

The Charlotte Observer.

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1909.

MR. TAFT IN CHARLESTON.

Of course they gave Mr. Taft a banquet in Charleston, Deacon Hemphill doing the honors, and of course Mr. Taft expressed himself very pleasantly. His interest in the Gander, which at one time menaced his election to the presidency, was frank and forgiving. He expressed great desire to take the famous North Carolina bird to Panama with him as a mascot—a hint to which, we fear, the Charlestonians, who now regard the Gander as the proudest possession of their city, were politely deaf.

Mr. Taft said, further: "We have had some discussion as to the depth of water over the Charleston bar, but the Charleston bar has been vindicated. The North Carolina has come in, and has not scratched her bottom at all. I have no doubt the Montana will, too. I don't think if she had gone around Deacon Hemphill could have survived, and that was the only reason why I hesitated to ask the Secretary of the Navy to try it. But you have got the water in Charleston harbor for a great harbor, and I don't see any reason why if we have these great naval vessels that they should not come into our harbors in order that they may find the way at times when it may be necessary for them to find it."

Moreover, Mr. Taft said: "I observe that the menu to-night contains the words 'on the way to Panama,' and that Deacon Hemphill has arranged the map according to Admiral Dickson's statement as to the distance of Charleston from Panama. I don't know what the distance from Charleston to Panama is, as compared with New Orleans, Pensacola and Galveston. I never measured it with a divider myself, and I am not going to, because I observe that Deacon Hemphill has satisfied the conscience of a number of editors that Admiral Dickson was exactly right when he said that Charleston was nearer to Panama than any other port. All I know is that it is the most convenient port to reach Panama."

It must have been, as one of our North Carolina birds wrote in a Salisbury paper concerning another affair: "An occasion of much remembrance."

TAFT AND THE OFFICE-HOLDERS.

An Augusta special to The New York Globe from a staff correspondent states as a positive fact that President-elect Taft has decided to discontinue the "referee system" of distributing Federal patronage in the South. "The referee system," it is explained, "has been considered the root and cause of all the objectionable features in the Southern Republican party. Under its operation two or three men in each State have constituted themselves a committee to decide who should get the Federal appointments in their Commonwealth. Owing to the political remoteness of the South, the government at Washington has been accustomed to take these men's recommendations as final and conclusive, and to make the appointments according to their recommendations. Under this regime the Federal offices in the South have been manipulated in a manner which has not helped the Republican party in any of the States."

We can well believe that Mr. Taft's intentions are as here described. Every word accords with his notable Green-boro speech of several years ago. In States like North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee the "referee system" of the black-belt States, where there is virtually no Republican party outside the office-holders, can hardly be said to exist, but the Republicans of these whiter States will doubtless find Washington a centre of puritanic influence rather than of partisan fraud when Mr. Taft comes to the White House. "I have little patience with meddling or anything of that nature. It will be a better day for both parties, for the country as a whole and for the South as a section."

A RECORD OF SHAME.

Replying in yesterday's Observer to a communication of a few days ago alleging a plan on foot to cut off a part of Madison county and attach it to Buncombe for political reasons, a correspondent from Marshall said in part: "I am referring to the board of commissioners of North Carolina, and I am glad to build a new county home for the papers, and after advertising for bids, found that a Democrat was the lowest bidder, so in order to save something to the county they decided to throw out all bids and build the home themselves by day labor. When setting time came two or three of their benches had saved \$250 and the county paid the freight. In December they decided to make an other leaving by letting out the keeping of the home to the lowest bidder, each bid being secured by bond, but when the bids were opened the wrong man bid too low again, and so they let it to the highest bidder, thereby saving another \$250 to one of their benches and at the expense of the county. In the face of these facts, can any one wonder why some of the citizens of Madison wish to secede?"

OUR FRIENDS OF THE INDUSTRIALS ARE CERTAINLY ENGAGED IN A MERRY WAR AMONG THEMSELVES.

