

WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS

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WASHINGTON, N. C., FEB. 26.

LET THE NEWS FOLLOW.
Parties leaving town should not fail to let the News follow them daily with the news of Washington fresh and crisp. It will prove a valuable companion, reading to you like a letter from home. Those at the seashore or mountains will find the News a most welcome and interesting visitor.

MUST BE SIGNED.
All articles sent to The News for publication must be signed by the writer, otherwise they will not be published.

MUSIC HATH CHARMS

A few nights ago a musical organization in New Bern—the Choral Club—gave an entertainment in Centenary church. It seems that a feature of the performance was an organ recital by Archibald J. Robinson, of Cambridge, England, which, as the New Bern Sun describes it, "was one of the rarest treats the people of New Bern have yet had the pleasure of hearing." That is undoubtedly a great compliment to the renowned organist, but look at the effect on the people. Says the Sun:

"So well did he hold his hearers spellbound that they still set in their seats waiting even after the last piece had been rendered."

The writer of that must have been present, and the effect of the hypnotism must have been so complete that to him the use of grammar at once became a lost art. He reached a "setting climax" and could not get away from it, for he does not say how long the people continued to "set" there, but it is hoped that something has happened to break the spell—if not to correct the spelling!

We are reminded of the story of a fellow who was telling a neighbor about "setting" a hen. The neighbor asked him if he hadn't made a mistake in the use of a word, and suggested that he probably meant "sitting." The fellow says the point, and sidestepped in this way: "It doesn't make any difference to me whether the old hen is sitting or sitting; but what I'd really like to know is, when she cackles is she lawing or lying!"—Greenboro News.

EXTINGUISHING A FIREBRAND

Outside of his State the defeat of Ex-Gov. Vandeman by Leroy Perry in the Mississippi legislative campaign was not expected. Mr. Vandeman was the conspicuous figure of the contest. In the first ballot, taken January 7, he received 71 votes of the 99 then members. Mr. Perry, with 21 votes, was a dark horse candidate. But long deadlocks do not favor leading candidates.

Mr. Perry's following had grown steadily. His reports were local, but it was that of a superlative man. Mr. Vandeman's, that of a portentious firebrand, was national. The choice, however, lay with Mississippi, and it was not determined by measures of declamatory eloquence gathered from the press-clipping bureaus.

Mr. Vandeman was a Governor more than a firebrand. He showed ability. He restrained disorder. He protected negroes. But his incendiary talk upon the great question of the future of the colored race was harmful to Mississippi and discouraging to those friends of the South who wish to see it living and thriving in 1919, not ever facing toward 1857.

History is not written backward. The repeal of the fifteenth amendment is too remote and academic a proposition to get excited about now. There is no Vandeman left in high public place, for Jeff Davis is rather of the "Bloody Briddles" Waite type. Mississippi's choice speaks well for a progressive, practical South.

FEEES TO LEGISLATORS.

(Charlotte Observer.)
It has always been a surprise to us that every lawyer of integrity and honor, on becoming a member of Congress or of his State Legislature, cannot see the distinction between the relation of lawyer and client and legislator and person interested in special legislation. We cannot understand how any such man can confound the two relationships. Still, we believe there are at times men who do so with clear conscience and would be really surprised were their conduct criticized or their motives impugned. A very lamentable case of this kind occurred in North Carolina some years ago, and when the lawyer and legislator had his attention

to his conduct he was checked beyond measure. Unblinded judges of his conduct never for a moment thought he had intended to act corruptly or that he was conscious at the time of doing a wrong.

But such cases are occurring continually in this country's legislative bodies. The latest case of the kind which has been brought to public attention is that of a member of the legislature of Virginia who had been offered \$400 by a client to secure the passage of a law creating a new cause for divorce to fit the case of the legislator-lawyer's client. While he did not accept the money offered the legislator-lawyer could not understand how others should consider it an offer to bribe him as a legislator to put the desired legislation through. He considered it only an offer of a fee from a client to his lawyer to lobby for him. How, in lobbying as a lawyer, he expected to be able to direct himself of his character as a member of the body he was expected to influence, we cannot understand; but he seems to have explained it to the satisfaction of the members of the legislature, who were at first inclined to look upon the affair as an offer to bribe one of their associates. That legislator escaped all suspicion of dishonest conduct by refusing the "fee" and disclosing the proffer, but the fact that he could not see how he would have acted at all wrongly had he accepted it is as remarkable as any feature of the case.

POOR MEN DISQUALIFIED.

(News and Observer.)
When the late Col. Walter L. Steele, of Richmond county, was in Congress—and few brainer or more resourceful men have graced the House—there was a discussion in the cloak room of the expenses necessary in a Congressional campaign. It resolved itself into an experience meeting and each Congressman told how much he spent in the campaign. One city Congressman had spent \$57,000 and the others had all spent sums varying from that amount down to \$500. Col. Steele had not given in his experience, and somebody asked him: "How much did it cost you to be elected, Col. Steele?" He astonished them by saying "\$1.65." They began to make inquiries and he said that he had kept no account of the railroad fare he paid to go to meet his appointments, and that \$1.65 was all he spent for meals. In that day no candidate was expected to pay for a team and was entertained by some patriotic man who was glad to carry him to the next appointment. The modern method of hiring men to work at the polls, writing letters to every voter, and lending money to every sucker did not then disgrace our politics.

Recently Senator Flint, of California, made this statement of his expenses: "Campaign cost \$57,000. Expenses in Washington during six-year term, \$60,000. Total, \$117,000." At \$7,500 a year salary the Senator draws during his term \$45,000. An addition of \$5,000 to this for mileage and small allowances brings the receipts up to \$50,000. Thus his outlay exceeds his income by \$67,000. He is a fish man, but his experience is doubtless duplicated by other rich Senators while some have spent more. These are Senators whose expenses are small and who live on less than their salaries, in Washington, but the tendency all the time is toward such heavy campaign expenses and high cost of living that our members in a few solid States will be denied seats in the Senate.

It is not only in senatorial campaigns that money has been spent in excess of what is needed. In North Carolina where money is held in contempt there are those who in the Democratic primary of 1904, then in all former gubernatorial contests since the war, instead of money has not until the last few years been used except in a few counties, and in most counties its stingy trail is not now felt. The single item of postage stamps in that campaign would bankrupt a poor man. The candidates and the people should unite to prevent a continuation of such costly methods. It is demoralizing and destructive. The man who takes pay for political work loses his patriotism and the man who says him becomes a public enemy. There is patriotism enough left to secure good government and make sacrifices for friends without the corrupting influence of free spending of money.

There are some things we do not understand about the recent sample drama at Durham. The mayor appointed as censors three men upon whose judgment and fidelity he could rely. Excepting the mayor because of his responsibility, what necessity was there for the mayor, the mem-

bers of the board of aldermen, the police and fire commissioners, the city attorney, and the newspaper men, to attend the private performance given in order that the three censors might intelligently pass upon the play's morality. The play was declared by the censors to be too immoral to be permitted a public exhibition, but here sat through the private performance all those city officials, and their newspaper friends, who were not required by the performance of any official duty to submit themselves to the degrading influence.

MY DOCTOR

MIGHTY FINE
Mrs. Hattie Cain of Carrville
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I hereby announce my candidacy for solicitor of the First Judicial District of North Carolina, subject to the action of the Democratic District Convention, and do earnestly solicit the support of all Democrats in my behalf.

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Kansas City Journal.

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