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## PROGRESSIVE CONVENTION SHOWS DEMOCRACY UNITED

### Raleigh Meeting Is One of Occasions Not Reformers.

Raleigh April 8.—The national convention of the Democratic party at Raleigh today is that the Democrats of the State are for the present in a mood to let well enough alone, content to have party affairs rack along for such adjustment as the party may see proper to frame up in regular order through the State Convention in June. The gathering was not noticeable for either its size or enthusiasm. The galleries of the big Auditorium were vacant and there were seats to spare in the main body of the hall. The presence of Secretary of the Navy Daniels and of Senator Pomerene gave decided tone to the meeting. Governor Craig was the acting head of the affair, presiding in the chair. With these on the stage were three State officials, and Judge Winston, Mr. Poe, Dr. Alexander, Mr. Mr. Fred N. Tate, Mr. John D. Bellamy and several other men of party prominence. Outside of the Raleigh people, there were probably less than 300 visiting Democrats.

At the outset it was seen that it was to be a meeting for the consideration of resolutions, and nobody seemed to have an idea of anything of necessity to be advanced, as there was general agreement that the things that had been agitated are in the main party measures of present approval. Governor Craig about covered the case in his address, in which he pictured the harmonious conditions in the party, State and National, and of the determination of the Democracy of North Carolina to work together for greater things. There were a few of the old Democratic wheel horses in the audience, but hundreds of faces that naturally would be expected to be seen in a State gathering of party men were missing. It was evident that there was a feeling against committing the party to any radical departure from regular Democratic standards, and if there had been any intentions of using the meeting for the advancement of any personal ends, such intentions had been abandoned before the meeting had materialized.

The trend, as best the Observer could gather it, was an earnest desire to consult and deliberate toward the good of the party as a whole, and to the inspiration of a more progressive spirit of legislation on party measures of known approval. There was no spirit of revolt, no talk of new organization, and any thought of going outside the regular party organization to secure an end of any kind, met with no sort of countenance. The Observer knows of no other way in which to size up today's meeting in Raleigh, and we believe that what has been said about covers the bill. It is certain that the meeting had one result—it showed the Democratic party in the State is solidly united and is determined to hold together. The red light has been turned against any hand that would make a move to disrupt it.

## Some Farmers Union Notes.

The last county meeting was the best we have held in quite a while both in point of attendance and in the interest manifested.

It was decided to try holding the county meetings with the different locals and the July meeting will be held with Antioch local.

Copeland local reports 80 members in good standing, the largest paid up membership in the county.

Jones, Stanfords, Deron and Antioch report the next largest membership in the order named.

Salem Fork reports 14 initiations, the largest number reported during the first quarter, Mulberry, Parks and Deron the next highest in the order named.

The reason some of the locals report no more initiations is because they have initiated everybody that is eligible.

What is the matter with a community anyway that cannot run a successful local union? B

## Warning to Tobacco Farmers is Issued.

Why farmers use such little judgment I don't know. It seems they use less common sense than any set of folks I ever saw. I used to think cotton farmers used very little judgment, but I think now tobacco farmers are as cranky as cotton farmers. The high price of tobacco last fall has caused a great many to lose their balance. Just because tobacco sold high last fall, they seem to think it will continue to be high. There is a reason in all things, and for all things; as most of us know, we have had three short crops in succession. There is some competition, but the main reason for the high prices is on account of the three short crops. Now to keep the prices up we must use a little common sense; common sense teaches us that if we raise more tobacco than the manufacturers can handle and also more than can be consumed, we need not expect much for the crop.

The tobacco companies buying our tobacco don't want an over-production in the weed, as it is their desire to pay us a living price for what we make. I think one of the main reasons for the decline in prices since Christmas is, they want to discourage the over-production, so they can give us a good living price for our tobacco and not be over stocked. Today I heard an experienced tobaccoist say that an extremely big crop would make money tight. He said, too, there would not be enough money to move such crop. Anyway if this big crop is made, I am afraid that before we get through selling we will conclude the tobacco companies lent us that money last fall and are taking our tobacco to pay back the loan. A warehouseman told me today that good wrappers were already off \$40 per hundred, and other grades are off considerably.

We can see now the price will end low. What does this mean? It means that it will be very apt to start low next fall, and if the crop is a large one it means it will get lower by spring, and probably reach the bottom. I know of men now buying supplies and paying a big price of course, and they are buying on the basis of last fall's prices. I mean they are buying more than ever, and are counting on as much for the next crop as they got for this one.

