

TWICE A WEEK

How to the Line. Let the Chips Fall as they May.

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No. 1

IT'S JOHNSON AND BRYAN

THE FIGHT ON IN THE WEST

Popular Governor Of Minnesota Pitted Against The Wily Nebraskan, And The Contest Waxing Warm—Thus Far Johnson Has The Best Of The Fight And A Fair Chance Of Becoming The Leader Of The Democracy, If Not Its Candidate—The Pair Engaged In A Death Grapple And Most Of It Is Under Cover—The Situation Causing Mr. Bryan And His Friends No Little Fright.

Special to The Charlotte Observer.

Minneapolis, Minn., Dec. 30.—Without a single outward sign of war between Governor Johnson, of Minnesota, and William J. Bryan, there is really being waged right now in Minnesota a contest which may decide the outcome of the Democratic national convention. Really, Johnson and Bryan are engaged in a death grapple in Minnesota and the fight is occurring altogether under cover. If Bryan wins, Johnson's name will never be seriously mentioned in the race for the Democratic nomination. If Johnson wins, he has made a most gigantic stride towards the White House—or at least, towards the leadership of the Democratic host at the next election. Practically nothing of this fight has so far appeared in public, but within the next few weeks Minnesota—and the entire country—will ring with the sounds of the conflict. Even now Bryan is endeavoring to "smoke" Johnson out, say the friends of the latter, but he has not yet succeeded.

JOHNSON HAS BEST OF IT.

So far Johnson has the best of the fight. Without appearing to act by authority of the Governor, Johnson's friends are doing everything possible to have the Democrats in Minnesota send a delegation to the Democratic national convention which will be instructed for Johnson. The plea is the old one of the "favorite son," and upon that argument Johnson is making rapid headway even among the Bryan men. The latter, or at least that large proportion of the Bryan men who are not on the "inside," and who do not know the scheme, can see no danger to Mr. Bryan in having Minnesota cast its vote for Governor Johnson, who in fact is very popular with his constituents. "Bryan will have enough votes to nominate him anyway, and it's a pretty compliment to Johnson to be mentioned as a candidate," is one of the apologies being offered.

MINNESOTA'S PLANS.

Johnson's plan is to first secure the Minnesota delegation. Then he figures on securing North Dakota and probably one or two other neighboring States. He knows well enough that New York, New Jersey and probably Pennsylvania and Massachusetts will never send Bryan delegations to Denver if there is a possibility of any other candidate. So he expects to have friendly delegations from these and several other States as well. While these are not enough to nominate Johnson, the Democratic rule of a two-third vote necessary for a nomination is counted upon by him to prevent the nomination of Bryan on the first few ballots, and he expects other states to then fall into the Johnson column, having fulfilled their instructions and voted for Bryan, "as long as there is a chance for his nomination."

But Bryan knows the plans of Johnson and among his friends that plan is thought formidable enough to cause uneasiness, so much so that they have started the underground fight against Johnson in his own State, with one hope of preventing his endorsement by Minnesota and the consequent rout of the Johnson men.

WON'T COME OUT IN OPEN.

Having announced that while he will not seek the nomination, yet he will not attempt to evade a drafting process, Bryan cannot well afford to openly fight Johnson for a "complimentary" vote of his own State, and his friends here are therefore obliged to fight under cover. At the same time Johnson does not wish to be placed in a position of openly fighting Bryan, and he also is willing for the fight to be one of underground methods. In fact, Johnson is more anxious to keep his fight out of sight than are the Bryan men. If the latter can force Johnson to come out in the open and start the fight himself—that is, start the open fight—they will be well pleased indeed. At the first false move of the Johnson men, the Bryanites, having Johnson in the open, figure the victory will be easy.

It can be stated authoritatively that Johnson has some heavy interests and some good politicians on his side and that these people are opponents not to be despised. And the majority by which Johnson was elected Governor of Minnesota shows that he himself is very popular and is a vote-getter at home.

If Johnson secures this delegation from his own State, he will immediately become a full-fledged candidate and a formidable one, too. And if he loses Minnesota, he is down and out without ever having come to the surface. The situation is causing fright among the Minnesota friends of Mr. Bryan and to Mr. Bryan himself.

A Hard Luck Story.

