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PEONAGE OF FEDERAL OFFICE HOLDERS.

The Asheville Gazette News, in a recent editorial, says:

"Washington dispatch to Raleigh News and Observer: 'Republican State Chairman Adams is here. He saw Postmaster General Hitchcock and other government officials about peonage matters.'"

"Peonage is good. A man holding a Federal job, not under the civil service, is always in a state of peonage."

The editor of the Gazette News states boldly and without any qualification that a man holding a job under the Adams patronage machine "is always in a state of peonage." We do not believe that the condition of Federal office holders is quite that bad, because we know some Federal office holders who are men of courage and who would give up their jobs before they would become the abject political henchmen and slaves of the machine; but, on the other hand, there is enough truth in this statement to attract the serious attention of every Republican who is a Republican from principle and who desires to see his party grow and carry the State. We also believe that it is true that when the machine does out an office to a man that they expect him at once to put on the machine's collar and obey orders without question or give up his job; but occasionally a man is appointed who has too much manhood and character to submit to such a system of peonage.

The last Republican State Convention at Charlotte is a notable illustration of how much truth there is in the statement of the Gazette. When the Republican State platform was read and it was seen that the machine bosses had straddled the great and fundamental question of local self government—an issue on which more votes could have been gained by the Republican party in the last campaign than any other, on account of the treachery and betrayal of the Democratic party of that principle—those who wanted to see party growth at once started a fight to amend the platform. While speeches were being made in support of a proposed amendment to declare unqualifiedly for the right of local self government, over two-thirds of the delegates to the convention loudly applauded the speeches in support of the amendment. While this debate was in progress, we are informed that some of the machine bosses on the platform became alarmed at the evident overwhelming approval by the delegates at the convention, when one of the machine bosses quietly reminded the others that they need not be excited on account of the applause because a majority of those delegates were postmasters and revenue officers, and that when the roll was called they would not dare to vote the way they were cheering on account of their fear of the patronage machine. When the vote was taken on that amendment the result showed that this machine boss was correct, because only a few of the federal office holder delegates who had cheered the speeches dared to vote for the amendment. That amendment, however, in spite of the fact that the convention was packed with Federal office holders as far as possible, did receive over one-third of the votes of the convention. We think it is safe to say that, if each delegate in that convention had voted according to his conviction, the amendment would have been adopted by over two-thirds majority.

What does this teach? It shows that every Federal office holder who is true to his party and wants to see it succeed must make up his mind that if he goes as a delegate to the next State Convention he must go there determined to do his duty and stand for what is right and take the risk of losing his job, or else he must determine not to go as a delegate and place himself in such a position, but, on the other hand, to work to send the best citizens of each neighborhood as delegates who hold no office and who are free to vote and act for the best interests of their party as their conscience and judgment dictate. The Federal office holders, however, will have difficulty even in doing this, because the patronage machine knows that their miserable mismanagement of the party cannot be endorsed at the next Republican State Convention unless they have it packed with delegates

who hold Federal jobs. Therefore, they will issue orders to every Federal office holder that he must go as a delegate or be blacklisted by the machine.

This illustrates the one course that is blighting the Republican party in North Carolina and the whole South worse than any other cause. It is the one thing that stands in the way of the success of the Republican party in North Carolina. There is but one way for the party to loosen itself from this grasp and be free and triumphant, and that is for the rank and file of the voters to go to the primaries next spring and send their free, untrammelled and best citizens as delegates to every convention. We know that there are some Federal office holders who will approve this course and lend their help, and we trust that the number will grow larger.

THE VICTORY FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT IN NEW YORK CITY.

The Raleigh News and Observer delivers some editorial strictures upon the head of Mr. Hearst and blames him for the recent defeat of Tammany in New York. On the other hand, we take it that every good citizen who places good government above partisanship will laud the action of Mr. Hearst as the most unselfish and patriotic act of his life.

