

The Laurinburg Exchange

VOLUME XXXII—NUMBER 20

LAURINBURG, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1914.

\$1.50 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE

GOVERNOR CRAIG SETS DATE FOR M'KENZIE EXECUTION

Mr. Will T. McKenzie, Guilty of Killing His Brother-in-Law, Mr. Peter D. Jones, Must Suffer Death Penalty, Unless Governor Commutes Sentence to Life Imprisonment, On June 12th.

Governor Craig on Friday named June the 12th as the day when Mr. Will T. McKenzie, a young white man of Scotland county, should pay the death penalty in the electric chair at the State prison, Raleigh.

Because of the prominence of both parties, the case created much interest throughout the State as well as locally.

Immediately following the decision of the Supreme Court, refusing to interfere with the verdict of the lower court, the attorneys for Mr. McKenzie circulated petitions in Scotland and Robeson counties asking the Governor to commute the death sentence to one of life imprisonment.

To these petitions about two thousand names have been affixed. Besides this, each member of the jury that convicted Mr. McKenzie has written the Governor asking that the sentence be commuted to imprisonment. Most of them stated in effect that when they voted to convict of murder in the first degree they expected the Governor to change the sentence to imprisonment, and that if they had not felt certain of that, they would have voted for a verdict in a less degree. Besides the letter from the members of the jury, Judge C. C. Lyon, the presiding judge, asks that sentence be commuted.

Governor Craig, in the face of such an appeal, unless there be serious opposition, will in all probability grant the petition and commute to life imprisonment the sentence of death.

These petitions and a plea will be put before the Governor within a short time.

HACKETT DENIES BEASLEY'S CHARGE.

North Wilkesboro Postmaster States That He Sent Out Page Literature as Public Official, If At All.

North Wilkesboro, N. C. May 18, 1914.

Mr. R. F. Beasley, Monroe, N. C.

Sir: Your letter of May 6th received. Your statement that "I and members of my family have been sending out letters in Wilkesboro in behalf of Congressman Page and derogatory to yourself" is false. I and the only member of my family, my wife, have sent out no such letters, unless they were mailed at the office of which I am Postmaster, and it was my duty as such official to distribute them and see that they went through the proper mails.

I signed the letter, of which I enclose you a copy, along with a number of other gentlemen, who are leading business men and democrats in this County. Twelve of them are leading wholesale and retail lumber dealers; one a large tanner, one President of the largest mill manufacturing plant in the South, twelve of them, in addition to other business, are farmers, some on an extensive and up to date scale; two are liverymen and large stock dealers, one Supt. of the Water works and Electric light plant of North Wilkesboro, one a leading surgeon and physician, two are Presidents of Banks and one a Vice President; one Chairman of the County Board of Education, one our able and competent Supt. of Education, whose reputation as an Educator is more than state wide, and who is also a member of the National Legislative Committee of the Farmers Union and of its State Executive Committee. Four signers are lawyers. Many of them are interested in the various manufacturing establishments in our town and vicinity.

You accuse these men of signing a letter derogatory to you. Will you please point out what part of the letter justifies your statement. The entire letter is the truth and the signers are men who fearlessly speak the truth.

Until your enlightening epistle arrived, I was unaware that hold-

ing an office under the government deprived a citizen of the right to express his preference or his opinion of the relative fitness as to candidates, for one of whom he might feel it his duty to vote. As to the innuendo contained in the last paragraph of your letter, it is too contemptible to notice, other than to state that you are evidently judging others by yourself, for, if persistent rumor is true, you would not have been in the race for Congressional nomination had Mr. Page given your brother "his little piece of pie."

Respectfully,
J. G. Hackett.

The following letter is the one referred to by Mr. Beasley and signed by many of the leading business men.

North Wilkesboro, N. C. April 28, 1914.

Dear Sir:—

We do not know that there will be organized opposition in this county to Hon. R. N. Page for renomination for Congress, but Mr. Beasley is having mailed out a number of circulars, headed, "Beasley vs. Page Before the Jury of the People," which are very misleading, false in many particulars and altogether unjust to Mr. Page, and we take this means of urging you to support Mr. Page in the Primary, go to work among your neighbors and aid all you can in giving him a practically unanimous vote in Wilkes.

