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JUDGE CLARK'S SPEECH.

We are sending out as a supplement to this issue of the CAUCASIAN the speech of Judge Walter Clark before the convention of Railroad Commissioners recently in session in Denver. It is a masterful presentation of the railroad question—a document which should be carefully studied and then laid away for reference. Judge Clark speaks in behalf of a great clientele—they "who pay the freight"—"the patrons of the road—the humble individuals who are treated as if they had no right to express their opinion on such serious and intricate matters as railroad management, yet without whom not a car wheel would roll not a magnate would draw his salary." And while Judge Clark is of the opinion that a more rigid control of railroads by the national government should be the next step toward curbing the abuses which exist in private management of railroads; yet there is no one who is familiar with the futility of past efforts in the way of legislative restriction or rather the subserviency to the interest of great railroad combinations of those to whom power has been given to execute laws, but who must see that government ownership coupled with government control is the only real corrective of these abuses and that sooner or later it must come and the sooner the better. Say that we had a state and inter-state Commission that would do their duty under the laws authorizing them, of what avail would that be as long as the bench is filled with men like Simonton, to issue injunctions against execution of such laws, and as a last resort construe the laws under the influence of "the bias of training."

THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY ORGANIZATION SUGGESTED AS A BRANCH OF STATE GOVERNMENT.

During the latter part of December, 1898, just before the legislature assembled, and when there was much speculation as to the sort of disfranchising legislation the legislature would enact, the editor of the News and Observer went to Washington to interview representatives of those Southern States which have a limited suffrage, upon the different plans of disfranchisement operative in these states; and these interviews he had published in his paper for the information and guidance of the incoming Legislators. Among the interviews was one from Senator McLaurin, of South Carolina, in which Senator McLaurin, speaking of the South Carolina amendment and the primary plan of election in that state said:

> Our elections are nearly all settled in the primary, and if a man desires to exercise any influence in governmental affairs he must go into this election and take his chances. These primary elections are protected by an Act of the General Assembly, providing that they shall be conducted in accordance with the Constitution and rules of the Democratic party, and that illegal voting in them shall be punished.

It is needless to say that a majority of the voters of North Carolina, would not for a moment, tolerate such a plan as this; and if the Democratic party were to come before them with the plain and open proposition that that organization be legalized to conduct all elections "according to its constitution and rules," that such a proposition would meet with signal failure

But it is with this idea in view, suggested no doubt by the South Carolina plan, that the News and Observer in its issue of Saturday, under the caption "Legalized Primaries kill Boss Rule" editorially, advocates this plan. It says in part:

> When the amendment eliminates the ignorant negro vote, a nomination by the Democratic party will be equivalent to an election. In order to make that condition permanent it is essential not only that every voter have an equal voice in the selection of candidates, but to make it impossible for any party machinery to deny him that equality of direction to which he is directed. The experience of the Democrats in those Southern States where the negro vote has been eliminated is that the danger of division and formidable independent movements can only be averted by a primary having all the safeguards of a legal election. North Carolina ought to profit by the experience of its sister States and provide a legalized primary at the next session of the legislature.

Which simply means that as in South Carolina the Democratic party should be clothed by law with the power to throw around all of the voters of the State "all the safeguards of a legal election" and to be in position to avert "the danger of division and formidable independent movements."

Here is simply another evidence of the injurious effect of the last campaign as shown in the loss of respect for the boasted love of toleration and spirit of fair play which has characterized the masses of North Carolina for such a suggestion would never have appeared in the columns of any paper North in Carolina prior to the last election, not even in the News and Observer, and it comes now only upon the presumption that manhood is no longer a characteristic of the voters of the State.

THEY WANT AN ARMY POST.

In Cleveland, Ohio, the home of Mark Hanna, there has recently been a big strike among the street car men, which resulted in some damage to property of the car companies. For instance, some friend, whose purpose it was probably to break down all sympathy the people may have had for the strickers in their efforts to redress their grievences and secure higher wages, placed dynamite under one or two street cars, with disastrous results.

