

THE CAUCASIAN

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SENATOR BUTLER'S APPOINTMENT.

Senator Marion Butler will speak at Jackson, Northampton County, N. C., on October 4th. Let everybody turn out to hear him.

J. J. STEPHENSON.

THE TRUE MOTIVE BEHIND A FALSE IDEA.

The continual harping on the railroad and monopoly organs on the "white supremacy" question, their frantic and piteous efforts to arouse race prejudice, their refusal to discuss any issue but the "nigger," their wailing and gnashing of teeth over the departed greatness of the State, their touching and soul-stirring references to the Jarvis, Seales, Fowle, Holt and Carr administrations, are all so suggestive of a concerted plan of action on the part of the railroad and monopoly press that they arouse a suspicion of the true motives behind all this hypocritical cant, and lead to the conviction that this deceptive and "seductive plea" of white supremacy is being used for a different and ulterior purpose, which can only be accomplished by playing upon the prejudices of the people. In their anxiety to do this they are so plainly revealing their true purposes, by their persistent refusal to discuss the great questions of needed reforms, and by their continual harping upon this, the only subject they are permitted to discuss, that they threaten to overtake the bounds of prudence and to thus defeat the very aims they have in view. We expected nothing better of the Charlotte Observer and the other little monopoly and railroad organs than that they would pursue these tactics, but we confess that the use of the same by the News and Observer, our late and able ally in the fight for the overthrow of corporation rule and the re-establishment of good government, has moved us with regret and pity—regret because we feel we have lost a friend, pity because that friend has lost its independence. No more is its voice raised in defence of the people's rights and against the aggressions of corporate power; it has made a bargain and sale of its columns, and now says what it is told to say. It dares not now, as it but a short time since did, defend the people's cause.

A gigantic and heartless corporation, amenable to no moral law and for this reason conscienceless, by the exercise of a mysterious influence, debases the high office of Chief Executive of the State, and persuades the holder thereof with his co-directors of a valuable piece of State property to enter into a contract, executed under the most questionable circumstances, by the terms of which this corporation receives great pecuniary benefit and the State and tax-payer corresponding detriment; but the News and Observer, whose columns were once filled with language of just condemnation against this unprecedented and brazen outrage upon the rights of a people which it justly stigmatized as the crime of the year, now wraps itself in silence and says never a word more about this sly transaction, yet the Southern Railway has not in the least receded from its arrogant position, nor are the evil effects of its undue influence upon State officials in anywise mitigated; the present Governor of the State takes steps to prevent the consummation of this midnight deal, but lo! the corporation in question, blotted with a sense of the security of power, steps in and orders one of its tools and puppets—a Federal Judge—to forbid the State's Governor from taking action to secure justice to the people of the State he governs, which is coolly done by way of injunction, but the News and Observer so indignant at the time over this act of colossal cheek, now strives to minimize the importance of checking this evil though its dangerous growth is increasing every day; again, the Governor of the State is now considering the removal from positions of trust, two railway commissioners for the reason that they have not acted fairly between this railway corporation and the people for which reason they were but a short time since so justly censured by the News and Observer, but that same journal since the Governor has taken this action which it itself suggested, now sees fit to pass over without commendation, ignoring almost entirely, or if to notice at all, to express dubious opinions about his action, though the Governor needs and is entitled to all of the encouragement possible in performing his patriotic duty; great questions are pending upon the settlement of which depends the financial prosperity of the people of the State and the freedom of their children from political and industrial serfdom; a battle is being fought between greed and avarice on the one hand and justice and fairness to the great majority of the people on the other, but the News and Observer, once so eloquent on the side of the people, now pursues a course which is expressly intended to divide the people on these great issues, that greed and avarice may win.