Mr. Hearst does not care to be mayor of New York, and he did not want to run this time, but he was appealed to by large numbers of the best citizens of all parties to make the race in order to organize his friends and supporters in New York City, and then get them to vote for the fusion ticket for the board of estimates, which board controls the purse-strings of that great city, and thus to put a stop to the graft and corruption which has existed under Tammany's rule. When Mr. Hearst accepted the nomination he announced that his chief desire was to put the affairs of New York City into competent hands and that if he could by his efforts succeed in defeating the Tammany board of estimates he would feel that he had done the city a great service.

Mr. Hearst was probably the only man in New York City who could have accomplished this victory for good government, and the achievement is greatly to his credit and gives him a new and higher position in the estimation of all good people. We are surprised that the News & Observer should thus boldly confess that if it had been in New York it would have supported the Tammany machine. This shows what the people of the state may expect from the News & Observer—that it would support a Democratic administration in North Carolina, even though it should drop to the low and debasing depths of Tammany Hall.

The results in New York also show that even in that city the independent vote is growing larger and more determined each day. This is a most wholesome sign.

THE COST OF A PIG AND THE VALUE OF A VOTE.

The Washington Herald tells of an interesting historical event that is not generally known. The Herald says: "A lecturer to the Royal Geographical Society of England, has been telling of a Corsican pig which got into the wrong field," said W. G. Tillotson, of Manchester, at the New Willard yesterday, "and caused a family vendetta in which hundreds of lives were sacrificed."

"The most expensive pig on record, however," continued the Englishman with much glee, "was not Corsican, but American. It was caught in a fence on a Rhode Island farm on an election day in 1811, if my memory informs me correctly. Its owner took so long in setting it free that he reached the polling place too late to vote. The lack of his vote meant the election to the State legislature by a majority of one, of a representative who was in favor of war with England. That legislature elected, also by a majority of one, an advocate of the war policy to represent Rhode Island in the Federal Senate. And it was by a majority of one that Congress declared war in 1812."

Those two blue-stocking "elders" who preside over the destinies of the morning newspapers at Charlotte and Charleston, crack some pretty acute jokes on each other "betimes." But the best thing Caldwell has done for his Brother Hemphill lately was the following alleged confession extracted from Mr. Taft recently:

"Mr. President, what did Charleston most remind you of when you visited that ancient city-by-the-sea?"—(or words to that effect.)

"Bed time," promptly responded the President.

We haven't heard from Elder Hemphill since. But he will come back.

A SERIOUS CRIME.

It is a serious offense to falsely represent oneself as an agent of Uncle Sam in any capacity, and it is going to go hard with the two imposters, near Kenly, in Johnston County, who, under cloak of being United States officers, entered the home of a farmer and searched his daughter's room while she was ill in bed, as well as other rooms, and confiscated a two-gallon jug of apple brandy found in the house. Later both fakirs were found drunk by the roadside, but were not arrested at the time, and appear to have temporarily escaped.

The Greensboro Telegram says that Greensboro would be an especially suitable point for the Rockefeller Hookworm Commission. We should like to have the Commission locate in Raleigh on account of the revenue that we would derive, but we have no desire to claim that Raleigh is the most suitable point for hookworm experiments.

If you wish to keep posted on the most important news from the National Capital, be sure to read our special Washington letter each week. The Washington letter this week is especially interesting.

Remember we are still pulling for ten thousand subscribers before January first? Can't you help us? Can't you get a club of two or three subscribers and send us. See our excellent magazine offer.

BILKINS IN JAPAN.

(Continued from Page 1.)

Some circus girls—I've seen them mount horses most any old way. The Japanese custom when two persons pass each other is to turn to the left; in America we turn to the right, that being a law in some sections. I think. The Japanese address a letter to "John Smith, Mr.," while we put it "Mr. John Smith." At Japanese public dinners wine is served hot and soup cold, and the yard is at the back of the house, instead of the front. The Japanese bury the dead in a sitting posture and wear white for mourning. The Japanese seldom shake hands on meeting. Even their politicians leave that off, except those who come in contact with foreigners. In such cases they shake hands with the foreigners, because they know that it is the custom in his country.

