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EDITORIAL BRIEFS

Barnum is dead but Dr. Frederick Cook is on deck.

It might not be amiss to ask the Wilson supporters, "Who killed Cook, and who killed Barnum?"

The row over Woodrow Wilson is about to eclipse the Senatorial fight in this State.

Wouldn't ex-Gov. Glenn and Dr. Frederick Cook make a good double-header on a lecturing tour?

Democratic politicians are now devoting some time to the discussion of the "high cost" of securing the nomination.

The Democrats tried to knock both ends out of the "pork barrel" at one time when they passed the Federal pension bill.

The Democrats says they have plenty of presidential timber, but the people don't want any Democratic free lumber.

The News and Observer had just crawled on the Wilson band wagon when the spokes began to drop out of the wheels.

An exchange tells of a city treasurer who refused an increase in his salary. No he was not a North Carolina Democrat.

We believe that Zeke Bilkins is the only person who ever reached the North Pole. Dr. Cooke to the contrary notwithstanding.

An editorial headline in a Democratic exchange says "the truth is brutal." Have noticed that many others view it in the same light.

The Democrats now want to investigate the money trust. Probably they want to find out if there is a sufficiency for campaign funds.

The Democrats in Congress voted for a big pension for the Union soldiers, but did not vote a penny for the Confederate soldiers who fought in the same war.

Judging from the way many of them talk the Democratic politicians seem to think they know better how to run Republican politics than their own political matters.

The Thomasville Davidsonian says Woodrow Wilson seems to be unsteady and changeable. That is very true and many of his friends seem to be in the same boat.

National Chairman Mack says the Democrats will probably name a dark horse, and the Chairman Mack gets before the mirror to see if he resembles a dark horse.

Massachusetts elected a Democratic Governor and now it is announced from that State that the number of divorces are growing daily. It seems that one evil follows another.

The Democrats are terribly anxious to know whom the Republicans intend nominating for Governor. The chances are, they will know more about it than they want to before the campaign is over.

Can't say whether the Penitentiary farms are making a profit or not—but they should, as the number of crimes being committed under Democratic good government should give the Penitentiary authorities a good working force.

Down in Lumberton, North Carolina, the Democrats have instituted suit to restrain the sheriff from collecting the increased taxes. But how are they to pay the increased salaries to Democratic pets if they don't squeeze the tax-payers?

The fact that Col. Henry Watterson is opposed to Woodrow Wilson as a candidate for President has caused one paper to observe that the Colonel hasn't picked a winner in some time. But in that respect Marse Henry is no worse off than all the other Democrats.

SAD ACCIDENT NEAR TROY.

Two Children of Mr. Smith Burned to Death and Home Destroyed.

News has reached Raleigh from Troy, Montgomery County, telling of the death by burning of two little children of a Mr. Smith, who lives on the farm of Col. J. R. Blair, which is located on Pee Dee River, some five miles from Troy. The father of the little children, one three months and the other three years old, was away at work, and while the mother went to the spring, the little children caught fire. It is thought the older one walked too close to the fire, and then ran to the cradle of the little one. Both were asphyxiated when the mother got back to the house. She carried the children out and made frantic efforts to save the building, but was unsuccessful in her efforts.

FATAL RAILROAD WRECK.

Four Prominent Business Men Killed Illinois Accident.

A special sent out Centralia, Illinois, Monday night says: James T. Harahan, Sr., former president of the Illinois Central Railroad; Frank O. Melcher, second vice-president of the Rock Island; E. B. Pierce, general solicitor of the Rock Island, and Eldridge E. Wright, son of Luke E. Wright, former Secretary of War, were killed in a collision of two Illinois Central Railroad trains at Kinmundy, Ill., twenty miles from here early today. Three trainmen were injured and the passengers were badly shaken up and bruised.

Negro Farmers to Meet at Colored A. & M. College.

President James B. Dudley, of the A. & M. College at Greensboro, has completed arrangements and programs for the third annual "farmers' week" to be held at A. & M. College, the event this year beginning Monday, February 12 and ending Saturday, February 17.

ANOTHER ROW BREWING

Final Fight is Deferred Until Monday

Threatened Trouble in Democratic Caucus Over the Sixteen Million Public Building Omnibus Bill—Some of the Democratic Members Begging for Higher Tariff on Certain Products.

An Associated Press dispatch sent out from Washington Tuesday night says:

"After an ineffectual effort on the part of some members to place steel rails and big iron on the free list and increase the proposed duties on lead and zinc, Democrats of the House in caucus to-day ratified the iron and steel tariff schedule drafted by their colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee adding an amendment to include baling wire in the free list.

