

# The Mount Airy News.

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## W. M. Jackson Writes About The Australian Ballot Law SAYS WAS SNEAKED BY HIM

**Surry's Representative Produces Several Letters To Clear His Record in Connection With Surry's New Ballot Regulations**

**Mr. Editor:**

I desire space in your paper to inform the good citizens of Surry County, as to how Surry County was sneaked into the so-called Australian Ballot Law, known as the Bumgardner and Grist Bill, passed at the Extra Session of the Legislature.

In my judgment this bill is one of the most corrupt bills ever enacted into law in any state in the Union.

This law is called the Australian Ballot Law, but in my judgment it is an infringement upon decency and honesty, when in truth and in fact it is nothing more than a bastard, and I have been doing my utmost to locate its daddy and feel confident that I have him located. No one but a political thief under any circumstances would have placed Surry County under such an abominable election law without first having consulted your Representative and ascertaining his wishes in the matter. However Surry County was sneaked in the so-called Australian Ballot Bill without the knowledge or consent of your Representative in "House Bill No. 109." "A bill to be entitled an Act to provide the Australian Ballot for certain counties, relating to Caldwell and Stanley Counties," introduced by Bumgardner and Grist of Caldwell and Stanley Counties.

The above title was all that was read to the members of the House of Representatives, and you see it only referred to Caldwell and Stanley Counties and that being so it was not my duty as your Representative to make any inquiry as to what kind of an Australian Ballot Law desired by those counties; yet Surry County was sneaked into this bill some where along the line but the House Journal and Senate Journal are an silent as the tomb as to when this was done.

I offer the following letters in support of my position in this matter:

Albermarle, N. C.  
Sept. 22nd, 1924.

Hon. W. M. Jackson,  
Dobson, N. C.

My Dear Jackson:

I have your favor of the 20th instant, with inquiry as to how Surry County got into the Australian Ballot Law, passed by Mr. Grist and myself for Stanley and Caldwell Counties. I beg to say that I was just as much surprised as you could have been when I noticed Tom Boat's article in the Greensboro News some ten days ago, in which he stated that Surry County, Alexander and some other counties were included in my bill. I presumed then that these counties had been added in the Senate and I find on investigation, that that was the case. As to who was responsible for the other counties I do not yet know, but on receipt of your letter I remembered that Senator Boyett was Chairman of the Senate Committee on Election Laws and I went to his home yesterday afternoon, found him in bed sick, but was able to get an interview with him. He tells me that it is his recollection that Senator Wolz, of Gaston, was instrumental in having Surry County placed under the operation of our bill. I know that Owen Simpson, placed his County in it by a supplemental bill, but I did not know that these other counties were included, and I am in no way responsible therefor, nor is Mr. Grist. When the bill was introduced by Mr. Grist and myself the bill only referred to Stanley and Caldwell Counties, and so far as I know it left the House in that form. I never even heard Surry County mentioned in this connection by democrats or republicans. I trust you will believe me when I tell you this. I was elected to represent Stanley not Surry County or any other county and I believe what you know of me while in the House will bear me out in this. If this matter has or shall cause you any trouble or embarrassment I am sorry, but I assure you that I am in no way responsible for any county being in the bill except Stanley.

If you are through Albermarle at any time, be sure to look me up.

Assuring you of my personal regard, I am,

Yours very truly,  
Tom. P. Bumgardner.

In justice to Mr. Wolz referred to in the above letter I beg to advise that he denies having anything to do with placing Surry County in the Australian Ballot Bill, but admits that he knew a bill was introduced for Caldwell County. That upon receipt of this information from Mr. Wolz,

I wrote Senator Boyett concerning the matter, but he has failed to answer my letter, so I presume he is standing pat on his first statement as to how Surry County got into the bill.

"Roseboro, N. C.  
Oct. 8th, 1924.

Hon. W. M. Jackson,  
Dobson, N. C.

Your favor of the 30th addressed to me at Clinton has just been received. I am very much surprised to learn that your county Surry had been placed in the Australian Ballot Bill. I did not know it until I received your letter. I have no idea who did it, but I suppose it was the dirty work of some democratic politician. I introduced a Bill for my county, but it was a copy of the Buncomb County bill, and did not refer to the Stanley and Caldwell Bill, but when it was enacted into law, it was in the Stanley and Caldwell Bill, put there by Senator Johnson, of my district. I wish I was able to give you some information in regard to this matter, but I have no way of finding out. I believe your county as well as other republican counties were sneaked in that Stanley and Caldwell Bill.

With best wishes, I bid to remain,  
Yours very truly,  
Thos. E. Owen.

Wilkesboro, N. C.  
Oct. 4th, 1924.

