

The Charlotte Observer.

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

Every Day in the Year

Subscription price table with columns for Daily, Semi-Weekly, and Monthly rates for one, six, and twelve months.

PUBLISHERS' ANNOUNCEMENT

No. 34 South Tryon street. Telephone numbers: Business office, Bell phone 124; city editor's office, Bell phone 124; news editor's office, Bell phone 124.

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1908.

RATE INCREASE AND A CHANCE IT GIVES.

Whatever the relative weight of the arguments for and against the proposed freight rate increase by railroads operating north of the Ohio and Potomac rivers and east of the Mississippi, there appears to be little or no doubt that it will go into effect as scheduled.

The South has already been affected to some extent by the general rate increase movement, for most of the Southern roads have quietly raised rates here and there within recent weeks.

A report now going the rounds has it that Georgia may properly be reckoned among the doubtful States in the November election.

We acknowledge a deep and peculiar interest in the election of Prof. Bruce Craven, of this State, to the superintendency of the public schools of Lancaster, S. C.

Says The Davie Record, Republican: "We want Charlotte to treat us nicely, and if the city is infested with snakes, we want the city authorities to proceed at once to exterminate them before August 20th."

THE PLATFORM'S SILENCES.

The New York World's opinion of Mr. Bryan's political theories is well known. This opinion stands unchanged and The World has tendered the Denver convention's nominee no support, but, like a good many others, it finds in the platform unexpected cause for gratification.

"Are The New York Times and The Brooklyn Eagle wholly fair to the Democratic party when they intimate to their readers that the 1908 platform is no better than the 1896 or the 1900 platform?"

"There is not one word in the Denver platform about the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1."

"There is not one word about bimetalism with or without the consent of other nations."

"There is not one word denouncing national bank notes and advocating wild-cat scribbled currency."

"There is not one word against the United States Supreme Court."

"There is not one word about government ownership of railroads."

"There is not one word about the initiative and referendum—and it was not very long ago that Mr. Bryan threatened in effect to drive everybody out of the Democratic party who did not believe in the initiative and referendum."

"There are faults in the Denver platform, but it shows a very great improvement over the platform of 1896 and the platform of 1900."

"Without modifying any of the criticisms which it has made against certain planks in the platform, it is entitled to great credit for a definition of party policies which contains so much that is good and avoids so much of the disastrous blunders of the past."

Which facts are truly stated and which commendations well bestowed. We had never dreamed until this July that a platform could contain so many silences.

It has very great merit. If there were no associated human platform to render its silences menacingly significant, the wide-spread distrust of the Democratic party as now constituted would have gone up in thin air.

Thus says The Norfolk Virginian Pilot: "If Mr. Bryan should be defeated, the Charlotte Observer and its Fayetteville namesake will not disturb the tradition that his forbears came from Virginia."

But should he triumph over the powers of darkness and become the next President, both these venerable and venerable journals will come to eternal infamy, for the man who intimates that Grandfather Bryan was not a Tar Heel."

We are amazed that our usually fair contemporary should offer this suggestion. We have never said nor ever will that any of the forbears of Col. Bryan were born in North Carolina.

We insist, however, that the mother of James Madison was a North Carolina woman and that Horace Greely married in this State.

President Roosevelt's action by proclamation in changing the name of the San Jacinto National Forest, in southern California, to the Cleveland National Forest does him very great credit.

It is peculiarly fitting because, as the President states in a very graceful letter to Mrs. Cleveland, "President Cleveland was one of the first to recognize the need of forest preservation, and the creation of the San Jacinto and other forest reserves, with a total area of 25,686,329 acres, was one of the results of his foresight in this direction."

A report now going the rounds has it that Georgia may properly be reckoned among the doubtful States in the November election.

This, of course, merely implies a supposition that the strong anti-Bryan feeling which unquestionably pervades the State will take the form of anti-Bryan votes to a landslide extent.

If we were so credulous as those numerous people who believe regularly every two years that Ohio is going Democratic—they are talking it now—we would have to believe the Georgia story also.

"As the Democratic candidate for Vice President has 'worth' as a model name, can't the presiding editor of The Charlotte Observer trace his descent from some Tar Heel ancestor of the 'dore,' of course, he must expect the Virginia papers to take issue with him?"

