

The Chatham Observer.

A. M. MOORE, Editor and Prop.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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Yesterday was the last day for paying poll taxes. If any one's taxes are not paid it is the fault of Sheriff Johnson and the fusionists. We tried to get to see the books so as to notify all and to arrange to get every white man to pay regardless of politics, but Johnson, through the advice of R. H. Dixon and the fusion leaders, refused to let his books be seen. The poll tax of all that we could find out have been arranged, so if there are any that are unpaid it is the fault of the fusionists who have been pretending to be the friends of the poor white man hoping to keep him from knowing his right so that he could not be urged to pay his taxes. They may hide the books now, but they will be seen next fall or the people will sweep the court house ring from power and put in a set who will let poor men be urged to pay and be helped if necessary, necessary.

The Democrats have done everything within their power to see that every white man's taxes were paid, while the fusionists have been hiding the books to keep them from being paid. Let's see the books.

Some kind of a Republican meeting was held here last Friday. Most of the fusion bosses were here. We hear that they decided to put up the following ticket: John Taylor for Sheriff, W. O. Farrell for Register, Joe Goodwin for Clerk and Claud Pearson for Legislature. It is said that R. H. Dixon, the Populist chairman, who went to Greensboro to sell the remainder of his party to the Republicans, counselled them to keep some candidates in the field so as to fool the voters and not let them know that the court house ring named the ticket. We hear that Sheriff Johnson promised to abide by the decision of the bosses and that he was rather shy that evening, which goes to prove that all was not as lovely as the Sheriff would have it.

It is said that J. W. Atwater is seeking to be placed on the Republican ticket this year for Congress. We learn that he announced his candidacy at Bynum sometime ago. He has been everything, Republican, Populist, Democrat and independent, so it will not be much trouble for him to change. The plan seems to be for the Republicans not to put up any one and let Atwater be placed on their ticket as he was on the Democratic ticket two years ago. It only remains to be seen whether the Republicans will give him their support or not. It is safe to say that a great many of them will not, but whether they do or don't you will go back to Congress again.

The Democratic county convention meets here Tuesday of next week to elect delegates to the State, Judicial and Congressional conventions. The township conventions for each township will meet on as to send delegates here.

The Republicans, American Tobacco Co., and the Southern R. R. attorneys seem to be trying to dictate the policy of the Democratic party and say who we shall name for chief justice. They have been for some time trying to show the Democrats why they should not nominate Judge Clark. Recently Henry Page, a man who voted for McKinley wrote an article against him, the names of J. W. Willson, the associate of S. Otho Willson, both of whom were termed and by Dan Russell as whitewashed by the Legislature. If Russell ever did anything we could endorse this is it. Both Willsons have shown that they were simply tools for the Southern R. R. Now comes the Chatham Citizen to show the Democrats why they should not nominate Judge Clark. It seems that he might exclaim with Cain, "Lord my punishment is greater than I can bear." Henry Page J. W. Willson and the Chatham Citizen. A beautiful trio. The first two have been distributed all over the State by Republican campaign funds. It will be well for the people to keep their eyes open next week or the Republicans and the Southern R. R. attorneys may control our convention. Judge Clark has made a faithful officer and could not be bought. This is the reason they are against him and not because they think him unfit for the high office.

The Selection of Candidates.

MR. EDITOR:— In the selection of candidates to fill State offices, all leading vocations of life should be represented. There are more farmers than any other trade or profession in North Carolina, and of course they should come in for their share. Farmers are directly interested in the corporation commission and should have a representation in that body. Several good men have mentioned as candidates to succeed Dr. Abbott and Hon. Eugene Beddingfield, of Wake county, is the only farmer mentioned, so far as we know, for the position. Mr. Beddingfield needs no introduction. He has served as a member of the Rail Road Commission with marked efficiency; was appointed a member of the corporation commission but was overruled by the Supreme Court. He is what is generally known as a self-made man—born of humble parents. His father died in the Confederate army and he came up as an orphan boy.

He educated himself under adverse circumstances, and is one of the leading farmers of Wake county. He is a true and tried Democrat and his eloquent voice has been heard in almost every county in the State defending the principles of Democracy. Whether he is a candidate or not he is always ready to enter the field as a campaigner and has but few superiors.

Chatham is purely an agricultural county and no one would better represent our interest than he. Why should he not have some support in the convention?

Respectfully,
DEMOCRATIC VOTER.

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Washington Letter.

From Our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, April 28, 1902.

The past week in the Senate has been characterized by a scathing arraignment of the Republican policy in the Philippine Islands. During the major portion of three sessions Senator Rawlins of Utah delivered a speech which set forth the aims and intentions of the administration, and pointed out how the franchises and special concessions of the islands were to be farmed out to the administration favorites at the expense of the Filipino people. On Friday and Saturday Senator Carmack delivered a brilliant address especially note worthy for its demonstration of the inconsistency of the President in condemning those who have defended the rights of the Filipinos and its denunciation of Brig. General Funston whom he describes as the "most valient captain that ever marshalled a dictionary to battle array, the mightiest Samson that ever wielded the jawbone of an ass as a weapon of war." The unqualified condemnation and the accompanying bitter sarcasm of the Tennessee Senator produced their effect on his opponents and there are prospects that Senator Lodge's edict, "Let the Democrats do all the talking" will be defied and that those senators who will be compelled to go before their constituents for re-election will insist on making some reply to the charges which have been made against their spirit of justice and Americanism.

