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THE GREAT RAILR AD LAWYER CONVENTION.

Another Report of the So-Called Democratic Convention Which Shows That the Gold and Monopoly Faction of the Party Controlled Its Action.

Last week we published a full, complete and truthful account of the so-called Democratic State Convention. To make sure that our report should be accurate and fair, THE CAUCASIAN secured the services of two persons, both of whom were strongly in favor of co-operation, to report the convention, neither one knowing that the other was making a report. One report was published last week, the other is given below. We do not publish the second report in full, but leave out the routine details. The following report shows that the first report was very good and hardly told the truth as plainly as it should have been told.—EDITOR CAUCASIAN.]

The meeting held in Raleigh last Thursday at Metropolitan Hall was not a Democratic Convention. It was a meeting of Clevelandites, Palmerites, and railroad attorneys who named themselves the Democratic State Convention.

The best and most appropriate name that can be given it is the GREAT RAILROAD LAWYER CONVENTION.

The whole proceedings were planned, conducted and manipulated by a chosen number of prominent RAILROAD lawyers. The meeting was called together by a railroad attorney, and the temporary chairman was a gold man.

Immediately after the committee on Permanent Organization had entered the hall there were loud calls for R. B. Glenn, Southern Railroad Attorney, professional mud-slinger, owner (?) of an alleged free silver letter from Grover Cleveland, and one of his chief office holders. He said he did not know what to say, but was there to get his orders. "If the party says co-operate with some other party, I will do what it says. (Faint yell.) If this convention says the Democratic party shall fight its own battles alone against all other parties, then I will be found at my post."

The convention tore things loose at the latter part of this remark. The whoopers and railroad hirelings who were exerting all of their energies to divide and defeat the people in their efforts to secure honest legislation, did not allow an opportunity to slip to show their "Boss" that they were earning their pay. Glenn gathered courage from this "show up" and sputtered out his billingsgate profusely.

A Republican Railroad Attorney who knows something about the matter declared to this writer that there were twenty-three (23) railroad attorneys on the various committees appointed by this so-called Democratic convention.

Walter P. Boyd, who was a candidate for Elector on the Palmer and Buckner gold Democratic ticket, was a delegate to the convention.

S. G. Bradshaw, who was also a candidate on the same ticket, was also on deck, but it was not positively learned that he was a delegate.

H. B. Short, of Cabarrus county, who voted for McKinley, was a delegate in full fellowship and good standing.

F. H. Busbee, Southern Railroad attorney, was proxy for Henderson county and cast its vote.

There was not a roll call of the counties during the session of this extraordinary convention, and there was no need for it. It was selected and brought together by its OWNER AND BOSS for the purpose of being UNANIMOUS and when the Boss' orders were given there was not enough manhood or independence in the convention to make any sort of pretense to opposition. The small minority who represented the people were so overwhelmingly defeated that they ACQUIASCED IN SILENCE.

THE CONVENTION

was called to order by Chairman Manly, who made a short, well-worded talk of no special import or meaning. He made some reference to Bryan which was slightly applauded.

He then introduced Col. J. S. Carr, of Durham, as temporary chairman, who made a brief speech.

Afternoon Session.

The performance opened again about 3 o'clock. Ex-Congressman B. F. Grady was called upon. He stumbled along in a course of inconsistent remarks declaring that the State had not had a United States Senator in some time who could take the place of Badger or Ransom (goldbug). At the mention of these names the convention "whooped 'em up" lively. Then some delegate called out "or Vance." Grady said Vance "still lives." (Laughter.)

Proposition From Populists.

Mr. Chas. F. Warren was called for. He came forward and announced that he had just been informed that the chairman had a proposition from the Peoples Party State committee to lay before the convention.

The railroad contingent greeted this announcement with jeers, howls and hisses and all sorts of pandemonium antics. A dozen or more tooters were on the floor squalling "Mr. Chairman"! A hundred more howlers were yelling "louder!" "louder!!" There was as much disorder as it was possible for the number present to make. Warren or some one else said: "This question must be met."

A voice from the floor yelled, "We have already met it." Another voice howled out, "and downed it."

Chairman Manly came forward with the proposition and asked for a respectful consideration of it. He then apologized for asking it, thus trying to intimate, in the face of the hoots and jeers of a moment before, that it was a reflection on the convention to ask respectful procedure from it!!

Bruce Williams, lawyer and attorney for Wilmington and Weldon Railroad, moved that any communication from the Populists be laid on the table (cheers and applause.)

W. H. Neal, lawyer and attorney for the Carolina Central Railroad moved to refer the communication to the committee on platform and resolutions.

Paul B. Means, goldbug, lawyer and attorney for the Southern Railroad, hoped the communication would be received with decorum, etc. He was applauded vigorously. (He knew and the entire railroad and gold contingent knew that the communication would be "safe" with that committee.)

The beginning of the reading of the Populist proposition was jeered and hissed a time or two. Bryan's name was given a little applause.