The use of dynamite so enraged the people that a mass meeting was held by the business men and ten thousand dollars were subscribed to be used in apprehending the man who threw the bomb. This same meeting also passed resolutions in favor of the establishment of an army post in Cleveland.

It is very likely that the chief ground of those who so vehemently advocate a large standing army in this country is for the purpose of placing soldiers in the large cities to suppress the labor element wherever they become disatisfied or protest against any unjust or brutal treatment they may receive at the hands of their employers.

Behind all the clamor for a large increase of the standing army can be seen the monopolist and plutocrat whose greed for gain has entirely hardened and chilled his heart to all sympathy for others trials sufferings and distress.

There is no place in our country for the man who settles his grievences by the use dynamite, nor should there be any place or use for the man who, like a demon, seeks to crush out of existences his fellowman by depriving him of a just share of the fruits of his industry.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

From the Conoord Daily Standard of July 26th, we clip the following editorial paragraph:

> When the county has a fair sprinkling of the suspicious white vote that will risk any injury to the country rather than abandon prejudices so inimical to patriotism it is time that we eliminate as much of the dangerous vote as possible from whatever point we can.

What does the Standard mean when it speaks of the "Sprinkling of the Suspicious White Vote," and further on argues that "it is time to eliminate as much of the dangerous vote as possible from whatever point we can?"

Does the Standard make bold the assertion that it is the purpose of the machine to "eliminate" a large portion of the "dangerous white vote of the State by the adoption of the Constitutional amendment?

Is it the purpose of the amendment to deprive a large element of the white population of the right to vote?

It would seem from the bold utterance of the Standard that it really desires the disfranchisement of that portion of the WHITE vote that will not FOLLOW OR SUBMIT to the dictation and domination of the machine.

The machine should sumarily squelch the Standard, otherwise that paper might give away its secret plans and purposes.

One of the most suggestive cartoons we have seen for sometime appeared recently in the Washington Post. It represented McKinley as a Farmer on his way to mill (second term) with a sack of grain labelled "McKinley Popularity" on his back, and in the sack were two holes through which the grain was rapidly spilling. One of the leaks was "Cuban Government"; the other "The Phillipine War" and so great was the leak that McKinley's popularity sack was rapidly becoming empty.

Every day of the horrors of the Phillipine War and of America's stultification in still maintaining military government in Cuba, decreases McKinleys chances of re-election.

It is needless to call the attention of our readers, to the communication of Capt. R. B. Davis, in another column. Never before, perhaps, have there been collated so many and such high authorities in support of a single proposition as of the one which he advocates, and one too that seems to be awaking wide-spread inquiry at present. From week to week, the writer will apply the principles he believes he has established, to his solutions of the conditions that environ us. In his next number, he promises to have something to say of the attitude of the Democratic party of North Carolina, in respect to this question.

Democrats Put in a Negro Policeman.

In the city of Hickory, a town with only a few negeroes in it, not over a fourth of the voters, a town that the Democrats boasted of carrying last spring, yet since then, has had a negro policeman in it. Is this true? If so what do you think of it," white man?

EXTRACTS FROM JUDGE CLARK'S SPEECH BEFORE THE CONVENTION OF RAILROAD COMMISSIONERS AT DENVER

From the golden mile stone in the Roman Forum radiated those magnificent roads which to this day tell how Rome built for the ages. Along them poured the tide of the Republic's and the Empire's commerce; over them tramped her legions, and as the God Terminus successively removed further and further the limits of her domains, these magnificent viaducts carried to the remotest verges the arts, the literature, the laws, the civilization that was Roman. Indeed her roads made possible the vast extent of her dominion and bound together for so many centuries so many countries in that Roman Peace which created and maintained the civilization and the learning without which humanity would not occupy the advanced stage that it does to day.

