

**LENDSFORD WINS IN DURHAM POSTOFFICE.**

**Markham Is Not Here—Loser in Fight Congratulates Lundsford, Pays Tribute to Stedman.**

Washington, May 20.—As stated in these dispatches last night Major Stedman left this afternoon sent to Postmaster Burleson the name of Otho Lundsford to be postmaster at Durham. The decision was reached after the fifth district congressman had gone over the papers and urged by a delegation of Durham Democrats who held an all day conference with Major Stedman yesterday. Before this delegation left Washington last night the Daily News correspondent had no doubt that they had won their point and that Lundsford would be appointed.

Luther Markham was strongly backed. Indeed, it is said his petition contained many more signers than any other candidate for the job. This, it is said, is admitted even by the friends of Mr. Lundsford. This discrepancy in signers, however, is accounted for by Lundsford's friends, by stating that they did not know it would be necessary to secure a petition as long as the rank and file of Durham's Democracy. Lundsford's friends say he has the largest number of the "working" Democrats. Markham claims he has both "working" and "privates" on his list.

"Accept my hearty congratulations; I hope your administration will be a success and that the Democratic party will remain in power a million years," was what Luther Markham wired Otho Lundsford, when he heard that Mr. Lundsford had won the Durham postmastership. Mr. Markham declared that he had made a fair fight and lost. He said that he had no ill feeling against any one connected with the controversy.

"I still think Major Stedman is the grandest old man North Carolina ever produced and I shall always suggest him and the Democratic party."

Representative Claude Kitchin was not in a very good humor when he called at the postoffice department today in the interest of S. W. Smith, whom he recommended for postmaster of Wilson over three months ago. Before Mr. Kitchin left for home last week he was assured by both Postmaster General Burleson and First Assistant Roper that Smith's name would be sent to the Senate in the next lot of nominations. This assurance was given after Mr. Roper had dictated a letter to his own stenographer and set forth what was required of Mr. Smith if he should be appointed postmaster. After the letter was shown to Smith, and Mr. Burleson had stated positively if Smith could sign that letter he would be appointed at once, Mr. Smith signed the letter in the presence of Burleson.

But when a "private" letter was received from Wilson protesting against Smith's appointment, Mr. Roper clipped Smith name from the list and allowed the others to go. This "private" letter was sent to the postoffice department by Senator Simmons. It was displayed on the desk of Mr. Roper by Joe Taylor, the senior Senator's secretary. But he refused to allow it to remain in the files with other papers for and against Smith. This Mr. Kitchin did not know. And it is said he probably expressed his opinion to the powers that be.

Smith's nomination was again promised to Mr. Kitchin today. Roper stated that he was only holding up the appointment until Senator Simmons could get to his office; but that it would eventually go in and be confirmed.

There is a good chance that Theodore Roosevelt will make a visit to North Carolina during this year. It is known that the committee arranging for the 134th anniversary celebration of King's Mountain will go to Oyster Bay within a few weeks and formally invite the former President to make the principal address on that occasion. The celebration will be held in October.

It is said that Colonel Roosevelt has always taken a deep interest in the work being done by the King's Mountain battleground committee. When he signed the bill appropriating \$30,000 for the monument on the battlefield he told Representative Webb that he did so with pleasure. The best history of the battle of King's Mountain, historians contend, is that written by Colonel Roosevelt. The former President has intimated to his friends that he would like to make several political speeches in the State this year, and those in a position to know what his plans are say that he is certain to accept the invitation which the King's Mountain people will extend to him shortly.

The man who hasn't any screens in his windows these nights often wonders what in Halifax Noah was drinking when he gave 90,000,000 no-count insects free transportation on the well known ark.

The world is growing better. But it would help some if you could have a man arrested on a charge of fragrance.

**Desperate Battle at Saltillo, with a Rebel Victory.**

El Paso, Tex., May 19.—Desperate fighting is in progress before Saltillo, but wires direct from the front, silent, it is believed under the order of General Villa, have brought no details of the engagement.

Whether Villa has fought his way through the outer defenses of the federal stronghold and is knocking on the gates of Saltillo itself or whether a desperate defense of the positions north of the town have sufficed to check the Constitutionalists' advance was uncertain from the little news that came through.

The only direct information reaching here was in a dispatch from Isidro Fabella, acting Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Constitutional Government, which informed the Constitutionalists here that Villa had defeated a force of 5,000 Federals at Paredon, inflicting heavy loss, capturing 800 prisoners, several machine guns, 600,000 rounds of ammunition and other valuable munitions of war. Two federal generals were among those said to have been killed.

