

BARRINGER DIS-TRIBUTES REPLIES OF CANDIDATES

(Continued from Page 1.) and to the Democratic candidates for the State Legislature from Mecklenburg county. The replies from the candidates in the Democratic primary have already been reported to you, therefore this report will deal only with the replies of the Democratic and Republican candidates for governor. The replies of both these candidates were in the hands of your committee on the day of the Democratic primary on June 7th, at which time Mr. McLean was nominated as the candidate of that party, but the reply of Hon. I. M. Meekins, the nominee of the Republican party, was withheld until after the Democratic primary so that his reply could be submitted to you for comparison with the reply of the successful candidate in the primary of that party.

The Questions and Answers.

Several of the questions were of a nature that should interest people of all classes, while others were upon subjects directly affecting the welfare of the wage earner. The answers were as follows:

Question No. 1—Pertaining to the administration of the affairs of the State in a business-like manner.

Both candidates favor strictly business methods, combined with economy.

Question No. 2—Both candidates look with disfavor upon the practice of paying campaign workers (known as distributing patronage) out of the state treasury by way of appointment to office.

Question No. 3—In regard to legislation prohibiting members of the State Legislature from serving on special commissions, etc., created by themselves, with extra pay from the state for such service.

Mr. Meekins (Rep.) says: "I favor such legislative enactment."

Mr. McLean says that he is opposed to the legislature creating jobs for its members, but adds that there may be cases "in which peculiar knowledge or experience possessed by members may render it advisable to depart from the general principal, etc."

Question No. 4—Both candidates appear to agree that the affairs of the state should be handled with the strictest economy, and new sources of taxation sought only when the welfare of the state demands it.

Question No. 5—Would you advocate an eight-hour work-day in all industries, especially the textile?

Mr. McLean (Dem.): "I favor the eight-hour work-day where the employe is subjected to severe mental and physical strain; for example, railroad service, but I do not believe we have yet reached the point in the state where it would be practicable or to the best interests of those concerned to apply the eight-hour law to all the industries of the state. The textile and some other industries would be seriously hampered by such a law."

Mr. Meekins (Rep.): "If eight hours of honest work each day is sufficient, and it seems to me it should be, to subserve the needs of the nation, then an eight-hour work-day is enough. With the possible exception of farm work, my answer to this question is 'Yes.'"

Question No. 6—Would you favor a law prohibiting the working of women and children more than eight hours a day?

Mr. McLean: The reasons given by me in answer to question No. 5 are applicable to this question also. I share the opinion held by our people generally that special consideration should be given to women wherever the same is practicable. The Democratic party in North Carolina reduced the number of hours of labor in this state during which women and children may be required to work

and has prohibited the working of young or immature children. I believe that the policy of the Democratic party will continue to be sound and humane and that it may be trusted to gradually work out the problem in the interest not only of the workers themselves, but in the interest of the public welfare generally. I shall lend my best efforts to this end.

Mr. Meekins: Yes. Sound argument has never been discovered in favor of child labor, and for the obvious reason that there is none. Opposition to child labor legislation has come for the most part from Southern Democrats who have based their opposition on strictly constitutional grounds. The analogy drawn by the Southern Democrats is manifestly false. An amendment to the Federal Constitution is now pending, and my hope is that it may carry. A nation which prides itself on its standards of living regards the exploitation of child labor as a national disgrace. Recently in the Senate of the United States the question of Child Labor was voted on. There were forty Republican Senators who voted for the Child Labor amendment to the constitution. Only six Republican Senators voted against the amendment. Nineteen Democratic Senators voted for the amendment and seventeen Democratic Senators against it. Most of the Democratic Senators voting against the amendment were Southern Senators, and I call your particular attention to the fact that Senators Simmons and Overman of North Carolina were among those Democratic Senators who voted to kill the amendment.

Question No. 7—Would you favor a law making it a punishable offense for an employer to discharge an employe solely because of his membership in a labor union, or by threat or intimidation prevent his joining such an organization, or to refuse to give a person employment because of such membership?

Mr. McLean: The principle of collective bargaining by any group of persons, whether they be laborers or others, is now thoroughly recognized by the federal and all our state governments as well as by public opinion. I doubt if it is practicable to enact a law that would effectually remedy the evil mentioned in the question without working injury to the employe. If upon full consideration, however, it should appear that a law can be enacted that will remedy the evil and at the same time be fair and afford full legal protection to the rights of both employer and employe I would favor it.

Mr. Meekins: I would favor a law making it a punishable offense for any person, firm or corporation, who through threat or intimidation endeavored to prevent any person, firm or corporation from joining a labor union or any other lawful organization such person, firm or corporation might want to join. I believe that labor has the right to and must protect itself, and I believe that in maintaining this right it should be permitted to organize. Experience through the centuries has shown that capital will take care of itself at the expense of labor if unrestrained in its operations, and my opinion is that organized labor and its attendant auxiliaries grew out of the stern necessity to protect itself. What experience has proven it is idle to resist. I would not array class against class. This can get us nowhere. However, if the balance must incline, let it be on the side of the people because they have suffered the longest. Some people do not like the crudities of truth. It is well. Jesus loved them. He swept the temple with a scourge that was a sharp discusser of truths. However, when He exclaimed: "Suffer little children to come unto me," He made no distinction among them. He was not annoyed at taking the child of Barabas and the child of Herod. When men everywhere—capitalists and wage earners—come to realize that the human race has a Tyrant, which is Selfishness, a long stride forward will have

been taken. Moreover, when men everywhere—capitalists and wage earners—seek through mutual interest and in the proper spirit of give and take, to destroy the Tyrant—Selfishness—the sum of human things will have been approached, unless they have become an accomplished fact. My hope is that the day is not far distant when Labor will no longer fear the Gormerant nor Capital the Commune.

