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PUBLISHERS' ANNOUNCEMENT

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1908.

HE STOOPS TO CONQUER.

In the long range talk and "back-talk" which has passed between Mr. Bryan and Mr. Taft the latter has been worsted, and that he realizes this is evidenced by his exhibition of bad temper. His reply to Bryan's comment on the President's recent letter to the Montana man was not quite up to his standard of dignity and logical argument, and in trying to add force to Mr. Roosevelt's designation of himself and not Mr. Bryan as the heir of his "policy" he reminded Mr. Bryan that he had actually attacked the President's militarism and had paramount none of the Roosevelt issues, closing his interview with this threat to the country and spiteful reference to his competitor.

"The country . . . will be fortunate indeed if the danger of four years' depression, to which it would be exposed in case of Mr. Bryan's election, may be averted, and if by Republican success in November, and subsequent prosperity, and by a change of the Board of regents, he may be again shown to be a prophet without honor."

Upon this sentence The St. Louis Post-Dispatch submits this pertinent comment:

"In view of the country's experience for the past year the assumption that Bryan's election would mean four years' depression, to which it would be exposed in case of Mr. Bryan's election, may be averted, and if by Republican success in November, and subsequent prosperity, and by a change of the Board of regents, he may be again shown to be a prophet without honor."

The criticism is just. Whatever force there may be in any other argument against the election of Bryan it does not lie in the mouth of Judge Taft or any other Republican to suggest business depression as a certain result of it. It is not politics, either, for it is calculated to cause people to review the events of the past year and take stock of the "prosperity" which they have enjoyed under the benevolent rule of the Big Stick.

AS TO THE GOVERNOR'S PLANS.

Regarding the particular field of activity which Governor Hines will enter upon his retirement will enter upon his retirement next to the executive office in January next. The Observer has it upon the highest authority that he is considering two propositions, neither of which has positively decided upon. One is from the Southern Presbyterian Church which wants him to give six months of next year to an effort to interest the laymen not only of this Church but others in the work of home missions, to the improvement of the social, educational and religious condition of our own people. The other is a proposition to lecture a hundred nights on the lecture platform on "The South, Its Possibilities and Problems," and "The Race Problem, Viewed from a Southern Man's Standpoint." With his power as speaker the Governor would acquire himself with credit in either of these capacities, and while he would be highly useful in either we have hoped that in the event of Mr. Bryan's election he would be invited to some position in the public service commensurate with his ability and party services.

It is seen in The Times of that city that in his speech in Chattanooga Tuesday evening Mr. Hines, the Independence League candidate for President, made the statement that "Mr. Hines has abundant proof of the correctness of his charge that Mr. Bryan had made a 'jockeying' proposition to him," and that "such proofs at the proper time would be given to the public." There will never be for this purpose a time so proper as the present. Nobody believes the Hines charge and if he is going to prove it the time to do it is right on the heels of Bryan's absolute denial of it.

Mr. Bryan in his speech at Harrington, Del., Thursday, "for the first time openly announced" that the steel trust is furnishing the funds for the Republican campaign. It is a grave charge, one which it is hardly to be believed he would have made without proof to support it. If he can make it good the evidence will go very far to insure his election.

A CHOICE MEMORIAL VOLUME.

We have a copy of the beautiful memorial to Frances Bridges Atkinson, wife of Rev. George H. Atkinson, of Monroe. The book, prettily bound in green and gold, was prepared by friends of Mrs. Atkinson, and is a "record of her life from her birth in Brooklyn, November 11th, 1878, to her death, in Asheville, June 9th, 1906."

The book in its entirety is an exquisite tribute to Mrs. Atkinson. Beloved by so many, it is not surprising that so many have contributed to the memorial volume. Each friend seems to have been impressed with a different trait, the ensemble making a beautifully-poised and rounded-out character. Her brilliant mentality, her energy and talents were consecrated early in life to Christian work, principally work among young women. In 1900 she became one of the traveling student secretaries for the American committee of the Young Women's Christian Association, the field assigned her being the Southern colleges. The work grew rapidly under her magnetic influence and activity. In 1902 Miss Bridges became the national secretary of the Young Women's Christian Association. In 1905 she laid down her work as secretary and became "The Pastor's Wife," her marriage to Mr. Atkinson taking place in December of that year. In the first week of January, 1906, she entered her new home, the manse in Monroe. She was not a stranger in the South in 1901, after her first year's work among Southern girls, she wrote: "I like the South as much as I always thought I would and am glad to be called one of its daughters, even by adoption."

