

THE ROANOKE NEWS.

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A weekly Democratic journal devoted to the material, educational, political and agricultural interests of Halifax and surrounding counties.

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NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC TICKET.

For President: WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN, of Nebraska.

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FOR CONGRESS, SECOND CONGRESS DISTRICT: CLAUDE KITCHIN, of Halifax.

DEMOCRATIC STATE TICKET.

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THE CANDIDATES FOR THE SENATE.

It has been the policy of this paper to give the news and not to be violently partisan.

We do not sympathize with but unreservedly commend the effort to insure the Democratic party in Halifax county by the movement of those known as Independents and reasonable men should consider their action before taking a stand with them.

We desire to refer particularly to the candidates for the Senate. Mr. Travis was the unanimous choice of the regular Democratic convention for that position.

Not a vote was cast against him. One township had instructed for a gentleman, who, we understand, was in no sense a candidate, and whose name was withdrawn before on the roll call this township was reached, and this township also voted for him for that position.

There was not a suggestion that his nomination was secured by any trade or promise. No man doubts his ability or capacity. No man believes that heretofore he has not been a faithful public servant.

What excuse, therefore, can there be for the opposition to him? He was regularly and unanimously nominated. The first gentleman named by the Independents, recognizing this fact, and being a Democrat, declined to allow the use of his name.

Now, it appears that our townsman, Mr. W. T. Shaw, has been substituted. By whom? A mass meeting? No one has heard of such a gathering. If this nomination, if nomination it can be called, substitution would be more fitting, is not a shining example of ring politics, then we give it up.

Doing that which is charged at the door of others, and unjustly charged, it is expected that the people will be deluded. If these who are helping the Republicans think that the people are fooled, they will learn their mistake when the ballots are counted. Even before they get the officers, they are setting an example of Bossism, ring politics, and bad faith that would put to shame anything that has heretofore been done in Halifax county.

If in the possibility of chance, they should be successful, such bosses and ring politicians as they would become would be wonderful to contemplate. But you may as soon expect the sky to fall and catch larks as success, based upon such methods, to come to them.

There is a deeper meaning behind all this, and it is our purpose to give warning. There is no excuse for this movement. All differences can be settled in the party's ranks. If men want to go in the Republican party, they ought to go for principle's sake, they ought not to excuse their start by the shallow pretense of purifying the Democratic party.

THAT CIRCULAR SIGNED "A DEMOCRAT."

A circular signed "A Democrat" dated October 15th, 1908, from Scotland Neck, N. C., has been issued and distributed to increase the disaffection in the county.

We doubt the wisdom of even referring to a paper whose authorship is unknown, but it is timely to write a few words on the conditions that exist. Charges are made without responsibility, by innuendo and insinuation, there are references to County Bosses, Ring Politicians and office seekers.

Big Four, the gag clause in the proposed primary plan, the need of good business men to run the county; these expressions are also rolled as sweet morsels under the tongues of many who care little or nothing about the future of the Democratic party.

The opposition, born in prejudice and hate, attack honorable men, who have been clean in life and business, and poison the minds of many who never stop to think what is behind the disaffection.

Let us speak plainly. Who are the County Bosses, the Ring Politicians, the office seekers, the Big Four, etc., etc.? Why not name them? Are they those who gave their means, their time, who have risked their lives for the past twenty years, when many of those who are now raising these cries were either too tamely submitting to the conditions that then existed or were too timid to take any part in the revolution that saved North Carolina for white men?

In these troublous times, nothing was heard of County Bosses, Ring Politicians, Big Four, etc. For our part, we trust that the time may never come when the Democracy of Halifax county shall cease to be grateful to the men who led the movement that saved the state, or to listen to their counsels.

County Bosses, Ring Leaders, Office Seekers! Suppose the unprejudiced mind compare the methods of the selection of the County ticket of the regular Democratic party, and of those who style themselves "True Democrats."

In the primaries of the first named, practically all the Democrats of the county took part, even those who have now become Bolters, contests were sharp and close, every man had a right and did vote his choice.

It is an insult to say that any man in Halifax county did not vote as he pleased. When, may it be asked, has it arisen that one man did not have the right to persuade another? when, may it be asked, did one man may not be influenced by another? This is the very thing that some of our Independent friends are doing? Begging, persuading, seeking for office.

One of the candidates has run twice for an office, and, at the hands of the disaffected, seeks another; another is willing to give the emoluments of the office sought, to the school fund, after deducting expenses—if the people, suddenly become very dear to him, will elect him.

