

CLOSING EXERCISES FRIDAY NIGHT

Lincolnton Graded School Commencement Exercises Came to Close Friday Night With Splendid Entertainment—The Winners of Gold Medals.

The exercises of the Graded School year came to a close last Friday night with the presentation of the play "The Night Riders," given by the pupils of the High School. The play was very enjoyable and well attended.

Miss Nanette Rudolph, Miss Mary Warrick, and Miss B. Nelson were the judges for the contests at the previous exercises and the following pupils were winners of gold medal prizes:

Ruth Simmons received a gold medal for the best improvement in recitation.

For the best general improvement in music, Corinne Crowell and Edna Hoyle were winners.

Helen Goode won the gold medal for practicing three hours each day.

Marb Motz was the winner of the prize given for the pupil who finished the sophomore course in music.

Jennings Edwards won the Declamatory prize, and Roberta Love won in the Reciters contest.

Following is the program rendered Friday night by the High School pupils, the play being entitled "The Night Riders":

- Cast of Characters.
- Colonel Shelby, Proprietor of a tobacco plantation—Walter Costner.
- Jack Willis, A young lawyer—Sherwood Childs.
- Edgar Harbeck, Cashier of a local bank, and secretly in league with "The Night Riders"—Fitzhugh Hoyle.
- Judge Harbeck, His father, a powerful man in politics and affairs of the county—Carr Leonard.
- George Flinnham, An speculator and promoter—Stuart Camp.
- Tom Mosely—Grady Rhodes; Evan Holden—Marshall Ramsey; Jared Sparks—Harold Stimpson—"Night Riders."
- Clem Pascoe, A jockey and servant to Willis—Donald McLean.
- Silas Stickey, A colored politician—Calvin Pegram.
- Uncle Solomon, An old servant—Claud Holly.
- Ikey Bloomingdal, A Hebrew traveler—Jennings Edwards.
- Mabel Shelby, Colonel Shelby's daughter—Miss Louise McCraw.
- Becky Shelby, Her maiden aunt—Lena Dellinger.
- Susie Sparks, A mountain girl—Willie Costner.
- Aunt Susie, and old colored "mammy"—Ruby Padgett.
- Louise Clairvue, An adventuress—Miss Mabel Farmer.
- Other "Night Riders—Zed Crowell, Vernon Kiser, William Wetmore, U. S. Marshall—Robert Wycoff.

Synopsis.
Act I.—Colonel Shelby's home. Judge Harbeck demands that Mabel Shelby marry his son. "She herself shall decide." The Harbecks hold Shelby's mortgage and notes. "Colonel Shelby, you are in a tight place. Mabel's answer, 'I would not marry you if you were the last man on earth.'" Mabel and Jack advance money to Shelby. The Night Riders visit Shelby. "Give him the lash and torch."

Act II.—In the mountains. Susie and Becky decree that Mabel shall wed. "What! Real loaded pistols! I guess not!" Both heroes fall, but come to life when the ladies go. Mabel is captive of Edgar Harbeck. "You are a scoundrel." Edgar tries to poison Louise. Mabel apparently agrees to marry Edgar, but the loaded pistol proves to be Louise. "Everybody unmask! There are enemies among us!" The fight, Harbeck and the Night Riders escape.

Act III.—An abandoned "moonshiner," but "filing" on the job, disfigurement is seized by the Night Riders. Colonel Shelby also a captive. "Hang them both." Mabel just in time. "Spare them and I will be your wife." Key gives Mabel, Louise brings the United States officers. Edgar Harbeck is killed. "Forgive me, Good-bye." The Night Riders surrender.

FEDERAL GRAND JURY INDICTS EIGHT GERMANS.

New York, April 28.—The Federal grand jury returned an indictment today against the eight Germans recently arrested on the charge of engaging in a conspiracy to place incendiary bombs on ships carrying munitions for the Entente Allies and against Dr. Walter T. Scheele, president of the New Jersey Agricultural Chemical Company, the alleged leader of the conspiracy, who has not yet been arrested.

It was at Scheele's factory that the bombs were partly manufactured, it is alleged.

TWO TROUTMAN GIRLS BURIED TOGETHER IN SAME GRAVE.

Troutman, April 27.—A very unusual and pathetic funeral service was conducted yesterday at Pleasant Hill Churchyard. Two beautiful girls, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Morrow, were laid in the same grave. These young ladies, just budding into womanhood, died Wednesday within a few hours of each other. Both had pneumonia.