The Star Performer.

The star performer of the combination was D. A. Covington, lawyer. He was just in the right shape to say anything in any sort of way, and for some time, by his skits and antics kept the convention in a roar of laughter.

W. C. Dowd called out Dr. B. F. Dixon. This delegate got in a question or two that rather phased the convention. He said: "I have heard it intimated that goldbugs are running this convention. Is that so?" There were one or two voices that answered "yes," but the railroad and monopoly contingent had the pull in the matter of lung power and they sent up a volley of "no's." "You had better settle that question," said Dixon, "and settle it right." "If it goes out from here that this convention is dominated by goldbugs, you are going to be badly hurt."

"I have heard that all anti-fusionists are goldbugs."

"A lie," "no," yelled the delegates.

"I believe THAT is a lie myself," said Maj. Dixon.

"How are you on fusion?" asked a delegate.

"I don't know that my opinion is worth much, but if you want to know, I'll tell you. I am against it."

Maj Dixon got a burst of applause as he took his seat.

Judge A. C. Avery was called for. He arose, and as he did there were some hisses and some applause. He said that he did not desire to address the convention at that time. He had information that the committee on resolutions would not be able to report before 7 o'clock. When that report was made he might desire to have something to say. He then paid his respects to the hissers. He told them that he had served the Dem. party for thirty years, and when the time came he would demand his rights to a hearing and would maintain them; that he could point to those who had hissed him as political recreants who had been unfaithful and had scratched their party ticket in the last election.

Night Session.

The first work of any note at the night session was the reading of the platform. It will be easily seen that all it contains of any special consequence is almost bodily "stolen" from the Peoples Party State platform. * * [The platform was published in full last week.]

Report on the Populist Communication.

In presenting this report Governor Jarvis said:

"As to some matters that came before that committee the committee was divided; three members of that committee desired that in reply to a certain proposition sent to the committee from this convention, we should make a counter proposition. These men were as good Democrats as we are and had at heart the welfare of the party as much as the other members of the committee, and as an evidence of their loyalty to the party, their unalterable allegiance to its interests, they have consented to present no minority report to this convention."

The report was as follows:

"The Committee on Platform and Resolutions, by direction of the convention, having had under consideration the proposition for fusion made by a committee of the Populist Party, recommend that this convention adopt the following resolutions in respect thereto:

RESOLVED, 1. That the proposition for fusion submitted by the Populist committee, be, and the same is hereby respectfully declined.

RESOLVED, 2. That the Democratic Executive Committee be, and the same is hereby, instructed to entertain no further proposition for fusion.

The reading of this report was widely cheered. It suited the convention exactly. It was in accordance with the boss. As soon as its reading was concluded several voices yelled: "I move that the resolution be adopted by a rising vote.

The motion was put without delay, and the entire convention arose to its feet widely whooping. Hats went off and cheers rent the air. The convention had done the work.

"A delegate hallooed. "Three cheers for the committee on resolutions," and they were given.

During this proceedure came the surprising perion. It had been given out and boldly talked during the day that the Populist communication could not be disposed of without a big fight. Men like Avery, Davidson, Mason, Hale, Webster, Frank Winston and others had permitted intimations that they were in for getting all "reform forces" together and that some mighty good reasons would have to be given for not effecting such a union. But lo! not a mouth opened in debate, not a voice was raised for the people. The railroad forces had cowed these doughty champions, and when they opened their mouths at all it was to bow to the lash and "renew their allegiance" to the Democratic party.

After the adoption of the platform and rejection of the Populist proposition for co-operation of the silver forces calls were made for speakers.

"Visiting statesman" Jarvis who ran from the silver convention in 1895, was called but he said nothing worth repeating.

Capt. Thos. W. Mason came next. He said he came to extend the hand of co-operation to the Populist party, but he knew no higher duty than to follow the flag of the Democratic party. He bowed to the lash of the railroad element that controlled. Almost anybody would have expected better of him.

"Buck Kitchen followed. If you ever get a chance don't fail to hear him. He is an entire aggregation by himself in his new role, and is worth the price of admission, which price is nothing. He was wildly applauded by the convention. He howled about what he called "nigger rule," and then the gang would whoop. He started in to roast Grover Cleveland. Some fellow yelled: "Leave that out." The Honorable "Buck" saw he was losing there, and adroitly turned the tide in his favor again by saying that he had recently been in a crowd a sight worse than Grover Cleveland. The railroad manipulators were caught again and they whooped up "Buck" with amazing energy. This encouraged him to the point of wildness and he roared out that "we will have just such a government as we want. If we can't get it by votes, we will resort to those means which have never yet failed." He ranted on saying he was in favor of co-operation, but not such as was offered by the Populists.

When he was talking his loudest, D. A. Covington, yelled out: "If there is anything you want, name it." An expression of ineffable contentment rested on the speaker's face and he looked as though he thought he had his reward, or that it was in sight.

