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A LETTER OF DENIAL

From Mr. Robert Hancock to Governor Russell of the Grave Charge Against Him.

PERSECUTED BY ENEMIES

Mr. Hancock Makes a Plain Statement in His Behalf and Claims That he Had Nothing to do With the Withdrawal of the Case From Court.

NEWBERN, N. C., Jan. 26, '98.

His Excellency, Daniel L. Russell, Governor of North Carolina, Raleigh, N. C.:

DEAR SIR: I feel it my duty to you and your administration, under which I held an important and responsible position when Miss Abbott began her action against me, charging me with seduction, beginning in New York last April, to address you a communication assuring you of my innocence and my readiness to answer and meet the charges. Since that time, without my procurement, but as I am informed at the instance of members of her own family, the action has been withdrawn. Under the circumstances I think it proper that I should make to you this further statement in addition to the public denial made to the press and statement to you at the time.

In the very beginning I wish to state that the very impression which has been created and prevails that Miss Abbott has from early childhood lived with me, as a member of my family is erroneous. Miss Abbott who is now past nineteen years of age, lived with her mother and never lived in my house and family until October, 1897, when on account of the illness of my wife, she moved to my home and assumed the duties of housekeeper and companion to my wife. She continued to occupy this position until shortly after Christmas, 1897, when, on account of her persistent refusal after repeated and urgent requests by me, to discontinue certain objectionable associations I requested her to return to her mother's home and she went with much manifestation of temper. Shortly after her leaving my house, under the circumstances above detailed, the action against me was commenced.

It is admitted that the young lady is not in a delegate condition and therefore it must be apparent that this action could not observe the interests of her or her family. It is well known that the advisers of Mrs. Abott in the instigation of this action are my bitter personal and political enemies. The one who is nearest to her as adviser and who employed counsel and signed her prosecution bond is not in any way related to the Abbott family and a man whom I personally and publicly chastised twenty years ago, and who has ever since been my unrelenting enemy. It is now publicly stated and is well understood here that these people are seeking and threatening to continue this action over the written protest and against the will of Mrs. Abbott and to this end, failing in all their importunities to induce her to continue the action, are threatening to have her removed as next friend of her unfortunate husband in the action an to have substituted some one who will consent to continue the action. Not only this, but they have been importuning the young lady herself to institute a separate action which I am informed, she has refused to do, stating it to be her fixed purpose not to go in the court house in this case under any circumstances.

I desire to assert most solemnly that I have never had any intercourse with Miss Abbott. Nor did I ever at any time make any threat against her with the view to induce her to submit to intercourse with me, and she is, so far as I know, a virtuous woman. I cannot comprehend what motive could have induced her to make this charge against me and against herself.

Miss Abbott charges in her complaint that I had intercourse with her the first time under threats in the city of New York on her visit to that city in April, 1897. The other acts of intercourse, she alleges without fixing the dates, occurred subsequently in Newbern also under threats. It is proper therefore that I should state the facts and circumstances connected with my visit to New York in April. In doing so I am glad to be able to furnish you with letters from relatives of hers and also from relatives of my own living in Brooklyn and New York with whom she and I spent the day we were in New York, we having arrived there in the morning and having left for home the evening of the same day, which you will see corroborated in my statements.

I having business North during the month of April, Miss Abbott to whom both myself and wife had been very kind, urged me to take her with me that she might see something of the world and visit her relatives in Brooklyn. My wife and myself talked the matter over and we concluded that as I could easily get free transportation for both of us that I should take her. After spending a night in Richmond and one in Washington City and transacting my business at these points, we proceeded to New York, at which point we arrived at late breakfast. We ate breakfast at the Astor House cafe, and she having the address of her relatives in Brooklyn, Mrs. Lulie Sweet and children, whose letter is hereafter quoted, I accompanied her to their home and after remaing with them to lunch, I left them, requesting Mrs. Sweet to have Miss Abbott at the Astor House in New York by 8 o'clock that evening, as I intended to leave Jersey City for home at 9 o'clock that night. At the time fixed Mr. Harry Sweet and his sister, her cousin, came with her to the Astor House, and they together, with my cousin, Mr. J. Hal Jordan, who lives in New York, and is the writer of the letter hereafter referred to, and myself, went immediately to the Jersey City depot and we all remained together until Miss Abbott and myself took the train for home.

Subsequently to this time, to wit: about October, 1879, Miss Abbott accompanied me at her request, to Washington City to see her father, where I remained for several days and until I had transacted the business that called me there. Prior to this time and subsequently I took others of my wife's neices to visit Raleigh, Washington and other places.