ASHEVILLE'S DEFENSE PLAN BUY A FEW BIG GUNS

Asheville, April 27.—Asheville is sending out to every city of any size in the United States a new plan of National defense, which is being called the "Asheville Plan for National Preparedness."

NO CHANGE IN MEXICAN SITUATION

Mexicans Want U. S. To Withdraw—Still Reports That Villa is Dead—Conference Waits on Washington.

El Paso, Tex., April 29.—Two conflicting propositions developed immediately after the beginning of the Mexican customs houses in Juarez late today of the conference to decide the future disposition of the American expeditionary forces in Mexico.

In addition, another factor is believed to have been injected into the situation by the receipt of fresh reports that Francisco Villa is dead.

Mexican Consul Andres Garcia said Col. Carlos Carranza had telegraphed him from Cuahuhchilla that he had been unable to find Villa's body, but that he had established beyond dispute that the bandit leader was dead and he hoped to recover the body in a few days. The telegram said all the evidence tended to confirm the death of Villa.

This telegram is understood to have been laid before the conference but would confirm only in a general way.

Major Generals Scott and Funston represented the United States. The Mexican conferees were General Alvaro Obregon, Mexican Minister of War, and General Jacinto Trevino, military commander of the northeastern district of Mexico. The progress of the negotiations was not divulged, but from an authoritative source two things were learned:

First, that the Mexican representatives reiterated the wish expressed in Carranza's recent note to the Washington Government that the American troops should be withdrawn from Mexican soil at an early date.

Second, that they were informed by the American officials that the latter were not empowered to discuss the withdrawal of General Pershing's columns.

The Mexicans, it is understood, were further informed that the purpose of the present conference so far as the United States is concerned is the development of a specific plan for the co-operation of the military and police forces of the two nations.

Groups that have caused so much bloodshed along the border and have repeatedly taken American life in the interior of Mexico.

While the instructions sent by Secretary of War Baker to the American troops were that they should be kept secret it is known that the following general conditions will be insisted on by the American representatives:

Open and effective co-operation of the Mexican forces with the Americans. Extension of the American lines into Mexico at least as far south as Casas Grandes and probably farther.

Relegation to the American military police the duty of policing a northern zone, consisting of the territory directly south of the international boundary.

Policing the remainder of the territory—a "southern zone"—by Carranza forces.

Co-operation in the handling of supplies for the American troops.

Granting the use of the Mexican railways to the expeditionary force.

El Paso, Tex., April 30.—Mexican and American conferees over the disposition of the American forces in Mexico marked time today when Major Generals Scott and Funston awaited word from Washington as to the next step to be taken in the negotiations with General Obregon.

General Obregon's yesterday conference, served no sort of notice on General Scott and Funston that could be construed as an ultimatum demanding immediate withdrawal.

There is a strong possibility there will be only one more conference held, that depending on the wishes of the Washington officials.

U. S. Cavalry Crossed Into Mexico.
Columbus, N. M., April 28.—A column of U. S. Cavalry, four miles long, moved from the base camp this afternoon. It was planned to encamp tonight at Gibson's line ranch, 15 miles west along the border and cross the frontier early tomorrow. The detachment was the largest to leave Columbus since the original expeditionary force crossed the border March 15.

COL. DODD STILL POUNDING THE WILLISTAS.

A dispatch from Naniquipa, Gen. Pershing's headquarters in Mexico, says: "A report dated April 24, from Colonel Dodd, states that he overtook a band of Villistas near Tomachie on 22d at 4:30 p. m., killing six and wounding 19 others, many probably fatally. Twenty-five horses were captured. Our loss two killed and three wounded. Fight lasted until after dark. Impossible to tell definitely loss of Villistas."

Another report says: "Late reports from Colonel Erwin state that on the 20th scouting party from his command encountered small body of Villistas near Coomocochic and mortally wounded four. Wounded in Dodd's command doing well and none expected to die."

IRISH REBELLION HAS QUIETED DOWN.
Dublin, April 29.—The climax of the Irish rebellion apparently has passed. Only intermittent firing was heard throughout the city early today as government troops under cover of darkness, drew their lines closer around the Sinn Feinners who are trapped in the heart of Dublin. Smoke-blackened ruins and the debris of shell-wrecked buildings in the Sackville street today marked the trail of rebellion across the Irish capital. Beneath these ruins lie the bodies of many of the rebels who led in the first days of desperate fighting. Fires started by the rebels Thursday night in an effort to burn the heart of the city, have been completely extinguished. The Sinn Feinners now hold a small area, completely surrounded by government troops.

