

# The Lincoln County News.

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## CHARLES BRANTLEY AYCOCK DROPS DEAD.

Was Speaking on Theme Near His Heart, "Universal Education."—Was in Poor Health.—Strong Candidate for Nomination for United States Senator to Succeed F. M. Simmons.

Charlotte Observer.

Birmingham, Ala., April 4.—Former Governor Charles B. Aycock of North Carolina dropped dead at the Jefferson theater tonight while addressing the Alabama Educational Association. Mr. Aycock was speaking on "Universal Education, Its Necessity and Benefit." He was about one-fourth through his address when he suddenly staggered back a step and fell to the floor so suddenly that those on the stage were unable to reach him in time to support him.

Water was hastily thrown on his face and he was taken to the wings of the theater, but expired at once. Death was pronounced to be the result of heart failure.

### MR. AYCOCK'S CAREER.

Charles Brantley Aycock was born at Fremont, this State, November 1, 1859. When a youth he entered the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, where he took high rank, especially excelling in English. In a large measure he earned by his own labor the money which paid his collegiate expenses, a fact which in no way affected his proficiency in his studies or his great popularity among his fellow students. He was graduated from the University, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Soon afterward he devoted himself to the study of law, the profession to which his exceptional talents as a speaker and as a thinker made him unusually fitted. He was admitted to the bar and entered on the career which North Carolina but yesterday believed was still tending towards its climax.

In connection with his practice, Mr. Aycock became superintendent of the Wayne county schools. It was while holding this position, doubtless, that he imbibed much of that wholesome and whole hearted enthusiasm for education which won him universally in his native State the title, "North Carolina's Educational Governor." From 1893 to 1898 he was United States district attorney in the district of North Carolina.

### REAL CAREER BEGINS.

It was in 1898 that he gained State-wide prominence as a campaigner. Under fusion rule scores of negroes in the eastern part of the State had been appointed magistrates and even to offices of more influence and power. The shackled east appealed to the more fortunate west for aid and a battle for "white supremacy" was begun and waged until the whole State rang with the battle-cry.

His most pronounced enemy could not have called his speeches narrow. Whatever else they were, they were frank, plainly spoken, and mellowed with a humor which convulsed. There was a drollery of manner, a distinctiveness of touch in his treatment of funny stories which made his hearers demand the repetition of his favorites. It is but recording the plain, cold facts in the case to say that it has been widely conceded that no North Carolinian of latter years has possessed in so full a degree the power to stir the hearts of his compatriots, or has enjoyed a larger measure of the confidence and esteem of his contemporaries.

### ELECTED GOVERNOR.

It was natural, therefore, with the return of the gubernatorial election year in 1900, that Aycock should have been chosen the standard bearer of his party. There

was a special reason for this. The victory won by the forces which fought for "white supremacy" in 1898 was sweeping and complete in so far as it went, but was necessarily of a temporary nature. It was desired to settle the question beyond all cavil and for many decades if not for all time. For that purpose a constitutional amendment was drafted, greatly restricting negro suffrage. Another struggle, even more far-reaching in its effects than the other, was to be fought, and Mr. Aycock's leadership was felt to be essential. The amendment was carried and the Democratic State ticket was elected by a large majority.

Once in office with the distracting questions of politics safely out of the way, Governor Aycock gave himself unreservedly to the encouragement of education. He made speeches in every section of the Commonwealth, pleading the cause of the common schools, and appealing for a deeper interest on the part of parents in order that their children should be able to battle with the world on equal terms with their fellows. Educators since that time have dated the educational revival in this State back to the Aycock administration.

### EXCEEDINGLY POPULAR.

The sudden passing of this man removes from the State one of its most unique and brilliant characters and comes as a shocking announcement not only to friends political, but friends personal and universal. Hardly a man in North Carolina will be so genuinely and so generally mourned. He was beloved of all, the high and the low, the plebeian and the patriot. As a man in other days without political preferment, he endeared himself to the hearts of associates as few others in the State have been able to burn their personalities into the people. He was kind and compassionate.