The statement of District Attorney Holton, published this morning, is the latest contribution to the inner history of the affairs of that storm-tossed contemporary. We again point with pride to the North Carolina Legislature. It is one of the best-behaved parliamentary bodies coming within our notice for many years, and in contrast with Congress and the Tennessee and California Legislatures it shines like the sun. Somebody please call off the Gulf Stream and sink on the ground hog. This weather is getting too much.

NUISANCES TO BE ABATED.

Chief of Police Christenbury is entitled to the gratitude of the city for his announced purpose to have enforced the ordinance forbidding roller skating on the cement pavements. This is a very great nuisance and annoyance to people who are obliged to walk the streets and relief from it will be welcomed. The chief deserves no less commendation on account of his purpose to stop expectation on the pavements, and the dropping of banana, orange and other peelings on them. Roller skating is an annoyance and involves more or less danger to pedestrians, who must stop and stand aside when they cannot dodge; the street expectation defiles the skirts of ladies, is an offence to the sensibilities of all genteel people and an exhibition of ill manners on the part of the offender; the casting of peelings on the pavements is a crime. A lady was thrown on the street Saturday night, from this cause, and suffered the dislocation of a shoulder. Prof. Alex. Graham tells that while walking on South Tryon street, some months ago, with a man who weighs nearly two hundred pounds, his companion slipped on a banana peeling and dropped, more suddenly than if he had been shot, on the stone sidewalk, with his full weight on his right knee. Prof. Graham says he never saw such a fall. Why the knee was not shattered into small fragments of bone will ever remain a mystery.

Charlotte is in nearly all respects a model city and life in it generally so agreeable and so safe, should not be attended by the nuisances and dangers here enumerated. We rejoice that there is to be an end of them.

A CLEAR CASE.

A friend has sent us a copy of a handsome pamphlet magazine of thirty pages, entitled "Northward, Ho! Covering Maine's Inland Resorts"—an advertising journal, as its name implies—published monthly at Lewiston, Maine, and these lines, surmounted by an eagle, appear as its introductory page:

"NORTHWARD-HO! Here's to the Land of spruce and pine, The Northern Land with air like wine; Where bright lakes nestle 'mid verdant hills, And woodlands sparkle with silver rills, Where grim mountain peaks of purple blue, Sink into skirts of purest blue; Where there's health and peace, and sport and rest, And life is lived at its very best; Where the weak grow strong and strong, grow great."

There was never a bolder plagiarist. Note, if you please, Mrs. Martin's exquisite and familiar toast to North Carolina:

"Here's to the Land of the Long Leaf Pine, The Summer Land, where the Sun doth shine; Where the weak grow strong and the Here's to Down Home, the Old North State."

This is the case for the State. But it must be admitted that the plagiarist did his work well. The adaptation is capital.

A week ago this morning a negro attempted to commit an atrocious crime in Sampson county and his arrest followed promptly. There were threats of lynching and troops had to be called out. They were dismissed after a time, but the threats were renewed, the troops called again to protect the jail and yesterday the negro was taken to the penitentiary. A crime of a similar sort was attempted in Stanly county a few weeks ago and was followed by similar threats. After the usual delay the negro was brought to Charlotte. Cases of like kind are of not infrequent occurrence, and the question arises, if there is a serious purpose to avert lynching why delay, after the first uttering is heard, the removal of the criminal to a place of safety? His presence in the community of the crime is a constant irritant and if the law is to be enforced and the peace of mind as well as the actual peace of the community is to be conserved, the somersets be gotten away the better.

Mr. Bryant gave in yesterday's Observer a correct outline of Mr. Zach McKeen's book, "The Dark Corner." It is not political, sectional or racial but in the interest of the educational uplift, and is inspiring in telling, largely through the medium of a love story, how one brave, earnest, ambitious young man, sacrificing his life's ambition to win distinction in the law, determined to break the shackles of ignorance which bound a county, one corner of it with strongest rivets, and absolutely redeemed it from its low estate. The book, strongest and most moving in its closing chapters, well repays the reading.

In an unguarded moment we consented, Saturday, to print, Sunday, an unsigned anti-medical depository communication. This morning we print a communication of equal length in reply. Subsequent communications on either side of the question, signed or unsigned, will be printed in the advertising columns at twenty cents the line.

