

THE SAME OLD COON

Is Only Had "Another Ring Around Its Tail," As Veb Vance Says.

J. W. KURFEES WRITES

In the Greensboro News-Germanton Citizen Twists the Tail Of the G. O. P. Criticism of the Greensboro Republican Convention.

Editor of the Daily News:

It was with amusing interest that I read the account of the Greensboro Republican meeting of May 26. From the speeches that were made and the propositions that were discussed one would hardly think it the same personnel that controlled the memorable Charlotte convention in 1912. There the doors were locked, and the keys thrown away, so far as a fellow was concerned who would not swear allegiance to Mr. Taft. But from all accounts I guess it was the same crowd. As Zeb Vance said, "It was the same old coon with another ring around its tail." Who would have thought that at this early date they would be making overtures to the Progressives of North Carolina? Why, for the last six months we have heard it proclaimed from the housetops that there was no more Progressive party! Then why all this "get together" talk? They even go so far as to say that if a convention is called and the Progressives are the stronger they will fall in line and be Progressives too.

We proved exclusively in 1912, both in convention and at the polls, which was the stronger. The vote for Settle and Mears furnished sufficient proof for that. The vote in both state and nation was conclusive, gentlemen, and you had as well take your medicine like men. But Mr. Duncan says Mr. Taft is not an issue now. No; but he was very much an issue at Chicago in 1912. There it was that Mr. Duncan's friends went to him before that convention was held and pleaded with him to use his influence for a "square deal" and not allow that nomination to be stolen from Colonel Roosevelt. What was his reply? Was he advocating his "get together" plans then? Not at all. He replied by laughing heartily in the face of those who were pleading to him and said, "Bovs, it is all fixed, Mr. Taft will be nominated." Yes, "all fixed," the "cards were stacked." He was like the juror who heard some express surprise at a verdict he and his fellow jurymen had just rendered. "Why," he said, "my mind was already made up before the trial began." So it was at Chicago, their minds were made up. Then when the Charlotte convention was called the several counties in regular legal fashion elected delegates to represent them there, but they were deprived of their seats. The Morehead-Settle-Holton-Reynolds combine locked the doors, and the only password recognized was, "I'll vote for Taft." It was not a question as to whether his county had sent him to that convention, but will you vote for Taft? No "get together" talk then; r.o. no. It

was an insignificant number they were reckoning with, they thought. But when Mr. Settle was buried beneath an avalanche of votes from the thousands whose representatives had been shamefully treated at Charlotte, they saw it was not so insignificant after all.

But my good friend Judge Bynum wants everything done in the name of the Republican party. Yes, that outrageous conduct at Chicago, and also at Charlotte, was done in the name of the Republican party, but its being done in a certain name did not make the conduct any less shameful. Judge Bynum's request is a repetition of the request made to Abraham Lincoln in 1860. He was implored to use his influence to unite the divided Whig party and make his fight under the old name. Yes, he was seriously advised to not follow the new Republican party, but to unite the Whig forces and present a solid front to the "common enemy, the Democrats." But, said he, "We are not fighting for names, but a principle. It is a government of the people in reality as well as in name for which we stand, and we'll win or lose on that proposition."

The same proposition confronts the American people today. The boss rule and corrupt practices in each of the old parties have gone to seed. The Republican party has its Barnes in New York, its Penrose in Pennsylvania, its Cannon in Illinois, its Smoot in Utah, and its Morehead-Settle combine in North Carolina, while the Democrats have their Smith in New Jersey, their Murphy in New York, their Taggart in Indiana and their Watts in North Carolina. So I for one can see no relief by marshaling our forces in the same old camp. The Progressive party is needed today just as bad as the Republican party was needed in 1860. In that year of grace recruits were had from the two old parties—the Whigs and Democrats—and today the Progressive party, standing as it does on a platform of the noblest progressive principles of modern times, is in position to invite recruits, not alone from each political party but from every section of the country as well.

Mr. Linney, in his famous harmony letter now being circulated, says "many who went to the Progressive party now want to come back, and he for one is willing to kill the fatted calf for them." If there are "many" it looks as if he could name one. The writer so far has failed to meet any who entertain such a thought.

But Mr. Linney must understand that we deny occupying the position of the prodigal son. He must remember that we occupy the position of that noble person who "came unto his own and his own received him not." After which he spent his time among others. We went as we thought, to "our own" in Charlotte, but were not received. We were driven out in the cold by high-handed methods, all because we desired our freedom which is guaranteed to every man under a true democratic government. Not alone do they insist on the Republican name, but all its "meaning" must be kept. Pray, tell us who is to

decide what all its "meaning" is? No one would or could object to "all its meaning being kept" if by that is only meant the true definition of the word. But if you mean to include such conduct as was pulled off both at Chicago and at Charlotte as part of "its meaning" I draw the line, and so will the 75,000 other Progressives in North Carolina. If indeed you have seen the error of your way and are repenting in "sackcloth and ashes" why don't you say so? Why don't you come out like men and say "We cheated you out of your rights at Chicago and again in Charlotte, and knowing this to be the people's government we freely acknowledge our wrong. We know we wrecked the party, we know we squandered our substance and are 'no more worthy to be called thy sons'; make us as 'hired servants.'" Then the fatted calf might be in order, but the calf was not provided by those who had transgressed the law, as Mr. Linney would imply. It was provided by the righteous for the unrighteous. We Progressives have not departed the faith. We stand today in the footprints of the immortals Lincoln and Garfield, and alongside of that matchless statesman Theodore Roosevelt, fighting as we have since 1860 for a government "of the people, by the people and for the people."

JNO. W. KURFEES, Germanton, June 1, 1914.

Patrick R. F. D. Carriers Meet -- Other Patrick News.

The R. F. D. Carriers met in the Bank of Stuart building May 30th where they transacted much business pertaining to their organization. Good roads and other important matters were discussed. Resolutions were passed thanking the Bank of Stuart and The Enterprise for courtesies extended them, and especially Mr. R. N. Clark for the fine lemonade served.

The following officers were elected for the current year: S. R. West, President. A. A. Anthony, Secretary. G. C. Spencer, Treasurer. S. R. West was elected a delegate to the State State Convention which meets in Roanoke July 24-25.

Isaac Jones and Carolina Johnson colored people of this vicinity, died recently. Jones was 107 years old and Caroline Johnson, 103. These were undoubtedly two of the oldest people in the State.

Mr. George Cooper made a business trip to Winston last week.

We are informed during the electric storm last Sat. afternoon the lightning killed a fine horse for Mr. Walter Penn of Spencer, also burned his barn.

Eight per cent of the people living in the Southern states, exclusive of Maryland and Missouri, are rural, living in the open country or in towns of less than 25,000.

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