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MORE PEACE TALK.

Several days ago a report came from Washington that some of the foreign Ambassadors were holding informal conferences with a view to devising some plan to end the war between this country and Spain. About the same time a report came from Europe that there was a movement by some of the European Governments, France and Austria being especially named, with the same view, but it was understood that this was an altogether friendly movement, with nothing dictatorial about it.

SOLID AGAINST IT.

In the Democratic Judicial Convention at Wallace, Friday, the sentiment was unanimous and emphatic against fusion. Every utterance against it by the speakers was applauded to the echo. In our Raleigh letter, published yesterday, it was stated that "The fight for fusion in the Democratic State Convention is going to be hotly contested. Outside of the politicians the Democrats here seem to be violently opposed to any combination with the Populists. The endorsement of Russell and his administration by the Populist Convention has turned many Democrats against the proposition."

MINOR MENTION.

Spanish statesmen can be amusing even when they are in a very serious mood. Premier Sagasta didn't intend to be amusing when in the Cortes, Friday, he explained the dissolution of the Cabinet with the statement that several of the members "were ill and fatigued after the recent anxieties." It is not surprising that they should feel ill and be very much fatigued considering the size of the load they had to tote and the amount of blowing they had to do at the same time to make the Spanish people believe that they were fixing things up to make the "Yankees" bite the dust.

AN ENORMOUS CROP.

Strawberry Shipments From This Section This Season Surpass Previous Records.

250,000 CRATES MARKETED.

Gross Receipts Estimated at \$380,000—Shipments Made to all Sections North and West—Increased Movement on C. F. & Y. V.

Fairly large shipments of strawberries continue to be made, but the business for the season is sufficiently near an end to approximate its volume. It has been much larger than it was last year and Eastern North Carolina is fast getting to be one of the greatest strawberry sections in the country.

The figures show shipments of strawberries taken out during the season from points between Wilmington and Goldsboro. This is a big increase over last year when the figures were 164,188. The number of crates carried out this season, calculating 32 quarts to the crate, is eight millions. Calculating on an average of 11 cents per quart it will be seen that the gross receipts were \$880,000.

The figures showing shipments by the Southern Express Company and by open freight have not yet been made out. The California Fruit Transportation Company has completed its records for the month from April 19th to May 21st, and they show a large increase over last year's business. During the month 670 car loads, amounting to 180,000 crates, were carried out. On a single day, May 2nd, the C. F. & Y. Company took out 60 cars, containing 17,545 crates.

In spite of the heavy shipments, there is an impression among the growers that strawberry growing this year has not been so lucrative as it was last year, owing to the low prices that have prevailed. However, there is another side to the situation, which is brighter for the grower. The excess in shipments will quite make up for the shortage in prices. This will appear from the comparative calculation of the gross receipts. Last year 164,000 crates sold for \$780,000; this year 250,000 crates sold for \$880,000.

It is noted that strawberries from this section have been shipped to every part of the country. A single day's business of the C. F. & Y. Company shows shipments to Chicago, Newark, Toronto, Montreal, Philadelphia, Detroit, Indianapolis, Providence, Cleveland, Columbus, Boston, Pittsburg, New Haven and New York.

There has been considerable movement of berries over the C. F. & Y. V. Railroad. Dr. Geo. F. Lucas, president of the Currie Truck and Fruit Growers' Association, writes the STAR as follows:

"We have wire from New York to-day saying that our 'berries sold at 10 cents straight. Ship all you can. These berries are being shipped in the C. F. & Y. refrigerator cars operated by Mr. A. S. Maynard who has given our people here the best of service. We feel satisfied that the excellent service given to us by Mr. Maynard will enable our people to continue to market their berries at paying prices."

The Governor of Barcelona exclaims: "God help any thief, bullying American brigands we lay hands on." The Governor will take mighty good care not to lay hands on 'em. He will stay over on the other side.

A Chinese tourist in this country, in writing to his town paper, was very much surprised at the "lack of dignity in American men who are found walking in public with women." Perhaps he was also surprised that the women can walk.

It is said to be a fact that many of the people in the South American republics sympathize with Spain in this racket, and even in Venezuela, notwithstanding the fact that we came very near getting tangled up with Great Britain a few years ago, for taking care of her.

There are a good many people who do not see what was gained by that bombardment of the San Juan forts. It waked the old town up, anyway.