GERMAN REPLY EXPECTED THIS WEEK

Washington, April 30.—Secretary Lansing tonight said Ambassador Gerard had not reported on his conference with Emperor William. A report is expected hourly. Information received tonight from German sources is to the effect that the Berlin Government has considered reply to the American demand for the immediate abandonment of present methods of submarine warfare with an offer to have its submarines operate, at least temporarily only as cruisers against enemy merchant ships. German officials are said to have expressed themselves as being favorable toward the plan. The State Department so far as is shown, has no information on the subject.

There is no definite information here regarding the time the reply may be expected. It is thought in diplomatic and official quarters, however, that it hardly will be received before the middle of the week at the earliest.

Doctor Dernburg, Secretary of German colonies, writing in a German paper is reported to have said:

"It is to be hoped that an understanding will be reached which will conserve our National dignity and whereby we may retain our relations with the United States without having to lessen the force of our activities."

The writer calls attention to the support of President Wilson by all parties and declares that the "President bases his entire case on the Lusitania, Arabic and Sussex passenger ships torpedoed without warning, not on countless other cases in which attempted flight or resistance justified the submarine commander in torpedoing."

The writer says that the present is no time to discuss America's earnestness upon a tall moral horse, he adds:

"The point today is that America is convinced of the justice of her demands. That Nation has been seized with an explosive sentiment only paralleled by her feeling prior to the Spanish War."

British Soldiers Surrendered To Turks
London, April 29.—Major General Charles Townsend, commander of the British forces besieged at Kut-el-Amarah, Mesopotamia, by Turkish forces since last December, has surrendered.

General Townsend held out for 143 days, his supplies steadily growing lower as he waited the relief of the army.

Submarine Activity Suspends Shipments of Millions in Silk.

Tokio, April 25.—Enemy submarine activity in the Mediterranean has practically caused a suspension of silk shipments to Italy. About \$25,000,000 worth of Japanese silk is sent to Italy every year and the cessation of shipment is causing the Japanese to look for ways to avoid the blockade.

The cost to the Teutonic empires in excess of \$1,000,000. The total cost of the war, if still in progress August 1, will have been forty-five billion. Of this England's share is eleven and a half billion; Germany's a little less and France nine and a quarter billion.

THE WAR'S COST.
The war is now costing Europe more than \$90,000,000 daily according to estimates of the Mechanics and Metals National Bank of New York.

The bank estimates the cost per hour to England, France and Russia jointly at approximately \$2,500,000. The cost to the Teutonic empires is in excess of \$1,000,000.

An open bucket of gasoline caught fire from an iron in which gas was used for heating and Linwood Barefoot, colored threw the bucket out of a window in his home at Wilson.

Charles Phillips, white, happened to be passing at the time and the stuff was poured all over him. Fortunately there was a puddle of water near and he saved his life by rolling in it. At that he burnt badly.

A small boy in Martin county swallowed a ten penny nail this week and it was located by the X-ray, but operation was postponed as the nail gave no pain at the time.

The senate has passed a bill making Winston-Salem a port of entry on account of the large shipments of foreign stuff and tobacco received there.

E. P. Hyman cashier of the bank of Hobgood, was killed by a box car being shifted on a flying switch by an engine at Hobgood. He was dragged 30 feet, both legs broken and horribly mangled.

George C. Poole and Will R. Rabe engaged in a pistol duel in a street at Salisbury Monday night without fatal results. One ball hit Rabe on the forehead but glanced. Rabe's shots went wild.

The defeat of Mr. Bryan in his home state for delegates to the national democratic convention, is generally regretted, especially in Washington. President Wilson has been consulting with party managers and advising them to find some way to let Mr. Bryan into the convention.

Mr. Bryan has any criticisms to make of his foreign or other policies, the President wants him to have a chance to lay them before the convention. The rules do not allow proxies, and the only way to provide for Mr. Bryan is for the committee to make some special ruling in his case. The cause of his defeat is understood to be that the Nebraska Democrats are displeased with the manner and time of his resigning from the cabinet.

Like the Democrats in all the western States, they are very strong in their endorsement of the president's foreign policy and his preparedness programme.

