

THE GAZETTE ASHEVILLE, N. C. Published Every morning Except Mondays THE ASHEVILLE GAZETTE PUBLISHING COMPANY. JAMES E. NORTON, President. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION Daily Gazette, one year, \$4.00 Daily Gazette, twelve weeks, 1.00 Daily Gazette, one month, .40 Sunday Gazette, one year, 1.00 Weekly Gazette, one year, 1.00 Weekly Gazette, six months, .60 GAZETTE TELEPHONES. Business office, 202, two rings. Editorial rooms, 202, three rings.



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DISFRANCHISING WHITE MEN.

By request we republish brief extracts from the opinions of a few of the distinguished men, of national reputation as lawyers as well as statesmen, who have declared the fifth section of the proposed constitutional amendment in this state unconstitutional. We could add largely to the list, but these we publish are typical of the views of probably nine-tenths of the men of legal learning in the present congress regardless of party. When Senators Caffery and McEnery declared against the constitutionality of this same "grandfather clause" in the Louisiana amendment they made a canvass of the senate, particularly on the democratic side, and obtained opinions agreeing with their own from very many of the men most eminent for legal learning in that body. There is therefore the best democratic, as well as republican, authority for denouncing this amendment, that has been submitted to the people of North Carolina as a wilful attempt to subvert the constitution of the United States, and to betray ignorant white men into voting away their rights of suffrage. In proof that this amendment is aimed at the illiterate white vote of the state as well as at the ignorant negro vote it is only necessary to recognize the fact that the men who prepared it took pains to send to Washington to learn from democratic statesmen and lawyers that the section of it that "protects" the white man for a few years was unconstitutional. It was good enough to serve for campaign purposes in securing the vote of the poor and illiterate white men, but can have no power to save them from disfranchisement if the amendment were adopted. Those who wish to view the course of the politicians who put forth this amendment and secured its passage in the legislature most charitably can, to be sure, attribute that disregard of the interests of the white men they had sworn to protect more to recklessness than malice, for these politicians express the belief that the question of the constitutionality of the amendment will not be tested in the courts. No illiterate white man, no friend of a soldier boy who missed his chance at an education because fate willed that he should answer the call to arms in the terrible

days of a generation ago, or of this soldier's son, will vote for this amendment on this slender chance. George R. Edmunds is acknowledged the greatest constitutional lawyer in this country, and he is among those who have submitted a carefully considered, written opinion that the fifth section of the amendment will be declared null and void if the amendment were ratified, but that the remainder of the amendment being complete in itself and constitutional would stand. Would such a consummation—the disfranchisement of a vast number of white men along with the illiterate class of negroes—be against the interests of Simmons, Daniels & Co.? For answer look at the vote of the "white counties" of the state—those of the west in which the proportion of the whites to the negroes is as 100 to 1. The largest of these counties, and a majority of all of them, are in the column opposed to democratic rule in this state and nation. To disfranchise the poor and uneducated white men in these western counties would be a stronger move toward the Simmons, Daniel & Co. brand of white supremacy than to disfranchise three times as many negroes. This firm of political tricksters can control and secure majorities in the big negro counties of Robeson, New Hanover and Halifax, but they cannot carry Madison, Mitchell and Henderson.

SOCIALISM AND MR. SHELDON.

