

MUCH has been printed recently in some of our State newspapers about a "split" in the Democratic party, and some writers have gone so far as to predict it with much confidence. We fear that with some "the wish was father to the thought," and that they were only predicting that which they hoped for.

This biennial cry of alarm has been made so often that it will frighten only those who wish to believe it. While there were differences of opinion among Democrats in the last Legislature upon several important measures there pending, and the advocates and opponents of such measures expressed their sentiments fully and forcibly, yet that is nothing new or unusual. A brief review of our legislation for several sessions past will prove that this threatened split is not new and that dire disaster has often, before now, been predicted to the Democratic party in this State.

Let us begin with the Legislature of 1899, the first after a union rule had nearly ruined our good old State. When the proposition to disfranchise the negro voters was first made in that Legislature (in 1899) there was a wide difference of opinion as to its policy or expediency. Many predicted that it would be defeated if such an amendment to our constitution was proposed, and confidently predicted dire results to the Democratic party. The result has proved how unfounded was such a prediction.

Take the next Legislature and see how the predictions about its course were not fulfilled. That body was called upon to impeach two of our Supreme Court Judges. After a long and animated debate in the House that body adopted a resolution to impeach the judges. Many predicted that if the judges were impeached the Democratic party would suffer greatly, while others as confidently predicted that the party would be nearly ruined if the judges were not impeached. This question of impeaching the judges excited the people all over the State, some strongly advocating it and others strongly opposing it, each side predicting dire results if the other side prevailed. The result proved how unfounded were these predictions, and, in the nomination and election of our candidates since that time, nobody has ever thought of, or cared to know, whether the candidate was in favor of or opposed to impeachment.

In the next Legislature (1903) the temperance question threatened (as some feared) a "split" in our party. Day after day both branches of that body discussed with much warmth the various temperance bills that had been introduced, and finally when the Watts act was passed its opponents confidently predicted disaster to the Democratic party. It is needless to say that this prediction also proved false.

The Legislature of 1905 was divided on the question of passing the Ward bill and, its opponents predicted disaster to our party if it was passed. It was passed and all men know how unfounded was this prediction. So that it will be seen that the four Legislatures immediately preceding our last discussed measures which were predicted would cause a split in our party, and yet we had a larger majority in our last Legislature than ever before!

Let all Democrats bear in mind that "We be brethren" and act accordingly. Let none do or say anything that may even tend to the disruption of our good old party, upon whose supremacy depends the good government of our State.

GROVER Cleveland, the only living ex-president of the United States, celebrated his 70th birthday on last Monday. By an order of Mayor McClellan, the national, State and city flags were run up on the New York City hall flag-staffs in honor of America's most distinguished citizen in private life, a compliment which is said not to have been paid to any other private citizen in the last half century.

A very sensational trial, and the first of its kind ever held in this State, has just been held at Elizabeth City. It was the trial of a white man, named Joshua Harrison, upon the charge of kidnapping Kenneth Beasley, a young son of Mr. S. H. Beasley, of Currituck county.

Two years ago the boy suddenly disappeared when going home from school in the neighborhood, and nothing has ever been heard of him since, although his father has expended a good deal of money and made every effort trying to find him. Harrison was suspected of kidnapping (and probably murdering) the boy because of certain threats which he had made against Mr. Beasley.

Among the lawyers employed by Harrison to defend him were the only two living ex-governors of this State, Jarvis and Aycock, which fact of itself would make this a notable trial, even if the crime itself was not without a precedent in this State.

Our "little brown brothers" in the Philippines will be allowed to cast their first ballot on the 30th of next July. On that day will be held the preliminary election for the Philippine Assembly, which will consist of eighty-one members, or one delegate for each ninety thousand inhabitants of the islands.

This assembly will correspond to the House of Representatives in Congress, and the Philippine Commission will correspond to the Senate. The members of the assembly will be elected for a term of two years. This election will be a new sensation for the Filipinos, who have not heretofore participated in an elective government. Thousands of these Filipinos, who vote for the first time next July, are highly educated and are fully competent to vote and yet for eight years they have been denied that privilege by the same political party, which gave the right to vote to thousands of negroes just emancipated from slavery!

