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WHOLE No 11799

The Joint Discussion.

KLUTZ MAKES AN EXCEPTIONALLY STRONG SPEECH NOT FILLED WITH ABUSE.

Did Not Even Stoop to Belittle or Insult His Opponent—Caldwell Has a Speech Jammed Full of Taunting Remarks—The Long-Promised Penitentiary Report Given The Standard.

The discussion in Concord on Thursday, the 20th, was decidedly interesting.

Hon. Theo. Klutz opened the discussion in his usually graceful style. His splendid bearing, his pleasing, manly voice, his clever logic and that earnest zeal that emanates from the conviction of an honest, patriotic citizen make him a hero in the defense of a cause that commends itself to him. After pleasant references to his canvass with his competitor he dived into the issues now before us. He said that two years ago we were contending for more currency that we hoped would come through "16 to 1" free coinage. The Republican administration had encouraged some hope for bimetalism but had proved disappointing. He took little stock in charging low prices to the administration but that political capital had been made out of it.

The low prices were charged up to Mr. Cleveland and many good men had left the Democratic party on account of it. They should come back now, as going to the other party had not made it any better, rather worse.

He criticized the present administration for issuing bonds too freely and piling up more money in the treasury than the exigencies demanded and thereby withdrawing large sums of money from circulation. To this he attributes much of the depression of prices.

He reminded the fusionists that before they got into power the clamor was for a reduction of taxes and salaries of officers. He wished any one in the audience would tell him whose salary had been reduced. He would like to know whose burdens of taxation had been lightened. One of the first things that the fusion legislature tried to do was to raise taxes to 46 cents on the \$100 when Democrats had never made it more than 41 1-3. In this the fusionists failed from through ignorance or overlooking the fact that the poll was lost.

Democrats thought a man's return of his property on oath as to value should be sacredly regarded, but the fusion legislature had created an equalization board that added to the valuation of live stock, etc., in Rowan county \$43,000. This was a burden on a great many men who had nothing else to be taxed. In Hal Ayer's language it was getting after the "one gallus" man.

Democrats had run the government without laying hands on the dead, but under fusion laws the tax collector takes his part of the dead man's estate before the widow or the orphan is provided for.

Lawyerocratic was the approbrious name by which the Democratic party was called but under Democratic rule if a man wanted a deed made out and his friend, the Esq., or any one else made it for him for 25 cents or any other little sum it was nobody's business, but this party that

cried lawyerocratic does not allow a friend to make out a deed and accept some little fee unless he pays the \$5 tax the same as a lawyer. Under Democratic law no man was forbidden a decent burial but now bodies unclaimed and unprovided for at houses of public charity are to be turned over to the medical institutions on pain of penalty for refusal.

The charge had been freely made that Democrats had squandered money on jobs for public printing but instead of any improvement it too was made worse and \$13,300 was fraudulently gotten on the public printing. Treasurer Worth is now sneering for it.

Much fuss had been made about the Anson penitentiary farm's rental at too high a price but the cry is hushed by the splendid profits. Jno. R. Smith was charged with crime by his own party and ought to be wearing stripes if as bad as Gov. Russell said, yet he was put in charge of the institution especially designed for the former.

He said a report was due from the penitentiary in December, 1897. Nine months later Gov. Russell demanded a report and said it must come. This was August 2nd. Mr. Caldwell is carrying round a typewritten report, as he claims it to be, but he could hear of no one else who ever saw a copy of it. This report that Mr. Caldwell alone seems to have bears the date of July 25th, while the Governor demanded it August 2nd.

He showed how the Populist party with its 30,000 votes made a proposition to fuse with the Democrats with 145,000 votes and divide offices as the division was with the Republicans two years before. The rejection troubled Mr. Caldwell greatly, he said. Populists claimed that they must fuse with somebody to preserve their integrity. It did not seem to the speaker like much integrity to go right over from the efforts to fuse with Democrats and fuse with the very opposite of Democracy. As to Mr. Jones' letter and Mr. Bryan's advice to fuse he said that North Carolina Democrats are a sovereign people and brook no dictation in their local matters to Mr. Bryan, Mr. Jones nor anybody else save when the people decree it in convention.

As regards the two election laws, said the speaker, the Populists polled 47,000 votes under the Democratic law and 31,000 under their own law.

The cry of Democratic disfranchisement, he said, was proven vain by 20 years of trial, when nobody was disfranchised. It takes a bill passing with three-fourths of the vote from both houses of the legislature and ratified by the vote of the people before the constitution could be so amended as to disfranchise any one while the United States constitution stands in the way of race disfranchisement.

He read and rehearsed testimony that the condition in the east is not overdone by the newspapers and that fusion trading with the negro is responsible for it.

He ridiculed the charge in the Populist hand book that Democratic county commissioners bound out white children to negroes. It was needless to answer it more than to call attention to the fact that the county commissioners can't bind out children.

He read and commented on the S

J Hartsell letter and closed with a strong beautiful peroration.

Mr. Caldwell came on the stage saying he needed no introduction. He showed eagerness for the fray and had blood in his eye for the editors of the Times and THE STANDARD.

Cabarrus, he said, had not had a man in congress since Hon. D M Barringer about 40 years ago. Rowan has had her Oraige, her Shober, her Henderson. He had a laudable ambition, he said, to honor Cabarrus with the prestige she had not enjoyed since Hon. D M Barringer's day.

He was in his home county where he had a right to expect courtesy but he had not been treated so unkindly by any of the papers as by the Concord papers. THE STANDARD, he said, had clipped the uncomplimentary things said about him and published them and sent the paper to his wife to wound her feelings. It had not published the complimentary things said about him.

He approached the editor of THE STANDARD and handed him a brand new typewritten penitentiary report which had been applied for and promised but was not produced till then and that too with a look and tone of lost temper impeaching the editor's religious sincerity. He said that Mr. Klutz's brother-in-law's paper, the Charlotte Observer, had called him an ignoramus. He then rehearsed his legal course and his high standing with his instructors but had not sat at the feet of his competitive Gamaliel. He gave the Salisbury Sun a thrust or two. By way of apology for corrections like that of Shuras and the Supreme court he ridiculed Mr. Klutz and said that he was mistaken about the bankruptcy law. He said he had had Mr. Klutz under his training now for five weeks and that he had become one of the best Democratic speakers. He looked toward the newspaper men and said in tones of exquisite irony and ridicule that Democratic candidates were a heavenly celestial set of beings.

He said that instead of money withdrawn from circulation as Mr. Klutz said there is in use \$127,000,000 more money than a year ago (we think was the time). He said low prices were due to the repeal of the Sherman silver purchase law. He scolded the Democrats roundly for not fusing with the Populists. They made propositions and the Democrats neither accepted nor made others. He scored the Democrats for endorsing the Jones letter, and yet refusing to fuse. He quoted Mr. J F Newell in the Evening Journal and the seignior Newell with his silver resolution in convention.

He referred to all the instances he could bring up to show that Democrats had appointed and elected negroes to office. Some of these seemed quite new and Mr. Klutz passed over them. Mr. Caldwell, however, did not note that no evil effects had grown out of what he charged, and he did not have quite the courage to deny that evil had grown out of the fusion trading, as Mr. Klutz charged. He did not abuse Rev. Page nor Rev. Setzer, but did speak in a belittling way of both. He read a few letters from men who went from the Democratic party to the Populists.

[Concluded on 4th Page].

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