In almost entire support of the democratic position, has been the testimony recently taken before the Philippines committee, and finally the news comes from Manila that Gen. Jacob H. Smith has admitted to the court-martial, before which he is being tried, that he gave orders to Major Waller to kill and burn and make Samar a howling wilderness and that he especially ordered the killing of all Filipinos over ten years of age. As if to substantiate the Democratic claims that the islands has been a scene of old outrages, and that the policy of the administration has been to suppress facts, continually laugmented evidence has been presented of the use the "water cure" and other forms of torture and oppression, in absolute violation of all the tenets of civilized and enlightened nation.

Opinion in the Senate is still greatly divided as to the outcome of the Cuban reciprocity bill. It is now certain that a straight reciprocity will be reported and, as far as I can learn, the democrats will try to amend it as was done in the House. That they will be successful is possible as they are likely to have the support of the beet sugar senators and if they do so it will probably kill the bill on its final passage. The present indications are that the republican senators will be satisfied if they can secure the passage of a straight bill in the senate and will permit it to die in conference with little regret. "The republicans will shed few tears over the death of the bill in conference," was the reply of a democratic senator who is in a position to know, when I questioned him on the subject Saturday.

The House of Representatives during the past week has passed the Military Academy bill and has returned to conference the Chinese exclusion and Oleomargarine bills. It also attempted to make a record on Friday by passing 145 pension bills in a few hours. The Agriculture appropriation bill is now under discussion. Today a special rule will be reported for the consideration of the Omnibus Public Building bill which will be taken up tomorrow. The bill authorizes the expenditure of public funds in all but two states and carries a total appropriation of \$15,000,000. Any anxiety which may have been felt earlier in the session as to the surplus in the treasury is rapidly disappearing as this promises to be a billion and a half dollar Congress.

The constant recurrence of rumors of Senator Hanna's aspirations for the next presidential nomination, notwithstanding the Senator's gentle denials, render his political methods particularly interesting at this time. Apparently the Senator from Ohio is particular proud of his reputation for "standing by his friends," "standing by friends under fire". I believe it used to be called in the time of President Grant. Two conspicuous examples have recently attracted public attention; one; the case of Rathbone, the Cuban postal-fund embezzler, who was found guilty and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment. Senator Hanna has made the most strenuous efforts in Rathbone's behalf and has finally secured his release on bail. Mr. Hanna even goes so far as to cast reflection on Gen. Wood in his efforts to influence public opinion in favor of his "friend". As a candidate for President the Senator's course will doubtless stand him in good stead with a certain element of his party. Another instance of this same admirable trait has recently come to light in the case of one Harrison Wagner, whose military record Senator Hanna introduced a bill to correct. The House committee which investigated the case found that numerous forgeries, including a Senate bill and a Senate report, had been filed by Mr. Wagner but doubtless Mr. Hanna will stand by him and it is doubtful if he will ever be prosecuted.

Republican Bridges.

MR. EDITOR:— The Chatham Citizen has had so many things to say about the management of the county affairs when we had a Democratic board of commissioners that I would like for him to take a trip over to Fearrington's Mill and look at his Republican bridge and then tell his readers what he thinks about the management of the county in the hands of his holiest of the holy crowd. Let him investigate and see for him self just how it was done. He need not ask a Democrat, just ask good honest men like J. F. Council and C. L. Williams about it and let him ask any white man in the township, Democrat or Republican if they consider it a decent job and then tell his readers what he has learned about the way that his good and perfect board of commissioners manage the county affairs. Let him tell them that it was a secret contract and that it was secretly received for the county. The people here have been before the board and asked and plead with them to have something done to the abutments and have written Mr. Taylor personally to have it attended to but to no avail, and several horses have slipped and fallen at the abutment. It is so steep that it is just impossible for them to stand. Now if the editor of the Citizen will come down here and investigate the matter and then don't change his tune and give the men hot medicine, I will think that he falls short of honesty in politics. If you will give us such men as W. B. Merritt, of Rialte, for commissioners we will make a change in these things. Everything will be done above board. The active Democrats of Williams township are just going to have Barbee Merritt to succeed Jno Taylor, and if the Citizen will cloak such a thing as the Fearrington bridge and try to throw dirt by crying Democratic mismanagement. He can fool some of the people all of the time but he can't fool all of the people long at a time, and (stick a pin here), he never will fool enough again to elect another fusion board of county commissioners in Chatham.

DECEMY.

Frank C. Poe

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Frank C. Poe,
Pittsboro, N. C.

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