Suppose for a moment that those Roman roads, the arteries of the empire, had been owned by private companies of millionaries, that not a wheel could roll nor a man move along them, nor even the legions except on terms dictated by the corporations; would not those corporations have had the empire by the throat? Would they not have appointed consuls and pro consuls, every Senator, every general and every judge? They would have been the government.

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It is a universal maxim that private property can not be taken for private uses, but only for the public use. Yet no railroad can be built without the appropriation of private property.

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It results that the real question—and we are face to face with it—is whether it is practicable to control these great forces, these immense aggregations of capital, by Commissions and by statutes, or shall it be necessary to take the absolute ownership of them over in the government.

In all the countries of the world save Great Britian and the United States, the answer has been that government ownership is indispensable to a safe and just control. Accordingly in almost all other countries, including even the Australian and other British colonies, the railroads, or at least the controlling lines are owned by their respective governments. In the United States and the contrated territory embraced in the British Isles, the experiment fo government control, without government ownership, is on trial.

* * * * * * *

One of the greatest evils of the present system is the proneness of these corporations to intervene in politics. Realizing that a government by the people is only possible when the government is kept untouched by the power of great moneyed combinations, there is nothing which arouses public indignation more than the almost unconcealed interference of these corporations in the nomination and election of legislators, congressmen, Governors and United States Senators. Their contributions to Presidental campaign funds is a National scandal. Worse than all is their influence in the appointments of the life judiciary of the Federal Government and recent evidence given before the Industrial Commission shows that they are not above tampering with the nomination and election of State judges chosen by the people.

* * * * * * *

The crucial question for solution is whether the interference of great corporations in politics and their secret discrimination in rates, whereby trusts are created and sustained can be suppressed without resort to government ownership. These evils must be eliminated. The hope of America lies in the very fact that our people will not submit to such abuses much longer.

* * * * * * *

In all the countries of the world I believe except this and Canada, the telegraph and the telephone are part of the post office system, legally as well as logically, for they are simply methods of communicating intelligence. I have always believed as a lawyer that under the provisions of the Federal Constitution which requires Congress to establish postoffices and postroads, it is its duty to transmit intelligence by wire as well as by rail, by electricity as well as by steam or pneumatic tubes, and as this power vested in Congress is held by the United States Supreme Court to be an exclusive power, that the operation of telegraph and telephones for hire by others than the government is as illegal as their running the postoffice would be. Great Britain which alone has stood with us against government ownership of railroads, has had to leave us on this matter for there the telegraphs are a part of the postoffice department.

* * * * * * *

This forgotten man the patrons of the railroads elects no president, superintendent or board of directors but he has to bear whatever burdens they see fit to place upon him. He has no voice in fixing the salaries, many of them as high as or higher than that of the President of the United States, but he pays to them the last cent. He rarely rides in a palace car or upon a free pass but he pays the fare of those who do. He has no hearing as to the tax which shall be levied for the movement of himself, his produce or his purchases, but he pays it more surely than he does the taxes for the support of his ciry, State or Federal Government, for the Station Agent, like that other tax collector, the Custom House officer, extends no credit or delay, but requires cash in hand.

* * * * * * *

The masses of our fellow citizens are intelligent and just. They have no hostility to railroads as such, but only to their abuses. They recognize the immense value of railroads, their indispensable assistance in the development of this country. By individual, city, county, State and National subscriptions they have aided the construction of the railroad system in this country. They have seen individual stockholders 'frozen out;' they have seen city, county and State holdings displaced that great manipulators may become the owners of these properties. They have seen the more than $500,000,000 of National aid given in lands and bonds, disappear "like the baseless fabric of a vision" and leave scarce a wreck behind. These thing they have endured and would even forgive if the present management of these systems were fair and just.

The specific remedy for troubles of the blood, kidneys, stomach, liver, is Hood's Sarsaparilla, the great blood purifier.

COLONIZATION OF THE NEGRO RACE. NO. 3.