Now why does the News and Observer abandon the cause it but lately so ably championed? The change is great and there must certainly be a cause. We know that the News and Observer pleads as its excuse that it desires good government and white supremacy, but that this is a hypocritical declaration is too apparent for controversy, because the course that the News and Observer is now pursuing is purposely intended to divide the forces in North Carolina, who are in favor of good government. And if it is white supremacy the News and Observer is so interested about, we have pointed out so that paper how white supremacy and good government can both be secured by fighting for the

reforms which the News and Observer has abandoned. So it can be neither white supremacy nor good government that the News and Observer is now interested in. Then the only solution for the problem is that the News and Observer, like the Charlotte Observer and the other monopoly organs in the State, be passed under the influence of the Southern Railway and its gold Democratic allies, and is now being controlled by the "overseer." This being true, it is of course permitted to say only what the boss will sanction. For this reason and to further the schemes of the Southern Railway and other monopolies to capture the next legislature, it maintains a studied silence on the great questions of reforms, and joins the other monopoly and railroad organs, shouting with a vehemence second to none, the old and deceptive slogan of white supremacy. It is the only issue it is now permitted to discuss. A rape occurs. What a god-send! It is something to talk about. It is the straw for the drowning man, and is as eagerly caught at as a new tune to be played on the same old string of white supremacy, and it is played by the News and Observer in all its variations with a vigor and gotten of a determination on the part of the Southern railway not to release its octopus grasp and baneful influence upon the State aided by the desire on the part of the Ransom machine Democratic politicians for revenge on the people for so unceremoniously ousting them out of office. This awful crime of rape, the condemnation of which should be prompted by sincere motives and for honest purposes, is used in a hypocritical manner by the News and Observer and the other railroad organs for base and partisan ends, and all the time they are condemning the nature of the crime they are secretly longing for more rapes that they may better play upon the prejudices of the people.

Now as we have said above, this change upon the part of the News and Observer, its continuous yelping for "white supremacy" and "good government," its persistent refusal to discuss the great issues which so vitally effect the welfare of every citizen in the State, in brief, its joining in with and shouting in with the other railroad and monopoly organs do, is for some other purpose than that avowed by the News and Observer. The cold and unvarnished truth is that it is intended to make successful a deep laid scheme which has for its object the accomplishment of two things: one, the capturing of the next legislature by the Southern Railway, thereby frustrating the plans of the people to enact some badly needed railroad reforms; the other, the returning to power of the Democratic Ransom machine politicians, and with him to inaugurate another reign of Bourbonism, to be perpetuated in power by ballot-box stuffing, fraud, lying and prejudice.

This is why the News and Observer is silent upon the great reform issues and refuses to continue its fight for them; this is why the News and Observer refuses to answer THE CAUCASIAN's question as to which kind of white man's party it is in favor of, and what sort of good government it means.

THE CAUCASIAN again repeats its oft made statement that it is in favor of white supremacy, but with Judge Ayer it is in favor of a white supremacy untrammelled by corruption and monopoly rule, and in this view it believes every good citizen in the State will concur.

Recently the Democratic press has had much to say about the late Populist State Convention in Ohio. The charge has been published broadcast that Mark Hanna had bought up the ticket in that State, etc. THE CAUCASIAN has not commented on these charges for the simple reason that we were not in possession of the facts. THE CAUCASIAN has always been fair and honest with the public. We have never rushed into print to deny a charge against our own party or even our personal friends unless we were sure of the facts.

Last spring there was considerable division of sentiment among the Populists in Ohio who supported Bryan last year, and also among the Democrats who supported Bryan, as to whether or not there should be a co-operative fight in the coming campaign. We think that if a proper spirit had been shown on both sides that a co-operative ticket, honorable and fair to both sides, a ticket that could have commanded the support of every honest Populist, honest Bryan Democrat, and honest silver Republican opposed to the gold standard monopoly rule and Hannaism—could have been nominated and a grand victory won.

