

REPUBLICANS AT MOREHEAD DINNER

(Continued from page 1.)

that while he favored local self-government, he was opposed to "local option" if that was what the talk meant. There was no cheer then. Judge Robinson spoke out though.

Senator Butler followed soon afterwards and came out strongly again for local self-government. Nobody knows yet what the banqueters thought all this meant.

It is impossible with a stream of running events to get on the inside and keep up with everything. The Yarborough Hotel served the guests and did it handsomely. There was but the barest wait between the serving and the speaking began exactly on the dot.

Toastmaster Tom Settle in welcome indulged but little of his large powers of speech. When he presented the chairman of the committee, a big ovation was given him.

Mr. Morehead's Speech.

Chairman Morehead toasted "Our Political Independence." He began by paying a great tribute to the party and declared that the country, unapproached in greatness, is his party's monument. Declaring that North Carolina is more independent than any of the States, and that there is no blind following blind leadership as once there was, he took up the question of party control.

Slap at Bossism.

Mr. Morehead continued to discuss the matter of patronage and said:

"Seriously, however, this question of patronage has been, in my opinion, one of the hindrances to the growth of our party in the South, where, being a minority party, we have quite naturally engaged the attention and the consideration of the National leaders of the party, not from the standpoint of electing Republicans at the polls, but the concern of these leaders has been as to how the delegations from the South would line up at our National Convention. We Republicans of the south know only too well to what has been practiced the exchange of the vote of Southern delegations for the control of Federal patronage.

"We know too well that in practically every State South of the Potomac when you find the man or coterie of men who can swing the vote of their State's delegation in the National Convention, in him or in them you will find vested the control of the Federal offices in that State, and in that State you will find the weeds and thistles of bossism in their fullest and most luxuriant flower.

"Convention vote was the only interest we have aroused in the council of the party and we have suffered and submitted trafficking in that.

"Is it small wonder that we have staggered under this incubus and have failed to make our party dominant, deserving and commanding the respect of independent thinkers, when we have bartered our freedom of thought and action to our craving for a mess of pottage?

"Most truly it is not—and it is a splendid tribute to the soundness of our principles that we grew in spite of our burden.

"Gentlemen, what do we read in the great metropolitan dailies and even in our own State papers?

"There is practically no issue of any important daily which does not in every article dealing with politics emphasize the fact that we Republicans of the South are regarded as mere chattels led here, there, or anywhere by the halter of Federal patronage.

"I have seen numberless articles and editorials in the leading journals, both Republican and Democratic, within the last month to the effect that the South will line up solidly at the dictation of Mr. Hitchcock, because forsooth in him was lodged the jobs, and this, too, in face of the fact that the position of this nimble and shifty individual was seriously questioned and practically undetermined.

"Is it not a sickening spectacle to all who belong to the party from principle that the South has to the slightest extent given basis of fact to this state of affairs?

"That we have to the smallest degree suffered ourselves to be capitalized as the personal political asset of some scheming, self-seeking politician and that we allow our manhood and independence to be so prostituted for the bones that may be thrown to us from the political board?

"Gentlemen, I confess to a very sympathetic disposition and leaning to the old-fashioned theory: 'To the victor belong the spoils.'

"This theory is entirely logical and natural to my mind and only in its abuse has it been discredited.

"When we place our spoils ahead of principle we build an inverted pyramid, we fail and we deserve to fail; but when we reverse the order, when we fight for principle, we are building upon a bed of rock and we will prevail.

"I believe that the time has come for the Republicans of North Carolina, where there truly does exist a Republican party founded on principle, to resent this sneer and to remove this reproach from the fair

name of the South,—and let us say in this also, 'North Carolina shall be first.'

"I say to Republicans, North, South, East, and West, that no longer will the party in the Old North State permit itself to be led as a dumb thing, without will and without conviction.

"Absolutely without prejudice to any man, who aspires to the approaching Presidential nomination, I say the time is now for North Carolina Republicans to fling back these aspersions and to decline to send to our Chicago convention in June delegates tied hand and foot with instructions to vote for any man.

"To give the lie to these oft-repeated assertions that any man can get any Southern delegation who has the price. As remarked, I take this position without prejudice to any candidate and I maintain that it is indisputably sound and right even were there but one name to be proposed at that convention and the nomination proceed by acclamation, as I think it will.