A correspondent in yesterday's Gazette calls attention to the socialism in the Rev. C. M. Sheldon's teachings. We have already commented on Mr. Sheldon's position as being not that of a follower of Christ so much as an assumed substitute for the Divine Master. The socialism of Mr. Sheldon's teaching is quite another matter. One may agree or disagree with Mr. Sheldon upon it without touching upon the questions already discussed in these columns. Our correspondent says, "If a few of our Asheville Christians who have 'unearned wealth' were to restore it to a people's committee to be used for the welfare of the poor here, they would be doing what Mr. Sheldon is now attempting to do in Topeka." We should, in the first place, like to have our correspondent point out the "unearned wealth" in Asheville. We venture to say that there is little of such wealth in Asheville. We would also call attention to the plain fact that a "people's committee" can at any time start an enterprise—a railroad, a newspaper, a store or what not for the people and give the people the benefit of such enterprise. All that is necessary to do is to have the people join with the committee and support the enterprise until it pays. Stock for such an enterprise might be issued in small shares to an unlimited amount and the people need only to contribute labor, or money representing labor, to buy the shares. We have no doubt that there is many a manufacturer, railroad president, merchant or newspaper owner who would be willing to turn over his plant to the "people" and draw simply a reasonable salary from the business. If the "people" showed a hearty disposition to go into manufacturing, railroading, storekeeping or newspaper work. The "people," however, do not manifest an eagerness to take business risks in this way. These risks have been left in the past to individual men of courage and special talent. When in the course of events the enterprises these men conducted have resulted favorably, wealth has been accumulated. Much of this wealth has been turned over to the people, not only by the stimulation of new industries and by natural benefits accruing from public conveniences, but in some cases through the sense of stewardship which certain men of wealth feel. That the whole of this wealth is not in the hands of the "people" is because the "people" did not, as they might have done in the first place, take the risks incident to producing it. They can, however, now, under the guidance of an astute committee, start new enterprises if they wish. There is nothing but their own inertia to prevent. The people are mighty, and if they would intelligently combine they could run all the business of the country. Instead of doing this, however, socialist agitators would have us understand that the "people" prefer to have a few men accumulate wealth and then turn it over to them to spend. This is essentially a "tramp" doctrine and we do not believe it is entertained by the "people." Accumulated wealth in private hands has its evils, but accumulated wealth plays an important part in the world's progress. To insist that men who have shown the capacity for obtaining or maintaining it should turn it over to those who have no such capacity is to argue that all men of wealth are unjust and unprofitable stewards. Who shall judge of that? With the exception of a few misers, wealth, where it is placed in unprofitable hands, soon scatters itself. Then again the tendencies of the times are toward a greater participation of the public in private enterprise. Stock companies and trusts themselves favor this. A man who, by industry, has laid aside a hundred dollars may invest it in railroads or industrial stock and draw his share of the profits or lose his share of the loss in the business.

The United States postal service is in public ownership and run by the people, who annually contribute to its deficiencies. If the people willed it, the railroads, the newspapers and other public or semi-public services might be wholly in their hands and administered by a "committee." It is the "people" alone who are responsible for it being otherwise. The "submerged tenth" are "always with us," and men of wealth may fail to do their full duty by this submerged tenth, but to make a "submerged whole" would not remedy matters. Accumulated wealth may not be wholly good but it certainly is not wholly bad; neither is all virtue and all wisdom in the possession of the impetuous. The man who has borne the burden and the heat of the day to establish or maintain industrial enterprise may not be perfect, there may be room for more Christianity in his heart, but he and he alone has to answer to his conscience and his God for the responsibility his wealth brings him, whether he should weakly lay it aside or, retaining it, how he shall use it. There was once much cant from those in "superior" stations as to the duty of humility and resignation in the "poor." Now there is much cant as to the duty of abnegation in the rich and well to do. Men have always been overzealous to tell each other their special duties, but the tables seem now to have turned upon the "poor rich man." Doubtless there is a reason for this, but from a spiritual standpoint it would seem that too much emphasis is laid upon the possession or non-possession of money. The annihilation of money would not perfect mankind, neither would its universal distribution make men brothers. Neither socialism nor anarchy is Christianity. The hearts of men untouched by love of God or man would be as sordid and selfish under any social system. Both wealth and poverty may be selfish and universal wealth or poverty, if either were possible, would not alter selfishness. It is not the outward circumstance but the heart and conscience of men to which Christianity appeals. This seems often to be lost sight of by the zealous advocate of various social systems.