Hon. W. M. Jackson,  
Dobson, N. C.

My Dear Sir:

Replying to your letter, I will say I was as much surprised as you were to hear that Surry County was included in the Caldwell-Stanley so-called Australian Ballot Bill passed during the recent Extra Session of the Legislature. I remember very well when the Bumgardner-Grist Bill, placing Caldwell and Stanley Counties under a so-called Australian Ballot Law, was before the House for consideration and passage. At no time was it made known to the Members of the House while the bill was being voted upon that Surry County was included in its provisions. As the bill was read by the reading clerk it applied only to the two counties Caldwell and Stanley.

Rule 51 of the House of Representatives reads as follows:

"Any member introducing a bill or resolution shall briefly endorse the substance of the same."

The brief endorsement of the substance of a bill referred to in the foregoing house rule is the title or caption of the bill and except in very rare instances the title or caption of a local or public local bill is all that is read by the reading clerk when the bill comes up to be voted upon, it being understood by all of the members, and required by House Rule 51, that the title or caption carries a true statement of the contents and purposes of the bill.

You, Mr. Jackson had no notice that Surry County was included in a bill which by its title referred only to Caldwell and Stanley Counties. I do not know who is responsible for the dirty job of placing Surry County under a detestable and unfair so-called Australian Election Law in plain violation of House Rule 51 and all other rules of decency, honesty and fair dealing, but I assure the citizenship of the good County of Surry that you had no means of knowing that Surry County was included in a bill the title or caption of which applied only to Caldwell and Stanley Counties.

Yours very truly,  
Chas. H. Cowles.

I further beg to advise that Hon. Chas. H. Cowles and I roomed together while attending the recent extra session of the Legislature and we were together day and night, and that Mr. Cowles is a member of the House Committee of Election Laws and says that at no time when he was present at the meetings of the committee was Surry County in any bill pending before said committee or mentioned in connection with the so-called Stanley and Caldwell Bill. He further says that the Bumgardner-Grist Bill was never amended in the House placing Surry County in said bill. That he had nothing to do with keeping Yadin and Wilkes or any other counties out of the bill, as he had no notice of any bill except the Bumgardner-Grist Bill for only Caldwell and Stanley Counties, and that his county could have as easily been sneaked in to that bill as Surry County.

The unfair and dishonorable democratic politicians who sneaked Surry County into this bill knew they would have to keep it absolutely from me and conceal its tracks, which they did in order to get it through, for they well knew there were enough honest democrat members in the House that would stand by me and keep Surry County out of this abominable act. That under said act the Registrars in the coming election in

## THOUSAND CONFEDERATES DIED DURING PAST YEAR

Ten Dollar Increase in Pensions Announced for Those Still Living

Raleigh, Oct. 11.—The 8,568 Confederate veterans and widows of veterans on the state pension roll will get a ten dollar increase this year in the reapportionment of the million dollar pension fund as the result of nearly a thousand deaths during the past 12 months.

Each of the four classes of pensioners will get ten dollars more, making the annual pensions as follows, fourth class, \$120; third, \$130; second, \$150; first, \$165.

The pension list is being reduced about eight per cent.

The pensioners are divided into the following classes:

Veterans—First class—veterans totally disabled as the result of wounds during the war between the states, 25; second—veterans who lost an arm above the elbow or a leg above the knee during the war, 40; third—veterans who lost a foot or hand in the war, 86; fourth—veterans dependent, 3,630.

Widows—First class—Totally blind 33; second class—dependents, 4,845.

## Says Democrats Will Control Congress

Washington, Oct. 11.—The next senate according to Senator Jones, of New Mexico, chairman of the democratic senatorial campaign committee, will be controlled by a safe majority of democrats. This estimate is based on personal investigations into the close states.

"The 15 seats now held by democrats in the senate, which are to be filled in the election of November 4, will again be filled by democrats," said Senator Jones. "That gives us the 43 democratic senators we now have and we are going to capture enough seats from the republicans to make the democratic list go to 49, or above it, a gain of at least six, giving the democratic party control of the senate. Undoubtedly the house will be democratic and that will give us a democratic Congress."

"All along the line the outlook is rosy for the democrats in capturing the majority in the next senate, and we feel good as reports sustaining this view, reach headquarters."

Surry County are given the powers of the Czar of Russia, with the only check valve thereto being the Chairman of the Board of Elections of Surry County, for under said act the registrars are given the power to appoint all the markers to assist those desiring to vote who are unable to vote without assistance in the preparation of their ballots, by the consent of the Chairman of the Board of Elections.

If the Chairman performs his duties as in my judgment is contemplated under said act the markers will be composed of an equal number of democrats and republicans, because the Registrars are to appoint the markers by the consent of the said Chairman. All markers should be appointed before the day of election by the registrars and by and with the consent of the said Chairman.