The Observer is heart and soul for Colonel Kern and wishes that North Carolina could claim him or some of his ancestors, but it has a soul to save and a reputation for historical accuracy to maintain and for these reasons it relinquishes the colonel and his kin with a pang.

The Greensboro Record thinks that all the talk about publicity of campaign funds made by the managers for Mr. Taft or Mr. Bryan is pure buncombe, but publicity will presumably be made of certain contributors to the omission of others.

We are not so skeptical, but whatever the course of events we believe The Record will agree with us that both Mr. Taft and Mr. Bryan personally may be credited with good intentions in the matter.

Mr. Martin R. Preston, Socialist labor nominee for President, declines on the ground that being an inmate of the Nevada State prison, he could not make an effective campaign.

Would seem as if the party's hate and contempt for American institutions must be displayed in some other manner.

After ripe consideration we have decided that J. Hamilton Lewis' remark about the men who allowed themselves to be boomed for the vice presidency to improve their chances of getting into State Legislatures was the best thing said at Denver.

A beastly Republican paper of Denver thus speeded the departing guests: "The tumult and the shouting dies, the bosses and their gang depart, and now the Twice-Stung Sacrifice is ready for another start."

This was not nice at all.

Without betraying any confidences, we are able to state that at the forthcoming notifications both Mr. Bryan and Mr. Taft will undoubtedly accept.

NEXT THING TO ROOSEVELT.

Secretary of State, Elihu Root; Secretary of the Treasury, George Von L. Meyer; Secretary of War, Gen. Luke E. Wright; Attorney General, Frank B. Keilogg; Postmaster General, Frank H. Hitchcock; Secretary of the Interior, James A. Garfield; Secretary of Agriculture, James Wilson; Secretary of the Navy and Commerce and Labor, not yet selected.

This is the cabinet which Hot Springs, Va., dispatches "upon good authority" represent Mr. Taft to have picked out for himself. It is just about such a revision of the present cabinet as Mr. Roosevelt himself might have made.

The correspondents are, of course, convinced that when Mr. Taft delivers his speech of acceptance at Cincinnati he will re-affirm his adherence to the Roosevelt policies.

Except that Mr. Taft's methods would certainly prove less strenuous, less spectacular, and very much more considerate of business in general, only those exceedingly ardent Rooseveltians who set Mr. Roosevelt's unique personality above all other things political would fail to recognize in the new administration its predecessor prolonged.

Thus the third-termers, seeing how they might not have fared nearly so well, may yet conclude to be happy.

The Houston Post doubts whether The Observer "will ever become reconciled to the way the people of South Carolina pronounce 'Beaufort, N. C.' and 'Bufort, S. C.' as much separate and distinct propositions as Concord, N. C., and 'Concord, N. H.' in pronunciation, as in most other respects, North Carolina holds primacy, and that's about all there is to the matter."

Water rates reduced. Charge will be 13 1-3 cents on a thousand gallons a month, the minimum charge being 50 cents a month.

A reduction in water rates was ordered after an exhaustive discussion at the meeting of the commissioners last night, the charge hereafter to be 13 1-3 cents a thousand gallons consumed per month.

The board forwards to the public the following card as a result of their meeting which is comprehensive and shows their attitude toward a matter about which there has been a maximum of agitation:

"To the Water Consumers of the City of Charlotte: The members of the board of water commissioners, after a careful and painstaking investigation, have reached the conclusion that the municipal water plant can be operated upon a self-sustaining basis by making the minimum rate 13 1-3 cents per thousand gallons consumed per month (the minimum charge being 50 cents per month) against 50 cents per month on quarterly basis, and the board has accordingly ordered the rate thus changed to take effect on the first day of July, 1908; this rate to remain in force until it can be definitely ascertained whether the plant can be operated upon a self-sustaining basis under this rate, and if it shall appear in the future that it can be so operated under a lower rate, then the board will accordingly reduce the rate. If, on the other hand, it shall appear that it cannot be operated upon a self-sustaining basis under the rate above fixed, then the board will raise the rate sufficiently to enable it to operate the plant without loss to the taxpayers of the city."