"Cha," "cha," (the Japanese for "tea") may be heard on every hand. Hit iz served in the large stores to awl customers. At railroad stations Japanese boys sell it to travelers as boys sell fruit, etc., in America. For about two cents you can buy a pot of hot tea with the pot and a neat little cup thrown in. The common or universal use of tea wuz started in Japan about six hundred years ago. A Buddhist priest instituted the custom among the soldiers as a religious form. About three hundred years ago Hideyoshi, a ruler of Japan, issued an imperial edict directing awl of the people of Japan to assemble on a given date at a great grove or park near Kyoto for the purpose of holdin' a "tea party." Hit lasted ten days and Hideyoshi had the time of his life. Hit iz sed that he drank tea with everybody in Japan, for nearly awl of them wuz there. Since that tea drinkin' hez bin one of the principal occupations of Japan.

"Tea-drinkin' is done in Japan in a ceremonial manner. Young ladies study how to serve tea in a graceful way, and hit iz az important a part of their education az music or art iz to the American girl. The theatre iz a popular resort in Japan. People often attend and stay awl day and until the night performance iz over. Historical plays, illustratin' Japanese history, air the most popular productions. To this you may add Japanese sleight of hand and jugglery and you about cover the ground. They make excellent acrobats.

To the American visitor the Japanese seem to never tire in makin' his visit pleasant. There iz nothin' too good for him an' they hev an agreeable way of showin' him little attentions without makin' any great noise over him. The fact that they make these special efforts iz ample evidence of their sincerity. To people they do not admire they can be distant and snuff, "polite az a basket of chips," but az sold az ice. That iz why I believe that they desire no trouble with us. In their theaters, when the play calls for flags, they nearly awlways display the American and Japanese flags together, a thing seldom done when nations air unfriendly.

The "Giesha" girls furnish a gude deal of entertainment in Japan, not only in theaters, but at private homes and dinners. Their dances, if they may be so called, air not at awl indecent. Usually they air pretty girls. The dance iz rather a series of graceful poses in which fans, scarfs, flags and parasols play a part. This performance iz somewhat peculiar, but when you get use to hit and begin to understand hit, you can't help thinkin' that hit iz very neat.

Count O-Kuma, a very prominent Japanese statesman, iz known az the "Farmers' Friend." He iz rich and devotes much of his time to efforts to improve the condition of the agricultural population of his country. That will work out awl rite in Japan, I hope. But if he lived in the United States and should start a game of awl that sort he'd hev a hard time of hit. I know a number of men who hev tried to be of some assistance to the agricultural population. By the

time the politicians and the farmers got through with them they didn't know their own names.

The Japanese islands air evidently of volcanic origin. A number of volcanoes air still doin' business. On the island of Kyushu iz the largest volcano in the world, still active. Japan iz the home of the earthquake. Accordin' to Japanese statistics, believed to be accurate, no less than 17,750 earthquake shocks were recorded in thirteen years endin' in 1887. That must hev bin a lively thirteen years for Japan. Of course many of them were slight and did no damage. But some quakes were disastrous. The severe shocks come about once in fifty years, the last one bein' in 1894, when much damage wuz done.

Hit iz strange, but there iz no record showin' the Japanese air, or what they come from. Hit iz sed to be a fact that when the first Japanese landed on the islands they found inhabitants. About 17,000 of those earlier settlers, who air known az Ainus, still live in northern Japan. Like the American Indian, they hev given back to the more active, more numerous portion of the population. The Ainus and the Japs air friendly but they do not mix up much. The Ainus hev long hair awl over their bodies, but air not wild people. In fact, they air religious in a way an' conduct themselves fairly well.

The rulin' family, that iz the present Mikado of Japan, iz a descendant of a family of rulers; in other words, hiz ancestors hev governed Japan for 2,500 years, which iz remarkable.

At one time hari-kiri, the act of suicide by self-disembowelment, a sword bein' used, wuz common in Japan. But hit hez gone with other foolishness.

The merchant class in Japan iz a lower class than those who till the soil, az in portions of Europe. At one time the Japanese merchants air sed to hev bin a tough lot. But they air improvin' along with the other classes, though many of them will bear watchin', bein' tricky.

