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**PUBLISHERS' ANNOUNCEMENT**

No. 31 South Tryon street, Telephone numbers: Business office, Bell phone 24; city editor's office, Bell phone 18; news editor's office, Bell phone 24.

A subscriber in ordering the address of his paper changed will please indicate the address to which it is going as the time he asks for the change is made.

This paper takes correspondence as well as letters as it thinks public opinion should be known, but 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 demanded for the purpose of personal satisfaction. To receive consideration a communication must be accompanied by the true name of the correspondent.

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.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1908.

**THE NEW POSTAL REGULATION.**

The new regulation of the Post-office Department with regard to second-class mail matter, in which class newspapers and other publications are embraced, and which became effective to-day, is in this language:

"A reasonable time will be allowed publishers to secure renewals of subscriptions, but unless subscriptions are renewed within the term for which they are paid within the following periods:

"Dailies, within three months.

"Semi-weeklies, within nine months, and weeklies within one year, they shall not be counted in the legitimate list of subscribers, and copies mailed on account thereof shall not be accepted for mailing at the second-class postage rate of one cent per pound, but shall be mailed at the transient second-class postage rate of one cent for each four ounces or fraction thereof, prepaid by stamps at face value.

"The proviso referring to transient postage is prohibitory and is intended to be prohibitory, for it means \$3.65 a year postage on each daily paper and a corresponding rate on semi-weeklies and weeklies to-wit: One cent on each paper mailed, which of course no publisher could stand. This is a good law if it is equally enforced and we do not at all share the view of it expressed as follows in a circular issued by a Philadelphia paper:

"If the law itself does not deny the right of publishers to extend credit, when all other persons may do a credit business and former administrations took no account of expired subscriptions, upon what ground does Mr. Lawshe, the Postmaster General, attempt to establish his rule; and if Mr. Lawshe may limit the credit business for dailies to 30 numbers, copies mailed in numbers and months to four numbers, why may he not reverse the order; or why may he not require all subscriptions to be paid a year or five years in advance? It is just as he takes a notion, and his notion, being different from that of his predecessor, may differ also from his successor in office."

The law granting the low postage rate of one cent a pound to second-class matter was intended to cover only legitimate publications and the government has been grossly imposed upon by advertising sheets which have no legitimate subscription lists and by papers which pad their lists for one purpose or another, going in some cases in the names of people who have been dead for years and for years to others who have tried to get them stopped and failed. The government is not trying per se to regulate credit but to protect itself against the abuses of those to whom it has extended a special advantage and to other classes to whom it never intended to extend any favor at all.

It should be understood, however, that the Postoffice Department has modified the regulation to this extent, that a publisher may continue his paper to a subscriber who gives notice that he wishes to continue to receive it.

Our brother in business, Col James T. Bacon, editor of The Edgefield, S. C. Chronicle, is to put himself at the head of a touring party and he away to the World in July. The name of the expedition will be "Colonel Bacon's European Tour" and it will visit Norway, Denmark, Germany, Bavaria, Italy, Switzerland, France and England. It will sail from New York July 16th and land there on the return September 27th, and the cost of the tour from New York to New York will be \$490 and the duration of the trip seventy-six days. The figures of cost will embrace everything. This will be an elegant opportunity to go abroad at a minimum expense for first-class travel and accommodation and the reader who may contemplate taking advantage of it should write Colonel Bacon without delay.

In a communication in yesterday's paper "Fair Play," a gentleman of sense and of influence in the city and county, proposed that at the approaching primaries the people of Mecklenburg be allowed an opportunity to express their choice for President as they will for Governor and other officers. Why not? It cannot be objected that this is not Democratic or not fair.

That is a shining example of consistency given by the Republican convention of Speaker Cannon's congressional district which adopted one resolution favoring tariff revision and another endorsing the Speaker, a stand-patter of stand-patters. "That is certainly," as The Washington Herald puts it, "a cute way of playing both ends against the middle."

**PROTEST**

The weakness of political assassination, remarks The New York Evening Post, "that even when it attacks its immediate object, does so at an excessive cost to the cause it would serve. The murder of Durham W. Stevens by a Korean fanatic in San Francisco was doubtless intended to call the attention of the world to what a large section of the Korean people regard as the cruel and oppressive rule of Japan in her now protectorate. Actual-ly, the result of the assassination has been to bring odium on a people which is described as too cowardly to adopt any method of defending its liberties other than assassination." And yet, as The Evening Post points out, this is not altogether a fair view, for "the very fact that a people so averse to fighting should have been driven to armed resistance against hopeless odds, is good testimony to the wrong they have had to bear." It appears certain that, however long accustomed to being kicked about, the wretched Korean has found Japanese tyranny a little over-much. Doubtless even he has been touched by the spirit of the age, and inspired with unwonted energy. But the Korean conspirators who murdered the American legal adviser of the Japanese Foreign Office merely because of his professional connection with Japan blundered into the most effective means of alienating American and other foreign sympathy from their people. All that can be said about the futility of political assassination in general is here re-enforced by special circumstances. Koreans will never gain respect or success from the outside world by employing methods such as these.

