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INDEPENDENCE, TRUTH, JUSTICE.

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The Chatham Citizen.

R. B. LINEBERRY, Editor and Publisher.
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Independence, Truth, Justice.

Communications to be printed should be written on one side of the paper only. Your real name must accompany each communication or it cannot be printed.

The editor is not responsible for the views of correspondents, but will allow nothing enter the columns of the Citizen that he knows to be false or slanderous.

We want intelligent correspondents in every township in the county.

We give below a protest signed by the Republican members of the House and presented upon the passage of the Hertford county bill. If such bills as the Hertford county bill—and several such have passed for other counties—is to be the policy of the majority of this legislature, then if Democracy means the people ruling, Democracy is dead. Local self government is at an end. The majority of legislators may prescribe a county government, and have done so in the past, which takes the choice of some of its officers out of the hands of the voters of the county but here are people already elected—legally elected under the laws of the State—no claim that they are not legally elected and legally bonded and amply qualified except that they are not of the party to which a majority of the legislators do homage.

Here is the protest given by the Raleigh correspondent of the Winston Republican (whether or not it went upon the Journal we cannot say.)

PROTEST.

"The undersigned members of the House of Representatives respectfully but earnestly protest against the policy which appears to have the approval of a majority of the Democratic members of this body by which they have voted for and passed an act which deprives the county officers of Hertford county of the rights which they received through their election to the several offices which they at present occupy.

This act establishes a new precedent one that is filled with danger to the rights and liberties of the people. Here is a county with an excellent set of county officials, several of whom are graduates of some of our most noted seats of learning, men who stand upright in their community deprived of the emoluments of office simply because the party which elected them was defeated in the state at large.

To-day in over half the counties of the State the county officials are in whole or in part members of the Populist and Republican parties and this work once begun will not in all probability cease until they too share the fate that has overcome the officials of Hertford county.

Many Republican members of the session of 1897 were applauded by the Democratic members of that body when they voted against the charters of Wilmington, Newbern and other cities and the people of the State in the recent election set the seal of their approval on the votes thus cast although these bills were favored by the members who then represented the counties in question. If they then were right how much more so must be those who sign this protest for here is the member of Hertford county fighting the act in question.

Again they are deprived of the rights which they received by their election mainly through the efforts of three men whose circular address has been read by many members of this body. The signers of this appeal are the defeated candidate for the house, and the other two, candidates for offices created by the passage of the act in question.

There are no petitions from the citizens of the county asking for the passage of this act, and in fact the Senator who represents that senatorial district in introducing the bill marked "by request."

There is no question as to the safety of the county funds in the hands of the officials elected, for their bonds were recommended to be accepted to the County Commissioners of that county, by one of the present Democratic Senators who represents the senatorial district (in part) in which Hertford is located.

For these and other causes that the people of the State may know the reasons of the undersigned in opposing with heart and mind the passage of this act the undersigned have entered this their solemn protest and appeal as to the truth of their cause to the mighty tribunal of the people of the State.

The treaty of peace agreed upon at Paris by American and Spanish commissioners was ratified by the Senate last Monday by a vote of 57 to 27—being one more than the necessary two-thirds majority. There had been considerable delay on account of the opposition to expansion policy seemingly involved. When, however, the news came of the conflict Sunday the treaty was soon ratified. It is said that more interest centered on this vote than any vote taken in the United States Senate since the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman act. The vote of ratification is no test of the expansion policy. The treaty is ratified but manner of managing the Philippines, whether by annexation or otherwise is yet to be decided. Both of our Senators—Butler and Pritchard, voted for ratification.

Senator Butler in presenting the resolution passed by North Carolina General Assembly asking for United States Senators to be elected by the people took occasion to make some remarks on the growing necessity of such a change in the selection of Senators. In several states this winter there are senatorial deadlocks as in Pennsylvania and California, wasting much valuable time which should be devoted to state legislation. Not only is time wasted and much prejudice engendered but on account of the small number of votes money plays a greater part and bribery and corruption are more common, thus giving the wealthy and corporations the advantage.