Washington specials indicate that Congress as a body is overwhelmingly opposed to the appointment of a tariff commission. We have already said that nothing else was to be expected and given the reason why. The indisposition of the politician to yield any ground to the non-partisan expert is very strong.

"My Shakespeare's cutes on knave-or That will not let his esch rest." So some real friend of the late Senator Carmack, of Tennessee, might say to the people who have been, invoking his name as sanction for the most reckless and unscrupulous conduct in furtherance of their schemes.

Jimmie Caine, good fellow, deposes and says in his Asheville Citizen, that last year Charlotte proclaimed herself the "Convention City" that that was Asheville's of year but that now she has resumed her legitimate role of "Convention City of the South" and has thirteen booked for May and June with "others, too numerous to mention, in July and August," and "alas for gipries that are fleeting." So far so good, but the year is not yet a month old and Jimmie Caine, before flapping his wings any more, should get down his little Bible and read in I Kings 20:11: "And the king of Israel answered and said, Tell him. Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off." If Jimmie Caine would in his memory these few precepts keep and govern himself by them, he will feel better next Christmas and enjoy a better reputation as a prophet than if he continues his unseemly boasting while the year is young.

Those selfish Charlestonians who refused to let Mr. Taft bear the Gander away to Panama on the good ship North Carolina deserve the bad opinion of all American patriots. Not only would the great bird afford Mr. Taft a mascot beyond comparison and serve as a most fitting palladium for the North Carolina—in battle the thought of capture for the Gander would stimulate the crew to heroic efforts—but no better omen for the Panama canal could possibly be desired. Just because the Bryan hoodoo proved invincible no one need make the mistake of supposing that Charleston's pride lacks potency as a luck-bringer. We should feel fairly well assured of the canal's early completion were but the Gander aboard the North Carolina at this moment.

One of several consolations attaching to this hot January weather is that it delights the shad fishermen on the coast, where the season has already opened. Not so very many years ago shad came up into piedmont North Carolina through the Yadkin and Catawba rivers, and the Narrows, on the first-named stream, was a famous fishery; but that good day is past. Under present conditions shad do not make for headwaters so determinedly as they once did, their numbers are fewer, and finally, the dwellers in the land of dispensaries and bomb historians stretch nets across the streams and cut them off.

That was a great stunt which an Oklahoma attorney did the other day when he pulled from his pocket a small American flag and waved it over the head of a Rough Rider on trial for murder. But what in the world did the man's Spanish war record have to do with the question of his guilt or innocence? It would be time to talk war record when the court was imposing sentence or when the case had come before the pardoning power.

Since his election to the presidency, and especially in the past few weeks since he has been one of the us, the South has pretty generally arrived at the conclusion concerning Judge Taft that he is a good citizen.

Many of us know about the old darkey who, shivering in a January blast, drew his coat closely around him and asked: "What wuz you las' July?" But he couldn't say anything of the kind this January.

TRAVELING MAN SATISFIED.

One Knight of the Grip Who Does Not Kick on Exchange of Mileage For Tickets—Wants to see Corporations Treated Fairly.

To the Editor of The Observer: I notice that a bill has been introduced in the Senate compelling the railroads to accept on the trains mileage for passenger fares instead of tickets. It is true that it is some trouble to the passengers to exchange their mileage for tickets, but it is no more trouble or takes any more time than it does for the passenger who has no mileage to buy a ticket, and the holder of the mileage rides for 2 cents a mile while the one who buys his ticket pays 2 1/2 cents. This exchange of mileage for tickets is no new innovation; it has been in use for years. The Central Passenger Association, which includes Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Michigan; also the Western Passenger Association, which includes the territory west of the Mississippi river, have used this method for years. I write as a traveling man, who since April 1st, 1908, when this system went into effect, has bought and used himself nine or ten 1.00 mile southern Railway books. Only a day or so ago I got on the train without a ticket, and with my mileage in my pocket, I paid cash fare. It would be a convenience, I admit, if the conductors on the trains would accept mileage for fares; but for one, I am satisfied with the present system and am willing to exchange my mileage for a ticket, and think that any legislation that proposes to disturb the pleasant relations now existing between the railroads and the people, especially under the present business conditions, is unfortunate, not only for the railroads but for our State.