For two hundred and fifty years Japan lived an isolated life. No foreigners wuz allowed to land in Japan and no Japanese were allowed to leave Japan. This period practically came to an end in 1853, when a fleet of American warships appeared in front of Yokohama and gave Japan twenty-four hours to open her ports to American trade. But I hev mentioned this more at length in a former letter. It iz a fact worthy of mention at this time, however, that for many years during the period mentioned, no person wuz allowed to build or sail any but the smallest boats, that being the plan to keep the Japs from crossin' the ocean—if they didn't hev large ships they could not get across. The authorities could not watch awl vessels that went to sea, but they could see that no large ships were bein' built, so they had a sure thing of hit. But that iz only a bit of history now. Some of the finest steamers that sail the ocean nowadays air Japanese steamers and they visit awl the great seaports.

Japan hez awlways bin lucky in critical periods. At one time the Mongols had an eye on Japan and a fleet of vessels wuz made ready to carry an invadin' force. Japan had no warships then, not even the inferior sort the Mongols had, an' she knew nothin' of the plan to capture her country. But the Mongols never got there. A storm destroyed the fleet just az the Spanish Armada wuz destroyed when Spain attempted to invade England several hundred years ago. At that time Spain wuz in her prime and England wuz rather a backward country, havin' practically no navy. But things hev bin reversed; England now hev the biggest navy of water and Spain hev nothin' but a few scraps, left by Dewey and Schley after the Spanish-American war a few years ago. At any rate the country that captures Japan will hev to know what she iz doin', no matter what game iz to be played.

As ever,
ZEKE BILKINS.

THANKSGIVING DAY.

Proclamations Fixing Next Thursday, 25th, As the Date.

The fourth Thursday in November (Next Thursday, 25th inst.), has been officially named by the President and Governors of the several States, as the date for the national observance of the annual "Thanksgiving Day." Following is the text of President Taft's official paper:

A PROCLAMATION:

"The season of the year has returned when, in accordance with the reverent custom established by our forefathers, the people of the United States are wont to meet in their usual places of worship on a day of thanksgiving appointed by the civil magistrate, to return thanks to God for the great mercies and benefits which they have enjoyed.

"During the past year we have been highly blessed, no great calamities of food or tempest or epidemic sickness have befallen us. We have lived in quietness, undisturbed by wars or rumors of wars. Peace and the plenty of bounteous crops and of great industrial production animate a cheerful and resolute people to all the renewed energies and beneficent industry and material and moral progress. It is altogether fitting that we should humbly, gratefully acknowledge the Divine source of these blessings.

"Therefore, I appoint Thursday, the twenty-fifth day of November, as the day of general thanksgiving for the people to lay aside their usual vocations, to repair to their churches and unite in appropriate services and thanks to Almighty God."

(Signed)
"WILLIAM H. TAFT."

PRESIDENT FINLEY TO FARMERS.

Gist of a Sensible Address by Railroad Man—Good Roads as Dirt Highways of Great Importance to Farmers—But Good Roads by Rail and Adequate and Cheaper Transportation Facilities Mean Much to the Planter.

Salisbury, N. C., Nov. 17.—In an address at a meeting of farmers in Salisbury to-day, President Finley, of the Southern Railway Company, took a very optimistic view of the future of agriculture in the Southern States. He said that "no one can look forward into the future with greater confidence than can the farmer, and in my opinion there is no area of equal extent in the world where the agricultural outlook is better than in our Southern States."

Speaking from the viewpoint of one in touch with the relations of supply and demand affecting different commodities in the United States and in foreign countries, Mr. Finley, with a view to making suggestions of practical value, emphasized the opportunities in the South for the production of grains, hay, fruits, vegetables, live stock, poultry, and dairy products, giving special attention to the market opportunities for Southern grown cabbages, Irish potatoes, and sweet potatoes. He showed that farmers in some localities in the South were shipping these products both to Northern and to Southern markets and were finding the business so profitable as to warrant increased production.

