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-NINTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION.-

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THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1890.

With only two exceptions, as far as we can ascertain, Asheville and Winston, Henderson has made better progress in the last ten years than any other town in North Carolina. In 1880 she had 1,421 population. Now she has 4,151, with at least 1,000 more outside the corporate limits but who work in the town and own property and pay tax but have no part in municipal affairs. We have trebled our population in ten years and have more than doubled it in the last five. At the present rate of increase with the bright prospects ahead of us Henderson will have 12,000 to 15,000 inhabitants ten years from now.

There is a growing popular sentiment in favor of the Nash county railroad, and we do not question the wisdom of our people in voting the bonds. It is the one road that Henderson needs and must have to put her beyond the pale or possibility of losing the key to the situation she now holds, and to promote her future growth and prosperity. We possess the advantages of location, of size and business importance, of men of means and push, it is true, but we must seize upon and improve every opportunity that presents itself in order to retain these. Eternal vigilence is the life of towns and the preservation of trade no less than the price of liberty.

How is this: A prominent opponent of the Nash county railroad, said a few days ago that Henderson needed this road and it would be of great benefit to the town, but that we were proposing to pay too much for it. Ah, indeed! Have you, business men of Henderson, forgotten that this kind of feeling and such talk lostus the road direct from Clarksville and the road to Louisburg, a few years ago, when $30,000 would have got the former and $1,500 the latter? Can we afford to act the same unwise part now as we did then? Has not our experience been dear-bought enough to teach us a valuable lesson on this point? It appears so to us.

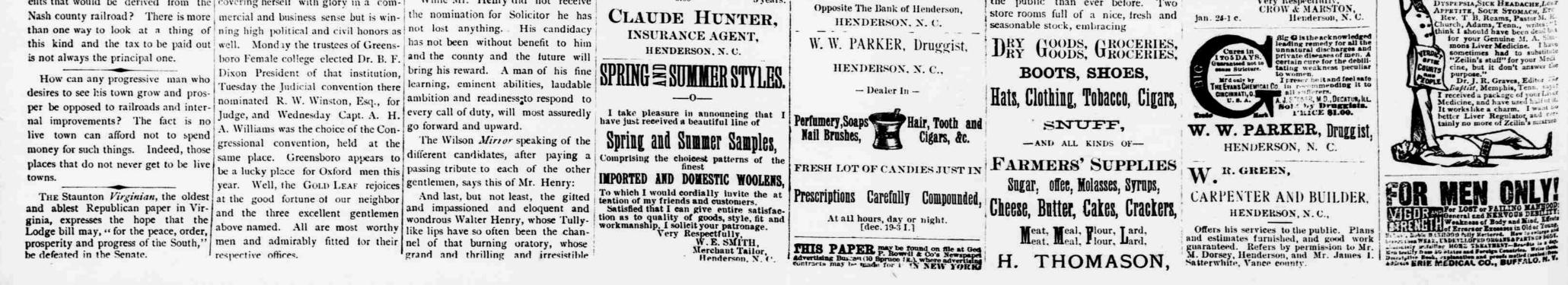If Henderson is to continue to grow and prosper, then her business men must do their duty toward pushing her forward. They must seize the opportunity that now presents itself and grasp the key to the situation in North Carolina. This key is to have the three great railway systems of the State centering at Henderson. The Nash county railroad will do this. Build that and you may well say Hurrah for Henderson.

Winston votes $200,000 for internal improvements alone—to grade and pave streets, build a city hall, &c. And not a single vote was cast against it. Here is public spirit for you, and the fact that it was unanimous shows the spirit of harmony and co-operation that animates her people. Some other towns would do well to study and follow Winston's example.

What is a small tax of $30,000 or $35,000, the bonds to run thirty or forty years, as compared with the benefits that would be derived from the Nash county railroad? There is more than one way to look at a thing of this kind and the tax to be paid out is not always the principal one.

How can any progressive man who desires to see his town grow and prosper be opposed to railroads and internal improvements. The fact is no live town can afford not to spend money for such things. Indeed, those places that do not never get to be live towns.

The Staunton Virginian, the oldest and ablest Republican paper in Virginia, expresses the hope that the Lodge bill may, "for the peace, order, prosperity and progress of the South," be defeated in the Senate.

Six hundred teachers attended the convention of the North Carolina Teachers' Association at Morehead City. It was a very successful meeting in every way. Prof. Chas. D. McIver was elected President for the ensuing year.

Gov. Fowle has appointed the following directors of the North Carolina Railroad: J. L. Morehead, A. Burwell, R. W. Thomas, T. F. Klutz, M. A. Angier, W. H. Pace, B. Cameron, D. MacRae. Armistead Jones, Esq., was appointed State's proxy.