I want it understood that I am writing this letter as a business man who gets no special favors from the railroads and who has not had the pleasure of riding on a pass for more than twelve years; but I do want to see the railroads and corporations treated fairly and justly. We have peace. W. E. WHITE. Mebane, Jan. 25d, 1909.

Carload of Mules Turned Loose in Fayetteville.

A carload of mules, en route from the West to a point in eastern Carolina, were placed in the railroad stock pens here several nights ago to await re-shipment the next day. During the night some miscreant opened the gates to the pen and all the mules escaped. Since then the railroad force here has had a lively time rounding them up, and up to date have recovered all but two of the animals. Those captured were found scattered for miles in all directions and no two mules were found together or within several miles of each other.

DEFENDS MR. H. F. SEAWELL.

Ex-Judge McIver, of Carthage, Declares Appointment to Eastern District Judgeship Thoroughly Competent to Hold the Office—Is a Member of the Bar of Any Lawyer, of Whatever Party, in the State.

To the Editor of The Observer: It is not often that I put myself into the public prints of the State, but I have read the published communication and your editorial thereon in your yesterday's paper in regard to the eastern Federal judgeship. While State public had not the benefit of the gentleman's name who sent you the communication, and he is doubtless a learned lawyer, as you say, if he intended inferentially to argue against the presidential appointment already made, I will wager he has never measured swords at the bar with Mr. Seawell, the appointee.

State ever had the benefit of the gentleman's name who sent you the communication, and he is doubtless a learned lawyer, as you say, if he intended inferentially to argue against the presidential appointment already made, I will wager he has never measured swords at the bar with Mr. Seawell, the appointee.

Mr. Seawell practiced before me while I was on the bench, and I have had occasion to observe him in the practice since I left the bench and to try many cases in which he was associated as counsel, and I do not hesitate to estimate placed upon him by this member of our present Supreme Court. Mr. Seawell made one of the best solicitors our State ever had, and he is a lawyer in every position, and I consider him now the peer of any lawyer, of whatever party, in the State.

It is said he is young. So much the better. He will grow, and the future has a bright gleam to the end of an honorable career on the bench rather than chronicle the fact that a great old lawyer fell into the judgeship and the grave about the same time.

Mr. Seawell is in his fortieth year, more than a year older than Judge Irell, when commissioned for the Supreme Court of the United States, older by several years than Judge Story when elevated to the same high position, and older than Judge Taft when appointed a United States circuit judge.

As one who has always been a Democrat, I trust that there will be no attempt to hold up Mr. Seawell's confirmation, for, in my opinion, no better selection from any party in the State can be made for this high position. JAMES D. MIVVER. Carthage, Jan. 25th, 1909.

SEAWELL NOT SO YOUTHFUL.

He is 39, and Instances Are Given Where Others Received Appointments to Judgeships at Same Age—Another Testimonial as to His Judicial Ability.

To the Editor of The Observer: In your editorial of the 21st inst., concerning the eastern Federal judgeship, you refer to Mr. Seawell, who has been appointed. However, you refer to him in two instances as a "young man." Your editorial, which reads so eminently fair and judicious, does not even count his youth as a reason why his appointment should not have been made. In this connection it may be interesting to your readers who are not acquainted with the facts to know that Mr. Seawell is not so youthful. He was born August 13th, 1869, and is now something over 39 years old. Age does not subtract credit from him, and he is considered a necessary qualification for the judgeship is abundantly proven by the history of the State and nation. North Carolina has had two Justices of the Supreme Court, James Irell, the first, was only 19 years old when appointed to that high tribunal, and Alfred Moore, the other, was only 44 years of age. In North Carolina, we have had young men on the Supreme and Superior Court benches who have discharged the duties of the offices with credit to the State and honor to themselves. Judge Settle was under 40 when made a Justice of our Supreme Court; while the late Judge Fred Moore and Judge Starbuck were less than 30, and Judges Ward and Biggs under 40 when elected to the Superior Court bench.