But this opportunity was thrown away and it is possible that both sides were more or less at fault. As is well known the Democratic State Convention met and ignored the Populists, did not even seek a conference with them, and put up a ticket with a National banker at its head, and a ticket in other respects such that they could not expect or get the endorsement of the Populist party, especially in view of the fact that John B. McLean, a pronounced monopolist and a member of trusts, is the open and avowed Democratic candidate for Senator. Ex-Senator Brice and a number of other Cleveland and monopoly Democrats were on hand at that State Convention in person or through their henchmen, determined to prevent any co-operation with the People's party. This class of men in the Democratic party in that State and every other State would prefer to see Mark Hanna and the Republican party win than to see a union of silver and reform forces which would win a victory for the principles for which Bryan so ably and heroically contended in the last campaign.

There was nothing left for the People's party in that State to do but to put up a straight ticket. Not only self-respect, but loyalty to the principles of good government demanded it. We have no doubt that the scheming politicians of both the old parties did all they could to influence and pervert the Populist party for their own selfish ends.

The scheme of the McLean and Brice element of the Democratic party was to ignore the Populists until after their convention was held and then try to whip them "into line," into disbarring their organization and supporting the Democratic ticket such as it was.

The scheme of Mark Hanna and his crowd was to avert any co-operation between the Populists and Democrats (just what Brice and the gold Democrats wanted and had contemplated) but then to try to use the party if possible to their advantage afterwards. Hanna knew that the Populist Party would put out a ticket without him spending any money to get it done. His money, no doubt, was open—free, however, to get a man put at the head of the ticket like Cozy who would not only be distasteful to a majority of the Populists in the State, but to the Peoples Party of the Nation. We regret to say that to that extent Hanna succeeded. Hanna's scheme is to try to kill the party for he and those of his kind fear the Peoples Party and its principles more than any other power in American politics.

There were no doubt some delegates to that convention who had free passes and money in their pocket, furnished by Mark Hanna. They have put up a ticket which will not poll the full Populist vote, but the agents that Mark Hanna had in that convention, who found before the polls close on next November doing like the Palmer-Buckner Democrats did in the last campaign—not supporting their own ticket.

While on the other hand, some of the best and truest Populists in the State will be forced to stay at home, because they cannot support either one of the old parties, and have little or no confidence in the head of their own ticket. This is extremely unfortunate.

It would be enough to cripple, if not to kill, any party that was not based on the great fundamental principles of Jefferson, Jackson and Lincoln, principles which cannot die.

We have received letters from true Populists in that State who say that the vote for the Populists ticket will be smaller than ever, not because the Populist party is smaller, but because they will stay at home. These same letters tell us that whenever the call is made for the true Populists of the State to rally that they will, everyone, be found in harness and ready for the contest.

We have before us also a letter from one of the most prominent and influential middle-of-the-road Populists of that State. He is not like some middle-of-the-road Populist, a hireling of the Republican party in disguise, but a middle-of-the-road Populist from his conception of duty. He favored the nomination of a straight ticket. He was even opposed to a co-operation in Ohio this year on any terms, but he is thoroughly disgusted with the result of the State Convention, but that it will not demoralize or scatter the Populists, and be ready to hold up the ends of the National organization whenever their services are needed. We expect still further facts on the inside from the State and from time to time the readers of THE CAUCASIAN shall know the truth no matter whom it hurts or whom it helps.

In conclusion we would like to know where one Steinberger, of Kansas, and W. E. Morgan, of Arkansas, two men who bolted the action of the last People's party National Convention, were doing at the Ohio Convention? What have they been doing in that State since? They are not men of wealth—are they paying their own expenses?

P. S.—Since the above editorial was written we have received some inside facts and additional information about the political situation in Ohio, which we publish at some length on the front page of THE CAUCASIAN this week. The facts published confirm the truth of the statements and opinions in the above editorial.

THE TWO NEW RAILWAY COMMISSIONERS.