Since the suit has been begun many persons have expressed great horror at the idea that I should have been travelling around the country with nieces of my wife. It had not occurred to me that there could be the slightest impropriety in doing so, and I cannot yet bring myself to believe that any gentleman can, for a moment, consider his wife's nieces in need of any protection from himself.

The dropping of Miss Gertie Abbott as a teacher in the public schools of Newbern has no connection whatever with this matter, and this statement can be verified by the school committee and school board.

I expressly and unequivocally deny that I ever threatened or endeavored to have her father's name stricken from the pay roll of the government.

The following is an extract from a letter about the New York visit from said J. Hal Jordan, dated January 12, 1898:

"If I am not very much mistaken, immediately after their arrival in New York, he carried her to Brooklyn to call on some of her relatives. I had dinner with him at the Astor House. Shortly after dinner she and her two friends arrived, and we all accompanied them to the depot in Jersey City. She was all smiles; in fact had an expression on her face that most young ladies of her age would have after visiting the metropolis the first time, that is, I mean an expression of joy and gratitude."

The following is an extract from a letter of Mrs. Lulie Sweet, dated Jan. 19, 1898, on same subject:

"Yours received this evening. I was surprised and shocked when I read your letter. Mr. Hancock and Annie arrived at my house at lunch time. I had a very pleasant call from them. Annie was in the best of spirits and seemed to be enjoying herself very much. Mr. Hancock and she took lunch, leaving Annie in my care who stayed to dinner. Florence and Harry went with her to the hotel and then with Mr. Jordan to the Jersey City depot."

I cannot close this statement without the admission that I have suffered much under this horrible accusation. My only support is in the consciousness of my innocence, and in the hope that my friends at least will believe me incapable of such baseness.

Truly,
ROBERT HANCOCK.

UNIVERSITY TRUSTEES MEETING.

President Submits his Report Which is an Excellent Showing—Prof. Noble Elected to the Chair of Pedagogy.

At the meeting of the trustees of the University Thursday, at which Governor Russell presided, President Edwin A. Alderman submitted his annual report. This showed that the University is more prosperous than ever before in all its history of over a century. The total number of persons receiving instruction during the past year was 685, of which 185 were in the summer school, the others, University students proper. This enrollment is forty in excess of the largest attendance, and 100 more than last year. Eighty-six of the ninety-six counties are represented, and nine other States. Orange leads in students, having 43, Forsythe, 28; Wake 27. Ninety per cent. of the students are from North Carolina; the largest percentage shown by any University in the United States. Twenty-six per cent. of all the academic students are pursuing the regular courses leading to degrees. There are 177 in the freshman class, 120 being farmers' sons.

The enrollment places the University in the lead in the South in the number of academic students and as the third in its totals. This also is a remarkable showing. The professional schools have increased and have a total of 140.

The corner-stone of the $25,000 alumni building will be laid with appropriate ceremonies June 1st.

Revs. Robert Strange, L. B. Turnbull, C. W. Byrd, and J. W. Carter are elected preachers to the University for 1898, and each will spend a week there. This is a new departure.

Leave of absence for three months was granted to President Alderman for trip to Europe and the East. He has worked earnestly and has fairly earned this opportunity to travel, as the prosperity of the University shows. Prof. J. W. Gore is during his absence dean of the faculty, with powers as President. The Chair of Pedagogy was filled by the election of Prof. Noble, Superintendent of the Wilmington Graded Schools.

DEAD-LETTER OFFICE BUSY.

Making a Record of Countless Letters Sent to Fraudulent Concerns.

Nearly fifty thousand letters have arrived at the dead-letter office in the last few weeks addressed to fraudulent concerns.

An alleged manufacturing concern of New York city comes well to the front, offering a Sheffield razor worth $10, and a cake of soap, all for ten cents. Next follows a bogus drug company, of the same city, and a medicine company of Kalamazoo, Mich., advertising invaluable preparations of their own. Before the character of such concerns was discovered they had received countless thousands of letters from all over the country and reaped a rich harvest.

Unlike most proprietary medicines, the formulae of Dr. J. C. Ayer's Sarsaparilla and other preparations are cheerfully sent to any physician who applies for them. Hence the special favor accorded these well known standard remedies by the World's Fair Commissioners.

MR. CALDWELL CORRECTS

The Charlotte News Statement in Regard to Issuing Free Passes to Railroad Employees' Families.

The News is in receipt of the following communication which it cheerfully publishes as requested:

RALEIGH, January 26th.

Editor News, Charlotte, N. C.:

DEAR SIR—My attention was called last Sunday to an article in the News which stated that the railroad commission had passed a resolution prohibiting the Southern and Seaboard roads from giving free transportation to their employees and families. Believing that you desire to do justice I write to state that no such resolution has been passed or even contemplated or even discussed.