There is every reason for this. The next two years are most important for the Democratic party nationally, and we need the most influential and experienced legislators in Congress to help enact laws for the complete carrying out of Democratic pledges and principles and uphold the hands of President Wilson in his efforts to give the people relief, in order that Democracy may triumph in 1916 and remain in power.

Then, too, a great crisis is upon our country. A state of war exists between it and Mexico. Americans have been killed and insults heaped upon our flag and, for this reason, we need the trained and experienced legislators to uphold the honor of our country and see that the funds necessary to do this are judiciously appropriated and spent.

Mr. Page is one of the ablest and most influential Representatives in Congress and a leading member of the great Appropriations Committee, through which all the government funds are expended. He has always stood firm for economy and against graft or wastefulness. He is the most useful member from North Carolina. We cannot afford to turr him out at this critical time. He is a national figure, and to say he has done nothing is to state a falsehood or admit ignorance of the facts.

Of course there is some dissatisfaction among the disappointed applicants for office, but all could not be successful and, in most instances, Mr. Page had no power in these appointments, as they were made by Cabinet officials and the Civil Service Commission, in spite of his preferences.

As you know a voting primary to nominate a candidate for Congress will be held at the voting place in each township, from 9 o'clock in the morning till 7 in the evening, on Saturday, May 16th. Be sure to go out yourself and vote for Mr. Page and urge every other Democrat you see to do the same.

Please write how you stand on this question, and, if you know of any in your section against Mr. Page, give their names and reasons for opposition.

Yours very truly,

F. B. Hendren, J. H. Hartley,
R. M. Brame, R. N. Hackett,
C. D. Coffey, G. A. White,
J. C. Henry, J. W. Shook,
J. L. Hemphill, J. E. Finley,
C. F. Morrison, F. G. Holman,
C. C. Smooth, III, T. S. McNeil,
J. T. Ferguson, J. T. Finley,

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DISTRICT CONFERENCE AT ST. JOHN AND GIBSON

Large Attendance of Clerical and Lay Members—Reports Show Steady Progress of Church Work—Status of Church's Interest in Vanderbilt University Cause—Discussion—Delegates Elected to Annual Conference.

The District Conference of the Rockingham District, M. E. Church, South, was held at St. John and Gibson, May 6th to 8th. Three sermons were preached every day, at the opening of the conference each morning and each afternoon in the St. John church, and every evening in the Gibson church. All day services and sessions of the conference were held at St. John.

Rev. M. H. Tuttle, of Hamlet, preached the opening sermon at Gibson Wednesday night. Rev. W. H. Brown, of Aberdeen and Biscoe, preached Thursday morning. Rev. W. W. Peele, Headmaster of Trinity Park School, Durham, Thursday afternoon, and Rev. W. V. McRae, of Maxton, at Gibson Thursday night. Friday morning Rev. Mr. Hurley, of Rockingham, preached and the closing sermon was preached Friday afternoon by Rev. Mr. Eure, of Red Springs.

Two sessions of the conference were held daily, Thursday and Friday. The conference closed at 4 o'clock p. m. Friday.

There was a very large attendance of preachers, only a very few being absent on account of sickness or other duties. The lay delegation from the various churches attended well.

The greater part of the conference was taken up with the reports of the various pastors and a discussion of such problems as these reports presented. On the whole, these reports were encouraging and showed progress.

Mr. M. W. Brabham, Sunday school field secretary of the North Carolina Conference, spoke on several phases of the Sunday school work. Mr. W. W. Peele, representing Trinity College and Trinity Park School, Rev. S. E. Mercer, representing Carolina College, and Rev. J. A. Lee, representing The Christian Advocate, each addressed the conference briefly.

Dr. L. L. Nash precipitated a spirited debate for a few minutes Friday morning by the introduction of a resolution touching the Vanderbilt University matter. Its phraseology was a little too strong, according to the views of some. The resolution was amended by changing the phraseology to some extent and adopted.

Friday afternoon, after the other business of the conference was concluded, the lay delegation elected four delegates and four alternates to the annual conference. Those elected delegates were Messrs. R. D. Gibson, of St. John, L. S. Covington, of Rockingham, B. S. Barnes, of Maxton, and E. H. Gibson, of Laurinburg.

Four invitations were extended to the conference for its meeting next year. These were from Rowland, Rockingham, Hamlet and Aberdeen. The conference decided to go to Aberdeen by a substantial majority vote.

