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Friday, December 8, 1911.

A SORT OF "PRACTICAL POLITICS" THAT IS GOING OUT OF FASHION.

For political purposes, will not the Republicans be able to make a great deal more out of the expenditure of \$15,000 or \$20,000 on four miles of road in one section of the county, by the commissioners, than they would if they employed not only one, but several health superintendents? The commissioners are no doubt doing right in building the road, but this is to put it on the ground of practical politics.

If anybody should challenge the record of the county administration, and point to the employment of a health officer as unwise, the commissioners would be in position to say that their action was urged and advanced in the North Carolina board of health, the North Carolina Medical society, the Buncombe County Medical society, the Asheville board of health, the Buncombe county board of health, the four Buncombe county councils of the Junior Order of American Mechanics, the Asheville board of trade, the Asheville Merchants association, the Children's Welfare society and petitions of citizens from all parts of the county. They could say, further, that the action was dictated by their own judgment as intelligent men and public officials.

If they refuse to take this action they do so in the face of the advice of all these intelligent bodies, more than probably against their own better judgment.

It is true, however, that the commissioners are asked to do a thing that is not ordinarily done in practical party politics—that is to take a decided progressive step without waiting for a peremptory demand for it from the people. But what of that? This is a day of progress in the administration of public affairs, and this is a progressive county. It is simply requested of these commissioners that they display more enterprise, more public spirit, more lofty regard for the public welfare than county commissioners ordinarily display, and more than is embraced in the practices of old-fashioned "practical politics." If we had a set of hidebound blockheads for commissioners, hopelessly bound to the sordid routine of machine manipulation, it would be useless to labor with them. It is just because the commissioners are known to be men of unusual intelligence and sterling citizenship, that those who are furthering this progressive step have hopes of finally prevailing.

SINFULNESS UNBELIEVABLE.

The annual pyrotechnics over the secret fund for the state department have already begun. The Hon. C. W. Hamlin, representative from the Seventh Missouri district, has painted for the benefit of the house, in lurid colors, the iniquitous possibilities latent in withholding from the supervision of curious representatives of the fierce democracy items of expenditure from this fund.

Mr. Hamlin's imagination is fired at the spectacle of a \$10,000 expenditure to enable this country to be represented at the celebration of Lake Champlain's discovery. He says if the money actually was spent for the purpose "it probably went for railroad fare, hotel bills, automobile hire, banquets, wine and the like."

Fervish the thought! Had it gone for railroad fare and hotel bills it was bad enough. Automobile hire is immeasurably worse. But "banquets, wine, and the like!" Never! We refuse to believe that even the warts of our state department would be guilty of such sinfulness as this.

However, as issues are in order for the coming campaign, we demand, in the interests of a lively contest, that the itemized expense accounts of our diplomatic revellers be made public. If the three lights must beat upon the throne, we don't see why it shouldn't be the strong-box too. Up, Cox, and at 'em.

CONCERNING AN INACCURACY.

In order to keep track of the progress of the proposal in the important matter of the Grove hotel bonds, it has been necessary for reporters of The Gazette-News to exercise more than the usual amount of the grace of humility. It was necessary to approach some representatives of the various banks about every day, and some few of these have regularly given the reporters to understand that their room was more desired than their presence, nor have they made any particular effort to convey this idea in language either diplomatic or soothing. There was no possible element of impertinence in these approaches; the questions as to developments in this matter were timely; they were neither impertinent nor premature; they were questions that newspaper had a right to ask, in respectful manner, and that public duty demanded it should ask. Most of the bankers have been exceedingly pleasant, and helpful in the paper's endeavor to publish what was true and judicious about this project. There is nobody in Asheville who for a moment believes that this paper would do anything to injure any enterprise, or would violate any confidence that might be reposed in regard to any public or private interest.