Now, brother farmer, look out next fall. Let me tell you how to do. In the beginning, first plan to raise plenty of corn, wheat, molasses, and everything else that can be raised here and that means you won't have to buy much. Then raise what tobacco you can. Oh, you will say, you had better practice what you preach. Well, I do. I don't suppose there is a time that I don't have something to sell. So if I get strapped any time, I am like the man that had a collar-button made of gold coin—I can take it off and sell it.—R. P. Hunt in Progressive Farmer.

## Pilot Mountain, Route 2 News.

The farmers are very busy with their work.

Mr. W. B. Blair, who taught school at Sheltontown, the past winter, has returned to his home after having a successful year's work.

Mr. H. E. Taylor, and Miss Ada Cook, who reside on this route gave their friends quite a surprise, last Sunday, the 12th. inst., by getting married. In some way, "Uncle Wash Hiatt" (who marries more people than any one in the county) got wind of the matter, and was on the ground, and to his delight, said the words that made them man and wife.

Mr. Taylor, is a school teacher, and a prosperous young man, and Miss Cook, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. T. Cook and is deservedly popular.

Their many friends join in wishing them a happy and prosperous married life.

They left on the afternoon train, Sunday, for Greensboro, Winston, and other points. They will be at home after the 15th inst. A subscriber.

## WAR FLEET TO MEXICO.

### Wilson Orders Entire Atlantic Division to Tampico to Make Huerta Obey.

Washington, April 14.—President Wilson today ordered nearly the entire Atlantic fleet to Mexican waters to force a public salute to the stars and stripes from the Huerta government as an apology for the arrest of marines at Tampico last Thursday. No ultimatum has been issued; that is, no specified time has been set within which the Huerta government must comply; but the naval demonstration has been ordered as a concrete evidence of the fixed determination of the United States to back up Rear Admiral Mayo's demand for a salute. Up to tonight General Huerta had not made satisfactory response to that demand.

"Further developments depend on Huerta himself," was the way a high administration close to the president, summarized the situation.

The decision to send the fleet was reached after the president and Secretary Bryan had conferred for an hour with John L. Wilson, personal representative of the president in Mexico and after a two-hour cabinet meeting, during which dispatches from Charge O'Shaughnessy revealed that the Huerta government disputed the right of American marines to be ashore at Tampico, and contended that its recent public statement of apology was ample.

Immediately after the cabinet meeting adjourned Secretary Daniels issued his order to the Atlantic fleet and wireless messages flashed up and down the Atlantic coast to put the fleet under steam for Tampico.

It will be the largest fighting force the American government has assembled for possible action since the Spanish-American war. Eleven great battleships and 15,000 men will comprise the force off Tampico.

Everywhere at the White House the state department and the navy department, the hope was expressed that the dispatch of the fleet would not lead to serious consequences and there was a confident prediction among administration officials that General Huerta would satisfy the American demand and close the incident. Officials were careful to point out that negotiations with the Huerta government had not ended that the way was still open to General Huerta to make amends.

## Why Big Fleet Has Been Sent To Mexico.

Washington, April 14.—It became known today that Senor Algara, charge of the Mexican embassy here, called personally on Secretary Bryan last Saturday and transmitted the apology of President Huerta for the Tampico incident. Secretary Bryan reiterated to Senor Algara at that time, it was said today, that the United States would assist on the American flag being saluted at Tampico.

Friends of Huerta in Washington, realizing the serious construction put on the Tampico affair by officials here, telegraphed to Mexico City advising that the request for a salute be complied with at once.

One administration official, close to the president, summed up the situation this way.

"When the marines were arrested, then released, General Huerta apologized and had the subordinate officer at Tampico penalized for the offense.

"Rear Admiral Mayo asked for a salute to the colors, and, after negotiations through Charge O'Shaughnessy, Huerta agreed to salute to the colors. Naval officers say this would be in the nature of a trivial apology and Rear Admiral Mayo insisted that the salute should be a public one to the colors.

"President Wilson vigorously upheld Rear Admiral Mayo and disputed General Huerta's contention that the American marines really had no right on the shore. The sending of the Atlantic fleet to Tampico speaks for itself. Future developments depend upon Huerta."

## Many Men Serving Sentences in Prison Are Mental Heavyweights.

Kansas City Star.

