

A WESTERN WHITE REPUBLICAN,

After Mature Deliberation, Comes Out Vigorously in Favor of the Amendment.

PATRIOTISM VS. PARTISANSHIP.

Every Man Should Do His Duty to His State, Regardless of What His Politics May Be.

February 23, 1900.
Zirconia, Henderson County, N. C.,
Editor Post:

It is out of my line of business to write for a newspaper, but since the agitation of the constitutional amendment began I have become impressed with the fact that something of unusual importance is on hand and that every white man in the State of North Carolina should put on his thinking cap, study this question, and not let prejudice or past party affiliations prevent him from voting for white supremacy at the next election; so something rise up within me that tells me to give to the voters of the State my sentiments on the proposed amendment, and this something "like Banquo's ghost," will not down.

The majority of voters in my township and county (Henderson) are Republicans, and I belong to the majority. I have no intention of severing my connections with the grand old party, but when the Republican leaders depart from the beaten path and advocate a policy which has for its object the retarding of the social, political and industrial progress of the State, I cannot and will not go with them; nor do I believe my fellow Republicans will knowingly do so. I have reference to the opposition of the Republican party in this State to the ratification of the constitutional amendment which action is, in my thoroughly convinced, a deplorable blunder. I have been of this opinion, not from reading the delusive representations of the amendment itself and the decisions of courts bearing on the constitutionality of the amendment.

I am, as I have already said, a Republican, and expect to remain one, but I am not one of the so-called Republicans, such as Senator Pritchard, Congressman Linney and others are proving themselves to be, who seem to think that in order for a white man to be a Republican he must consider himself no better than a negro, and be willing to submit to negro domination. Now, if it took that to make a Republican, I would not vote a Republican myself so long as I had any respect for myself or my race, or any anxiety for the welfare of the white people of the State and I believe these are the sentiments of most of the Republicans of Henderson county for most of them are honest men and white. A true Republican is far from being in favor of negro equality or negro domination, and will not cast his vote against a measure he is convinced will make white supremacy permanent and negro domination an impossibility, even though it be called a Democratic measure and is opposed by unprincipled Republican office holders, whose selfish interests lead them to work against the best interests of the people of the State.

The illiterate white voters (Democrats and Republicans) in this section are in a dilemma to know how to vote on the amendment, because they do not understand it. They are in favor of the ignorant negro being disfranchised, but are inclined to believe the Republican-misrepresentation that section five will be declared unconstitutional and will fall, leaving section four in full force, thus disfranchising them also.

I have read and studied the amendment closely, and read the principal arguments for and against it, and am satisfied that no part of it is unconstitutional, and section four all together; but doubts on this point certainly exist in the minds of many voters. This being so, it is necessary that the legislature amend the amendment as proposed, and I hope it will do so. This will knock the chief argument of the enemies of the amendment into a cocked hat and convince the illiterate whites beyond the shadow of a doubt that the amendment, if ratified, will not disfranchise them.

I agree with Senator McEnery that "the solution of the race question in the United States is one of the most serious problems that ever confronted a nation," and I believe the most effective way to settle this question is to eliminate the vote of the negro, and especially of the ignorant negro. The longer he is permitted to exercise the right of suffrage the more impudent unruly and offensive he will become, which will result in a race war. So the ratification of this amendment will be the best for all concerned. If the negro be permitted to vote in the future as he has been in the past the same will come when he will wish he never had been allowed to vote and he will not consider those who gave him that privilege his friends; and those who vote against the amendment will, if it should be defeated, regret having done so.

The Republican leaders of Saluda, a little town near here in Polk county, during the last campaign denounced as campaign lies the statement of the Democrats that negroes in the cities in the eastern part of the State pushed white women off the sidewalk, etc., etc., that the treatment the negroes received at the hands of the whites in these cities was cruel and unjustifiable, and done for campaign effect; that the negro, if treated right, is harmless and inoffensive. A few months after the election however, these same Republican leaders gave the lie to their campaign declarations by heading a crowd of their fellow-townsmen, who, armed with pistols, clubs, rocks, brickbats, etc., drove thirty-

A SHORT MEMORY

is the Chief Endowment of Republican Politicians.

Special Raleigh Correspondence.
It is astonishing how short the memory of the Republican leaders is. Take for instance Revenue Collector Carl Duncan, who looks after Republican affairs in all Eastern North Carolina. He was speaking about the legislature which is to be elected this year and offered to bet it would be Republican. No doubt he included Populists in his count, as the Republicans invariably speak of themselves and Populists jointly as "we." Then he said that as soon as the legislature was elected, Governor Russell would convene it, and that it would immediately meet and repeal the present election law. Collector Duncan declared that after this it would be no trouble at all for "us" to elect Congressmen.

What shortness of memory! Does he really think for the merest portion of a second that the Democrats in North Carolina, and those who stood shoulder to shoulder with them in 1898 at the election have so soon forgotten the negro rule in this State in 1897-8. It is inconceivable that in one year any people so determined could even think of returning to such a state of affairs. If Collector Duncan bets, he will lose, as he lost in 1898, for if there are three things certain besides death and taxes in this year of grace, 1900, they are that the Democrats will carry the legislature and elect their Congressional nominees and that the constitutional amendment will be ratified by a majority more than gratifying.