You state further that we Democrats have no interest in the matter, except to see that the appointee "be a capable and proper person." This means, as I understand it, that the appointee should be a lawyer possessing a sufficient knowledge of the law, of judicial temperament and good moral character. No one has said, and no one can say, ought against Mr. Seawell. That much seems to be beyond controversy. His experience in the active practice has extended from the criminal practice in the State and Federal courts, through the civil courts of the State, to the most intricate equity practice in the Federal courts. During this practice Mr. Seawell has appeared before many eminent judges and with many of the State's most prominent attorneys. The judges and lawyers, therefore, have had opportunity to test his knowledge of the law and his temperament. Something like fourteen judges and 100 lawyers and more than 100 laymen of this district have asked for his appointment, and have cheerfully testified that in their judgment Mr. Seawell is "capable and a proper person."

Some of them have grumbled because a prohibitionist was not elected Speaker of the House, just as if the chair had not been settled in May.

REHEARING TUBERCULOSIS BACILLA.

Dr. W. T. Woodley Prints Out the Harm of Tobacco, and How It Prejudices the Way, by Weakening the System. Prints Tuberculosis—Alcohol Also Proves Way For Connexion of the Dressed Discuss.

To the Editor of The Observer: I regret very much that I was unable to attend the tuberculosis convention recently held in this city. I heartily commend Dr. Palmer's paper, especially that part of it excluding tuberculous teachers and pupils from the public schools. In addition I would suggest that the schools teach the deleterious effects of those things which lessen the power of resistance necessary to prevent the invasion of the tubercle bacillus. The use of tobacco in any form, but especially the cigarette, which impairs the nervous system, lowers vitality, and creates a desire for strong stimulants, which if taken eventually intensifies the nervous condition, and produces fatty degeneration of the heart and liver, chronic inflammation and ulceration of the stomach and cirrhosis of the liver and kidney. Fifty years ago no gentleman would smoke in the presence of a lady without permission. Now you see men smoking when walking or riding with ladies, even blowing tobacco smoke in their faces.

I have had personal experience with nicotine poisoning, suffered with insomnia, vertigo and nervousness, could not lie on my left side for years, and was almost at death's door when I stopped using tobacco seventeen years ago the 19th of this month. I gained 25 pounds in weight in one year, and since then I have day men cannot assemble, even at the banquet board, without filling the air with the foul odor of tobacco smoke. It would not seem strange then, if we were classed as a nation of tobacco fends, slaves to the tobacco habit, and drinkers of strong drink. The question has been asked, "what would Jesus do?" And I reverently ask, how would it look for our blessed Lord, the divine healer, to appear in public with a cigarette or cigar in His mouth, or to visit a refined, social gathering, and make nothing on the vent of the odor of tobacco, and the laps of coat and shirt bosom bespattered with amber, and amber dripping from the corners of His mouth? Are not many of our undivine healers doing this? Good Lord, deliver us!

In 1898 I made an effort to introduce tobacco growing in Chowan county, N. C., for which I hope God will forgive me. I planted twenty-seven acres of land in tobacco, and cured it in one barn on wire stands, a year older, a year older, and raised a crop which took a tobacco expert from Stokes county, N. C., six months to grade. Sold the crop at fair prices, even selling the sweepings of the floor for six cents a pound for smoking tobacco, and made nothing on the venture. The crop takes a whole year and a part of the next to get clear of it. If I could make nothing then with farm labor costing half of what it does now, how can it be a profitable crop now? I have dashed my hopes in northeastern North Carolina when it took from fifty to one hundred hands to work the acre and take of the fish. I have raised truck for the Northern markets, employing over one hundred women and children daily to pick the garden pea crop, and I have raised of Virginia with fair success; but I have never engaged in any pursuit in which there was less profit than the raising of tobacco. But even if tobacco raising was profitable, it would cause a craving for stimulants, and alcohol is taken until chronic alcoholism is produced, intensifying the nervousness, then morphine is resorted to, until opium, morphine, cocaine, and heroin are taken, and the effect, although taken as a last resort, and then the wreck of the North American, wrecked with strong drink and narcotics, superinduced by nicotine, the alkaloid of a plant indigenous to the continent. Let us rescue him by driving the poison and bacteria from the human system, and with port ulla down, draw-bridge raised, guns unlimbered, and ramparts manned with pure blood and strong nerves, prevent the contamination and deterioration of the youth of our race through eternal defiance to nicotine and alcohol, the forerunners and way pavers of the tubercle bacillus.