It has also developed that much of the Democratic opposition to ratification of the treaty of peace with Spain is intended for political purposes. Those who are delaying action on the treaty do not so much object to the treaty, but their object seems to be about this: delay the ratification until the extra session of Congress and then hold the large Republican majority responsible for expansion. It is hoped, by such men as Gorman, to make expansion the leading issue in the next campaign and thus sidetrack the Chicago platform and Bryan.

WAR AGAIN.

Filipinos and Americans Have a Battle.

Last Saturday night and Sunday there was a fierce conflict between 13,000 Americans at Manila and 29,000 insurgents of the island. The insurgents had been threatening a conflict for some time and kept pushing over their lines until fired upon last Saturday evening by our forces and a battle at once ensued, lasting, at intervals, through the night and Sunday.

Reports say that the insurgents have been driven back ten miles with a loss of 1900 men. The American loss is estimated at 40 killed and 150 wounded.

Miss Jessie W. Page, daughter of Rev. Jesse H. Page, is a candidate for State Librarian.

The Greensboro Record tells of the case of a Guilford county farmer who says that he received a dollar a few years ago from a preacher, who stated in his letter that he owed the farmer that amount for watermeins he had stolen from him.

Addison G. Foster has been elected United States Senator from Washington State. Foster has not figured conspicuously in politics, but has made a half million in the lumber business.

The House Judiciary committee has decided that members of Congress who accepted military commissions have thereby forfeited their seats in Congress. This ungets Wheeler, of Ala., Robbins, of Penn., Colson, of Ky. and Campbell, of Ill.

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The man who said, "rolling stones gather no moss" died before the North Carolina "Rollin' Exposition" was built.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

(From Our Regular Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3, 1899.

Are we to have another big court-martial? Gen. Miles, by reiterating his statement that embalmers had furnished the army and announcing his readiness to prove it, has seemingly invited a court-martial of himself, thus forcing what has been publicly announced for weeks past as Secretary Alger's dearest wish. In fact, the last statement of Gen. Miles is regarded as a dare to the Secretary of War. It would be wise on the part of the administration to give the army an opportunity to prove its charge, for it can not be truthfully denied that public opinion, as represented by the masses who are not interested in the welfare of particular officials, civil or military, is at this time inclined to believe that Gen. Miles is right, although it has been semi-officially stated that the report of the War Investigating Commission, which, by the way, was to have been made this week, but has not been, would declare that embalmers had not issued to the army. The people want the truth and the whole truth, regardless of consequences, in this business, and sooner or later they will get it.

Although the opponents of the treaty of peace are still claiming 34 votes against it, the general impression is that the treaty will be ratified when the vote is taken on Monday, because some of those who are on the list as opposed to the treaty will fear to go on record against it.

The President now has the finding of the Ensign court-martial. That the sentence of dismissal from the army will be carried out, no one in Washington believes, but opinion differs as to how far the President will modify the sentence.

No speech in favor of the treaty of peace was more carefully listened to than that made by Senator Gray, who was one of the Peace Commissioners. He started out by frankly stating that he went to Paris opposed to the treaty, but that he had changed his mind on the acquisition of the Philippines, and that circumstances had convinced him of the wisdom of making an exception and signing the treaty which he declared to be a wise conclusion of a most delicate, dramatic and taxing task. He said that while he would not retract what he had said as to the soundness of the principle of a conquering distant territory, there were times when nations, as well as individuals, have to choose between evils. Speaking of the future of the Philippines, he said that he had unhesitatingly advised the American people and believed that they would not only give the natives their freedom when they had shown a capacity for taking care of themselves as a nation, but that they would manage the affairs of the islands wisely and well while they controlled them, and give the islands a fair start in civilization before turning them loose to drift for themselves.

The bill for the increase of the regular army to something like 100,000, if amended to give the President discretion to keep the number down to 50,000 and by the abolishment of the army "contingent," and in other minor ways, passed the House by a vote of 168 to 125. It came very near to being a strictly partisan vote, as only six Republicans—Loud of California, Connelley of Illinois, Johnson, of Indiana, McEwan of New Jersey, and Wadsworth of New York—voted against the bill, while four Democrats—Taylor of Alabama, Berry of Kentucky, McCallan of New York, and McAleer of Pennsylvania, and one Populist—Skinner of North Carolina—voted for the bill. Members of the administration express confidence that the bill will get through the Senate practically as it is, but others have doubts.

