

The Asheville Times

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Wednesday, March 15, 1916.

BUTLER HISTORY.

We print today an editorial which recently appeared in The Charlotte Observer, giving the political record of Ex-Senator Marion Butler. It will refresh the recollection of our readers as to many of the foxy deeds of the new leader of the Republican party.

It forcibly calls to mind the memorable fight between Butler and our fellow townsman, Judge J. C. Pritchard, before the legislature of 1897, when Judge Pritchard was a candidate for re-election as United States Senator.

In 1894, the Populists, under Butler's leadership, and the Republicans, under Judge Pritchard's leadership, effected a fusion, by the terms of which both were to be elected to the United States senate by the legislature of 1895. Butler was elected for the long term of six years, while Judge Pritchard was elected for the short term of two years. Under the agreement, Judge Pritchard was to be re-elected by the legislature of 1897 for a full six year term.

But the foxy Butler broke the solemn agreement made with Judge Pritchard and tried to defeat the judge. Butler personally took charge of the fight before the legislature, and controlled a large majority of the Populist members against the judge. A sufficient number of Populists, however, remembered their obligation and voted with the Republicans, which insured his re-election. Butler was denounced by Judge Pritchard and his friends as a traitor and a scoundrel, and it is only natural that the judge's friends are not now, even at this late date, very fond of Butler.

EFFICIENT STREET CAR MEN.

We have in the conductors and motormen of the Asheville street railway a body of men of most commendable efficiency. Our cars are so well run that we, perhaps, take the general smoothness of the system too much as a matter of course. But so away from home, be hustled off the car, allowed to climb on, unassisted, even if old and burdened with packages, have reasonable questions ignored or answered with surliness—and then come back to Asheville and rejoice that this is your home town.

The courtesy of our conductors is proverbial; the care with which they help women and children, the interest they show in replying to the queries of the tourists, all these good things reach their climax in the pleasant smile and good natured word that they have always with them. While they are a fine body of men, we must remember, also, that this extraordinary efficiency and courtesy has back of it a strong management that works through this excellent channel.

And the life of a conductor is not an easy one. To handle change, give transfers, guard the safety of passengers, sell tickets and all the time, "look pleasant" is a many sided and strenuous employment. The motorman, too, has to be every moment "on the job." Recently the writer was on a car when directly in front of it, an auto dashed recklessly; the motorman by quickness and physical effort avoided a collision; but it was all in the day's work, and passengers while remarking his readiness, seemed to take it all as the expected thing. Praise to whom praise is due, is The Times' motto, and we are glad to award some measure of appreciation to our street car service.

G. C. W.

The Lexington Herald is exercised in mind about the practice, prevalent in some parts of our country, of carrying a pistol. Editorially The Herald says:

The poorest piece of property a passionate man, or any other man for that matter, can own in this world, is a pistol. Especially is this true of the man who buys a pistol to carry on his person. The thing is loaded with trouble for the purchaser from the time it gets into his possession, and soon or later he falls a victim to his own act. And his misfortune is a natural one. The pistol was bought

for shooting purposes and it has not fulfilled its mission until it has demonstrated its purpose.

We have always contended, and we see no reason yet to change our view, that the State should not permit the sale of pistols. We see no reason why the State should sell a man a pistol and then elect him for using it.

We hope, some day, to see North Carolina so civilized that it will drive the pistol from its borders. If we did not have them we certainly would not need them.

There is good sense, and also wise precaution in these sentiments, but The Times believes the deprecated practice is rapidly decreasing. There is an old Asheville story that years ago—O, ever so many years ago—a retiring police justice was instructing his inexperienced successor. The newly elected noticed an amazing number of lines, headed "C. C. W."

PRESS COMMENT

Marion Butler.

The republican campaign in North Carolina will be conducted this year under the direction of Mr. Marion Butler. The campaign will be supplied with plans by Mr. Butler. They will receive instructions from him and these instructions will be obeyed. Marion Butler will be the inspiration of the republican campaign. It will be an artful campaign and the main endeavor will be to create and foster discontent on part of the people of the state and dissenation among the democrats to as great an extent as possible. The main effort will be to arouse prejudices and in view of these facts it will be well to revive the memory of the people of North Carolina in the matter of Mr. Butler's political record. This record is an indictment which should be made known to the younger element of the state—to the voters who are but recently exercising the franchise.

The older people know—they need only to be reminded. It may not now be time to spread the full details of the indictment. It is many months before the people will pass final judgment on the issues of the approaching campaign. But the circumstance of the return of Marion Butler to a dominating position in the control of the republican party in this state should not be permitted to pass even temporarily without proper challenge of the reflection which his leadership of that party imposes on the character of the state.

He began public life in North Carolina by the publication of a paper to which he gave the name Caucasian, and which in turn became the chief spokesman for the regime of negro domination in the state.

One of his early entries into political conventions was into the democratic congressional convention in 1892, which he attended as a delegate, advocating the nomination of his countryman, Hon. B. F. Grady, whose nomination he eulogized in his paper, and then bolted and helped to nominate F. D. Koonce to oppose him.