WM. T. WOODLEY, M. D. Charlotte, January 25th, 1909.

ALLEGED FRAUDS TO BE PROBED.

Sensations Expected in Oklahoma Land Cases—Prominent Men Involved.

Developments which will probably involve some of the most prominent men in Oklahoma are expected during the progress of the Federal grand jury investigation of alleged town lot frauds. The inquiry will begin here Tuesday.

M. I. Mott, attorney for the Creek Indians, who bought 20,000 suits in the Federal Court to recover in behalf of the Creek Nation lands of immense value alleged to have been obtained by fraud by the persons now controlling them, to-night dictated the following statement to the Associated Press: "There is not a word of truth in a statement quoted by Governor Charles Scott McKeen, attorney for W. R. Keener, to the effect that I said I had not found evidence of the State. Had I any criminal conduct in relation to the Muskogee lot matter, but that I might be able to force an indictment which would answer our purpose, I never made such a statement to McKeen, or to any one else."

The Cry of the States. Richmond News Leader. The Charlotte Observer is convinced that a short session of the North Carolina Legislature would be "good Democratic politics." Same here, when our Legislature meets.

NEVER SATISFIED.

Durham Herald. Some of them have grumbled because a prohibitionist was not elected Speaker of the House, just as if the chair had not been settled in May.



Clothing Store Stays Open Two or Three Days Before Stock Taking

The Clothing Store on Tryon street, containing the Shoes, Clothing and Men's Furnishings, will be kept open for business Monday and Tuesday, and possibly Wednesday, in order to reduce the stock as low as possible before the H. C. Long Company takes it over. Here's a fine opportunity for Men and Boys to buy anything from head to foot at prices that split dollars in the middle. Here's one of the greatest lines of Women's, Men's and Children's Fine Shoes sold in the city and all these go at extraordinary cuts for the next two or three days. But the Cash must be paid, if we split the price.

- Men's Suits and Overcoats
Stylish new Suits that sold at \$15.00 to \$20.00, sale price... \$10.55
Suits we sold at \$10.00 to \$15.00 for... \$6.35
Men's Overcoats we sold at \$22.50 for... \$15.33
Men's Overcoats we sold at \$12.50 for... \$6.35
Men's \$25.00 Raincoats for... \$13.65

- Boys' Suits and Overcoats
Boys' Raincoats that sold at \$6.00 for... \$2.95
Boys' Overcoats, 3 to 8 years, worth \$4.00 to \$5.00, for... \$2.45
Boys' Suits worth up to \$5.00 for... \$2.45
Boys' \$2.50 Suits for... \$1.55

Men's Women's and Children's Shoes

- Ladies' \$4.00 Sorosis Shoes... \$2.85
American Lady and Artistic \$3.00 Shoes... \$1.95
Ladies' fine \$2.00 and \$2.50 Shoes... \$1.45
Men's \$5.00 "Dorsch" Shoes... \$3.55
Men's fine Dress \$3.50 and \$4.00 Shoes for... \$2.95
Men's Fine and Coarse Shoes sold up to \$2.00. Choice... \$1.15
Boys' and Misses' \$1.75 and \$2.00 Shoes... 78c.

Furnishings

- Hawes' \$3.00 Hats, any one for... \$1.50
"Emery" \$1.00 and \$1.50 Shirts... 79c.
One lot 50 and 75c. new, stylish Negligee Shirts. Choice... 35c.
Big assortment Men's Fancy and Plain 50c. Sox, only... 25c.
Men's Pure Linen Handkerchiefs, worth 12 1-2c. One dozen for... 85c.
Men's \$1.00 and \$1.50 Umbrellas, every one guaranteed. Choice... 89c.