In the appointment of Mr. Caldwell of Iredell, and Mr. Pearson of Burke, for Railway Commissioners, Governor Russell is to be congratulated. One is a Democrat and the other is a Populist to correspond to the politics of the Commissioners removed. They are both men of the highest character, and they will be fair and just between the Railroads and the people.

Mr. L. C. Caldwell was a Democratic Elector in 1888, was afterwards a candidate for Solicitor, and later was elected Mayor of Statesville. He joined the People's party because he considered it the only party that stood squarely for the principles of Jefferson and Jackson, and therefore the only party of the people. He was temporary chairman of the last People's party State convention? He is a young man, only 39 years of age, but is one of the most promising lawyers in the Western part of the State, and is a very forcible and eloquent speaker on the stump.

Mr. John H. Pearson has had no little experience in Railroad affairs. He has been a consistent advocate of free silver and took a prominent part in the silver convention in Raleigh in 1895, when the majority of the Democratic politicians were afraid to say whether they were for silver or gold. It will be remembered that Ex-Governor Jarvis, Capt. Sam Ashe, and other machine Democratic politicians, ran away from the convention after it had met and they had taken part in the preliminary proceedings, for the reason that they did not want to commit themselves to silver until they knew whether the next Democratic candidate for President would be for silver or a gold bug or a straddle-bug. Not so with Mr. Pearson. He boldly took the same position that W. J. Bryan had taken and declared that if the Democratic party did not declare for silver and other needed reforms that he would no longer follow such false and treacherous leadership.

Mr. Pearson was the late Mayor of Morganton and was a member of the prominent part in the fight against the ninety-nine year lease against the author of the bill to prevent the absorption of competing railroads lines which passed the House through his efforts, but was buried in the Senate. Mr. Pearson, while a Democrat, will be abused and misrepresented by the railroad attorneys in the Democratic party, as viciously as if he were a Populist. He will be abused and misrepresented by the "help" of the "overseer" simply because he has shown that he thinks the rights of the people are equally as sacred as the rights of the railroads, and that both should stand on the same footing.

The two suspended Commissioners have announced their determination to defy the law and the Governor's action in conformity with the same. They claim that their offices are "contracts" and that the Governor has no power to interfere with their contracts to hold the offices and draw the salaries; but the very act that creates the commission provides how the commissioners may be removed or suspended. Therefore they accepted the office with this provision as their contract. They cannot sue for property rights, for unless the next legislature sustains the Governor they will draw their full pay for the time suspended. Therefore they put themselves in a bad light defying the action of the legislature as executed by the Governor; and, besides, if they, by resisting, make it necessary for the new Commissioners to bring quo warranto proceedings to get charge of the Railway Commission office then they make themselves liable to a fine of two thousand dollars each, by a statute, if the court should hold against them. But this is their matter and not ours.

As soon as these two new Commissioners are installed into office, as we believe they will be as soon as the courts pass upon the questions raised by the refusal of the old Commissioners to vacate, we are confident that the people will begin to see and enjoy some of the good fruit that the Railroad Commission was established to bring about, but which has been denied the people now for more than six years because the old Commission refused to do its duty—refused to do equity between the people and the monopolies. The people already see the advantage of having a Governor that the railroads do not control.

HOW AN OLD FOOL TRAPS HIS CROWD
The Editor of the Economist, published at Elizabeth City, writes a lengthy editorial on "Southern School Books." He seems to be hydrophobic on account of the books now used in the public schools; but it is not the books that troubles his purblind, contracted, spiteful soul, so much as the demagoguery that is swelling within and must be let loose at some one, even if a gentleman and man of character must be the recipient of his spleen.

We regret indeed to find a man, who writes for the instruction of the public and essays to mould public opinion is so utterly ignorant on the subject of text books. He does not know what takes place in his own county under his nose. Listen to what he says: "Now what is the remedy for all this? Mr. Chas. H. Mebane, of Catawba county, is the Superintendent of Education of North Carolina, and we suppose he suggest or selects the school books to be used in the schools. We have no acquaintance with Mr. Mebane, but he is a Republican office-holder selected by negroes, scallwags, carpetbaggers and low whites of North Carolina, and the presumption naturally arises that he is not suited to the office by character or qualification and that he is purchasable at a lower or higher price."