Lee S. Overman, Southern Railroad attorney stepped to the space vacated by Kitchin. This prominent assistant in the secret, midnight 99 year lease deals managed to say something aboht the incompetency and "corruption" of the fusion forces. Whoo-ey! Next.

Capt. R. B. Peebles, of Northampton, was sent to the Convention instructed to advocate co-operation with the Populists, but overrode his orders from his people and fell in with the McKinley Democrats, railroad Democrats and Palmerites.

In his speech he tried to "whoop 'em up," but he could not do it. Finally he grew desperate and as a last resort said:

"WE OUGHT TO TELL THOSE PEOPLE WHO DO NOT VOTE THE DEMOCRATIC TICKET THAT WE WILL TREAT THEM AS THEY DESERVE. WHEN THEY COME TO THE DOORS OF OUR HOUSES WE OUGHT TO TREAT THEM AS WE DO "niggers" and show them that the way to get in is through our back doors."

He seemed to represent the sentiments of the railroad rulers who were running the convention.

The Democratic machine papers have been extremely careful not to report Capt. Peebles speech. Ex-Judge A. C. Avery was loudly called. He said he "renewed his allegiance to the "Democratic party."

E. C. Beddingfield, ex-railroad commissioner, made a few remarks, after which the convention adjourned.

Thus ended the GREAT RAILROAD LAWYER CONVENTION.

POLITICAL PARTIES—PAST. PRESENT AND FUTURE.

Written for THE CAUCASIAN.]

All destroyed nations, however learned in science or political economy, have gone down because of corruption in political parties, or because of an idolatrous love of power, and its abuses. And the decay of such, invariably began at the heads of the departments. The history of Spain furnishes an object lesson to prove the statement. The birth of new parties and nations eminated from persecution and oppression, arising from selfishness which had crowded out patriotism. Our own great nation was born amid storms of persecution and showers of blood, the legitimate fruits of aggregated power and wealth of the monied aristocracy of England, showing itself in unlawful taxation through political parties, and corrupted leaders whose love for gold and office was greater than their love for God and humanity. And now in this the second century of our national existence we find the same hydra-headed monster from the mother country corrupting our political parties, and with the aid of our disloyal citizens by the formation of stupendous combination, unequal taxation, class legislation, and centralized power will soon, if not checked, convert our free republican government into a despotic monopoly. To prevent this our political parties have been changing bases, tactics, names and increasing in number. But it is a well known fact, that with all this, they have not been able to keep the demon of selfishness and greed out of their organizations and legislation. Every convention from the primaries to the nationals of every party is attended by agents or friends of the corrupting power, and every election increases the ill feeling and bad blood of individuals, because of their presence and influence. And though our political parties are numerous and very different in objects and principals, yet every election year they have arbitrary agents of this gigantic power upon every party ticket to force honest men to vote against their convictions or stay at home. Such is the power of this enemy of all moral law and good government as that the vaults of bankers and pockets of individuals have been almost universally, wittingly or unwittingly, offered annually to carry elections and secure legislation in the interest of classified monopoly. For many years this stealthy enemy has gradually grown to be a monster without being known to the great mass of voters.

Prior to the last war, the great two political parties (Whig and Democrat) managed to keep each other in check to a good degree. But the war hatched out an enormous brood of vampires who fatten upon the blood of others and curse their victims for not submitting to their mandates with more grace. But, bless God for a Christian civilization in this "land of the free and home of the brave", the people are being educated! Ignorance is no longer at a premium! It is under par and going down; and the political hucksters must go to their graves in ignominy. And as China has a law to hang all bank defaulters, let us have one to disfranchise and otherwise punish all political renegades and tricksters. All new parties have had to fight their way to the front at the risk of life and honor or die a premature death and be buried amid the anathamas of a political mobocracy, consequently, the signs of the times point to a dissolution of all our political parties, and by the laws of disintegration and absorption the reorganization of two new ones with new names and purposes. Let all lovers of honest reform and good government keep cool—"With their hands upon the throttle and their eyes upon the rail," do the best we can in this campaign and look to the year of grace 1900 for the organization of a new party with a new name and composed of the working classes and all such as have shown or will show a willingness to perpetuate our liberties as handed down to us by the patriots of 1776. And the enemies of those liberties of whatever order, occupation, name or complexion will naturally fall into line on the opposite side, continue to worship the golden calf, corrupt the ballot box, and use their time, talents and money to change the form and enslave the people of the best government on earth. Some divines believe the millennium is near at hand. But may it not be one of a political and economic nature, just to preceed the great and eventful one spoken of in the Bible and to prepare the world for the last days? Whatever it may be, let us set our houses in order, do our duty and be ready for whatever may come. This government is destined to be a great factor in the future history of the world.

DR. JAS. F. FOARD.

Statesville, N. C., June 6, '98.

THE SANTIAGO BOMBARDMENT.

