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WHOLE No 11793

The Great Contest.

Mr. C B Aycock Confronts the Wiley Dr. Cyrus Thompson.

MR. AYCOCK OPENS THE DEBATE WITH VIGOR AND ELOQUENCE.

Thompson Comes Forward With Sarcasm and Innuendoes as if to Sweep the Field But Tames Under Aycock's Rejoinder and Neutralizes His Strongest Points.

At 12.20 p. m. Mr. A B Young, Chairman of the Democratic Executive Committee, and Mr. W M Weddington, Chairman of the Populist Executive Committee, announced that they had pledged the respectful hearing of their respective parties on the occasion which they each could do on the highest assurance. Mr. Young then introduced Mr. Chas. B Aycock.

The speaker said he did not seek this discussion but responded to the call of his party as he was ever ready to do.

In '92 he said there were those who were led by an honest desire to better their conditions and left the Democratic party. In a few months the Populist party developed a strength of 47,000. The evils complained of were said to be national and not local. The Populists then claimed that neither of the old parties was worthy and it stood and called for all men too good for them to rally around the Populist standard. But in '94 they no longer stood thus but crept into a co-operation compact with the Republican party. They then charged the Democratic party with being extravagant and contended that salaries should be reduced to the standard of 5 cent cotton and 40 cent wheat. His opponent was conspicuous for the claim. The fusionists claimed that if they got into office they would show how the government could and should be run. They came into power in '94 and the result was an increase in expenditures. The Democrats in '92, '93 and '94 spent \$3,573,102.95. This included but one legislature. The Populists in the following three years spent \$3,959,950.21, an excess of \$386,748.26. After making all due allowance for two legislatures instead of one the fusion regime spent about \$100,000 per year more than the Democrats had spent.

Dr. Thompson gets \$6,000 per year and did not have it reduced a bit, though it cost the people a 400 pound bale of cotton per day for Mr. Thompson.

The Democratic party in power had built the Morganton asylum, the Goldsboro asylum, the A. and M. Colleges, the Experiment Station, the Governor's mansion and other institutions.

When Vance became Governor and Democracy came into power they did not remove Republicans from the asylums but when the Populists came into power they proceeded to put their men into every institution. The Supreme court alone arrested the movements as unconstitutional. The speaker here

touched most pathetically on the afflictions of the deaf, dumb and blind and declared that these institutions were sacredly the property of the fathers and mothers of these children. Yet in the deaf, dumb and blind asylum was a negro, Jim Young, as a member of the board. This board inspects the departments. It has been denied that Jim Young had made an inspection and a report. The speaker read the report and asked the doctor if that was not Jim's signature. The answer was that he did not know. The speaker thought that as thick as he was with Jim he would be apt to know.

Populists claim Vance as their counter part. Vance ran the campaign in '76 on white supremacy and good government, just what the Democrats are doing now, yet we are charged with the cry of negro, negro.

Thompson and Holton had got together on "mutually agreeable conditions" and now stand in the capacity of dictating what shall and shall not be done.

If fusion with the Democrats had been effected Dr. Thompson would now be dictating to Populists to vote for Democrats. As it is he directs them to vote for Republicans, including two negroes from Wake to the legislature.

The speaker here told of negro domination in the eastern cities and towns.

He said D. L. Russell voted for and helped to put them in office in New Hanover and appointed Jim Young to positions to pay political debts. It suits the Republicans to have Populists and Democrats mad at each other.

In '96 there were 145,000 Democrats and 32,000 Populists. They offered to fuse with any party with proper safeguards, but, said he, they make demands of Democrats as to measures but make no requirements of the Republicans. When we would not fuse they denounced us most bitterly as hypocrites and as monopoly-ridden. The doctor himself had said in his Clinton speech, "It's a wonder God lets them live."

The Populists, said the speaker, cry free silver, then vote for Zeb Vance Walker, who was a pronounced McKinley gold bug, as in many other instances.

The speaker termed the white womanhood of the State as our Queen, and appealed to loyalty to her.

White men pay 98 1/2 per cent. of the property taxes and 75 per cent. of the polls, yet they pay the colored child dollar for dollar with the white child for education. The white people should rule white schools but the Populists dared not put this in their platform lest the negro would not vote for them.

He showed that the election law was made to make it difficult to challenge a vote and to keep out fraudulent votes. He believed there were 5,000 illegal votes in the last campaign.

In the city of Greenville the fusionists made the conditions such that a negro's vote practically amounts to two white votes.

At 1.55 Mr. Weddington introduced Dr. Cy Thompson. He said the Democrats had no politics but

the negro. In '96 the party did cry free silver, at all other times it was negro.

He was profuse in his charge of hypocrisy, and bewailed the results of slavery that was forever to follow us with the negro campaign cry. They would co-operate again, said he, to the damnation of the Democratic party. The Democratic party, said he, has never been true to anything, not even to the negro.

He recited Mr. Butler's propositions to Chairman Manly to fuse in '94 and in tones and looks of sarcasm, of which Dr. Thompson is our hero, he made it look like a crime and conclusive evidence of hypocrisy that the Democrats did not fuse. He was equally severe on the Democrats for not fusing in '98. Thought it awful that Democrats would not heed the counsels of Mr. Bryan to fuse with the Populists (the great hypocrites that are not true to anything, remember).

He tantalized Democratic conventions as "stuffy." He said the Democratic convention did not represent the rank and file, but was controlled by gold bugs. (Yet he wanted to fuse with it). He charged Democratic papers with not publishing Bryan's letter.

(Continued tomorrow)

PERSONAL POINTERS.

—Miss Ella Barnhardt, of Pioneer Mills, was in our city today.

—Civil Engineer Ludlow, of Winston, arrived here this morning.

—Bill Jones, who lives beyond the sea, came in rather unexpectedly last night.

—Mr. Herbert Barrier returned home this morning, after spending several days with his parents here.

—Mrs. Chas. Stone, of Charlotte, came over yesterday evening to visit home folks.

—Mr. R. M. White, of Charlotte, came over this morning to visit at the home of Mr. Geo. M. Lore and Mr. Elam King.

—Miss Ella Walter returned home yesterday evening, after spending several days with friends at Mt. Pleasant.

—Mr. Jno. Fullenwider, of Monroe, now a student of the college at Mt. Pleasant, spent last night in our city.

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