Miss Winnie Davis the "Daughter of the Confederacy," has returned from her travels in Europe, having been absent nearly a year. She was met at the wharf by her cousin Mr. W. L. Davis and Mr. Alfred Wilkinson, of Syracuse, the gentleman to whom she is soon to be married.

The death of Rev. Turner M. Jones, D. D., president of Greensboro Female College, removes one of the most prominent Methodist divines and foremost educators of the State. Many years ago Dr. Jones conducted a flourishing female school at Warrenton and was well known to a number of our readers. He was in his 71st year at the time of his death.

The Raleigh Evening Visitor says: We are glad to learn that the Hon. Julian S. Carr will commence to reside in the city of Raleigh about the first of the year 1893.

It is most too long off to begin to talk about the next Governor of North Carolina, but when the time comes we know of no man whose fitness and claims for the position it would afford us greater pleasure to proclaim than the sound, practical, safe, judicious, big hearted Julian S. Carr.

The Judicial convention which met in Greensboro Tuesday nominated Robert W. Winston, Esq., of Oxford, to be Judge of the Fifth District. He was chosen on the first ballot. Mr. Winston is a brilliant and talented young gentleman and an able lawyer in the enjoyment of a large and lucrative practice, and as Judge will no doubt make a reputation for deep learning, accurate judgment and fine discriminating powers that characterize the safe, sound, upright Judiciary.

The many friends of the Oxford Orphan Asylum will regret to learn that Dr. B. F. Dixon, the very efficient and greatly beloved Superintendent of that noble institution, has been elected President of Greensboro Female College, to succeed the lamented Dr. Jones. The position has been accepted and we suppose Dr. Dixon will enter upon his new duties with the opening of the fall term. His place at the head of the great State Orphanage will be difficult to fill. What will be Oxford's and the State's loss by the resignation of Dr. Dixon will be Greensboro's and her excellent female college's gain.

The 4th Judicial district convention met in Smithfield on the first inst. and nominated Judge Spier Whitaker to succeed himself as Judge, and E. W. Pou, Esq., of Johnston county, for Solicitor. The nomination of Mr. Whitaker was to have been expected. While we have no respect for the man personally we concede his ability and are frank to say the action of the convention was just and proper under the circumstances. Mr. Pou is a very talented young gentleman, only about 27 years of age and his nomination over such a competitor as Capt. Swift Galloway is an achievement he may well feel proud of.

It is especially gratifying to be able to announce that our friend, Capt. A. H. A. Williams, of Oxford, was the choice of the nominating convention which met in Greensboro yesterday, for Congressional honors from the Fifth District. A better selection could not have been made. A more worthy man and one who is better fitted to make a brilliant and effective canvass and represent his constituency in an able and faithful manner, could not have been chosen as the gallant standard bearer of the Democracy of the Fifth District. That he will be elected by an overwhelming majority we have not the least bit of doubt.

Our enterprising and thoroughly wide awake neighbor Oxford may not be greedy, but it looks a little that way to an outsider. She is not only covering herself with glory in a commercial and business sense but is winning high political and civil honors as well. Monday the trustees of Greensboro Female college elected Dr. B. F. Dixon President of that institution, Tuesday the Judicial convention there nominated R. W. Winston, of Oxford, for Judge, and Wednesday Capt. A. H. A. Williams was the choice of the Congressional convention, held at the same place. Greensboro appears to be a lucky place for Oxford men this year. Well, the Gold Leaf rejoices at the good fortune of our neighbor and the three excellent gentlemen above named. All are most worthy men and admirably fitted to their respective offices.

THE JUDICIAL CONVENTION.

John E. Woodard, Esq., of Wilson, Nominated for Solicitor.

The Judicial convention which met at Rocky Mount last Thursday made a record for endurance the like of which we have no knowledge. The body was in session about 30 hours and 418 ballots were taken before a choice was made. The candidates for Solicitor were Col. D. Worthington, (the present incumbent) and J. E. Woodard, of Wilson, Jacob Battle, of Nash, and W. R. Henry, of Vance. F. S. Spruill, of Franklin, was elected permanent chairman and the members of the press were made secretaries. On the first ballot the vote stood: Battle 57½, Worthington 55, Worthington 49½, Sugg 49½, Henry 49, Blow 30½, and so ballot after ballot was taken with but little change. Each delegation stood firmly, for solidly, by its man, and for two days and nights the contest went on the vote varying at times but no choice could be made. On the 203rd ballot A. L. Blow withdrew and his strength went to his fellow-countyman Col. Sugg. On the 367th ballot Col. Worthington withdrew, and his county then scattered her votes between the aspirants still in field.

