

DOCUMENT BY REPUTABLE MEN CHARGES FRAUD AND PERJURY IN RECENT COMMISSION ELECTION

Citizens of the Fifth Precinct Declare That They Have Sufficient Evidence to Prove That Illegal Voting Was Flagrantly Carried On, and That it Has Been Going On for Years.

EVIDENCE TO GO BEFORE THE NEXT GRAND JURY

The Names of Fourteen Men Who Voted Fraudulently Have Been Secured, With Evidence Which May Convict Nine of Perjury.

The persistent rumors of fraudulent voting in the fifth precinct, which have been heard since the day of the commission government election, took definite form yesterday when well-known citizens of the fifth precinct affixed their signatures to a document in which charges of perjury and fraud are openly made.

Mr. S. P. Davis, a voter of the fifth precinct, in an interview with The Citizen last night declared that fraudulent voting had been going on in his precinct for twenty-five years and that the better element of citizenship had decided to put a stop to it.

Among the signers of the statement in which the charges are made, and which are printed below, are the names of J. B. Grice and D. C. Ledford, who were registrars of the commission election, and Mr. J. C. Ledford, who was registrar of the commission in the next municipal election, May 2.

The charges, made by men who are well and favorably known in this city, will cause a sensation in this section, and later developments will be watched with interest.

WILMINGTON, April 9.—Outraged at a verdict of not guilty by the jury in the case of Jos. Stephens, acquitted of murder Friday after having been previously convicted and sentenced to electrocution, then granted a new trial by the Supreme court, Judge Robert B. Peebles, of the State Superior court, yesterday issued a bench warrant for the defendant in the former case and he was arrested and held until the next term of court on a charge of carrying concealed weapons, the judge certifying in the warrant that under his own admissions at the former trial he is at least guilty of the latter charge preferred against him.

Judge Peebles severely criticized the jury which returned the verdict, ordering members from the court house, and yesterday on affidavit of the state solicitor removed three other capital cases to an adjoining county for trial.

PROMINENT CLERGYMAN DEAD. KNOXVILLE, Tenn., April 9.—Rev. Samuel Ringgold, D. D., aged 86 years, dean of the convocation of East Tennessee of the Episcopal church, and rector emeritus of St. John's Episcopal church, died here today. He spent fifty years in the ministry, coming to Knoxville as rector of St. John's church in 1837. Dr. Ringgold was a native of Maryland.

people for commission government, but we do intend to vigorously push forward this investigation, and we are going before the grand jury with proofs that cannot be disputed. I am a democrat and always expect to be a democrat; I believe that the highest form of democracy should stand for a pure ballot, and the conditions which have existed in the Fifth precinct for so long, but which we propose to stop, are not only a disgrace to the city and the precinct, but they are a foul blot upon the party.

Statement of Citizens. The signed statement of voters of the Fifth precinct follow: TO THE CITIZENS OF ASHEVILLE: "It is a well known fact that numerous illegal votes have been cast in the primaries and general elections in the city of Asheville; we need not go beyond the recent election held for the purpose of determining whether or not the people should have commission government for this city. By the votes cast it appeared upon the face of the returns that the majority of the people did not want commission government. While the vote was in progress our attention was called to several voters who were being herded up and influenced by ex-convicts and other people whose business it is to violate and defy all law when it conflicts with their illegitimate business, and causing these men to perjure themselves in order to get to cast their vote against commission form of government.

"We, the voters in the Fifth precinct, call upon every decent and law-abiding citizen to rise up in their might, as they have a right and as it is their duty to do, and condemn such lawlessness, disregard for the oath and most flagrant debauchery of citizenship. Some of us in the Fifth precinct have made up our minds to stop at any cost this rottenness at our voting place, and, as before stated, we call upon every good and law-abiding citizen to give us their moral support.

"Upon investigation as to the legality of some of these votes cast in the Fifth precinct we have what we believe is evidence enough to convict nine men of perjury, and more than enough other illegal votes to change the result of that election. As to the result of the election we consider that settled, and we accept the result, but we have not, and do not propose to stop our prosecution of these illegal voters. We are going to present the evidence we have to the grand jury which convenes here this month, as we are prepared to prosecute such matters to the fullest extent of the law, not only now but hereafter.

CHARLOTTE ELECTION IS SCATHINGLY ARRAIGNED. Baptist Preacher Declares That Voters Were Bought and Liquor Used.

CHARLOTTE, N. C., April 9.—In a scathing arraignment of the leaders of the local democratic party from his pulpit tonight, Rev. Dr. Herman H. Hulsten, pastor of the First Baptist church, declared that money and liquor had been freely used "to prostitute manhood and foster anarchy."

200 BURNED TO DEATH. BOMBAY, British India, April 9.—Two hundred men, women and children were burned to death tonight in a fire which destroyed a thatched structure in which they had gathered for a festival. Five hundred persons were in the building when the fire broke out. There was only one exit and an indescribable panic ensued.

FAIR OVER ALL SOUTH. WASHINGTON, April 9.—The weather bureau weekly weather forecast tonight says that in the South fair weather will predominate. Floods will continue in the Tennessee river below Chattanooga, Tenn., for several days.

