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MOCKSVILLE, N. C., APRIL 4, 1900.

REPUBLICAN TICKET.
For President 1900.
WILLIAM MCKINLEY
OF OHIO.

For Vice-President.
JETER C. PRITCHARD
OF NORTH CAROLINA.

For Governor.
JAMES E. BOYD
OF GUILFORD.

For Congress, 7th District.
WILLIAM A. BAILEY
OF DAVIE.

The Amendment. Poll Tax Feature.

Editor of the Gazette:
If I'm designed poor lordling a Slave.
By nature's law designed,
Why was an independent wish
Ever placed in my mind?
If not, why am I subject to
His cruelty or scorn?
Or why has man the will and power
To make his fellow mourn?
Were it not for the serious consequences possible in connection with the proposed constitutional amendment it would be amusing to note the puerile argument resorted to by its advocates in support of the proposition embodied in its incongruous provisions; in spite of the contemplated outrages and wrongs one is sometimes irresistibly impelled to note the straits to which the conspirators against human liberty in North Carolina are forced to resort for argument in defence of the diabolical measure. The list of the kind was the effort of the Morning Raleigh Post of a recent date to parry the sledge hammer blow of Senator Pritchard's speech in the United States senate, aimed at the oppressive poll tax provision, contending that a negro who does not pay his poll tax should not vote in the school fund. If you will take time to examine the proposed amendment you will be forced into the irresistible conclusion that it is not the purpose of the amendment to raise revenue to support the schools but to prevent the poor both white and black alike—from exercising the right to vote. The following is the proposed amendment:
"Sec. 4. Every person presenting himself for registration shall be able to read and write any section of the constitution in the English language and before he shall be entitled to vote he shall have paid on or before the 1st day of March of the year in which he proposes to vote his poll tax as prescribed by law for the previous year. Poll tax shall be a lien only on assessed property, and no process shall issue to enforce the collection of the same except against assessed property."
If anything can be certain in this world of broken pledges and broken promises one of the things certain is that money to support the common schools of the state was the last and least thing in the mind of the legislature that conceived the wicked measure.
It was not how much money will the proposed amendment raise to support public schools that swayed the mind of the legislature, but how many votes of the poor, unfortunate, freeman will it cut off from the ballot box.
It was not the money they wanted from the poll tax of the poor payer; for if it had been, they could have provided some method to enforce its collection from the kulker, who evaded payment, instead of providing a way for him to shirk its payment.
It was not the money they wanted, else they would have extended the time to pay it to the five months intervening between the first day of March and the state election, by which extension the poor man could have paid his poll tax.
It was not the money they were to keep up the schools, if so, they could have easily given the

poor tax payer the benefit of the eight months between the first day of March and the presidential election to raise the paltry sum to pay his poll tax in November.

It was not money they wanted to educate the poor children of the state, but what they did want and what they are now trying to accomplish, is to get rid of the votes of the poor men of the state by the methods proposed in the amendment and like the ghoulish fiend that feeds on human flesh they wanted to gorge their greedy vengeance on the poor man's liberty by cutting him off from the ballot box, because he was not able, by reason of his misfortune and poverty, to raise five dollars or whatever the sum might be to pay his poll tax eight months before the election.

It is all right with those who conceived this wicked measure if the poor laboring man is forced to take his last dollar to buy bread for his starving children on the first day of March, if by that means they can only rob the ballot box of a freeman's joy—his right to vote—eight months thereafter. What a spectacle to behold in this "Land of the free and the home of the brave," a poor man—a grandson may be of a brave, patriotic forefather, who sacrificed his blood, perhaps his life, at King's mountain or Guilford Court House, that he and his descendants might be free, turned away from the ballot box, that cost the blood of his patriotic sire to establish, upon the flimsy pretext that he had not been able to support his starving family and pay a poll tax eight months before!

