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CENTRAL EXPRESS



THE STANDEST EXPONENT OF Democratic Principles IN THIS SECTION OF THE STATE. Always in the front rank of Progressive Journalism.

A HOME NEWSPAPER THOROUGHLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE MORAL, MATERIAL, POLITICAL AND INTELLECTUAL ADVANCEMENT OF THE SECTION IT REPRESENTS.

Vol. III. SANFORD, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1888. No. 4

MORE OF OUR HERO.

DOCKERY AS A FARMER.

He Voted for a Negro Lawyer in Preference of a White Farmer.

(Written by Col. W. L. Saunders.)

The greatest fraud of the present day, so far as we know, is the pretense Col. Dockery makes of being a "plain farmer," a horny handed son of toil, who digs his living out of the ground. He tells the people that he is nothing but a plain farmer, dragged away from home against his will, that had a brother farmer, Captain Alexander for instance been nominated by the Democrats, nothing could have induced him to be an opposing candidate.

This is the veriest twaddle in the world, and no man that did not have the cheek of a rhinoceros would be guilty of it. Instead of being a plain farmer, making a living from the soil, he is the worst demagogue in the State and a thorough-paced, broken down Radical politician of the lowest kind.

If any one doubts this, let him look at the man's record since the war. In 1868 he ran for Congress twice. Twice in one year is pretty fair for a plain farmer averse to politics and happy only when watching his growing crops! In 1869 he showed his love for his crops by staying in Washington City; and so in 1870, when he ceased the bitterness of his grief at his absence from those same crops by another race for Congress. But this was not a good year for Radicals, and as Dockery was beaten and in 1871 he went back to his beloved crops. And then the Democrats changed the makeup of his district so that he had no showing for Congress any more. But for this little circumstance, he would have been running for Congress every two years from that day to this. Not to be idle, however, in 1876 he was a candidate for Elector for the State at large and was defeated, and again in 1880 he was a candidate for the same place and was again defeated. In 1882, when by accident, as it were, there was a Congressman for the State at large, and the election coming on in an off-year, he made race, and, as well all know, was beaten. Since then there has been no opening for him for Congress, his district being overwhelmingly Democratic, and so, having run down on his farm, he now seeks to be Governor.

And this is the man who is parading the State as the farmer's friend! We know just the kind of farmer he is. There is at least one of that sort in every neighborhood in the State, as the commission merchants know to their cost. They farm on supplies and advances from commission merchants, and make cotton and buy corn and work poor mules. This sort of farmers know it all, but somehow their crops don't put out well. They can tell a poor neighbor who drops in of a Sunday evening just all about it, but that same poor neighbor, who knows nothing about scientific farming, but plants right straight along in the old way, will sell twice as much cotton to the acre.

You will hear a "farmer" like Col. Dockery, ex-member of Congress, almost any day now calculating how much cotton he will make. There are so many hills, says he, in an acre, so many stalks in the hill, so many matured bolls on the stalk, "certain," so many bolls to the pound, and 400 pounds to the bale, and the result is anywhere from one to two bales to the acre—and when it is all picked out the average will about 125 pounds of lint to the acre! That's the kind of farmer Col. Dockery is. His affectedly shabby dress and apparent want of attention to his person do not prove him to be a farmer by any means. If this sort of thing proves anything at all it is the demagoguery of the man or the want of soap and water.

But what a low estimate he puts upon the sense of the people to suppose that such things as these will

WE WILL TELL YOU.

ORGANIZATION AND PARTY DISCIPLINE.

Our Prosperity Rests Upon Democratic Supremacy.

(Written by Col. W. L. Saunders.)

And now a word to you, fellow citizens in conclusion. If it be true, as we have shown you from the record, that under Radical rule North Carolina went to ruin, and that under Democratic rule she has steadily improved and gives good promise of continuing to improve; in other words, if we have shown you that the welfare of the State is dependent upon the continuance of the Democratic party in power, what then?

The answer is easy: Every man ought to go to work to help that party secure the victory in the coming election; soberly, seriously, earnestly, from a sense of duty and in the fear of God. The lives, the liberties and the properties of over a million and a half of people are at stake.

But how are you to work? you may well ask. We will tell you. A political campaign, to be successful, is no mere holiday affair that can be left to take care of itself. If we would win the victory we must work for it, and to work to advantage we must work together. Systematic, persistent, organized efforts is what we must have, and to accomplish this no better machinery has been found than that to which we have been accustomed, that is to say, the system of Township, County, Congressional and State Executive Committees. And of all these the Township Committees are the most important, for upon them really devolves the work and labor necessary to be done to insure success. The difficulty we have had to contend with in North Carolina has been to induce the people to register and go to the polls. Once there, they are sure to vote right. Especially is this true of people in the country precincts. In the towns and cities the act of voting involves but little trouble and but little loss of time, and through the newspapers and the current talk of the streets every voter almost is brought to realize the importance of exercising the highest right of the citizen; that is to say, the right of selecting his rulers. Not so, however, in the country. To bring out a full vote there, men must be seen and talked to especially and individually—must be warned of the time and place of voting, and the danger of not voting. Provision must be made for securing the attendance of the lame and the halt and the sick who have no means of transportation of their own. Indifferent men and careless men must be roused to a sense of their duty to their party and to their State. Tickets must be provided and distributed, challengers must be appointed, and the registration books must be thoroughly inspected.