**STATE DECISION.**

The decision of the Supreme Court's recent holdings, which will have a far-reaching effect in curbing radical and ill-advised legislation which has so harmed the country.—Montgomery Advertiser.

Once again it has been determined that the United States is not a congeries of semi-independent powers, but a nation endowed with all the powers essential to a national existence.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

We believe the decisions will have a most beneficial effect on the country, and that nothing could have happened just now that would have done more to restore confidence, and with confidence the panic will soon be a thing of the past.—Nashville American.

The confirmation of that right of inferior Federal courts to nullify the authority of the States through the simple device of the injunction is the most striking blow which has been struck at the autonomy of the States since the period of reconstruction.—New Orleans States.

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Federalism is a fact. The Union is not what the interests of the constitution intended it should be. It is a great nation and a great power and the seat of authority is at Washington. Bad law, but law all the same.—Charleston Evening Post.

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**MARION BUTLER AND THOS. E. WATSON.**

In the current issue of his Weekly Jeffersonian the Hon. Thomas E. Watson pays some fiery anti-compliments to ex-Senator Marion Butler. The contrast in type between these two men who rose to prominence in the same movement is so extreme that neither could be expected to show any liking for the other. Mr. Butler, indeed, is Mr. Watson's pet detestation. The ultra-idealistic who could probably gain any office within the gift of the people of Georgia by taking a half-leaf from Mr. Butler's book of politics entertains something like soul-hatred for the ultra-practical politician whom he regards as having selfishly traded away the Populist party. Toward Mr. Watson, on the other hand, Mr. Butler doubtless feels as a man of the world feels toward a man who handicaps himself with scruples verging on the over-refined. It became evident long ago that personal or political association between leaders so fundamentally antagonistic was destined to an early and violent end.

To-day the new railroad passenger rate of 2 1/2 cents per mile for straight tickets and of 2 cents for mileage goes into effect. We shall see what sort of results is realized. The new regulation as to mileage books—that is, their presentation at the ticket-window and the giving of a ticket for the mileage pulled—does not strike the public favorably but we do not understand that railroad commissions have any control over it. If so, it can only be hoped that it will prove less burdensome than now looks.

The Washington Herald congratulates The Atlanta Georgian upon sticking to "huckleberry" in preference to "whortleberry" despite some slight tendencies on its part toward the simple-minded spelling. Wherein The Herald is most edifyingly right. The man or newspaper who would spell it "whortleberry" should be run out of any self-respecting community with bloodhounds (terrifying though harmless creatures) but half an hour behind.

The Washington Herald says that Governor John A. Johnson declines to argue with the Supreme Court of the United States, and adds that "those who have been seeking for a conservative streak in Mr. Johnson's make-up are welcome to this evidence." It might have added further that those who are seeking for additional evidences of his good sense and respect for the law may find these also in his observation.

"None of Senator LaFollette's 100 men who control the wealth of the country are Southerners. More's the pity." Thus The Knoxville Sentinel. At any rate, there's no chance for Ohio Republican platforms to threaten reflection of Southern representation in this instance. The South is represented upon the LaFollette board by several men, but none of them now dwells actually among us.

The newspaper men are naturally applauding the Congressmen who are trying to get relief from them by a repeal of the duty on paper and wood pulp. This is a tax which bears very heavily on publishers and all the benefits from which go into the pockets of the manufacturers of printing paper.

If the Duke of the Abruzzi were a Chinese or Japanese, Prince his proposed American bride's lack of exalted ancestry would hardly constitute any hindrance. The lady's ancestors would simply be exalted by imperial decree and the problem thereby solved.

It is a dull day in Congress now when the President does not get in one branch or the other, a good warm roast.

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There is nothing in the court's decision that, in any way affects a right of any State. It does affect the assumed right of the Governor and their Legislatures have begun to exercise; but so much the better, we think. It is a good thing that we have a Supreme Court to put a stop to such radical performances.—Mobile Register.

There is no lasting comfort for the railroads in the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States concerning the future of the North Carolina conflicts of jurisdictions. There is no cause of disquietude to the people in this decision. This country is simply finding out, by investigation and capital trial, what bodies—whether national or State, or both—are to control the railroads and compel them to give a square deal to the people.—Kansas City Star.

