

Goldsboro Messenger

JULIUS A. BONITZ, Editor

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OUR COUNTY GOVERNMENT SYSTEM.

The assembling of the Legislature is looked forward to with more than ordinary interest, not only because of the political complexion of the House is as yet in doubt, but there is also considerable anxiety about certain matters of importance that are likely to come up for legislation. Not the least of these is the question of county government. There are evidences that this important subject will be brought up by the republicans in the hope that they may obtain at least a sufficiency of support from the independents, and perhaps of some democrats, to enable them to change the present system.

The Raleigh correspondent of the Richmond Dispatch says: "It is intimated that county government was distasteful to some western members and their constituents, who took the view that they should not be forced to bear the annoyances of a system which they did not like merely for the benefit of some twenty counties in the east. But this is a narrow minded view, and doubtless very few democrats hold it, for a result of a return to old systems would inevitably result in negro rule in the eastern counties, with inevitable financial injury and a thousand annoyances. So, though there may be efforts to repeal the present county government laws, it is not probable that the democrats of the west will fail to do as they have so long and so magnanimously done—stand by their people in the east."

We trust that the Legislature will hesitate even to consider the county government question, much less to repeal the present system. For 110 years, that is to say from the day North Carolina ceased to be a dependent province and became a free State, with the exception of the ten years under Canby's Constitution, our county affairs were administered by magistrates chosen by the Legislature. After the Canby Constitution went into operation county affairs were administered by commissioners elected by the people. Magistrates were elected by the people.

As soon as the white people of North Carolina got the power into their own hands again, they restored their old, or democratic system of electing magistrates, leaving to commissioners, appointed by the magistrates, the management of county affairs. In old times the magistrates themselves attended to county affairs; now commissioners appointed by the magistrates attend to them. That is the whole difference. It pleased the people to order their affairs to be administered in that way during all the years before the Canby Constitution, and it has pleased the people to have them so administered since.

But there is more reason for us to preserve the system than there was for our forefathers to adopt it, for there was then no Federal Government to convert African slaves into American freemen. In certain counties, mainly in the eastern part of the State, negro voters have been since the war in an indisputable majority. In other counties they were in such large numbers, so near an absolute majority, that, under the Canby system of county government, with a handful of scalawags or carpetbaggers to help them, they had entire control. They sent whom they pleased to the Legislature, they elected whom they pleased as commissioners to administer county affairs, to levy the county taxes and to control county expenditures, to be magistrates, and to control the public schools.

It is needless to say that taxes thus levied under negro rule, and expended under negro rule, that the schools under negro rule for white children, and the administration of justice for white men by negro officials, were all paid for by white men. It does not set well on a white man's stomach to be arrested by a negro constable, or to be tried before a negro magistrate.

And all this and more may be expected here in the east, if the present system of county government were interfered with. We say again: let it remain as at present, and on behalf of the eastern counties we appeal to the democrats of the western counties and ask that they continue to stand firm in all opposition to any repeal.

ALTHOUGH an effort was made by the family and friends of ex-President Arthur to have his funeral as private as possible, it was a very imposing event. The President, a majority of his cabinet, a considerable representation of the Congress, the Governor of New York and thousands of other citizens were either in the procession or witnessed it.