Senator Butler is flooding the State with copies of his speech against the franchise amendment to the constitution. This plea for negro supremacy is being sent out by Republicans under the Senator's frank. Collector Duncan, for example, is sending out some thousands of copies.

Republican State Chairman Holton, one of the bitterest of Republicans, had some criticisms to make of Governor Russell's frank statement made at a banquet in Chicago, in which the Republicans were arraigned for allowing themselves to be placed in antagonism to the constitutional amendment. The governor sees far more clearly than Holton the "handwriting on the wall." He knows what the white men of the State will do at the polls next August. The governor dismissed Holton's criticisms with a few contemptuous words.

It is hardly probable that the session of the legislature in June will last more than one week or that it will do things other than the particular thing for which it meets—that is, to safeguard the election law and the franchise amendment. There will be pressure to have it consider some other business, local in character.

This leads to the just criticism of much of the steadily increasing volume of business which is forced upon the legislatures. At least one-third of it, perhaps even more, could be done by the clerks of superior courts.

It is the talk among Republicans here that Judge Ewart can not be confirmed and that Senator Pritchard will be judge. Some persons have named James E. Boyd in that connection, but well-informed Republicans point to Pritchard as the man. The latter, like Senator Butler, knows that this term ends his Senatorial career.

Populists are saying that there will be a revolt against Senator Butler and his determined effort to force their State convention to array itself in opposition to the franchise amendment. They are telling Republicans as much. Senator Butler will be surprised at the dimensions of this revolt. He will find that he can not make Populists get in line against white supremacy. They showed him this in 1898. This year they will illustrate it even more plainly.

The Republicans have had an idea that they were going to induce Attorney General Waiser to declare himself against the amendment. As he remarked today, they do not know him. He will take no such step, nor will he antagonize the amendment. He was speaking to a Republican and a Democrat when the Republican made the statement that a certain Populist had said he would vote against the amendment for fear he would be disfranchised. "Not at all," said the attorney general, "it is impossible provided he registers before 1908." This indicates an able Republican legal view of the matter.

An Open Letter.

Mr. John H. Sutherland, of Murphy, N. C., late chairman of the Populist executive committee of Cherokee county, writes an open letter to Senator Butler, in which he asks the Senator some very pointed questions. The letter follows:
Murphy, N. C., Feb. 24, 1900.
Hon. Marion Butler, Washington, D. C.:
The Populists of Cherokee county would be glad to know, Mr. Butler, when and where you bought the party and what you gave for it.
You order us to fuse with you and Linney, the negro white, and Pritchard. For what? That we may confuse and abuse all that Populists have ever stood for?
Do you think that white men are going to desert their race at your dictation?
You reckon without reason.
I am white, inside and out, on this question, and you will find all the boys

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He Tells About the Prosperity of the People.

HAS KNOWN PLACE LONG TIME

Made a Trip on Horseback from Lawrenceville to Canton, Seventy Miles, in One Day.

It looks like every township and county and section has got something peculiar to itself that is suitable for human purposes and help to sustain the people and make them prosperous. I was ruminating about this because I have just visited Canton, a small retired village of 2,000 people. I have known Canton for fifty years and have a good reason for remembering it. Soon after I was married by father-in-law, Judge Hutchins, he had me to ride over there and deliver some important legal papers to the clerk of the court. I was to ride his fine saddle horse "Lee," and he told me where to stay all night. So I kissed my pretty young wife goodby and made an early start for the thirty-five mile journey. I was a good rider and Lee was a free traveler. Up hill and down hill and on the level stretches he never broke his easy pace, making about seven miles an hour, and it was just twelve o'clock when I reached Canton. While I was feeding the horse and rubbing him down I began to think how lonesome it would be to stay there at night and how lonesome my young girl pretty wife would be all solitary at home by herself and nobody with her to comfort her. I looked at Lee and he looked like he, too, would rather go back to where he came from. It was about 1 o'clock I remounted and set his ears toward Lawrenceville. He seemed all right for many miles, but I lacked up when after miles from home and we got there just as the family were sitting down to supper. I saw my wife's smile of pleasure and I saw, too, the judge's look of surprise and displeasure. He rose from the table and went out to look after his favorite horse. I then began to realize that a seventy miles in a day was a long ride for a horse and that I had done wrong. Next morning I was up by daybreak to look after Lee. He was, all right and as game as ever. The judge never said anything hard, but he looked grieved. He, too, went out to look after his horse and when he came back said: "I reckon I had better give you that horse or never let you ride him again, for if you are to kill him I would rather he would be yours to blame." That is all he said, and it was enough. Some time after that he did give him to me and he was the gamest and best horse I ever owned. But I never rode him seventy miles in a day any more. I never think of Canton now but what the memory of that howl-ode comes over me. We would ride a hundred miles in a day now to reach my home and my wife, but it would be on a railroad.

INBENTIVE TO EDUCATION.

An Example Taken From The Army of Egypt.