THE ONLY RATIONAL HOPE FOR THE

Political, Social, and Industrial Renovation of North Carolina, and of the South, Will be Found in the Gradual Deportation and Settlement of the Afro-Americans, Upon Some Portion of the Public Domain, Outside the Limits of the United States, Where They Shall be Free to Govern Themselves, Under the National Protectorate.

Editor CAUCASIAN.]

In your last issue I quoted, in support of the above proposition, the opinions of some of the sages of our revolutionary era, and most largely those of Thomas Jefferson for the reason, that he has had the singular good fortune to be recognized as an authority by all parties. Canonized, even before he was dead, his name, since then, has stood always first in the popular hagiology. And so true is this, that the founders of every political party since his time, has taken some distinctive doctrine of his, as the corner-stone of its political creed.

Thus Henry Clay, treading in the footsteps of this apostle of human liberty, took up the cause of African Colonization where Jefferson had left it, and pressed it with a zeal which was the more honorable in him since he consented, for its sake, to sacrifice the Presidency of the United States. Addressing the Colonization Society of Kentucky in 1829 the Great Commoner had this to say—

> If we were to invoke the greatest blessing, which Heaven could bestow upon this nation, it would be the separation of the two races of its population, and their comfortable establishment, in distinct and distant countries. If this is not done, who can contemplate the future without the most awful apprehensions? For if this promiscuous residence, of Whites and Blacks, is to continue forever, who, without shuddering with horror, can imagine the wars, and carnage, and crimes, that must be its probable consequences?

And Abraham Lincoln following, as he professed always to do, the leadership of Clay upon this question, in his first annual message of Dec. 3 1861, submitted the following—

> I recommend that Congress take steps to colonize all slaves, that shall be confiscated for having been used for insurrectionary purposes, in some place and climate congenial to them. It might be well to consider too, whether all free-born negroes could not be included in such colonization, so far as they may desire. To carry out the plan of colonization, may involve the acquisition of new territory, and also the appropriation of money, beyond that to be expended in territorial acquisition. And if it should be said, that the only legitimate object of acquiring territory is to provide homes for white men, this measure effects that object, since the emigration of black men will leave additional room for white men remaining here, or coming here.

And in his second annual message, of Dec. 1 1862, when his Emancipation Proclamation was suspended, and just one month before it was to go into effect, and while it was still open, to the acceptance of the people of the South, he said—

> I can not make it better understood, than it is already, that I strongly favor the colonization of the negro race. With his Deportation, even to a limited extent, enhanced wages of the white laborer is mathematically certain. The price of labor, like that of other commodities, is regulated by supply and demand. If therefore you reduce the supply of black labor, by colonizing the black laborer out of the country, you will, by precisely so much, increase the wages of the white laborer.

And U. S Grant in the last chapter of his Personal Memoirs dictated from his deathbed at Mt. McGregor, has this to say of the treaty which he had negotiated in 1871 for the annexation of Santo Domingo, but which was rejected by the Senate, and, with blind and besotted ignorance, was denounced throughout the South, as the "Santo Domingo Job," and for no other reason, than that cotton, at that time, was worth ten cents a pound—

> The condition of the negro race, within our borders, may become a source of anxiety, to say the least. It is possible that the question of a conflict between races, may come up in the future, as did that between freedom and slavery before. And it was looking to a settlement of this question that led me to urge the annexation of Santo Domingo, during the time I was President of the United States. The island was offered to us almost without price, is situated up on our shores, is very fertile, and is capable of supporting 15,000,000 of people. I took it that the Negroes would go there in great numbers, so as to have an independent State, governed by themselves, but under the protection of the General Goverment.

Here, Mr. Editor, I finish these citations, that might be multiplied indefinitely. But in bringing them to a close, I ask if there has ever before been presented, in defense of a proposition as clear and sound as this, an array of authorities so strong and convincing as these? In making choice of Franklin, and Jefferson, and Clay, and Lincoln, and Grant, I have selected those only, who have been the recognized moulders, of the thought and action, of every political party that has left an enduring impress upon the nation—Federalist, Republican, Democratic, Whig, and Republican again, And I have given the preeminence to Jefferson, because his name since the hour of his death, has been the rallying cry of them all.