Captain Hart, of the Laurada, who has been sequestered in prison at Philadelphia for filibustering, has been pardoned, as he should have been some time ago.

A Springfield, Ill., dispatch says that "counter jumpers and bookkeepers from the cities, stand camp life better than the country boys." They are naturally tougher.

The three carloads of cancelled mortgages which Nebraska is going to exhibit at the Omaha exposition show that the State was doing a pretty heavy business in that line.

HON. OLIVER H. ALLEN

The Democratic Nominee for Judge of the Sixth Judicial District.

RODOLPH DUFFY SOLICITOR.

Nomination Was Made Unanimous—District Executive Committee Appointed, Convention Harmonious—Decided Opposition to Fusion.

The Democratic Convention of the Sixth Judicial District was called to order yesterday at noon, at Wallace, by Rodolph Duffy, Esq., chairman of the District Executive Committee. The Wilmington delegation, twenty-seven strong, was headed by Dr. J. E. Matthews.

In calling the convention to order Mr. Duffy stated that although it was his duty as chairman of the committee to act as temporary chairman, for private reasons he would prefer not to do so. He requested Fred Meares, Esq., to act in his place, and Mr. W. L. Arendell, of Carteret county, was invited to act as temporary secretary. Mr. Meares took the chair and made a strong speech on the issues confronting the party.

There were no contested seats and a Committee on Credentials was not appointed, all county delegates being requested to hand their credentials to the secretary. On motion, the temporary organization was made permanent and the chairman appointed as assistants to the secretary L. A. Bethune, of Clinton, and J. W. Jackson, of Wilmington.

The chairman stated that the next business before the convention was the nomination for Judge. Nominating speeches were on motion limited to five minutes in length. The roll of counties was called and nominations were made as follows:

Jno. D. Kerr, of Clinton, representing the majority vote of Sampson county, nominated Hon. O. H. Allen, of Kingston. One half of the Lenoir delegation seconded the nomination. Col. Roger Moore and W. B. McKoy, Esq., of Wilmington, made speeches seconding Judge Allen's nomination on behalf of the New Hanover delegation.

Capt. Swift Galloway, of Snow Hill, was placed in nomination by Greene county, and Lenoir placed in nomination N. J. Rouse, Esq., of Kingston. P. B. Manning, Esq., and Herbert McClammy, Esq., of Wilmington, seconded Mr. Rouse's nomination. H. L. Stevens, Esq., of Warsaw, was also placed in nomination.

The first ballot showed that the Convention was for Allen. He received a very large majority and his nomination was made unanimous. The vote by counties was as follows:

Carteret—Allen, 23.
Duplin—Allen, 21; Stevens, 10.
Greene—Galloway, 20.
Jones—Allen, 13.
Lenoir—Allen, 16; Rouse, 16.
New Hanover—Allen, 24; Rouse, 6; Stevens, 9; Galloway, 3.
Onslow—Allen, 11; Rouse, 7; Galloway, 3.
Pender—Allen, 20; Stevens, 2.
Sampson—Allen, 15; Stevens, 10.
Total—Allen, 143; Rouse, 29; Stevens, 31; Galloway, 26.

In the foregoing figures fractions are omitted. Colonel Cook, the commandant, yesterday lined up the recruits at the post and asked for volunteers to go to the Philippines. Nine hundred responded almost instantly, but only 600 were wanted to make out the Third battalion of two regiments. It is likely these men will go to New Orleans to join the Eighteenth or Twenty-third regiments of the regular army before the recruits which have been assigned to go with General Merritt start for San Francisco.

The Spanish prisoners who are to be exchanged for correspondents Thrall and Jones, now in Morro Castle, will be started for Cuba as soon as the department here is assured of connection at Miami with a boat for Havana. Colonel Cortijo and Surgeon Julian are still in ignorance of the exchange.

The first ballot resulted, fractions omitted: Duffy, 88; Abernethy, 79; Bland, 74. Second—Duffy, 108; Abernethy, 70; Bland, 63. Third—Duffy, 112; Abernethy, 64; Bland, 46. At the end of the third ballot Messrs. Abernethy and Bland withdrew from the contest, asking their friends to support Duffy, whose nomination was then made unanimous.

