

The Randolph Bulletin.

A RANDOLPH COUNTY PAPER FOR RANDOLPH COUNTY PEOPLE.

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ONE DOLLAR A YEAR.

Halley's Comet--

Important Facts

Gathering and Condensed About the Great Celestial Visitor

Size—1,000,000 times larger than the earth.

Speed—Millions upon millions of miles a day.

Character—Comet is composed of three parts—the nucleus, the head and the tail. The head is of the same composition as the tail, only denser. The head is so transparent that stars can be seen shining through it. Nothing is known of the composition of the nucleus.

The tail—Is composed of gas and minute particles of metal not unlike dust. Should the tail be long enough when, on May 18, the comet cuts through the plane of the earth to reach the earth, the effect would be a fine display of luminous vapor.

Time of passage—Between 7:30 and 8:30 on the evening of May 18, the comet will pass between the earth and the sun. As the sun sets in North Carolina on that date at 7:07 p. m. (World Almanac) it cannot be witnessed in this state, but might be seen from California, Hawaii, the Philippines and Japan, although it may be possible that at that time it will not be able to be seen even with the telescope.

Distance—At the time the comet passes through the plane of the earth it will be 73,360,000 miles from the sun and 14,640,000 miles from the earth, and the tail, that always streams away from the sun, would have to be more than 14,640,000 miles long to envelop the earth, and it may not be that long. The comet reaches its nearest point to the sun about the middle of April.

Collision Impossible—While the orbits of the earth and the comet cross each other, they are not in the same plane. In other words, it is not a "grade crossing." Thus, no collision of the earth and the comet is possible.

The Best Views—The best views of the comet for the general public will be from the middle of April until the first week or so of May, when it will be seen with the naked eye just before dawn a little south of where the sun rises and just a little distance above the horizon; and again for a couple of weeks after May 18, when it will appear just after sunset, a little south of west and at a considerable height above the horizon.

Finest Spectacle—The most interesting spectacle is expected to be afforded on May 1, when the comet nears Venus. The planet and the comet will be the same distance from the earth and every one will be able to note their relative sizes. To see the comet then, one will have to be up before five o'clock in the morning. In fact, only the early risers will see the comet before it passes between the earth and the sun.

Once Nearer—In 1835 Halley's comet came within 5,000,000 miles of the earth. As it did not then pass between the earth and the sun, the tail was pointed in another direction. The tail always points away from the sun.

No Danger—Eminent astronomers say there is no danger. It is not known for certain, if, when the comet passes between the earth and the sun, the tail will be long enough to reach and envelop the earth. A Cali-

THE WORLD'S FAIR OF THE FUTURE

In all probability the city of San Francisco will hold an international exposition, or, as it is more popularly known, a "Worlds Fair," to celebrate the opening of the Panama Canal in 1915. If the promoters of the fair are willing to profit by the lessons of former expositions, their efforts will be directed to making the coming fair notable, not for mere bulk and area, but for its compactness and the genuine excellence of its carefully selected exhibits. The trouble with many previous expositions has been that they were big to the point of being wearisome and oppressive. A climax in this direction was reached at the St. Louis Fair, in one single building of which a visitor had to traverse nine miles of aisles if he wished merely to walk past the whole of the exhibits. Whatever may be the ulterior motive, the avowed object of these exhibitions is educational. Therefore, they should contain only the most distinctive and valuable results of the world's scientific, industrial, sociological, and constructive work. And in this connection we would ask whether it is not almost an insult to the good taste and intelligence of the millions that are solicited to enter such an exposition, if a large section of its space is devoted to that cheap form of entertainment which was inaugurated by the notorious Midway Plaisance at the Chicago Exposition. San Francisco will have a great opportunity, by breaking away from certain false traditions, to render this, the latest of expositions, something better than a mere plaything of the real-estate dealer, the side-show man, and the politician.—Scientific American.

The Fighting Parson.

A preacher had offended a man who had the reputation of being a fighting character and the man with ire in his bosom vowed that he would wipe the earth up with the parson the first time he saw him. Soon they chanced to meet and the fighter told the preacher that he would have to fight him. In a cool and deliberate way the parson remarked that if nothing else would do he could fight, but asked permission to pray before the fight. The good man fell upon his knees, and prayed as follows:

"O Lord, thou knowest that this fight that we are about to begin was not brought about of my own accord, but that this man standing before me has thrust it upon me, and now, Lord, I implore thee to give me strength in this conflict as thou didst when I killed Jim Baker. Be merciful to the widow and orphan children of this wicked man and wash my hands of the blood of this monster and the praise shall be thine forever. Amen."