The bare thought of such an act of cruelty and wrong is enough to arouse a sentiment of resentment and sympathy in the heart of every liberty loving patriot in all the land. If anything could move the "stareyed goddess" of liberty to an emotional impulse of sympathy, because of the outrage and wrong inflicted upon the oppressed freeman of earth, this spectacle would cause her to veil her face to hide the blush of shame and to conceal the unwilling tears of contrition over this act of "man's inhumanity to man." Starting out with the bright pages of history that reflects the light of liberty in the face of a civilized world, and stumbling over the debris of nations crushed to ruins beneath the iron heel of despotism, back into the dark shadows of the uncertain past, where history fails to record the cruel deeds, we will search in vain for an act of oppression on his fellow man commensurate with that contemplated in the proposed amendment. Draco, the Athenian despot, who flourished in the seventh century before the Christian era, who wrote his laws in human blood and placed them on a tower beyond the reach of human vision, and punished with savage gloom the unfortunate violator of its unknown provisions, is justly styled the most consummate despot and tyrant of all ages, and still that bloody code, emanating from the depraved heart of the most cruel tyrant that ever lived, prescribing the same penalty for murder and trespass, did not exclude a single poor Grecian from the ballot box because he had not paid his poll tax. That species of cruelty seems to have been overlooked by despot and savage nations as a reservation of oppression for the special benefit of the North Carolina legislature of 1899 as a new and unthought of torture to oppress the poor. Notwithstanding the liberty of mankind was then in its swaddling and that the bloody code of Draco did not deprive the poorest Greek in all Athens of a single right, not even the right to vote because of his poverty, such a storm of resistance was raised against Draco's despotism that it required the intervention of a Solon to "hush the noise and soothe to peace."

If such a storm of opposition was raised by Draco's despotism by a people who knew little of blessings of liberty, what may be expected of the hundred thousand freemen in North Carolina, half of whom have known nothing but liberty all their lives, while the other half know the course of slavery, neither of whom will ever consent to be slaves again or surrender their liberty without a struggle to preserve it as an inheritance from their forefathers.

Why this cruel and unjust thrust at the liberties of the poor Heretofore criminals, men convicted of crime—felons were disfranchised, not allowed to vote because they had forfeited that right by the commission of a high crime, and this refusal of the ballot was a punishment, but now under this cruel provision it is proposed to punish the poor white man, not because he has been convicted of a high crime, but because he is poor—not able to pay his poll tax on the first day of March and degraded to the level with a convicted felon, who has stolen a sheep or

burnt a house; punished because some worthless negro failed to pay his poll tax and claimed the right to go to school.

It is a faithful saying and worthy of all acception, that "Every tub ought to stand on its own bottom," and so ought every man answer for his own misdeeds, and if a man can and will not pay his poll tax, then he ought to suffer for the neglect, but, for conscience sake, don't punish a deserving poor man who cannot pay his poll tax because some undeserving scamp has shirked the responsibility.

For the first time in the history of North Carolina the last legislature advanced the proposition to make poverty in the state a crime, punishable with like penalty as the commission of a felony. Think of it ye poor men of North Carolina; men with whom it is a struggle to keep the wolf from the door; think of what you are doing before you cast your vote for the proposed amendment. It may be the last vote you will ever cast. It may not only entail degradation on yourself, but degradation on your sons after you are dead and gone. Think of the possible consequences. Remember that if this poll tax provision is adopted there is no contention that that portion of the amendment is unconstitutional, and that if it is carried your poll tax receipt is the only thing that will keep you from standing up in the same row with the convicted hog thief on the day of election.

If the Bible is true and Christianity a virtue, then "his unrighteous and iniquitous poll tax provision is an abomination in the sight of God and humanity. It is a sin because it is an effort to oppress the poor. Our Lord and Saviour was always enjoining it upon his disciples to remember the poor. "For ye have the poor with ye always, and whosoever ye will ye may do them good." "He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker, but he that honoreth Him had mercy on the poor." There is no good intended for the poor in the attempted humiliation and designation to the level of a convicted felon as foreshadowed in the amendment, while the attempted oppression is a direct reproach to the Living God. Our civilization, our obligations to Christianity, our duty to the poor, all demand of us that we do all in our power, consistent with our obligations in this behalf, to defeat this iniquitous and ungodly attempt to oppress our fellow men because of their poverty. "To your tents, O Israel!" V. S. Lusk.

FROM CENSUS BUREAU.

To build up a great office like the Census Office in fifteen months from absolutely nothing to an efficient machine, employing about three thousand men in Washington and about fifty thousand elsewhere in the country, is a difficult task, and entire success is out of the question. The office naturally compares itself with the stage of preparation attained at the same period ten years ago and tried by this test, it has gained several months on its predecessor. One of the problems before it is how to put in the time thus secured in such a way as most to benefit the Census.