A report has been made to the House in favor of the Hill financial bill, from the Finance Committee, not because there is any probability that the bill can get through Congress, but to satisfy the demands of those who are in sympathy with the Indianapolis Monetary Conference. The bill starts out by declaring that the gold standard shall be maintained; provides for interchangeability of all forms of money; separation of the note issue from the fiscal branch of the Treasury Department, and for the gradual retirement of the greenbacks.

A published interview with the German Ambassador to the United States, in which he declared that Germany was not interfering with plans of this Government in the Philippines, would have been received with more pleasure if the Ambassador had not added that the reason for German non-interference in the Philippines was that the United States had not attempted to interfere when Germany made its recent grab of Chinese territory, which means if it means anything, that Germany is not keeping its hands off because it is none of its business, but as a payment for our not meddling with its Chinese grab. It is also a sort of notice to this government that if Germany concludes to grab more Chinese territory we must keep quiet about it or take the chance of Germany putting a flag in the Philippines.

will not share in the appropriations, on the extravagance of such appropriations, the House passed the River and Harbor bill, which appropriates for new work and for the continuation of old work \$23,200,157.64.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Very few bills have yet passed except those designed to procure "pie" Democrats. The bill to make the cohabitation of whites and blacks a felony was lost in the Senate.

The bill to reduce fees was lost. The Scotland county bill, the election bill, the separate car law, the school law, the revenue law, the railroad commission are all yet to be acted upon.

Twelve new directors have been selected for the penitentiary. An increase for Democratic control, will be made in the board of agriculture—the commissioner to be elected by the people.

Over 100 bills have been introduced but they are mostly of special or local nature.

The Judiciary Committee of the House has decided that Judge Newwood can be impeached. Good! The quicker the better.

It is about decided that a constitutional amendment as to suffrage will be voted on in August 1899, state elections changed so that time also that the legislature will adjourn February 15th to some time in August 1899.

LOOK ON THAT PICTURE, THEN ON THIS.

The present holders of Wilmington and Weldon stock bought up the shares (\$100 each) at an average under \$40. On this they have declared, 1st, \$100 Atlantic Coast Line stock for every share of stock an extra dividend, then \$100 of debenture bonds at an extra dividend to each share, then this fall another \$100 of A. C. L. stock as an extra dividend, so the stock is practically quadrupled and each stockholder holds \$400 of stock in effect for every share—originally costing him under \$40, and hence a dividend of 6 per cent is practically a dividend of 24 per cent on par value, or 64 per cent annually on the real cost (\$40 per share) of the stock, so much for the regular and duplicate and triplicate dividends there has been nearly yearly extra dividends, declared usually at Bridgeport, Conn., and in the name of the Atlantic Coast Line, to conceal its issue by the Wilmington and Weldon, the real party.

But this year the Wilmington and Weldon has declared the following dividend itself:

- 1st. 8 per cent on Wilmington and Weldon proper.
- 2d. 7 per cent debenture bonds.
- 3d. 8 per cent A. C. L. stock.
- 4th. 100 per cent in additional issue of A. C. L. stock.
- 5th. \$31.3 per cent in bonds of W. & W. R. R.

Total 156 1-3 per cent dividends for the year 1898 on each share (\$100 par value) of W. and W. stock, which is 380 5-8 per cent dividend in one year on original purchase of stock at \$40 per share.

Now look on this: The Railroad Commission, in view of the enhanced value of money and the low prices of produce, ordered the reduction of passenger fares between points on the Wilmington and Weldon in North Carolina. The Wilmington and Weldon authorities declared that they would reduce their receipts \$27,000 and that they could not afford it, and procured an injunction from Simonton. The case is still pending and not being pushed.

TIMELY ADVICE.