All these and other things, too, must be done if we carry the day, and they must be done by the members of the Township Committees. No organization can be efficient that does not rely upon these local committees, each one operating in a small territory and consequently familiar with every part of it, its members knowing and known to every qualified voter in it.

If there be a full and active Executive Committee in every township the work can be done easily and smoothly. Every man in the township can be seen and prevailed upon to go to the polls. Every man will be registered in due time and illegal registration will be guarded against. On the day of election our challengers will have lists of the registered Democratic voters and will check off all who vote, and when one o'clock comes it will be easy enough to send for those who have not put in an appearance. If matters be arranged in this way there is no need for us to lose a single vote unnecessarily. Public speeches are all very well in

their way, newspapers are all very well in their way, and so are formal county canvasses; but they are only means to an end and that end is to bring out the voters on election day. They serve a useful and necessary purpose in furnishing the local committee with the facts and arguments to use to stir up indifferent and uninformed men upon the great issues of the day. But if the work stops with the making of speeches and the circulation of newspapers, the work is only half done, and the smaller half at that, for the great mass of the people in our sparsely settled country and with our limited mail facilities and our limited means of transportation, will not be reached. It will be the worst madness in the world for us to sit still and rely for victory upon the shout that come to us from the hustings. The men who go to hear the candidates speak will not constitute one-half of the voters of the State and are mainly men who have already made up their minds how they intend to vote. Let us bear these things in mind and go to work. A good township executive committee is worth all the speeches that can be made and all the newspapers that can be circulated in that township between now and Christmas.

The present is no time for bickerings and heart-burnings and squabbling and quarreling; no time for divisions and dissensions and discord, but a time for standing shoulder to shoulder, to give succor to our friends and destruction to our enemies. Personal animosities and personal preferences should all be lost sight of, and the common good of the party constantly kept before us. The enemy is already in sight and must be fought. Those who are not with us are against us. All independents are disorganizers and disorganizers are enemies. Time was when we all worked together, because we all saw it was necessary. Nor can any true man look back to the dark days of Radical robbery, and remembering the strength there was in unity then, fail to appreciate fully the strength there is in Democratic unity now, and the need for putting it forth.

THE NOBLE OLD ROMAN.

MORE OF HIS PLAIN-TALK

Extracts from Judge Thurman's Speech at Newark.

SOME OF THE ISSUES.

Now, my friends, passing these general observations, allow me to come to some of the issues that are most sharply marked in this campaign. One thing of which I wish to speak is this. Many people, and Republican newspapers in particular, have raised the cry that Democratic principles in the present campaign and the Mills bill mean free trade. Why my friends, they must not have studied the measure. It is one of the most conservative tariff bills that was ever introduced in Congress. They say that it is opposed to American industries. I say that it is not. I say that it will benefit American industries. It does not mean free trade in any way, shape, or form. Those who cry that the Mills bill is a free trade measure apparently do not know what free trade is.

Free trade is the unrestricted commerce between nation and nation. You have a very intelligent illustration of it in this country. There are thirty-eight States which go to make this vast and glorious Republic. Between these thirty-eight States, which form a part of this vast unity, there is absolute free trade. To bring the subject nearer home I might state that when goods are manufactured in your mills here at Newark they can be transported to Minnesota, to Maine, to Texas or to California without the payment of any duty. Between these thirty-eight States and the many Territories, which it is unnecessary for me now to mention, there is absolute free trade.

But there is no such free trade between this country and Great Britain or any other country. There has never been free trade between these two countries, and the possibility is far distant. There never has been in the United States anything approaching free trade except as I have mentioned. Any man who speaks of the Mills bill as a free trade measure is either an ignoramus or a rascal.

What an absurdity it is to consider it in any way at all a free trade measure. The present rate of tariff to date is 47 and a fraction per cent. That is the same on every article of dutiable goods, 47 per cent. Now, the Mills bill reduces that tax to 42 per cent., or thereabouts, making a reduction of less than 10 per cent., and yet this reduction is called free trade by our Republican friends, although it leaves a tariff at from 40 to 42 per cent., or twice that which it was at the beginning of the late Civil War. Why, my friends, this tariff is nothing but a tax upon the resources of the country. The present tariff, on an average, assesses 47 per cent. of the articles entered into this country.

WHO PAYS THE TAX?