The best exponents of the People's Party are accustomed to call themselves "Jeffersonian Democrats," and may be said to have adopted, at the birth of the party, his first Inaugural, as the party's creed. Have I not therefore the right to expect, that they will be the first to embrace a measure, which more than all others, he had at heart? Whether they will have the courage to do this, the sequel will show.

The modern Republicans, in like manner, profess to hold his memory in religious veneration. But if they have now lost faith in his guidance, are they not willing to trust to that of Lincoln, and of Grant? This question I address, in all seriousness, to the acknowledged leaders of that party in this State, whom I know to be men of reflection, and forethought. And they, with equal seriousness, might address it to their negro following as fast as education shall enable them to conquer, that Israelitish fondness for the Egyptian flesh-pots which conceals from them their present and future condition.

And I would address the same question to that spurious thing, which insults us with the name of Democracy in North Carolina, if I had not done so already, and received so decisive an answer. And this brings me to speak of the character of that answer, and of the circumstances under which it was given. But this is a matter of such grave importance, as to deserve a separate chapter.

R. B. DAVIS.

$100 Reward $100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only postive cure now know to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destorying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers, that they offer one Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

Address F. J. CHENNEY, Toledo, O.
Sold by druggists, 75c.
Hall's Pills are the best.

Hard Luck of An Editor.

From Jerry Simpson's Bayonet.

Here are some of the terrible things which, according to a country exchange, are likely to befall a delinquent: "Last week a nelinquent subscriber said that he would pay Saturday if he lived. He's dead. Another, I'll see you tomorrow.' He's blind. Still another one said: 'I hope to pay you this week or go to the devil.' He's gone. There are hundreds who ought to take warning by these proscrastinators and pay up their subscriptions now.'

"For the Sake of Fun, Mischief is Done."

A vast amount of mischief is done, too, because people neglect to keep their blood pure. The mischief appears in eruptions, dyspepsia, indigestion, nervousness, kidney diseases, and other ailments. This mischief, fortunately, may be undone by the faithful use of Hood's Sarsaparilla, which cures all diseases originating in or promoted by impure blood.

HOOD'S PILLS cure all liver ills. Non-irritating.

Our Democratic friends are still hunting around to find an issue or issues that will insure their success in 1900. Why not find out what will help the masses and what has a great moral underlying it, and then adopt that for principles' sake, whether success comes to it or not? Free silver, 16 to 1 and oppositions to trusts and combines and to declare for a better system of finance will do it, if you can unite the voters who favor it. The other side will be united, and the man or set of men who tries to hope differently, will be as badly deceived as the man who hopes that some may be provided for him to get to heaven without regeneration. Bryan had the right issue in 1896, and his plan is the only one that means success.—Times Mercury.

The Appetite of a Goat

Is envied by all poor dyspeptics whose Stomach and Liver are out of order. All such should know that Dr. King's New Life Pills, the wonderful Stomach and Liver Remedy, gives a splendid appetite, sound digestion and a regular bodily habit that insures perfect health and great energy. Only 25c at all drug stores.

Curious Ads. of London.

Curiously worded advertisements that are funny without intent are common in the London papers. Here are a few examples:

"Furnished apartments suitable for a gentleman with folding doors."

"Wanted, a room by two gentlemen about thirty feet long and twenty feet broad."

"Lost, a collie dog by a man on Saturday answering to Jim with a brass collar round his neck and muzzle."

"Boy wanted who can open oysters with references."

"Bulldog for sale; will eat anything; very fond of children."

"Wanted, an organist and a boy to blow the same."

"Wanted, a boy to be partly outside and partly behind the counter.—Ex.

No Place to Rest.

Williamson—It was never intended that a lazy man should reach the top of the ladder.