CHIEF Justice Walter Clark has just completed the publication of the state and colonial records. These records embrace twenty six volumes, ten of which were completed by Colonel Saunders at whose death fifteen years ago Judge Clark took up the work and brought to a successful completion. This valuable publication will ever stand as a monument to the patriotic and indefatigable labors of Judge Clark, who in the midst of other numerous duties has given freely of his time and pen, without any compensation whatever, to the preservation in a substantial form of much of our State's true history.

March Grain Report.

The Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Agriculture, from the reports of the correspondents and agents of the Bureau, finds the amount of wheat remaining in farmers' hands on March 1 to have been about 206,644,000 bushels, or 28.1 per cent of last year's crop, as compared with 158,403,000 bushels, or 22.9 per cent of the crop of 1905, on hand on March 1, 1906, and 20.1 per cent of the crop of 1904 on hand at the corresponding date in 1905.

The corn in farmers' hands is estimated at about 1,298,000,000 bushels, or 44.3 per cent of last year's crop, against 1,108,000,000 bushels, or 40.9 per cent of the crop of 1895, on hand on March 1, 1906, and 38.7 per cent of the crop of 1904 on hand at the corresponding date in 1905.

Of oats there are reported to be about 384,451,000 bushels, or 39.8 per cent of last year's crop, still in farmers' hands, as compared with 373,805,000 bushels, or 39.8 per cent of the crop of 1905, on hand on March 1, 1906, and 38.8 per cent of 1904 on hand at the corresponding date in 1905.

Pay of Canal Chiefs.

Washington, March 16.—The President today issued an executive order fixing the compensation of Majors Sibert and Galliard, of the army, and Civil Engineer Rossen of the navy, as members of the Isthmian Canal Commission. Each of these officers is to receive \$14,000 a year, including their present pay as officers and in addition each will be allowed the use of a furnished dwelling on the isthmus, and will be paid their actual and necessary expenses while away from the isthmus on official business. Chief Engineer Stevens broke all records March 14, when he removed 35,000 yards of material from Culebra cut.

Washington Letter.

From Our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, March 15, 1907.

Although the session of Congress just ended established a new record in the number of bills passed, probably also set a new mark for the number of measures it "turned down." Probably never before in history were there such a number of bitter fights on questions of public importance as marked the final days of the Fifty-ninth Congress. Among the most bitter of these clashes was that over the ship subsidy bill, which passed the House only to meet its usual fate in the Senate. Among the other more prominent victims of the legislative axe were the child labor bill, the revision of the copyright law, tariff reform for the Philippines, citizenship for Porto Ricans, inheritance tax, creation of forest reserves in the White and Appalachian mountains, the eight-hour and the prison-made goods bills. Embalmed in committee rooms are numbers of other measures, from which all vitality has sped. Altogether, despite the great activity of the short session, probably more measures fell before the onslaught of enemies than ever before in the same space of time within the halls of Congress.

Evidently the American people are awakening to the necessity of the conservation of the forests and the establishment of new ones. Such great interest has been aroused in the subject that the forest service has been compelled to add considerably to its publications. In addition to the fourteen bulletins and circulars dwelling on the general principles of forest conservation and replacement, the service has just issued twenty-four special circulars, or leaflets, treating of specific trees. It is adding to this series sixteen more documents treating particularly of trees adapted to conditions in the middle west. These will be ready within a very short time.

Although Congress at the last session passed an appropriation bill carrying approximately \$87,000,000 for the improvement of the waterways of the country, the national sentiment in favor of rapidly and scientifically developing these channels of trade has grown so remarkably that a number of states have made specific appropriations to hasten the work. Word has just been received here that Oregon has appropriated \$300,000 to aid the federal government acquiring the locks and canal at Oregon City, with a view to making the Willamette River absolutely free to commerce. These western states realize that money paid out in this way is a direct investment that will return immediate interest in the shape of reduced freight rates. In addition, every citizen shares in the benefits derived from this cheapened transportation, for it affects primarily the price of the necessities of life. Grain growers are enabled to market their products at a much more reasonable rate, thus enabling the baker either to increase the size of his loaf or decrease its cost. The same condition extends to all lines of production and thus the initial benefits of reduced transportation tolls are multiplied and effect all classes of people. At the convention of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress held in this city in December, the state of Oregon sent ten delegates, headed by Governor Chamberlain, to work with the organization to the end that the federal government should provide an annual appropriation of \$50,000,000 for the national work of development. This national organization is continuing its efforts along this line, and at the present time is seeking to increase its membership so that it may exert even greater influence with the Sixtieth Congress.