Rev. A. McCullen, presiding elder of the Rockingham district, presided over the conference and Rev. Mr. Simmons, of Candor, acted as secretary.

The delegates were handsomely cared for in the homes of the hospitable people of both churches on this charge and bountiful dinners were spread on the grounds at St. John church both days.

The delegation from the Laurinburg church attending the conference was made up of Messrs. A. P. Gibson, J. T. Myers, E. H. Gibson and H. O. Covington. Rev. R. F. Bumpas, the Laurinburg pastor, was detained at home on account of the illness of Mrs. Bumpas.

Statement of Postmaster Russell.

Laurinburg, N. C., May 11, 1914. To the Editor of THE EXCHANGE: Please publish the following statement:

I did not read The News and Observer of May 8th, on the date of its issue. On May 9th my attention was called to a statement therein relative to the campaign expenses of Congressman R. N.

Page as set forth in a statement made by him, and especially to that part of the statement as to his having sent to me \$100.00 and naming me as his campaign manager for Scotland County. I immediately wrote to Mr. Page the following letter:

Laurinburg, N. C., 5-9-14.
Hon. R. N. Page,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Page: I notice by report in The News and Observer of the 8th inst. that you have reported in your expense account \$100.00 turned over to me as your campaign manager for Scotland County. There must be some mistake. You have a letter, or should have one, bearing date of May 5th, in which I state that I cannot use the money necessary to send out literature in your interest because of my position as postmaster. I think that I further stated that I had turned this money over to another who would look after your interests here and see that your literature was distributed and do anything necessary to further your campaign. I also stated that he would manage your campaign in this county.

Yours very truly,
G. H. RUSSELL.

P. S.—I wrote the letter referred to above with pen and ink and did not keep a copy but I am sure that I have stated the substance.

G. H. R. I attended the meeting of the Democratic Congressional Executive Committee at Hamlet, N. C., on the evening of May 4th, 1914, and took part in its deliberations. I was in the postoffice before 9 o'clock a. m. on May 5th.

On April 20th I addressed a letter to Hon. Daniel C. Roper, First Assistant Postmaster General. I stated in that letter that I was a member of the Democratic Congressional Executive Committee. I asked him the following question: "Is it improper for me to remain a member of that committee?"

I received a letter from Mr. Roper dated May 2nd, 1914. In that letter he made the following statement:

"While a postmaster is not permitted to serve as an officer of a political committee, he is not prohibited from being a member (not chairman) of such a committee, provided he is not unduly active in politics."

If being a member of the committee and attending its meetings and taking part in its deliberations constitute undue activity in politics, then, I am guilty.

Men may come, and men may go! But the postoffice fight in Laurinburg goes on forever!

Respectfully,
G. H. RUSSELL.

SUPPLEMENTARY.

Laurinburg, N. C., 5-11-14.
Hon. R. N. Page,
Washington, D. C.,

Dear Mr. Page: Please send to me, immediately, the letter which I wrote to you bearing date of May 5th, relative to \$100.00 which you sent to me to pay expenses for distributing literature and to pay any other necessary expenses in your campaign in Scotland County. If you desire to show my letter to the authorities in the Postoffice Department, you can do so and let them make copy and send me the original. I want it before Wednesday.

Yours sincerely,
G. H. RUSSELL.

THE LETTER.

Laurinburg, N. C., 5-5-14.
Dear Mr. Page: Holding, as I do, the position of postmaster at this place, I think it advisable for me to turn over the money which you forwarded to be used in furthering the interests of your candidacy, in distributing literature, etc., to another. I have, therefore, turned it over to Mr. L. A. Tatum who will take the management of your campaign in Scotland County.

(Continued on page 8)

THE NORTH CAROLINA DELEGATION IN CONGRESS

How Influence is Gained by Length of Service.

THE SENATE.

Senator F. M. Simmons.....14 years.
Chairman of Finance Committee.

Senator Lee S. Overman.....12 years.
Ranking member of the Judiciary Committee.
Ranking member of the Appropriation Committee,
Chairman of the Rules Committee.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Representative John H. Small.....16 years.
Committee on Rivers and Harbors.

Representative E. W. Pou.....14 years.
Chairman of the Committee on Claims,
Ranking member of the Committee on Rules.

