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EDITORIAL BRIEFS

The News and Observer seems to be out of poke-berry juice.

What will the yellow journals talk now that Dr. Crippen has left our shores?

No one has heard the farmer kicking against high prices, be he Democrat or Republican.

Does any one remember why the salary of the Commissioner of Labor and Printing was increased?

Would you call the Democratic muddle in the Sixth District a fight for principle, or simply for pie?

When Aycock was trying to teach the young idea how to shoot, some of the older ones also caught on.

It is said that Mr. Blair is a Cannon man. He is cannon enough to blow up that howitzer opposing him.

There's one thing about it; you don't have to read Chairman Morehead's speech twice to find out what he means.

As a matter of fact, is the grade of oil you now use any better than it was before all those oil inspectors were appointed?

The biggest fish story of the season will be when that "Fish Committee," appointed by the last Legislature makes its report.

Some have asked whether Glenn will preach this fall, or enter Stedman's political campaign. But, what difference does it make?

Wake County is wide-awake, which, being literally translated, means that Wake will go Republican at the November election.

It will not be long before the Democrats will want to know what is meant by "equal rights to all and special privileges to none."

The price of red shirts advanced the day Faison was nominated in the Third District and the price of school books correspondingly fell off.

Wonder if the Democrats would favor a Commissioner of Agriculture for each county if they knew the Republicans would carry the State?

Miss Granville County, determined to keep in the limelight, has just had her whole County Board "pinched" for grafting. What did you say? Oh, yes; they are Democrats.

Anticipating "Democratic harmony" at a speaking between two candidates for Congress in Georgia, the Governor was imperturbed to call out the troops and preserve order.

The Democrats now want the State to pay the cost of holding their primaries. Before long they will want the State to pay for their barbecues and the printing of their tickets.

"Democratic Riots Broken Up By Police" in Atlanta; "Democratic Candidates Fight at Gaffney, S. C.," are some newspaper headlines. Evidently North Carolina Democratic "harmony" is "ketchin'."

It is reported that a certain leader of the Democratic "refawm" ticket in Wake is begging certain persons not to support the Republican ticket. Has the "refawm" decided that begging is better than abuse?

Some of the Democratic politicians claim they do not know what the Republicans mean by local self-government. No one is surprised at that, for, as a matter of act, the Democrats do not seem to know what their own platform means.

We have a feeling of pity for those Johnston County Democrats who were "locked and barred" in their own convention, but they should remember that they are only getting a dose of what they have aided in giving the Republicans for years.

SIXTH DISTRICT MUDDLE.

Committee Decides That Neither Clark or Godwin Has Been Nominated—A New Primary Ordered.

The Sixth District contest and trouble had another inning before the public yesterday. The Democratic State Executive Committee last night adopted the Special Committee report which declared no one nominated for Congress and ordered a voting primary to be held not later than September 15th. State Chairman Eller was authorized to appoint a committee to work out the details.

It will be remembered that the trouble arose over the disgraceful convention which assembled at Wrightsville last July. At this time the lawful chairman, Geo. H. Bellamy, a Godwin supporter, ruled that the delegates from Cumberland and New Hanover (anti-Godwin) were not legally entitled to a seat, their election not being in accordance with the Democratic rules. The convention ousted Bellamy, calling Mayor Springer, of Wilmington, to the chair, who brought down a force of Wilmington police to quell the rioting and sustain him. The Godwin forces bolted and held a separate convention. O. L. Clark, of Bladen, was the choice of the first convention and Godwin of the bolting convention.

The result leaves the matter open now to the voters again, and a second primary will be held not later than September 15th.

Young Woman Shot at by Unknown Man at Pelham.

Pelham, Aug. 24.—While strolling with some children along the public road, which parallels the railroad, yesterday at about 8 o'clock, near the home of Mrs. J. A. Pierce, Miss Mary Pierce and Miss Susie Williams, who is visiting her, were fired upon by a man walking on the railroad, the ball passing through and singeing the hair of Miss Williams without further in jury to either. Greatly frightened they ran to the home of Mrs. Pierce, giving the alarm and furnishing a description of the man doing the shooting, who was described as dressed in blue overalls and light shirt.

