

WASHINGTON LETTER.

Champ Clark's Great Speech—Wastefulness in Caring for Old Soldiers—Prospect of Republican Defeat Next November.

From Taverner, The Courier's Washington Correspondent.

The Payne-Aldrich-Smoot tariff revision was upward by approximately 1.71 per cent. and has already resulted in increased prices. Hon. Champ Clark, of Missouri, leader of the Democrats in the House of Representatives, delivered a speech, which was a most effective answer to the Republicans who have attempted to feed the public on the assertion that the Payne-Aldrich bill "was the best tariff bill" ever passed and who are desperately in need of campaign material for use in the approaching congressional elections.

The Minority Leader denounced the proposed appropriation of \$250,000 of the people's money for the purpose of enabling the Republicans to gather data with which to prove that the new tariff law is a God-send to the country.

He denounced the joker in the sugar schedule. He deplored a condition which permits the steel trust and other monopolies to sell their manufactured products cheaper to foreigners than to Americans. In short, Mr. Clark's speech will go down as one of the great Democratic key notes of this session of Congress.

"It is true," admitted Mr. Clark, "that we reduced the duty of lumber, and that the lumber trust marked up the price of lumber \$1 per thousand feet before the last of us got out of Washington. And if the Department of Justice had done its duty it would by this time have filled the jails so full of lumber trust magistrates that their arms and legs would stick out of the windows and doors."

Mr. Payne, the Republican leader says that he and his cohorts will meet us in November. They will meet us because they cannot help themselves, and they will receive one of the bloodiest lickings they have had since 1892. The Democratic party now stands shoulder to shoulder, while the Republican party presents the appearance of a dissolving view.

While the sum of \$5,000,000 is being spent annually by the government for the maintenance of soldiers' homes, the Republicans are forcing the old soldiers to subsist on from 11 to 14 cents worth of food per day. Although the cost of maintaining the soldiers' home more than doubled in the ten years between 1898 and 1908, the number of soldiers cared for increased only 7 per cent.

Frederick M. Kirby, the young interior department stenographer who was dismissed because he admitted that Oscar Lawler, an appointee of Ballinger, had practically dictated President Taft's letter exonerating Ballinger, was the sole support of a mother, wife and babe. He had worked hard and conscientiously for five years to reach the position he occupied when dismissed.

"The new rates and classifications in the cotton schedule," says Senator Dolliver, Republican, "operate to increase duties very materially on most cotton cloths. In fact, the Aldrich revision of this schedule was one of the most daringly iniquitous features of the new tariff. The production of agricultural implements is largely in the hands of a trust, and the trifling reduction of 5 per cent. on these products was merely for the purpose of attempting to fool the farming community."

In his speech on the tariff Champ Clark declared that if President Taft had vetoed the Payne-Aldrich-Smoot tariff bill, he could have written his name among the country's greatest benefactors. "But he let the golden opportunity go by unimproved," added the minority leader, "and it will never return to him as long as the grass grows or water runs."

The New Name.
The General Conference of the M. E. church South, in Asheville last week voted to change the name of the denomination to the Methodist Episcopal Church in America.

THE U. S. ATLANTIC FLEET'S FOREIGN CRUISE.

One of Uncle Sam's Sailors From Randolph Writes of Doings in the Navy.

The prospects of an interesting foreign cruise in the near future are pleasing to every man serving in the home fleets. Two squadrons of cruisers are in South America this summer to help celebrate the birth of liberty on the east coast and then on the west; but the most popular trip will be the one made by the United States Atlantic Fleet to the Mediterranean.

A squadron was organized April 5, under command of Rear Admiral S. A. Staunton, consisting of the North Carolina, Montauk, South Dakota, Tennessee, and Chester. It is known as the United States Special Service Squadron. This squadron was due to arrive at Buenos Ayres, Argentina, May 19, to participate in the Centennial Celebration of the country's independence from Spain.

Majr. General Leonard Wood, of the United States army has been appointed special commissioner to represent the United States government at the Exposition. He and Mrs. Wood took passage in the Montana. After the Celebration, the South Dakota will return to the west coast and rejoin the Pacific Fleet. The Washington will then be detached and brought around to the east, and together with the Tennessee will remain on this side.