A motion was made asking the chairman to name a committee of three to notify Judge Allen, who was out of the meeting, of his nomination. Messrs. H. E. Faison, of Sampson; Frank Thompson, of Onslow, and J. D. Kerr, of Duplin, were named on the committee.

The Convention passed the usual motion, extending thanks for favors. Before adjournment the chairman asked the delegation from each county to name its member of the Executive Committee. This was done with the following result: Jones, T. C. Whitaker; Carteret, C. L. Abernethy; Duplin, L. V. Grady; Greene, T. Edwards; Lenoir, G. T. Ormond; New Hanover, DuBruit Cutler, Jr.; Pender, Wm. Hand; Onslow, Frank Thompson; Sampson, H. E. Faison.

Convention Briefs. Frank Thompson, Esq., of Onslow, one of the orators of the convention, and Rodolph Duffy, Esq., the successful candidate for solicitor, are in the city, returning home. Messrs. F. G. Westbrook, G. H. Simmons, F. W. Hargett, T. B. Henderson and Col. S. B. Taylor, the other members of the Onslow delegation, went to their homes through the country from Wallace.

Editor L. A. Bethune, of the Sampson Democrat, one of the secretaries of the convention, came down to Wilmington yesterday evening. Nothing in or about the convention was clearer than that the Democrats do not consider fusion expedient. In almost every speech there was reference to co-operation, but in every instance decided hostility to the idea was expressed. Frank Thompson, a brother of Dr. C. J. Thompson, one of the leading Populists, was the most outspoken of all in his opposition to fusion.

A WILMINGTON DARKEY

Charged With Stealing a Trunk—Makes a Break for Liberty, But Is Recaptured.

The Atlantic Coast Line train arriving here at 9:30 o'clock yesterday morning had on board Fred Holmes, colored, having in charge another colored man, Will Blackford, charged with stealing a trunk. Holmes was deputized by Justice of the Peace Pat Dinean of Burgaw to arrest Blackford and bring him to Wilmington. Blackford said that if brought to Wilmington where he claimed to have lived, he would show where the trunk was. When he got here another charge—that of stealing a bucket from a section hand—was brought up against him and he got mad and swore that he would not reveal where the trunk was. The colored officer with the assistance of Policeman Rowan Green, took the alleged thief in charge and carried him to the guard house for safe keeping.

Last night Holmes and his prisoner left, returning to Burgaw. At the Wilmington & Newbern switch the prisoner made a break for liberty and jumped off the moving train. The colored officer followed suit, captured his man again and took him back to the guard house to spend the night.

COLLAR BONE BROKEN.

Painful Accident to Mr. D. T. Peterson While Returning from the Sound.

Mr. D. T. Peterson yesterday afternoon, in returning from the Sound on a bicycle, happened to an accident in which his right collar bone was broken. He met at the second toll house a conveyance belonging to Mr. B. H. J. Ahrens and in trying to pass into a tree, sustaining the injury mentioned, with some bruises. The words "quoted are from Chairman Jones' address, which was unanimously endorsed by the State Democratic Executive Committee at its last meeting."—EDITOR STAR.]

AT FORT MCPHERSON.

Many Recruits for the Regular Army Volunteers to Go to the Philippines. Spanish Prisoners.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star. ATLANTA, Ga., May 22.—About 2,000 recruits have arrived at Fort McPherson since that post was made the centralization point for that branch of the army. Every recruiting station in the country from Miami to California has sent some men and they are still arriving at a rate of 200 a day. It was not intended to send any of the men away until they were uniformed and equipped, but the need of the men for the Philippines has brought about the necessity of getting them to go with General Merritt to San Francisco.

The Spanish prisoners who are to be exchanged for correspondents Thrall and Jones, now in Morro Castle, will be started for Cuba as soon as the department here is assured of connection at Miami with a boat for Havana. Colonel Cortijo and Surgeon Julian are still in ignorance of the exchange.

SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT.

Thos. A. McNeill Nominated for Judge and C. M. McLean for Solicitor. The Democratic convention for the Seventh Judicial District met at Rockingham yesterday and nominated Thomas A. McNeill, of Robeson county, for Judge, and C. M. McLean, of Bladen county, for Solicitor.

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT.