At the recent session at Kansas City of the American Federation of Labor the fraternal from the trades unions of Great Britain advised the convention that its members should take a more lively interest in political matters in order to influence legislation in their behalf. The advice was good, and doubtless accorded with the sentiments of a considerable majority of those present. While much has been done in late years to solidify the workers politically, it cannot be denied that in this country we are still far in the rear of our British brethren in this respect. Conventions may take a strong and unassailable stand on great public questions and adopt even stronger resolutions to carry their views in effect. But how many of the rank and file stand by their principles to the extent of voting for them at the polls? It is a deplorable truth that on election day too many of our people scatter like sheep in a thunder storm. Politics of all parties know our weakness, and by the selection of a few alleged leaders for elective and appointive positions, around the jealousy and break the solidarity of their followers. Good resolutions and fealty to the labor movement are too often thrown to the winds, and former party affiliations are resumed with alacrity, if not always with honor. Until these conditions are changed our demand will be treated contemptuously by national and state legislators.—X. L. Journal.

A FRANK CONFESSION.

Hickory Mercury. The following arrangement of the Legislature did not make the 1899 a Populist paper. It was the leading editor in last week's Statesville Landmark. We commend it to the careful consideration of our Democratic friends:

"When the Legislature met the Democratic members adopted a resolution that only white men should be given positions under it that no member of any other race should be elected to any office within the gift of the Legislature. This action was right and proper, and was unreservedly applauded. The campaign was made on the color line and it is not right to give even a small minor position to colored men when there are plenty of white men willing and anxious to take the same. Neither is it right or proper to allow a man who has succeeded in getting himself into office to quarrel with his own children or other relatives on the public treasury when he has placed at his disposal. We have already had too much nepotism in the Democratic party in North Carolina."

"But we have asked if these resolutions have not been violated by the appointment of a son of Representative Brown, of Stanly, a page, and received no answer. It is charged also that a son of Representative Hanson, of Mecklenburg, has a position as page, and it is further charged that negroes are employed as laborers. Are these things to have? Haven't any of the Raleigh papers nerve enough to print all the facts in the case? If they are not true the public should know it and if they are true the public should know it. Let us not wait until the next campaign for our political enemies to do us these things to our embarrassment. There was no sense in adopting the resolutions if they are not to be lived up to; there is no sense in attempting to deceive the people. It is not only wrong to deceive them but it pays infinitely better, as a matter of policy, to deal honestly and candidly with them at all times."

A bill is under consideration for introduction in the North Carolina legislature to repeal the act creating the present railroad commission of the State and to create in its stead a commission on corporations. For the good of North Carolina it is sincerely hoped that in the event of a creation of such a commission its members may be selected because of their known friendliness to corporations. Manufacturer's Record.

Don't be alarmed, brother! The corporations paid dearly for the present Legislature, and it can't afford to let any bill pass which will be detrimental to their interests. They didn't flood the state with "white supremacy" oratory, and "nigger" howling campaign documents, last fall, just for the fun of the thing. Rest assured, if a new commission is appointed by the Legislature in session at Raleigh it will be very "friendly" to corporations.—Hickory Mercury.

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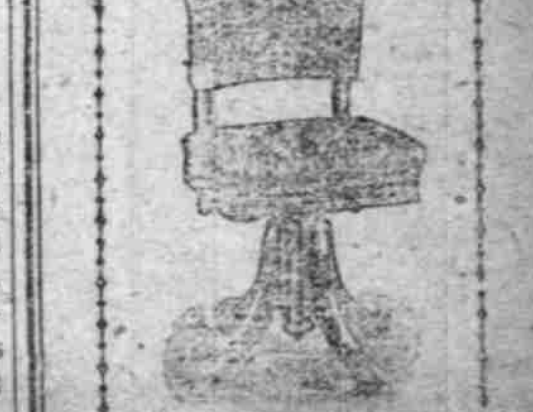
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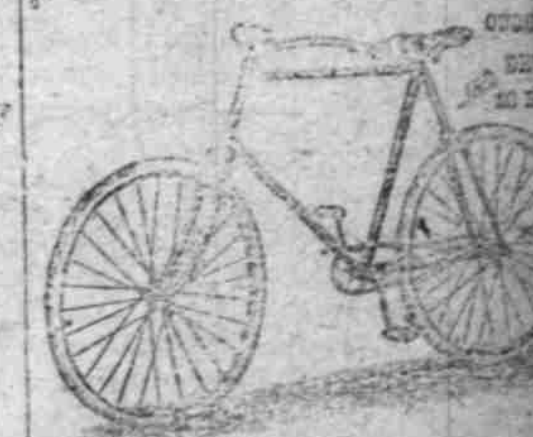
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