When she arrived at Monroe she said: "This is my town and these are my people." From those people whom she loved she went away to Asheville—June 7th, 1906, to attend the Southern Conference of the Young Women's Christian Association. She was to be one of the speakers of the conference. In the midst of her address on the evening of June 8th she became suddenly ill and ere the night was full spent her work was done.

Margaret Sangster, in the "Foreword" of the memorial volume, says: "She was, in her own person, the realization of an ideal Christian woman." The little book is a worthy tribute to a noble woman and will be an inspiration to those to whom it is dedicated—"the young women of America whom Frances Bridges loved and for whom she toiled."

The book is for sale by Stone & Barringer, Charlotte, price \$1.00, postage extra. Mr. Atkinson's purpose is to tell this memorial of his wife's life and from the proceeds erect at the Barium Springs Orphanage a school building as a memorial to her and her parents.

A POSSIBLE EXPLANATION.

Judge Peebles has come in for a good many raps for having directed a nod pro in a case in Cherokee county wherein the defendants were indicted for disturbing religious exercises in interrupting the proceedings of a Sunday school. He held that a Sunday school meeting is not a religious exercise. The Rowan County Sunday School Association took a fall out of him Wednesday. The disposition of a case in one of the extreme western counties some years ago may or may not afford a precedent for his honors ruling. A preacher who may be called Brown, was conducting a meeting which was disrupted by a party of rowdies. They were under a trial under the statute on this subject and though the proof of the disturbance was complete the jury promptly brought in a verdict of not guilty. Capt. J. M. Galt, the soldier, was arraigned as was everybody else, and afterwards asked one of the jurists what in the world they meant by bringing in that verdict. The answer was that the jury did not believe that old Brown could conduct a religious meeting. Judge Peebles' ruling may or may not have depended upon the superintendent of the Cherokee Sunday school.

In its issue of the 12th The Charlotte Herald reproduced this Washington dispatch of the 12th: "Senator Wright endorsed his previous performance again today, when he announced two new world records in his record books. In fact, he might be said to have made these new records, for he had broken all of his previous records by a heavy-thrust effort."

On this dispatch The Herald commented: "Some day the papers will tell of a different sort of an eclipse of the light which will break off at the previous records in a total, partial, or rather light happens to all of them who persevere."

This was on the morning of the 12th, on the evening of the same day Wright had his nearly fatal fall. It was nearly prophesy.

Hon. Richard Olney, one of the ablest men in either of Mr. Cleveland's cabinets, has published in The New York World an elaborate exposition of his views in their bearing on the present campaign, setting forth the desirability of the election of the Democratic ticket. Mr. Olney was ever a firm believer in the Cleveland type of Democracy and his letter to The World affords another evidence that all the different classes of Democrats are getting together on Bryan and Kern.

It appears that Orville Wright will recover and it is pleasant to read that the mishap to his machine has not shaken the faith of the signal service experts, one saying that his faith was no more shaken than it would be in the future of railroad transportation because of the loss of life resulting from an accident. Nor should it be.

Three notable Republicans of the lower house of Congress have recently failed of re-nomination. Two weeks ago Representative Jenkins, of Wisconsin, chairman of the judiciary committee of the House, fell outside the breastworks; within the past few days Representatives Bede and Tawney, of Minnesota, the former the wit of the House, have similarly gone down. These facts afford some intimation of the Republican temper in the West and in a sense in the country at large. The people want a change; and amongst other things it is significant that these three Congressmen are conspicuous tariff stand-patters and that Bede in particular is a devotee of Speaker Cannon and his methods, and that this was the direct issue in his campaign for re-nomination.

Ex-Governor Heyward, of South Carolina, after spending the summer at Blowing Rock, has returned to Columbia fully restored to health and ready to take up business again. This is gratifying but it is still a thousand pities that his physical collapse came when it did. Had he remained in health and able to participate in the campaign he would almost surely have been elected to the Senate where he would have been an honor to his State and the South.

The Durham Herald is "glad to see that the Democrats have received The Charlotte Observer into full fellowship. In fact," it says, "that paper has no reason to complain at the reception accorded it." No complaint at all. Never complains. Didn't whimper even when being cuffed for insubordination.

The Asheville meeting last night, together with the fact that Mr. Craik introduced Mr. Kitchin to the great audience, is another indication that there are no breaches in the western Democracy.