Considerable interest is being taken here in the reported boom for Jesse B. Grant, the young son of President Grant, for the head of the democratic ticket in 1908. Grant is said to have considerable of the force of his famous father, and leading democrats here think that any hopes their party may have of success in the coming campaign will disappear in the smoke of battle should the Grant and Bryan booms clash. It is said here that William R. Hearst is behind the Grant movement, a contention that is strengthened by the fact that Roger C. Sullivan, democratic national committee man for Illinois, and Charles A. Walsh, who recently resigned the position of secretary of the democratic national committee, are both in New York in close conference with Mr. Grant and Mr. Hearst. The situation is being watched over with much interest, especially by the dozen or so of "receptive candidates" for the republican nomination who live and have their being within the shadow of the White House.

The Rockingham County Chapter Daughters of the Confederacy is arranging to place an order for a Confederate monument at Reidsville.

Dr. Jas. Dinwiddie has announced his retirement in June next as president of Peace Institute.

Eighteen Perished in Fire.

Wheeling, W. Va., March 16.—Eighteen persons are known to have lost their lives in the early morning fire that occurred today at the plant of the WarWick Pottery Company, which is located in the flooded district.

Because of the water surrounding the burned district it was impossible for the fire apparatus to reach the scene. The firemen pressed into service all the boats that could be secured and carried the lines of hose to the burning building by this means. They did heroic work and not only fought the fire but assisted in rescuing many persons.

A Collision in Tunnel.

Asheville, March 18.—A collision between a work train and the first section of freight train No. 73 in the west end of Swannanoa tunnel resulted in the slight injury to several trainmen, the derailment of two engines, damage to four cars and the delay of passenger trains from Salisbury. According to the facts given out by the officials of the road the work train was backing up the mountain, followed by the first section of No. 73. The work train stalled at the west end of the tunnel and No. 73 ran into it. Both engines were derailed and several trainmen bruised and slightly injured.

Woman Fatally Burned.

Warsaw, N. C., March 16.—Miss Tammie Gore who resides near here, went out in the field where some parties were burning brush on Thursday. Her clothing caught fire and she was burned in a horrible manner. Mr. Luther Guy and his mother were near and they were badly burned on the hands and face in the attempt to put out the flames.

Miss Gore lived until this morning at 3 o'clock when death relieved the awful suffering.

Prisoner Becomes Lecturer.

Abilene, Kas., March 16.—Senator Joseph R. Burton, who is expected to return to his home here next week from Ironton, Missouri, where he is now in jail serving a six months' sentence, has engaged the local theatre for March 23, when he will deliver a public address. Senator Burton has for some time threatened to expose those whom he charged with being responsible for his conviction and it is said that his speech will prove sensational. Mr. Burton will be released from Ironton jail on March 22.

Boy Murderer Acquitted.

Gulfport, Miss., March 14.—Fred Blankenship, aged nine years, who for more than a year has been resting under a murder charge, walked from the court-room today a free boy, the jury acquitting him in five minutes. Attorney Henry Mayben, whom the lad had employed with money he earned himself picking cotton, made an eloquent argument in his behalf.

Serious Disaster in German Mine.

Forbach, Germany, March 16.—An explosion of fire damp in the coal mine at Kleinsessel, near here, last night, resulted in the death of 65 miners and the injury of 12 others. The disaster occurred between 10 and 11 o'clock in a small gallery in which 80 miners were at work. Three of the men are still missing.

On the 9th of May the fifth annual commencement of the University Medical School will be held at Chapel Hill and Dr. Geo. W. Long, of Graham, will deliver the address. There will be 11 graduates.

Four more lads direct from Scotland have arrived at Raleigh and been assigned by Secretary Bruer, of the Agricultural Department, to different points in the State. More will sail for North Carolina in a few days.

His Compliment.

Praise from a husband's lips is always pleasant to the wife, but the praise may be too discriminating to suit her. "I thought it was nice of you to tell that carpenter, who seemed to think women know nothing, that I could hammer nails like lightning," said Mrs. Morse to her husband. "But I'm afraid, dear, you are not an unprejudiced judge. I really don't think I'm such a very good hammerer." "Oh, he knew what I meant," said Mr. Morse cheerfully. "You know lightning never strikes twice in the same place, they say."

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