Neither the time nor the date of the engagement was specified in Fabella's dispatch, which was sent from Durango early this afternoon and reached here four hours later. General Carranza and his staff among whom was Senor Fabella, returned to Durango late last night from Sombrerete, Zacatecas. It is regarded here as possible that the news contained in the dispatch may have been sent on a wire from the front some days ago.

The mention of the engagement of 5,000 troops at Paredon has proved a puzzle to men here who have followed the campaign closely.

The first serious engagement of the campaign was reported to have occurred near that point Friday when 300 men of the Zaragoza brigade, under General Raoul Madero, surprised and scattered a Federal force of 400. Madero was then reported to have occupied the town of Paredon. The Federal garrison was said later to have retired to Ramos Arizpe, six miles north of Saltillo after cutting the railroad from Paredon as they retreated.

This is the last direct news of the campaign to reach here from the front, although other minor skirmishes were rumored. The question of how the 5,000 federal troops could reach Paredon and participate in a battle there, 45 miles from the Federal base at Saltillo remained unsolved tonight.

If the Durango dispatch is correct and the engagement took place after the defeat administered to the Federal force by General Madero it may indicate the Federals have advanced in force from Saltillo, driving before them the Constitutionalists scouts and reconnaissance parties known to be operating in the country between Saltillo and Paredon.

Another possibility is that an augmented force of Federals from Monclova, fleeing before General Murgua, who advanced from Piedras Negras against them stumbled into a brush with General Villa's forces.

It is possible the news from Fabella may be an exaggerated account of the first Paredon engagement.

**Will Progressives and Old Party Unite?**

Greensboro, May 20.—The meeting of the Republican State Executive Committee which has been called for May 26 in Greensboro by Chairman Morehead, is expected to develop some interesting political activity in the nature of an effort to bring together the Republicans and Progressives of the State. There is a strong feeling that the effort will be a success and that the split up party will be reunited with a new organization.

Since the call for the meeting was issued there has been much speculation as to the purpose and outcome. Tatfites are said to be anxious to see the party reunited upon some basis that will make a strong and solid organization. That they will make concessions, if necessary, to come to an understanding and a harmonious frame of mind is a report.

On the other hand the Progressives are said to be willing to come together on a reasonable basis and with a reasonable organization. So that all in all it appears that both sides are figuring toward reaching the same end, a solid representation of their strength.

Questions that have arisen naturally in this speculation are, will Morehead eliminate himself from the leadership, and will the Morehead and Williamson leaders put their shoulders and heads together to the choice of a man beside whom both Republicans and Progressives will stand? To secure such a co-operation and unity is believed by wisecracks to be the principal purpose of the meeting here next Tuesday.

So far as is known, no such man as is desired has been decided on or suggested, but that he is being sought is felt to be quite certain.

Marietta detective, almost.—The Greensboro News.

**Toying With the Nettle.**

President Wilson, according to press dispatches, has instructed the American commissioners to the peace conference that "peace in Mexico seemed to him to be conditioned upon the elimination of the Huerta administration and the establishment in its place of a strong provisional government which would conduct an election giving fair treatment to all factions and parties, and guaranteeing more-over a solution of the agrarian problem and other internal difficulties which has bred revolution in the southern republic during the last three years." Seeing that "other internal difficulties" represents principally the devil in the hearts of the ruling class it would seem that the gentlemen from South America have a reasonably difficult task cut out for them in meeting that demand.

Huerta will indisputably be eliminated. In fact, let his pigs go the least bit wavy and he will be Messrs. Villa and Zapata, and not the mediators, who will turn the trick. Mediation, in so far as any practical benefit is concerned, will be a lamentable failure, and we are persuaded that the President already knows it.

At that we are not much disposed to criticize him for making the bluff, as long as it does not delay preparations of the part of this government for what is written in the stars. But it is not in fact delaying these preparations? Huerta remains at Vera Cruz without reinforcements. When the mediation plans were first announced the President declared that war measures would be taken just the same. But a restraining hand has been laid upon him. The war and navy departments have been paralyzed, having gone far enough to engage the Mexicans we have halted without taking the precautions that would have rendered their rage comparatively impotent. We have neither grasped the nettle firmly nor been content to let it alone. We are toying with it, and if we are stung the country will know where to lay the blame.—Greensboro News.

**Page and Webb.**

The certain re-nomination of Messrs. Page and Webb, by the Democrats of their respective districts, must be regarded as more than the personal triumph of those gentlemen. Once a member of Congress has shown himself to be a good and effective man it is certainly wise to keep him there. It has frequently been said, probably with some truth, that the people of the north and west have shown themselves sensible of the fact, while the south has been prone to make changes. Now that the south is once more assuming her commanding position at Washington, it is more important than ever that the people of this State should keep their strongest and wisest men on guard. Only one reason should be allowed to operate in effecting changes, and the single question should relate to whether a member has measured up to his high duties and responsibilities. This may seem hard on the men who not un-naturally aspire to the honor of representing their district in congress, but we believe the greatest good to the greatest number should be the determining factor in these matters.