Diligent search was at once made to apprehend the party, but without avail up to this writing. It is supposed to have been one of a party of tramps who was taken up here sometime ago by a special agent of the Southern Railway and sent to the county roads, having served out his time and again passing this way, it is believed he sought this method of revenge. Only yesterday there were five taken up her at the coal-chute, which is a favorite stopping place with them, and tried and sent to the county roads.

LATE NEWS.

Yesterday morning about 11 o'clock, Ernest Little, colored, was struck by a Norfolk Southern freight train at Wendell and had both legs cut off between the knees and the hips. The boy attempted to cross the track while a freight train was shifting. He was brought to Raleigh and taken to St. Agnes Hospital.

Will Ray and Charles Chappelle, white, were tried before United States Commissioner John Nichols yesterday on the charge of operating an illicit distillery. Each were required to give \$200 bond for their appearance at next term of Federal Court.

Miss Willie Medlin, an inmate of the County Home, who has repeatedly tried to commit suicide, has been refused admission to the State Hospital, on the grounds that there is no room. Mr. T. D. Johnson, the chairman of the County Board, in an interview yesterday, stated that he had repeatedly made application, but had been refused. As a consequence, the woman must be placed in jail.

Snow and Rain Check Flames.

The forest fires that have been raging in Idaho and Montana have received a decided set-back from the heavy fall of snow that has been going on for the past two days.

Cumberland Man Attempts Suicide.

News comes from Savannah, Ga., of the attempted suicide of Morton Wooten, former sailor on the United States revenue cutter Yamacraw, and reports have it that though badly wounded he has a fighting chance for life. He is a son of Mrs. W. H. Kyle, of Fayetteville. The young man was well liked where known. The rash act was committed at his boarding house and no reason can be assigned for it. He is being treated at a hospital in Savannah.

R. A. P. Cooley announces himself as an independent against E. W. Pou, the regular Democratic candidate for Congress from the Third District.

ISSUE OF CAMPAIGN

President Taft Favors Further Revision of the Tariff, But Not Reopen Question.

NOT DISTURB BUSINESS

Payne-Aldrich Tariff Law, While Best Law Yet Passed, Can Be Judiciously Revised—Profits Are Too High—Regarded as Shrewd Move—Full Details of President's Plan to Be Made Public Later—Operations of the New Tariff Board to Be Tried.

Beverly, Mass., Aug. 23.—President Taft's keynote for the coming campaign became known here tonight. The President will favor further revision of the tariff.

While he is still convinced that the Payne-Aldrich law is the best tariff law the country has had up to this time he has at last reached the conclusion that there is decided room for improvement.

Only a Fair Profit.

Mr. Taft does not propose that business shall be upset by another wholesale revision but he will recommend to Congress that individual schedules in the tariff system be taken up separately and be disposed of on a scientific basis. The new revision is to be based upon the findings of the tariff commission as to the cost of production at home and abroad. Only a fair profit is to be allowed the American producer. "Extortionate and unreasonable" profits, the President declares, are to be tolerated no longer.

The President has tated these facts and has outlined his position in detail in the letter he has sent to Representative McKinlay, of Illinois, for publication in the Republican Congressional text-book. The letter was mailed from Beverly yesterday. The time of making it public has been left entirely to the judgment of the committee.

A Shrewd Move.

Political observers regard this move as about the shrewdest that has been made during the present administration. It offers an excellent opportunity for the insurgents and regulars to get together in the campaign and President Taft has been exceedingly anxious to find a ground upon which the different factions could meet without embarrassment to either.

With the creation of the tariff board under the Payne-Aldrich act and the enlargement of its power by provision of the last Congress, the President believes a way has been opened to put the tariff on a scientific basis for the first time in the history of the country.

Mr. Taft proposes to obviate opening the whole tariff act to recommend to Congress that after any schedule is taken up for further consideration a rule shall be passed by both the House and by the Senate providing that amendments to a certain schedule of the tariff shall be in order and that any amendments not germane to that particular schedule shall be declared out of order.

