

NEWS AND OBSERVER.

PUBLISHED DAILY (EXCEPT MONDAY) AND WEEKLY. BY THE NEWS & OBSERVER CO. S. I. HERRICK, Editor.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 14, 1888. DEMOCRATIC NOMINEES. ELECTION, TUESDAY, November 6th.

NATIONAL TICKET. 188 PRESIDENT: GROVER CLEVELAND, of New York.

FOR VICE-PRESIDENT: ALLEN G. THURMAN, of Ohio.

FOR ELECTORS—STATE AT LARGE: ALFRED M. WADDELL, of New Hanover; FREDERICK N. STURDIVANT, of Orange.

DISTRICT ELECTORS: 1ST DIST.—JOHN H. BROWN, Jr., of Beaufort; 2ND DIST.—GEO. H. WOODARD, of Wilson; 3RD DIST.—EDWARD W. FOG, of Johnston; 4TH DIST.—H. H. HARRIS, of Wayne; 5TH DIST.—SAMUEL J. FLEMING, of Stanley; 6TH DIST.—THOMAS M. VANCE, of Caldwell; 7TH DIST.—W. T. CHAMBERLAIN, of Haywood.

STATE TICKET. FOR GOVERNOR: DANIEL G. FOWLE, of Wake.

FOR LIEUT. GOVERNOR: THOMAS M. HOLT, of Alamance.

For Associate Justice of the Supreme Court—fill the vacancy caused by the death of Thomas S. Ashe: JOS. J. DAVIS, of Franklin.

For Associate Justices of the Supreme Court under amendment to the Constitution: JAMES E. SHEPHERD, of Beaufort; ALPHONSO C. AVERY, of Burke.

FOR SECRETARY OF STATE: WM. L. SAUNDERS, of Orange.

FOR TREASURER: DONALD W. BAIN, of Wake.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION: SIDNEY M. FINGEL, of Catawba.

FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL: THEODORE F. DAVIDSON, of Buncombe.

FOR AUDITOR: G. W. SANDERLIN, of Wayne.

FOR CONGRESS. FOURTH DISTRICT: B. H. BUNN, of Nash.

NO COUNTY COMMITTEES AND OTHERS.

We will make special rates at a very low price for the WEEKLY NEWS AND OBSERVER by the Hundred. Money for campaign purposes cannot be expended in a better way.

The storm in Gates seems to have been a genuine cyclone. Elsewhere we print a graphic account of its ravages in one neighborhood. We fear further advice will lengthen the list of disasters considerably.

It appears that the Republicans were even unable to hold their own in Maine. The Democratic candidate received a larger vote than has at any time been given to any straight candidate of his party.

Amadeus, ex-King of Spain, Duke d'Asota and brother to King Humbert, of Italy, whom he will succeed on the throne in case of the death of the Crown Prince, who is an invalid, married Tuesday in Turin, the ancient home of the Savoys, the Princess Letitia Bonaparte, daughter of Prince Napoleon Jerome and Princess Clotilde, and hence his niece.

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THE SPECIAL TAX BONDS.

At the election held in April, 1888, for the adoption of the Constitution, members of the legislature and State officers were also voted for. Large numbers of white men were not allowed to vote while the negroes were admitted to suffrage without other sanction than the command of the military satrap who sat in regal state at Charleston in South Carolina. The success of the Republican party was duly announced in General Orders and steps were taken to convene the new legislature on July 1st. As the members of that body came up to be sworn, most of the Democratic members were ordered to stand aside on the pretense that they were "barred" and could not be admitted to their seats. Later this ruling was relaxed as to a majority of them and the Senate allowed seats to ten Democrats and the House to twenty-five.

On July 4th, amid great rejoicing by the Republicans, the new government was formally inaugurated. The change was complete. So thorough at all points had been the victory of those who supported the Reconstruction measures that the Republican leaders felt every assurance of a long period of political domination in the State. They at once began the work of securing the spoils, of recasting the laws, and of creating what they called "a new North Carolina" upon the wreck of that "old North Carolina," whose traditions were so honorable to our people.