A clipping was handed me to-night from the News again making the statement, and that "a copy of the action of the Commission was shown a News reporter by Superintendent W. B. Ryder, of the Southern."

I ask you to say for me that Mr. Ryder has no such copy of the action of the Commission, and if Mr. Ryder is exhibiting such, it is one of his own production or some other person, and not the Commission. If such is being used, the purpose is plain, and I desire to brand it as false in toto.

If Mr. Ryder desires to infringe upon the kindness of the roads heretofore shown the employes, let him do so, but not under false colors.

Believing that you will give the same publicity to my statement that you have to the others, I remain,

Yours truly,
L. C. CALDWELL.

[The News is in error in this matter to this extent: It is said the Railroad Commission had passed a resolution forbidding the granting of passes by railroads to members of families of their employes, when it should have said the Commission had passed a resolution which the railroads construed as forbidding the granting of passes to such members of families. As stated by Mr. Caldwell, the particular question of railroads granting passes to members of employes' families has not been acted upon by the Commission. Capt. Ryder did not intend to so state. The position the railroads takes is that under the resolution of the Commission it is prohibited from granting the passes.]

A NOVEL SCHEME.

The States to Buy the Cotton and pay the Producer in Bonds.

MR. EDITOR:—Edward Atkinson once said "If New England could grow the cotton plant without lint it would make her richest crop, if she held a monopoly of cotton lint and seed, she would control the commerce of the world."

Why is it that those of our people who grow cotton are so abjectly poor, while their crops, if grown in New England, would make them rich?

Is there not some remedy for our poverty? Is there not some way for the cotton-growing States to do, at least a part of what we are told, New England would do with our advantages?

I think there is.

If each of the cotton-growing States, through their State and county governments, take the cotton produced by their citizens, at 8 cents per pound, and issue in payment for it bonds at 4 per cent., interest payable after one year. The States would then hold the cotton and could fix the price at 10 cents per pound, and would undoubtedly receive it. After paying for the cotton and all expenses for handling, there would be 1½ per pound or more profit to go into the treasuries of the different States and counties, and thereby relieve the people of the taxes that are now so onerous.

I have no doubt but what the 1½ cents per pound on the cotton grown in North Carolina would be sufficient to pay the entire governmental expenses of the State and cotton-growing counties.

The bonds, issued by the State in payment for the cotton, being for but 80 per cent. of its full value, and drawing an interest of 4 per cent. would doubtless be as current as gold.

It is high time that the South was fixing the price on her principle product, and not let Liverpool and New York do it any longer.

This plan would bring into the cotton growing States, from the North and Europe, double the amount of money that we now receive for our cotton crop; it would revive every industry in the South, and employ many idle men; it would bring back to the farmer the departed prosperity that he once enjoyed, and give to his lands, that are now considered worthless, a commercial value.

But, the hypocrites will doubtless carp at these suggestions, and say, "this would be paternalism, and therefore unconstitutional." We must have paternalism. The State must stretch out her strong arm to shield and protect her people from the combines that are robbing them of the fruits of their honest toil.

There is precedent for this. During the late war, when the North Carolina soldiers in the Confederate army were ragged, and their families at home were in poverty and suffering, that grand old hero and statesman of immortal memory, Zeb. Vance, then Governor of North Carolina, bought or chartered ships and shipped cotton to Europe with which he bought clothing and other needed articles for the soldiers and citizens of the State.

I have no doubt, but what each and every Governor in the South would take great pleasue in doing all in their power for the betterment of the condition of our people.

There is something above constitutions—it is the preservation of the homes and liberties, the prosperity and happiness of the people.

Poverty, privation and hardship are gradually, but surely destroying the spirit and ambition of our people. A continuation of present conditions for a few generations, will put an end to the brave and patriotic yeomanry of America, and their descendants will be reduced to a level with the peons of Mexico, the fellahins of Egypt, the serfs of Russia and the pariahs of India.

"Princess and Lords may flourish or may fade,
A breath can make them as a breath hath made,
But a bold yeomanry, their country's pride,
When once destroyed can never be supplied."

CLOD HOPPER.

Beaufort, N. C., Jan. 29, 1898.

FOR A MAJORITY NOMINATION.

Nat. Committeeman C. S. Lewis Disgusted With the Middle Roaders Conference.

FOR A UNION OF FORCES

Of Men of all Parties Who Desire to Overthrow Shylock's Power—The Folly of Making a Nomination Two Years Previous to the Election—Chairman Butler Will Act Wisely and Promptly Upon the Call of the Majority by Referendum Vote.

Hon. F. C. Gibbs, Chairman P. P. State Committee, Waterville, Minnesota.