A young "hunter" who hails from the regions about Long Shoals seems to have had varied experiences during the holidays, so his friends say. The story runs like this: This young "hunter" hid himself away to the fields in quest of game, either large or small, but had very hard luck it seems, not killing a thing. However a friend with a sympathetic nature, happened along, and seeing the downcast look, etc. of the young man, decided to help him along a little bit, by placing the rabbit he had killed in a position so as to represent the real article that hadn't been shot before. There's where the fun happened. Seeing the rabbit, he backed away, and whispered to his companion, "Look out! there's a rabbit, be still," when his companion said to him, "Are you sure?" He replied, "Sure, why of course, watch him flop his ears and blink his eyes," and immediately turned loose both barrels at the cranium of poor bunny who had already taken a trip to the happy hunting grounds long before. This satisfying his ambition in this line, he shouldered his gun and marched away with a swaggering step, "wearing the smile that won't come off." 'Tis a pity to wind this story up here, but then it has been said that "all bad beginnings have good endings," and in this case let us hope, for later reports from this young "hunter" are to the effect that he has been seen wandering around in the tall timbers near Denver without gun, shot or shell, bombarding the heart of any pretty maiden that might come his way.

Negro Shoots Himself.

Alf Connor, a colored man who lives near Lowesville, went to Rock Hill colored church at Lowesville Xmas day loaded with corn liquor and a colts pistol with the avowed purpose of shooting up "another nigger." Connor was so drunk that he accidentally shot himself in the thigh and it is thought he will die.

Mr. John Rudisill, of Gastonia, was a visitor here Monday.

Alpha's Letter.

Iron Station R. F. D. No. 1. December 30, 1907.

Christmas, which is, and always will be, the gladdest time of the year, is now numbered among the events that are past. The glad day was spent in various ways by our people. Some spent the day in the fields hunting and chasing mottle cotton tail; others spent the day in visiting friends and still others we are sorry to say followed the custom of the dark ages, laid in a supply of devil's broth and disgraced the day, and themselves in a general carousal. No casualties to report, except a few fistuffs in which no one was seriously hurt.

Your correspondent has added a graphophone to his musical outfit. The firm of W. H. Sigmon Co., is practically giving one of these machines to all customers who purchases \$25 worth of goods.

The sale at the residence of the late J. M. Lawing last Friday was well attended and the property brought good prices.

On a farm in Lincoln county is this advertisement: "This farm is for sale," and now the public is curious to know just how the owner of the farm is going to get it disconnected from the balance of the globe, when he expects to start and which direction he will "sail."

Mr. O. E. Dellinger attended the teachers meeting in Lincoln last Saturday and reports a good attendance and a profitable meeting.

All the schools of our section celebrated North Carolina Day Dec. 20.

Mr. Sam Keever gave the young people a pound party last Saturday night, all report a nice time.

Mrs. Claude Hoke and children spent Christmas with her parents, at the home of your correspondent.

Our young people had a Christmas tree at the residence of Mr. Henry Ballard last Tuesday night. The best of order prevailed and all report a nice time.

Oh, brother "Romeo," don't be so jealous hearted. Our only object in writing of panics was to try to keep history straight and to try to convince all the ignoramuses that our Presidents do not bring on our money panics.

And then there is "Wild Bill" of Reepsville, who is so pained because Alpha persists in speaking of his Derby hat that no doubt he has shed many tears. Now we want to ask these gentleman by whose authority they were appointed critics for the Lincoln County News! There are hundred of items in any newspaper that are uninteresting to us, and that we never read, but we've got sense enough to know that there are many readers of many different minds, and that what is uninteresting to us, will interest some one else. We are willing for the editor and the public at large to sit in judgement on what we write, but, so far as our critics are concerned, we will inform them just as politely as we know how, that in the future, as in the past, we expect to write what we please.

ALPHA.

THE NEW YEAR.

Who comes dancing over the snow, His little soft feet all bare and rosy? Open the door, though the wild winds blow; Take the child in and make him cosy; Take him in and hold him dear. He is the wonderful New Year. Open your heart, be it sad or gay, Welcome him there and use him kindly, For you must carry him, yea or nay; Carry him with shut eyes so blindly; Whether he bringeth joy or fear, Take him, God sends him, this good New Year. Dinah Mulock Craik.

Lowesville Locals.

Lowesville, Dec. 28th, 1907.

