

THE ASHEBORO COURIER.

PRINCIPLES, NOT MEN.

ASHEBORO, N. C., THURSDAY AUGUST 20, 1903.

\$1.00 Per Year

8.

Issued Weekly.
VOL. XXVIII.

Bank of Randleman,
Randleman, N. C.

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Protection to depositors, 40,000

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WASHINGTON LETTER.

What Washington Politicians Say About Candidates for the Democratic Presidential Nomination in 1904.

Washington, D. C., August 15.—The recent return from Europe of the Hon. Arthur P. Gorman, of Maryland, the recent speech before the Georgia Bar Association by Judge Alton B. Parker, of New York, the recent birth of a boy in the home of the Hon. Grover Cleveland, the recent boom for Senator Francis Marion Cockrell, of Missouri, the recent marriage of the Hon. William Randolph Hearst, and the recent speeches of the Hon. William Jennings Bryan and the Hon. Tom L. Johnson, of Ohio, have revived the talk in the national capital of Democratic possibilities and probabilities. I have, therefore, made it my business to see nearly every Democratic member of Congress and every Democratic politician who has visited the national capital for the past few weeks and to get as nearly as possible the consensus of opinion concerning these men as the presidential candidate of the Democratic party in the next campaign for the purposes of this correspondence.

So far as Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Bryan are concerned, we are well eliminated them to begin with. Each of these gentlemen has many admirers among the public men who visit the national capital. Many men who have always been ardent admirers of Mr. Cleveland since his first election as President, and who left the party with him in 1896, and who supported the Republicans on the money question, have told me that he is out of the running as a candidate next year on account of the prejudice against the third term for any man. Many men who formerly supported Mr. Bryan in 1896 and 1900 agree that he cannot possibly be called a candidate again. They still admire him for his manhood, his brilliance of intellect, his oratory, his steadfastness to principle and to the cause of the people, but they admit that he cannot again be a candidate.

They realize that the issue will not be the same next year and that the people have put the seal of their condemnation on some of the issues on which he twice led the party to defeat. They appear to realize that the chief issue next year will be one with which Mr. Bryan has not been sufficiently identified—the trust issue—to make him an available candidate even if he had not been brought under the ban of the disapproval of thousands of men who will next year support the Democratic ticket on that very issue. Therefore, they discard him as a possibility in the next race.

Senator Arthur P. Gorman has many friends among the men who come to Washington on official business and many of them have named him as the most available man for the Democrats to nominate next year. They say that when he returned to the Senate last March after an absence of four years he was quickly and gladly given his old place as floor leader of the Democratic force in the Senate, which proves conclusively that his powers as a leader have not been dimmed by his absence from the Senate, that it is so recognized by his colleagues, which fact gives him prestige all over the country.

They mention his service to the country in the memorable force bill fight in 1899, his admission as a leader, his long record as a Democrat, his knowledge of the public men of the country and his signal ability as an organizer, having, as chairman of the Democratic national committee in 1884 brought victory to the party. They claim that he will be very strong in the eastern states, where the party needs votes in order to win, and all seem imbued with an intense desire to win next year. They claim that Senator Gorman was regular in the campaigns of 1896 and 1900, and supported the ticket loyally, yet he would make a very acceptable business interest to the conservative business interests of the East.

The boom for Judge Alton B. Parker, of New York, seems to have been first-bitten by being planted too early. The Judge, himself, has lately taken a stand that practically eliminates him from the race as a candidate. Still, he has some warm admirers and friends among the Democrats who visit the national capital and who claim for him that he is the most available man to lead the Democratic forces next year. They have not much to say of him concerning his record, as that is confined almost solely to the judicial bench, but they say he is a most amiable and learned man. Those who prefer some other candidate, in discussing Judge Parker, say that he is tied up with David B. Hill, and would be controlled by him and they distrust Hill. Judge Parker's name is not likely that the State of New York will present him as the candi-

date of that state. Everything now indicates a trend away from Judge Parker.

The recent boom started for Senator Francis Marion Cockrell, of Missouri, is not taken seriously here. Leaders of the party who have discussed it with me look upon it as a move of the Dockery crowd in Missouri to get Senator Cockrell out of the race for the seat which he next time and allow Dockery to have a clear field. They believe, however, that the witty and venerable senator from Missouri will not be caught by any such diaphanous trick as that. They think that Senator Cockrell has no desire to enter the lists as a candidate for the presidency, but that he prefers to round out his life as a member of the Senate, where he has served the party and the people so long and so faithfully. If it were not for his age there is no doubt that Senator Cockrell would make a most available man for the Democratic nomination, and a man who would rally all factions of the party, at least that is the expressed opinion of many to whom I have talked on this subject. His state may give him a complimentary vote in the convention, but it is believed that it is as far as his candidacy will go.