FURTHER DETAILS OF THE FIGHT—COMMODORE SCHLEY PURPOSE TO LOCATE FORTS AND BATTERIES.

The Massachusetts, New Orleans, and Iowa Took Part in the Engagement, the Battleships Using Their Big Guns on the Cristobal Colon and the Cruiser Devoting her Attention, with Good Effect, to the Batteries and Morro Castle—Spanish Marksmen Unable to hit our Ships, Most of Their Shots Falling Short—No Injurses are Reported on the American Side.

The following report has been given out by the Associated Press:

PORT ANTONIA, JAMACA, June 1.

For an hour yesterday afternoon the Massachusetts, Iowa, New Orleans, and Vixen, of Commodore Schley's squadron, exchanged shots with the Spanish fleet under Admiral Cervera and with the land batteries guarding the harbor of Santiago de Cuba, behind which the Spanish fleet is hiding.

The engagement was the first which has occurred between the two naval forces, and was but a prelude to serious work in the latter part of this week.

No attempt was made by the American commander to bring on a general engagement, it being his desire to locate the batteries on the hills above the harbor and to determine the position of the Spanish forts.

At 1 o'clock the signal to form column was hoisted on the Massachusetts, and the New Orleans, Iowa, and Vixen fell in in the order named.

The Massachusetts steamed slowly until about five miles west of the harbor entrance, when she turned in toward the shore, and when about 5,000 yards off, she turned east again and bore down on the harbor, the New Orleans being close up and the Iowa half a mile behind. The flagship gradually increased her speed and was soon running through the water at the rate of ten knots an hour. She drew closer and closer to the batteries, and to the anxious watchers on the other ships it seemed that she would never open fire.

One Shell Struck the Colon.

When, however, she passed the harbor entrance by 500 yards, a great cloud of white and yellow smoke burst from the two thirteen-inch guns in her after turret, and two shells rose over the hill, one of them striking the Spanish flagship, Cristobal Colon, full and fair as she lay at her anchorage, and the other falling close alongside.

The two guns on the forward turret were then fired, and their shells, in exploding, threw up great jets of spray close to the Colon.

All the shore batteries took up the challenge and began a rapid fire on the Massachusetts. But she was soon beyond their range, and the batteries thereupon turned their guns on the New Orleans. This cruiser had been directed to pay attention to the batteries and to draw their fire as much as possible, and she obeyed her instructions to the letter. Her first shot located a large battery on the hill above the Morro. It flew straight into the fort and must have caused much damage, as a great cloud of dust and debris rose as the shell burst. A couple more shots sent part of the walls of Morro flying into the air, and then the New Orleans confined herself to the batteries, her fire being rapid and extremely accurate. Every shot she fired made trouble for Spain.

The Iowa came next, and, like the Massachusetts, devoted her attention to the ships lying within the harbor. Her twelve-inch shells made the water fly all around that part of the harbor in which the Cristobal Colon lay. The latter, however, was not seriously damaged, and kept up her fire until long after the American ships steamed out of range.

The Spanish ships, with the exception of the Cristobal Colon were behind the hills and could not see the enemy, who threw shells around them with such rapidity that they knew he was somewhere on the other side of the hill, and then hopelessly raised the muzzles of their guns and banged away. The result was what might have been expected. Their fire tore the bosom of the Carribbean Sea, but it harmed nothing else.

After the Massachusetts had passed the point where she could fire into the harbor with advantage, she turned to the open sea, the other vessels following her. That fight was over as far as the Americans were concerned.

Batteries Will not Last Long.

Commodore Schley has located all the batteries now, and an officer on the Massachusetts said, after the action: "We can dismount every gun left in less than an hour." But if the Vesuvius does not come, and an attack is made without regard to the mines, the men on the first ship will be cast in heroic mold, if they do not feel, as they go into action, that any moment may bring the same fate as that which came so suddenly to the men of the Maine on that dark February night.

ARMY "NOT FIT TO MOVE."

London Times Correspondent Tells What he Calls "a Disagreeable Truth."

LONDON, June 4.—The Times publishes this morning a two column letter from an American correspondent dated Washington, May 23, in which the writer says:

"Let us publish a bit of disagreeable truth, as it will do us no harm in the long run, much as it may excite anger for the moment. Although America must have known a year ago that war was inevitable, her army is not fit to move. It is much like that of France immediately after the war of 1870, with this difference, that the American troops have confidence in their immediate superiors."

The writer continues with a serious indictment of the "terrible condition" and "lack of organization" at Camp Tampa, which he says, is "largely due to red tape at Washington or to that military appendage misnamed staff."

He comments on the fact that "in a hot and pestiferous climate men are compelled to wear winter clothing, eat winter rations, fat pork and beans, with no fruit or vegetables to cool their superheated blood, while carloads of fresh fruits and vegetables are going North to New York and Chicago markets."

THE SINKING OF THE MERRIMAC.

