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STATE AND NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC CONVENTIONS A COMPLETE VINDICATION OF SENATOR SIMMONS.

In an interview published after the national Democratic platform was framed but before it was adopted by the Baltimore convention, Senator Simmons expressed his great satisfaction with it as a declaration of Democratic principles and purposes. And no wonder he is pleased with it. A careful study will show it is as much a vindication of him against the attacks of his enemies as is our State platform.

For months before the State convention was held it was known that Senator Simmons' opponents were anxious to control that convention for the purpose of securing some declaration against him. They said, "Wait until that convention acts and Senator Simmons will hear something drop." But the State convention not only endorsed his record by a decisive majority and "heartily," it adopted a platform with a tariff declaration in line with his contention for a tariff which does not discriminate against any section or occupation. It declared against a tariff of any kind which seeks to put the things our people sell on the free list while providing for protection on things they buy; thus endorsing the Senator's whole creed and contention on the tariff question.

After this endorsement by the State convention the Senator's opponents said, "Wait until the national convention meets and makes its declaration on lumber and reciprocity." Well, the national convention has met and made its declaration and neither lumber nor reciprocity was mentioned in it. So is this not a clear vindication of the Senator's position upon these questions? He and those agreeing with him had contended that the Democratic platform declaration with reference to lumber meant that if the Democrats controlled they would make a tariff bill putting lumber and trust-controlled products on the free list and reducing the tariff on all dutiable articles to a revenue basis, and that it did not mean that lumber was to be put on the free list while trust-controlled products were protected and tariff duties on other products were unchanged. The State executive committee and a large majority of the Democratic Senators agreed with Senator Simmons that this was the correct interpretation of the platform; but his opponents contended otherwise.

The Senator also contended that there was no reason why raw materials should be put on the free list while the products manufactured out of them remained on the protected list. This position was attacked by his opponents and it was claimed that the national platform would declare for free raw materials. The failure of the national con-

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vention to make, in connection with the tariff, any reference to raw materials or any specific articles is conclusive evidence that as a result of the controversy which has been waged over lumber and free raw materials, and against putting the products of one section on the free list and those of another on the dutiable list, that great Democratic body reached the conclusion that the only just tariff is one which applies the principle of a tariff for revenue equally to the products of all sections, all classes and occupations, without discrimination against any; and that in levying tariff taxation the great fundamental Democratic principle of equality should be observed and maintained. So the convention said—and that is in the line of Senator Simmons' contention—that if it was intrusted with power it would reduce taxes gradually to a revenue basis; and added: "We recognize that our system of taxation is intimately connected with the business of the country and we favor the ultimate attainment of the principle we advocate by legislation that will not injure or destroy legitimate industry."

This omission of any reference to free raw materials or to lumber, in view of the agitation throughout the country upon these questions, is deliberate and intentional, and as such must be taken as a party declaration not only that the party has no criticism to make of those who have taken the position of Senator Simmons upon these questions, but that it recognizes the merits of their contentions.

But it was said that Canadian reciprocity, admitting the agricultural products of Canada free while maintaining high protective duties against admission of its manufactured products, was in conformity with Democratic principles and that the reciprocity bill, prepared by Secretary Knox and sent to Congress by President Taft, was a Democratic measure and that Senator Simmons and a few others who voted against it because they regarded it as a flagrant outrage discriminating against the farmers of the country, would be criticized and their action repudiated. In view of the fact that an amendment to the metal bill repealing this treaty was in conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses at the very time the platform was being framed, does anybody doubt that the platform, in failing to even so much as mention reciprocity, is to be taken as a deliberate declaration of the party that it refused to adopt that treaty as a Democratic measure?

The action of the convention in regard to these measures leaves Mr. Kitchin, who has sought to read Senator Simmons out of the party on account of his position on these subjects, without a leg to stand on. He stands forth alone excommunicating the Senator, and that, too, after both the State and national conventions have repudiated his (Kitchin's) attitude.

Senator Simmons has other reasons for being pleased with the national platform.