This poor drivelling, spiteful, ignorant old man does not know that the school books now in use were adopted by the Democratic County Commissioners in every county in North Carolina, on the first Monday in June, 1896, for three successive years, and if the Superintendent of Public Education is responsible for such books as were adopted, the man would have been ex-Superintendent John C. Scarborough (Dem.) and not Superintendent Mebane. This old dotard does not know that 95 per cent or even more of the text books now in use were adopted by the Democratic State Board of Education and were endorsed by the late Maj. S. M. Finger and ex-Superintendent Scarborough; and according to this old fool's own reasoning as to why we have the present books, that somebody has been bought, then the Democratic State Board of Education was bought. The late S. M. Finger and John C. Scarborough were bought, and the Democratic Commissioners all over North Carolina were bought.

Old man, you had better know who you are doing before you use your logic so profusely next time. You have proved by your own reasoning that your crowd was bought and not Superintendent Mebane. Just such policy and rot as this is what has killed the Democratic party in North Carolina and it will remain so as long as the leaders of it continue this course.

Superintendent of Public Instruction has nothing to do with adoption of books under the present law, and this Editor who makes such a scandalous attack on the present Superintendent of Public Instruction had better take a lesson in the current affairs of his own county and State before he fires off his gun and proves that his own crowd was bought. He is called the nestor of Democratic journalism sometimes, however, and he is as about as well qualified to represent the respectability of his crowd as any one else. His only competitor is the profane old fellow who gets up the Wilmington "Moss."

A LITTLE RAILROAD PROBLEM.
The North Carolina Christian Advocate of August 29th, 1897, has an editorial in which its Editor tells about his visit to Brother A. F. Page, of Aberdeen and makes a statement of what he was told as follows: "The entire plant of the Aberdeen and Ashboro road, with sixty-four miles of track, cost \$250,000, and is carrying a bonded debt of only \$50,000, and has been a good paying road from the beginning."

Now one of Mr. Page's sons appeared before the Railroad Commission, and had much to say about the Governor and Judge Clark, and there daring to meddle with the owners and operators of the railroads, and daring to urge that railroads should be taxed like other folks, according to what their property was worth; and sought to become furious by expressing great horror at the very thought of anybody's questioning the infallibility of the monopoly Federal Judges. It was no fault of his if his speech failed to win the affections of Pierpont Morgan to such an extent that Pierpont will buy his railroad at a big profit, in the sweet by and bye.

On page 9, Railroad Commission Report 1896, it appears that the above road is rated for taxation at \$113,000. So we have it that this road costing \$250,000, and paying well, is rated for taxation at only \$113,000.

On page 23, it appears who are the "general officers." Then it appears that the salaries of the "general officers," that is the Page family, amounts to \$6,000. Their track men are paid fifty cents a day; their machinists, who furnish not only muscle but brains, get \$3.00 a day; their train men sixty-five cents a day; their firemen \$1.00 a day.

Mr. H. A. Page was reported in the papers as telling the Commission that the tax value of his railroad was high enough. The people should be congratulated that Mr. Page was willing to admit that he could be taxed at all. Monopolies with countless soft snags are not here to be taxed, they are here to tax other folks and comment on the people when they complain.

Now some of the monopoly sheets may say that we are attacking enterprise and thrift in the persons of the Messrs. Page. Of course that is not so. The Messrs. Page are entitled to great credit for having built their railroad, for having shown industry and skill and good business sense in acquiring wealth. In doing so they have not only helped themselves but have done good to their fellowmen. We wish there were ten thousand of them in the State. Nobody wants to take away from them their property, their rights, or the credit to which they are entitled, but we insist that they shall be taxed like other people, and that they shall not attempt to be sarcastic or get gay whenever they are reminded that railroads are creatures of the public and that the people have reserved to themselves the right to control them, to tax them, to fix rates for them and to prevent their unlawful impositions upon communities.