SHORT NEWS ITEMS

A dispatch from Washington says: German U-bout operations may be expected off New York and other North Atlantic harbors in case Germany and the United States come to war. This is the opinion of our Navy experts who are making plans accordingly.

A dispatch from Geneva, Switzerland, shows an exodus of Americans from Germany has begun. A number of them have already arrived at Basel, Switzerland. They are convinced that a rupture between Germany and the United States is inevitable.

Unpledged delegates at large to the Republican national convention were elected at the presidential primaries in Massachusetts over four candidates pledged to the nomination of Roosevelt. Anti-Roosevelt candidates have also been elected in Ohio and New Jersey.

The trial of Robert Fay, a lieutenant of the German army, his brother-in-law, Walter Schultz, and Paul Doebe, indicted last November for conspiracy to destroy ships carrying munitions of war to the Entente allies is in progress in the Federal court in New York.

The manufacture of the high explosive known as tri-nitrotolol is serious in effecting the death of thousands of munition workers in England, says a London dispatch. It causes unusual drowsiness, frontal headache, eczema and loss of appetite and sometimes jaundice, according to a committee which has been devoting much study to the health of the munition workers.

Attorney Charles C. Trabue shot and instantly killed Attorney Harry Stokes at Nashville, Tenn., Wednesday morning. They had been opposing counsel in the "tax-payers' suit" involving the probe into city affairs.

Mr. Stokes was chief counsel for the tax-payers in the litigation and Trabue was recently employed as special counsel to represent the city. The shooting occurred in Stokes' office. Trabue was released on \$25,000 bond.

Salonica, the Greek city taken over by the allies, is declared today to be the best fortified city in the world. There are 90 miles of defense built by General Sarraill, the French commander who built Verdun, and who is in charge at Salonica.

One of the most remarkable surgical operations known was performed in New York last week when a baby born in the city was found to have had an extra heart.

The feature of the morning session was the keynote speech of Senator Simmons, who acted as chairman. He was greeted with applause as he sketched the fine record in the administration of the State affairs and the magnificent and marvelous record made in the Nation under the Wilson Administration.

He drew this word picture of President Wilson. The President, he said, is not a "War Lord" neither is he a "molly-codder." He is neither moved by military of the one or rhapsodies of the other. He is a plain, direct, realistic man with a clear vision, steady and stout-hearted, living always in the fear of God, bent upon serving his country, humanity and civilization regardless of criticism or agrandisement, personal or political, or otherwise. So far as clear vision, mature judgment, unflinching loyalty and patriotism can protect us, we are safe in his hands.

Senator Simmons, temporary chairman of the convention in the keynote address declared the Democratic party is seeking the re-election of the Administration was making the campaign solely on the record of the party. Since the election of President Wilson, he said, the party had done nothing it was ashamed of and it had no apologies to offer. His address began and already had taken stand for the Democratic party in the eyes of Democracy North Carolina and the achievement of the Wilson Administration.

The work of the Administration was discussed in an impromptu address by Secretary Daniels. He stressed the fact that the United States was at peace and told of some of the plans for preparedness against war. As regards preparedness, he said the War and Navy Departments had profited by the experiences of European Governments since the war began and already had taken stand to put into practice plans which the belligerents did not consider until after the conflict was a year old.

In a brief address, Governor Craig declared that after due consideration he had concluded Col. Theodore Roosevelt would secure the Republican nomination for the presidency and that the election in November would be a declaration of war against war.

That the United States now was at peace, was due to Woodrow Wilson, he said, and his re-election was necessary. The election of any candidate other than Mr. Wilson would mean the participation of the country in the general conflict, he asserted.

Enactment of the Administration of President Wilson, the preparedness program, proposed National rural credits legislation and the declaration that more important National legislation had taken place in the last three years than in any decade of American history were the outstanding features of the platform adopted by the delegates at large to the State Democratic Convention.

Because the new primary law took from the convention the privilege of nominating candidates for State offices the delegates had before them the adoption of a platform, the election by acclamation and Cameron National Convention, nomination of presidential electors and consideration of a successor to Secretary Daniels as National Committeeman. State officials will be nominated in a primary to be held on June 3 and in the primary the electorals also will express its preference for a presidential candidate.

Senators Simmons and Overman, Governor Craig and Gen. Julian S. Carr of Durham, were elected delegates-at-large to the National Convention by acclamation and Cameron National Convention, nomination of presidential electors-at-large.

Mr. Brock put in nomination the following for alternates to the national convention: E. L. Travis, J. C. Biggs, Thomas D. Warren and J. D.