The individual members of the board wish it distinctly understood that it is their policy to operate the water plant upon no other than a self-sustaining basis, and it was for this purpose alone that the rate was changed in the first instance.

E. T. CANSLER, J. W. CONWAY, R. M. MILLER, C. A. WILLIAMS.

DESERTION, FORGERY CHARGED.

Durham Smith is in Trouble—Must Answer to United States Government and Then to State of North Carolina.

Facing the double charge of desertion from the army of the United States at Fort Slocum and of a previous offense of forgery at Salisbury, Durham Smith, a young white man, was yesterday brought to Charlotte and committed to the lockup by the sheriff of Davie. He awaits removal to the Northern post which he left.

The arrest was made by the Davie sheriff of the home of Smith's brother, his youth, the latter being reared in that section. After serving about three months in the army Smith deserted a year ago, being promoted, he says, to a corporalship, on the day he left. Yesterday morning the sheriff went to the home of Smith's brother to serve a warrant for an affray, and found not only the brother but the deserter.

It is thought by the officers that fear of arrest on the charge of forgery which led to his desertion. At any rate he is answerable to Uncle Sam first.

"My Uncle" is at Latta Park. A partying comedy entitled "My Uncle" was presented at Latta Park last night with great success. A good-sized house was present and all were pleased. "My Uncle" is played in three acts. The first one sets the people laughing, the second sets them crying, and the third act makes them scream.

To-night and to-morrow night concludes the engagement of the Peters Stock Company, and doubtless record-breaking business will prevail at the park.

Sunday School Conference To-Morrow Special to The Observer. Durham, July 16.—At Duke's chapel, four miles north of the city, a Sunday school conference will be held Saturday. This will be the conference of the Durham circuit, Methodist Church, and it is expected that there will be a large number present. There will be an old-fashioned picnic dinner served on the grounds. The conference will be conducted by J. D. Fletcher, who is president of the Sunday school organization, and by Rev. G. W. Fisher, pastor of the Durham circuit.

On the charge of trespassing, or rather "squinting" on property that did not belong to her, Mary Hopkins, colored, was today sent to the county work house by Justice of the Peace D. C. Gunter. She was arrested on complaint of the owner of the property, who could not get her to vacate property that she had taken charge of, and the court gave her ten days and taxed her with the costs.

DID CLEVELAND CAUSE IT?

THE PANIC OF 1893 REVIEWED.

Mr. Cleveland and the Financial Markets of the Early Nineties—Did He Cause the Panic of 1893?—The Verdict of History on a Highly Interesting Period—Real Story of the "Government Bond Syndicate." New York Evening Post.

The death of ex-President Cleveland has necessarily revived discussion of the relations of his administration to the country's financial history of the past generation, and this discussion has already illustrated the persistency with which an unfounded reputation, believed by people at the time because of political prejudice, will often cling to the traditions of the period.

"A good man, but he brought on the panic," was his verdict in the mouths of hundreds of men of at least average intelligence, when they got last Wednesday's news. Yet nothing is more certain, as a matter of financial history, than that Mr. Cleveland did not bring on the panic of 1893, that he did great service in averting its worst after-effects, and that in so far as public measures before and after actually had a hand in the financial chaos of that panic year and the years which followed it, they were measures, and policies to which he was openly opposed on their long and short scenes of action when he was not in office.

CAUSE OF THE 1893 PANIC. The familiar argument that Mr. Cleveland's tariff policy was the cause of panic misuses dates. Whatever their theoretical beliefs, most people now concede that the plan of suddenly and radically raising the duties on imports duties is unsettling to business, for the reason that importers must necessarily move slowly, when such changes are impending, in order to adjust on their long voyages. A merchant who should import goods under high duties, and who had not disposed of them when the duties were lowered or removed and his competitor had imported the same goods on the new basis, would naturally be undersold.

This, though it would scarcely make for panic, would be extremely apt to bring on a fall and narrow trade. But the tariff policy of the Cleveland administration was not considered until the last months of 1893, nor introduced in Congress until December 19th, nor enacted until the middle of 1894, and the panic began in May, 1893, and reached its climax in July. This would not doubt leave open the theory that fear of what the law might be had caused the panic, but the fact is that nobody on the financial markets paid any attention whatever to the tariff matter while the panic was raging, but that the tariff law, enacted in 1890, and then operating directly and unmistakably to break down the public credit.