Legislation affecting the negro race was the first to receive attention, along with some provision to prevent anticipated resistance to the new government. Then came the spoils. Even at the Special Session the work of plunder began, and the harpies fixed their talons on the public treasury. "New North Carolina" needed a penitentiary and \$100,000 of bonds were issued and made away with in that connection. And "New North Carolina" needed railroads and a cry went up for "Internal Improvements," and railroads were projected from every town in the State without regard to cost. It was a well devised plan. It appealed to the interest of every community. Every county and every town was to be a boom. Immense strides were to be made immediately in material progress, and the whole State was to be developed at once by means of Internal Improvements. Such was the song of the sirens. Such were the promises of Dewese and Ladin and Littlefield and the other plotters for the spoils. But surely bonds would be necessary. Surely the State must subscribe heavily; surely the administration must appoint the officers and the officers must be of the faithful. And so it happened that even at the Special Session on the Western North Carolina Railroad was cut \$15,000,000 and six millions of bonds were ordered to be issued to the Western Division. Of this part George W. Swepson, a man of large wealth and principal stockholder in the largest bank in the State, was at once elected president, and his name added strength to the Republican cause.

At that time our people were poor and the State was a waste of land and for campaign purposes cannot be expended in a better way. Distribute these issues here at home, rather than foreign matter. Put a copy of the NEWS AND OBSERVER for the campaign in the hands of every doubtful voter. That is the way to redeem your counties. That is the way to make converts. That is the way to do good work in this campaign. Write for terms of the WEEKLY NEWS AND OBSERVER by the 100 for the campaign.

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and in consequence of that decision and of the opinion filed by the different members of the court, many of the appropriations fell to the ground as unconstitutional. In another suit, called the Keboe suit, it was said that Jim Lee handed to Judge Watts, who heard the case, a batch of \$5,000 in bonds, and the scandal of this proceeding brought odium on the bonds. As a matter of fact only about \$14,000,000, out of \$25,000,000 of bonds authorized, were actually absorbed, and no provision made for paying the interest falling due in January. The State was on the eve of bankruptcy. Interest falling due and no money to pay it! But Littlefield and Dewese and Ladin and their confederates talked only of progress, and internal improvements, and of New North Carolina Bonds! Bonds! Bonds! Their plans found more or less support among the representatives of the counties interested, and opposition to their schemes was abortive.

When their power to control the Assembly was definitely determined the triumvirate announced that no railroad bill should be allowed to pass unless the road receiving the appropriation should agree to pay them one tenth of the amount. They contented themselves with taking titles. Swepson found it necessary to apply for an act curing the defect in the bonds issued to the road, because they were not special tax bonds, and he agreed to pay his ten per cent and to begin to make the payment. He not only paid cash to the leaders in the enterprise, but also paid their orders in the hands of various members of the Assembly. But while he was a sort of paymaster in chief, the money came through the Ring. Littlefield was the fountain whence the golden stream issued, the editor of the Standard, the Public Printer, the constant of Republican favor and honor. As the money began to circulate freely and the members who shared the loot plied the free bar and basked in the smiles of Littlefield all were very happy. Before the Christmas holidays Swepson had disbursed in cash \$75,000; and before the middle of June he had paid out \$200,000. They had a very merry Christmas—and a very merry spring—these Republican brethren who were giving a new birth to old North Carolina and Littlefield with his great black beard—the new Black Beard Pirate of North Carolina—waxed greater and greater, and became the Uncrowned King of the Republicans in this State of that era. And debauchery and corruption thrived in the parlious of the capitol. It was indeed a royal time; money was so plentiful!