THE DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION LARGELY ATTENDED

Senator Simmons Made Keynote Speech Pointing With Pride To Record of Democratic Party in State And Nation—State Convention Enthusiastic—Delegates Named to National Convention—Platform Adopted For State—No Love For Butler.

The Democratic State convention which met Thursday in Raleigh brought a large crowd of Democrats together from all over this State, the county of Lincoln being well represented. Thursday morning at 10 the congressional districts met in various places in Raleigh and selected delegates to the National convention and presidential electors, State executive committeemen and transacted other business. The Ninth district meeting reported to the State convention at 12:15. Ninth district delegates were: W. C. Feinster, J. C. J. Parker, of Mecklenburg; Charles B. Armstrong, of Gaston; Guy W. Roberts, of Buncombe; W. C. Erwin, of Burke.

The presidential elector from this district is Mark Squires of Lenoir. W. C. Feinster is the vice-presidential elector.

State executive committeemen from the Ninth district are: Edgar B. Love, of Lincoln; J. A. Bell, of Mecklenburg; R. R. Ray, of McAleny; L. M. Buck, of Vance; J. A. Giles, of Burke; W. C. Feinster, of Catawba.

State convention was called to order at 12:15 by Chairman Warren, Dr. J. E. Underwood, presiding elder of the Raleigh district, led in prayer. No time was lost in preliminary business. Mayor Johnson made a brief address of welcome, followed by a short speech by Chairman Warren in which he drew a picture of the ideals of Democracy and compared it with that of Republicanism, and followed party history for the past 20 years, paying high tribute to Senator Simmons, who he introduced as temporary chairman. Senator Simmons was received with much enthusiasm.

The feature of the morning session was the keynote speech of Senator Simmons, who acted as chairman. He was greeted with applause as he sketched the fine record in the administration of the State affairs and the magnificent and marvelous record made in the Nation under the Wilson Administration.

He drew this word picture of President Wilson. The President, he said, is not a "War Lord" neither is he a "molly-codder." He is neither moved by military of the one or rhapsodies of the other. He is a plain, direct, realistic man with a clear vision, steady and stout-hearted, living always in the fear of God, bent upon serving his country, humanity and civilization regardless of criticism or agrandisement, personal or political, or otherwise. So far as clear vision, mature judgment, unflinching loyalty and patriotism can protect us, we are safe in his hands.

Senator Simmons, temporary chairman of the convention in the keynote address declared the Democratic party is seeking the re-election of the Administration was making the campaign solely on the record of the party. Since the election of President Wilson, he said, the party had done nothing it was ashamed of and it had no apologies to offer. His address began and already had taken stand for the Democratic party in the eyes of Democracy North Carolina and the achievement of the Wilson Administration.

The work of the Administration was discussed in an impromptu address by Secretary Daniels. He stressed the fact that the United States was at peace and told of some of the plans for preparedness against war. As regards preparedness, he said the War and Navy Departments had profited by the experiences of European Governments since the war began and already had taken stand to put into practice plans which the belligerents did not consider until after the conflict was a year old.

In a brief address, Governor Craig declared that after due consideration he had concluded Col. Theodore Roosevelt would secure the Republican nomination for the presidency and that the election in November would be a declaration of war against war.

That the United States now was at peace, was due to Woodrow Wilson, he said, and his re-election was necessary. The election of any candidate other than Mr. Wilson would mean the participation of the country in the general conflict, he asserted.

Enactment of the Administration of President Wilson, the preparedness program, proposed National rural credits legislation and the declaration that more important National legislation had taken place in the last three years than in any decade of American history were the outstanding features of the platform adopted by the delegates at large to the State Democratic Convention.

Because the new primary law took from the convention the privilege of nominating candidates for State offices the delegates had before them the adoption of a platform, the election by acclamation and Cameron National Convention, nomination of presidential electors and consideration of a successor to Secretary Daniels as National Committeeman. State officials will be nominated in a primary to be held on June 3 and in the primary the electorals also will express its preference for a presidential candidate.

Senators Simmons and Overman, Governor Craig and Gen. Julian S. Carr of Durham, were elected delegates-at-large to the National Convention by acclamation and Cameron National Convention, nomination of presidential electors-at-large.

Mr. Brock put in nomination the following for alternates to the national convention: E. L. Travis, J. C. Biggs, Thomas D. Warren and J. D.

ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR

Murphy. Mr. Cameron Morrison of Charlotte arose at this point and said that he wanted to see Wade Harris, one of the distinguished editors of the State included among the alternates. If for no other purpose he desired it as a rebuke to Marion Butler who had brought suit against this editor because he had shown up Butler in his great light in his paper. He announced that he would see Wade Harris.

Both Chairman Murphy and Mr. E. L. Travis said it would give them great pleasure to withdraw in order to allow Mr. Harris to become one of the delegates.

The Convention rose to its feet as one man and cheered for fully a minute the name of W. C. H. Harris, editor of Charlotte Observer, and without a dissenting voice it elected him alternate-at-large to the Democratic National Convention. The episode was the most thrilling of the day.

The following being nominated singly were elected: Wade Harris of Charlotte, J. Crawford Biggs, of Raleigh, J. D. Murphy of Asheville, T. D. Warren of New Bern.

A. W. McClain of Lenoire, was elected National Committeeman, the first time in the history of the party in his State, that a convention had so acted. Secretary Daniels after serving 20 years as committeeman, declined to seek re-election.

As regards State affairs, the platform declared that so long as the Democratic party remained in control the suffrage amendment to the Constitution would be maintained, assuring a State Government "conducted by white men. A continued policy of economy in handling the financial affairs of the State was pledged, and the widest publicity as regards State and county financial transactions and frequent audits were urged. The platform also pledged the party to conservation of the public health, encouragement of highway construction, development of rural communities and recommended the construction of State warehouses for the storage of farm products.

Senator Simmons's Keynote Speech. Fellow Democrats and Gentlemen of the Convention: I thank my good friend, the Chairman of your State committee, for the gracious manner in which it has pleased him to present me to you, and for giving me this opportunity of addressing this great gathering of the untifted Democracy of North Carolina.

I am always happy and at home in a Democratic convention. I am doubly so today. The things I have seen and heard since my arrival in Raleigh, the glad tidings coming from all parts of the State of Democratic harmony, unity and resolve, and the auspicious environments of this occasion are to me a joy and inspiration.

Both the occasion and the general situation of the party in the State call for mutual felicitations and congratulations.

I have attended many Democratic State conventions, some larger than the one now assembled before me, but I have never attended any more representative of the great interests of the State than the one which I now have the pleasure and the honor of addressing.

I congratulate you, my fellow Democrats. I congratulate the people of the whole State, without regard to party, upon the record of achievement our grand old Commonwealth has made during these 15 years under the reign of the Democratic party.

I congratulate you upon the splendid accomplishments of the present Democratic State administration, especially congratulate you upon two especially notable things accomplished under the leadership of the patriotic gentleman who, with such signal ability now presides over the destinies of this State.

Under the leadership of this brilliant man who will go down in posterity as North Carolina's great good roads Governor, more files of good roads have been constructed in this State in three years than in all the balance of our history, and the old and long-drawn out fight of the people against the railroads has been brought to a successful issue and adjusted upon a reasonably satisfactory basis.

Willingly I pay to him and to his predecessors in that great office of Glenn, Kitchin, and the lamented Aycock—the tribute of my appreciation and commendation of the way they have guided, promoted and safeguarded the high interests of the State in its evolution during the last 15 years from weakness to strength, from poverty to wealth, greatness and prosperity.

But, my friends, in our rejoicing over the present we must not forget two dangers which confront the State today—the one political and the other financial. One growing out of the so-called "Oklahoma division" with respect to the franchise, and the other out of the persistent efforts now being made to vitalize the fraudulent and repudiated bonds issued against the State by the carpet-bag Legislature of Reconstruction period.

With the Democratic party in power these dangers would be slight, if not altogether negligible. But how would it be with the Republican party in power in North Carolina?

Where does that party stand upon those great questions of the present that so much danger to the State? That is the question which calls, and calls imperatively for an answer and none has been forthcoming.

When our constitutional amendment was before the people for ratification—the Republican party denounced it as unconstitutional; it asserted its fixed purpose to leave nothing undone to defeat it, and, if adopted, overthrow it through the courts, or by any means available to it.

That party is today dominated and controlled by the same men who controlled it when these uncompromising pronouncements were made in 1900. There has been no change in its leadership except that they kicked overboard the two best men in the party in order to give Butler a free hand. The late State convention of that party, held in this city, proves the truth of this statement.

Has there been any change in the nature of this statement?
Continued on last page in