The Gazette-News had made every step in the publicity of this hotel project with the utmost caution, and the reticence of some of those concerned has interposed unnecessary obstacles. Yesterday a minor, or technical inaccuracy was made; without intent to injure, and the nature of which could not injure any person or interest; an inaccuracy that in no sense touched the essential facts. The story in this paper said:

... when the committee of business men went to St. Louis to see Mr. Grove they brought back a written proposition to be presented to the banks and a few days later this proposition was laid before the banks in a joint meeting where each bank was represented.

In this morning's Citizen a statement signed by the Battery Park and Wachovia banks contains this:

... the undersigned banks were never present at any joint meeting, after the committee returned from St. Louis and therefore did not receive from, or make to Mr. Grove any propositions in regard to the bond issue for the new hotel.

The meeting took place before the committee went to St. Louis, and not after. There are several differences between the error made by The Gazette-News and the error made in the above statement. There is a difference in effect, for one thing. There others. That because a minor error as to time was made, the article is essentially unreliable is a serious error in logic.

THE McNAMARA CONFESSION.

This is the time to establish the law. There should be no temporizing with the spirit of crime anywhere. Either this is a country of law and order or it has been abandoned to the mob. It does not matter whether the mob manifests itself in the lynching of a brute suspected or guilty of outrage or a combination of men working under the leadership of those who cultivate the spirit of lawlessness in their misguided followers. The rope and the scaffold under the direction of the law are the cure for this new development of American savagery.—Charlotte Observer.

If the day comes in the United States that the courts may not be trusted, it will be time for outside agencies to array themselves for the protection of their friends. Had the McNamaras persisted in their plea of not guilty and been convicted, it might still have been said that they were not guilty, but their confessions leave those conspicuous leaders of labor who leaped to the conclusion that they were the victims of persecution with little ground to stand upon and they have subjected their organizations to the criticisms of their enemies and weakened their cause throughout the world.—Columbia State.

Nobody who knows Mr. Gompers, Mr. Mitchell, and Mr. Darrow believe that either of these men would condone such a crime. They do not doubt sincerely believe that the McNamaras, men, long labor leaders esteemed by them, told them. They were convinced that the fight in Los Angeles against the recognition of union labor was bound up in the trial, and that the accusation of prominent union labor men was a part of the general warfare upon labor. So believing, they resolved in the face of public opinion, to stand by the accused men. Some of them, upon the assumption that they were being persecuted, went to extreme lengths in their defense. The result should teach the lesson that while no man should be presumed guilty until convicted, men should not shut their eyes to the facts and deonance law-officers whose only purpose is to enforce the law. The man who is innocent should have support, but the labor men erred in their abuse of Burns and others who had gone to the bottom of the case and fixed the McNamaras with guilt.—Raleigh News and Observer.

No bomb these men ever exploded in the their campaign of terrorism to enforce their dictum as to terms of employment ever did one-millionth part of the damage to property that was done to the honorable cause of labor by the bomb that exploded in the court room at Los Angeles yesterday afternoon.

Fraternized workmen everywhere, who have been contributing from their wages to the defense fund will now realize that they have not realized before. They have been led badly. Leaders' tip that ends in such a situation for some millions of respectable men is not the leadership that will bring permanent improvement to the condition of wage earners.—New York Herald.

"The lesson of the Los Angeles tragedy is so plain that even the blindest can read it. Union labor in the United States must clear houses. It must set its affairs in order and become a responsible institution. Either that or it will be destroyed, the good along with the evil. The American people will not tolerate an organization that either wantonly or stupidly makes itself the tool of systematic murder and anarchy."—New York World.

From the day when James B. McNamara's bomb blew his twenty-one victims into eternity down to the present time no authoritative voices in the ranks of labor has been raised to express the hope that the murderers would be brought to justice, even though they should prove to be union men. Labor's talk has been of an explosion, of a "conspiracy" by the proprietors of the Los Angeles newspaper to blow up their own men and fix the crime on the unions. A great deal has been raised among the unions for the defense of these defenseless savages, on the plea that employers of labor were banded against them to secure conviction whether they were guilty or innocent and every effort was made to obstruct and discredit the remarkable work of Detective Burns in securing the evidence that has driven them to confession as a means of securing the victims' penalty.

