

The Davie Record.

State Librarian

"HERE SHALL THE PRESS, THE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS MAINTAIN; UNAWED BY INFLUENCE AND UNBRIBED BY GAIN."

VOLUME XIV.

MOCKSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1912.

NUMBER 14

Settle to Craig.

Hon. Thomas Settle of Asheville, Republican nominee for Governor, has sent The Observer the following letter:

Hon. Locke Craig, Asheville, N. C.

My dear Sir: Your letter in which you state, "my personal views upon the subject (a joint debate between us) are expressed in an interview that appeared in this morning's Citizen; and that party usage required you to refer the matter to the Democratic executive committee, which you had done, and that I would hear from the committee." was received yesterday.

I received this morning from Hon. Charles A. Webb the following letter:

"I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 16th, enclosing copy of yours of the same date to Hon. Locke Craig requesting a joint canvass. I also have a telegram from Mr. Craig referring this matter to the State Democratic executive committee and I beg to advise you that at the meeting of the same, held in the city of Raleigh last night, your request for a joint canvass was respectfully declined.

"I herewith enclose you copy of the resolution unanimously adopted by the committee.

"Yours very truly,
Chas. A. Webb, Chairman."

The resolution enclosed is as follows:

"Resolved. That in view of the fact, that the Republican party having suffered division, there are three national and State tickets in the field in the present campaign, Chairman Webb be directed to decline the request of the Republican candidate for Governor for a joint canvass with the Democratic candidate."

Now, come, Mr. Craig, let us reason together for a moment. The law in North Carolina defines a political party in the following statute:

"The words 'political party,' as used in this chapter, shall be construed to mean every such political party or organization whose candidate for Governor received as many as fifty thousand votes in the election held August second, one thousand nine hundred."

Under this law—a law framed and passed by the Democratic party, let me remind you—there are only two political parties in this State, the Democratic and the Republican, by name. You are the unanimous nominee by the convention of the former, I am the unanimous nominee by the convention of the latter for Governor, the highest political office in our State with in the gift of the people of the State. You, your party, and the executive committee of your party are by your own acts and utterances bound by this law; you are in law, in equity, and in good conscience estopped from contending anything to the contrary of this law, your own begotten child.

Your zeal and that of your committee leads you to cross bridges before you come to them.

Has Mr. Hearnes asked you to arrange a list of joint appointments with him? If he has done so, it appears to be a secret well kept between you two gentlemen.

Now, Mr. Craig, your friends and admirers, among whom I sincerely enlist myself, say that the mantle of Vance has befallen on your shoulders; many of your supporters affectionately call you "The Little Giant of Democracy From the West." What do you suppose Vance would say to this refusal of yours and of your committee's to meet your opponent in joint debate and to uphold the acts and policies of the Democratic party? Would he flee a joint discussion, and shield himself behind his executive com-

mittee?

You are doing these things, my friend, not because you are unable to meet me on the hustings in joint debate. I know, and the people know better than that.

You have what you and your committee consider grave, cogent and weighty reasons for not meeting your opponent in joint debate; for turning your backs on an honored political custom in this state. No subterfuge or evasion can save you, or obscure or becloud the facts. Those reasons are told in a few words. They are that you and your committee are unanimously of the opinion that the record of your party cannot stand the searching light of a critical joint debate. Alone, you may indulge in high sounding phrases and glittering generalities; alone, you may talk about everything but the record of your party, you may not even mention the things it has done and the things it has left undone, and you doubtless would fail to call attention to the fact that there is no health in it. This comfortable, easy, and to the people deadly pace, you could not keep up in a joint debate.

Your party cuts, slashes and heaves the body politic, while you leaders partition among yourselves the offices and emoluments, after the manner of the two physicians in Moliere making a treaty: "Allow me the emetic, and I resign to you the lancet."

The resolution passed by your committee is humorous in the extreme, assuming that the Republican party is the only one having any trouble.

This same committee had been in session all night trying vainly to define the meaning of two simple little words, "Democratic ticket;" failing in full session to do this, they appointed a "select" committee to try their hand on it. This "select" committee finally reported that they were hopelessly disagreed, but dared not disclose even to the full committee, to say nothing of the people of the State, what the points of difference were. What sort of a dark lantern is this you fellows are traveling with, anyhow? Why don't you turn on the light? The people want to know and to see.

Kitchen says Simmons is not a Democrat, while Simmons returns the compliment, saying, "no more are you, sir!" Judge Clark meanwhile chaunting that he is the only real virgin who has kept the true fire of the Democratic temple burning.

Tell me, my friend, where do you stand in this contest? What is thy creed, "is it a faith, or only a need?"