"Don't I owe you \$40,000," casually asked Swepson of Dr. Sloan, "for not voting against the W. N. C. R. R. bill?" "Yes," he gave \$20,000, and hand the balance to Gen. Ladin. That is but a sample. In addition to the cash the Ring obtained, it received \$633,000 in bonds. Railroad bills when introduced were kept back, and the whole batch were known as the omnibus bill. Provision was made for all. None was to be left out in the cold. While it was going out that no bill could pass without an agreement for ten per cent of the bonds, yet this agreement was not always made by the president of the company, but sometimes on behalf of the company by those who expected to profit by the appropriation. Thus we find agreements made on behalf of companies not yet chartered; for railroads of which the public knew nothing, corporations created simply to support appropriations of which the Ring could get its one tenth. Agreements were made on behalf of railroads whose presidents, being Democrats, were to be ousted, so that Republican successors could be substituted.

Among the bonds authorized to be issued that winter were the following: Williamston & Tar R. R. \$2,700,000 Western R. R. 1,500,000 Oxford R. R. 2,000,000 A. T. & O. R. R. 2,000,000 North Carolina R. R. 2,000,000 East & Western R. R. 2,000,000 Western N. C. R. R. 8,000,000 University R. R. 300,000 Suffolk R. R. 850,000 W. C. & R. R. 4,000,000 \$25,350,000

In addition the convention had issued a large amount of bonds, while the old State debt had grown to \$16,000,000.

That was a heavy load for New North Carolina to bear—an impoverished people, without money to pay lawful taxes; without funds to pay interest on the old debt—to have \$25,000,000 added to an existing debt of \$16,000,000. And the treasury empty! Yet that was Republican administration! In April the funds were running low and Treasurer Dave Jenkins was anxious for the Legislature to get to work, for they were an expensive set. To pay them he had to do some more Republican financing.

The Educational Fund owned \$420,000 of stock in the W. & W. R. R., and W. & M. R. R., which he sold for \$158,000, and with this Educational Fund and with \$100,000 borrowed from Swepson's bank, he paid them off and they went away—went away in April to come back in November. What would they find when they returned?

It is to be remarked that the \$25,000,000 of bonds authorized to be issued were not to be issued gradually as the roads should be built; nor as the bonds were needed; nor was any security required for their proper use—nor was any condition or limitation imposed in regard to them. That would have interfered with the due execution of the agreement for the payment of one-tenth to the Ring. They were to be issued as called for. Swepson drew his first—towards the close of the year—and after that others as they could get them. At first the price ranged about 60 cents, but during the summer, when millions on millions were thrown on the market, the bonds began to depreciate. In the meantime the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad, fighting the completion of the Chatham Railroad, brought a suit, Galloway vs. Jenkins, Treasurer, to test the validity of bonds authorized by the convention to be issued to the Chatham Railroad, and they were declared to be unconstitutional; and in July, 1869, in a case known as the University R. R. Co. vs. Holden, the Supreme Court held that appropriations made to corporations not in existence were invalid,

that had been accumulated so reck-

lessly. Charges of corruption and fraud that had been whispered came to be openly spoken, and the question went round—"Who had borrowed money from Littlefield or Swepson?" One week after the organization, Mr. Poy, of Johnston, moved that the House go into committee of the whole to investigate these matters, and after a struggle the motion was carried, and the next day the committee of the whole House sat. The developments were slow. The committee had to send for papers and witnesses. Objections were interposed at every step. It was not until after the Christmas recess that work was begun in earnest.

On January 13, the Senate passed a resolution to appoint a committee of five to investigate, and on the 20th, Phillips, Bragg and Scott were appointed. Lieutenant Governor Caldwell, a bitter partisan of the man with clean hands, and soon began an investigation. The Senate also passed a bill repealing all this railroad legislation, which came to the House on Feb. 16, where it was fought with great desperation. Dilatory tactics were resorted to to defeat it without avail. Motions to amend, to substitute, to refer consumed day after day, but the friends of the bill, under the leadership of Thos. J. Jarvis and Mr. Poy pressed on to its passage. After it had passed its third reading, a motion to reconsider was successful by one vote, and the bill was postponed for several days by a majority of ten. It looked, indeed, as if Littlefield had fully regained his mastery over the House. But eventually Mr. Poy was able to carry his point and the bill was passed.