A NAVAL MANEUVER TO COMPLETELY BLOCKADE THE SPANISH FLEET —IT WAS A DARING DEED.

He Determined to Close Channel Against Cervera's Squadron, and Hobson Volunteered to Undertake the Dangerous Errand—Merrimac was Rigged With Torpedoes to be Exploded From the Deck, and Escape Was Intended by Means of a Life-boat—Prisoners Taken to Morro Castle, Where They are Being Well Treated.

Message From Sampson.

MOLE HAITI, June, 4.—"Succeeded in sinking Merrimac in the channel of Santiago at 4 a. m., June 3. This was carried out most gallantly under the command of Naval Constructor Hobson and seven men. By a flag of truce from the Spanish Admiral, Cervera, sent in recognition of their bravery, I am informed all are prisoners of war, two slightly wounded. Request authority to approve exchange, if possible, between these and the prisoners at Atlanta. Six of the Spanish squadron in the harbor of Santiago unable to avoid being captured or destroyed.

SAMPSON."

The Merrimac Sunk.

By the Associated Press off Santiago de Cuba, June 4.

Rear Admiral Sampson, during Friday morning decided to close the narrow harbor entrance of Santiago de Cuba by sinking the collier Merrimac, loaded with coal, in the channel. He called for volunteers to go to almost certain death, and 4,000 men offered themselves. Lieut. Hobson and six men were chosen, and at 3 a. m., Friday morning, the Merrimac, under her own steam, entered the channel under a terrible Spanish fire. The vessel was riddled with projectiles, but she anchored and swung around. Lieut. Hobson then set off an internal torpedo with an electric attachment, there was an explosion, the Merrimac sank, the channel was closed, and apparently, Admiral Cervera will be unable to escape.

Lieut. Hobson and the heroic crew of the Merrimac were saved in the following manner. Unable, after the sinking of the vessel to make their way back through the storm of shot and shell, they rowed into the harbor to the Spanish flagship, and were taken on board unharmed. The Spanish Admiral, under a flag of truce, on Friday sent word to the American Admiral that he offered to exchange the prisoners, adding that in the meanwhile Hobson and his party would be treated with the greatest kindness.

Escape Alive.

Lieut. Hobson appears to have carried out his plan to the smallest details, except as regards the method of escape. The rowboat in which the crew were to escape was either blown up or shot to pieces, for Lieut. Hobson and his men drifted ashore on an old catamaran which was slung over the ship's side at the last moment, as an extra precaution. Upon reaching shore the men were taken prisoners and sent to Santiago City under guard. Later they were taken to Morro Castle, where they now are.

Capt. Oviedo, Admiral Cervera's chief of staff, who boarded the New York under a flag of truce, did not give further details of the capture.

The bravery of the Americans evidently excited as much admiration among the Spaniards as it did among the men of the American fleet. The prisoners will be perfectly safe, and will probably be well treated while they remain in Morro Castle. The fleet is wild with delight tonight over the termination of the most daring expedition since the destruction of the Albemarle by Lieut. Cushing in 1864. The Admiral is just as glad as the youngest Jackie.

It is probable that the Spaniards will try to blow up the Merrimac, but improbable that they will succeed. Speculation is rife as to the exact details of how Lieut. Hobson managed to blow himself and ship up and live to tell the tale. His heroism has cleared up the situation well. The Spaniards are now doubly hemmed in.

Story of the Adventure.

The story of the sinking of the Merrimac is one of the most thrilling of the war.

As is well known, the harbor at Santiago is very narrow. One or two ships sunk across its mouth would as effectually prevent the escape of the Spanish fleet as though a line of battleships were anchored there. There is no doubt that this fact appealed to Admiral Sampson and he decided to block the channel in some way. After the decision came action. In his fleet was the collier Merrimac, a large steamer purchased some time ago in New York. The great steel hull of the Merrimac offered the barricade which the Admiral sought and the ship was marked for destruction.

The next step was to find a crew to accompany her on her dangerous mission. A volunteer crew was asked for. Eight men were selected and placed on board of what seemed certain to be their coffin. In the stillest hour of the morning—between 3 and 4 o'clock—the prow of the Merrimac, with just enough men on the ship to run the engine and handle the wheel, was turned toward the narrow entrance to Santiago harbor. It is easy to imagine that the officers and crews of the squadron watch the steamer's onward progress with beating hearts. Nearer and nearer she approached the harbor entrance. In the moonlight which fell upon Caribbean Sea her black hull could be seen slowly moving toward destruction. Evidently she passed the first line of dreaded torpedoes safely, but when she was a little further in the harbor there was explosion and the vessel sank.

SKETCH OF LIEUTENANT HOBSON.