"The threatened fight between majority leader Underwood, Representative Fitzgerald, chairman of the Appropriations Committee and other leaders and Democrats who approve of the recommendation of the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds for a \$16,000,000 public building bill was postponed until next Monday night when a special caucus will be held.

"Representatives Rucker, Taylor and Martin, of Colorado, made a vigorous effort to have the proposed duties on lead and zinc increased. All of them declared they were pledged to their constituencies for higher tariffs than those proposed on these items, but their efforts were unavailing. The proposed duty on lead in the bill is 25 per cent, zinc in blocks 15 per cent, and zinc ore is placed on the free list. Representative Rucker and Representative Taylor asked to be absolved from their caucus pledge. The only amendment to the bill was one to place baling wire on the free list with barbed wire and all other fencing wire."

IN LINE FOR ROOSEVELT.

Special to The Washington Post.]

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 20.—The National Roosevelt committee, which has as its aim the election of Theodore Roosevelt for a third term as the Nation's Chief Executive, was formed to-day at a meeting held in the Union League Club.

The Chicago Roosevelt Club, organized independently a week ago, to-day adopted the following resolution to explain the reason for its being:

"Resolved, That Theodore Roosevelt should be the next President of the United States, because the people want him, and that's reason enough."

MR. HITCHCOCK IS ON

Gives Out Interview Declaring He is for Renomination of Mr. Taft

CAUSE OF THE INTERVIEW

Much Talk About Mr. Roosevelt as a Candidate for President—President Taft's Friends Say They Are Sure of His Renomination and Election—The Talk About Democratic Presidential Candidates—The Watterson-Harvey Episode Has Apparently Hurt Governor Wilson's Candidacy—The Democratic Investigating Committees Have Created Expense But Produced No Other Results.

(Special to The Caucasian.)

Washington, D. C., Jan. 23, 1912.

Postmaster-General Hitchcock to-day declared in an interview he was for the renomination of President Taft. One sentence in the interview has been the subject of discussion during the day by politicians. It is as follows:

"I am for Taft as strong as a man can be, and did not realize until a day or two ago how far these stories of my alleged differences with the President were going."

The comment that has been most frequently made about this statement is that it is strange that the Postmaster-General should not have known or heard, until a few days ago, of the many and sundry rumors about his alleged disloyalty to the President, and also the strangeness of the fact that he should wait even "a day or two" after hearing these rumors for the first time to make a public statement that he was for the President for renomination.

This interview has caused a discussion of the action of the Postmaster-General in attempting to get a subcommittee appointed by the National Committee at its meeting here last December to manage the next National Convention, and that he should have selected this committee without consulting with the President; and attention is also called to the further fact that it was necessary for the President's friends, when they learned of such action on the part of Mr. Hitchcock, to go to the meeting of the National Committee and make a fight to get a committee of five appointed who were known to be friendly to the President.

Another Strange Act of Mr. Hitchcock.

Of course, the recent action of the Postmaster-General in giving out an interview saying that he would recommend to Congress in his annual message the purchase of all of the telegraph lines, without having consulted with the President, has been recalled by every one, and especially the explanation which the Postmaster-General gave to the effect that he had intended to consult the President, but that he had given out this statement to the press and had gone out of the city and forgotten all about it, as the reason why he had not consulted the President.

Every day since that occurrence the papers have been full of more or less statements to the effect that Mr. Hitchcock would soon resign; also statements to the effect that he was in conference with those who were opposed to the President's renomination, and many other similar stories.

A prominent Republican from North Carolina, who was here to-day, said that the fact that the Postmaster-General found it necessary to declare that he was in favor of the President's renomination and re-election was as strange as the fact that Mr. Duncan found himself in the position recently where it was necessary for him to declare for the first time that he was also in favor of the President's renomination and re-election.

Much Talk About Roosevelt's Candidacy.

During the last week the political world in this country has been stirred as it seldom has been by the revival of talk for the nomination of Roosevelt for President in many different quarters of the country. Some say that this is a spontaneous expression of the opinions of the people; others say it is a part of a well organized movement. One day the city Republican committee of St. Louis passes resolutions declaring in favor of the nomination of the former President; another day the Governor of West Virginia and next the Governor of Michigan comes out in an interview to the same effect; another day the leading Republicans of a Con-

gressional District in Illinois meets and unanimously passes similar resolutions, and at once Republican Roosevelt clubs are formed all over that district. Another day the Republican chairman of the State of Ohio gives out an interview for Roosevelt and calls for the organization of Roosevelt clubs over the State, which is the President's home. Another day it is announced that a large number of Roosevelt Republican clubs have been organized in the State of Oklahoma, and that the work is being pushed by a committee of progressive Republicans.

This is simply a sample of the announcements that have been made every day, and sometimes three or four or a half-dozen from different parts of the country to the same effect on the same day. This has set all of the politicians here, and all who come and go in the national capital, to discussing what it means and what the result will be with an interest that is most unusual.