None were so stooped in poverty or covered with crime that he could not reach them by his gentle ministrations. None were so lofty in position or crowned with honor that they could not take from him some word of warning or some counsel that cheered and lent encouragement. His life as a lawyer was marked with abundant rewards, not the rewards that enrich men, but rather the recompense of a friendship that never wore away.

### HE LOVED THE PEOPLE.

When Former Governor Aycock entered public life, he was inspired by the ambition to serve his people and not to promote his own selfish interests. In the political history of the State within recent years he has occupied a conspicuous place. Mingled with a native ability that has never been denied, he added a personality that was instantly magnetic and commanding. The intellectual genius of this beloved son of North Carolina was not his greatest asset as great as that might have been. He had the heart of a friend and the passion he poured into the politics of North Carolina was not the overflow of a soul that sought honor without reason or preferment without cause. He loved North Carolina and he loved North Carolinians. And the people knew it. The explanation of his personal and political achievements is found here. His heart found the heart of the people on the same platform, on the same basis of a common interest and a common destiny.

### A FAITHFUL SERVANT.

Retiring from the seat of honor at Raleigh, Mr. Aycock did not cease to lend his best efforts to the cause of democracy. Whenever

he was summoned to the aid of the militant forces of the party, he abandoned his private interests and announced his readiness. His faithfulness in this service is proverbial. It is well known throughout the length and breadth of the State. He was not personal nor partisan in his later efforts. He was guided by the action of the forces under whom he was working then as a private. In the mountains he preached the same doctrine that his eloquent tongue expounded through the piedmont and in every utterance, whether here or there, he breathed the same spirit of fidelity to his party's principles and the same inborn passion for the dominant rights of the masses. He was not a demagogue either in private or public life.

He founded his fortune upon principle and won his laurels by abiding firmly to the tenets of his party without the prejudice of the partisan or the bitterness of the demagogue.

### POLITICAL DISAPPOINTMENTS.

The sudden death of the former Governor, occurring just at this time, is all the more regrettable because of the announcement of his candidacy for the United States Senate.

Mr. Aycock was to have made his first speech in Raleigh tonight to open his campaign. Former Governor Glenn was to have presented him for his initial engagement in this capacity. Death has not only taken from the State one of its most eminent sons, but has likewise removed from the senatorial race a factor that was to be reckoned with. Mr. Aycock, in a statement some time ago announcing his intention to make the race for the United States Senate, declared that he did not have the money that others had to apply to his candidacy, but that he relied upon the just judgement of the people of North Carolina for his chances of success. And he reckoned well. While the race for the past few weeks has been conceded between Governor Kitchin and Senator Simmons, Mr. Aycock was acknowledged to be a strong factor in the development.

He was regarded as the second choice of the people of North Carolina and his opportunities for success would have been notably in advance of the two leading candidates, in the estimation of his friends, but for the rejection of the preferential plan of the primary. His candidacy has been met with universal favor throughout the State and while the two acknowledged rivals have, perhaps, held the dominant place in the minds of the voters, loyal and substantial friends of the deceased have been unrelenting in their efforts and their faithful service, coupled with his own appealing personality, would undoubtedly have equipped him for a formidable race with the ablest and the most popular of North Carolina sons.

The death of the former Governor bears a further exceedingly sad feature, the engagement of his daughter to Mr. Clarence Poe, editor of The Progressive Farmer, having been announced some time ago. The marriage was to take place in the course of a few weeks.

The voice of the people from the verdant clad mountains of North Carolina, from the foothills of the piedmont and from the coastal country mingle in uniform and universal lamentation over the passing of such a distinguished son even though it be his crowning.

Mr. J. Thomas McLean of Cliffside arrived in town Monday to spend some time.

## DIRECTORS OF NEW BANK ARE ELECTED

J. H. Little Made President and Easley O. Anderson Cashier—Stockholders Meet—Ten New Prominent Business Men Added to Directorate of Independence Trust Company.

Charlotte Observer.