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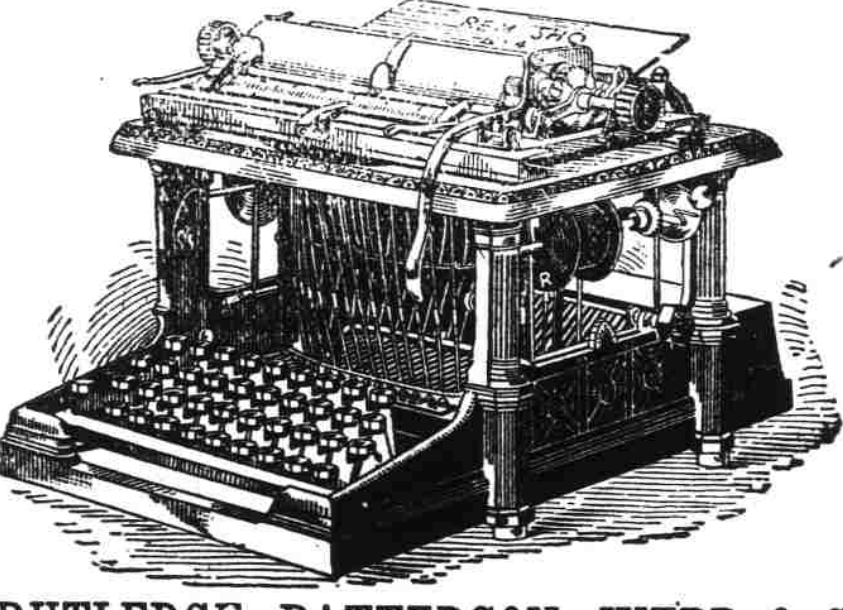
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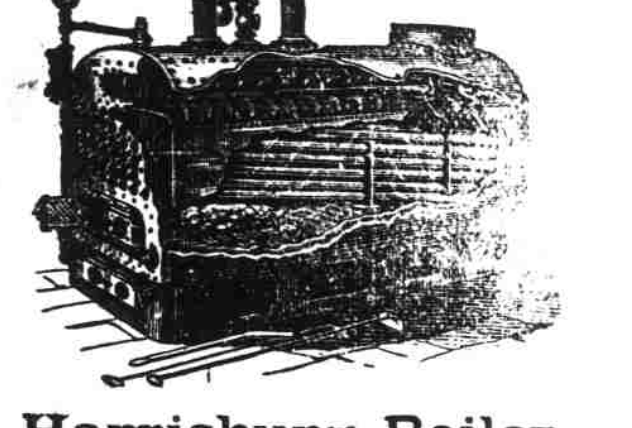
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RAY'S STUDIO. J. H. Howard, Surveyor, Person Co., Roseville, N. C., writes: I have used Dr. M. A. Simmons Liver Medicine in my family many years. Its timely use prevents many diseases. It does all claimed for it. I prefer it to Black Draught and Zellin's.

The First Annual Festival.... OF THE ASHEVILLE MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION ASHEVILLE NORTH CAROLINA... Program of the Concert. FIRST EVENING. Wednesday, March 21. Symphony, No. 5, Op. 67.....Beethoven The Chicago Orchestra, sixty performers, Theodore Thomas, Conductor. Selection from the opera "Lohengrin" act III.....Wagner Introduction—Orchestra. Bridal Chorus—Chorus and Orchestra. Duet—Soloists and Orchestra. Soloists: Miss Caroline Gardner Clarke, soprano; Dr. Ion A. Jackson, Tenor. Overture, Prodana Nevesta.....Smetana Orchestra. Invitation to the Dance.....Weber (Orchestration by Felix Weingartner) Orchestra. Italian Capriccio.....Tschalkowsky Orchestra. "Lord Ullin's Daughter"—A Ballad.....Hamish MacCunn Chorus and Orchestra. MATINEE. Overture—Die Meistersinger.....Wagner Orchestra. Waldweben (Forest Scene), Siegfried.....Wagner Orchestra. Violin Solo (a) Allegretto non troppo.....Lalo (by Scherzando).....Lalo Mr. Leopold Kramer. Symphonie Poem—Les Preludes.....Liszt Orchestra. Intermission. Suite—Peer Gynt, No 1.....Grieg Orchestra. No ticket for single concerts sold till March 19. The prices then will be \$2.00 for reserved seat, \$1.00 for unreserved seat in upper gallery, each concert. Out of town subscribers should send money order to J. A. Nicholas, Chairman Ticket Committee, Asheville, N. C. Tickets at the Paragon Pharmacy. Season Tickets, Now on sale, admitting to the Three Concerts \$5.00 and \$7.50.

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