And the preacher arose from his knees the fighting man was gone and nothing but a cloud of dust could be seen down the road.

California chemist claims to have discovered cyanogen gas (a deadly poison) in its tail. Prof. Frost, of the Yerkes observatory, says: "The density of the tail of the comet is about the density of the vacuum in an electric light bulb and there cannot possibly be enough poisonous gas in it to hurt a fly."

IMPORTANT

Mr. Republican voter, If your poll tax is NOT paid, you have less than ten days in which to pay it. Be sure a democratic sheriff nor his deputy will not call on you for your poll tax before May 1st After that date you will be compelled to pay, even if it takes your cow, or mule or the coat off your back. Pay your poll tax, qualify yourself to take part as a free American citizen in the great battle of ballots in November.

The time is short, act NOW.

DEMOCRATIC MISRULE

Some Facts and Figures Pertaining to County Affairs—Court House not Paid for—Finance Committee Report A Farce

(By A. NEWMAN)

During the campaign of 1908 the democratic office seekers heralded broadcast from every stump in the county the announcement that they were going to build "our" court house without issuing bonds and without raising the tax a single cent, and it is a matter of current history how well they kept their promise. As a matter of fact they did not raise the "rate" a single cent and here is where they pulled the wool over the eyes of the good people of old Randolph County, for while they did not raise the "rate," those who wish to make a comparison will find that the "net amount" is much larger than two years ago, owing to the fact that the list takers doubled, and trebled in many instances in listing property, and the net result shows an enormous increase in the amount of taxes collected.

This was only one of the many election schemes worked to mislead the voter, and blind him from the true facts as they existed. As a sequel to the whole muddled affair came that great Finance Committee's Report, which stated that to give a detailed report of the county's financial condition would require the services of an expert accountant for weeks, and which was nothing more nor less than a blooming farce, misleading in its every step inasmuch as the report stated one thing and the committee saw fit to whitewash the whole affair by stating differently. "We find that the new Court House has cost \$29,544.99 every cent of which has been paid."

So stated the committee. As was stated in the last issue of the Bulletin, no doubt but what the brick masons, the carpenters and the plasterers have been paid, but what about the numerous people over the county that holds notes against the county. Have they been paid? What about that little item that appeared in the proceedings of the commissioners meeting for last month when T. F. Wrenn was

paid \$120.00 for six months interest, which at the rate of six per cent per annum would mean the neat little sum of four thousand dollars, has that been paid? Again, if the Court House has been paid for in full, for what reason does the county keep paying interest on those outstanding notes, and for what reason are they outstanding?

No doubt the party now in the saddle think they have the facts well concealed but be sure your sins will find you out, as they surely will, and then will be a day of reckoning that will lay ring rule low in Randolph County. We do not wish to be understood as placing ourself on record as being opposed to Randolph having a good court house, for she surely needs one as badly as any county in the state, but why not build it in a business like way instead of blinding the people of the truth and leading them around in the dark as has been done in Randolph County.

If the people in Randolph county could get a look at the books and find out the true existing conditions they would rise with all their might and crush the power of the ring under whose oppression they are now subject to misrule and deception. Now that the court house is complete—except being paid for—why not clean it out from cellar to garret and begin a new administration that will place Randolph county in the leading ranks of all the counties in the State, that will govern wisely, judiciously and justly; and that will place her on a higher plane than that which she is now on. Such would be the result of a Republican administration.

A Furniture Center.

Just a few years ago a natural forest stood on the side of the Southern Railway in North Carolina. The people in this section discovered that the timber was good—perhaps no better than that which grows throughout the South—but they knew what was there to be good. There wasn't so much to see, but a plenty to saw. They sawed it. Now High Point, Lexington and Thomasville are known throughout the commercial world as a center for the furniture industry. Other industries are keeping pace with this line.—Ex.

SACREDNESS OF AN OATH

Should the day ever come when the solemn oath calling upon God to witness the truth of what we say or promise will be lightly regarded by the generality of men, it will be the day that sounds the death knell of all human faith and trust. The oath is the highest tribunal of conscience—its court of last appeal. For the man who realizes thoroughly what it means, and really believes in a God, it is something supremely awe-inspiring; and nothing short of duty, or direst need, or at least the most justifiable utility, could induce him to take it. He uses it not as an ordinary, everyday confirmation of his good faith, but only as a last resort. If his oath won't suffice to hold him to the truth, assuredly nothing else will. His case is truly hopeless; no confidence can be placed in him.