In the Agricultural Division the need of time for preliminary work is perhaps as great as any where in the Census Office. Farmers, as a class, do not keep their accounts as well as manufacturers, and the returns from Farmers may occasionally include serious errors which a trained eye will at once detect. Hence the farm schedules must be examined and such errors corrected before the tables can be made up from them with safety. If a farmer reports that his land sown to wheat was ten acres and the yield four thousand bushels, it is clear that an average yield of four hundred bushels to the acre is incredible, and must be rejected or corrected in accordance with the probabilities. Sometimes the truth can be made out by an expert from comparison with entries in other parts of the schedules; sometimes correspondence must be opened to settle the doubt. All this ranks under the general head of verifying the schedules, and the Agricultural Division plans to give all the time possible to the work of verifying each of the millions of farm schedules. To accomplish this in time allowed, the work of several hundred clerks will be required, and they must have hard and fast rules to guide them. For example, they might be told: When the wheat report show a product of over forty bushels to the acre, they are suspicious and must be laid aside for an expert to pass upon. But any such rules must vary with the section of the country. A yield of twenty bushels in one section might be more questionable than a yield of forty bushels in another. Hence the division must fix in advance what is the

range of reports in each part of the country and for each crop that may be accepted as probable on their face and not requiring special examination. To get the limits of probability for this purpose for each county in the United States, that is, the maximum and minimum yield and the maximum and minimum price which may be accepted without verification, is the object of an extensive correspondence now being carried on by the Agricultural Division under the direction of Mr. L. G. Powers, Chief Statistician in charge of that division. Three simple schedules have been prepared and printed on different colored paper in order that they may be readily distinguished one from another. One of them covers ordinary garden vegetables, a second covers fruits, and the third the great staple field crops. Each asks about the units of measure employed and the net price realized, and the two more important schedules, those for staple field products and for vegetables ask for the highest and lowest yield of each crop per acre. These schedules are being mailed to prominent farmers all over the country and in many instances returns have already been received. When the returns have been received and tabulated, a scheme will be made from them of what is to be accepted as correct in each case and what is to be probed farther. The only aim of the office is to get what was really the intention of the farmer in answering the questions. If the presumption is strongly against his meaning what the schedule says, the office will try to learn by correspondence from the Supervisor, or the Enumerator, or the farmer himself what the real facts were.

If the farming public will continue to cooperate with the heartiness already displayed, this effort will result in a more trustworthy census of farms than has ever been taken. Farmers as a class, are less able to cooperate than the representatives of any other great industry. Hence the Census Office can do more for them than it can for centralized lines of business, which can and do make their own investigations, and it will do its best to present a full and accurate photograph of this leading occupation. The Director of the Census urges every one interested to aid the work.

BIG INCREASE IN MINERS' WAGES

A matter of the greatest importance, not only to the thousands of miners in this coal field directly interested, but to the entire community, is the general advance in wages to become effective on April 1st.

On and after that date miners will receive an advance that together with the increase some months ago amounts to 25 per cent. Laborers in and about the mines will be advanced 20 per cent.

This is probably the largest advance in wages made in any coal field in the United States. It is estimated that the 25 per cent advance will be sufficient to pay the expenses of a miner with a reasonable sized family and leave him his old wages as clear money.

In addition to the advance of wages, conditions are also better than ever before. The ability of railroad company to furnish cars to meet the demand makes it possible for every operation to work full time, instead of part of the time as was done several years ago.

There is demand for at least 2,000 more men to work full time at the advanced wages and all who come can get work. There are a great many colored men in this field and room for more. They can establish themselves in homes and feel secure that there will be no interference with them in the discharge of their duties as citizens. They can vote as they please and no shot gun menace exists.—Bluefield Daily Telegraph.

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NOTICE.