In passing let us remark that those, who at their own instance and without any demand from the people—are trying hard to save the county might well, in their calmer moments, reflect upon the lack of good faith which they almost to a man are showing by their conduct. They went into a primary, took part, and then bolted because some one of their choice failed to be nominated; in other words, they bolted because they were beaten.

It will not do to say that this or that one was traded out of his office. The bolter takes this view of it. When one candidate had a bargain with another candidate in another part of the county, it was an honorable pledge, but when his opponent did the same thing and beat him at his own game, it was trading that in his eyes justifies a bolt and a determined effort, even to higgling with Republicans, to disrupt the Democratic party in the county.

We desire to say that the Democratic primaries were largely attended, nearly all the voters took part, and that the County convention registered the will of the majority of the people. That man who thinks otherwise is blinded by his own conceit.

Let us take a review of the method of nominating the ticket known as the "True Democratic Ticket."

A dozen or more very estimable gentlemen, who would be greatly pleased to be County Bosses, met at Halifax and in secrecy "suggested" a ticket and call primaries; on the day of the primaries, save one or two townships, the primaries cannot be discovered. On the day selected these patriots meet at Halifax and one man, to the accompaniment of cries, "Shall the people rule," nominates the suggested ticket, stirring speeches being then made. This ticket is held up to the people of this county as representing true Democracy, and its supporters as acting with a pa-

trionic desire to rescue the county from the Bosses, Rings, Big Four, etc.

This ticket was born in secrecy, selected by the closest sort of ring and nominated by one man. Let us suppose, for example, that one man in the regular Democratic convention, had risen and put in nomination, one after another, the whole county ticket. By this time some of our good friends would be throwing fits at this evidence of Bossism.

Just a thought as to the proposed primary. Is it fair for a man to go into a primary and because he is beaten, bolt and fight? The one who will do that this year, will do it next year. The man who will not abide a primary, it matters not how the choice is taken, ought not to go into the primary.

No one can justify his conduct, be he saint or sinner, prohibitionist or anti-prohibitionist, sanctified or morally stained, who because he is beaten in a primary and fails to get his choice, fights the successful candidate after the primary.

A question of good faith arises just there, and if there are those in Halifax county who are following this course, even if they do think they are just a little nearer purity in politics than their neighbors, it would profit them if they would for a few minutes take their eyes off the faults of their brethren and examine their own conduct. For this reason, that which is called the gag clause was put in the resolution, we surmise. If you are going to fight the party, line up with the enemy. Let the people know where you stand. Do not aid the Republicans from the Democratic side of the fence.

A movement of the disappointed never carries much force and history will repeat itself on election day. Hysterical shrieks never convince the people there is wrong. If the affairs of the county were not honestly administered, it would appear. The so-called "True Democrats," with a partial nicker, if completed, to be completed by the Republican party or a few self-constituted Bosses, will go down in a few days to merited defeat. The only results will be for some to start for the Republican party, where they will find as experience shows and become office-seekers, and runners for office, and others will be sadder but wiser men. Therefore, our advice to all is to abide in the ship that in the past has been the hope and salvation of the State and vote the straight Democratic ticket from top to bottom.

SHERIDAN JOHN R. PATTERSON and Mr. S. T. Thorne, Jr., also stand by the regular party organization and will support the ticket nominated at Halifax on August 17th. Thus it will be seen that the independents have lost the majority of the men they nominated, and unless they fill the vacancies they will only have a skeleton nicker to place before the people on Tuesday next.

We believe it will be the part of wisdom for the remaining candidates on the ticket to withdraw, now, while they still have time and opportunity.

Col. Richard B. Creevy, editor of the Elizabeth City Economist, died last week at the advanced age of 95 years. He was the Nestor of North Carolina journalism and had the distinction of being the oldest living editor in the world. The great power and influence of his pen is now a matter of history. No man in the State did more for the South than Col. Creevy and in his death the whole State suffers a distinct loss.

Our Washington correspondent in summing up the campaign issues says that on November 3rd seven millions of Democrats and one million Republicans are going to sweep William J. Bryan into the White House on the biggest tidal wave of popularity that was ever known in the world.

A Missouri widow has sued a man for \$50,000 alleging that he has "broken her heart, broken his pledged troth, and shattered her dream of love." He ought to pay it, for no man has a right to treat even a Missouri widow like that.

The attendance at the recent State fair was, of course, a record breaker. But next year a new record will smash the 1908 record.

DICK CROKER sent \$1500 to the campaign fund and nobody was impolite enough to ask him where he got it.

The trend of the colored vote seems to suggest that Mr. Roosevelt is putting off his African hunting too long.

SENATOR DEBEW is going to stump Virginia. Good enough, he is just as funny as any of them.

ONCE again New York becomes the pivotal State in the presidential election.

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