"The time is come, gentlemen, for the Republicans of North Carolina to declare that they at least cannot be corralled like cattle.

"It is high time for us to now assert our manhood and it is the duty and obligation of our party in this State to select, as delegates to the next National Convention, representative Republicans in whom we impose entire confidence who we know will exercise intelligence, patriotism and fidelity to their trust; men whose every act we know will be for the best interests of their party and to the final end that their country may be spared the calamity of a free-trade Democratic administration.

"It is my deep conviction that, if we pursue this policy,—if we demonstrate our freedom from the clutches of selfish politicians and bosses,—we will command the respect and confidence of every citizen who believes in sound government and constructive legislation based upon the eternal principles incorporated in our country's constitution.

"In behalf of the State Committee and its chairman, again I bid you welcome and I glory in the efforts, which I am confident we all will make, individually and collectively, to upbuild a successful party in which each and every voter is an equal partner and which shall be without even the semblance of a boss."

Following the address of Mr. Morehead, Colonel Harry Skinner took up "The East."

It was a speech full of the classic and brought a big hand when it called for local self-government. Colonel Skinner opened the way for further discussion of this issue referred to elsewhere. He was discreet, dodged the pitfalls and made an altogether pleasing effect.

When Mr. Iredell Mears, of Wilmington, was presented for "The Whole State," he was applauded. He was rather unacquainted in the convention and had lined up recently.

It didn't make any difference. His address was free from the rancor of the newly-made convert. It was pitched high and pleased the people a great deal.

The banquet began under the most trying conditions and it kept up. When Mr. H. T. King arose to tell of the First District, it was impossible to keep up with him.

He referred much to the conditions as they have been charged. He said that the Democratic party now has the colored vote and that in the section from which he hails, now has a colored postmaster by the grace of the Democrats. It was impossible to hear in the general noise what town has the honor.

Mr. J. R. Gaskill was introduced to tell of fishing in Tar River. He told of the old system of carrying counties in black districts by great majorities. He spoke for the establishment of an aggressive Republican party in Raleigh. He said the Republicans have as much right here as any other people.

Toastmaster Settle introduced Major George E. Butler. There is something wrong down there. I know it of my own knowledge, else my friend Butler would be in Congress. The speaker, responding to the toast, "The Third District," was given a great ovation. He arose and pitched into the Democrats. He said that in the country from which he came they sometimes "proved our doctrine orthodox by pugilistic blows and knocks," and that they follow up this course by voting at the polls.

Major Butler brought a lot of applause when he told how Sampson has steadily increased her Republican majority, and does this when there is no Democratic year. His district, he said, had polled more Republican and fewer Democratic votes than any of them.

Mr. W. J. Andrews, of the Fourth District, said perhaps fifty words.

Colonel Council S. Wooten.

When Mr. Wooten arose to tell of the glories of the Whig party and confessed himself the oldest of the men, yet the most heavily laden, he began an apothosis to the party. He hit the heavenly rafters, soared into the empyrean and drank neared concoctions by the hoghead.

"Fine English, fine English," Colonel Walter Henry shouted from the side-lines and bleachers.

Mr. Wooten went into a history of the parties. He told how his tastes had always been literary, but that

all the things that he had written that struck the popular fancy, were those that were addressed to the animal appetites of North Carolinians. "But for those good eatings of the East. I would have lived to be 150. I am 71 years young now," he said.

When Colonel Wooten told how the good liquor of the old days tasted and the banqueters put up a great shout. Drunks on the new booze, he said, lay one out.

Mr. I. B. Tucker, for the Sixth District, raised the roof. He congratulated the office-holders. He had seen them at many conventions. "I like their looks," he said. "They appeared to be well fed, rather than bled. (Great applause.) "And if you want to be fed and not bled, stick to Mr. Morehead, and I am not a poet." This sally at the Democrats caused a great cheer. Mr. Tucker declared that if the party would come over to help them and they didn't win, the district would be willing to be annexed to Governor Blease of South Carolina.

Mr. Clarence Call, of the "State of Wilkes," spoke for the Seventh District. He told how the county is hated, swung from ocean to Tennessee, now tagged on to the Seventh. He said it would carry that district just as it had done all others.