If the test of a political creed were applied neither would permit the other to vote in the Democratic senatorial primary. Thus you do away with principle and substitute personality. Here is the catechism: Q. What is a Democrat? A. One who votes the ticket without scratching. Q. What is an organization Democrat? A. One who continues to vote the ticket for twenty years after he is dead.

Is the "little giant" afraid to meet me, when according to him, here I stand without a plea—save one? Is he afraid when I am armed only with my little sling?

There is a boastfulness about your interview, to which you refer me, that calls to mind Benhadab and Ahab: "And Benhadab sent unto him and said, 'The gods do so unto me, and more also, if the dust of Samaria shall suffice for handfuls for all the people that follow me.'"

"And 'Ahab,' answered and said, 'Tell him, let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off.'"

Trusting that you will reconsider and join me in a list of joint appointments, I am,

Sincerely,
THOMAS SETTLE.
Asheville, Sept. 21.

"THE SCUM OF THE EARTH."



THE PRESIDENT SIGNED MOST WILLINGLY.

The industrious circulation of the falsehood that President Taft threatened a veto of the Sulloway bill was one of the chief plays of his opponents and worked some injury to his popularity, as his adversaries had planned. That there was no truth in this every senator, representative and other public man could have known if he cared to inquire. "Yet it was a good enough Morgan till after the nomination."

Now these same men are with equal industry and untruth circulating the report that President Taft signed the act of May 11 most unwillingly and was only coerced into it at the last moment. Nothing could be more untrue.

There had been an overwhelming popular demand for additional pension legislation. The people were most earnest in their wish that the veterans who had saved the nation should be properly cared for during the years that remained to them. The national encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic had asked for such legislation. The remarkable fact of the endorsement of the Sulloway bill by the legislatures of twenty-seven great states was an astonishing development of depth and wide extended feeling on the subject.

Could any president be expected to disregard such a manifestation? Certainly not William H. Taft, whose great heart has always appreciated the service of the veterans and who has ever been quickly responsive to the popular will.

No one doubted at the beginning of congress that he intended to approve a pension bill. This knowledge had to be used with the utmost discretion, however. The presidential campaign was opening. There was a general expectation that the Democrats would make a strong effort to "put the president and the senate in a hole" on the pension question. That fear was not allayed until within a few days of the passage of the act of May 11. This required the greatest circumspection on the part of the president and his friends. But as soon as the act of May 11 began to take shape in the senate and months before it actually passed there was no real doubt that the president would sign the bill which would be finally formulated.

At the invitation of senators I was a constant visitor at the capitol while the bill was going through its various stages. I was also made a means of communication with the members of the invalid pensions committee of the house. With me went most frequently Past Commander in Chief John R. King, less frequently Past Commander Slaybaugh of Potomac, Commander E. S. Godfrey, Arizona; Commander Granville C. Fiske, Massachusetts; Commander N. H. Kingman, South Dakota; Commander N. P. Kingsley, Pennsylvania, and other prominent comrades who happened to be in the city and whom the senators wanted to see and counsel with.

