

HICKORY MERCURY.

THE GREATEST GOOD TO THE GREATEST NUMBER.

VOL. VII.

HICKORY, N. C., WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1897.

NO. 26

NEW YORK'S COMPROMISE.

Gold and Silver Democrats Agree to Fight the Campaign on Local Issues.

New York Special, 2nd, to Baltimore Sun.

The managers of the Democratic campaign in Greater New York have agreed on a basis of compromise as between the gold and silver wings of the party, and have decided that only by agreeing to it can they prevent serious defection. This basis can be stated in two paragraphs:

First.—No mention of the Chicago or Indianapolis platforms, and an ignoring of national issues, the campaign to be fought entirely on local issues. This is a concession to the gold Democrats, like William C. Whitney, Roswell P. Flower and others and to the conservative business element and to the Democratic Union.

Second.—No candidate to be nominated on the greater city ticket unless he supported the Chicago national ticket in the last campaign. This is a condition that is insisted upon by the workers in the Democratic organizations in all the borough.

These conditions, it is said, will be adhered to and there will be an effort on the part of a great many gold men to show that they were loyal to Bryanism.

A Letter from Bryan.

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 6.—The St. Louis Post Dispatch yesterday printed a letter from William J. Bryan, the first utterance after three months of travel and observation. Among other things he says:

"Wheat has risen because the foreign crop has been exceedingly short.

"The fact that silver and wheat have parted company will cause no dismay to those who understand that the law of supply and demand regulates the price of both.

"Nothing can better disclose the weakness of the Republican than the joy manifested by the Republicans over events for which their administration and their politics are in no wise responsible.

"If the Republicans desire to claim credit for the high price of wheat they must assume the responsibility for the famine in India.

A Lady Suicides.

Near Lexington, N. C., Miss Sarah Alred committed suicide on the 2nd inst. She had been sick for some time. It had affected her mind. Her brothers spoke of sending her to the State Hospital, but abandoned the notion. She wanted to go. The physician who attended her gave her poison medicine, with strict instructions that she only take one drop. Her mother went to a neighbor's on the evening referred to. When she returned she found her daughter speechless and dying. On her pillow was a note saying if her brothers had sent her to the asylum, she would now be happy. Said she had taken two spoonfuls of that medicine and begged them not to bury her until they were certain she was dead. It was sad and should be a perpetual warning against leaving poison medicine around carelessly.

National Banks.

We learn from the official reports that the National banks are in a most flourishing condition, and that they were never more prosperous.

We should think so. A lot of privileged corporations which can get the use of government money at one per cent. per annum ought to prosper. What's to hinder?

If a National bank can get hold of a cashier who won't steal, and a board of directors who won't borrow all the money, there's nothing on earth to keep it from flourishing.

Getting money from the government at one per cent. and lending it out at eight per cent. compounded every 30, 60 and 90 days, is just about as soft a snap as legislative favoritism ever provided for its pets.

Don't worry about the National banks. They are all right. Just save your anxiety for we fellows who have to pay 8 per cent. for the money which the banks get at one per cent.

They are the fellows who'll need your prayers, says an exchange.

Pullman a Tax Dodger.

A Chicago dispatch says: D. H. H. Holbrook, president of the Tax Payers' League, an organization of wealthy men, recently gave out a sensational open letter arraigning George M. Pullman for alleged tax-dodging. The letter says the assets of the Pullman Company, at its last annual meeting, were \$63,000,000, of which \$39,000,000 was in Illinois. The assessment in Illinois, however, was only \$1,561,955. It is claimed that the under valuation of the Pullman property means a loss of \$200,000 annually to the city, county and State. The Pullman strike of 1894, it is stated, will cost the city \$16,000,000 in damages.

Swapped a Machine For a Coffin.

The queerest trade yet heard of was made in Charlotte the other day between a sewing machine agent and an undertaker for a trade. The undertaker told him he had nothing to swap except coffins. The agent proposed that he swap a coffin for a sewing machine and the trade was then consummated. The young man who got the coffin has something of an elephant on his hands as he does not expect to have any personal use for it for some years to come. But he has about concluded to settle the matter by raffling the coffin off.

