of North Carolina. It certainly would not change the utterances of its platforms for over thirty years, to suit the doctrines laid down by Craig in the speech above referred to. And, of course, Craig after making these utterances could not, he being so consistent, accept the nomination on a genuine, big-faction Democratic platform and there you would be. We would like to make some quotations from some of the Democratic platforms, State and national, just to show how the party of this overhauling question, that is if he has ever been in accord with it since he voted for Blaine, in 1884.

If Mr. Craig could so far forget his dignity as to sidestep for a while to make an answer to two little insignificant weekly papers, why is it that he has to shoulder the responsibility on to his manager to state that he voted for Blaine on personal reasons rather than from principle? Wonder what he had against old man Grover anyhow? It would come with more force if he would say over his own signature, and I know that it would be more satisfactory to some of the interests and papers that are backing him now, why he scratched "sherrif." Mr. Craig says, "They told me that they thought that the Democratic party would confer upon me the great honor in recognition of long years of service. I would like to know if these long years of service he includes his memorable campaign with Pritchard and if he claims any credit for disobeying the directions of the executive committee and defying its authority and making some over the protest of said committee and received the worst trouncing any man ever carried, until no Democrat cares to refer to it yet knows what he is talking about. I desire to say that I have no right to make on Mr. Craig personally, as personalities have no place in politics; but I insist that I have a right to present to you as many of the public acts that aspire to public office and to give reasons why he is not the best man to serve the people for any given place. And this is all I do in this article. I have no right of character. I will thank you to give this article as prominent place as you did Mr. Craig's attack on me. CHARLES O. M'MICHAEL, Madison, March 26th.

WILL NOMINATE GLENN.

A Palmeter Man Thinks That if the Democrats don't Win With Governor Glenn They Won't Win at All. To the Editor of The Observer: Is not fifty years long enough prostration for Dixie? Alton B. Parker said in your fair city, "It is time to put in nomination a Southern Democrat for President." It is my deliberate opinion that wiser words of counsel were never spoken—the judgment like a broken down engine has been "running on one side" long enough.

If I go as a delegate to Denver, I shall place in nomination that statesman and patriot who has few peers and no superiors, Hon. R. B. Glenn, of New Carolina. If we can't win with Glenn, we can't win with any one and don't care to win at all. We are going to nominate him, vote for him and work for him until he freezes over and crawl out and fight for him on the ice. Glenn has got more sense and backbone than any man yet mentioned and has got too much sense to be fooled by the "wags" and eternally telling people about it.

He is a gentleman of the old school and a business man; he doesn't agitate the captains of industry to affect the stock market but just tells them "by the Eternal God you have got to obey the law or go to jail," and they obey. If any one doubts it, let him ask Finley.

Glenn will be placed in nomination "just as sure as guns are iron." I am not trying to fool you; North and South Carolina will vote solid for Glenn. The other Southern States will fall in line and some Northern States, too.

J. ALGERNON MONROE, Spartanburg, S. C., March 26th.

Mr. Middleton Will Make a Good Run.

To the Editor of The Observer: Mr. S. O. Middleton, of Duplin county, who is before the Democracy of the State as a candidate for corporation commissioner, feels highly pleased with the prospects and new friends are rallying to him every day. Duplin county has never had a State office, but she has always been found with fighting clothes on in every campaign. We feel that the office of corporation commissioner should be given our candidate this time. No other business or political man has been named to the State convention in Charlotte. Western Carolina will give Mr. Middleton a large vote, and from all reports in the east he stands a good chance of the nomination. The signs are now that Locke Craig will be nominated on the first ballot. He is growing stronger in all sections of the State each day. X. Y. Z.

Kenansville, March 25th.

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ATCOCK SUPPORTS CRAIG.

Former Governor States Why He Favors the Candidacy of the Young Lockvaine From a News-Item—Has Known His Power and Public Career For Thirty Years and Knows That He is a Gentleman, Patriot and Statesman. (From The Raleigh News and Observer.)

Editor The News and Observer:

It has been my habit ever since I began a writer to support somebody for nomination for various offices. I am always for somebody and never against any Democrat. This time I am for the nomination of Mr. Locke Craig. I am supporting him because I know him and have known him for thirty years. He and I were classmates, and I boarded for one year at his father's table. I know the man in his personal and private life; I know his public career. He is a gentleman, a patriot and a statesman. He has the courage of his convictions. He has the unshakable and genuine love for the people. No toll has ever been too arduous for him to undertake in behalf of Democracy. He made the first speech which was made in the year of our revolution, 1828. It was his speech which set the pace for that campaign. I made the second speech from the same platform with him, and followed his lead in appealing to the old Democracy and going to the people on the bad record made by the Republican party. He frankly and openly avowed of the Whom the election fight in behalf of Democracy would redeem the State. From the hour he made that speech until the election in November, 1831, I never ceased to believe for one moment that he would win the great victory which we achieved that year. While he was going to and fro through the State people he has the unshakable confidence in him for the Legislature and elected him, and he came to the Legislature in 1839 and rendered most valuable service in perfecting the constitutional amendment which has already accomplished so much good for the State. But the adoption of the amendment by the Legislature was but the beginning of one of the greatest fights in this State has ever seen. The amendment was greatly misunderstood by the people at first and the Republicans made a most adroit appeal to the uneducated white voters and sought to convince them that the adoption of the amendment would disfranchise them and their children. No one contributed more to the removal of this difficulty than Locke Craig. As I recall it, he began his canvass in Buncombe county in January or February of 1860, and from them until the November election he worked without ceasing. When I reached the mountains in May of that year, on my canvass, I found that his splendid work had preceded me and the Democracy was fast uniting in support of the amendment. When the election came, the fruit of his work in that country was seen from the fact that the amendment came near carrying the mountain district, and I had carried it by a small majority; a thing which no one would have predicted in January, 1860. Mr. Craig is a true Democrat, believing in the right of the people to make nominations and platforms, but when the platform is made and he is elected upon it, no number of men, however great, could make him vary one iota from the requirements of it. He is a liberal and broad-minded man. He loves his friends, and has no enemies to hate. In him as Governor I believe we shall have not only good government, but good government with a united party, carrying out every pledge in its platform and steadily growing in the confidence of the people. I sincerely hope to see him nominated. That he would be elected follows as a matter of course. C. B. ATCOCK, Goldsboro, March 25, 1908.

THE REFORMATORY'S START

An Institution Which Should by No Means Be Overlooked. Raleigh Christian Advocate.

The State has made but a beginning in its reformatory enterprise, but a beginning means a great deal. The Stonewall Reformatory, Reformatory and Manual Training School is now an institution. The people know very little about it. They will know more as time they will look upon the institution as one of the most valuable properties of the State, one which will be a shining link in the chain of the State's greatness.

Keep your eye on the Stonewall Reformatory and Manual Training School. It is situated south of Concord in Cabarrus county on a tract of land containing 127 acres. The reformatory will probably be ready for occupancy next fall. It will be three stories high, containing the basement as one story. On the first floor there will be a large dining-room, kitchen, reception rooms, and living rooms for the superintendent and his family. On the second floor will be dormitories for thirty boys; also rooms for officials of the institution. Next fall, probably, another similar dormitory building will be erected. There will be room for sixty boys. Thus from year to year the institution will grow and become a great power in the State and one of its chief glories.

Stock will be raised on the plantation and a large dairy to supply an adequate supply of pure milk. The election of Mr. Walter Thompson, one of the State's most progressive and efficient educators, as superintendent, is only in keeping with the general wise management of those to whom the matter has been entrusted. Mr. Thompson is a son of that true and tried Methodist educator, Prof. D. Matt Thompson, of Statesville.

Name of "Prominent Churchman" Wanted.

To the Editor of The Observer: There are some of us over here in Cabarrus who fear The Observer is being imposed upon. Your correspondent from Concord stated in yesterday's paper that "A Concord man prominent in Church and State stated this morning that it was his opinion that the State would go against prohibition." He states that Cabarrus, Rowan, Davie and Guilford counties have been recommended to the "wets." This is news, as to Cabarrus, with many of us, we simply don't believe that any concession as to this county has ever been made. We would like to know the name of that "prominent churchman." PAUL BARRINGER, Mount Pleasant, March 25th.

The Late R. H. Jordan.

Southern Druggist. The death of R. H. Jordan, which occurred at his home in Charlotte, N. C., last month, removes one of the widest known and most successful pharmacists of the entire South. He was an aggressive competitor, but had many warm friends and admirers among his brother pharmacists.

The Lucky Quarter.

Is the one you pay out for a box of Dr. King's New Life Pills. They bring you the health that's more precious than wealth. They cure headache, dizziness, constipation and malaria. If they disappoint you, the price will be cheerfully refunded at all drug stores.

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

SPRING SUITS OF THE PERIOD FOR MEN AND YOUNG MEN WHO WANT THE BEST



Our new models for Spring 1908 show another great advance over our past best efforts in providing clothing of unusual style, character and quality at modest prices. The models and fabrics are attention-compelling, the tailoring beautiful. In no other garments will you see such high grade fabrics and high grade tailoring at prices as low as ours, as in the noted Michael-Stern Spring Suits scheduled in our offering are all the very latest styles single or double breasted in brown, plaids or checks, olives, grays, neat colors and blues and blacks, pants medium or full peg top at \$10.00 to \$27.50.

New and complete line of men's pants in neat and fancy stripes in full bloomer style shins or regular at \$3.00 to \$6.50.

Gent's furnishing for everybody, our furnishing department is now filled to overflowing with everything that is new in men's and young men's fine furnishings such as hats, neckwear, sox, underwear and etc.

New and complete line of men's, ladies' and boys' shoes and oxfords.

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