MY DEAR SIR:—I see by the press that the Populists of Minnesota are to hold a convention at an early date, and was wondering if it is the escapade of the self styled, self-appointed organization committee in their farcial conference recently held at St. Louis.

The press says they stole the name from the Populists' "Peoples Party" and that seems to be in line with that finesse.

I can't quite understand what these middle-of-the-roaders want unless it be "boodle" and "offis".

Several months ago they assumed the responsibility of calling a conference of the National Committee of the Peoples Party to "settle the hash" within the ranks.

The question was submitted to the several members of the committee through Referendum and they decided that there was no occasion for a conference. Not being content they, the roaders, had a conference at Nashville organized, an organization committee so-called. This committee have assumed the right to call another conference graciously inviting the National Committee to meet with them. They met, cursed the National Committee from the chairman down. They resolved, and they adjourned with the firm convictions, apparently, that all who would not bow down and serve them are traitors and must be kicked out of the National Committee and eventually out of the party.

Before the St. Louis convention in '96, I wrote our State delegation to avoid entangling alliances with other parties; they met and thought best in order to down this money power to unite with the various reform forces. You are well aware of the result. Nearly seven millions of freemen registered their votes against old "Shylock."

I hailed the nomination of Watson as second on the Populist ballot as a grand move, but before many weeks he had made such an "ass" of himself that I become "billious" and did not vote for him. The nomination, it was supposed, would satisfy the middle-of-the-roaders, but they used it as a "sop" and "went out." I did not approve of their course then and do not now.

A few weeks since I received a letter from a member of the National Committee from Maine who is a "roader" also saying that Senator Butler, Allen & Co. were determined to turn the Peoples party over to the Democrats. That he and a few others were equally determined that they should not. He proposed that a convention be called this year and we nominate a gentleman from Philadelphia as a candidate for President of the United States to be voted for in 1900, asking my views. I replied to the gentlemen in no uncertain language.

I have kept in touch with Senator Butler and as yet have seen nothing to indicate that he has any such idea.

I believe Senators Butler and Allen both to be "true blue" and am certain they are in touch with most of the representative workers of the Peoples Party.

It does seem too much to persecute Chairman Butler because a majority of the National Committee do not see fit to go to the expense of settling the muddy waters of discontent, when the "roaders" are the very ones who are paddling in the mud.

I know Senator Butler would do anything within reasonable bounds to satisfy them and keep them in line with the National Committee, and for the best interests of the party.

I am tired and sick of so much jangling. The reform forces never will down the money power so long as it is kept up. It is just what suits "old Shylock" and I hope he is not shelling out his money for this purpose but I fear it is so.

The idea of nominating a candidate for President in '98 to be voted for in November 1900. The very idea of their presuming to set a date for a convention any year until they have confered with the Chairman and he with the Committee. They assume too much. They remind me of a steer in the corn, "head up and tail erect."

I, for one, as a member of the National Committee don't propose for it to be done. I have, as yet, quarreled with no one. Ever since my conversion to currency reform in 1880 I have voted against "Old Shylock" and propose to do so in the future, but I don't propose to be dictated to by the "roaders" as to how I shall vote or who I shall vote for, but am willing to submit to a majority nomination.

Respectfully,
C. S. LOUIS, for
Member of National Com. P. P. Vermont.

Small-pox is becoming again a serious question in Montgomery Ala. Last summer the city and county sharing equally in the expense, $9,000 in stamping out the disease. It returned about the first of November, however, and has since assumed larger proportions than ever, there being at this time, it is stated, 100 cases in the pest house, and as many in the house of detention.

Ayer's Cherry Pectoral is known by its works. The experience of half a century prove that no other preparation of the kind stops coughing and allays irritation of the throat and bronchial tubes so promptly and effectually as this.

STATE SUES COL. ANDREWS.

Civil Action Instituted Against Him for Failure to Give Evidence

BEFORE THE COMMISSION.

The Summons Have Been Served—The Complaint Filed With Clerk of the Court of Wake County—The Full Penalty Sued for.

Eight civil actions were Friday instituted by the State against Colonel Andrews as an individual, to recover penalties aggregating $40,000. The defendant will have until the March term to answer and then the case will be set for hearing at the next term of court.

These actions are brought under section 17 of the Railroad Commission Act which provides that "every officer, agent or employe of any railroad company who shall wilfully neglect or refuse to make and furnish any report required by the Commissioners for the purpose of this act, or who shall wilfully or unlawfully hinder, delay or obstruct said Commissioners in the discharge of the duties imposed upon them, shall forfeit and pay a sum of not less than one hundred and not more than five thousand dollars for each offence, to be recovered in an action in the name of the State. A delay of ten days to make and furnish such report shall raise the presumption that the same was wilful."