Thus matters stood and at one time it looked as if Henry would be the man. If one of the delegations had not failed to deliver its vote as promised he would have been nominated on the 417th ballot, he having received 115 votes at that time. On the 418th ballot, Vance in carrying out a promise previously gave Woodard 27 of her 28 votes and Martin and Franklin joining forces with Wilson nominated Woodard, he receiving 147 votes. Necessary to a choice 132.

Mr. Henry in responding to calls for a speech after the result of the vote was announced, spoke most happily and eloquently. He showed no wounded feelings if any spirit of bitter disappointment found lodgment in his manly bosom. He rose above the clouds of selfishness and soared in the clear blue sky of party allegiance and pledged his support then as ever to the standard bearer of Democracy and to Mr. Woodard, his successful competitor especially. The speech of Mr. Henry was pronounced one of his finest efforts. It was able and eloquent, interspersed with sallies of wit and good humor that provoked laughter and applause at every period. A prominent member of one of the delegations from another county declared that if Mr. Henry had made that speech before any nomination had been made it would have greatly strengthened his chances of being the next Solicitor.

The Wilson Mirror says:

Harmony and good feeling prevailed throughout, notwithstanding the most strenuous, persistent, untiring, unremitting efforts were made by friends for their special favorites. The contest was an earnest, zealous, determined struggle for conquest and supremacy, and the hardest work indeed was done on every hand. But the sound of battle is at last over; the long, bitter struggle has been ended; the shout of victory has leaped from enthusiastic lips; the fortunate brow has been decked with the fragrant garland of triumph; and many an aching heart is now inhaling the distressing exhalations of those rank and bitter weeds that grow in the low grounds of disappointment and defeat. But the defeated candidates are gentlemen and patriots and true lovers of their party, and they nobly and grandly and patriotically buried the microcosm of selfish aspirations into the grander, nobler macrocosm of party, and laid their own personal dreams as an oblation upon the shrine of Democratic success. And so, blessed Alcyone brooded o'er the deeps of recent agitation and dropped from her soothing wings a calm of acquiesence as sweet as that which sleeps upon the bosom of the blue Ægean sea, when Æolus hath gone and left its waters free.

The man of our choice was not nominated, but the nominee of the party is our candidate now, as he is Mr. Henry's. While the friends and supporters of Mr. Henry are disappointed at his defeat they are not sore, nor is he. No man will give his support to and lift up his voice in behalf Mr. Woodard more readily and cheerfully than will Mr. Henry. No man will be more zealous or enthusiastic for Democratic success and supremacy during the next campaign whoever the choice of that party may be and whatever the office to be filled, than he.

While Mr. Henry did not receive the nomination for Solicitor he has not lost anything. His candidacy has not been without benefit to him and the county and the future will bring his reward. A man of his fine learning, eminent abilities, laudable ambition and readiness to respond to every call of duty, will most assuredly go forward and upward.

The Wilson Mirror speaking of the different candidates, after paying a passing tribute to each of the other gentlemen, says this of Mr. Henry:

And last, but not least, the gifted and impassioned eloquent and wondrous Walter Henry, whose Tully-like lips have so often been the channel of that burning oratory, whose grand and thrilling and irresistible powers of eloquence hath swept the senses with that convicting brush of feeling, that only genuine dramatic passion handles, and which, when handled by the skilled and plastic fingers of the gifted Henry, doth start the senses in wildest phrensy rolling, and stirs with the thrill of its own subtle powers the deepest emotions of the human heart, even as the withered leaves are stirred by a whirlwind, when unbridled and in fury—yea to win the trophy from such a brilliant genius as Walter Henry, and these other contestants, is indeed a triumph which would gem with the jewel of richest radiance the coronet of any effort.

We notice that some of our exchanges reporting the proceedings of the Sudicial convention at Rocky Mount last week in giving the final vote record only 1 as being cast for Mr. Henry. It is accounted for by reason of the fact that his whole strength with the exception of the one vote was given complimentary to Mr. Woodard on the last ballot in return for the 44 votes given Mr. Henry by Wilson county on the ballot just previous.

The Federal Elections Bill is designed to perpetuate that party in existence, and not in the interest of fair elections in the South or anywhere else. For example, it would give the party in power between 250,000 and 300,000 additional places to fill with its heelers. It would cost the Government about $12,000,000 annually, and the expenditure will be in effect so much added to the Republican campaign fund.

W. H. Kitchin for Congress.

Editor Gold Leaf:—A candidate for Congressional honors is soon to be selected to lead the Democracy of the 2nd black-belt district. The tremendous exodus of the negroes last winter and spring renders it easy for the Democracy to win if it is properly marshalled in the coming contest.

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Att'y for Mrs. M. W. Rowland, dec'd.

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