Henderson—I suppose not; there's no place up there for him to sit down.—Town Topics.

The reason some people succeed so well who mind their own business is, there is no competition.—Ex.

"All the Traffic Will Bear."

Fruit Trade Journal.]

There are thousands of miles of railroad throughtout the country that could not pay expenses were it not for the products of the soil. There are hundreds of towns on water navigated by our steamers that could not contribute a good sized cargo in a month if fruit and produce were barred out. Then, under these conditions, why do transportation companies persist in demanding rates that prohibit the shipments of these products? The bulk of watermelons on the market this week sold at $10 per hundred. The number of melons in a car range from 900 to 1,280. This equals $90 to 120 per car. Freight is from $70 to 125 per car, according to weight. The transportations companies have demanded this freight guaranteed, hence the commission merchant and grower are the direct losers while the transportation companies are reaping a rich harvest. In all business transactions mutual interest must be recognized, and is directly to the interests of transportation companies, growers and receivers that rates be reduced on melons at this time. If the conditions existing the past week continue, watermelons must necessarily be barred from this market, and transportation companies will realize that they have killed the goose that laid the golden egg. A reduction of rates of transportation will put melons within the reach of the masses; consumption will be increased, and growers, receivers and carriers will alike share in the general good results.

Glorious News

Comes from Dr. D. B. Cargile, of Washita, I. T. He writes: "Four bottles of Electric Bitters has cured Mrs. Brewer of scrofula, which had caused her great suffering for years. Terrible sores would break out on her head and face, and the best doctors could give no help; but her cure is complete and her health is excellent." This shows what thousands have proved,—that Electric Bitters is the best blood purifier known. It's the supreme remedy for eczema, tetter, salt rheum, ulcers, boils and running sores. It stimulates liver, kidneys and bowels, expels poisons, helps digestion builds up the strength. Only 50 cents. Sold by all Druggist Guaranteed.

Ex-Senator John J. Ingalls has written for The Saturday Evening Post, of Philadelphia, two valuable papers upon the later career of President Garfield. These articles, written by a man who knew Mr. Garfield in his youth, and afterward saw at close range his public acts, constitute what is perhaps the most dispassionate and judicial estimate of the man ever made. Mr. Ingalls' brilliant prose, enlivened by anecdote and strengthened by first-hand knowledge, is well worthy of his subject. In connection with these papers, fac-similes of unpublished letters from Mr. Garfield's physicians will be printed. The first of these papers will appear in the Post of August 26.

In the same issue will be found contributions by Ian Maclaren, Harriet Riddle Davis, Julian Ralph and Charles Battell Loomis.

He Fooled The Surgeons.

All doctors told Renick Hamilton, of West Jefferson, O, after suffering 18 months from Rectal Fistula, he would die unless a costly operation was performed; but he cured himself with five boxes of Bucklen's Arnica Salve, the surest Pile cure on Earth, and the best Salve in the World. 25 cents a box. Sold by all Druggists.

The Sultan of Sulu.

America has one friend over in the Philippines. It is the king of the Sulu islands whose friendship costs us $12,000 a year with the guarantee that he shall be let alone to rule the island as he pleases. A late cablegram says, the Sultan of Sulu has issued a proclamation in which he says:

"I have met the Americans. They come among us as friends, not to interfere with our religion, rights or government. All those who love their country or Sultan I warn to be friendly and not molest them. The Americans are like a box of matches, you strike one or two and they all blaze up."

A Sultan who can get off such a profound state paper as that, ought to be able to convince even this administration that he is capable of self-government and can absorb the allotted salary.—Ind't. American.

If the Baby is Cutting Teeth,

Be sure and use that old and well tried remedy, MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP for children teething. It soothes the child, softens the gums, allays all pain, cures wind colic and is the best remedy for diarrhoea. 25 cts. per bottle.

Never judge the judge by the jury.

"A MONSTROUS ABSURDITY."