"If the vengeance and the aim of labor's leaders in respect to these

THE High School Musical.

Come one! Come all!
 Both great and small,
 To the minstrel at the A. H. S.
 For there you will see
 The "Merry Minstrels"
 'Till make you laugh your best.

Our boys have done great things before. This time they'll do the same. In singing, dancing and joking, too. They've won for themselves great fame.

The price is small.
 One quarter is all;
 Five nickels or a fourth of a dollar.
 Your purse you must squeeze—
 Get the money, please.
 Then come prepared to hallow.

Every person this show must attend. Each boy must bring his sister, too; But if he hasn't a sister, then bring a friend— Or another boy's sister will do.

The time is just right—
 "Eight-thirty" tonight.
 On the "5th" day of December.
 So get in the race
 Learn "the time and the place"—
 These things you'll have to remember.

Just come with a heart that is yearning for joy,
 With a soul that is pining for pleasure quite funny.
 We'll give you the best little show on earth.
 We'll cover your feelings with laughter and mirth—
 You'll never regret the "time nor the money."
 WILLIAM KEENER.

PRESS COMMENT.

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HOT WATER BOTTLES
 We are agents for the Kant-leek Water Bottles and Foam-tain Byming. They are made of Para rubber and guaranteed for two years.
GRANT'S PHARMACY,
 Agency for Wood's Seeds.

criminals and their crimes are not representative of the temper and spirit of organized labor, it is time for the unions and federations to take action effectively to free themselves of the stigma which they must inevitably share if they do not promptly disclaim all sympathy with false leaders who have put themselves in the attitude of tacitly approving the use of dynamite, the bludgeon, and the knife in labor's strikes.—New York Times.

SNARLING AT A LEADER.
 It is noteworthy that the esteemed Charlotte Observer no longer makes the slightest effort to hold on to its wonted composure when contemplating the contemplated activity of Senator LaFollette. Our contemporary hears that the Wisconsin senator will soon start on his speaking tour, and we think, basing the conclusion upon manifest evidence of disquietude that it has also heard how a poll of the Michigan state committee has disclosed the fact that a majority of those gentlemen favor the nomination of Senator LaFollette for the presidency. Says the Observer: "Doubtless many persons will turn out to hear a Mormon missionary, a midway show, or any other freak or combination of freaks."
 We are inclined to doubt whether this weller of disparage is going to effect, adversely, the man who, more than any other, brought order out of the state of chaos superinduced by President Taft in transmitting to congress the railroad bill and other half-baked measures, (measures that had to be rewritten in order to save the face of the president himself), a man who, in spite of every obstacle known to corrupt political practices, has dealt with the railroad and other corporate problems in his home state in such a manner that the Wisconsin idea has come to be regarded favorably wherever honest men are engaged in legitimate business; a man whose profound knowledge of public affairs was acknowledged by Thomas B. Reed in terms of highest respect, a man esteemed to a marked degree by the gentle McKinley.
 We do not think, however, that the Observer needs have any apprehension about Senator LaFollette visiting this part of the country; he will no doubt confine his missionary labors to the central western states and those sections where both republicans and democrats are concerned, and somewhat divided over questions of party principles. It is a reform wave that is sweeping clean over our heads. Its philosophy is not understood, and may not be for a few years yet. Sooner or later it will inevitably affect North Carolina, as well as the other states, because reforms vital to the material well-being of the whole people will be certain to grow out of this progressive movement, and later on, when the merits and demerits of the variant changes and proposals are better understood, they will find favor here, as well as elsewhere. When that time comes the esteemed Observer, rather than like Senator LaFollette, will be found playing the role of the civic freak. One may already discern evidences of a possible discomfiture. The Observer thinks the only effect of the LaFollette speaking tour will be to "unsettle a sufficient number of voters in the states he shall visit with his presence to enable the democrats of those states to make a better fight than they otherwise could make for the restoration of the government at Washington to the democratic party—the party of the people, the party of the constitution."
 That's nothing if not fine; the reporters will inevitably feel impelled to crow some more just here; but what, may we ask, is the opposition among any number of good democratic friends? These are the days, the highly palpitant days of the multitudinarian and the easy constructionist. That scholar in politics, Governor Wilson, looked upon by thousands of democrats in every state in the sisterhood as the present-day hope of the democracy, has said that he is able to discern little difference between his school of democratic thought and those republicans—thousands of them everywhere except in the south—who subscribe to the LaFollette point of view. Suppose Wilson is called to lead the democratic hosts? Our highly discriminating contemporary would have a single alternative; that of leading another democratic host in this state, it will have to give the same aid and comfort to the Taft forces after the convention that it is giving before now, smashing at the sight of the activity Messrs. LaFollette and Wilson, will be turned upon itself, and it will be found rendering its own quivering flesh.
 A number of the friends of Senator LaFollette in the north are opposed to any interference with the existing order of things in the south. These gentlemen take the view that it would be the part of wisdom, politically, to go into the National convention and point the finger of scorn at Mr. Taft's solid southern band. This intelligence, we make no doubt, will prove pleasing both to the Charlotte Observer, and to those to whom will be interested in duty of southern delegates, with their fatal histories of power, of course, the more the better.