The cotton night riders have broken out in Georgia. Will the infection spread to North Carolina?

MEEKINS SPEAKS IN BEAUFORT.

Republican Convention Addressed by Congressional Aspirant—The Ticket Named.

Washington, N. C., Sept. 18.—The Republican convention for Beaufort county was held in the court house in this city today and was largely attended. The convention was called to order at 11:30 o'clock by Chairman E. G. Paul, who asked Mr. T. E. Capper to act as temporary secretary, and stated the business of the convention. The roll call of precincts was then taken and out of the 21 precincts in the county only 5 were missing. The committee on credentials then reported and while it was out Mr. O. J. Swan, introduced Mr. L. M. Meekins, of Charlotte city, the Republican candidate for Congressman in the first district. Mr. Meekins made a very strong and forcible speech on the platform and after the address the following nominations were made for the Republican ticket in Beaufort county: For sheriff, John B. Ross, Jr.; treasurer, E. G. Paul, clerk of court, E. Latham; register of deeds, H. G. Chatham; coroner, Dr. J. M. Gallagher; county surveyor, J. P. Latham; legislator, Howard Allison and M. D. Leggett; commissioners, J. Bishop, S. E. Chatham, T. Williams, G. T. Buckman, J. R. Brown, M. R. Wilkinson and H. N. Roper.

DEATHS FROM ATROPINE POISON

Hospital Nurse Carelessly Leaves Water Containing Atropine Where It is Accidentally Taken as Medicine, Causing the Death of Four Patients.

SAN DIEGO, Cal., Sept. 18.—Careless nurse in leaving water containing atropine where it was accidentally used in taking medicine, has paid the penalty. Three deaths among the patients at the county hospital, a fourth death is expected, and four other persons are seriously ill. The dead are: J. YOUNG, CHARLES KEMP, HENRY C. SHLETTE.

All patients were taken violently sick Thursday afternoon and evidence of poison was so great that an investigation was started. Finally a nurse, Miss Mary Arthur, 19 years old, said that she had neglected to throw out some water in which there was a quantity of atropine, and that the patients had got hold of it. She realized her mistake as soon as the inmates became ill, but did not confess her error until the investigation had brought the deaths almost home to her.

Cow-Stealer Moses Breaks Out of Jail.

Morganton, Sept. 18.—Thomas Moses, who was at last term of the Superior Court convicted of the larceny of a cow and sentenced to a term of five years in the penitentiary, and who was in Burke Jail awaiting a decision of his case by the Supreme Court, broke jail Wednesday night and is now at liberty. Moses managed in some way to break the lock of the door and escaped, going bare-footed, bare-headed and in his shirt sleeves. Up to the present time nothing has been learned of his whereabouts, and the officers may have some trouble in apprehending him.

Seems to Have Learned.

Stateville Landmark. The Durham Herald thinks Mr. Bryan "should have learned something by this time" as he has had more experience in running for President than any living man. And he appears to have profited by the experience. He has learned to give greater satisfaction to his party, who might say to the country, than ever before; and he appears to be more popular and to have a better show of winning than ever before. So far Mr. Bryan has Mr. Taft beat as a popular candidate. The tide may change before November or it may not.

Wants Possession of Son.

Hartford, Conn., Sept. 18.—Habeas corpus proceedings were brought in the Court of Common Pleas today by C. Gadden Sayre of Anderson, S. C., for the recovery of his 4-year-old boy whom he claims is illegally held by the child's grand parents in East Hartford. The writ was quashed on the ground that the court was not one of competent jurisdiction. The parents of the boy have been separated for some time.

Tales of the Town and the Times BY RED BUCK

Ten years ago, when I first began to roam about North Carolina and make notes of places, people and things I became very much interested in an old negro in North Carolina, a bull at Salisbury. Recently I have missed the old friends. Yesterday Mayor Boyden said to me that he wanted to introduce Joe Ballard, the smartest old negro in North Carolina, and presented an old man, bent and half-blind with age. Immediately I recognized my old acquaintance, the master of the cream-colored bull. "Where is Jim Buchanan, your ox?" I inquired. "Why, sir, he died long ago. I had a mule after Jim Buchanan passed. That was a great beast, sir. Do you remember him?" "Certainly, I used to see you drive him by the Central Hotel. He was of such an unusual color that I will never forget him."