Representative Claude Kitchin.....14 years.
Ranking member of the Ways and Means Committee, and will become Chairman of this Committee, as well as Floor Leader, upon the retirement of Representative Underwood, on March 4th, next.

Representative Robert N. Page.....12 years.
Committee on Appropriations.

Representative E. Y. Webb.....12 years.
Ranking member of the Judiciary Committee.
Soon to be made Chairman.

The following editorial from the Washington Times of May the 6th, tells the story:

The Old North State.

The shifting of political authority which go with changes of party and personnel, bring some interesting situations. Just now North Carolina commands attention because of the probability that in the next Congress she will number in her delegation the leaders of both houses. In the past the Old North State has more than once been in commanding position, but never has her representation held so many posts of first rate importance as it is likely to count in the next session.

mons is chairman of the Committee on Finance, which deals with tariff and revenue problems. It is always a committee of the very first rank. Despite that one large section of its authority was taken from it when the Committee on Banking and Currency was created, it is still probably the most distinguished committee of the upper body. Simmons will continue its leader.

The corresponding committee in the House, that on Ways and Means, is now headed by Mr. Underwood. He will move to the Senate, and Mr. Kitchin of North Carolina will become leader of the majority—assuming that the Democrats retain the control, which seems altogether probable—and chairman of Ways and Means. This chairmanship now carries not only the leadership and the dominating place in revenue matters, but also the function of directing the highly important business of selecting the House committees.

The present chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, Mr. Clayton of Alabama, is retiring to assume a judicial post, and the succession will fall by seniority as well as by merit to Mr. Webb of North Carolina. No committee has more to do with framing legislation and determining policies, in the present era, than that on Judiciary, the great law committee, in a way the supreme court of the House. Alabama gives way at two very important points to North Carolina.

The Senate Judiciary chairman is Mr. Culberson of Texas, who is seriously ill and very possibly will not attempt to resume his duties in another session. Should he vacate the Judiciary chairmanship in the upper house, it would go by seniority to Senator Overman of North Carolina. Thus the North Carolina delegation would hold the leadership of the House, and the chairmanship of what many regard as the two most important committees in both houses. It is decidedly a notable coincidence, and it testifies anew to the wisdom of that policy which a number of States have followed, of keeping their delegations long enough in service to let them rise to commanding places.

(Advertisement.)

Mr. Page Lives in the White Light.

Rev. J. N. Cole, Superintendent of the Methodist Orphanage in North Carolina, in writing of a recent trip to New York, in the Raleigh Christian Advocate, has the following to say of Congressman Robert N. Page:

"In passing through Washington I spent the night with Congressman R. N. Page. A night with him makes the world look brighter and fills you with good will toward all mankind. It makes you proud of the old State when you see such men as Bob Page among our representatives in the National Capitol. Among made a cleaner record or carried himself more irreproachably than the Hon. R. N. Page. He has lived in the white light—and so true have been his judgments as to the interests of the people that he has never been called upon to explain, or to apologize.

"I do not wonder that the news that he gets from his district is that they are going to elect him for the next term with a tremendous majority. And he is staying at his post in Washington while his district is being canvassed by another candidate."

(Advertisement.)

Russell Matter Closed.

The following announcement that the postoffice Department would take no steps in the matter of my "political activity" as charged by Messrs. McEachin and Stewart, has been sent out by a Washington correspondent to The Raleigh News and Observer:

"The Postoffice Department will take no steps in the case of G. H. Russell, postmaster at Laurinburg, unless complaint of political activity is filed against him. The letter of D. Stewart and W. R. McEachin the Department regards as merely an inquiry and not a charge. First Assistant Postmaster General Roper has answered the letter and considers the incident closed unless something else is filed from Laurinburg. He declined today to make his answer public."

I hereby make this public demand upon Messrs. McEachin and Stewart, that they either make public, by publication, the letter they received from Hon. Daniel C. Roper, First Assistant Postmaster General, in reply to the complaint filed against me, or that they furnish me with a copy of same in order that I may make it public, unless there is something in the letter which would prohibit them doing so. In that event, that they so inform me, in order that I may take the matter up with the said First Assistant Postmaster General and intercede with him for his permission to have said letter made public.

Respectfully,
G. H. RUSSELL.
(Advertisement.)