The Lowesville High School gave an entertainment Saturday night which was up to the standard of that progressive school, a number of Triangle people attended and spent a delightful evening with the amateur minstrels.

Mr. B. W. Howard received a telegram from his son, Mr. B. McLean Howard, last Friday from Asheville stating that he was at the point of death. He has pneumonia and no hope is entertained for his recovery. The young man is a student of the Asheville Industrial Training School. An added sorrow to the family is that the holiday's were to have been spent at home. Mr. Howard and daughter, Miss Bertie, of King's Business College, Charlotte, left for Asheville on the 12 o'clock train Saturday.

Miss Blanche Nixon the accomplished daughter of Mr. R. Nixon, gave the young people of Triangle a delightful evening in the form of a pound party last Thursday evening. The parlor was tastefully decorated and in keeping with the holiday season. Many games were played, then the guests were invited into the dining room where cakes, candies and nuts were in abundance. When the hours grew late the merry party separated amid the flare and crash of fireworks on the lawn.

Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Cherry, of Mooresville, are spending the holidays with Mr. J. R. Cherry of this place.

Rev. Lotten, the new pastor of Fair Field M. E. church, filled his first appointment Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Owing to the rain very few persons heard his opening sermon.

Unity people gave an excellent Xmas tree Tuesday afternoon. Rev. Chas. Little acted Santa Claus to the delight of the children.

Mr. Eula Nixon, who went to Texas a year ago, came home last week where he will doubtless, make his future home.

The friends and patrons of the Triangle school enjoyed a most delightful programme, rendered by the pupils of the school, Friday night. The personnel of the various plays included the tiny tots and blushing school maids and boys far removed from "child hoods innocent gambols," all of whom happily commingled in the one desire to entertain the audience and presented a pleasing spectacle.

The interior of the school building was decorated with evergreen and paper creations of many colors and looked like a nook in fairy land. But a fairy with its magic wand stands a poor show when "up against" the ingenuity of American girls in matters practical, and creative. Excellent music was furnished by Messrs. Jas. Sifford the "enviable violinist," and D. S. Lowe, of banjo fame. If there was any one in the audience who did not feel the uplifting influence of the stirring strains of "Midnight Hawk" and "Fisherman's Horn Pipe" and have a desire to dance, that person needs sympathy and a physician.

ROMEO.

Marriage Invitation.

Mrs. Maggie Cathey McLurd requests your presence at the marriage of her daughter Julia Irva, to Mr. Samuel Beattie Sullivan, on Wednesday afternoon, January the fifteenth, at four o'clock, Lutheran Church, Crouse, North Carolina.

Mr. E. D. Rutledge, of Hudson, N. C., is visiting Mr. W. W. W. Hines.

A DRASTIC ORDER.

Uncle Sam Shuts Down On Newspapers Subscribers Will Have To Pay Up Or Have Paper Stopped.

Lexington, Dec. 31.—H. B. Varner, editor of The Lexington Dispatch and president of the National Editorial Association, left tonight for Washington, where he goes to confer with Postmaster General von Meyer in regard to an order issued December 4th which affects thousands of publications. The National Editorial Association alone represents eighteen thousand papers. The order is No. 907, and makes it illegal for a weekly newspaper to mail papers at the usual rate to subscribers who owe subscriptions for more than one year; semi-weeklies cannot carry unpaid subscription longer than nine months; tri-weeklies, six months; dailies, three months; semi-monthlies, three months; bi-monthlies, six months; monthlies, four months; quarterlies, six months. The order becomes effective January 1st, and if the time named has expired the publisher will have to pay one cent for each four ounces or fraction thereof. If the ruling goes into effect to-morrow, it means that practically every publisher in the country will violate it without the knowledge of its existence. The Postmaster General will be asked to extend the time until January 1st 1909.—Charlotte Observer.

Leonard's Fork Locals.

Lincolnton, N. C. Dec. 30th-07. We are having some fine weather at this writing.

Misses Frankie Wood and Katie Seronce were visiting Misses Connie and Auria Heavner Christmas night.

Master Hal Hoyle spent the holidays with his sister at Shelby. Mr. Ruffin Childers and Miss Minnie Bess, of near Flay, spent last Wednesday night with Miss Florence Hoover.

Mr. H. L. Bess visited at Mr. T. J. Hoover's Xmas night.