Henry R. Bryan, of Newbern, for Judge and Walter E. Daniel, of Weldon, for Solicitor. At the Democratic convention of the Second Judicial District, held in Rocky Mount yesterday, Judge Henry R. Bryan, of Newbern, was re-nominated for Judge and Walter E. Daniel, of Weldon, for Solicitor.

MR. A. E. BLAKE'S INVENTION.

Mr. A. E. Blake, who was mentioned in the STAR some time ago as having invented a peanut parcher, has added to his list of inventions a seed planter, letters patent for which he has just received. It is a very complete and ingenious machine for dropping seed, such as peanuts, corn, peas, etc., in any quantity from one to a hill up and at intervals to suit. The machine is also equipped with an arrangement for sowing guano. It is claimed that it will save labor very materially, and there seems to be many reasons why Mr. Blake should make a good thing out of his inventions.

FIRST REGIMENT OFF FOR TAMPA.

Thousands of People Lined the Streets to Say Farewell to the Soldiers.

BOYS WENT OF CHEERING.

Reports Received in Raleigh from Democratic County Conventions—Be-lieved the West is Almost Solid Against Fusion.

[Special Star Telegram.] RALEIGH, N. C., May 22.—The First Regiment N. C. volunteers did not break camp until 8 o'clock this morning on account of a fierce rain. At 9 o'clock the march to the city was begun. Thousands of people lined the streets and assembled at the depot to say farewell to the soldiers. Just thirty-seven years ago to-day the First N. C. Regiment, Confederate volunteers, left Raleigh for Richmond. The soldiers were lustily cheered by the throng on the streets, but scenes at the depot were enacted that will never be forgotten. Mothers, sisters and loved ones went from car to car, weeping. It was, possibly, their last farewell to loved ones. The first section pulled out at 10:04 o'clock amid great cheers. The scene was intensely impressive. The second section left at 10:38 and the last at 11:00. The soldiers cheered and sang as they passed from view, waving caps from car windows.

THE STATE CONVENTION.

Few reports have been received from the Democratic county conventions held yesterday. It is believed the West will come to the State convention almost solid against fusion. The advocates of fusion are working hard and express themselves as confident of victory.

WAKE COUNTY CONVENTION.

Declared in Favor of Union of All Silver Forces—News from the Camp—First Regiment Leaves for Tampa.

[Special Star Telegram.] RALEIGH, N. C., May 21.—The Democratic county convention of Wake passed a resolution to-day by a vote of 171 to 17, declaring in favor of "union of all silver forces." The First Regiment leaves for Tampa at 7 o'clock in the morning. The order came from the War Department this evening. The Southern Railway carries the entire regiment in three special trains via Columbia, S. C. The railroads get about \$14,000 for the movement. Thirty-six cars are required for the movement. Gen. Cowley received offers of companies to-day from Pennsylvania, California, Illinois and Georgia on the strength of the fake telegram from Washington to the effect that North Carolina could not secure her quota.

The Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry will report here Tuesday. ["A union of all the silver forces" referred to in the above telegram, does not necessarily mean fusion. The words, quoted are from Chairman Jones' address, which was unanimously endorsed by the State Democratic Executive Committee at its last meeting."—EDITOR STAR.]

DENONCED FUSION.

Johnston County Democratic Convention. Delegates Instructed to Oppose Fusion in Every Form.

[Special Star Telegram.] SMITHFIELD, N. C., May 21.—Johnston County Democratic Convention convened in the court house at 12 o'clock noon to-day. The convention was harmonious and there was much enthusiasm. Delegates to all the conventions—State, Congressional and Judicial—were instructed to oppose fusion in every form. Strong resolutions were passed, denouncing fusion. The resolutions passed by a rising vote, with no opposition. Ringing speeches were made by E. W. Pou, Jno. A. Narron, E. J. Holt, Jas. A. Wellons and other leading Democrats. All opposed fusion. Democrats are gaining in Johnston county and are determined to hold the Democratic banner. A still larger Democratic majority is expected this fall.

THE SIGNAL CORPS.

Officers of the United States Navy Here to Muster in the Reserves at the Signal Stations.

Lieutenant G. L. Dyer and Surgeon H. N. T. Harris, of the United States Navy, arrived in the city yesterday and, together with Lieut. Geo. L. Morton, went down to Carolina Beach on the tug Navassa to muster in the members of the signal corps. They returned last night and will leave to-day on their way to the signal stations South, as they are to visit all on the coast.