From the Quarry.

A number of granite slabs came down from the Mt. Airy quarry yesterday and they are all beauties, being about 15 feet in length and something like 2 feet square, and look like they had been sawed out with a circular saw. The slabs were sent here to receive the finishing touches by Mr. McGalliard's stone artists before being shipped to Philadelphia, where they play an important part in the construction of a ten story business block at Chestnut and Broad streets.

A Mt. Airy man informs a reporter that he saw a slab taken from the quarry last summer that was near 200 feet long.—Winston Journal.

THE FISH COMMISSION.

Fish Way Opened by Oct 1st.—People Pleased with It.

For years, complaint has been made by the citizens along the Catawba river because the fish could not pass up stream on account of the various dams in said river. So last winter, Col. D. A. Lowe, of Lowesville, feeling that the people along this river should have justice in this regard, drew up a bill, providing that a fish commission should be appointed, whose duty it should be to investigate and have fish passages built over these various dams from the S. C. line to up in Burke. The bill was sent to the legislature; and became a law without very great objection, because it was a reasonable, just law as far as the people are concerned.

The following gentlemen were appointed as Fish Commissioners: Col. D. A. Lowe, Wilson of Mecklenburg, McIntosh of Gaston, D. A. Barkley of Iredell, John W. Lowrance of Catawba, J. T. Hedrick of Alexander, and C. T. Flowers of Caldwell. These are all good and reliable citizens.

Sometime ago, they met and organized by electing Col. Lowe chairman, and began the work. Messrs. Wilson and McIntosh were with them two days. They began at the South Carolina line and came this way. They have examined all the dams and have let out contracts to build fish ways over or through all the dams and the contracts are all made up to the Catawba River Lumber Company's dam, and part of the work done, and all to be done by the 1st day of October. They did not meet with much complaint, except by one or two mill owners, while the people all along the stream seemed much pleased with the undertaking. They were in the city Saturday and held a session, in which they were met by the owners of the dam at the Catawba River Lumber works, who expressed a willingness for them to build a fish way over their dam and to cut the same down six inches. In some cases, the people charged for the work to be done, at others they did not. They adjourned here Saturday, to meet out at the Catawba River Lumber Company's plant on the 28th of this month, at which time they will let the contract for building this fishery. So far as we have heard, the people in this section are pleased with this undertaking and think it is just and right. It was our privilege to meet these gentlemen while here and we are satisfied they are trying to do their duty.

According to the statistics of the United States Bureau of Labor there are 27,000 married men in New York City who are supported by their wives.

Although the Czar of Russia receives no salary, he manages to keep the wolf from the door. His income arises from 1,000,000 square miles of land, which he inherits with the crown. He averages \$30,000 a day.

By actual count 10,000 people between July 1st and August 28th left the Pacific coast for the gold fields of Alaska and the Klondike region.

Blown Up and Burned.

Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 4th.—Broad Ripple, a suburb of Indianapolis, ten miles from the city proper, was this morning the scene of a terrible gas explosion. Six persons were burned to death, and 30 people are lying in the homes of neighbors, burned, scarred and with broken bones. Four buildings occupying a block of the town are in ruins. Of the six dead, nothing but charred and blackened bones remain. Two of the dead are still unidentified, there being no way of identification.

At 1:30 it was reported that seven dead bodies had been recovered from the ruins. Of these only three had been positively identified. It is thought the remains of at least two more may be in the debris.

County Commissioners' Meeting.

Board met; all present. Closey Miller declared outside pauper, 75 cts per month.

Bills ordered paid: Times-Mercury-Pub. Co., \$9 15; Hickory Printing Co. \$2 50; Newton Enterprise \$2 50; J. M. Abernethy serving orders for board \$2 10; P. E. Rowe, jailor, \$65 62; Coperning & Co., conveying grand jurors to county home \$3; T. L. Bandy, sheriff's fees \$66 90; C. L. Hawn summoning juries \$8 10; R. L. Shuford repairing Simmons bridge \$13 75. W. M. Huffman summoning jurors \$4 80.