There was noted the most gratifying spontaneity in the vote of Mr. Webb and we take it that in the end this vote will be made unanimous. The silly assortment of shibboleths tried on by Mr. Webb's opponents did not even have the saving grace of novelty. He said that the Daily News was a Republican paper and that Mr. Webb was in some way, and some how, too friendly with the American Tobacco Company and the Southern Railway Company. Others have attempted to raise those issues, and there is a deadly sameness in the melancholy end to which they have inevitably come. Again we felicitate the people of the Ninth District in general, and the Charlotte News in particular, upon the fresh demonstration of their utmost fitness for self-government.—Greensboro News.

**Huerta in Danger of Sudden Revolt.**

Vera Cruz, May 19.—Dr. Aureliano Urrutia, ex-Minister of the Interior, declared here today that he left the capital because he feared assassination and in the belief that a revolt would shortly occur in the city of Mexico.

"I left the capital," he said, "for two reasons. The first was a knowledge of a plot among General Huerta's close political supporters to assassinate me, they saying I knew too much. Second, there has been planned a general revolt of the people and the army."

"I would not be surprised to receive now at any minute news of an uprising against Huerta, of whom the people and the army are determined to rid themselves."

Twice arrested and hustled through the streets by American soldiers and hisser and threatened by his countryman Urrutia was forced to face yesterday some of the indignities to which he subjected others while he was high in power at the capital. He

**expects to sail for Europe at the first opportunity.**

**No Solution of Strike.**

Washington, May 19.—No immediate solution of the strike situation in Colorado is in sight. The President reassured the Colorado Congressional delegation that he had no intention of taking away the Federal troops at present, but was insistent that immediate steps be taken for settling the strike.

**Reduced Rates Are Effective June 20.**

Raleigh, May 19.—June 20th is the date on which the reduced interstate freight rates from the west and Buffalo and Pittsburg agreed upon in the compromise reached by the legislature in the special session and the railroad companies serving the State interstate traffic and approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission will go into effect.

This information came to the corporation commission this afternoon in a telegram from General Freight Traffic Manager Green, of the Southern Railway, who has all along had the direction of these matters for the allied railroad companies.

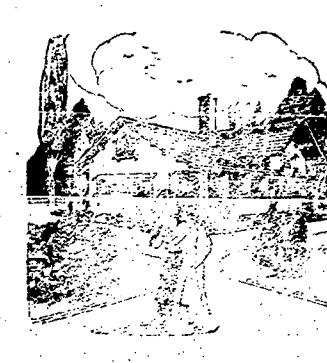
The telegram addressed to E. L. Travis, chairman, reads as follows: "Yours of the 18th. Western rates have been filed with corporation commission effective June 20. Iron and steel articles Buffalo and Pittsburg effective same date. Am sending you a tariff."

Secretary Starwell, of the commission, says that the business men of the State can now fix upon June 20 as the date for the reduced rates to be effective and adjust their orders and shipping plans and dates on this basis. The reduced rates on the saving of many thousand dollars annually to the shippers of the State and have a most important bearing on the commercial interests of the State.

Be not anxious about tomorrow. Do today's duty, fight today's temptation, and do not weak and distract yourself by looking forward to things which you cannot see and could not understand if you saw them. Enough for you that the God, for whom you fight is just and merciful, for He rewardeth every man according to his work.—C. Kingsley.

Now is the season when the world is being readjusted some more by the commencement orators. It is still a fortnight until they go out to begin to learn why the occasion is called "commencement."—Greensboro News.

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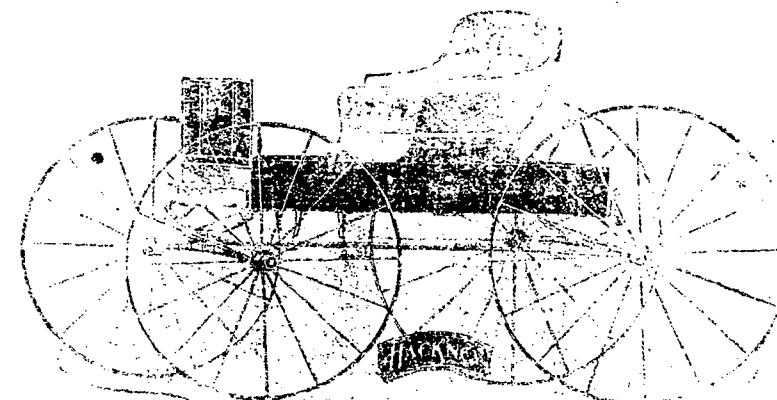
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