By virtue of an order made by A. T. Grant, Sr., C. S. C., I will sell at public auction at the court house door in the town of Mocksville, N. C., on Monday the 2nd day of April 1900, the following real estate; adjoining the lands of Lewis Harper, et al., and bounded as follows to wit: Beginning at a stone, Lewis Harper's corner, W. 20 poles and 15 links to a stone in Pott's line; thence S. 70 degrees W., 24 poles and L. to a stone in Pott's line; thence E. 15 degrees N., 20 poles and 29 links to a stone to the beginning containing two acres, 105 poles more or less.

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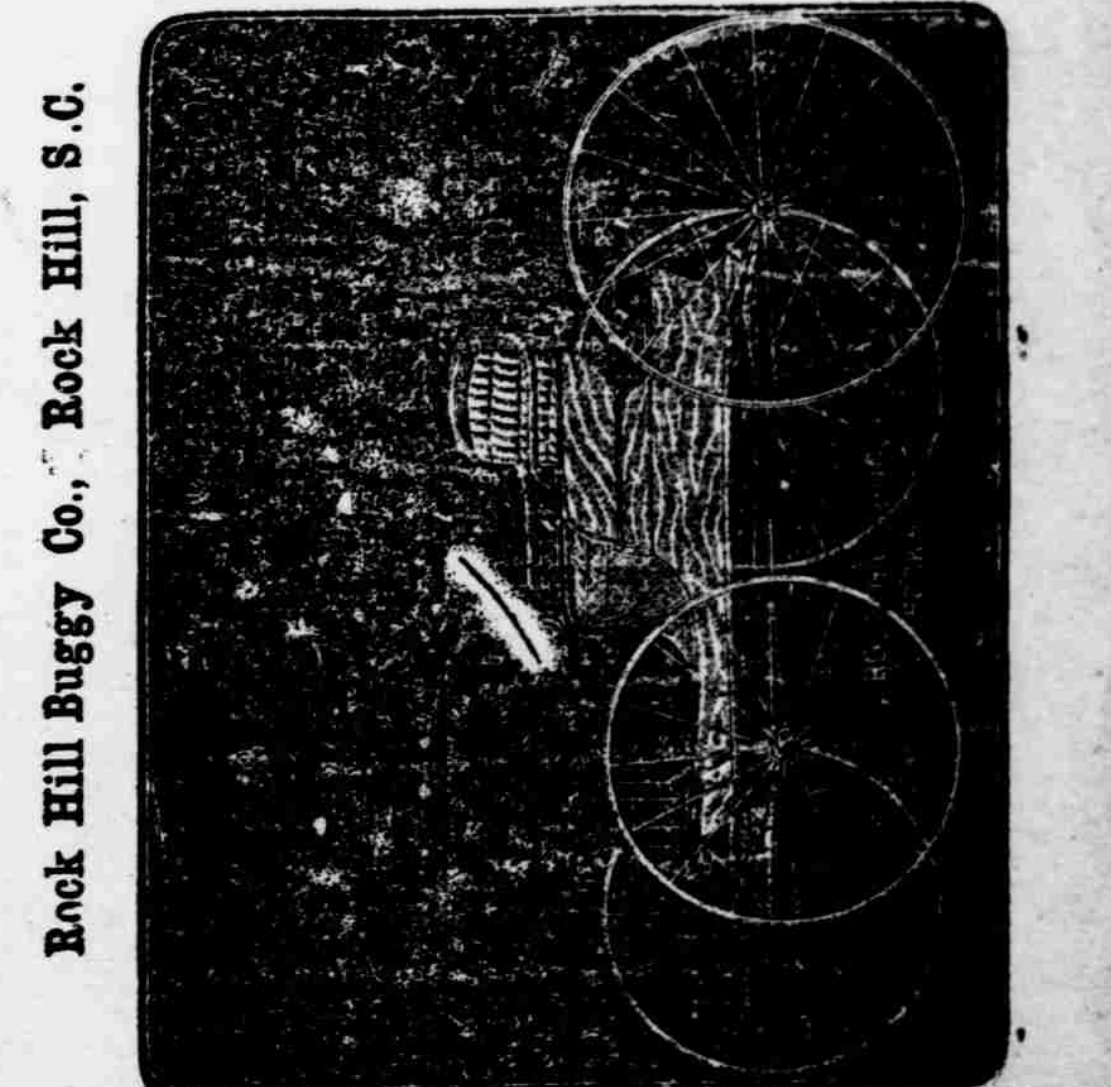
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