It will be remembered that Col. Andrews was served on January 24th with eight subpoenas asking him to give certain information and produce certain books and records in regard to freight discriminations and the issuance of free passes.

This information he refused to give and failed to furnish any of the records asked for, and out of this failure grows the eight actions instituted.

In these complaints it is alleged:

I. That the defendant, A. B. Andrews, on the 13th day of January, 1898, and for a long time therefore and still is, an officer of the Southern Railway Company, to wit: the first Vice-President of said Railway Company, which said railway company was then and still is carrying on the business of a common carrier in the county and State aforesaid.

II. That the Board of Railroad Commissioners duly authorized by law so do, were on the 13th of January, 1898, in the discharge of their duties, to wit: procuring the necessary information to enable them, the said Board of Railroad Commissioners to make just and reasonable rates of freight and passenger tariffs, and to ascertain if the rules and regulations therefore prescribed by the said Board of Railroad Commissioners are or have been observed or violated, on the said 13th day of January, 1898, issued the following notice to the defendant, A. B. Andrews, first Vice-President of the Southern Railway Company:

III. That on the 25th day of January, 1898, pursuant to the said notice, the said A. B. Andrews personally appeared before the said Board of Railroad Commissioners and wilfully and unlawfully did then and there neglect and refuse to make and furnish the said report to the said Board of Railroad Commissioners as required in said notice.

IV. That as plaintiff is informed and believes, said A. B. Andrews, by virtue of his office of first Vice-President, is the manager and has charge and control of all matters pertaining to the operation of said Southern Railway in the State of North Carolina.

V. That as plaintiff is informed and believes, the said A. B. Andrews as manager of the offices of the Southern Railway Company in the State of North Carolina has in his possession and under his control all records, books, writings and memoranda of the operations and transactions of said railway company in the State of North Carolina, and if he had so desired could have made and furnished the Board of Railroad Commissioners the report called for in the notice aforesaid.

VI. That as plaintiff is informed and believes, that said A. B. Andrews, as Vice-President and manager aforesaid, could be ordering or directing his subordinates in the city of Raleigh and elsewhere to furnish the data and facts in their possession and within their knowledge, have procured the facts necessary to have enabled him to make and furnish the report called for in the notice aforesaid.

VII. That as plaintiff is informed and believes, the said A. B. Andrews made no effort to procure the information called for in said notice, but on the other hand, as plaintiff is informed and believes studious and deliberately suppressed evidence within his knowledge and neglected to examine the records and date within his control as aforesaid, in order to hinder and delay the said Board of Railroad Commissioners in the discharge of their duties.

VII. That the said A. B. Andrews by the aforesaid wilful and unlawful neglect and refusal to furnish to the said Board of Railroad Commissioners the said report as required in said notice, unlawfully hindered, delayed and obstructed said Board of Railroad Commissioners in the discharge of their duties, to wit: in making just and reasonable rates and passenger rates and regulations therefore prescribed by the said Board of Railroad Commissioners are or have been observed or violated.

IX. That said A. B. Andrews by reason of his wilful refusal and neglect to make and furnish the report mentioned in said notice, and so required of him, and for wilfully and unlawfully hindering, delaying and obstructing the said Board of Railroad Commissioners in the discharge of their duties as aforesaid, did forfeit to and become liable to the State of North Carolina and for the payment of the sum of $5,000 pursuant to the statute in such case made and provided.

Wherefore the plaintiff prays judgment against the defendant, A. B. Andrews, for the sum of $5,000 and the cost of this action.

This judgment is signed by C. A. Cook and Douglas and Sims, attorneys for plaintiff.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Spanish battleship Vizcaya, of 7,000 tons displacement, has been ordered to visit American ports.

It is stated that the "Leiter clique," of Chicago, have cornered all available wheat, amounting to 15,000,000 bushels.

Rev. T. DeWitt Talmage, the noted divine, was married last week to a widow, Mrs. Elenor Collier, making his third wife.

The Richmond papers are demanding better streets. They say the condition of Richmond's streets are wretched and would discourage outsiders from settling there.

An investigation of alleged cruelty in the Virginia reformatory is being had. It is reported that a 17-year-old small boy was given 115 lashes, while another was shackled while sick abed. The investigation has not yet been concluded.

Hyman Gluckenstein, a dwarf, was arrested in New York city on the charge of illicit distilling. At his home in the heart of the East side of the city there was found a still, with a daily capacity of seventy gallons, constructed on the most improved plans.

SEATTLE, Washington, Jan. 28.—A well authorized report has reached here that the steamer Corona, which left here Jan. 25th, with passengers for Dyea and Skaguay, Alaska, has been sunk. All her passengers and crew were saved.