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 And worthy of your notice—
An Automatic Eye Glass Holder.
 New designs just received.
 Full line to select from. Include this on your list.

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 Optometrist and Optician
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Evening Slippers
 Made of extra fine satin, with chiffon rosette on toe, in black, white, pink and blue; these are the very best product in the line of slippers that can be procured, and are dainty and graceful in appearance. Buy now for Christmas.

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TO EXCHANGE
 11-Room House, 11 acres of land in West Asheville for Improved City Property. Also 5-room cottage.
S. D. HALL,
 22 Patton Ave. Phone 91.

Shop Saturday at the "Christmas Store"
Bon Marche
Men's Combination Tie, Handkerchief and Hose Sets
 These have been attracting considerable attention among the ladies who are looking for useful, as well as pretty gift things for the men folks.
 We have these Combination Sets in all the best colors; including navy and light blue, brown, tan, green, grey and red.
 The prices range from 50c, 75c, upward to \$1.50.
1-4 Off on Long Coats
 We are placing on sale our entire line of long coats at this very great reduction. The stock is comprised of coats, that for the most part are recent arrivals.
 See Window Display.
 Nearly all the colored coats are made of the reversible cloth, though most of them can only be worn on one side. These, however, are much newer and more appropriate than the others.
 \$15 to \$30 Long Coats are priced at \$11.25 to \$22.50.
Furs and Fur Coats in the Ready-to-Wear Section

Wachovia Bank & Trust Company
 Capital and Surplus, \$1,510,000.00
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 NORTH CAROLINA'S OLDEST TRUST CO.—STRONGEST BANK.
 T. S. MORRISON, V. Pres. W. E. WILLIAMSON, Cashier.
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BATTERY PARK BANK
 J. P. SAWYER, President E. SLUDER, V. Pres.
 T. C. COXE, V. Pres. J. E. RANKIN, Cashier
 Capital \$100,000
 Surplus and Profits \$130,000
 TRANSACTS A GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS.
 Special attention given to collections. Four percent interest paid on time deposits.

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IN THE ANNEX
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 We have a large stock of "Doll Carts," Velocipedes, Wagons and Hand Carts for Christmas. Prices from \$1.00 up.
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FOR SALE
 51 Lots and one 7-room house near car line in West Asheville. Farm of 100 acres 4 miles from Asheville, near R. R. Station. Also some nice residence in city. All at a bargain if taken at once.
BROOKS REALTY COMPANY.
 Rooms 409-410 Gates Bldg. Phone 1735.

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Men's Combination Tie, Handkerchief and Hose Sets
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