THE SECOND CLEVELAND ADMINISTRATION. The position with which Mr. Cleveland was confronted, when his second term began in 1893, was this: A revenue law had just been passed which, by removing the sugar duties, struck off upwards of \$30,000,000 from the annual public revenue. Public expenditure, which was \$297,000,000 in the year when the revenue law in question was passed, had risen to \$333,000,000 in the year when Mr. Cleveland took office. Deficits in Treasury finance were beginning, and this happened when the government's floating debt, in the form of notes issued to purchase and store away silver bullion, under the law of 1890, was increasing at the rate of \$50,000,000 annually. A banking concern in the position occupied by the Treasury in March, 1893, would have stood on the brink of insolvency. The gold reserve for redemption of government notes, which the law stipulated should be \$100,000,000, stood at \$100,982,000 when the Cleveland administration began, and it was not until the end of the year that it had increased to \$100,000,000. The Cleveland administration had to keep at that figure only through the extorting of \$7,000,000 of gold, in exchange for notes held by the Treasury, from reluctant New York bankers.

Mr. Cleveland dealt with this disastrous situation through four distinct and important actions. He personally declared that the law, in his judgment, required that the notes of 1890 should be redeemed, if the holder so desired, in gold. He forced on Congress the repeal of the vicious statute through which the government's floating debt, being uselessly increased, was to be redeemed by the sale of these notes by the millions back from general circulation into the banks, started a gold-export movement, and Cleveland administration utilized the lawful powers in the face of a wild outcry of protest, and procured gold from the New York banks, through public loans.

THE BELMONT-MORGAN SYNDICATE. When even this recourse failed, because the banks drew the gold for their bond subscriptions out of the Treasury in exchange for legal tenders, and when, in February, 1895, the gold reserve fell to \$41,000,000—when forced suspension of gold payments was apparently only one day off—Mr. Cleveland issued bonds to buy \$65,000,000 gold from an international syndicate, on the pledge of the syndicate that the gold would not be procured from the Treasury, and that further withdrawals would be averted.

No President in our history has faced such a clamor of abuse and misrepresentation as broke out on the announcement of this contract, and Mr. Cleveland well knew beforehand that he would have to face it. But if he had flinched, and had let the emergency expedient go by default because of its unpopularity, the United States government, in March, 1895, would have gone to a silver basis. It was not Mr. Cleveland's habit to flinch in such a crisis, and he met the situation. It is worth asking whether the chorus of tributes of respect and admiration, paid to his memory this week even by opposing political organizations, will in very considerable part a recognition of this achievement of 1895, and of the President's steadfast courage at the helm of state during the panic of 1893 for which he was not responsible.

Maryland and Bryan. Baltimore American. Bryan's election, we hope, can never be. If he were the finest and purest patriot that ever breathed the things he stands for and the men who stand behind him make the thought of his election inconceivable. Maryland will do her part. Twice she threw her vote heavily against him, and this year it will be a landslide.

The Starter For '08. Greensboro Telegram. The gubernatorial campaign of 1912 has commenced. Mr. Edward Gilman, now of Boston, but formerly of North Carolina, has started a boom for Mr. C. W. Tillet, of Charlotte. At any rate there is plenty of time to "watch Tillet's grove."

THE OLD-TIME DARKEY.

He Has Been Mirrored by None So Faithfully as by Harris and McNeill.

Charley and Children. The Charlotte Observer recently remarked that Joel Chandler Harris and John Charles McNeill are the most faithful exponents of the spirit and letter of the ante-bellum negro's life that has yet been written. We are persuaded that this observation is entirely just and true. Others among Southern writers have done well, but these two are the masters in the realm of the literature of the colored man of the old days. They were not copyists, but wrote understandingly. They were closely associated with the finer type of darkeys now so rapidly passing away. We happen to know a great deal about the mostly associations of John Charles McNeill. He spent much of his boyhood among the negroes who even yet speak reverently of "ole marse" and "ole missus."