The plans are now to send the entire Atlantic Fleet to the Mediterranean in the fall. While the itinerary has not been worked out, the Fleet will no doubt visit the principal parts of Southern Europe and liberty will be granted in the most interesting cities of the world.

This cruise cannot fail to be of great value to the younger men of the Navy and Marine Corps. The Fleet will probably sail in November. Men who enter now will stand on excellent chance of taking part in this cruise, but I cannot give any advice toward taking the step.

Edward E. Clapp,
U. S. S. Minnesota.

Bell Telephone Company Building Line to Asheville.

Charlotte Observer.
High Point, May 21.—Mr. Charles T. Ingram, manager of the Southern Bell Telephone Company, announced today that the Bell company will in a few weeks enter Asheville. Recently the town of Asheville granted the company a franchise for a pay station in that town and the company at once made arrangements for completing the line. At present the Bell line goes to Worthyville and this morning a squad of men from the plant department at Atlanta passed through here on their way to Worthyville where the work of extending the line to Asheville will begin at once.

High Tax for Near-Beer.

The finance committee of the board of alderman in Salisbury, N. C., have recently recommended that the license on near-beer be increased from \$300 to \$500.

A special ordinance provides that the places where the beer is sold shall be on a public street, in full view of everybody passing; there shall be no screens, painted glass or anything to obstruct the view; there shall be no rear door; the ingress and egress shall be from the front and cider containing more than one-half of one per cent alcohol is prohibited.

Funeral of King Edward VII.

On May 20th, the body of King Edward VII was laid to rest in St. George's Chapel, Windsor, with the most imposing funeral ceremonies the world has ever seen. Probably 2,500,000 people all clad in black saw the funeral pageant, 35,000 soldiers and several thousand policemen were stationed along the line of march to keep order, and even then panics were narrowly avoided.

In the funeral procession were King George, Emperor William, of Germany; King George, of Greece; Albert, of Belgium; Alfonso, of Spain; Manuel, of Portugal; Frederick, of Denmark; Haakon, of Norway; and Ferdinand, of Bulgaria; besides a host of lesser royalty and the representatives of other great powers. Col. Roosevelt rode with Foreign Minister, Pichon, of France and Sanah Khan, the Persian representative.

CONTEST CLOSES NEXT TUESDAY.

The special prizes for this month were announced in the last three issues of The Courier. This offer is made to club raisers and anybody can work for these premiums.

The contest closes next Tuesday. Below is a list of the contestants with the vote to the credit of each till May 25th. Let everyone see how many votes can be added to the list on or before May 31st.

LIST OF CONTESTANTS. Table with 2 columns: Name and Votes.

Notice of Convention to Nominate County Officers.

The Democratic Convention for Randolph county, to nominate candidates for the general assembly and for the various county offices, is called to meet in the courthouse in Asheville on Saturday, August 6th, 1910, at 11 o'clock A. M.

The primaries are called to meet at the various voting precincts on Saturday, July 30th, 1910, at 3 o'clock p. m., and instruct for such nominees as they may desire, and to send delegates to the County Convention; and also to nominate justices of the peace and constables. Every Democrat is urged to attend the primary and vote for the men of his choice.

By order of the committee.
W. J. Miller,
Chairman.
This May 4th, 1910.

Precinct Meetings and County Convention For State Officers.

In pursuance to the rules and regulation adopted by the State Democratic Executive Committee, the precinct meetings are hereby called to meet at the various voting places on Saturday, June 25th, 1910, at 3 o'clock P. M., to vote and instruct for such nominees as they may desire for Congressional, Judicial and State offices, and to elect delegates to the County Convention to be held on Saturday the 2nd day of July, 1910, at 11:30 A. M. in the courthouse at Asheville, N. C.

The purpose of the said County Convention is to elect delegates to the Congressional, Judicial and State Convention.

Every democrat is urged to attend the precinct meeting and vote for the men of his choice.
This April, 9th, 1910.

W. J. MILLER,
County Chairman.

Charged with Arson.

As a sequel to the burning of five stores in Stokesdale last week, W. R. Pegram, a merchant of that place, has been arrested charged with arson. The evidence is circumstantial but said to be damaging. The fire originated in Pegram's store. The loss was \$30,000. The accused gave bail in the sum of \$500.