The Indian Head Cotton Mills, just opened at Condova, Ala., began operations, employing 1,000 persons. The mills are the largest in the State, containing 50,000 spindles and 10,000 looms and consuming 10,000 bales of cotton annually. They were built and are owned by Boston capitalists.

A gale of wind that reached the highest velocity of any experienced in St. Louis since the tornado of May 27, 1896, when the destruction of life and property was so great, prevailed last week. Its velocity was sixty-six miles an hour, fourteen miles less than during the tornado. Two deaths, one fatal injury and several minor casualties were reported, as well as considerable destruction of property.

The entire family of Edward Bolt, of Deep Creek, Va., consisting of his wife, son and daughter, were stricken with violent illness immediately after supper one night last week. The son was seized with convulsions, and died in terrible agony within an hour after the meal. Medical assistance was summoned, and by hard work the lives of the wife and daughter were saved. The coffee is supposed to have contained arsenic. No clue to the perpetrators of the deed have been discovered.

A red granite sarcophagus for the widow of the late Ulysses S. Grant has been placed in the tomb on Riverside Drive. It weighs eight tons, and is the exact counterpart of the one in which the dead soldier reposes. It was cut at the quarries at Monticello, Wis., and has all its exposed faces highly polished. The color is a dark red, variegated in spots. On the sarcophagus intended for Mrs. Grant there is the name in bronze, "Julia D. Grant." The sarcophagus of the General merely has his name, "Ulysses S. Grant." The gas radiators to heat the tomb and prevent the walls from sweating are in successful operation.

Demands a Sentence.

MADRID, Jan. 27.—The public Prosecutor demands a sentence upon Lieut.-General Weyler of two months' imprisonment.

Ewart to Be Judge.

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 27.—The President to-day appointed Hamilton Glover Ewart, of North Carolina, to be District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina.

Crowds Off for the Yukon.

SEATTLE, Wash., January 27.—Three crowded steamers sailed for the Yukon within three hours of each other yesterday. Five hundred persons left this city for the North, and twice as many again are booked for three steamers making their departure for Alaska from Puget Sound.

McKenna Sworn in.

The solemn ceremony of installing Joseph McKenna as Associate Justice of the august tribunal of the Supreme Court of the United States were performed at noon Wednesday in the historic court chamber at Washington. A distinguished array of counsel were present.

Call on Lindsay to Resign.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., January 27.—A special to the Post from Frankfort, Ky., says: After a hot debate this morning the lower House of the Kentucky Legislature adopted a substitute, offered by Representative Nelson, of Hardin, calling upon United States Senator William Lindsay to resign if he cannot support the Chicago platform.

Terrible Treatment of a Girl.

JACKSON, O., Jan. 27.—Last night as Lulu Friend, a fifteen-year-old girl was going to her home accompanied by friends of the family, they were attacked by a crowd of ruffians who overpowered the two men and carried off the girl. The two men resisted and one was struck with a rock, fracturing his skull so that he is not expected to live. After gaining possession of the girl the ruffians carried her into one of mines, where she was most shamefully treated by twenty of them after which they fled, leaving her half dead in the mine, where she was found soon afterwards by a searching party. No arrests have yet been made.

The Most Gigantic Counterfeiting Scheme

Eugene Mills, Charles Deshazo and J. O. King were arraigned last week before United States Commissioner C. T. Barksdale, at Danville, Va., charged with counterfeiting and circulating spurious ten-dollar gold pieces. The testimony taken shows that King was the master spirit in one of the most gigantic counterfeiting schemes of late years. It is alleged that one time he ran a counterfeiting foundry at Charlotte, N. C., in which nearly one hundred men were employed. It is thought that one of the most dangerous nests of counterfeiters in this country has now been broken up.

Word comes from all quarters that the nearest and most satisfactory dye for coloring the beard a brown or black is Buckingham's Dye for the Whiskers.

Likes the Caucasian.

OREGON, N. C., Jan. 26, 18.

I like THE CAUCASIAN. It is the best paper I read. Let it always stand as it has always stood, and the people will stand by it. Senator Butler is right and we are proud of him. Those who abuse him admire him, and will sooner or later acknowledge him their leader.

Yours for the coming fight,
A. J. HUDSON.

POPULIST CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE.

Organize to Push a Vigorous Campaign in Every Congressional District in America.

Special to THE CAUCASIAN.]

WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 31.—On Saturday night a caucus of Populist Senators and Congressmen was held. The most important business transaction was the election of a Populist Congressional Campaign Committee. Senator Butler, Chairman of the Populist National Executive Committee, upon whom the burden of Congressional campaign work has heretofore fallen, in addition to his other duties, informed the caucus that it would be necessary to elect a Congressional Campaign Committee to take charge especially of this work, that he would co-operate with this committee and assist it in any way that he could.