Under the Buncomb County Australian Ballot Law are two official markers for each voting precinct, one democrat and one republican, recommended by the Chairman of the Democratic County Executive Committee and the Chairman of the Republican County Executive Committee, yet Surry's law does not make this provision, but justice and right demands it and this is the course pursued by the people of Buncomb County, in administering their election law for the poor and unfortunate that cannot read and write.

I certainly hope and trust that the officers in charge of the coming election will administer the present election law on the election day fairly and honestly, so that when election is over that republicans as well as democrats will feel that they have been given a fair deal.

I want the good people of Surry County, regardless of party, who believe in honest elections to rebuke the gang of tricksters, who placed this expensive election law on us.

If I am elected, and I expect to be, I will repeal this law by and with the consent of honest members of the next General Assembly.

Dobson, N. C., Oct. 14th, 1924.  
Respectfully submitted,  
W. M. Jackson.

## THERE WILL BE NO ELECTROCUTIONS SOON

"Death Row" Occupied by Ten Men But All May Live Past Date Set for Execution

Raleigh, Oct. 9.—"Death row" at the state prison here now has ten occupants but due to appeals and the absence of Warden Busbee from the state, the execution of any of the condemned is not likely to take place at a very early date.

Seven of the men, the records show have appeals pending before the Supreme court and may be granted a new trial, while the other three, two of whom were condemned to be electrocuted on October 9 and one on November 28, have been given respite until the return of Warden Busbee from California, where he is attempting to bring Dr. J. W. Peacock back to North Carolina.

The three men, whom the governor respite until the return of Warden Busbee are John Leake and Kenneth Hale, negroes of Davidson county, and Vance Morgan, alias Vance Clyburn, negro of Union county, all of whom are convicted of murder.

Those who may, procure new trials through pending appeals are:

James M. McBride, alias James Hurden, white, of Vance county, murder.

Austin Carter, white, of Rockingham county, murder.

Alex Rodman, negro, of Mecklenburg county, murder.

Lee Walton, negro of Hoke county, murder.

Will Brown, alias Extra Steel, negro, of Forsyth county, criminal assault.

Albert Byrd, negro, of Lenoir county, criminal assault, and Jim Collins, negro of Anson county, murder.

## Skull Cracked With Mule Kick—Yet Lives

Cecil Brewer, 12-year old youth of Lowgap, is a patient at Martin Memorial hospital where he is recovering from injuries received when he came in contact with the heels of a mule. Cecil was up early one morning last week feeding the stock as usual. When he went into the stall occupied by old Beck to pour the corn into the trough the mule kept nosing around in the basket and worrying the boy by not waiting until the corn could be emptied. Becoming exasperated at the impatience of old Beck the boy reached down, picked up a bunch of corn stalks and whaled away at the mule striking him across the flank. This brought forth a squeal and a kick followed with one heel landing square on the side of Cecil's head. He kept his presence of mind and made his way to the house where his parents saw he was seriously hurt.

The lick had opened up a bad gash on the side of his head above the ear and examination at the hospital showed the skull to be cracked about four inches along the side. The boy is cheerful, has remained conscious all the while and is on the road to recovery, although he will carry the print of that mule's shoe on the side of his head the remainder of his days.

## Several Constitutional Amendments To Be Voted Upon — What Are They?

Raleigh, Oct. 10.—Four amendments proposed to the state constitution plus the ports and terminals measure are to be submitted to the people at the election next month and to date they are conspicuously lacking for friends. Copies of the proposed amendments are being distributed in a limited way from the office of the secretary of state, but there is no campaign for or against either or all of them.

The first, urged by Governor Morrison and members of the budget commission, would guarantee the inviolability of sinking funds. A new section would be inserted, under the bill, reading: "The general assembly shall not use or authorize to be used any part of the amount of any sinking fund for any purpose other than the retirement of the bonds for which said sinking fund has been created."

The second, in regard to taxation of homes, homestead, notes and mortgages, would raise the present exemption of notes and mortgages of 3,000 to 5,000 and in addition provide that when the said notes and mortgages are held and taxed in the county where the home is situated, the owner of the home shall be exempt from taxation of every kind for 50 per cent of the value of the said notes and mortgages.

A third amendment proposes to

## Charges G. O. P. Raises Slush Fund of Millions

Dr. Peacock Cannot Be Brought Back

San Diego, Calif., Oct. 11.—Further efforts to extradite Dr. J. W. Peacock, on a charge of having escaped from the asylum for criminally insane in North Carolina, were abandoned here today, according to a statement by attorney for Dr. Peacock, S. J. Busbee, warden of the North Carolina penitentiary, is quoted by them as saying that he would return home at once.