Woman Speaks in General Conference.

For the first time in the history of the general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, a woman was allowed to speak upon the floor when Miss Belle Bennett addressed the delegates on the Right of Women to sit in the councils of the church with equal rights of the laymen. Women were denied the right. But immediately afterward, the names of ten women were placed on the great missionary board.

Died.

Mr. E. G. Moffitt died at his home near Moffitt, May 15th, after suffering a few days from paralysis. He was laid to rest in the family cemetery near Alfred Moffitt's, funeral services being conducted by L. E. Brady. Mr. Moffitt was about seventy years of age. He leaves a wife, two children and one sister to mourn their loss.

List of Names of Boys in Randolph County Corn Contest.

Colbert Allen, Ramseur R. 1; Clinton Auman, Seagrave R. 1; Clyde Alfred, Millboro R. 1; Alfred Alfred, Millboro R. 1; Carl Brown, Ramseur R. 1; Clarence Bird, Ramseur R. 1; Earle Buckner, Ramseur R. 1; Warren Branson, Ramseur R. 1; Claude Barker, Climax; Charles Burke, Jordan; Vaughn Brown, Jordan; Lester Barker, Jordan; Millard Brady, Cheeks; George Brown, Erect; Charles Beck, Erect; Roscoe Branson, Seagrave R. 2; Harvey Brower Staley, Wesley Burgess, Ramseur R. 2; L. G. Brown, Jordan; Clay Brown, Jordan; William Brown, Julian; Frank Brown, Liberty R. 2; Edgar Bean, Moffitt; William F. Beeson, Randleman; J. Henry Beeson, Randleman; Irven J. Cox, Moffitt; Baxter Craven, Seagrave R. 1; Mack Coble, Millboro R. 1; Kemp Causey, Liberty R. 2; Harvey Coble, Julian; Eugene Chisholm, Staley R. 1; John Chisholm, Staley R. 1; David S. Coltrane, Randleman R. 1; Walter Coble, Climax R. 1; Wiley Cox, Ramseur R. 1; Rossie Cox, Ramseur R. 1; Herbert Cranford, Climax; Martin Cooper, Asheville R. 3; Claud Dorsett, Farmer; George Dorsett, Farmer; Albert Davis, Millboro; Millard Dawson, Ulah; Alson Edwards, Jordan; Owen Forrester, Ramseur R. 1; Walter Farlow, Randleman R. 3; Cecil Fields, Climax; Coy Fields, Climax R. 1; Edgar Greene, Cole's Store; Eugene Greene, Cole's Store; Verus Hodgins, Ramseur R. 1; Carl Hinshaw, Ramseur R. 1; Clyde Hinshaw, Ramseur R. 1; Newton Hicks, Cheeks; Harlan Hoover, Asheville R. 2; Wade Hussey, Asheville R. 3; Carl Hughes, Ramseur; John Hicks, Staley R. F. D.; Lee Hudson, Julian; Lester Jones, Liberty R. 1; Sam Jones, Franklinville; Robert Jordan, Franklinville R. 1; Frank Jordan, Franklinville R. 1; Carson King, Seagrave R. 1; Boyd King, Seagrave R. 1; Fred Kearns, Farmer; Othel Kearns, Farmer; Lewis Kearns, Farmer; Elbert Kearns, Farmer; Walter Kearns, Farmer; Garret Leach, Erect; Duke Lowe, Mechanic; Dorsey Lewis, Hill's Store; Ernest Lawrence, Seagrave R. 2; Everett Luck, Seagrave R. 2; Crater Loflin, New Hope Academy; Wister L. Lynch Asheville R. 1; Everett Lawrence, Seagrave R. 1; R. C. Lambert, Cole's Store; Will Lambert, Cole's Store; W. E. Leonard, Velna; James D. Lambert, Cole's Store; Willie B. Moffitt, Ramseur R. 1; Ernest Moffitt, Moffitt; Clarence Macon, Seagrave R. 1; Graham Monroe, Seagrave R. 1; Claud Maness, Erect; Ernest Maness, Erect; Emmett Maness, Erect; Elmer Moffitt, Velna; E. M. Moffitt; Velna; B. F. Moffitt, Velna; Heral Macon; Ramseur R. 1; Walter Macon, Ramseur R. 1; Clay Nance Farmer; Talmage Neese, Climax; Lewis Nance, Farmer; Chas. F. Phillips, Thomasville R. 4; Joe Pugh, Climax; Charles Phillips, Trinity; Wade Payne, Liberty R. 1; Sam Phillips, Thomasville R. 4; Herbert Redding, Millboro R. 1; Wesley Ridge, Edgar; Guy Routh, Millboro R. 1; Clarence Russell, Farmer; George Suggs, Erect; Robert Suggs, Erect; Glenn Smith, Jordan; H. D. Smith, Asheville R. 1; James Spence, Cole's Store; Thomas Smith, Liberty R. 1; John Smith, Julian; Charles Spencer, Glenola; Ralph Smith, Brown; Joe H. Smith, Brown; Stephen W. Stout, Asheville R. 1; Monroe Spencer, Trinity R. 1; Ray Tyson, Erect; Carl Teague, Staley R. 1; Ray Thompson, Ramseur R. 2; Edward Thompson, Ramseur R. 2; Herman Trogon, Cole's Store; Jeff Underwood, Trinity R. 1; Thomas Vestal, Jordan; Carl Vunannon, Asheville R. 2; Preston Vunannon, Seagrave R. 2; Thomas Wren, Erect; Clark White, Ardohale; J. F. Wilson, High Point R. 5; Brower York, Millboro R. 1.