The oath is, in truth, nothing less than summoning the Omnipotent God into court to serve as a pledge or security for our good faith. It is a bold enough venture even when we feel that we have justice and right on our side; and how can we fittingly characterize the act of one who dares to call on the name of the Almighty to sanction an injustice or to witness a lie? To make an equal—a fellow man—a party to such an infamous proceeding would be justly considered one of the most grievous wrongs we could inflict upon him; to treat a friend thus is one of the meanest and foulest acts of treachery, and it is well nigh impossible to conceive how even the most depraved could have the hardihood to attempt such trickery with his Maker.

The oath, then, is the strongest and last surviving safeguard of human truth and justice, of human faith and trust; and if that last, strong bulwark ever fails us, then will surely come the deluge. And yet, in spite of its awful sacredness, we have ample evidence from many quarters that the oath is treated very frequently with but scant respect, and that, too, by people who claim to believe firmly in God and His justice. The saloonkeeper who violates his oath by selling on Sunday or to minors would likely resent with some force the charge of insulting the Almighty. He will try to justify himself on the plea that his promise is a mere matter of form, extorted from him—compulsory, hence not binding. So, too, the saloonkeeper's Sunday customer will often deny under oath the fact of his getting liquor and seems to think that charity or friendship will excuse, if not sanctify, his perjury. Witnesses in other criminal and civil court cases sometimes act similarly and perhaps for the same reasons as the foregoing. And as regards officeholders unmindful of their sworn oaths, we all know their name is legion. Doubtless, like the aforementioned saloonkeeper, they regard their oath of office as a mere matter of form, entailing no serious or real obligation.

Morality is certainly at a very low ebb where things have come to such a pass as this. Few words—none, in fact—are needed to show the groundlessness and the nonsense of such excuse; and we can't help wondering if those who urge them really take them seriously. An oath freely (even though reluctantly) taken or justly exacted is strictly binding; and neither self-interest, nor friendship, nor sweet charity itself can make it otherwise. To

THE SOUTHBOUND.

A dispatch from Winston says that the Southbound, as has already been announced, will lay its own rails. The work is to begin May 1, and will start at Lexington. About the 20th of May similar work will start at Winston. Two locomotives and 60 flat cars are now at Roanoke and will be sent to the points mentioned shortly. All along the line the contractors are rapidly finishing up their work, several having almost completed their sections. In some places day and night work both is going on. There are 17 steam shovels and a number of concrete outfits employed. Were labor more plentiful, it is asserted, the construction would be carried forward even more rapidly than it is.

The right of way matter between the Whitney Power Company and the Southbound was up before Judge Pritchard at Asheville again last Thursday, and a dispatch says:

At a hearing before Judge Pritchard in the matter of the Winston-Salem Southbound Railroad Company crossing the lands of the Whitney company near the power plant, the court referred the matter back for the railroad and the receivers of the Whitney company to get together and submit an agreement.

It is understood that the railroad company will pay several thousand dollars damages to the power company for the right to cross just above the power plant, the power company alleging that the piers of the bridge will damage the water storage basin. C. B. Watson and H. E. Fries, president of the Southbound, and Receivers John S. Henderson and C. W. Smith and their attorneys, Burton Craige, for the Whitney company, were here in the matter. This is the last serious hold-up in the right-of-way of the Southbound and will be settled in a few days—Dispatch.

Closing Exercises of the Colored Graded School

The closing exercises of the colored graded school will be as follows:

Wednesday April 27; Primary exercises.

Thursday April 28, Grammar grades will render a program.

Friday April 29; Graduating exercises.

Annual address will be delivered by Dr. J. P. Morris of Bennett College, Greensboro, N. C. Exercises begin at 8 p. m. All of the programs promise to be interesting. This has been a most successful school year.

treat it as a mere empty form is a mockery of the Almighty. God does not lend Himself to empty forms. If quibbling and equivocation are unpardonable in ordinary intercourse between man and man, they are still more inexcusable when confirmed by a solemn oath. The only conceivable explanation of this frivolous disregard of sworn obligations by people professing belief in God and His justice is thoughtlessness or a failure to realize the nature of the act by which they call the Almighty God to witness the sincerity of their plighted word. It is high time to awaken to a sense of its serious and sacred character, for our present looseness in the matter is gradually weakening and allowing to slip under us this strongest foundation of faith and trust among men. —Baltimore Sun.