However much the decision is to be deplored—and it cannot be questioned that, right or wrong, its coming as well as the circumstances which gave rise to it are unfortunate—it must admit that it was inevitable. The States themselves, which sought to bring about statutory revolution, must bear the burden of the responsibility for it. Relying too exactly on the doctrine of State rights, they have sown the wind of defiance and they are reaping the whirlwind of defeat.—Atlanta Constitution.

For its practical effect the decision should be welcomed. Procedure in the Federal courts is prompt, well informed, uniform in all the States, authoritative, free from local influence, and commands respect. Justice will be done to shippers and passengers against extortion, to public carriers against confiscatory rates, to their employees against extreme and exaggerated penalties. The States are secure under this decision. But this is after all a nation.—New York World.

The significance of the decision lies in the recognition by the court of the interstate nature of the transportation business and the necessity of securing efficient and just control of it. Granting Federal jurisdiction, the court holds that if complainants may appeal at once to a Federal tribunal, avoiding loss, delay and chaos, and even obtain a temporary injunction to prevent the enforcement of challenged legislation, so long as the injunction or other action is not plainly an attempt to obstruct the State in the exercise of its powers and duties.—Chicago Record-Herald.

The decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Minnesota and North Carolina rate cases is truly epoch-making and seems to sweep away what remained of the bulwarks of States' rights. It is keenly to be deplored that radical legislation on the part of the States gave the court a fair-seeming excuse for this revolutionary decision. It is doubtless to be explained on the one hand by the courts, after all, are human and eventually take the viewpoint that essentially their own natural feelings in a given situation of affairs. But there is no mistaking the trend of this decision in the direction of emasculating State governments and State courts. There is but one further and more pronounced step for the United States Supreme Court to take, and that is to uphold Judge Pritchard's extraordinary assumption that because South Carolina entered into the liquor traffic she waived her constitutional right not to be sued without her consent. This decision is the result of the devastating war on property rights in this country. It is the Telegraph and said two years ago would come.—Macomb Telegraph.

The idea should not be allowed to gain root that the railroads are profiting by any technical or snap judgment. On the contrary, the judges who are now sustaining in fact declared the popular will more truly than the editors and Legislatures who misrepresented the people. For we are convinced that the people are not foolish enough to injure themselves, nor wicked enough to wish to steal or confiscate the property of private persons or corporations. The wishes of the people in this respect are expressed not in the words of Legislatures or state speakers or editors of a sort. The conscience of the people is expressed in the constitution, and is expounded by the courts.—New York Times.

What the State in each case wished to do was to be the sole and final judge of the question of reasonableness. It wanted to ignore the rights of its citizens guaranteed them by the national constitution. If it had not done this the Supreme Court might have sanctioned its rate law, even if the Justices were convinced that the policy it fixed was not the best way of regulating railroad charges. But the State put an obstacle in the

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of personal and property rights without the process of law, and can themselves define what "due process of law" means, their verdicts are the only ones which will hold in crucial cases affecting great property interests. Calhoun, with his dream of forty-six sovereign States and forty-six different legal jurisdictions, has passed into "innocuous demagogue." As the Federal legislative power has been enlarged to control agencies which had outgrown State restraint, so the Federal judicial power is being enlarged to insure universal protection and justice.—New York Tribune.

**CONVENTION A TAME AFFAIR.**

E. Spencer Blackburn gets the Cold Shoulder, Has Five Twenty Minutes He Gives the Republican Party Hell Columbia—Adams Harangues the Convention—Democratic Convention the 18th. Special to The Observer.

North Wilkesboro, March 31.—The Republican county convention was a tame affair. In the forenoon there were many bumptious spirits abroad booming Cannon. Several townships instructed their delegates for Cannon. "Mysterious" Wilson and ex-Congressman E. Spencer Blackburn were on the ground. They didn't fall to "make a noise like Cannon" before the convention met. The "Drummer Boy" looks a trifle run down at the heel and is a good deal the worse for wear, but he is still very much alive. He waddled and at the boys in very much the same old way he used to be when he was "dictator of the old 'ate.'" But he didn't go down any more. The same old bunch that used to swear by him and feed out of his hand gave him the go-by. When the convention met he was promptly set down on, and seemingly completely squelched.