As a result the following committee was elected: Senators Turner of Washington, and Allen of Nebraska; and the following Congressmen: M. W. Howard, Alabama; J. C. Bell, Colorado; A. C. Shuford, North Carolina; James Gunn, Idaho; C. A. Barlow, California; John E. Kelley, South Dakota, and James Y. Callahain, Oklahoma.

The Committee was authorized to elect its chairman and other officers, either from among their number or from outside. The Congressional Committee, thus elected, proceeded to organize by electing W. A. Harriss, Senator from Kansas, as Chairman.

It is the purpose of the National Committee and the Congressional Committee thus elected to begin at once to organize a vigorous campaign in every Congressional District in America with a view to having the Peoples Party to hold the balance of power in the next House as they now hold it in the Senate.

FOR PASSENGER RATES REDUCTION

Hearing Before the Railway Commission Papers Read Against a Reduction by the Railroads Interested—A Notable Gathering.

The Railway Commission met Thursday, and so large was the attendance of railway officials that it was necessary to meet in the State Library in order to give room. All the great lines in the State were represented, the summons to the officials directing them to appear and show cause why passenger rates should not be reduced.

There were present Vice-Presidents Andrews, Finley, and Gannon; Passenger-Agent Turk, and Attorneys Harrison and Henderson, of the Southern; Vice-President St John, McBee, Glover, and Attorney Watts, of the Seaboard Air-Line; President Elliot and T. M. Emerson, of the Atlantic Coast Line; President Page, of the Aberdeen and Asheboro, and W. E. Kyle, of the Cape Fear and Yadkin Valley.

Mr. Harrison read President Spencer's reply which was a lengthy document. Mr. Turk said the railways could not stand a reduction of rates. Mr. St. John read President Hoffman's reply and his own, saying that rates here were lower than in other States with far larger population. Mr. Emerson testified that a number of the Coast-Line trains were actually now operated at a loss. Messrs. St. John and Elliott were asked if they had lists of the road's free passes, and if they were willing to give them to the commission. Mr. St. John said: "I have and I don't suppose there will be any objection to furnishing it."

President Elliott's reply was: "If called for it could be seen?" "I don't known why the Commission should not have it if they wanted it for a fair and legitimate purpose."

The Commission has the passenger rate question under consideration and will not be decided until the next meeting of the Railroad Commission, if then. The members of the Commission said that it was a very great and intricate question and they desire time to consider it. Besides all the information to come from the Southern Railway is not yet in. Vice-President Finley will also send answers to the questions asked him, but which he failed to answer. The Commission will consider each road separately in fixing passenger rates as they did in adjusting the fertilizer rate.

Cotton Rates.

"Resolved, That circular No. 70, dated September 21, 1896, touching the arbitrary cotton rate be and the same is hereby repealed. The rates in effect prior to the said circular No. 70 are re-instated."

The matter came up on exceptions filed by the Southern to the present rate on its Western North Carolina Railroad division, and ended by a repeal of the new rate and the restoration of the old rates on the roads of the State. Dr. Abbott voted against the resolution.

To Make Connection.

Second Vice-President Finley, of the Southern Railway announced to the Railroad Commission that it had been agreed between the Seaboard Air Line and the Southern Railway officials that they would have their morning passenger trains connect here, beginning February 10th. This length of time is deemed necessary to adjust schedules and notify the employes of the two roads. Beginning on that date the two trains will arrive here at 11:45 a. m., instead of 11:26 (S. A. L.) and 11:45 (Southern) as at present.

The Telephone Appeal.

Mr. Robert C. Strong, attorney for the Bell Telephone Company, appeared before the Railroad Commission and asked that he be given until February 8th to file his $5,000 indemity bond pending an appeal from the new telephone rates. The time asked was allowed by the Commission.

Tramp Strikes it Rich.

SIOUX CITY, Iowa, Jan. 26.—After 26 years' tramp life George Somerville has married a woman worth $20,000. His father, a New Jersey minister, educated him for the pulpit. The lad ran away at eighteen and "tramped it" until nearly forty. Last month he chanced to attend services at the local rescue mission. Among the workers that night was Mrs. Christina Olson, a well-to-do widow. Somerville's scholarly face interested her, and she gave him money and induced him to seek work in town.

Their acquaintance ripened, with the result that Rev. W. L. Brown, of the First Methodist Church, united them in marriage.

The Mormon invasion has reached Tyrrell county, and two "elders" of that persuasion are making a house to house canvass, and preaching wherever they are permitted.

THE INSIDE FACTS

About the St. Louis Meeting of Socalled Middle-of-the Road Populists

BY A MEMBER PRESENT.