Ordered that Max E. Huffman be allowed railroad fare for taking his son to the institution for the blind at Raleigh.

Stephen Warlick declared outside pauper, 60 cents per month; John Cline relieved of the tax on 45 acres of land for the reason it was given in by L. J. Mosteller.

A petition was filed for a public road from J. M. Link's on the Hickory and Shelby road by way of Mountain Grove church to the Hickory and Plateau road near Jno. Whistnant, filed and ordered published.

The board appropriated \$25 for repairs to the Blackburn bridge on South Fork river with the understanding that the citizens put four sills under each side of bridge 8x12 inch white oak; the board did not receive it as a county bridge. A. J. Stine, J. Mooney, L. M. Rudisill were appointed committee to have it repaired.

Bill of Smyre, Rhyne & Co., \$11 82; J. F. Herman, clerk of the board \$13 75.

Dr. McD. Yount filed his report. The sheriff was ordered to lay out the road heretofore granted for a road running from Catawba to Shuford gold mine.

The sheriff filed his tax bonds in the sum of \$25,000.

Tax books for 1897 were turned over to the sheriff.

J. F. HERMAN, D. E. SIGMON, Clerk of Board. Chairman.

A Bakersville correspondent of the Asheville Register, Republican, says that along the border of Mitchell county, near the Tennessee and North Carolina line, is the precinct of Big Rock creek, with probably 250 voters in it, and notwithstanding it is strongly Republican in politics, a negro is not allowed to live within its precincts.

BURGLAR PLEADS GUILTY

And Is Bound Over to Court Without Bail.

On last Friday night some one went into Mr. Lewis Moore's dwelling. Mrs. Moore heard him walking and called Mr. Moore. At this the burglar ran against the table, knocking over a lamp and made his escape out at the dining room door.

The next morning a warrant was issued for a negro boy, 17 years old, who had been working for Mr. Moore and who had only been in this city about three months.

He says his name is Walter Hunter and that he is from Stanley Creek. Saturday morning he denied having been the one. Said he was somewhere else all night. But when he was arrested and placed in the boose, he acknowledged he was the one to Mr. Moore and several others. Monday morning he was tried before Squire S. E. Killian. Thos. M. Hufham appeared for the State. The negro plead guilty. He states that he went there about 12 o'clock. Said he took a dram and that it made him foolish. Said he went in at the screen door leading into the dining room which was not fastened, and got something to eat off the table. Said he got into the bed room before he knew it and then went into the sitting room to get out but found the door fastened. He then had to go back through the bed room to get out. Said when Mrs. Moore called, he ran out. His statement was read to him and he said it was correct, and he also signed it. The defendant was committed to jail and the witness for the State were bound over to court. The negro had no counsel and everything was done to give him a fair and impartial hearing. But he doubtless did not know the penalty for such a crime. His own statement convicted him, and the result will be looked forward to with interest.

New Railway Scheme.

Capt. Thomas McBee, who spent yesterday at Morganton, tells us that an effort is on foot now to build a railroad from Shelby to Elizabethton, Tenn., via, Blowing Rock and Morganton. If this movement is successful, as it now bids fair to be, the electric line from Morganton to Blowing Rock, which was almost a certainty, will not be built.

Mr. McBee tells us that a petition asking the commissioners of Burke County to order a special election for the purpose of issuing bonds to the amount of \$20,000, is now being circulated in Morganton. It is proposed that these bonds shall be applied for the construction of this road.—Salisbury World.

At Snow Hill, Greene county, Wednesday, Dock Black, colored, was hanged by law for criminal assault upon a white woman. It was the same day that Brodie was hanged at Henderson for the same crime.

Wytheville, Va., reports having felt a distinct shock of earthquake last Friday.

Charlotte had 24 deaths in August, ten of which were negroes.