The President already has had two conferences with Chairman H. C. Emery for the tariff commission this summer. The first of these was on board the yacht Mayflower at Bar Harbor late in July and the second was at Burgess Point two weeks ago. The President proposes to have the entire tariff board meet him in Beverly some time in September.

MOREHEAD SEES THE PRESIDENT.

North Carolina Chairman Goes to Beverly in Automobile—Big Conference Held.

Beverly, Mass., Aug. 17.—An important political conference was held this afternoon in which President Taft, Vice President Sherman and Congressman Longworth participated.

Representative Morehead of North Carolina, who has recently been made chairman of the State executive committee, came here from Boston in an automobile and talked at some length with the President this afternoon.

Republican of Nash.

A convention of the Republicans of Nash County was held in Nashville Saturday afternoon and elected a central committee, with John C. Matthews as chairman. A committee was also selected for the purpose of putting a ticket in the field to run against the Democratic candidates and this body will make a report later on.

ROOSEVELT GOES WEST.

To Speak at Number of Points in the Western States—Pleased With President Taft's Statement.

New York, Aug. 23.—Just before his special car pulled out for the West to-day Colonel Roosevelt held a hasty conference with Lloyd Griscom, chairman of the New York County Committee; Collector William Loeb, and his son-in-law, Nicholas Longworth, and for the first time publicly announced his intention of going to the Republican State Convention to fight.

"I am very much pleased with Mr. Taft's statement," he said, as he emerged from the car. "I think it makes the situation perfectly good. If Nassau County wishes me to go to the State Convention I shall go, as I regard the issues as now absolutely clear-cut. As far as I am concerned, there will be not a particle of compromise."

There was a small party of the Colonel's personal friends at the station to see him off, including, besides the politicians, Dr. Lawrence Abbott and Dr. Silas McFee, Mrs. Roosevelt and Mrs. Nicholas Longworth.

Mrs. Roosevelt accompanied the Colonel as far as Herkimer, but the others said good-bye in the trainshed.

Griscom and Loeb were the first to appear, and as soon as they arrived, Roosevelt pulled them into the car and into his state-room. A few minutes later Longworth arrived, and he was at once admitted to the conference. The situation was hurriedly canvassed and then Roosevelt went outside to say good-bye to his many friends.

Intends to Visit Australia.

Lieutenant H. J. Thornton, an Australian globe-trotter, was introduced by Dr. Abbott, and Roosevelt paid a tribute to Australia and its residents, saying that he had had several Australians in his regiment and that they had proved fine men. He said he intends to visit Australia "some day."

Roosevelt then announced his approval of the President's letter and his intention of fighting in the convention, completing his statement as the train pulled out.

CRIPPEN GOES TO LONDON.

Inspector Dew Leaves Quebec With His Prisoners—An Omen of Bad Luck.

Quebec, Que., Aug. 20.—Quebec bade farewell tonight to Harry Harvey Crippen and Ethel Clare Leneve. At 7 o'clock they sailed for England on board the White Star line Magnetic, due at Liverpool at noon next Saturday. By Saturday night they probably will be lodged in a London jail to await trial for the murder of a woman supposed to be Crippen's wife, Belle Elmore.

An extraordinary accident occurred as Crippen crossed the gangplank. It carried an omen that might well depress a man in the shadow of the hangman's rope. Crippen came hurrying across the plank handcuffed, his hat pulled low over his eyes, and his chin buried in his collar, trying, apparently to dodge the photographers.

In his haste he ran squarely into a rope that held the gangway steady. The rope caught him under the chin and jerked him backward and had not Dew, who was close behind, caught him, Crippen would have fallen and possibly pitched between the two vessels into the water. The next instant Dew had stood him on his feet and the pair disappeared inside the Magnetic.

Miss Leneve, who had left the jail with every evidence of willingness, had to be supported as she crossed the gangplank. As she reached the deck of the Magnetic she fainted and had to be carried to her cabin. It was half an hour before she revived. Inspector Dew managed the departure of the famous pair in a manner that furnished a fitting climax to their sensational capture.