Now, who do you suppose pays the tax? Is it the manufacturer? Not much. In the first place, the importer of the goods, or whoever may act in his place, fulfills a part of the duty. He must pay the tax before he can take the goods out of the Custom House.

Of course he must increase the duty when he sells to the wholesale dealer to cover any little expenses which he may have had in entering his goods. The wholesale dealer necessarily adds to these charges when he sells to the retail dealer, and the result is that the user of the goods not only pays for them, but must pay the whole tax.

If I were a schoolmaster and could not make a child of 13 understand the tariff, I would quit keeping school. It is one of the simplest yet most unknown subjects of modern science. You should all study it and as an old man, I think you would all be benefited by it.

My friends, I now hold in my hand some statistics which may prove

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A Knock-Down Argument—The Biggest Speech of the Campaign.

(From Progressive Farmer.)

DEAR SIR:—I noticed in your last paper that if a man buys a suit of clothes for \$23 he pays \$9 for protection. This is nothing in comparison with my experience. I have an overcoat sent from England, cost \$10; the freight on same was \$2. When I went to the custom house to see if there was any duty to pay, imagine my surprise when I found it had to pay fourteen dollars. I said I could not afford to pay this price, and asked to have same shipped under bond to England again. I was informed I could leave it alone, and that it would be sold at some future date at public auction.

These are just the absolute facts, and when a man can buy an overcoat in America shipped from England for \$12, which in America cost one hundred per cent. more, why shouldn't he have this benefit, instead of having to pay \$14 for protection?

Yours truly,
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The platform adopted by the late National Convention of our party contains the following declaration: "Judged by Democratic principles, the interests of the people are betrayed when, by unnecessary taxation, trusts and combinations are permitted, and fostered, which, while unduly enriching the few that combine, rob the body of our citizens by depriving them as purchasers of the benefits of National competition."

Such combinations have always been condemned by the Democratic party. The declaration of its National Convention is already made and no member of our party will be found excusing the existence or belittling the pernicious results of these devices to wrong the people. Under various names they have been punished by the common law for hundreds of years, and they have lost none of their hateful features because they have assumed the name of trusts instead of conspiracies.

WE BELIEVE THAT THESE TRUSTS ARE THE NATURAL OFFSPRING OF A MARKET ARTIFICIALLY RESTRICTED; THAT AN INORDINATELY HIGH TARIFF, BESIDES FURNISHING THE TEMPTATION FOR THEIR EXISTENCE, ENLARGES THE LIMIT WITHIN WHICH THEY MAY OPERATE AGAINST THE PEOPLE, AND THIS INCREASES THE EXTENT OF THEIR POWER FOR WRONG DOING WITH UNALTERABLE HATRED OF ALL SUCH SCHEMES WE COUNT THE CHECKING OF THEIR BASEFUL OPERATIONS AMONG THE GOOD RESULTS PROMISED BY REVENUE REFORM.

While we cannot avoid partisan misrepresentations our position upon the question of revenue reform should be so plainly stated as to admit of no misunderstanding. We have entered upon no crusade on free trade. The reform we seek to inaugurate is predicted upon the utmost care for established industries and enterprises; a jealous regard for the interests of American labor and sincere desire to relieve the country from injustice and the danger of a condition which threatens evil to all the people of the land. We are dealing with no imaginary. Its existence has been repeatedly confessed by all political parties, and pledges of a remedy have been made on all sides.

Yet, when a legislative body where, under the Constitution all remedied measures applicable to this subject must originate, the Democratic majority were attempting with extreme moderation to redeem the pledge common to both parties they were met by detained opposition and obstruction and the minority refusing to co-operate in the House of Representatives or proposing no remedy have remitted the redemption of their party pledge to the doubtful power of the Senate.

The people will hardly be deceived by their abandonment of the field of legislative action to meet in a political convention and flippantly declare in their party platform that our conservative and careful effort to relieve the situation is destructive to the American system of protection.

State Treasurer Bain, in reply to inquiry, has given the following statement of the amount of State money in the State National Bank at the time the bank was closed:

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(1) Because to say that wage earners, as a body, can increase their wages is by paying high tariff taxes, which fall mainly upon them is to say that a man can increase his wealth by picking his own pocket.

(2) Because the value of wages consists not in money, but in the articles which money buys; and the express object of a high tariff is to make these articles dear, thus decreasing the real reward of labor.

(3) Because the high tariff policy, while taxing the wage-earner upon nearly everything that he has to buy gives him no protection upon the only thing he has to sell. We have free trade in human labor.

(4) Because wages represent the wage-earner's share of what he himself produces, and are high or low according as his production is large or small.

(5) Because the wages of even the one wage-earner out of ten claimed to be "protected" are determined by general causes rather than by the tariff.

(6) Because if a high tariff raises wages at all its first and greatest effect must be in the protected industries, whereas the rate of wages is considerably lower in these industries than in the unprotected ones.

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