The Kansas state penitentiary is a little world of its own, not so very different from the big world on the outside. Within its walls are confined all sorts and conditions of men, a very few that are wholly bad. There is the same average "intelligence" on the inside as on the out; the same proportion of religion and irreligion, sincerity and hypocrisy, of men who work and of men who shirk, of men who can and who cannot be trusted, and about the same sprinkling of genius as in the days of Francis Villon and Jonathan Wild. And from every mother's son behind these grim walls, whether he be genius or low grade born, comes the universal prayer, "Give me another chance."

The human interest which attaches to these derelict geniuses is all the keener because the stories of their families are the saddest of all human documents.

How to deal with these men is one of the problems with which the governor, the parole clerk and the parole board are brought face to face almost every day.

Convict No. 3943 sat in the warden's office of the Kansas state penitentiary a few weeks ago making the familiar plea for "another chance." His language and accent stamped him as a southerner of good education. Notwithstanding the signs of dissipation, there was in his manner evidence of refinement and good-breeding.

A few questions brought out the fact that No. 3943 is a Kentuckian of good family; that he is a graduate of the University of Kentucky and of Harvard university, and that he is an architect of much ability. A letter from President of the State University of Kentucky, states that, 10 years ago, he designed and built the gymnasium for that institution at Lexington, Ky. His design for this building was accepted in a contest in which there were 18 competitors. At that time he had also become the intimate and friend of Stanford White. He also knew John Fox, the Kentucky novelist whose book plate he designed.

To convince the parole board that the spark of genius has not left him and that his hand has not lost its cunning, No. 3943 unrolled a bunch of architectural pen drawings which he had recently executed; among them a design for a Methodist church, which is soon to be built in one of the smaller cities of Kansas.

No. 3943 is 48 years old, and with his fine ability, education and the opportunities which were open to him, ought to be occupying an honorable, useful and distinguished station in life, instead of a cell in the Kansas penitentiary.

How came this man here? It is the same old story! Fast horses, fast women and Kentucky whiskey.

No. 3943 could not stand success. Dissipation lost him employment and friends. He drifted west, and in a western Kansas county forged a check for \$350, for which, on March 2, 1911, he was sentenced to the penitentiary for a term of from one to 10 years. After working 18 months for the state for three and one-fourth cents a day, he was given a parole, and violated it within a few days by getting drunk. He has now served something over three years and is asking for another chance.

The board has decided to try him again if some one with the milk of human kindness in his heart will take charge of him and give him a job.

On a Sunday afternoon not long ago in the chaplain's office another human wreck sat detailing his story to the parole clerk. Number 4555 is a man 51 years of age. He had never been in any serious trouble before. He had raised a family of boys and girls, now grown to manhood and occupying honorable positions in society. He had been superintendent of several large machine shops and is a fine mechanic. He has invented and patented a valuable keybolt. He has

also invented and patented a pipe wrench which is said to be a decided improvement upon the Stilson wrench, in that it does not mash or mar the pipe, and is a less expensive tool.

Number 4555 had one besetting sin. But for whiskey he would never have seen the inside of a penitentiary. A drunken spree led to his conviction and an indeterminate sentence of from one to 10 1/2 years for a statutory offense.

When he had finished his plea for another chance and the parole clerk informed him that the governor had already signed a parole for him and that a good job was waiting for him at his old home, the man gave way to a series of conflicting emotions which ranged from tears of joy at his release to indignation at his conviction of a crime innocence of which he stoutly asserted. And there are those who believe that the case against him was a frameup; but if it had not been for whiskey there would have been no chance for even that.

Out in the machine shop Convict No. 4738, serving one to five years for white slavery, and another convict with a sentence of 10 to 21 years for bank robbery, were working at a lathe. They were making a nonrefillable bottle, for which No. 4738 has a patent.

McGinnis, as No. 4738 is called—although that is not his right name—is a remarkable prisoner, with a long list of inventions to his credit. He has two patents for a binding rail joint, which is said to be superior to that now in use by railroads and can be manufactured and put in place for 75 cents per joint less than the one now in use. If this is true, it will pay some railroad to take McGinnis' parole over and pay him enough to make his life.

McGinnis has also patented an automatic car stake, by means of which logs, gravel and ore can be unloaded by the engineer from the engine by use of air. McGinnis' invention enables the engineer to thus unload automatically any particular car in the train.