Rutherford County Convention.

Rutherfordton, Aug. 22.—To-day proved to be a red letter day for our town, it being the date for the senatorial conventions of the Republican and Democratic parties in this the thirty-third district, the Republican county convention and the opening of Rutherford superior court.

The Republicans nominated Messrs G. W. Conner, of Henderson, and D. F. Morrow, of Rutherford as their candidates.

In the county convention the Republicans nominated J. O. Gettys for the Legislature W. J. McDaniel, clerk of superior court; John A. Wilson, register of deeds; J. L. Robins, sheriff; James K. Roberson, treasurer; D. W. A. Cowen, M. H. Champion and C. W. Keeter, commissioners; J. H. Wood, surveyor; J. L. Davis, J. O. Ledbetter and J. W. Walker, board of education, and L. Purgason, superintendent of schools.

FOREST FIRES RAGE

Whole Towns Swept Away, Fifty Lives Lost, and Millions of Feet of Lumber Destroyed.

U. S. TROOPS FIGHT FIRE

Forest Fires Sweeping Portions of Idaho and Montana—Town of Wallace Destroyed—Gould, Montana, Surrounded by Flames—Train Has Thrilling Escape—Loss Almost Incalculable—U. S. Government to the Rescue.

Washington, D. C., Aug. 22.—With more than fifty persons known to be dead and more than 100 missing, 200 injured, half of Wallace burned and two or three villages obliterated, forest fires to-night continue to threaten death and destruction over a large territory in Northern Idaho, Eastern Washington and Western Montana. Half a dozen villages are seriously threatened by the flames and their inhabitants by hundreds are hurrying to places of safety. The situation is most acute in the Coeur d'Alene region of Northern Idaho.

Devastation in Idaho.

Wallace, Idaho, August 22.—The loss of life in the forest fires that swept over the Coeur d'Alene region Saturday and Sunday, is to-night placed at 80 persons. Forestry officials received word that thirty-four fire-fighters had burned to death on Big Creek, and thirty had met death on Superior Lake.

Word came to-day that 106 men, near Avery, on the St. Joe River, had been burned, but a later report said that all but four came out safely. Six men were killed in the Placier Creek fire, three miles from Wallace; three near Mullan, and three at Wallace.

The whole country from here to the St. Joe River, 25 miles, has been burned over.

The loss at Wallace still stands at \$1,000,000. One hundred buildings were destroyed. The hospitals are full of wounded, a number of them being blind.

Spokane, Wash., Aug. 22.—News of the loss of the men at Bear Creek was brought to Spokane to-day by W. D. McLellan, a newspaper photographer. McLellan was one of the relief party which made the trip to Big Creek on Sunday to rescue survivors. The heat was so intense that the party was unable to approach the spot where the camp had stood. According to the 17 survivors who reached Avery, the fire came on them while they were sleeping, and they were surrounded by flames. The men scattered and ran for safety. Little hope is entertained by the 17 that their companions survived.

At least five farmers are now dead at Newport, Washington.

Several persons were rendered temporarily insane.

Gould, 17 miles from Helena, is entirely surrounded by fires. Wilburus, just over the mountain from Gould, is also threatened, and the inhabitants are leaving.

A correspondent gives the following account of the journey of a Northern Pacific special relief train: "All the way from Mullan to St. Regis, the Northern Pacific ran two walls of burning timbers. The relief train got as far as Borax and was compelled to turn back on account of burning bridges.

"Getting back to Saltese, it was found that the bridge east had been burned. It was impossible to move either way. The train was compelled to stay at Saltese and that fact saved the town, which soon began to burn. There were 150 men on the train. Bucket brigades were formed and men were set at work with shovels.

Fear 600 Are Lost.

Butte, Mont., Aug. 23.—Six hundred fire fighters who left Thompson Falls four days ago were reported lost and Forest Supervisor Bushnell, of the Cabinet Reserves at Thompson, may have perished. The wind is blowing furiously toward Thompson to-day and it is feared the town, crowded with refugees, will be swept by the fire before night.

