

For Congressman, JOHN G. GRANT of Henderson, nominated by acclamation.

RESOLUTIONS

The republicans of the Tenth district of North Carolina, in convention assembled, resolve as follows:

We reaffirm our allegiance and devotion to the principles of the national republican party.

That we congratulate the country on its progress and prosperity under republican rule, showing that the policies of the republican party have brought prosperity to the nation.

That we cordially commend the zeal and sincerity of President Taft in his efforts to enact into law the promises of our national platform.

That we endorse the course of our representative in congress, Hon. John G. Grant, and recognize in him an efficient public servant and we hereby pledge ourselves to do all in our power to secure his reelection.

COUNTY CLEARS 40 YEARS' DEBT

Illinois' Famous \$1,500,000 "White Elephant" Paid For.

COURTHOUSE BEGUN IN 1867

Macoupin's Officers Built More Extravagantly Than They Anticipated, Though Without Graft, and Two Generations Have Worked to Burn the Last Bills.

Residents of Macoupin county, Ill., had two independence days recently at Carlinville, the county capital, when the last bond of indebtedness of what is probably the most famous courthouse in the United States was burned.

For over forty years a debt large enough to stagger some states has been hanging over the heads of the taxpayers. The amount of bonds and interest bearing orders issued by the county court in the construction of a fine courthouse was about \$1,400,000, but the cost of litigation plus interest added a large amount to the original sum.

In some respects the courthouse at Carlinville is a mystery. Just why such a fine building was built has never been fully explained. There are two reasons given by friends of the commissioners who had charge of the construction.

One of these is that county pride prompted the construction of the building. It is claimed that the commissioners never expected to erect such a fine structure, but overreached their plans. The second excuse is that a building of the kind would prevent the county from ever being divided and the capitol removed from Carlinville.

Building Started In 1867. It was at the March term of the county court in 1867 that an order was issued for the construction of the new building.

T. L. Loomis was appointed county agent to close and sign all contracts made by the commissioners. During the summer and autumn of 1867 the work of excavating for the foundation and getting the building under headway progressed rapidly.

The Carlinville citizens were surprised at the scope of the plans, but their shock was mild in comparison with that of large landholders, who expressed their indignation when they went to town. The first report made by Loomis showed a total expense of \$49,942.53. A year later this had grown to \$449,604.67, and the building was only a skeleton of the completed structure. A total of the expenditures for 1869 was \$838,540.77.

At last the building, with its splendid dome towering skyward, was ready for occupancy. And then the troubles of the taxpayers really began. It seemed for several years that the debt would be the ruin of the county. There were lawsuits, then indignation meetings of taxpayers.

A majority of the board of supervisors was fined for contempt of the federal court for refusing to make a levy to start the payment of the bonds and orders. The supervisors calmly voted to make the county pay their fines and went ahead with their other duties.

"Macoupin's big white elephant" was the term used by many in expressing their disapproval of the courthouse.

County Pride Triumphs. But at last a majority of the substantial citizens realized that an injury to the county debt would forever blight the development of the county's resources and voted to effect a compromise and pay off the bonds and orders. This was made possible by a special act passed by the state assembly in 1877, due in large part to the efforts of the late United States Senator John M. Palmer, whose body lies in the Carlinville cemetery.

The original interest on the bonds and orders was 10 per cent, but in the processes of refunding the debt this was eventually cut down to 4 1/2 per cent.

Accusations have often been made that there was a lot of graft in connection with the building of the courthouse. It was never really shown that those directly interested in the erection of the building had withheld any of the county's money. However, there was a woeful waste of money in the construction of such a large building, according to the general belief of the taxpayers.

The Carlinville courthouse is a massive structure of brick and iron, faced with limestone. It was built with the expectation that it would endure a century. So far there have been but few repairs made, most of these being changes in the system of heating.

Russia Gets Steel Contract. Russian exports of steel rails are rapidly increasing, having been 50 per cent greater in 1909 than in 1908. In April, 1910, Russia outbid us on 65,000 tons for the Argentine government. Their bid was \$29 a metric ton, while ours was \$32.72. The English mills did not bid at all, knowing from previous experiences that they could not meet the prospective prices.

Mazatlan Abandons Sunday Labor. The chamber of commerce at Mazatlan, Mexico, has decided to close all places of business entirely on Sundays instead of working from 8 to 12 o'clock as heretofore.

Umbrellas The 50c kind going now 25c Good Calico in blue and Shirting prints the 5c kind at 4c. Big line mens pants worth \$1.50 our price 98c

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Dont forget to call for your ticket with cash purchase. Get one of the prizes we are giving away. Investigate our prices examine our goods and be convinced that we are the people that are willing to live and let live. Yours truly,

Staton & Jones

Baptist Conference

Editor Times: Will you please publish the following announcement: Some of the pastors of the Carolina Baptist association met Monday, July 4, at the East Hendersonville Baptist church for the purpose of organizing a conference for the pastors of the association. Owing to the fact that it was a National holiday and also because of some slight misunderstanding as to the time of meeting, the permanent organization of the conference was postponed until the next meeting which will be held at the above-named place on Monday after the second Sunday in August at 10 a.m. It is hoped that every pastor of the association will attend on that occasion. A. O. Allison, Sec. pro tem

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

This is to notify all persons that I have qualified as executor of the estate of G. S. Jones, deceased, and all persons holding claims against said estate are hereby notified to file their claims with me on or before the 14th day of June, 1911, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. This 14th day of June 1910. Charles French Toms, Executor.

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