The great underlying truth that makes monopolies and privilege so prevailing and powerful, is, that as a general rule, with some exceptions, as soon as a man acquires wealth, especially if he gets it by holding property in natural monopolies, he intuitively stands in with his class and regards himself and his class as entitled to these special privileges which the constitution prohibits and abhors.

HAVE YOU SENT A TELEGRAM?
Have you sent a telegram since the first day of September? If so, have you kept a copy of the same? On that day, September 1st, the lawful authorities of the State, as constituted by the Legislature, fixed telegraph rates in this State at fifteen cents for a message of ten words. If you have sent a telegram since that date you have been forced to pay the old price of twenty-five cents. Why? Because the Western Union Telegraph Company, a foreign corporation, at once ran away from justice to the Federal Court, and got one of their pets, Judge Simonson, to issue an injunction forbidding the State to reduce the rate. But under the law the Western Union Telegraph Company is required to refund to the people every cent that they charge over fifteen cents for a telegram, if the State's right to fix the rates should be finally sustained by the Supreme Court, and they have been required to give a twenty-five thousand dollar bond to guarantee such repayment. Now it is certain that the Supreme Court of the United States will sustain the fifteen cents rate unless that court (as it did in the income tax case) overrules its own precedent. So it is well for every citizen to keep a copy of every telegram sent or a memorandum of the same until this case is decided, so that all overcharges can be demanded and refunded.

SHOULD TAKE CARE OF THEIR OWN
The Wilmington Messenger is authority for the following information: "Senator Pritchard and his friends are now taking a very decided stand in regard to the attacks of Senator Butler on the 'minority' Populists and simply declare they will not let the latter be denounced."

THE CAUCASIAN has no objection to the Southern Railroad and Senator Pritchard taking care of their own. We think they should. One thing is certain, the bolters who deserted their principles and betrayed their constituents for the gold standard and the Southern Railroad are not Populists. No doubt Mark Hanna and Rothschild's overseers would like for them to get back into the Populist party to be spies for them.

We have also noticed a disposition among the Ransom machine and railroad organs in the Democratic party to defend these traitors. This is natural, for the old parties have never expelled their traitors. And this is why their organizations have become corrupt. The people are looking for a party of political integrity, and they have found it in the Populist party.

THE PENITENTIARY SCANDAL.
We publish elsewhere in this issue a brief account of the penitentiary scandal. It is alleged that Dr. Kirby Smith, son of Superintendent Smith of the penitentiary, who had charge of the criminal insane, is guilty of a serious charge, preferred against him by an employee. The Board of Directors very promptly ordered an investigation to be held at their next regular meeting, October 19th. If the charges are sustained the Board should immediately remove Dr. Smith and take the necessary steps to avoid a like occurrence again if this be in their power.

There seems to be some controversy as to who is responsible for the appointment of the physician in charge of the criminal insane. The law gives that power to Dr. Kirby, of the Central Hospital, and it was he who appointed Superintendent Smith's son. We do not intend to gloss over the grave charge but on the contrary, want the public to learn of the facts and place the blame upon the proper authority. Dr. Kirby, no doubt, was induced to appoint the son of the penitentiary superintendent, but if he was not a capable, efficient and proper person he ought not to have been entrusted with such a responsible place.

THE CAUCASIAN will refer to this matter again after the investigation.

MAJ. GUTHRIE CONGRATULATES GOV. RUSSELL.
Major Wm. A. Guthrie, late People's party candidate for Governor was in Raleigh a few days since. He called on Governor Russell and congratulated him upon his election and on his splendid appointments for Railroad Commissioners. If Guthrie had been elected the people would also have had in him a Governor that no corporation or monopoly could influence or control.

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