The report was brought by Julius Barney, who reached Helena to-day from Thompson.

"The six hundred men," said Barney, "had been gone four days, during which time nothing had been heard from them and Forest Supervisor Bushnell, of the Cabinet reserve, who is at Thompson, feared all were dead when I left Thompson this morning. A wall of fire sky high was sweeping in from the west. The 700 inhabitants of Thompson

had packed all their effects prepared to flee."

Governor Norris has ordered out five companies of the Montana National Guard to assist in fighting forest fires.

TO BREAK THE SOLID SOUTH.

Mr. Morehead Will Build Up a Strong, Virile Party in North Carolina—Will Make "Trouble for the Democrats."

A Marylander sent us the following editorial extract from the Baltimore Sun, on the political situation in North Carolina, for publication in The Caucasian. The portion of the editorial sent us is as follows:

"Mr. Taft long ago recognized that one great handicap to the success of his party in the South was the odious 'referee system,' by which some politicians was given the privilege of dispensing the Federal patronage without regard to the wishes of the community in which Federal officers were to serve. This has resulted in building up State political machines composed almost entirely of office-holders whose sole object was to secure and retain office. No strong, virile party can be built up on any such basis, and so Mr. Taft, then Secretary of War, stated in his notable speech made at Greensboro, N. C., several years ago. The change in the party management in North Carolina, brought about apparently with the support of Mr. Taft, is the first active step toward the elimination of the 'referees' and a change in the party system. Congressman John M. Morehead in his campaign for chairman first thoroughly organized the voters, and then he made it plain that he had the support of President Taft, the office-holders, most of whom owed their appointments to his opponent, Committeeman Carl Duncan, trooped into the Morehead camp. Mr. Morehead had the active support of former United States Senator Marion Butler, who organized the campaigns of 1894 and 1896, when the Republicans and Populists carried the State. Though elected Senator as a Populist, Mr. Butler long ago became a Republican, and is now high in the party councils. Mr. Morehead is a man of wealth and close to the manufacturing interests, which, though nominally Democrats, lean toward the Republican party on account of the high tariff. Mr. Butler is still a power among the farmers and is expected to bring the old Populist element into line. Under the educational test thousands of negroes are now eligible to the ballot, and these will be urged to register and vote. The new managers hope to unite these elements with the old-line Republican vote, and if they succeed will present a formidable opposition to the Democrats, for the first time in a decade.

"The serious split in the Democratic party in Tennessee, where the bitterest campaign ever waged there has just been followed by the overwhelming defeat of Governor Patterson and his faction by the independents, gives Mr. Taft fresh hope in that State. The home of former Secretary of War Luke Wright and of the present Secretary of War Dickinson, Mr. Taft has strong hopes of success in Tennessee.

"In North Carolina and Tennessee Mr. Taft hopes to insert the wedge that will break the solid South. The Democrats are firmly entrenched, they have held the fort for a generation, and the assault upon their position will require a greater force and better generalship than the Republicans have ever before exhibited in the South. But it is apparent that the Taft administration is determined to make the attempt and is setting about the task in a way that promises trouble for the Democrats."

Murder in the Reel Foot Lake.

Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 22.—An Obion, Tenn., dispatch says:

On the ground made famous by the Reel Foot Lake night rider troubles, James Keesucker shot and killed one man late Saturday afternoon and wounded his brother and a woman at Shaw's Park, in Obion County.

The dead: Martin Leonard.

The wounded: Mrs. Pitts and Will Keesucker.

James Keesucker made his escape.

Shaw's Park is an open space of ground on Reel Foot Lake about a quarter of a mile from Samburg, Tenn., a town of about fifty people. During the night rider troubles Samburg was said to be the hot-bed of the organization.

A party of people was in the park about 5 o'clock in the afternoon when James Keesucker drew a revolver, it is said, and shot Martin Leonard. Leonard dropped dead in his tracks and Keesucker then turned his weapon on Mrs. Pitt and his brother, Will Keesucker.

There had long been bad feeling between the Keesuckers and Leonard.