What Robert Schilling, a Member of the National Committee of the Peoples Party, Who was Present, Says About it.

We clip the following from the National Advance written by the editor, Hon. Robert Schilling. He is a member of the National Committee of the Peoples party, and was one of the five members of the committee who was present. What he says is very important in view of the false reports and absurd claims made by those behind the snap convention scheme. In his issue of Jan. 29th, Mr. Schilling says:

"It is to be hoped that the reasonable action of the conference at St. Louis will allay the bitterness existing against the national committee and bring back the harmony that has been disturbed by a comparatively few.

"But even at the danger of causing more feeling, we propose to protest against such gross misrepresentations as have been sent out by interested parties.

"In Tom Watson's People's Party Paper, the statement is made that seventy members of the national committee were present. Mr. Watson was not present and is not personally responsible for this ridiculous statement.

"But when the statement appears in the Philadelphia American in an exaggerated form there is time and cause for protest. Mr. Wharton Barker, editor of the American, was present at the meeting, and should have known that only forty-two people all told were in attendance. Yet he says in his report:

"'Chairman Butler, of the national committee, saw fit to ignore this invitation, saw fit to deny that such invitation had been tendered him, and, of course, there was no attendance of the national committee at St. Louis as a body, but of the members of that committee seventy-five, a clear majority of the committee were present in person or by proxy.'

"The members of the national committee present were Tracy of Texas, Livingston of Mo., Buchanan and Mims of Tenn. and Schilling of Wis., and of these Buchanan, Mims and Schilling were opposed to doing anything in opposition to the action of the national committee.

"Now if seventy-five members were present in person or by proxy, who were they? Schilling states emphatically in reply to a question that he was present as a member of the committee on organization not as a member of the national committee.

"Now gentlemen, let us have the names of the seventy-five or even five members of the national committee that are in favor of the tactics that were proposed at the St. Louis meeting and the object for which it was called which thanks to the good sense of nearly all present were not carried out."

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON.

Senators Butler and Mason to Draw a Postal Savings Bank Bill—Senator Pritchard's Bill for Erection of Public Building at Elizabeth City—Other Items of Interest.

Special to THE CAUCASIAN.]

WASHINGTON, D. C. Feb. 1, 1898.—The Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads of the Senate, (of which Senator Butler is a member) have had under consideration the matter of establishing government postal savings banks, and as a result of their discussions of the project, Senators Butler and Mason were requested by the committee to prepare a bill and report same at the next committee meeting. It will be remembered that Senator Butler introduced the bill to establish Savings Banks.

Arthur J. Edwards, formerly of Edgecombe county, N. C., now of Phoenix, Arizona, was here last week and was admitted to practice law before the United States Supreme Court.

Senator Butler has introduced an amendment to the Post Office appropriation bill to set aside $250,000 for the purpose of experimenting in various sections of the State and Territories, on the feasibility of the free rural mail delivery system. The experiments thus far have been a success.

Senator Pritchard has introduced a bill for the erection of a public building at Elizabeth City.

H. G. Ewart has received the appointment to succeed Judge Dick. It is said that President made this appointment principally on personal grounds as he and Ewart were in Congress together and Ewart voted for McKinley for Speaker.

Collector Duncan has been here on business connected with the Internal Revenue Department.

Hon. W. W. Long, of Warren county, N. C., now occupying a prominent position in the Agricultural Department here, was married last Wednesday to Miss Pelit, of this city. They left immediately for North Carolina to visit relatives and friends of Mr. Long.

President Dole, of the Hawaiian Islands, was here last week, during which time he was tendered a magnificent reception by President McKinley.

The House by an overwhelming vote, passed the bill to reimburse the Southern Methodist church for property and records destroyed at Nashville, Tenn., during the war.

Hon. Joseph H. McKenna, Attorney General, under McKinley, who was recently appointed as successor to Justice Field, of the Supreme Court, has taken the oath as Justice of the Court. His successor as Attorney is Governor Griggs of New Jersey.

Among the North Carolinians in the city last week were G. S. Bradshaw, Cummings and Dr. McBrayer, of Asheville, and Bishop Cheshire, of Raleigh.

Trouble Anticipated for Tobacco Warehousemen.

ENFIELD, N. C., Jan. 27.—Last week there was a suit brought against Burwell and Cole and Boyd and Young, the warehousemen of this place, for selling mortgaged tobacco on their floors. The case is that a lot of mortgaged tobacco was sold on the floors about two weeks ago, and now the parties are suing the warehousemen for the amount of the sales. If this suit is decided against the warehousemen it will be the downfall of all of them, as three-fourths of the tobacco that is sold has encumbrances on it. This case will come up in next term of Halifax Superior court.