Mr. Call raised a great cheer when he said Wilkes started Settle into politics and made him the boy Solicitor over R. B. Glenn. "And I hope to help make him Governor of North Carolina," he said.

Mr. R. C. McNeill, of Wilkes, spoke for the Eighth District, spoke for that bailiwick in the place of A. H. Price, who was absent. It is worth mentioning that Mr. Price was with Congressman Cowles in the contest for Salisbury's postmastership, Mr. Price being a cousin of Mr. W. H. Hobson.

Mr. McNeill declared that the fine assembly that is transacting business here and dining, is one that must command the respect of the people.

A speech that brought the greatest applause was that from Colonel Thurston T. Hicks. He was discussing the "Non-Partisan Judiciary." It was an exceedingly bright one, and when he referred to a non-partisan judiciary's coming in North Carolina to mean "a Democratic judiciary," the applause was tremendous. He caused another outburst when he referred to the policy of Governor Wilson to publish the endorsers of Federal judges, he said: "We will wait till Mr. Roosevelt steals that plank from the 'Peerless One' before we adopt it." The speech was an exceedingly clever one.

Mr. Charles J. Harris spoke for the Tenth District and he prophesied the continued growth of his party.

District Attorney A. E. Holton toasted, "We Can Win Again." Taking as his text Democratic inactivities, the exceeding great interest in passenger rates which they had to correct, he declared, and their failure to urge and secure freight rates.

Mr. Holton declared an article in this paper a few days ago criticising the Corporation Commission in this matter, got into the paper because of the illness of its editor. It didn't cause much of a ripple. It happened to be a mistake on the part of the speaker.

Mr. Fred W. Thomas, toasting "Back to the Constitution," made a most dignified address, almost free from partisan references. He appealed for the rule of the courts against the mob.

Former Lieutenant-Governor Chas. A. Reynolds, on "Our Debt to Our Papers," said: "We owe a great debt to our Republican papers, one we can't pay. We owe nothing to some papers pretending to be Republican, but which deserted our party's principles. They died and deserved to die. We owe nothing to them and God knows nothing to our Democratic papers."

He complimented the school law of the Republican Legislature, charged Democratic extravagance and asked "where was Aycock's mocking bird in the New Bern trouble?" He is a good story-teller and had some that rattled the dry bones of the crowd. He thought some of the Democratic papers as fair as they knew how to be, but "they need much educating," he said.

Mr. T. E. Owens introduced at midnight, came out for a big morning daily in Raleigh and a county paper in every county. "If we had a justice (referring to Mr. Reynolds) in every county, we'd carry the State Republican.

"The Lawyer in Politics" was the toast of G. Sam Bradshaw. He had the crowd continually laughing. He said he had come in late, having heard that Mr. Holton had taken his dress suit, "I had to go back to get mine. I never had seen him in such costume before."

Mr. Bradshaw made a most earnest appeal to the banquet board to credit President Taft. Mr. Bradshaw had regarded a great lawyer as the salvation of this nation. He said President Taft had always ignored Mr. Bradshaw's recommendations, but said Taft was right.

Yells for Taft.

Mr. Bradshaw assailed what he called the dangerous theories of Mr. Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson. There was applause, unsteady, nervous and uncertain. Then Roosevelt yells went up, not boisterous, not rowdy, but it could have been made

a big demonstration with a little encouragement.

Mr. Bradshaw quoted Judge W. P. Bynum as a Taft man who thought a message to the banqueters a good thing to discuss. He had done it.

Postmaster Ragan, of High Point, gave "Postmasters May Help." The young officer has the biggest voice of them all and told a good story illustrating how a postmaster may overdo the thing. Mr. Ragan paraphrased a doggerel, which caused a lot of laughter.

Mr. J. Elwood Cox.

Mr. J. Elwood Cox was introduced about 12:25. He discussed "Currency Reform." Mr. Settle, introducing him, said the people rejected a great business man, whose defeat meant disaster.

Mr. Cox's speech was entirely technical, and was directed with a view to showing how panics may be averted. He declared that despite the fact that the muck rakers have been after Senator Aldrich's plan, he believed it a good thing and that Mr. Aldrich had an eye to justice for the South when he planned it.

Mr. Cox trembled at the thought of a "Democratic House, Senate and theorist for President," who might destroy such a bill as this. He prophesied a great Republican victory, State and Nation.

Judge W. S. O'B. Robinson.