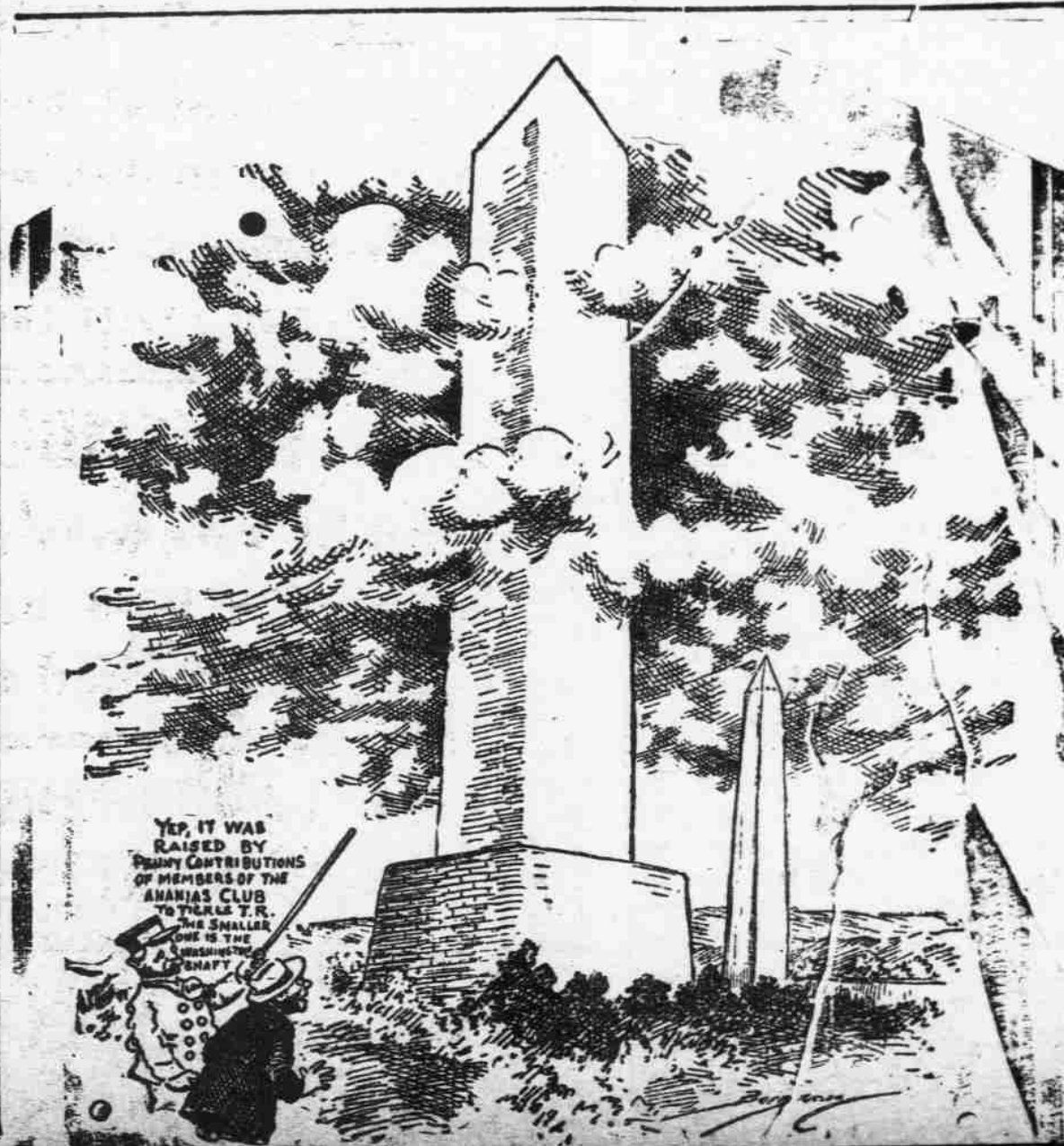
We met Senators Crane, McCumber, Curtis, Smoot, Burnham and others of the president's closest friends and advisers. They were confident in their assurances that the president would sign the bill. The comrades named felt no doubt of the result at least two months before the bill was signed.

As we all know, President Taft put himself to great personal inconvenience in order to sign the bill and let it begin at once its beneficence to the veterans. The bill was not ready for his signature when he left for Princeton, N. J. He made the journey back to Washington expressly to sign the bill. He reached the White House a little after 11 p. m., Saturday, May 11, affixed his signature seven minutes before midnight and had to leave Washington again the next day. Of these facts I was personally cognizant, as I was present when the bill was signed.

I fully concur in the foregoing. There is absolutely no truth in the statement that the president was opposed to any pension bill. On the contrary, we were assured, as stated above, that he would give his approval to the bill when finally passed, which was evidenced by his hasty return to Washington for the purpose.

JOHN R. KING.
—From the National Tribune.

—From the National Tribune.



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What You Want
When You Want It
AT
MOCKSVILLE DRUG CO.
GEORGE F. TYSON, Manager.



"It thirsts and burns for distinction; and, if possible, it will have it. Is it unreasonable, then, to expect that some men, possessed of the loftiest genius, coupled with ambition sufficient to push to the utmost stretch, will at some time spring up among us? And when such a one does, it will require the people to be united with each other, attached to the government and laws, and generally intelligent, to successfully frustrate his design. "Distinction will be his paramount object, and although he would as willingly acquire it by doing good as harm, yet nothing left in the way of building up he would sit down coldly to the task of pulling down. Here, then, is a probable case, highly dangerous."—From Mr. Lincoln's Speech Before the Young Men's Lyceum, Springfield, Ill.

—From The Omaha Daily Bee, March 19, 1912.
"HONESTLY, WHAT ARE YOU RUNNING FOR, THE PRESIDENCY OR FOR REVENGE?"



—From the New York Herald.
A Log on the Track
of the fast express means serious trouble ahead if not removed, so does loss of appetite. It means lack of vitality, loss of strength and nerve weakness. If appetite fails, take Electric Bitters quickly to overcome the cause by toning up the stomach and curing the indigestion. Michael Fescheimer of Lincoln, Neb., had been sick three years, but six bottles of Electric Bitters put him right on his feet again. They have helped thousands. They give pure blood, strong nerves, good digestion. Only 50 cents at all druggists.
A Marvelous Escape.
"My little boy had a marvelous escape," writes P. F. Bastians, of Prince Albert, Cape of Good Hope. "It occurred in the middle of the night. He got a very severe attack of croup. As luck would have it I had a large bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy in the house. After following the directions for an hour and twenty minutes he was through all danger." Sold by all dealers.