Miss Flossie Ramsey, who is teaching school at Leonard's Fork, spent Christmas week with her friends and relatives near the Laboratory.

Miss Katie Wood, of near Plateau, is spending a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Wood.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Hoyle spent last Saturday night and Sunday with Mrs. Hoyle's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Dellinger, near Cherryville.

Mrs. John Lineberger and daughter, Miss Pearl, of Shelby, spent last week with Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Houser.

Mr. Jacob Lohr, of Thomasville, N. C., spent a few days last week with friends and relatives in this section.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Rhodes, of Lincolnton, spent last Thursday night with Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Hoyle.

Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Hartzoe, of Zion, spent last Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Huss.

Mr. John Hoyle has constructed a nice cotton house.

There was a social at Mr. G. Lee Heavner's Xmas night. A good time is reported.

Mr. John Hoyle has hauled up thirty loads of wood during the holidays. Who can beat this for Xmas.

Mr. John Huss has erected a handsome barn. WILD BOY.

Look Out For Eclipse.

There will be an eclipse of the sun this afternoon which will be visible for a very short time from the Southern States. It will occur about sunset, and is caused by the moon passing between the earth and the sun.

Beautiful Wedding.

The quietness of the little village of Iron is not often broken by the ringing of wedding bells, but they pealed forth most joyously on the last evening of the year, when Mr. Henry Claude Goode led to the hymeneal altar, Jennie, the fair daughter of Capt. and Mrs. J. M. Rendleman.

At the appointed hour, 4 o'clock, the strains of Mendelssohn's Wedding March rendered by Mrs. Plato Miller, heralded the arrival of the bridal party. First to enter were the ushers. Down the left aisle came Dr. Brevard Goode, a brother of the groom, followed by the groom with his best man, Mr. R. C. Goode, while down the left aisle came Mr. Plato Miller, followed by the bride with her maid of honor, Miss Addie Rendleman, a sister. The bride and groom met before the bridal arch, where the short but very impressive ceremony was performed by the groom's brother, Rev. W. O. Goode, of Vanderbilt University, Tenn.

The bride, always charming, was lovely in a gown of white crepe-dechene and chiffon over taffeta, and wore her veil caught with a handsome crescent. The maid of honor wore a dainty gown of white battiste and a picture hat. Loving hearts and hands had transformed the Methodist church into a bower of beauty with potted plants and greens. Banks of evergreens made a fitting back ground. Around the chancel rail were twined ivy and mountain laurel, among this foliage burned numerous tiny candles as if placed there by a fairy's hand. From the bridal arch were suspended the letters "E. G." deftly made of mistletoe. The unique feature of the ceremony was, when the minister pronounced the words of union, making the twain, one, the "R" fell, leaving the "G" alone to reign over the united hearts.

The bridal party left the church while the organist continued the famous wedding march, and were driven to the bride's home. Here an informal reception was held, friends and relatives gathered to bestow loving congratulations, after which delicious refreshments were served.

Mr. and Mrs. Goode left on the afternoon train mid a shower of rice, old shoes and good wishes, for their future home in Macon, Ga., where Mr. Goode is business manager and a member of the firm of Heard and Goode, wholesale and commission merchants.

'Tis with regret that Iron gives up so lovely a daughter, but Mr. Goode is to be congratulated for his wisdom in returning to his native State to choose a bride.

Many useful and handsome presents attest the popularity of the couple.

Among the out-of-town guests attending the marriage were: Dr. N. B., Rev and Mrs. W. O. Goode, Nashville, Tenn.; Misses Blanche and Sallie Goode, Shelby; Miss Nannie Lee Nesbit, Mooresville; Miss Mary Whitley, and U. N. Hoffman, Charlotte; Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. L. M. West, Mr. and Mrs. James Reinhardt, Stanley; Mr. and Mrs. James R. Dellinger, Maysworth; Mr. Vance Goode, Rutherford College; Mr. and Mrs. Plato Miller, Mrs. Ola Noell, Misses Jennie Robinson, Ida Smith and Mary Lineberger, Lincolnton.

Death Of Mr. Dellinger.

Mr. Erastus Dellinger, son of Mr. Charles Dellinger, died last Sunday and was buried Monday at Zion M. E. church, Rev. Mr. Burges conducting the funeral services.

Miss Georgia Rhodes spent the holidays in Kings Mountain.