

FUSION GREED AGAIN

ANOTHER EVIDENCE OF THE UTTER INCAPACITY OF THE LEGISLATURE.

THE QUARANTINE AT WILMINGTON

The Fusion Majority Made the Office of Quarantine Physician a Political Job to be Banded Around Amongst Politicians--Dr. Curtis Removed Because He Was a Democrat Though His Term of Office Had Not Expired and Dr. Maynard Was Elected.

The Fusionists majority in the recent Legislature did not, in their many exhibitions of disregard of the public weal, more strikingly show their willingness to subordinate the public good to their insatiable greed for office than in the manner in which they have dealt with the quarantine at the port of Wilmington.

The quarantine has been established by the State at the port of Wilmington since 1868, under the regulations provided in chapter 24, entitled "Health and Quarantine," volume 2nd of the Code. The quarantine at the port of Wilmington is a matter of State necessity; it is under State regulations; it is paid for by the State and should be controlled by the State authorities.

The office of quarantine physician is not one that should be banded around amongst politicians. And yet the Fusion majority in the Legislature, in deference to the Republican machine at Wilmington, has transferred the selection and appointment of the quarantine officer from the Governor, while continuing the quarantine generally, to a police commission made up of Republican party hacks at Wilmington.

The sole and only purpose of the act is to give control of all the offices in the city and port of Wilmington to the Republicans. The responsibility for the general management of the city's affairs are left with the Board of Aldermen, as heretofore constituted.

When the board met and organized, it elected Rice, one of its members, city treasurer, and Melton, another one of its members, chief of police, and upon their resigning from the board, it elected to fill the vacancies on their board, F. W. Foster, an unsavory carpet-bagger of reconstructed days, and Croon, who is a Republican and keeper of a second-class bar room.

John E. Taylor, the negro member of the board, is employed by Rice as his chief assistant in the office of city treasurer. So the board divided the spoils amongst themselves. These instances are referred to as illustrating the character of the board that by the same Act has been entrusted with the selection of the quarantine physician at the mouth of the Cape Fear River.

The police board shall employ some suitable physician, who shall act as medical quarantine officer for the port of Wilmington, and who shall perform all the duties required of such physician

by the act of the special session of 1868, Public Laws, chapter 33, page 46, and who shall perform all other such duties of quarantine physician as may be prescribed by the lawful regulations of ordinances and quarantine regulations of the City of Wilmington; and the authority granted to the Governor by said act of the Assembly to designate such a physician is hereby repealed, and it shall not be lawful for the public treasurer to pay out to any person acting under the designation or employment of the Governor any sum whatever, except for such services as shall be rendered before the designation or employment of a quarantine physician by the police board as herein provided.

Section 8 reads as follows: "The act of the General Assembly aforesaid, being chapter 33, page 46, of the Public Laws of the special session of 1868, shall remain and continue in full force and effect, except as altered by section seven (7) of this act." The section of the Code, (2913) which this act seeks to amend, provides: "It shall be the duty of the Governor to designate some physician of experience who shall act as medical quarantine officer for the above station," referring to the station at the mouth of the Cape Fear River, who "shall be removable at the pleasure of the Governor."

It will be observed that the laws establishing and governing the quarantine remain and continue in full force and effect, except as to the manner of appointing the quarantine officer, which is changed from the Governor, who as the head of the State, ought properly to appoint to this local police board, who have not and ought to have anything to do with the State quarantine.

Here, then, is a bold purpose upon the part of the Fusion Legislature, at the dictation of local political bosses to interfere with an established quarantine system of thirty years standing, which heretofore has been under the responsible direction of the Governor, and to place it in the hands of a local irresponsible board of machine politicians, merely to provide an office for one of the Fusion henchmen. How has this board exercised its power?

Dr. William G. Curtis is an experienced and able physician, who has had special observation and knowledge of the quarantine station for fifteen years. With limited means at hand to prevent the introduction of infectious diseases and a quarantine equipment acknowledged to be inadequate, he has yet succeeded during his incumbency of this office over the period of time mentioned in preventing the introduction at this port of any of the epidemics and infectious diseases. He has so managed and watched the quarantine that he has prevented the passing of any vessel, infected with disease, and prevented the introduction of any case of contagion. This counts for nothing, however, with such men as compose the Police Board of Wilmington, because Dr. Curtis has the distinguished merit of being a Democrat. He came to this State in the '40 or '50s, with letters of introduction from the great Democratic President, Franklin Pierce, and has been an unwavering adherent to this party since his long residence in this State. He settled at Southport, and has lived there ever since, enjoying the respect, alike of his profession and of the best people of the Cape Fear section.