The nation was thrilled Saturday with the bravery of the young Naval Constructor, Richard Pearson Hobson, who guided the Merrimac into the harbor of Santiago under the fire of the forts, and deliberately sunk her across the narrow channel. The young man's grandfather was Chief Justice Richmond Pearson, of North Carolina, and his uncle is Richmond Pearson, Congressmen from the ninth District of North Carolina. The stock from which the young man has come is of good Southern blood, and includes Governors, Senators, Judges, Congressmen, and others who have been famous in national history. As for young Hobson himself, he is certain to be remembered as one of the great heroes of the war. His exploit was even greater than Dewey's, for the American Admiral at Manila had a fighting chance, while Hobson and his seven companions supposed that they were going to certain death.

Richmond Pearson Hobson is a young man who will not be 28 years old until the 17th of next August. He is a native of Alabama, and was appointed by Secretary Herbert to the Naval Academy in 1885, graduating at the head of his class in 1889. It is said in the Navy Department that his disregard for the rules and regulations of the service is something phenomenal. He never could be bound down by the red tape of official routine. If, for instance, he desired to address the Secretary of War, he would do so directly instead of having his communications forwarded through the proper channels. He has always had ideas of his own, and it was through his efforts that naval constructors were sent to sea to observe the effect of actual conflict upon modern ship.

He has traveled abroad quite extensively, having spent three years studying naval construction in the best French and English schools. He was detailed to accompany Admiral Walker's white squadron, and also went to Brazil when the flag of that republic was first recognized by the United States in 1889. He was extremely desirous of witnessing the Japanese-Chinese war, and in fact had been ordered to China when his very vigorous expressions as to the conduct of that war led to a protest from one of the governments, and the order was revoked. His abilities as a constructor were recognized when two years ago he was sent to Newport News in connection with the construction of the new battleships.

Probably Hobson's Idea.

It was generally agreed that the idea of running the Merrimac into the harbor and sinking her was conceived by young Hobson, and that, when he had suggested it to Admiral Sampson, he asked to be allowed to conduct the expedition. In no other way can his presence in command of the ship be counted for. The Merrimac was in charge of Lieut. Commander Miller, whose record disproves the idea that he would have voluntarily relinquished an opportunity to gain glory in a brilliant achievement. Besides this, young Hobson is not an officer of the line, and had never before been intrusted with any command.

As a result of his brilliant idea and daring courage he will undoubtedly receive very substantial promotion. As an Assistant Naval Constructor, he has the relative rank of a Junior Lieutenant, but in the construction corps the highest rank is that of a Commander. It is probable that Mr. Hobson will be made a Captain, while the men who were with him will have their rating considerably increased, so that for all time to come they will receive a practical reward of their devotion to their country.

CURRENCY ISSUED DURING THE WAR.

How it was Contracted and Bonded Debt Created—A Heavy Burden Placed Upon the People.

For THE CAUCASIAN.]

SIR:—For general information I wish to state through THE CAUCASIAN the amount of currency issued by the Government during the Civil war, and the bonded debt created by that means. To do this, I will not go into all the particulars, describing the different kinds of currency issued, but just the number of kinds, amount &c.

There were sixteen (16) different kinds of currency issued including the fractional, or postage currency, (in 50, 25, 15, 10, 5, and 3 cent bills, or script.) The total amount issued was about $3,300 million dollars, all of which was legal tender for all purposes except custom dues and interest on U. S. bonds.

Every dollar thus issued was paid out for full value received—to the soldiers, contractors for war materials &c., and as a matter of course it all belonged to the people just as truly as a man's horse or carriage belongs to him that he has bought and paid for. So that, at the end of the war the Government owed nothing, not a single dollar to any one on earth.

All that currency circulated in the North and West, the South had none. Business was done for cash in hand every man "paying as he went," and the people were free from debt.

Now mark the change. Very soon after the close of the war Congress gave the Secretary of the Treasury power to convert all of that U. S. currency into 6 per cent. coin bonds, made free of all taxes. Within three years, fifteen hundred million dollars were converted into bonds, and burned up. Then the people cried out in their distress, when Congress stopped the contraction. So far about four hundred million of greenbacks was cornered, but the Secretary still continued to contract the other kinds of currency into bonds until the public debt amounted to very nearly 3,000 million dollars.

Thus a great debt was loaded upon the South and West, drawing one hundred and fifty million dollars in interest annually, while the money with which to earn the interest and principal, was taken away from the people.

This was not only deliberate robbing in thus contracting and burning up the currency that the people had paid for with their blood and treasure, but it was a quadruple robbery in thus loading a fraudulent bonded debt upon the South as well as upon the North and West. Was there ever a greater crime committed upon a careless, stupid people?

The people South and West, have paid already in interest and principal, more than six thousand million dollars on account of that debt, and yet the balance of the bonds still outstanding is has heavy as the whole debt was at the first because of reduced ability of the people to pay. More anon.

Respectfully,

E. O. BALL

Brooklyn, N. Y.

GETS HOLD OF THE CAUCASIAN.

A Democrat Reads it and Endorses Every Word in it—Thinks the Silver Forces Should get Together—Many Democrats Will Vote the Populist Ticket.