"He's gone. It was a sad day for me when I lost him, for my run of bad luck began then. I bought an old mule and he was burned to death by mean negroes."

"Burned by a negro?" "SET FIRE TO MULE."

"Yes, sir. The mule had vermin on him, and Mr. Valentine, a white gentleman, gave me a mixture to kill 'em. John Palmer, a negro, brought the mixture to me and offered to put it on. I took the harness off of Jack, my mule, and Palmer greased him all over, and before realized what he was up to set fire to him, and before anything could be done he was burned so badly that he had to be killed. Palmer was tried for cruelty to animals, convicted and sent to the penitentiary for four months. I have not had a mule since. I am too old and too near blind to dodge these automobiles now, therefore, I thought it best to quit my old business of being a mule driver. For fifteen or more years Joe Ballard was the Republican leader of the community. He has a very retentive memory and was biased with good sense. Although he is unlettered, he knows more history than the average college graduate. At his advanced age he talks intelligently of the Missouri Compromise and the record of President Andrew Jackson."

"How old are you, Uncle Joe?" "I asked."

"I will be 82 the 20th of the coming November, was the quick reply. 'What is your full name?'"

"Joseph Benjamin Ballard, or, as most people know me, J. B. Ballard."

"Where were you born?" "Fayetteville, between the market house and Campbelltown."

"Well, go ahead and tell me something about yourself, your history, your white people, and so forth."

"AN INTERESTING STORY."

William P. Ballard, who married Miss Ann Davis, of this city, owned me. I came here in my 11th year, the 1st of June, 1838, and went to work at Mr. Thomas A. Bagley's hotel, located on Main street, and run by Mr. Ned Yarborough, who went from here to Raleigh and started the hotel that bears his name.

"What did you do at the Hague House at the age of 11?" "I was a chicken picker. After Mr. Yarborough left, Mr. William Crawford, father of Mr. James Crawford, who died two weeks ago, took charge of the hotel."

DISPENSARY AND THE COURTS.

Mr. F. C. Withers, of Columbia, S. C., "Take the Observer Not Concerned With All the Facts"—Why the Case Was Taken to the United States Court.

To the Editor of The Observer: I notice your comments in the editorial columns yesterday on the decision of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in the South Carolina dispensary case.

Of course, all lovers of law in this State wish the affairs of the late State dispensary to be wound up in accordance with the law. At the same time we wish our neighbors in North Carolina who are served by The Observer to know the facts and it seems that you are not conversant with all of the facts. Your opinion and the opinion of the United States Court of Appeals may be entirely correct as to the matter of State rights involved through the Supreme Court of South Carolina in a very strong unanimous decision held otherwise. But in your editorial no notice is taken of the real cause for taking this case to the United States courts. You are mistaken in saying that the State of South Carolina in winding up the affairs of the dispensary refused or tried to avoid paying any of its obligations. The commission appointed by the Governor under authority of the Legislature to wind up the business of the dispensary has considered and passed upon practically every claim against the institution and the money would have been paid to creditors had the United States court not interfered and forbidden the commissioners to pay it out. The State dispensary, as you correctly stated, was permeated with corruption and the proceedings in the United States courts were called there by the liquor houses which were charged with corrupt practices in their sales to the dispensary. They were not willing to bring their books to South Carolina, but they themselves within the jurisdiction of the South Carolina courts to prove their claims. That is all that South Carolina asked of any creditor and some of those who would not comply with the conditions imposed by the receivership. It may be that the United States court has jurisdiction in the matter, but those of us in South Carolina who wish to see the grafters punished have not been able to see any reason given by Judge Pritchard for the appointment of receivers. The institution is not insolvent and the winding up commission according to Judge Pritchard's own statement was efficient. In fact, he asked each member of the commission to serve as one of the receivers. His position seems to be that the commission is not competent to wind up the affairs of the dispensary and pay off its debts except in the order of the Supreme Court of South Carolina, but that they are competent to do the same thing under his orders. You will see, therefore, that you are mistaken when you say in your editorial that the State of South Carolina has offered any resistance to a just claim against its dispensary commission. On the contrary, the commission has been faithfully endeavoring to find out what were just claims, and those creditors or some of them who under suspicion of not having just claims, in order to block this investigation, have taken the matter to the United States courts. If the receivership stands it will mean that the \$100,000 will have to be paid the receivers in fees, whereas the members of the winding up commission, which consisted of prominent business men have been receiving each only \$5 a day and expenses for time actually given to

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