A LONDON cablegram states that the London city companies have resolved to sell their lands in the north of Ireland on easy terms to the tenants. The Salters Company will now transfer 25,000 acres at the purchase price, £20,000, under the terms of the Ashbourne act. The Fishmongers Company will transfer 20,500 acres at a yearly rental of £9,500. They offer to sell to the tenants at twenty years' purchase on the Government valuation, the tenants paying annually 30 per cent. under the present rental. The Drapers Company offers 27,025 acres at a yearly rental of £12,500, at eighteen years' purchase. The tenants accept the offers. The transfer covers nearly the whole of the county of Londonderry.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Attention is now turning to the assembling of the State Legislature, which will meet in January. The people will watch the deliberations of this body with great interest for several reasons. The most important one, perhaps, is the organization and election of Speaker. As the Lenoir Topic suggests, the democrats of the House, should they, by a bargain with the independents, elect an independent Speaker, commit a blunder that would bring upon them far more evils in the future than any temporary advantage would pay for. The Shelby New Era, summing up the situation, says: "If it should transpire that the independents, as a body, will stand off as the balance of power and offer to combine with the one of the old parties that will offer the best terms, we cannot afford to bargain with them or to bid against the republicans. It will be better for the State and for the party to let them and the republicans organize the House and assume the responsibilities of its business. Control obtained under such circumstances would cost more in the future than it will bring us in the present. The Senate will stand between the State and danger. The democratic party cannot assume the responsibilities of power obtained by a kick. We can welcome cordial co-operation, but we cannot afford to buy even the organization of the House of Representatives. We can welcome all into the democratic ranks, but if the independents choose to stay out, we must not exhibit so great a fondness for meat as to permit the democratic dog to be wagged by an independent tail. The people are looking on and there will be elections after 1886."

RAILROAD TALK.

We publish elsewhere a dispatch, in which it is stated that the New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk railroad company is arranging for extension of the company's system from Norfolk through to Jacksonville, Fla. This course, it is stated, has been determined upon because the company has so far been unsuccessful in forming a co-operation with other lines south of Norfolk. The new route will be independent of all other lines, and the most direct that can be chosen.

This new move is looked upon as part of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company's tactics, and the new line will form an outlet to important points South for that corporation. In this connection we give the following telegram from Philadelphia for what it may be worth: "The Pennsylvania Railroad and the Atlantic and Gulf Coast Line have had a misunderstanding, the latter, it is stated, having gone so far as to refuse a bill of lading from the former. This is one of the principal reasons, it is understood, why the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will enter cordially into the scheme proposed by the friends of the New York, Philadelphia and Norfolk Railroad Company to extend that line South from Norfolk to Jacksonville, Florida."

Should the New York and Norfolk road be extended, Goldsboro doubtless would be on its southern line, and the extension would be hailed by our people with much pleasure and satisfaction. The line should come via Greenville, Snow Hill and Goldsboro. We promise hearty encouragement on the part of our people in aid of the much desired extension.

And who knows but if the new line should be brought here that it will prove a powerful competitor for a lease of the North Carolina railroad when the lease expires? It would certainly form a valuable feeder for the line.

A YOUNG German was tried in the United States district court at Galveston, Texas, on Monday last for sending obscene letters through the mail. It was proved that the letters were sealed, and Judge Sabin ruled that inasmuch as the obscene matter was sealed and sent by one person to another through the medium of the mails, there was no violation of the Federal Statutes. Judge Sabin in the third United States judge to sustain the above ruling, while some fifteen Federal Courts have ruled directly to the contrary. The question, therefore, seems unsettled and is now before the Supreme Court of the United States for final adjudication.

Rev. Joseph Parker, D. D., is a leading dissenting minister of London. In politics, like most dissenters, he is a Liberal. Dr. Parker gives the following reasons why he opposes disestablishment: "All the English aristocrats to a man would join the conservatives. Until the whole country is educated to the fact that disestablishment to the church is the same as emancipation to the slave, disestablishment will be impossible. This education cannot be hastened. A party programme, which should include at the same time home rule, free education, disestablishment and the dismantling of titanic landlords would be the sheerest madness. These establishments of tyrannies and monopolies are already dead in argument, and only wait the solemn and inevitable issues of time. To have gained all this should at present satisfy the liberal teachers. If they insist on having more to-day or to-morrow they will defeat themselves by insisting on what is impossible."

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UNCLE Jo McDonald, or to use another of his pet names, Old Saddlebags, was not wholly pleased with the result in Indiana, and he seemed in a recent interview to think the President's civil service order had some effect.

"What part did the tariff play?" asked the Washington Star reporter. "In Indiana there is a strong sentiment in favor of a tariff reduction, upon the basis of free trade. The discussion of that question strengthens us. I think there is a very large republican vote that would go with us if they thought we would reduce the tariff."

"Do you think the outlook for the party is good?" "Very. I think the democrats will elect a President in 1888."