Since it is practically certain that the Hon. Tom L. Johnson, of Cleveland, Ohio, will be the Democratic nominee for governor of Ohio this fall, there are a number of men who have lately been here who are seriously discussing him as a presidential possibility in case he should be elected or materially cut down the Republican majority or defeat Mark Hanna for reelection to the Senate. In either case he would certainly become a factor to be reckoned with in the next convention.

There have lately turned up here many friends of the Hon. William Randolph Hearst. They seem to be the most enthusiastic bunch among all the politicians who have discussed this thing of the next Democratic candidate with me. They all seem to be saturated with the idea that Mr. Hearst is the only man who can win and they are willing to give a reason for the faith that is in them. In the first place they say that Mr. Hearst is the only proprietor of a great daily newspaper in the North who locally supported the ticket in 1896 and 1900, and who fought as hard for the ticket as any man on the ticket. They claim that any man nominated in 1904 who did not loyally support the ticket, or who, even, was lukewarm, will be defeated next year for the reason that the loyal Democrats in the states of New York, Connecticut and New Jersey will vote the socialist labor ticket which will give those states, absolutely essential to Democratic success, to the Republicans. They claim that Mr. Hearst, who has endeavored himself to the laboring people of the country by fighting their battles at all times, can carry every center of industrial activity in the country, thus ensuring Democratic success in the states of Connecticut, New York and New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Illinois and California, which means Democratic victory in the nation, and they say that victory is what they are after. They say that a man who has the business interest at stake as those possessed by Mr. Hearst, whose payroll amounts to over \$4,000,000 a year, and who has never had a controversy with a single man over that very issue. Therefore, they discard him as a possibility in the next race.

They advance the claim that he is the very epitome of anti-trust, the only man in the country who has ever gone after the trusts with his own money and made them tremble, and that the trust question will be uppermost in the next campaign, hence, their man is a Democratic platform in himself. That he is the very embodiment of Jeffersonian and Jacksonian democracy. That he is a man who can hold all the vote that Bryan got and add to it the vote of labor regardless of past political affiliation, also the vote of thousands of men who are in business and whose business is jeopardized by the corrupt trusts of the country. That he is absolutely independent of the trusts and the money interests of the country, and that he is an organizer, having, as chairman of the Democratic national committee in 1884 brought victory to the party. They claim that he will be very strong in the eastern states, where the party needs votes in order to win, and all seem imbued with an intense desire to win next year. They claim that Senator Gorman was regular in the campaigns of 1896 and 1900, and supported the ticket loyally, yet he would make a very acceptable business interest to the conservative business interests of the East.

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Building up worn-out clay lands.

Paper Read Before A. & M. College Farmers' Convention, Raleigh, July 21, 1903, By R. W. Scott, Esq., of Alamance County, N. C.

I believe I can best illustrate my point by telling you what I have done and expect to do at Melville Farm.

The plan I am pursuing, if carried out, will result in changing what was once a very poor farm to one to which I have mentioned. It is a long haul, but it is a sure thing.

For many years I was troubled by heavy rains washing the hill side into the little brook, and the hill side was being washed away. This was especially noticeable in the spring, when the water was running in the brook.

I am now adopting the plan of putting all such land into permanent meadows.

If the hills are washed by heavy rains, the soil is caught by the meadows and is deposited before it reaches the stream.

There was upon this farm at that time about 50 acres of land that were producing an average of 10 bushels of wheat or 20 of corn per acre.

What I want to suggest now is that if I have succeeded in making these circumstances different, if this spirit of improving farms, and making them more attractive, is followed by from year to year, we could all be surprised at what a wonderful change it would make in the appearance of this country.

When these men were admitted to the farmers, and the farmers, in turn, were admitted to the farmers, they were not getting for their labor what they were getting for their labor.

I wish now to tell how this has been done, and I believe the way I have done it is the best way to improve these lands.

I would find a few acres of poor land in a very few days. I began by sowing peas, and clover, keeping stock, and with the moderate use of fertilizer, I have gradually increased the productivity of the farm.

I wish to express my opinion that there is no other section of the State that will grow more wheat for the people than this hillside.

They will be better off than they are now, and they will be better off than they are now.

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Items of Interest on Various People and Subjects.

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A young Mr. Dode was killed by a train at Cary, N. C., while leading a side track yesterday.

Wadesboro voted to exclude 1700 letters from the town last week by 700 votes. A close shave.

Wm. Hester, evidently has been brought from Florida for an alleged murder in Columbus, Ga. yesterday.

At Kingsfield, near Lenoir, August 17th, Wm. Hester, a white train, fell off a trestle of a crossing and was seriously injured.

St. Gray's Moberly, Mo. (under treatment at the State Hospital at Morgantown, Ky.) died last week by cutting his throat with a razor.

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