Lieut. Dyer was a naval attaché of the American embassy at Madrid and has been in this country for only a week. The Spaniards, he says, know little of the extent and resources of the United States. A geography in one of the schools dismisses the United States by saying that it is a country on the Western hemisphere, in which the principal cities are New York and San Francisco.

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AFFAIRS AT MADRID.

All the New Ministers in Favor of Prosecuting the War With Utmost Energy—Advices from Blance.

By Cable to the Morning Star.

MADRID, May 22, 10 A. M.—An official dispatch from Captain General Blanco says some American warships shelled the forts guarding the water approach to the province of Puerto Principe, on Thursday night last. Senor Leon y Castillo, the Spanish Ambassador to France, who was recently offered the portfolio of Minister for Foreign Affairs, had a long conference to-day with the Premier, Senor Sagasta. Absolute reticence is observed as to the matters discussed.

MADRID, May 22, 6 P. M.—It is reported that Senor Leon y Castillo will return to his post at Paris.

Senor Caplepon, Minister of the Interior, has announced that on the 23rd an interview, that the change in the constitution of the ministry would involve any alteration in the foreign policy of Spain, all the new ministers being in favor of prosecuting the war with the utmost energy to the end.

"Spain," said Senor Caplepon, "is not perilously near sacrificing her honor in the interest of peace, only making a stand when further concessions would have involved her disgrace and effacement as a nation. This she will never do. Spain is in the position of a duellist bound to defend his honor against the gross insults of a more powerful antagonist, who, although he is convinced that the result will be almost certain death, yet feels the force of the principle of noblesse oblige."

"Spain prefers a possible defeat to a certain disgrace. No one knows but the moral sympathies of the powers are with Spain, and that, while hesitating to undertake the responsibility for action which might lead to a greater war, they may eventually intervene from motives of self-interest and public policy on behalf of Spain."

TORNADO IN ARKANSAS.

Loss of Life and Great Destruction of Property.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star.

FAYETTEVILLE, ARK., May 22.—The tornado which passed through a portion of Northwest Arkansas Friday night did immense damage to property and caused the death of at least seven persons. Reports of destruction are coming in slowly and it is feared that later details will add other names to the death list. The storm came from the southeast, tore in White river valley. The greatest damage done was near Elm Springs, Lowell and Mutton, the latter place being entirely swept away. At Elm Springs houses were blown down, orchards destroyed and stock killed. One man who had sought safety in a cellar was killed by falling timbers. The house blew away and the cellar was filled with debris, crushing the man to death. Two miles east of Elm Springs, a man named Killingsworth and his wife were killed. Their house was entirely destroyed and they were crushed to death in the debris. A mile away a farm house, occupied by a family of seven, was wrecked and the inmates were instantly killed.

Twenty houses are reported blown away in the vicinity of near Springs but details have not been received. The storm was less severe in Crawford county but one life was lost near Fort Smith. A Mrs. Nesbitt died from fright while the gale was at its fiercest.

The home of W. S. Kilbrough, near Springdale, was blown down and killed. The Charleston's big gun and several other farm houses were blown down near Springdale and six to eight persons were more or less seriously injured. Some damage was also done at Logan and Salsom Spring.

U. S. CRUISER CHARLESTON WELL ON HER WAY FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO MANILA.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., May 20.—The Charleston is well on her way to Manila. The big cruiser passed through the Golden Gate at 8:20 this morning, after having been anchored in the stream all night. She adjusted her compasses an early hour and then passed up the bay through Racoon Straits and passed the docks on the northern frontage of the city. Every steam vessel in the harbor blew an honor salute. The vessel was sighted coming down the bay the soldiers gathered on the beach to bid her bon voyage. They lined the beach for a mile and cheer upon cheer rang out from the men who were soon followed the Charleston to the scene of Admiral Dewey's triumph. The Charleston's big gun answered the boys on the beach time and again and the whistling was heard from one end of the city to the other.

MONROE ENVIRED.

Secret, died this morning at three o'clock, at the home of her son, Esq. J. D. A. Secret, four miles west of Monroe, after a long illness. She was eighty-nine years old. The high to which she is not at all alarming when viewed in the country. The harvest promise is very large and the crop is a good one. It is rather strange that a farmer who has never had a number of farmers' corns, containing recently of the high price of flour, meat, corn etc.