The Police Board addressed Dr. Curtis a letter notifying him that he had been removed from the position of Quarantine Physician, for the Port of Wilmington, N. C., the removal to take effect on the 1st, day of June, 1895, and that Dr. A. A. Maynard, had been elected to the position and would assume the duties on the said date. Dr. Maynard, whom the Board seeks to place in this office, was the Populist candidate in the campaign of '92 for Congress in the Sixth Congressional District. He is an up country doctor, who is not distinguished in his profession, and who is known chiefly as a Populist politician. If he is permitted to hold this position, he comes to it without knowledge of its requirements, without experience and without fitness for its important duties, and his incumbency of the office would be a menace to the health and interest of the State at large. Fortunately, he will not be inducted into this office unless the courts so determine. Dr. Curtis holds his commission from the Governor for four years from the 31st day of January, 1893. His term of appointment does not expire until the 31st day of January, 1897. The Legislature did not abolish his office, but expressly continued it, and transferred the appointment from the Governor to the Police Commission, and prohibited the State Treasurer from paying any compensation to the appointee of the Governor. We are informed that our courts have uniformly held in this State that a man cannot be deprived of his office by legislative removal. His office may be abolished, but if the office continues, he is entitled to enjoy it during the term of his appointment, unless removed as in this case by the Governor for good cause. Dr. Curtis will make the contest and not surrender his office until our Supreme Court shall so determine.

In their greed for office, the Fusion legislature has done more to involve the State in litigation than any half dozen legislatures ever previously assembled. It measures up to the reconstruction legislature of '69, and this is another instance of its disregard of public interest and its creation of complications in the administration of public affairs. Will the disclosures of the evil of their doings ever end?

Marvelous Results.

From a letter written by Rev. J. Gunderman, of Dimondale, Mich., we are permitted to make this extract: "I have no hesitation in recommending Dr. King's New Discovery, as the results were almost marvelous in the case of my wife. While I was pastor of the Baptist church at Rives Junction she was brought down with pneumonia succeeding La Grippe. Terrible paroxysms of coughing would last hours with little interruption and it seemed as if she could not survive them. A friend recommended Dr. King's New Discovery; it was quick in its work and highly satisfactory in results." Trial bottles free at John Y. MacRae's drug store. Regular size 50c and \$1.

AN INTERESTING INCIDENT.

A Kind of Civic Succession Kept of Presidents of the Dialectic.

Special to the News and Observer

CHAPEL HILL, N. C. June 17.

On Monday night of the commencement week at Chapel Hill at a meeting of the Dialectic Society, Kemp P. Battle was called on for a speech. In the course of his remarks he called attention to the fact that he joined the society just fifty years ago, and that 47 years ago he had the honor to be its president. On the occasion of the dedication of its new hall the first president of 1795, James Mebane, of Caswell, was present and he and Dr. Battle jointly presided over the society. After Dr. Battle took his seat Mr. A. B. Andrews, Jr., moved that he be requested again to preside jointly with the president then in the chair Mr. Harlee McCall, of Statesville. The motion unanimously prevailed and thus at the centennial of the Dialectic Society this venerable body had as a presiding officer, one who had sat alongside its president of one hundred years ago. It was requested that Mr. McCall return to Chapel Hill in 1945 and transmit the Presidential succession to the young chairman of that day.

James Mebane was a most worthy man, once Speaker of the House of Commons. He was a son of Alexander Mebane, a member of Congress, and one of the commissioners who selected the site of the University. The excellent Giles Mebane, once Speaker of the Senate, was a son of James Mebane.

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Administrator's Notice. Having qualified as administrator of the estate of W. H. Dillard, deceased, late of Wake county, this is to notify all persons holding claims against the said estate to present them to me on or before the 15th day of June, 1895, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery, and all persons indebted to the said estate are hereby notified to make immediate payment. J. C. MARCOM, Adm'r. J. H. FLEMING, Attorney. June 13, 1895.

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