A meeting of the stockholders of the Independence Trust Company held yesterday at 11 o'clock, ten new directors were added to the list of 11 old directors who had served for the Charlotte Trust & Realty Company, the absorbed concern. The new men named to the directorate are as follows: Messrs. J. A. Abernathy, manufacturer, Lincolnton; G. W. Ragman, manufacturer, Gastonia; C. W. Johnston, president of the Highland Park Manufacturing Company; J. H. Wearn, president of J. H. Wearn & Co.; J. H. McLaughlin, president of the Cochran-McLaughlin, Company; W. L. Nicholson, real estate and insurance; J. L. Staten, merchant; J. A. Jones, general contractor; J. W. Hastenings, president of the Lawing-Robinsons Furniture Company, and W. M. Long, chairman of the board of county commissioners.

### STRONG BOARD NAMED

Both in the personnel of the board of directors and the officers, the new banking institution is exceptionally strong and representative of the industrial and progressive interests of the community. Mr. Little is one of the most popular bankers in Charlotte and the success he has achieved during the few years he has been a native of Charlotte has come from a strict application to his duties. Mr. Anderson, the new cashier, comes from the First National Bank Lincolnton where he has held a similar position for the past six years. He began his banking career in Charlotte as book-keeper for the Commercial National and from that time his ascendancy has been as rapid as it has been deserving.

### Fassifern Concert.

The fifth and last entertainment in the Fassifern Concert Course this year will be given at the school Thursday evening, April 11th at 8:30 o'clock. Tickets for sale at Lawing's and the Lincoln Drug store, thirty-five cents. Miss Pixley, Miss Edith van Gilluwe of the Faculty of Elizabeth College, Charlotte and Mr. Hampton Stirewalt, of Charlotte will give a program of light and attractive music written for piano, violin and cello. The combination of these instruments in original trio work is delightful while arrangements of other music can give the effect of a full string orchestra.

### DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The county Democratic Executive committee of Lincoln county is hereby called to meet in Lincolnton, N. C., on Saturday April 13, 1912 at 12 o'clock noon, for the purpose of selecting dates and time for precinct and county conventions and to transact any other business that may be necessary.

This 8th April 1912.

C. E. Childs,  
Chairman Democratic Executive Committee.  
J. B. Wright, Secretary.

### Fire at Eureka.

On last Friday morning about three o'clock what might have been a serious fire broke out in the Eureka mill. It was soon extinguished however, and no heavy loss was sustained, although considerable damage was done.

Mr. David Cherry of East Lincoln was a visitor to the county metropolis yesterday.

## SOUTH ASKED TO PACK KNAPSACKS

High Officers, Including Members From Eleven States Called to Washington—Requisition Is Made—Adjutant General Says Virginia Is Ready to Go to The Front—Has Left Richmond.

State Library

Washington, March 30.—The war department is taking measures to impress the National guard into service, with a view of moving it into Mexico the moment intervention becomes necessary. This fact may be denied at the war department, but it is absolutely true.

Yesterday high officers of the National Guard, of eleven States, arrived in Washington in obedience to summons, and from Secretary Stimson. More are coming later. They were in the main adjutant general, but in some case officers of lesser rank responded to the summons.

One or two were commanding generals. These officers were summoned singly and came singly.

There was no conference. Most of them came from the South, which is the region likely to be drawn upon first if intervention comes, but they came from as far North as Massachusetts.

Each of them was asked how soon and under what circumstances his State could furnish a certain quota of men to the government for service in Mexico; what equipment and what supplies it had ready, and to what extent the war department would have to be drawn upon for further equipment.

In several cases the officers interviewed made an immediate requisition upon the war department for supplies and the requisition was immediately started on his way through the usual channels.

One officer, for instance, made a requisition upon Secretary Stimson for 140 field wagons, 560 sets of harness and 11 ambulances.

In addition to the eleven who were here yesterday two came today. Adjutant General Weybracht, of Ohio, and Adjutant General Stewart, of Pennsylvania.

Major General Edward Young commander of the Illinois National Guard, is on his way here, and will be at Secretary Stimson's office tomorrow.

Others who attended at War Department in obedience to the summons were from Massachusetts, Connecticut, North Carolina and Alabama.