Dr. Peacock was relieved of extradition liabilities here yesterday when the Superior court granted a writ of habeas corpus after the governor of California had granted the extradition requisition. Dr. Peacock has returned to his ranch home near this city.

## STATE MAY APPEAL

Charlotte, Oct. 11.—Gov. Cameron Morrison here today declared that an appeal from the decision of a California Superior court releasing Dr. J. W. Peacock would be taken if possible. He could not say just what steps would be taken until the attorney employed by the state makes his report.

## Galax Paper Speaks Well of Republican Candidate For Recorder

This newspaper has been handed a copy of the Galax Post Herald of last week by O. B. Webb, Republican Chairman, in which reference is made to D. A. Robertson, a former citizen of that town, but now a resident of Mount Airy. Mr. Robertson is now very much in the public eye of this part of the county as he is the Republican candidate for Recorder in Mount Airy township. Since coming to this city he has been associated with N. W. Dobbins in the wagon, buggy and auto business.

The clipping from the Galax paper speaks highly of Mr. Robertson and at the request of some of our Republican readers it is published below:

"We have just learned that D. A. Robertson, formerly of this place, now residing in Mount Airy, N. C., has been nominated for Judge of the Recorder's Court in his county. This comes as a very pleasant bit of information to the many friends of Mr. Robertson in Virginia.

"Before going to North Carolina Mr. Robertson was mayor of our town for several terms, and filled the position with ability and distinction—with credit to himself and to the town. He was a good officer and a good citizen, and if elected to this position as Judge of the Recorder's Court, we know that matters coming before him will be carefully looked after and disposed of with absolute honesty and the best attention and judgment."

## La Follette Charges Fiat to Buy the Election—Rushes Pennsylvania Letter Asking For Funds

Arraigns Coolidge as Silent Participant in Scandal—Scranton Chooses Him

Scranton, Pa., Oct. 7.—Senator La Follette in his speech here tonight charged the Republican campaign management with organizing a huge slush fund to buy the election, and read a telegram he sent today to Senator Borah of Idaho, demanding an immediate investigation of his charges.

At the same time the independent candidate for the Presidency pilloried President Coolidge as having been a silent participant in the proceedings of the Harding Administration which were characterized by the Tea Pot Dome scandal and Daugherty episode.

The Senator read to his audience a letter circulated in Pennsylvania by the Ways and Means Committee of the Republican National Committee proposing to raise \$600,000 in Pennsylvania for campaign purposes and assumed that in proportion the contribution from New York would be more than a million.

"Slush fund" of more than four or five million dollars, he said, was in prospect for the purpose of "buying the election."

La Follette dropped his rapier for a broadsword and tore into the Republican Administration and into the Republican campaign management in a manner that indicates that from now on he proposes to say it with bricks.

This sensational overture to the La Follette campaign expedition to the West was played before an audience which filled the local hall in a town which is the center of the anthracite mining district of Pennsylvania. His audience cheered to the echo the Senator's attack upon the Republican campaign management, and when he told them he assumed the Republicanism of Pennsylvania was that of Abraham Lincoln and not that of Andrew W. Mellon, the audience responded with enthusiastic applause. This is the radical section of the State and the Senator received a splendid reception.

The exposure of the campaign contribution letter, and the reading of the telegram to Senator Borah demanding an investigation by the committee of which Borah is the head was prepared for by a bitter arraignment of the Coolidge Administration and of the President himself.

Senator La Follette told his hearers that he was expected to be elected and that it was necessary for the Eastern States to come to the rescue of the West. He said he knew that the State was deeply rooted in Republicanism, but expressed the belief the State is at heart Progressive.

"I firmly believe today," he said, "when the Republican Party has submitted more completely to corruption and privilege than it did under Taft, that the men and women of Pennsylvania will again speak out for honest representative, progressive Government at Washington."

"President Coolidge sat in the Cabinet with Fall and Daugherty and Denby while the policies of this Administration were being formulated. He sat in the United States Senate when I revealed the illegality and rottenness of the oil leases and obtained a Senate investigation of Mr. Coolidge's Cabinet mate, Secretary Fall.

"When Mr. Coolidge became President he kept in office every member of the Cabinet and used all the power of his mighty office to obstruct the investigations into the conduct of Daugherty, Denby, Mellon and Fall. But Mr. Coolidge now refuses to accept responsibility for his acts and for the record of this Administration.

"He appears in this campaign as the defender of the Constitution, against dangers which have no existence, unless it be in the corruption and the favoritism to privileged interests of the Republican Party.

Then Senator La Follette brought out the Grandy letter and his demand to Senator Borah for an investigation.