REIDSVILLE, N. C., June 6, '98.

MR. EDITOR.—By accident I got hold of a copy of last week's CAUCASIAN. I read it. I believe every word in it. The silver delegates let the Ransom leaders and Col. Andrews bulldose them. They, the Democratic party, will and I think ought to be defeated this fall. If they are the silver forces will get together in 1900 and wipe them off the earth. There are many, many Democrats in old Rockingham county that will vote with you this fall.

I am a Democrat and read mostly Democratic papers. I think the election this fall will give the silver Democrats enough courage to not submit to the Ransom-Jarvis ring in 1900.

I think, Mr. Editor, you are doing a noble work. Unless the silver forces unite in this county they cannot elect a constable.

There ought not to be but two parties in this State, viz: On one side the Republicans, gold Democrats and Otho Wilson Populists under one banner, and on the other silver Democrats, Butler Populists and Mott Republicans under one banner until silver is back doing business at the old stand as she was prior to 1873.

With eyes open for the bright future, and hoping to be able to vote for you in the fall elections. I am,

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY DEMOCRAT.

FOR FIFTY CENTS from now until after the election we will send THE CAUCASIAN regularly each week.

USURPATIONS OF THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY IN THE INTEREST OF THE MONEY POWER.

BY HON. DANIEL L. RUSSELL, GOVERNOR OF NORTH CAROLINA IN THE ARENA.

The Constitution is illusively supposed to be the creation of the Convention of 1787. After a hundred years of existence and expansion, the major part of it is the creation of progressive judicial construction. To prove this requires more space than the scope of this article permits; but it will hardly be denied by capable constitutional lawyers.

First, there were forty years of liberal and progressive interpretation, then thirty years of strict construction, either expansive or restricted according to the demands of concentrated wealth. The judical policy of this day is to strike down the States and yet to narrow the delegated powers of the national legislature wherever necessary to barricade against the advancing hosts of populism.

It is perhaps well that there should be a tribunal like the Supreme Court, with power to interpret the Constitution and to stay the hand of Congress. In this there is nothing dangerous in the long run. These judicial arbitrators under our federal system, although nominally and apparently independent of the people, are really subject to their control. Every federal court is the creation of the legislative will. The power that made it can unmake it. The Supreme Court itself can be controlled by the authority residing in Congress to reduce or enlarge its membership.

Right here the supreme struggle must come. To swing back the country to the control of the people, to reverse false doctrines and pernicious constitutional constructions, to prevent the failure of this last and best attempt at free government, it is important to get a House, Senate, and President that will reorganize the existing judicial system, abolish the judges who stand for plutocratic privilege, and establish courts commended by judges who stand for the rights of man.

By this means the popular will may be exerted and enforced. The framers of the Constitution hardly thought that they were conferring upon the Supreme Court the power to veto the acts of the House, Senate and President—a veto which is exercised whenever the court chooses to think the act unconstitutional. And their thinking it so is generally because they want it to be so.

Nor is there in this anything novel or startling. It is just what was done by Jefferson and the Congress who came in after the defeat of the Federalists in 1800. When William of Orange was contending with a reluctant or hostile House of Lords he gruffly informed them that they could pass his measures or he would reorganize them, he would pack their House by converting his Dutch guards into peers of the realm. Reorganizing courts for the purpose of enforcing obedience to parliamentary will is not unknown in the history of that constitutional monarchy which is so much adored in the high society of American money lords.

In part proof of the assertion that we are approaching a period of intolerable judicial supremacy, let certain recent cases be cited.

The national external and internal taxes are insufficient to meet the expenses of the government. To meet this deficiency the country wants a tax on the income of the rich. This is enacted into law. From the nation's court comes a veto—a veto so prompt that in the days of the fathers, when sentiment was not so debauched by the struggle for wealth, it would have been regarded as premature. So prompt was the court to get in its work that it would not wait for a bona-fide case to be brought to its bar. It rushed in to give its decision in a case that was not a genuine controversy between parties with opposing interests, but was virtually fictitious, was manifestly concocted to extract from the court an opinion against the income law, and was clearly collusive between the parties. The supreme issue was on. The millionaires demanded exemption from federal taxation. They were not afraid of the States. If one State seriously taxed their incomes they would move to another. No State could afford to offend them for fear of driving them out. They could congregate on one State by acquiring in it actual or nominal residence. As to that matter they could buy a State or so and use them as pocket boroughs for their own convenience. The only way to tax their incomes is by Congress. Take from Congress that power and they are safely landed above and beyond the law. Says the Constitution: "Direct taxes shall be apportioned among the States according to numbers." This makes a direct tax impracticable. To get rid of the income tax then the courts must hold that income taxes are direct taxes. The framers of the Constitution thought that the only direct taxes were taxes on land and polls. So thought the lawyers and judges and statesmen of the republic for a hundred years. But these judicial arbitrators of last resort, by a vote of five to four, upturn the settled interpretation of the Constitution and decree that the overgrown rich shall not be taxed. Their victory is apparently complete. Nothing can defeat them but a constitutional amendment or a reorganization of the Supreme Court.