THE COMET HAS PASSED.

Excitement Over and Many Disappointed—Comet is Now Visible in Western Sky Early Evening—Terrors of the Ignorant and Superstitious.

Halley's comet has come and gone; the world is none the worse and very little wiser. In fact, many are disappointed because the comet is not coming up to its reputation. The astronomers said it would equal the sun in size and brilliancy, but it is scarcely greater in appearance than a large star and not nearly so bright. However, they say the earth has really passed through the tail, though the exact time of passing cannot be determined. But since the phenomenon is not to be seen again for seventy-five years, it is not prudent to neglect it now.

Halley's comet has been the most talked of topic for several weeks. For some days it was visible in the eastern sky a little while before day. But the long looked for day was May 18, when the comet was to pass over the sun and the earth to pass through the tail. The most intelligent astronomers said that no harm was likely to happen to the earth, there being only one chance in 281,000,000, but some sort of visible effect was expected. Some looked for a meteoric display; others, for storms and electrical disturbances affecting telegraphs and telephones; some, an auroral display similar to northern lights; a few feared possible danger from poisonous gases. But while many waited for the comet's passing with only curiosity, many more, especially negroes and ignorant people lived in terror.

In New York City, thousands sat up Wednesday night watching for the celestial wonder; the East Side was terribly alarmed and suffered several panics. Labor in different parts of the country was demoralized from the employees refusing to work. Negroes all over the country held special services praying for deliverance from the approaching calamity. One negro woman in South Carolina arose Wednesday morning, looked at the comet, and fell dead. Many Mexicans collected on the hills, around crucifixes and performed incantations and weird ceremonies to avert the impending doom. Many Porto Ricans left off work, carried candles, chanted prayers, and confessed their sins. A voodoo doctor in Haiti made a fortune by selling pills to the negroes which were warranted to keep off all evil effects of the comet.

However, Wednesday night came, nothing was felt and little seen. An auroral glow in the northwest was noticed in some parts of the country. On Thursday, a broad spectrum of light extending across and to a considerable distance on either side of the sun was seen, in Wisconsin and thought to have been caused by the comet's tail. The astronomers can not say definitely when the earth passed through the tail. Opinions vary from 11 p. m. Wednesday to 8 a. m. Thursday, and even later. The reason given for this is that the tail was curved and did not sweep by as quickly as was expected. However all agree that the comet has really passed the sun and is now whirling away from the earth at the rate of thousands of miles a minute, which it will continue to do for 37 and 1/2 years, going 500,000,000 miles farther away than the farthest known planet, when it will again turn back towards the earth.