In the meantime, the President's friends are quietly at work and meet all of these statements with the greatest confidence that the President is already sure of a renomination, and that his re-election is of course expected.

The Talk About Democratic Presidential Candidates.

There has been during the last week an unusual amount of activity among Democratic politicians in Congress and over the country. The Watterson-Harvey episode has apparently hurt Governor Wilson, for, as a result of it, several prominent men who had formerly supported the New Jersey Governor for the nomination have turned to Speaker Champ Clark. They charge Wilson with base ingratitude.

A wise and experienced politician, discussing the Democratic situation to-day, said that he believed that Governor Wilson had already reached the flood-tide of his popularity, and that he was liable to lose ground instead of gain between now and the Democratic Convention.

This politician, in reviewing the candidates and the situation, said that Governor Wilson would never be able to get two-thirds of the delegates to the Democratic convention; that Governor Harmon could not be nominated, and indeed that no one of the leading candidates would ever be able to gain any votes after the convention met, and that a deadlock was therefore certain and that the result of the deadlock would be the nomination of Speaker Champ Clark. He pointed out that the Speaker was not antagonizing anybody, and that he would be the only candidate on whom the friends of all the other candidates could and would naturally unite.

A prominent Democratic politician, who has always been a strong supporter of Mr. Bryan, who heard this statement, remarked that he thought that the convention was more likely to turn as a result of a deadlock to Mr. Bryan, because the policies which he had advocated were stronger to-day than ever, and that Mr. Bryan himself had grown steadily on the country.

The Democratic Investigating Committees.

The many committees appointed by the Democratic House to investigate any and everything, where they hoped to find something against the Republican party to use as Democratic campaign material, have been very disappointing to the Democratic House. They have not yet unearthed a single thing that could be used by them effectively in the campaign, while, at the same time, the "economy Democratic House" is met by requests from all of these committees for appropriations for further money to pay the expense of continued investigations.

It is plain that the result of the work of these committees is not only very disappointing, but that their continued existence is becoming to be embarrassing to the Democratic leaders. They not only have found nothing for campaign material, but they have often made themselves more or less ridiculous in attempting to conduct these investigations. A recent case was the appearance of Mr. Carnegie before the committee investigating the steel trust. Mr. Carnegie simply made a monkey of the investigating committee.

Knocked Into a Cocked Hat.

From the Chattanooga Times, Dem.]

We shall be somewhat surprised if the verdict of the country following this incident is not that Governor Wilson has at last "knocked Bryan into a cocked hat" by outdoing him at his own game—selfish perverseness and wilful disregard of the obligations of personal friendship and political partisanship. It is melancholy, too, that it appears so, for Governor Wilson was at one time the most promising figure among all the Democratic entries for the Presidential nomination.

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Mr. Hooker Says the Present System is Worse Than Patchwork

THE NEEDY PARTS NEGLECTED

Mr. Joyner's System Does Not Even

Put the Patches in the Right Place

—Only 80 Day School 155 Days—

Where the School Are Longer It is

by Special Tax—Democratic Party

Cannot Point With Pride to its

Legislation for Schools.

During the campaign when the Republicans charged that the public school system in this State was not being operated to the best interest of the school children of this State, the Democratic politicians said the statements were untrue and that the charges were being made simply for political purposes. Since that time, however, many educators and many Democratic papers have not only admitted the statements but many of them have even made more serious charges against the public school system, as now conducted, than was ever made by the Republicans. The following article by a Kinston correspondent of the Raleigh Evening Times gives further evidence of the mismanagement of the public school system of this State.

"Mr. Hooker on the Schools.

To the Editor of The Times:

"Our free school system, or the lack of system, or maybe too much system, however, the failure to provide a reasonable school term in both length and kind is the cause of this criticism of our schools just now. While all the schools and colleges that have their origin and maintenance through and by the taxation of the people have prospered most wonderfully, and while the wealth of the State has increased 25 per cent in the last ten years, the free schools stay the same. Ninety per cent of the people that create this wealth are patrons of the common schools and have no other means of educating their children, yet by the creator of this system they are not considered of sufficient importance to share in this increased prosperity of the State Mr. Coon says that it is a patchwork system; I hardly think so, for as my mother used to use patches they were applied to the garment in its most needy parts. It is not so with Mr. Joyner's school system. It puts each patch of good cloth where the garment is the best, or worst still, he gives the patch to the boy that already has good clothes while the little fellow with ragged breeches (often times no fault of his) is left without protection. Our Democratic party can never point with pride to its legislation in the interest of the people as long as the present arrangements continue. I fail to see how a more unjust set could be devised. As it now stands the patrons of the high school after getting their share of the common school fund come in and take further of the little fellow's already depleted wardrobe. Mr. Poe says that we have 101 days elementary schools, only two States below us, while the average of the United States is 155 days. If that be true, we have nothing, as he says, to be proud of except the opportunity to improve. But have we 101 days? The schools around me have only 80 days. Are they not an average? Where do the other 21 days come from, and who gets them? Will somebody please tell us? Are they the result of the combined help from the State Treasury, and what is taken from the common school fund in the counties where these district high schools are located. The common school fund was raised for common school purposes. The tax is levied and collected for that specific purpose. To change that money into any other channel other than the education of all the people can be termed nothing less than absolute theft sanctioned by law. The farm-life schools seem to have met with but little success so far, and may it ever be so. For a county to spend as much in equipment and maintenance of one farm-life school to train fifty boys and girls as it does in its whole free school system to train 3,000 boys and girls reminds us so very much of the tail wagging the dog. Craven County I don't believe intended to do that, but they were told of the great good that would come to them through a farm-life school, and that there was only a few to be given out to the largest counties, and that it was necessary to vote quick and avoid the rush, and also the failure on the part of the people to investigate its real worth accounts for its adoption. However, there are still nine left, and

we started with ten without first taking into consideration the rights of the people, and the proper application of a school system to those to be taught is poor leadership. The country over the people are endeavoring to replace a government by a few, for a few, with a government by the people for the people. For a country to get the full benefits of a Republican form of government it is very necessary for the people to safeguard their rights. It isn't going to be done by the political boss and very seldom from the man in office. And what is the use in being so vindictive against the combinations devised by man to accumulate wealth and ignore the one thing that so vitally affects every man's home in North Carolina?

"We have no right to cuss the trust if we can't be trusted to give every child in this State a fair share of the State's property in the form of public schools, and to forever eliminate the possibility of one man's dominating the public schools. We had as well face the naked facts that North Carolina has mighty common, common schools, and if there had been as much effort in their behalf as there has been in behalf of farm-life schools, they would have been far better than they are to-day. The Agricultural Department in both this State and the Nation are trying to impress on the farmer the importance of a thorough preparation of the soil to insure a satisfactory harvest. How much more necessary it is then that the thousand of free school children all over this State should be well trained to meet the duties and responsibilities, and at the same time enabling them to live the life more in accordance with the wishes of our Creator. P. A. HOOKER. Kinston, N. C."

CHAIRMAN ISSUES CALL

Republican State Executive Committee Will Meet in Raleigh Feb. 28th.

Will Decide on Time and Place of Next State Convention, Which Will Select the Four Delegates-at-Large to the National Republican Convention.

Hon. John M. Morehead, chairman, has issued a call to the members of the Republican State Executive Committee to meet in Raleigh, Wednesday, February 28, to select the time and place of the next Republican State Convention and to transact any other business that may properly come before the committee.

The call reads as follows: "Dear Sir:—Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Republican State Executive Committee will be held in Raleigh, N. C., on Wednesday, February 28, 1912, at the Yarrowborough House, at 1:30 p. m.

"The object of the meeting is to designate the time and place for the holding of the State Convention to name delegates-at-large to the Republican National Convention and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the State committee.

"This meeting at the beginning of the National and State campaigns is important, and you are urged to be present. Be kind enough to write and indicate your purpose of attending.

"Signed by the secretary."

The members of the committee are as follows: John M. Morehead of Spray, chairman; Gilliam Grisson, Spray, secretary-treasurer; district members, I. M. Meekins, first district; D. W. Patrick, second district; George E. Butler, third district; J. J. Jenkins, fourth district; R. S. Robertson, fifth district; S. A. Edmund, sixth district; F. W. Hanes, seventh district; C. H. Cowles, eighth district; Charles E. Greene, ninth district; F. A. Fanning, tenth district.

Members-at-large—Thomas Settle, ex-officio, chairman, Asheville; Harry Skinner, Greenville; J. R. Gaskill, Tarboro; C. C. Vann, Rose Hill; James D. Parker, Smithfield; R. G. Campbell, Greensboro; I. B. Tucker, Whiteville; Dr. J. J. Mott, Statesville; Ed. A. Smith, Charlotte; C. J. Harris, Dillsboro.

Dropping Away From Wilson.

From the Greensboro Record, Dem.] Begins to look as if that last shot at Woodrow Wilson hit him. Heretofore he has never been touched, but that Harvey episode is certainly not doing him any good if we are to judge, not by the opinions of his enemies, but by what some of his hitherto warm supporters are saying. . . . The worst sign is that some of Wilson's best friends have deserted him, while few of them can stand to him now. His action was fearfully cold-blooded. Colonel Watterson says it was tyrannous. He was present and ought to know.