In North Carolina the reorganization syndicate of the Richmond and Danville Railroad Company, now converted into the Southern Railway Company, obtained from certain agents of the State its great central railroad two hundred and twenty-three miles long, and forming an indispensable connecting link between the northern and southern sections of the Southern railway system. They acquired this great property by getting a lease upon it to them for ninety-nine years. This was substantially a sale. The Governor of North Carolina, in a message to the legislature, charged that the terms of the sale were unfair to the State, that the sale was procured by false pretence and by fraud, that the price paid was flagrantly inadequate when taken in connection with the fact that the Southern Railway Company, with its thousands of miles of railroad and its hundreds of millions of investments and securities, was absolutely dependent for its own existence upon this North Carolina railroad. This sale was secretly made. Another railroad system offered to raise the price fifty per cent. The Southern Railroad Company rushed into the Federal Courts, demanded an injunction against the State to prohibit it from asserting its rights in the State courts and a decree in equity affirming the validity of the sale.

Courts of equity will never entertain a complaint unless it appears that no adequate remedy can be given by the law courts. This principle of equity jurisprudence was affirmed, asserted and proclaimed in England by Hale and Hardwick, by Erskine, Eldon, and Mansfield, and by all the great lawyers and chancellors who preceded and succeeded them, and in America by Story and John Marshall and their associates, and by all their successors up to the organization of the impending judicial and political conspiracy for the subversion of popular government and for the conversion of this republic into a consolidated plutocratic absolutism. Equity courts owe their very existence to the fact that cases arose where the common law courts, by reason of the limitations upon their processes, could not give relief. Thousands of suitors through the centuries in equity courts have been driven from their doors and told to go and get their relief in the statutory or common law courts. This principle in equity has been consistently and uniformly applied to ordinary controversies between man and man.

In this North Carolina case, this great railway syndicate had their remedy in the law courts—a remedy sufficient, adequate, and complete. Every allegation made against the State or its agents, could have been set up by way of defence in the threatened action which the complainant sought to enjoin. But this was no ordinary case. Shylock and Mammon were the plaintiffs. The taxpayers of North Carolina, robbed of their property, were the defendants. To plunder the one and legalize their spoliation by the other, the rock-ribbed principles of equity jurisprudence must be undone. The State itself by wicked and wanton force must be brought up for judgment before these federal proconsuls. Its sovereignty must be despised. Its rights, reserved to it by the Federal Constitution, must be denied. The power of every little federal judge to annihilate it must be assumed and asserted. And this too is the State—the one of the original thirteen—which refused to ratify the United States Constitution until it had assurance of the adoption of the Tenth Amendment: "The powers not delegated to the United States by this Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

The State of Tennessee established by its law a board of assessors for the purpose of ascertaining and fixing the valuations of railroad properties. Nobody ever questioned the power of the State to do this, until the recent and present conspiracy to annihilate the States by the usurpation of federal judges. The Tennessee assessors fixed their appraisements according to the market value of the stocks and bonds of the railroad corporations. In substance they fixed the value of railroads according to income-producing or net earning power. This is the rule which is universally applied in fixing the taxable valuations of fields and forests, of mines and mills, and of the property of ordinary persons. But in this federal forum the laws which govern the common people have no application to the corporation nabobs. So in went the non-resident holders of these railroad bonds to a federal judge for an injunction against the State of Tennessee to restrain it from exercising its sovereign power of taxation. And out went his injunction, which vacated the assessments of the State and virtually substituted such as were agreeable to the views of the corporation judge sitting on the federal bench.

He obtains his jurisdiction by reason of the diversity of the citizenship of the parties. But suppose an individual non-resident owner of a house or horse had gone to this court for an injunction to stop the local officers from enforcing an assessment alleged to be excessive. He would have been told that he must look for his remedy to the revenue laws of Tennessee, that these statutes had provided the form and manner and procedure of assessing property and for the correction of abuses resulting from unlawful assessments, and that in the absence of illegal action by the assessors, they could not be interfered with because of excessive valuations. They are the jury established by law with power to fix valuation. If they abuse this power by making an excessive assessment, there is no remedy. Why? Because it is better that this power should reside in a jury than in the one man sitting as a judge. But when the money kings come into court, there sits on the bench a prince of the blood, exercising prerogatives that are cognate to, if they are not substantially the same as the dispensing power which was claimed by the house of Stuart, and which brought one of them to the block.

This Tennessee case is entitled to enduring renown because of its enunciation of the doctrine that railroads shall not be taxed upon their true value, because in some precinct or county other assessors appraised lands and mules at less than their worth.

In the state of Texas it seems that a Federal judge has discharged upon a habeas corpus a defendant duly indicted and under process from the

(Continued on 2d page)