"Cleveland?" suggested the Star. "It looks that way now."

"Then the republicans will probably nominate Blaine, and it will be the same old fight," suggested the Star. "Likely," replied the Senator, "and the democrats will win."

"But if George comes into the field?" suggested the reporter. "I do not object to that combination. Take it all over the country, will draw more from the republicans than from the democrats. He would carry with him mostly organized labor, which generally votes with the republicans for the so-called 'American policy of protection to labor.' But his vote throughout the country would not be large. I do not object to his running."

"Do you think the democrats would gain in any States they have not heretofore carried?" "Yes; if the republicans nominate Blaine, Mr. Cleveland could carry Massachusetts and probably New Hampshire and Michigan."

OUR WASHINGTON LETTER.

REPORT OF POSTMASTER GENERAL VILAS.

The Brutal Assault of a Refined Lady by a Negro Superior Clerk—Other Matters of Interest.

[Special Correspondence of the Messenger.] WASHINGTON, November 23.—The assault on Mrs. Pace, an intelligent lady employed as clerk in the General Land Office, has been the talk of the town for several days. The chief of the room at the Land Office where she worked, named West, is a sort of lecher among Washington negroes. He entered her room late at night, chloroformed her aged mother, and attempted to chloroform Mrs. West. But she sprang out of bed, grappled with her adversary, and was severely knocked on the mouth and head. Others coming to her assistance, the ruffian fled, he left his chloroform bottle. Next day, finding he had also left his eyeglasses in the room, and feeling that this would lead to his arrest, he had the effrontery to go to the house where, in the darkness the previous night his identity had not been discovered, and stated that he had lost his wits the previous evening and found himself somehow in the lady's bedroom. He was ordered out by the police were notified. But the villain had escaped. He entered the house by the open cellar door. West was accompanied from South Carolina. He had not been captured up to a late hour this afternoon. The statement that he was placed in charge of the room since the democratic administration came into power is utterly false. He was found in charge, and as no objection was raised, he was said to be intelligent and well behaved. He was permitted to remain for the present. The brute was dismissed from the service to-day.

The lady is said to be related to a North Carolinian, from Raleigh or vicinity, and of prominence in the social circles of the State. The affair has caused a profound sensation. Examinations for places in the civil service will hereafter be held in other places besides large cities. The commission is disposed to extend every facility to applicants. A curious question has been raised by a Baltimore examination and has been referred to the civil service commission. It grew out of this state of facts: An customer had ordered a pair of shoes applied for the position, and only one, and that he passed. It was the same examination as those passed who applied for clerkships in the custom house. The law requires that four names shall be certified. Should not the list in the case referred to be completed by taking three names from the report of Postmaster General Vilas. The entire length of all railways employed by the United States nearly equals the combined extent of those of all other countries of the world, while the other post-roads more than quadruple the total of any single people besides; and by the latest reports received the mileage last year of our mail transportation exceeded by more than 125,000,000 miles the report of Postmaster General Vilas. Of postoffices no other nation has one of our number, a marked feature of advantage to our people and of liberality in policy. We expend annually more money than any other nation to maintain postal facilities, and if the postal telegraph service be excluded from the reckoning, we derive a greater revenue. At the same time no service is maintained at more economy of expenditure for results. But the report discloses some mortifying facts—facts very damaging to the republican managers of the Postoffice Department who preceded Mr. Vilas. As the quarterly returns of the newly appointed officers were received from time to time, the cancellations claimed by them were perceived in many instances to be significantly less than those returned by their predecessors; upon which examinations by inspec-

tors were ordered, resulting often in evidence that the returns of the former incumbents had exaggerated the amounts cancelled, sometimes grossly and fraudulently. Arrests of sixteen postmasters have been made, whose fraudulent intent seemed legally provable and inexcusable, of whom seven pleaded guilty, one was convicted on trial, one acquitted, four await trial and three action by the grand jury. Three or four hundred cases are undergoing investigation, and others will doubtless be found requiring it, as the examination of returns by the Auditor's office, necessarily a protracted labor, discloses indications of probable irregularities. The accumulating evidences leave little reason to doubt that the practice of making false returns had been pursued by some postmasters almost since the enactment of the statute of 1878.