Who the rest were cannot be ascertained, but nearly all of them were from the South.

In the last Mexican war about 70,000 volunteers were mustered in and three-fourths of them were from Southern States. The responses of Ohio, Pennsylvania and several of the Southern States were prompt and satisfactory, but in New England there was manifested a doubt about whether such a war would prove popular; in fact, whether there would be any great desire to volunteer for it.

A measure to meet such a contingency, which was not unexpected, has already been prepared by the War Department.

An amendment to the Dick-Firmy law, whereby the National Guard can be sent out of the United States, has been drawn up and is ready to be put through as soon as occasion requires.

### SALE LEAVES RICHMOND.

Adjutant General Sale has left Richmond. It is said over the phone that he had gone to the country. He could not, therefore, be interviewed upon the subject.

At a conference a short while ago, however, with the Governor and other officials, the Adjutant General stated that the Virginia troops could be ready within a short time to go to the front.—Richmond Virginian, March 31.

## ESTIMABLE WOMAN PASSES

Caroline Burgin Was Called Higher Yesterday Afternoon About Four O'clock—Her Departure Mourned by a Large Circle of Friends and Relatives.

After a lingering illness of several months, Mrs. Mary Caroline Burgin, wife of the late Samuel G. Burgin, passed away at her home here yesterday afternoon about four o'clock. Although Mrs. Burgin has been in failing health for some time, she was not confined to her bed until a few days ago when she grew weaker, and all of her children were summoned to her bedside.

Mrs. Burgin is survived by six children, four sons and two daughters, namely, Messrs. Gaston, Jacob, Harris and Winslow Burgin, Miss Mattie Burgin and Mrs. A. Q. Kale. Her beloved husband and five children preceded her to the spirit world, four of her children dying with diphtheria within a week.

Mrs. Burgin, before her marriage, was Miss Mary Caroline Quickel, daughter of the late Cephas Quickel. She was born at the old Quickel place on Howard's Creek, sixty-four years ago. She has one living brother, Mr. Lee Quickel, and one living sister, Mrs. Geo. Cansler.

The funeral services will be conducted from the Presbyterian church this afternoon at four o'clock, Rev. W. R. Minter officiating. The body will be laid to rest in the Methodist cemetery beside that of her husband.

The death of this estimable, Christian woman brings sorrow not only to her immediate family, where she was the source of comfort and happiness, but also to a wide circle of friends and relatives and to the community at large. Mrs. Burgin was a member of the Presbyterian church of Lincolnton and was ever a loyal supporter of its doctrine and a faithful attendant at the church services.

### The Closing of Reepsville School Well Attended.

On last Saturday April 6, a good crowd assembled at Reepsville to attend the closing exercises of the school there. An excellent program was well rendered. Each pupil having a part in the exercises acquitted themselves admirably thereby showing the efficiency of their teachers and the earnestness with which they have studied.

Some interesting and instructive addresses were made by Prof. G. T. Heafner, K. B. Nixon and the competent principal of the school, Mr. Berge Beam. Mr. Beam was the last to speak, but what he said came straight from the shoulder, so to speak, and seemed to go straight to the heart for some surely did weep. Mr. Beam and his assistant, Miss Lucy Lohr, deserve much comment upon the splendid work they have done. Following is a program of the exercises:

A Recitation—The Reward of Faith  
A Dialogue—The Old Country Aunt  
A Recitation—Mattie's wants and wishes  
A Recitation—Keep a Going  
MUSIC  
A Recitation—The Patter of the Shingle  
A Recitation—A Little Boy's Troubles  
Song—"Pie."  
A Recitation—What is Life to You  
A Drill—The Manners Class  
MUSIC  
Song—Evening Praise  
A Recitation—Archie Dean  
A Monologue—Spoopendyke's Suspenders  
A Drill—Ten Little Injuns  
A Recitation—Billy's Rose  
MUSIC  
Jumbo Jum—A Farce in one act  
A Recitation—The Sioux Chief's Daughter  
A Recitation—Grand Mother's Beau  
MUSIC  
Out in the Streets—A Temperance Drama in three acts  
A Drill—Good Night.