With the noon train came State Chairman Spencer B. Adams. Word had already reached the faithful that he was coming and that he was coming "loaded." And he was! With him were Messrs. Crouch and Dixon, of The Industrial News. Judge Adams and his lieutenants got busy and in an hour there was a "canonite in sight. Everything had been whipped into line, and the procession went merrily onward. The first order of business was the harmony of the occasion when a resolution was introduced seeking to put an end to the third term priviledges of Wilkes county officials. Bedlam reigned. Everybody talked—that is, everybody that wasn't yelling. Finally a stiffling quiet fell upon the assembly and a vote was taken. The resolution was lost, 75 to 100.

Henry Reynolds introduced the "Adams resolution," endorsing Taft. It passed without a dissenting vote. Two large portraits of Speaker Cannon were hanging over the chairman's seat, in plain view, and to the sympathetic onlooker it seemed the very irony of fate that this "gifted son of North Carolina" should thus be forced to look down upon his own doing.

It may have been a trick of the imagination, but it seemed that Cannon's stern visage wore a look of supreme contempt and unspasmodic scorn, as his eyes looked down upon the scene before him.

D. Mott, of Statesville, and Blackburn were not allowed to "create any disturbance." They were loaded, but were not allowed to express their views.

Judge Adams made a speech eulogizing the administration and describing the beauties of harmony. His speech was mainly a mass of stilted epithets directed at the Democratic party.

After his speech there were many calls for Blackburn, but the movement was quickly smothered and the convention adjourned.

Immediately after the adjournment Blackburn caught the crowd, and for twenty minutes he laid bare Republican names and trickeries with no gentle hand. He talked freely of denunciation of the Republican party and his methods has never been heard here. When he finished, there were a few half-hearted cheers, here and there, but no enthusiasm. The charges he had thundered at them had struck home, and the whole bunch actually looked ashamed of themselves. Adams, however, E. Spencer Blackburn, the dearest man in the Republican political coffin! Even Blackburn seemed surprised at the impetuosity of the rage.

The Democratic county committee met to-day in Wilkesboro, and set April 18th for the holding of the Democratic county convention.

Hon. W. W. Kitchin spent Sunday in town en route to Jefferson in Ashe county, in the interest of his candidacy.

**News From High Point.**

High Point, March 31.—Mr. O. N. Richardson, of this place, accompanied by Colonel Thompson, of Greensboro, has gone to Florida to make an inspection of their large lumber plant there. A company in which these gentlemen are interested owns several thousand acres of timber land and it is believed that it will eventually pan out near \$1,000,000.

The Manufacturers' Club will have its monthly reception Thursday night from 7:30 to 11:30 o'clock in the club rooms. The house committee has prepared a very elaborate programme and the reception is expected to have the largest attendance in the history of such gatherings.

**Ad Hominem.**

Manufacturers Record.

Southerners who may be disturbed by discussion in government circles at Washington or from the professional standpoint in New England of the question of "Southern secession" should bear in mind that this is a presidential election year. In 1904 the thing took the form of seeking to lead New England labor to believe that they were victims of competition with Southern labor. And some Southern "statesmen" have guiled the bait.

**A Blackburn, Va., Minister Called to Twin City.**

Special to The Observer.

Roanoke, Va., March 31.—Rev. J. M. Killian, pastor of the Lutheran Memorial church, at Blackburn, Va., has received a call to the pastorate of the Lutheran church at Winston-Salem, N. C. He will visit the North Carolina city in the near future to deliver a sermon and look over the field.

**Keene's**

**LIQUOR MORPHINE**

**The Little-Long Co.**

DEPARTMENT STORES CHARLOTTE, N.C.

**THROUNGS OF PLEASED WOMEN ATTEND OUR MILLINERY OPENING**

Expressions of admiration could be heard on every side. While a large portion of the models are immense, still one could not help admiring their striking features. Often you'd hear some one say, "Oh, my, ain't they big. But they look all right." Our showing is one of the largest and best in our history. For weeks our designers have been busy making these opening models, and each shows the deft touch of an artist's fingers. Yesterday was a success beyond our expectation, and to-day and to-morrow should be no less, for a hundred or more models of exclusive designs await your inspection. And what you get at Little-Long's "Is Right."

**Something Special Now For Each Day**

For the next ten days or two weeks, each day, we shall offer some special thing at a way-down price. A different thing each day and that price will be good for that day only.

**WATCH EACH DAY'S AD.**

**To-Day's Special**

One very fine lot Ladies' Black and Brown Gauze Lisle Hose, as good as ever sold for 25c.

To-day's price... 18c.

Limit 6 pairs to a customer.

**Easter Novelties 1 to 15 Cents**

One big assortment Easter Novelties, very cute articles, just the thing to amuse the little ones and make the old folks feel happy. Prices .5c. to 15c., and Easter Post Cards... 1c.

**The Little-Long Co.**

DEPARTMENT STORES CHARLOTTE, N.C.