It provides a magnificent program of practical progressiveness, as he said in his interview approving it. This progressive platform begins with a declaration in favor of national aid in building and keeping up public highways of the country used as postal roads by the government. This is the first time the Demo-

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cratic party has ever declared in favor of government aid in keeping up these roads. It will be recalled that more than a year ago Senator Simmons introduced in the Senate a bill for this purpose and delivered a speech that so impressed the Senate that one of the great journals of the country said it looked like the Senate had organized itself into a good roads meeting; and this speech was published in all the good-roads journals throughout the country. Certain Kitchin papers said it was another scheme to loot the Treasury; the national convention says it was not a looting scheme but a just and necessary national measure.

Next in this Democratic program of progress is the pledge of more liberal appropriations for the improvement of national waterways and the conservation of natural resources of forests and water power. In the last few years Senator Simmons has secured many millions of dollars for the improvement of waterways in North Carolina and for the conservation and protection of our mountain forests and waterpower in the piedmont section. Some of the Kitchin supporters, seeking to injure Senator Simmons, have denounced these appropriations as another instance of looting the Treasury. The great national Democratic convention not only declared that this work must go on but that more liberal appropriations than heretofore made must be provided for it.

Then come the declarations in favor of extension of the rural free delivery system, a parcels post, encouragement of agriculture, and suppression of gambling contracts in farm products. This is a program for which Senator Simmons, as is well known, has been earnestly and effectively working.

Yes, the Senator has great reason to be satisfied with the work of both our State and national conventions and the platform adopted by each. They are a complete vindication of him against every attack that has been made upon him and a severe and stinging rebuke to those who have assailed him and misrepresented him and have sought to mislead the people as to his work, position and Democracy.

The Rowlan Sun is somewhat confused, not distinguishing between giving one man's version of a conversation and making a statement upon the paper's authority. In reference to what Mr. Stacy said about why he wanted to go to the Senate, The Sun says it knows Mr. Stacy did not say he wanted to go to the Senate to represent Rowland, Mr. McNeill says he did, as appears in the correspondence between them. Very well. Was The Sun present at the conversation? If so then it narrows down to the accuracy of the memory of The Sun and Mr. McNeill. If The Sun was not present, then it is taking somebody else's word, just as The Robesonian is doing, and it narrows down still to the accuracy of somebody's memory.

Owing to the fact that other important matter has demanded attention and to the further fact that we are still crippled in our typesetting force, it is necessary to hold over for Thursday's paper the correspondence between Messrs. T. A. McNeill, Jr., and H. E. Stacy, candidates for the State Senate, relative to a joint canvass of the county.

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Dr. J. P. Brown is being urged mightily by friends to come out for the Lower House of the Legislature. While in town one day last week some of his friends tried to get him to say he would enter the race, but so far he has not yielded. A new candidate for the State Senate enters the lists today in the person of Mr. W. E. Hools of Lumberton, who was a candidate for mayor against Mr. A. E. White a little more than a year ago. Also Dr. J. D. Croom, Sr., of Maxton, enters the race for the House of Representatives.

In regard to the question as to who is a Democrat within the meaning of the senatorial primary rules, Judge Clark, one of the candidates for the Senate, makes his position plain in a statement issued the other day by stating that no man who votes the Republican ticket in November should be allowed to vote for United States Senate in the primary.

STATE NEWS.

At examinations recently held before the North Carolina State board of dental examiners, 30 out of 46 applicants were successful.

Fourteen cars of a freight on the Atlantic Coast Line were derailed just south of Hope Mills on the 16th when one section of a train telescoped another. No one was injured but traffic was delayed for several hours.

Minnie King, colored, was shot and killed in Wilmington last Tuesday when returning to her home from sitting up with a corpse. She was accompanied by a negro man name Pollock, whose wife Rachel is charged with the crime, jealousy being alleged as the motive. The Pollocks disappeared.

The annual reunion of the North Carolina Division of the United Confederate Veterans will be held in Winston-Salem on the 7th and 8th of August.

During the next three months a large acid phosphate and fertilizer plant is to be erected at Laurinburg.

Mrs. Jane Kelly, 78 years old, fell from the second story window of the residence of her son-in-law, Mr. R. H. Brady, in Wilmington on the night of the 17th and sustained injuries from which she died the following day.

Chas. Lovett, colored, was shot and killed near Fayetteville on the 17th by Frank McPherson, also colored, as the result of a quarrel about a dog. McPherson escaped. That completed a list of four tragedies in Cumberland county since the Saturday night before.

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14 15 16 17 18 19 20
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28 29 30 31

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