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Can something be done to rectify this condition of affairs among us? It has long been a favorite wish in North Carolina to stamp out illiteracy. For that purpose old free schools were established, which every white child might attend and gain the rudiments of an education. And since the war every legislature has been moved by the purpose of stamping out illiteracy, to favor public schools and make constantly increasing appropriations for them. Year after year the number of schools have increased and the school fund has been augmented by greater taxes. That the cause of education has advanced admits of no question; but still many men and young women fail in their neighborhoods to attend the schools and remain in utter ignorance.

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I greatly to deplore that any of them have grown up in ignorance. School facilities have been furnished, not such as will be offered hereafter, but still measurably adequate. The cause of failure has been at home. The children have been untaught in part because of a lack of sufficient incentive. But this new measure, this constitutional amendment, will supply the incentive.

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And as the State will supply better school facilities and make more liberal appropriations than ever, there will be no lack of opportunity. If the educational amendment is adopted and abused all that Populists have ever stood for.

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GOOD ROADS NOTES

Connecticut Highways.

The annual report of Highway Commissioner McDonald, just published, brings out some new and important features of the work for highway improvement in Connecticut. There are now some 15,000 miles of highway all kinds in the State, of which Commissioner implies that about half are practically useless, but can be discontinued on account of questions of land damages. The magnitude of the general work highway improvement is indicated by the expenditure, actual or to come, about \$800,000 during the years 1898 and 1900. Although the smaller poorer towns are, more common than heretofore, availing themselves of State aid under the new law, wealthier towns taking it are still the majority. Altogether, however, since the State aid plan was adopted 138 towns out of 168 in the State have taken the State aid. There is an increased tendency to use the State funds in grading and graveling. Of two towns did so in 1895, and two more in 1898.

The Commissioner believes that the maximum width of a State aid road should not exceed sixteen feet. He opposes the long trunk roads built by the State, until the work of improving roads under care of the towns is more advanced. He points out that, as all the towns but two have taken State aid, there will ere long be practically a trunk line along the shore reaching from the New York to the Rhode and State lines, a distance of miles. He commends the work of the League of American Wheelmen erecting sign-boards at Connecticut cross-roads. The importance of roads in attracting summer residents from the cities is strongly emphasized. He urges that the Federal Government create a fund of \$50,000,000 to be partitioned among the States in highway improvement.

Maryland Improvements.

Figures gathered by the State Geological Survey in Maryland as preliminary to the work of road improvement in that State show that of 14,483 miles of public road in the State only 1360 miles are improved. The road laws are not of a character to insure good roads, and as a result the roads are badly located, badly graded, badly drained and badly faced, causing a very heavy tax on hauling. The average distance of a ton of freight is hauled to or from the Maryland farms is 6.7 miles; average cost is twenty-six cents a ton per ton, or \$1.74 a ton for the haul. There are about 5,000,000 acres of farm land in Maryland, and the cost of one ton of freight hauled annually per acre to or from each farm is over \$3,500,000. The cost of hauling in Maryland has been reduced one-half by the roads are improved. Therefore, improving Maryland roads one-half this sum could be saved. Making liberal allowance for the fact that of the hauling is done over toll-roads and that some of it goes over unimproved roads that could not be immediately improved, it is estimated that at least \$3,000,000 a year could be saved by improving the main roads in the State. A similar estimate is reached by considering the reduction in number of draught animals, wagons and the saving in the wear and tear of animals, wagons and harness by roads.—New York Post.

Convict Labor on Roads.

Effective use of convict labor on roadmaking is reported from Columbia, S. C., where an average of six prisoners has been employed in work for the past two years. A year thirty-one miles of road radiating from the city were remade, graded, ditched, laid with sand on clay on sand, and converted to smooth, and satisfactory highway capable with timely and systematic care of indefinite maintenance in condition. During the previous year fully ten miles had been remade so that now there are over forty miles of these permanent roads leading to Columbia. With the levy for the mileage can be doubled next year, the work on each road taken up at its present terminus, five to seven miles from the city, carried an equal distance beyond, following this plan every main road in the county can be remade in three to four years more. "Columbia is now far more accessible by highway than it has ever been," comments State of that city; "a fact fully denoted by the number of wagons carts coming to and going from the city, the traffic on certain roads certain hours assuming proportions."—New York Post.

Are Friends of the Farmer.

The wheelmen during their big trips and the horseless carriages in their peregrinations in the country may occasionally scare the farmer; but none the less the farmer should give them welcome. They are the advance agents and apostles of the gospel of good roads, and to farmer good roads are of the first necessity.—Philadelphia Record.

Wanted: An Object Lesson.

Puerto Rico offers a virgin field for the good roads organizations of the United States. Let them cultivate and submit the result to this country. An object lesson in a powerful text.

With the threatened exhaustion of ivory in Africa, a supply is opening in Siberia. Tons of fine ivory found of the mammoth Elephas primigenius. Hundreds of frozen carcasses are found crowded and jammed in the snow.

A Sly Dig.

Mrs. Henpeck—No doubt the ancients were considered wise because there were fewer temptations in those days. Mr. Henpeck—Why, my dear, the proportion of women in the world must have been about the same. Life

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