He has also invented a detachable toe-cork for a horseshoe. Some of the prison officers have investigated these patents and are organizing a stock company to manufacture them and put them on the market.

Convict No. 3839 is a "three-timer" and at present is the warden's cook. "Jim," as he is called, has a genius for mechanics and has invented a mechanism by which a railroad switch can be opened and closed from the engine. He has given this invention years of study and believes that when his time is up he will be able to realize on the time he has spent "thinking it over."

Convict No. 3183, when on the outside and in a mood to work, was a lather by profession. He has invented an automatic lath carrier, into which bundles of laths are fed and automatically placed in position for nailing, which is done by automatic hammers operated by air.

"Joe" has five terms in the Kansas penitentiary to his credit and has served an aggregate of 18 years. He charges his criminal record up to the fact that he has been a wanderer almost from childhood. Like all the rest he, too, wants another chance.

Convict No. 4461 has served four terms—ten years in all—and is a very clever electrician. He has invented a combined machine which is motor, dynamo, alternator, step-up, step-down, high and low tension transformer, all in one.

Convict No. 3467 has invented a rather unique clothesack, one of which is in use in the warden's residence. This is his first time in prison, but he has already had two paroles and has violated both of them.

Convict No. 4299 is serving 5 to 21 years for a statutory offense. He has invented a vacuum street sweeper and an acetylene gas machine, both of which look practical and appear to be improvements upon existing inventions of like character. John Doe, No. 10, is an engi-

neer, carpenter and plumber. He is serving one to seven years for grand larceny, and is wanted at Fort Madison as a parole violator from that institution. "John Doe," like many other prison names, is assumed for the purpose of concealing his identity. He puts in spare time making violins. He has made eight or nine and has sold several at fair prices; and several are used by the prison orchestra.

Convict No. 3631 is the man who built the new prison twice plant. He is an expert bricklayer and builder. There was only one other bricklayer in the penitentiary besides No. 3631. This man took untrained convicts, put them on the job and made bricklayers of them. The two buildings are each 200 feet long and 45 feet wide, with buttressed walls and cement floors. Beneath the cement floors there is a complicated network of conduits for ventilation and heating. All this work was done under the direction of No. 3631; and the state architect told the writer not long ago that 3631 had built better and cleaner walls than one would get on the outside from a contractor.

No. 3631 has served five years of a 10 to 21-year sentence for bank robbery, and the federal authorities are waiting for him at the door with a charge of post-office robbery.

This man is not only a good bricklayer and builder, but he is an expert stenographer and typewriter, and last summer, after working all day in the hot sun, would go to the record clerk's office after supper and get out that officer's correspondence. He has now been transferred to the medical department, where he has worked so hard in nursing sick prisoners recently that the warden sent him out to a little house on the hill overlooking the prison.

No. 3631 has served five terms in different penitentiaries, although he is now only 39 years old. It is not too late for him to renounce his criminal career and become a useful citizen. He says that he is done, and the prison officials believe that he means it. No. 3631 is one of that type of men who take pride in doing well and excelling in whatever they do whether it be bank robbery or some honest occupation.

If this man should go out and make good it would be a great vindication for the parole system. The state can probably arrange with the federal authorities to dismiss its case against him. What would the reader do if possessed of the power to give or refuse this man a parole?

Another remarkable prisoner is convict No. 1023. After serving 10 years for killing a joint-keeper in Atchison, Ike was paroled the other day and will take a position as nurse in a big hospital. During all the 10 years of his servitude Ike has nursed the sick prisoners, dressed their wound and acquired considerable skill as a surgeon in the performance of minor operations. The parole clerk first heard of Ike through ex-convicts who remembered his kindness and came to the governor's office to request that something be done for him. Governor Stubbs had commuted the sentence of Ike's pal from life to 15 years, with good time off. The "pal" had influenced friends. Ike's only friends were ex-convicts. When the matter was called to Governor Hodges' attention, he commuted Ike's sentence to 15 years with good time off and recently signed a parole for him.

When the writer told No. 1023 that he was going out, he said: "Tell the governor I am mighty grateful and that I am going to show my gratitude by making good."

This man's case affords a curious study of human nature. Outside and full of whiskey he and his "pal" committed a brutal murder, and he was a pretty bad citizen generally. Inside the prison he develops a genius for nursing the sick, takes the place of an assistant surgeon and cares for his more unfortunate mates with remarkable tenderness and gentleness.

The governor of Kansas has given him another chance. What will the big world do?