Many Good Democrats Opposed to the "Grand-son of His-Grand-father" Constitutional Amendment Clause.

The correspondent of the Charlotte Observer, writing to that paper from Fayetteville, under date of March 4th, says:

The Observer correctly guages public sentiment in throwing out a word of warning against taking for granted the carrying at the ballot box of the suffrage constitutional amendment. It will require hard work from the rank and file and leaders of the party. There is certainly no cloud on the title of the Cape Fear Democracy to orthodoxy, but the writer is surprised at the number of leading Democrats whom he meets opposed to the amendment. The clause about the "grand son of his grand father" is especially decried as a monstrous absurdity.

The suffrage amendment referred to above, which was adopted by the last Legislature, is as follows:

THE SUFFRAGE AMENDMENT.

Section 1. That Article VI of the Constitution of North Carolina be, and the same is hereby repealed, and in lieu thereof shall be substituted the following Article of Said Constitution:

ARTICLE VI.

Suffrage and Eligibility to Office—Qualifications of an Elector.

Section 1. Every male person born in the United States, and every male person who has been naturalized, 21 years of age and possessing the qualifications set out in this Article shall be entitled to vote at any election by the people in the State, except as herein otherwise provided.

Sec. 2. He shall have resided in the State of North Carolina for two years, in the county six months and in the precinct, ward or other election district, in which he offers to vote four months next preceding the election: Provided, That removal from one precinct, ward or other election district to another in the same county, shall not operate to deprive any person of the right to vote in a precinct, ward or other election district from which he has removed until after such removal. No person who has been convicted, or who has confessed his guilt in open court upon indictment, of any crime, the punishment of which is, or may thereafter be, imprisonment in the State prison, shall be permitted to vote unless the said person shall be first restored to citizenship in the manner prescribed by law.

Sec. 3. Every person offering to vote shall be at the time a legally registered voter as herein prescribed and in the manner hereinafter provided by law, and the General Assembly of North Carolina shall enact general registration laws to carry into effect the provisions of this Article.

Sec. 4. Every person presenting himself for registration shall be able to read and write any section of the Constitution in the English language; and, before he shall be entitled to vote, have paid, on or before the first day of March of the year in which he proposes to vote, his poll tax, as prescribed by law, for the previous year. Poll taxes shall be a lien only on assessed property, and no process shall issue to enforce the collection of the same except against assessed property.

Sec. 5. No male person, who was on January 1, 1867, or at any time prior thereto, entitled to vote under the laws of any State in the United States wherein he then resided, and no lineal descendant of any such person; shall be denied the right to register and vote at any election in this State by reason of his failure to possess the educational qualifications prescribed in section 4 of this Article. Provided, He shall have registered in accordance with the terms of this section prior to Dec. 1, 1908.

The General Assembly shall provide for a permanent record of all persons who register under this section on or before November 1, 1908, and all such persons shall be entitled to register and vote at all elections by the people in this State, unless disqualified under section 2 of this Article: Provided such persons shall have paid their poll tax as required by law.

Sec. 6. All elections by the people shall be by ballot, and all elections by the General Assembly shall be viva voce.

Sec. 7. Every voter in North Carolina, except as in this Art. disqualified, shall be eligible to office, but before entering upon the duties of the office he shall take and subscribe the following oath: "I, ..., do solemnly swear or affirm, that I will support and maintain the constitution and laws of the U. S. and the constitution and laws of North Carolina, not inconsistent therewith, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of my office as .... So help me God."

Sec. 8. The following classes of persons shall be disqualified for office: First, all persons who deny the being of Almighty God. Second, all persons who shall have been convicted or confessed their guilt on indictment pending, and whether sentenced or not; or under judgment suspended, of any treason or felony, or any other crime for which the punishment may be imprisonment in the penitentiary, since becoming citizens of the United States, of corruption and malpractice in office unless such person shall be restored to the rights of citizenship in a manner prescribed by law.

Sec. 9. The act shall be in force from and after its ratification.