The Chatham Record.

THURSDAY, Oct. 16, 1902.

H. A. LONDON, Editor.

LET it be remembered that our present election law, passed by the last Legislature, is the fairest that our State has had in many years. It is certainly much fairer than the boasted election laws enacted by the Fusion Legislatures of 1895 and 1897. And let it also be remembered that our present election law contains every one of the changes or amendments which were asked for in the numerous petitions presented to the last Legislature by the Republicans and Populists.

Although our present law is much fairer than is the Fusion election law and although it contains all changes in the old law which the Republicans and Populists petitioned for, yet every Republican and Populist member of the last Legislature voted against it. By reference to the Senate journal, page 836, it will be seen that on motion of Senator London, of Chatham, the previous question was had on the passage of the election bill, in order to shut off the Republicans and Populists who were present and voting, and that every one of them voted against the bill and all the Democrats for it. In the House it was the same way.

But worse than that a number of Republicans voting against the bill voted to provide for the permanent disfranchisation of white illiterate voters. No doubt they wish now that they had not so voted. When the bill came up on its final passage in the Senate (see Senate journal, page 836) the ayes and noes were called for by Senator London, in order to put the Republicans on record, and several of the Republican senators voted against the bill, while all the Democrats voted for it. This vote proved that the Republicans were not in favor of enacting a permanent registration law for the illiterate white voters. Don't forget this.

THE so-called "Independent" movement seems to be waning in many counties and bids fair to amount to anything. We are pleased to note that Mr. A. A. McKethan, of Fayetteville, who had been an independent candidate for Congress, has withdrawn and will heartily support the entire Democratic ticket.

We commend his patriotic example to all others who have thought of aiding the Republicans to get back into power in North Carolina. Of course every intelligent person knows that the so-called "independent" movement is entirely in the interest of the Republican party, and is encouraged and fostered by the Republicans who are simply using certain Democrats as cats paws. In order to make any fight at all the Republicans must get some Democrats to take the place of their disfranchised illiterate voters, but they surely cannot succeed in this desperate effort.

Of course Senator Pritchard has no idea of being elected, for no well informed man has any doubt about the Democrats having a large majority in the next legislature.

Why then, it may be asked, is he making so vigorous a campaign? Simply in order to keep his party together and help to weaken the Democratic party. For this he will be well rewarded with a lucrative federal office and the Republican leaders will not be ungrateful.

In like manner there is no chance of the election of any of the so-called "Independents" who are candidates in the several counties. But they are promised and expect a federal office as reward for their labors. They hope that, as Pritchard got pensions for Confederate deserters, he will also get an office as a reward for Democratic desertion!

But sad will be their disappointment!

THE name of Benedict Arnold is synonymous with treachery and is associated with greater infamy than that of any other man in American history. And it is justly so, because he deserted from the continental army and joined the British in fighting his former comrades.

And yet Senator Pritchard boasts of having secured pensions for men who were guilty of doing exactly what Benedict Arnold is denounced for doing!

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