It is extended to 311 the presentation of three months of claims for losses resulting from burglary, fire or other unavoidable casualty, works occasional injustice; and although but a short period should be afforded, it is believed that six months would be more consonant with justice. The free delivery service by carriers was, during the last year, extended to three cities—Annapolis, Duluth, Minn., and Newport, Ky., and June 30th of June, 1886, 181 free delivery offices in all. The recommendation in the last annual report for the extension of this service to places of 10,000 inhabitants or \$10,000 of gross annual revenue is renewed. The money order system has been during the past year extended to 311 additional post-offices, while 10 were dropped from the list. It is a gratifying proof of the efficiency which characterizes the management of this business that but 52 money orders, or in the ratio of 1 to 152,618, were reported during the last year as erroneously paid; and of these a part proved on examination to have been properly paid. The reduction in the annual cost of the star orders transportation, effected by the orders between June 1, 1885, and June 30, 1886, was \$301,479, and contracts were made during the year for four years. Referring to the report of the general superintendent of the railway mail service the report says that at the close of the fiscal year there was an increase of thirteen in the lines of railway post-offices and an increase of one hundred and eighty four in the number of clerks employed. Referring to the disagreement between some American steamship companies and the department in respect to their compensation, the opinion is expressed that the establishment of a regular mail service with the Argentine Republic, the republics of Uruguay and Paraguay and empire of Brazil would be highly useful, and is fairly demanded by the interests of the country.

The State Department is called to the attention of the department in respect to their compensation, the opinion is expressed that the establishment of a regular mail service with the Argentine Republic, the republics of Uruguay and Paraguay and empire of Brazil would be highly useful, and is fairly demanded by the interests of the country.

It is understood the President will not renege the promise made in his recent canvass.

The President and congressional party which attended ex-President Arthur's funeral arrived here in two sections about 9 o'clock last night.

Some of the houses on the library site are to be preserved and set apart for government use. It will save from \$2,500 to \$3,000 rent.

Mr. Manning's health continues. He is to-day on that part of his annual report which is called to the attention of the Secretary of the customs duties. Randall says the Secretary is much better off and discusses questions with vim and snap.

The United States government has, after much delay, succeeded in purchasing the Aqueduct bridge, across the Potomac, near this city.

NORTH CAROLINA NOTES.

The site of Helen postoffice has been changed. A railway postoffice service has been established on the Fayetteville and Wilson short-cut, to take effect on the 1st of December.

The following postmasters have been commissioned: Mary J. Luther, Eaker; A. Gainey, Gibbs Cross Roads; W. Holton, Vandemere.

Col. A. B. Andrews and E. H. Stith were here Saturday.

W. C. Leak registered at a down town hotel Monday.

Mr. John B. Hussey went to Philadelphia on Friday on official business and has not yet returned.

It is not yet known whether the headquarters of the Richmond and Danville railroad company will be moved back to Richmond or remain here, but the presumption is that the main office will be removed.

New Advertisements.

THANKS! The undersigned takes this method to return his most sincere thanks to all who so kindly aided and assisted him at and during the fire of Wednesday morning, Nov 29 wswit THOS. SWAN.

NOTICE. The subscriber will sell two small tracts of land adjoining the lower of White Hall and near the Seven Springs, one containing 75 acres, the other 100 acres. Also, will sell town lots in the village and near the Springs. Persons wishing to purchase can obtain further particulars by calling on the subscriber at White Hall calling on J. M. KIRKFIELD. Or, I. F. DORTCH, Esq., Goldsboro, N. C. nov29-1m

NOTICE! The undersigned have mutually settled all difficulties and disputes between them and the warrant against the undersigned Augustus Lane is withdrawn at the cost of the undersigned J. J. Casey, and the said Casey admits that he was mistaken in making the charge against said Lane of taking his money, and that said charge was unfounded. In witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands and seals. Nov. 26, 1886. A. P. LANE, nov29-wsitwlt J. J. CASEY.