BASEBALL SEASON IS READY TO OPEN IN ALL ITS GLORY

Two Pennants for New York City Cry of Great Metropolitan City Fans

CHAMPION ATHLETICS HAS STAND PAT TEAM Chicago Cubs Will Enter Season With Better Chance of Pennant Than Ever

NEW YORK, April 9.—"Two pennants for New York" is the cry of New York's army of baseball enthusiasts who confidently expect the two local nines to capture the coveted banners in both the National and American leagues this season. Hence there is keen interest in the opening game Wednesday when a line can be had on the New York Nationals in their clash with the Philadelphia club.

PHILADELPHIA, April 9.—Full of the spirit that carried them to baseball glory last fall, the world's champion Athletics will open the American league season at Shibe park on Wednesday, April 12, with New York which expects to bring a strong bid for the pennant this year.

NOTORIOUS YOSHIWARI DISTRICT OF TOKIO IS SWEEP BY FIERCE FIRE. Five Thousand Houses Burned in Area Approximating Four Sq. Miles. WOMEN HOMELESS

TOKIO, April 9.—The notorious Yoshiwari, the principal quarter of Tokio, inhabited by the licensed hetairae, was destroyed by fire. Many of these houses were almost palatial in appearance and a thousand of them burned in a little more than three hours. Six thousand female inmates were rendered homeless.

MISS GOULD WITH SAILORS. NORFOLK, Va., April 9.—Miss Helen Gould, who takes a great interest in the welfare of the enlisted men of the army and navy, was greeted by hundreds of bluejackets at the naval Y. M. C. A. today.

CONDITION IN ISRAEL BAD. NEW YORK, April 9.—The Rev. Stephen Swinn, rabbi of the Free Synagogue, speaking at Carnegie hall said: "The situation of Israel is never worse than it is today."

WASHINGTON, April 9.—Forecast: North Carolina, fair slightly warmer Monday. Tuesday, fair, warmer; light to moderate northeasterly winds.

WORKERS BRINGING STREAM OF BODIES FROM BANNER MINE

Total Number of Victims of Mine Explosion Believed to be 128.—The Convicts Volunteer for Rescue Work.—Having Trouble.

LITTLETON, Ala., April 9.—With the precision of clockwork a trained corps of rescuers tonight is bringing a steady stream of bodies from the Banner mine of the Pratt Consolidated Coal company in which a disastrous explosion occurred. It is believed tonight that 123 is the exact number of victims.

Only Fourteen are White. This figure was obtained after making a careful check of all the men who entered the mine yesterday morning. There is no longer any hope of finding men alive underground. Of the 123 dead only 14 were whites.

Government Investigation. Dr. J. A. Holmes, chief of the government bureau of mines is enroute to Banner to assist in the investigation of the disaster.

FIRE SWEEPS BUSINESS SECTION OF DALTON, GA., QUARTER MILLION LOSS. Lack of Pressure Made Fighters Helpless As Section Burned. ONE MAN INJURED

DALTON, Ga., April 9.—The main business block of this little city lies a mass of ruins today as a result of the most disastrous fire that has occurred in this section.

NEWSPAPERS CONTROLLED BY CORPORATIONS MAKES SUBJECT FOR WM. J. BRYAN. Assassins Who Own Papers Should Come Out of the Dark He Declares. SOMEWHAT VIGOROUS

CHARLOTTEVILLE, Va., April 9.—In an address before the State Y. M. C. A. convention today Wm. J. Bryan quoted Theodore Roosevelt as saying that there was scarcely a predatory conspiracy against the country that did not have Harvard brains behind it.

EXTRA SESSION OF CONGRESS WILL BE VERY STORMY ONE

There Are Virtually Four Parties and Each With Large Representation

REMARKABLE UNEASINESS OVER POLITICAL EFFECT. Proximity of Nominating Conventions Causing Everything to be Watched

WASHINGTON, April 9.—It is daily becoming more manifest that congress is facing a stormy session, and that there can be no forecast of the probable legislative results. Leaders appear to have little hope of restoring anything more than surface harmony.

There are virtually four parties, each with a large representation, working at odds in the present session. The republican minority of the house is divided between regulars and insurgents, as was evidenced by the vote in the speakership contest.

Many Measures. There is no doubt that measures on direct election of senators, publicity before election of campaign contributions, Canadian reciprocity, revision of the woolen and cotton schedules and any further tariff changes the majority desires will be sent to the senate in whatever order is decreed by the ways and means committee.

WORKINGS OF COLLIERY THOROUGHLY SEARCHED SHOW NO MORE VICTIMS. Surviving Miners in Body Pay Respect to Dead and March to Funerals. CAUSE YET UNKNOWN

SCRANTON, Pa., April 9.—Every nook and cranny of the workings of the Pancoast colliery, where the 13 miners and United States Rescue Foreman Jos. M. Evans lost their lives Friday, have been searched since noon yesterday but no other bodies were found.

HAIL AND WIND STORM. LIVONIA, Ga., April 9.—As a result of the worst hail and wind storm known in this county in the past thirty years, which swept this section more than a dozen houses are wrecked and scores of trees blown down.

KILLED BY TRAIN. FLOMATON, Ala., April 9.—Cary Barrond of Richmond, Va., was run over by a train here today and killed.