Question No. 8—As to who should pay the expense when troops are called out to quell a local disturbance, both agree that it is the duty of the state to preserve order.

Question No. 9—Do you favor the furnishing of school books free to the children in the public schools?

Mr. McLean: I favor this as soon as a way may be found to finance the cost without imposing an additional burden upon land and personal property where it is already too high in many counties in the state, and provided some plan can be devised whereby the books furnished free may be protected from unnecessary damage and destruction while in the hands of the pupils.

Mr. Meekins: Yes, I so declared in accepting the nomination for governor.

Question No. 10—Would you favor the establishment of a state-owned printing plant to handle the state printing, school books, etc.? Both candidates appear to favor the idea if it should appear, after investigation, to be feasible, but both also doubt the wisdom and economy of attempting to produce text books for the public schools on account of copyrights, etc.

Question No. 11—As to hiring our convicts to work in competition with free labor, both candidates agree in opposing the practice, and Mr. McLean thinks convicts should be employed only on public work, road construction, etc.

Question No. 12—Would you favor the Australian ballot system, or some other equally effective method whereby every citizen may express his choice at the ballot box for public officials without fear or hindrance?

Mr. McLean: I agree fully with the sentiment that every citizen should have the right to express his own choice for public officials without lot or hindrance. I have no personal objection to the Australian ballot system, but I do not believe that where it has been adopted it has worked well in North Carolina. Our present election laws are conducive to fair and honest elections, and I know that they have many of the most important elements of the Australian ballot system. I believe further that the question of election laws is largely a matter for the democratic party in its convention or legislature to decide, and that it is incumbent on the Democratic party to adopt every suggestion made by the Republican party in North Carolina in regard to the election system.

Mr. Meekins: Yes. In my opinion North Carolina will not take the place among the other states of the union that she deserves to take until our elections are removed from even the suspicion of fraud. The box should be as sacred as the bench. I believe every man and woman in North Carolina who is entitled to vote, should have the opportunity to cast his or her ballot with the same regard for freedom that the law throws around a married woman who is deeding away her real estate. Every lawyer knows that the language in the acknowledgment of a married woman who is deeding her property is "free and voluntary, without fear or compulsion of her husband or any other person whomsoever," etc. If I am elected governor, I pledge the people to pend every energy for the Australian ballot system. Of course the organization Democrat is opposed to the Australian ballot system because the Australian ballot would take the main spring out of his machine. The organization Democrat knows that the machine will



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not run without the main spring and that consequently he will be undone. The organization Democrats of North Carolina are opposed to the Australian ballot system for the same reason that they opposed woman suffrage. I have never heard a Republican, North, East, South, or West, oppose the Australian ballot system, and I have never heard an intelligent Democrat offer constructive criticism of the system.

Committee Recommendations.
After a careful analysis of the opinions of the Democratic and Republican candidates for Governor of North Carolina, as expressed in their answers to the foregoing questions, it is the opinion of your committee that the Republican candidate, Mr. Meekins, is far more in sympathy with the hopes and aims of organized labor, whose ambition is the uplift of the common people, organized and unorganized, than is the Democratic candidate, Mr. McLean, especially as to the things which organized labor considers most vital, viz., working hours and conditions for men and women, the abolition of child labor in industry (farming not included), free school books and a fair and honest election law.

We recommend that this report be given as much publicity as possible in order that the common people of the state may have the information contained herein as a guide and help toward reaching an intelligent decision as to which candidate they should support in the coming election. We consider endorsement of any candidate by this body as unnecessary, believing the voters are sufficiently intelligent to decide for themselves, with proper information before them, which candidate, as Governor of North Carolina, will prove to be the best friend of the masses. This information we have endeavored to supply.

Respectfully submitted,
COMMITTEE.

Pennsylvania leads the country in value of the products of its mines and quarries.

BIG REVIVAL AT MOORESVILLE

Mooresville, Sept. 18.—A series of revival meetings began at Broad Street Methodist church, Mooresville next Sunday, September 21, at 11 a. m., continuing each night at 7 o'clock for ten days or two weeks.

The pastor, G. W. Fink, will do the preaching during these meetings. He has done this preaching through a number of successful meetings here during the past three years of his pastorate, and it is hoped that this will be the most successful meeting of them all.

This church has made great strides forward during the past three years. It has grown from a membership of a little over a hundred to more than four hundred. The Sunday school has increased in keeping with the church membership. Five ministerial students are attending school this year from this church, the names of whom are: Messrs. G. R. Ballard, A. G. Lackey, Palmer Greenhill, E. W. Mills and H. E. Sipe. There are others who feel the call to preach and will enter school from this church later.

There will be a special feature of these meetings and all who sing are invited to take the places in the choir and assist in the singing.

A hearty welcome awaits all who can attend any and all of the above services.

A new method of enabling workmen to make bank deposits in their factories is being employed by a bank of Baltimore. This means machines are used which take savings banks into the factories and eliminate the inconvenience workingmen have experienced heretofore in depositing in savings banks part of their earnings.