He was a member of the democratic state convention of 1892 that nominated Elias Carr for governor, whom he supported in the convention and in his paper after the convention, and afterward participated in the populist convention and helped nominate Exum to oppose him.

In two years after he joined the populist party—organized mainly as a protest against national legislation by the republican party—he led that party into a fusion with the republican party, which resulted in a fusion legislature that adjourned in honor of Fred Douglas and forced negro domination on eastern North Carolina to the point of revolution.

a representative of North Carolina, he concocted the fraudulent scheme by which the holders of one set of these bonds could get jurisdiction in the courts to enforce against the state the payment of these bonds. While yet a member of the United States senate, and drawing pay as a representative of North Carolina, he accepted employment to represent the holders of these bonds to enforce their collection from North Carolina, as shown by quotations from official record of his testimony in the suit to enforce their payment, as follows:

Q. Please state who the client is that you speak of?
A. The client was Schaffer Bros.

Q. Did you appear of record in the case?
A. I did not.

Q. When were you employed by Schaffer Bros.?
A. In January, 1901.

(He represented North Carolina in the senate until March, 1901). While yet a member of the United States senate, and drawing his pay as a representative of North Carolina, he procured the enactment of a statute by the state of South Dakota, authorizing that state to accept donations of these bonds, as shown by the official record of his testimony in that suit, as follows:

Q. State what conversation you had with Senator Pettigrew in reference to North Carolina bonds, which is the subject of this suit?
A. Some time in January or February, 1901, I had a conversation with him which probably led up to the passage of the act of the legislature in South Dakota, authorizing that state to accept donations.

As a result of the enactment of that statute the interests represented by Mr. Butler made a contribution of bonds to South Dakota, and in the name of that state sued the state of North Carolina and obtained judgment in the Supreme court of the United States, which forced the state to pay in full with interest the bonds donated to South Dakota and to compromise the whole issue, the settlement for which amounted to about a quarter of a million dollars.

Mr. Butler and his associates then advertised in the New York press that they had found a way by which they could force payment of all repudiated state bonds, but have not been able to get any state to accept any of them as a gift, after being advised of their fraudulent character. There are about seventeen million dollars' worth of these still outstanding, issued by carpet baggers, for which the state never received a particle of benefit. They were issued ostensibly to build railroads in the state, but not a mile of road was ever built with the proceeds of these seventeen million dollars of bonds.

These are, in bare outline, some of the betrayals which the republican party by permitting the return of Mr. Butler to a position of leadership in that party, have submitted as a challenge to the character of the state. We have set them down here not because this is the proper time to give them adequate consideration, but to put them, as well as the people of the state, on ample notice of the significance that attaches to the Butler domination of their party under its new organization.

Having defeated the element in the republican party that has stood out against his return to leadership in that party; having placed himself on the platform committee that shaped its declaration of principles; having dominated the action of the convention at every contested stage in its stormy proceedings, he now shrewdly proclaims that his duty will be to carry a musket in its ranks, but every observing man in North Carolina knows that an increased republican vote in the state would be universal and accepted as a Butler victory, and that republican success would be Butler success.—Charlotte Observer.

Duncan's Defeat.
Funnier than all else since monkeys were first discovered and brought into captivity is a letter written by Gene Holton telling the American people that the reason Carl Duncan was defeated at Raleigh was because he is the vice president of a railroad. That the railroads do not pay their just proportion of taxation and that the dear, down-trodden, oppressed, sweating and almost annihilated "pee-pul"—groaning under a load of prosperity that has increased their wealth to almost fabulous proportions, could no longer stand the favoritism of democracy—and they saw in John Motley Morehead a Great Emancipator who would reduce taxes to the "pee-pul" at least a thousand per cent, and increase them against the railroads enough to pay all running expenses of the government.

Gene Holton who is as sleek as grease in things political; Gene Holton who triumphantly held to a public test like a yearling bull that refuses to be weaned—who staid in after the adjournment had changed—and made good always as a district attorney—sees no defeat to Duncan—but rather sees a victory for the "pee-pul"—Whom Mr. Holton loves.

Gene Holton refuses to admit that Mr. Butler, directly or indirectly had anything to do with the election of Mr. Morehead, but he sees through the eyes of an eager optimist, the galling chains of oppression lifted from the necks of those who toil and spin.

Gene Holton argues that the party met in Raleigh exclusively for the purpose of transacting business and going before the voters with an appeal that would bring to North Carolina a full set of republican pie hunters and pie distributors. But his argument is all in vain.

Marion Butler went to Raleigh with avowed purpose of playing for even with Duncan. It was an old feud. It was a story of dramatic interest—and the result of what happened was an intensified tragedy. It put the republican party in the hole. It disrupted many of the real leaders. It caused political alienation; it caused the parting of the ways of Morehead and Duncan—it read Cy Thompson out of his party—it was a gum shoe exhibition. The Bull Moose man thought Butler was a Teddyite—they knew he had before ridden on that wave when it seemed popular, and they presumed,



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