Judge W. S. O'B. Robinson was introduced "at the witching hour," and had the crowd howling.

He quoted Mr. Dooley as authority for the sentiment that a man's mouth may get him in trouble. He promised not to say anything to offend the occasion.

He said he "was a Radical from Radicalville at the head of Radical Crick." He got out of the Republican party and joined the Radical.

Judge Robinson said the distinguished Chairman had said there would be no political references. He would not follow those who had done so.

"Cries of hurrah for Robinson!" "We'll prove that to the people later on." (More applause.) The Judge declared himself willing to do anything for the party but "tell lies and go to hell."

Colonel Logan Harris on "Raleigh Not So Dry," said the table gave answer to one part of the speech. "I don't know whether it is local or interstate traffic," he said. "And I suppose it won't be any drier May 15."

Colonel Harris said he was a Republican at seventeen. He came from the West. The Republicans had done their work there. "More attention should be paid to the East," he said and he was happy to have the convention to come to Raleigh.

Secretary Grissom.

"A Few Details," was the toast of the secretary. He pledged his whole life to the party, which he said he loved as he does nothing else on earth.

He spoke handsomely of his chief. "A man who asks nothing and gives everything," he said. This brought big applause. Mr. Grissom declared that within twenty-four hours he will be back at Greensboro and sending out 50,000 letters calling attention to the coming election and to prepare for that event by paying poll taxes. He read a letter of regrets from Sylvester T. Everette from Brevard who could not come.

When Toastmaster Settle introduced former Senator Butler, presenting him as a man "loved for the enemies he has made," the crowd went wild. It was the biggest demonstration of the night.

Mr. Butler complimented Secretary Grissom on his work. He said "Principles Will Win," his toast, if they are properly presented. "They fall if left to incompetent or dishonest men. Mr. Butler brought down the house on the "local self-government" issue. He said more blood had been spilled on that issue than any other. He said he was born into a party which he had to leave for "its treachery to the principle of local self-government." This renewed the discussion of the local self-government issue sprung by Colonel Skinner.

Mr. Butler called no names, but when he discussed the wresting of the State Chairmanship from men who were trying to dictate to the people of the country, the crowd appeared to understand to whom he referred. He invited the people to come back here May 15th and finish the job of house-cleaning begun two years ago. He referred to the "dirty pie-counter parceling jobs" and caused a great yell.

"Our Presidential differences we can forget," he said, "let us finish house-cleaning; and let us stand for John Motley Morehead for State Chairman and local self-government." (Great applause.)

Mr. Butler spoke after 1 o'clock, but the crowd yelled for him to continue. At 1:30 a big clamor for Settle began. He arose simply to say a few words on "Our State and Our Party."

He spoke of the quadrennial signs of Democratic life which he declared to be "dying convulsions." He admitted the Republican troubles, but said they are nothing to those of the Democrats. "Whatever they are," he declared, "I do not believe that God Almighty hates this Republic so badly as to afflict it with another Democratic administration."

Mr. Settle declared that the Democratic party had for a long time concealed the differences, but referred to the Wilson-Bryan-Watterston-Harvey-Wilson trouble as showing the lack of harmony. He closed at 1:45 with an appeal for optimism.

Rural Free Delivery and Parcel Post. [Lincoln Times.]

As long as the rural free delivery of mail lasts it will be a standing monument to the name of Marion Butler, who secured the first appropriation for this purpose. Now we are to have parcel post, which is another great reform in mail service for which Mr. Butler labored while in the Senate. If Marion Butler had done nothing else for the common people but originate these two things it should place his name above that of any other living North Carolina statesman in the hearts of the people of the country districts. The name of Marion Butler will be honored long after his detractors have been forgotten.

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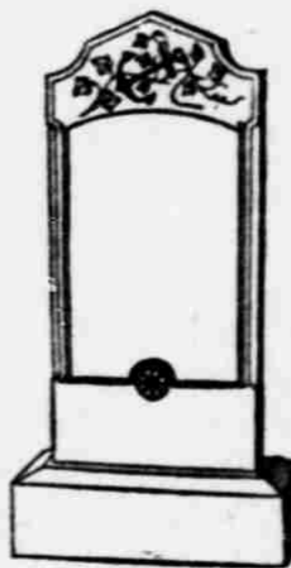
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