This is not the first time in the history of the world that people have been terrified by this wonder of the heavens. It was seen in the year 12 B. C. It scared Christendom after the Turks took Constantinople in 1456. It was associated with the capture of Quebec in 1759, and with a financial gambling mania in 1835.

Yet the astronomers say the tail of the comet is only condensed sunlight, containing one solid molecule to the cubic yard. One Harvard Professor says it is the "airiest approach to nothing." The head is said to be made up of a mass of meteorites, larger than the earth in bulk but inferior in mass and weight.

In Medieval times, comets were looked upon as harbingers of God's wrath, foretelling catastrophe, war, and death. Sir Edmond Halley, who lived in the Seventeenth Century was one of the first men to give them much reasonable thought.

DEATH OF AGED LADY.

Mrs. Jane Moring, One of Asheville's Oldest Residents Dies of Paralysis—Nearly Ninety Years of Age.

Mrs. Jane Moring, widow of the late W. H. Moring Sr., died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Annie Robbins, last Monday morning, after an illness of a week or more of paralysis. Funeral services were conducted at the residence Tuesday afternoon by Rev. C. A. Wood. As a part of the services, Misses Nannie Bulla, Annie Blair, Mullie Rush, and May McAlister, and Mr. T. H. Redding sang "How Firm a Foundation" and "Jesus Lover of My Soul" beautifully. The remains were then laid to rest in the M. E. cemetery under a mass of beautiful floral tributes from loving friends.

Mrs. Moring was nearly ninety years of age. She was a native of Virginia, but had lived in Asheville for more than fifty years. She was the oldest person in town. Her husband had been dead for ten or twelve years. Her maiden name was Jackson.

Mrs. Moring had been for many years a consistent member of the M. E. church South. Hers was a beautiful life. She was one person who knew how to grow old gracefully. Even up to the day she was stricken with paralysis, she was cheerful, unselfish, and appreciative of favors shown her, showing none of the discontent often noticed in persons of her age.

The aged mother is survived by one son, Mr. W. H. Moring, Jr.; two daughters, Mesdames Annie Robbins and John Anderson, all of Asheville; twelve grand-children, and one great-grand-child who have the sympathy of a large circle of friends in this bereavement.

Littleton College.

Following is the programme of the Commencement Exercises at Littleton College, May 24th to 26th, 1910.

Senior Class Day, Tuesday, May 24, 6:30 P. M.
Art Exhibit, Wednesday, May 25, 10 to 11 A. M.

Annual Sermon, Wednesday, May 25, 11 A. M., by Rev. R. E. Broom, Presiding Elder, Elizabeth City District.

Graduating Exercises, Thursday, May 26, 10 A. M.
Literary Address, Thursday, May 26, 11 A. M., by President W. S. Poteat, Wake Forest College.

Commencement Recital, Thursday, May 26, 8 P. M.

Mr. I. H. Pugh Dead.

Mr. I. H. Pugh died suddenly at his home near Franklinville, last Sunday morning. Mr. Pugh was at the bedside of his son, Henry Pugh, who was ill at his home in Franklinville, until about midnight, when he left for his home, having complained of feeling bad before leaving, but nothing serious was suspected. On reaching home, he retired between 12 and 1 o'clock p. m. About 3 o'clock, Mrs. Pugh heard her husband making an unusual noise and called to him, but getting no reply she quickly lighted a lamp and went to his bedside when he was breathing his last. All efforts to revive him were in vain.

The remains were laid to rest in the cemetery at Pleasant Ridge Monday morning. Rev. Marion Baldwin conducted the funeral services amid a large concourse of people.

Mr. Pugh was a consistent Christian gentleman and a good citizen, who will be sadly missed in his community. He leaves a wife, two sons, and two daughters to mourn the loss of an affectionate husband and kind father.

There is no record that the earth has ever before passed through the tail of a comet and no prophecy that it ever will again.

The comet is now visible to the naked eye in the western sky from about 8 to 10 p. m., and will set a little later each evening until July 1, after which it will no longer be seen except through the telescope. It looks to be slightly greater in size than the largest stars, but not so bright, and there is only a faint suggestion of a tail. It is the chance of a life time to see the mysterious visitor, even though it does not come up to the show promised by the astronomers.

A Hebrew temple was dedicated in Greensboro May 19th.