The investigation by the House in committee of the whole had answered the purposes intended. Littlefield's influence dominated its proceedings. The meetings were postponed from time to time and witnesses refused to attend or declined to answer or answered evasively. Littlefield bull-baited the House and made his examination a passing jest. He turned the proceeding into ridicule and bore himself as a hero with conscious strength rather than as a culprit at the bar of justice. But the Bragg commission was making investigations at the same time, and a crisis was being rapidly reached.

On March 4th the House, in committee of the whole, spurred up by the proceedings of the Bragg commission, resolved that it would pursue the matter with greater diligence and that the committee should not adjourn for more than two days at a time. And on the same day the House passed a resolution directing the Senate Commission to report its proceedings up to the 11th of March. The purpose of this move was evidently to interrupt the investigation. The day following, the Bragg Commission had Littlefield before it on examination, and the House, at the instance of the committee of the whole, resolved that Littlefield should not be required to testify in regard to the dealings with private parties, but that he might be examined in regard to his transactions with members of the legislature.

On Monday, March 9th, however, the House resolved that Littlefield might be excused from appearing before the committee of the whole. Evidently the trail was getting very warm. The fox was being run to cover. Another Maynard had brought the late Saturday night, with a membership of 85, and expect to have at least 125 at the next meeting. The following officers were elected: H. S. Battle, president; W. P. Martin, first vice president; S. J. Ireland, second vice president; J. A. Graham, Jr., secretary; W. H. Williamson, corresponding secretary.

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At the ensuing election the Democrats were successful and the policy of the State became fixed to recognize any obligation on the part of the people to pay these bonds. They gradually sank in value until at length they were quoted on Wall street, without sales, at three cents on the dollar. Then the aid of the Federal court was invoked and suits were brought against the State by the bondholders. In one suit they sought to make the State Treasurer pay into the Federal court all moneys that had been collected under the "special taxes" imposed to pay the interest on these bonds; and in another a mandamus was prayed requiring the Auditor to include these special taxes in his abstracts for the sheriffs of the State to collect by.

These proceedings awakened great public interest, and serious apprehensions were felt lest some action might be taken by the Federal court that

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bonds. A convention to amend the Constitution was called to meet in 1876, and Thos. J. Jarvis, one of its members, offered an amendment to the Constitution forbidding the Legislature to pay or adjust these bonds without first submitting the matter to the people. This proposition was, however, rejected by that convention. Among those who voted against its adoption was Hon. Oliver H. Dockery, now a candidate for Governor. Happily, however, the various suits relative to these bonds were determined adversely to the bondholders. And in 1880 an amendment to the Constitution was adopted embodying the very proposition offered by Jarvis and rejected by the convention of 1876. But still the bondholders did not relinquish hope, and more recently Morton, Bliss & Co., the principal of the firm being one Levi P. Morton, a candidate for the Vice Presidency of the United States, brought a suit against the State which is still pending.

One of the difficulties in recovering judgment against the State on these bonds is the provision in the Constitution of the United States to the effect that no State shall be sued in a Federal court by a citizen of another State. To flank that various Northern States have passed laws authorizing suits to be brought in their own name by the bondholders of other States held by their citizens; and in the suit of Temple vs. North Carolina another such movement was attempted. Temple is a citizen of this State and Judge Bond held that being a citizen of North Carolina that provision of the Constitution did not apply, and he gave judgment against the State. Thereupon the State appealed and the case stands on appeal in the Supreme Court of the United States. If that appeal be withdrawn, Judge Bond's judgment against the State stands. In view of the fact that the record on this subject in the convention of 1876, if he is elected Governor of the State, what assurance have the people that he will not withdraw that appeal and let the judgment against the State stand? Besides, we are told by the bondholders that they propose to apply to Congress to pass a law requiring States to pay their obligations—to take up their bonds. Levi P. Morton, one of the bondholders, is a candidate for the Vice Presidency and on a tie would, if elected, have the casting vote in the Senate.