Referring to the dependence of agricultural prosperity on supply and demand, he pointed out that "the condition most favorable to the farmer is one in which wide-spread prosperity prevails in our own and other lands," and that ability to reach a market was equally as important. The farmer, therefore, had a vital interest in the highways from his farm yard to the markets of the world. After referring to the importance of good country highways, Mr. Finley pointed out that the interest of the farmer in good roads extended beyond the wagon road from his farm to an industrial or shipping center, and embraced all the railways and waterways over which his products moved to reach the final consumer. Pointing out that adequate transportation facilities were essential to increased production and that the present railway facilities of the South were now little more than sufficient for meeting present demands, and were relatively less than those of some other parts of the country, Mr. Finley said:

"It is manifestly to the interest of this section that the railways, as instrumentalities of transportation, should be built up and strengthened. Even a superficial glance at those sections which are most prosperous will demonstrate that their prosperity is largely based upon the perfection of their transportation facilities. Those producing communities which have the easiest, quickest and most reliable ways to market can sell quicker and more certainly, and thus possess commercial advantages over communities less favored with means of transportation.

"It is, therefore, short-sighted in any community to permit any other section, by a larger more stable, or more conservative policy, to stimulate and encourage, to a greater extent than it itself does, the development of transportation facilities. To the extent that any community permits this, it surrenders to its rival the commercial advantage which differentiates the growing and prosperous from the laggard and stagnant community.

"In view of these general considerations, which are universally accepted as sound by thoughtful men, it becomes important to inquire what the public in any locality can do to promote this important interest.

"The fundamental thing to accomplish is to make the investment in transportation facilities in that locality attractive to the honest investor.

"It is in no way difficult to determine what will do this. All any sensible man has to do is to inquire of himself what would make an investment for his savings attractive to him, and he may rest assured that the considerations which would induce him to invest his savings are

of the same general nature, and are based upon the same principles of human action, as those which influence and control other people.

"In the first place, he would ask himself whether the proposed investment is safe, and

"Second, whether it would bring in as large a return as any other investment that might be open to him as an alternative.

"If he could answer both of these questions in the affirmative, he would not hesitate to make the investment. If, however, he should conclude either that the investment is unsafe, or that he could not rely upon as good a return from it as from some other investment, the prudent man would not venture to make it.

"It is apparent, therefore, that those communities which want their transportation to be gradually improved and perfected, must find some means of convincing the investor that his investment in that community will be safe and that it will bring him as good returns as an investment in any other line of business."

"Looking forward to the future, Mr. Chairman, we see the farmer, the railway man, the miner, the manufacturer, and the merchant working together, shoulder to shoulder, and bringing to our Southern people constantly increasing prosperity and happiness, in which no one will share more fully than the Southern farmer."

AFTER SUGAR TRUST AGAIN.

Former Official of American Sugar Refining Company Arrested Charged With Defrauding the Government.

New York, Nov. 12.—After months of quiet work behind the scenes by the Government investigators, who have been scrutinizing the ins and outs of the complicated sugar import frauds, there came suddenly to-day the indictment and arrest of an important former officer of the American Sugar Refining Company, charged with conspiracy to defraud the Government by false weighing of sugar.

The man arrested is James F. Bendoragale, for more than thirty years superintendent of the Havemeyer and Elder refinery at Williamsburg, the largest of the American Sugar Refining Company's refineries. It was regarded as significant that Bendoragale's resignation from this responsible position was announced by the company only yesterday. When arraigned before United States Commissioner Benedict and asked to give \$5,000 bail for his appearance at an examination set for next Monday, he produced a roll of bills from a waistcoat pocket and counted out the amount.

A New Postmaster for Washington.

Washington, Nov. 13.—Postmaster General Hitchcock this morning announced the appointment of First Assistant Postmaster General Grandfield to be postmaster of the city of Washington, to succeed B. F. Barnes, who died recently.

SCHEDULE OF PASSENGER TRAINS

Effective Sunday, October 10, 1909.

SOUTHWESTERN DAILY.		NORTHEASTERN DAILY.	
No. 56	No. 61	No. 54	No. 62
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