They took to him their quaint and curious stories when he was a little boy. Into his young life was poured the riches of that lore, the fine humor and pathos of which only those who know the old-time negro will ever understand. We take it that Joel Chandler Harris was reared under the same conditions, with the advantage in favor of the latter, because his childhood was spent in the period when the Southern darkey was in his glory. These two men, so highly gifted, were charmed themselves with the wealth and beauty and exquisite humor of the language of the race, and gave it to the world in its original purity. Never, in all they wrote, do these writers make a negro say: "deed I do," for they knew no old-time negro who ever used any use for "deed." They have pictured for all time to come the old-time darkey as he really was.

PELLAGRA EXISTS IN SOUTH. Dr. James Woods Babcock, of Columbia, Makes a Discovery of Intense Interest to the Medical World—"Italian Leprosy" Contracted From Unsound and Immature Corn. Milan Dispatch, 15th.

An American physician, James Woods Babcock, superintendent of the State Hospital for the Insane at Columbia, S. C., has succeeded in solving the question which has been under investigation for a long time as to whether the disease pellagra, common among the peasants in Italy and the south of Europe, exists in the United States. Dr. Babcock, who has been aided in his researches by the Italian authorities, has proved that the Italian pellagra and a disease common in the Southern States having almost identical symptoms, are one and the same, called Italian leprosy. Alpine scurvy, and Austrian rose, is accompanied by a reddening of the skin and some times a hypotrophy of the skin and marked mental symptoms, and it is said to be caused by poisonous mace taken as food.

The importance of Dr. Babcock's discovery can be understood when the extent of the consumption of Indian corn in the Southern States is considered. Corn is the staple diet among the negroes and is also largely eaten by the whites.

According to Dr. Babcock pellagra was unknown in the United States until after the importation, following the civil war, of immature and unsound corn. It is thought that his discovery may lead to government inspection of corn.

FORGOT THE BABY. Frame Dwelling on the Corner of Third and South Caldwell Badly Damaged by Fire. The two-story dwelling situated on the corner of East Third and South Caldwell, known as the Kitty West house, was badly burned and probably irreparably damaged by fire shortly after midnight this morning. It was after midnight a few minutes before 12 when the inmates, colored, of the building discovered the fire and began to scream and turn out. After some delay the alarm was turned in nearby. The fire department came and after some further delay, caused by inability to open the hydrant nearby, the water was turned on and the fire extinguished in a few minutes. The chemical apparatus lent some assistance.

A colored woman named Edna Dorritte and her mother had just moved in yesterday to run a boarding house. The origin of the fire was not known. All the household furniture practically was piled into the yard and street and saved. Several hundred people, mostly negroes, witnessed the fire, all degrees of appalling being represented in the motley throng. The house is owned by the widow of the late H. J. Green, house was ablaze, but the deluge of water extinguished it.

A young negro man named Crawford found a baby in a bed during the excitement and brought it out in safety. The inmates had evidently lost sight of it in their wildness.

ITEMS FROM DURHAM. Share in Firemen's Relief Fund Over \$450—Chairman's Brawley Appoints Members of His Committee. Special to The Observer.

Durham, July 16.—State Insurance Commissioner Young has notified Chief Maddy, of the fire department, that the Durham firemen are entitled to receive under the operations of the new firemen relief fund at \$455.21. He says in his letter that this amount may be slightly increased by a careful checking of the accounts.

M. A. Walker, formerly of this city, but now of Porto Rico, is here on a visit to his brother, J. B. Walker, and other relatives. He represents the American Cigar Company in Porto Rico and has been in the State for a week. He will remain here a short while and will then return to his adopted home.

Chairman C. Brawley, of the Democratic county executive committee, has appointed the five members who are to compose his central committee and act as a personal advisory board to the chairman. These are: Messrs. H. A. Foushee, G. C. Farthing, V. S. Bryant, John Sprunt Hill and R. P. Reade. From this list an active campaign work will be on.

Time For Watson to Let Up. Greenville, S. C. News. If Tom Watson, of Georgia, is the sincere, honest man some of his friends believe him to be, he will quit repeating the statement that Bryan said he would not vote for an ex-Confederate, in view of the positive denial and the fact that he did vote for an ex-Confederate three times in Congress.

A Correction. Madison County Times. The article in week before last's issue stating that Mr. and Mrs. Donley were presented with a solid silver butcher knife, should have read a solid silver butter knife.

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