The interest on these bonds amounts to \$16,000,000, and the principal to \$14,000,000, making \$30,000,000 in all—of these special tax bonds. It would destroy our people entirely if we were forced to pay this vast sum. An Insurance Broker Arrested. Cor. of the News and Observer. CHARLOTTE, N. C., Sept. 13. Horace L. Spice, an insurance broker, of Baltimore, was arrested here yesterday afternoon by Sheriff Cooper at the Central Hotel, charged with adjusting the late loss of the Charlotte Compress Company, which was insured by companies not authorized to do business in this State. Mr. Spice setting up his representatives. He is now held in custody. Interesting developments, probably, will come of this case.

Osprey Cleveland-Powrie Club. Cor. of the News and Observer. OSPREY MILLS, MICH. POND, N. C., Sept. 10, 1888. The said club had their second meeting last Saturday night, with a membership of 85, and expect to have at least 125 at the next meeting. The following officers were elected: H. S. Battle, president; W. P. Martin, first vice president; S. J. Ireland, second vice president; J. A. Graham, Jr., secretary; W. H. Williamson, corresponding secretary.

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ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE FORDHAM, N. Y. BOARDING SCHOOL FOR BOYS AND GIRLS. A few days later, a bill having been passed appointing some of the stockholders of the W. N. C. Railroad a committee to settle with Swepson and Littlefield for the funds of that company, and that committee being about to assemble here at Raleigh, Littlefield seized his carpet-bag, and as he was coming out of the hotel, saw Col. Ham Jones. Stopping him, he said, "Col. Jones, I am about to leave town. My departure will be the subject of much comment. I do not wish to leave without telling some one that I am going. I therefore tell you now that I am going." And, jumping into a waiting omnibus, he was soon on his way to Florida—a fugitive from justice.

At the ensuing election the Democrats were successful and the policy of the State became fixed to recognize any obligation on the part of the people to pay these bonds. They gradually sank in value until at length they were quoted on Wall street, without sales, at three cents on the dollar. Then the aid of the Federal court was invoked and suits were brought against the State by the bondholders. In one suit they sought to make the State Treasurer pay into the Federal court all moneys that had been collected under the "special taxes" imposed to pay the interest on these bonds; and in another a mandamus was prayed requiring the Auditor to include these special taxes in his abstracts for the sheriffs of the State to collect by.

These proceedings awakened great public interest, and serious apprehensions were felt lest some action might be taken by the Federal court that

N. C. Insane Asylum.

VISITORS at the Insane Asylum will hereafter be admitted only on WEDNESDAYS, Between 9 a. m. and 6 p. m. This rule has been found necessary on account of the injurious effects of excessive visiting upon the inmates. By order of the Board. EUGENE GRISMOND, Superintendent.

THE HAMMOND Type Writer The most PERFECT machine ever offered on the market. THE BEST For Speed, Strength, Changeable Type, Perfect Alignment, Beauty and Durability. The only Type Writer awarded a GOLD MEDAL at the New Orleans Exposition. It has many advantages over other writing machines, and the work done on it is PERFECT. It Cannot Get Out of Alignment! It is Not Liable to Get Out of Order! It Cannot Collide with Itself! It has open-end carriage, which admits of paper of any width or length, and has changeable type. Every machine WARRANTED PERFECT. Price complete, with two sets of type, \$100. Send for catalogue. T. A. MONTGOMERY, State Agent, Raleigh, N. C. NORTH CAROLINA

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