

GOVERNOR TELLS WHY HE REMOVED THE TWO WILSONS

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

By the Railroad Commission act of 1891, it is provided that it shall be the duty of the Governor to suspend from office any Railroad Commissioner who shall become the holder of any stock or bond of any railroad company, or who shall have any interest in any other railroad company...

These commissioners were to pass judgment upon complaints against railroads, to fix rates upon their traffic, to assess the properties for taxation, and thus exercise powers vitally important to these corporations. And the law said in substance, that a Commissioner should not hold a share of stock in any railroad company...

This last provision I mean to mean that if he shall be suspended, in the opinion of the Governor, he becomes for any reason disqualified to act.

Says the law, after enumerating various prohibited interests, such as stocks and bonds, "he shall not have any interest in any railroad company in any way." This I understand to mean that he shall not enter into contracts with them, that he shall not make money out of them or seek to make it; that he shall not make transactions with them for his pecuniary benefit or advantage...

Some of the letters and other papers which were sent to the executive office in these cases were signed by parties who have not consented to their names being published. Fearing that these persons might regard it a breach of confidence for their communications to be published...

But the names of the witnesses, who according to my best information will establish these allegations, will be given to any investigating committee of your honorable body at any time at your pleasure.

The following extracts from papers and letters exhibit some of the evidence which I am informed can be procured by such process as your honorable bodies may choose to provide for purposes of investigation:

1st. On or about the 24th of July, 1897, Hon. Otho Wilson, Railroad Commissioner, and myself met in the Glen Rock Hotel, Asheville, N. C. He thought that I was the proprietor at first, and said in substance, "but he would like to sell the lease to the Round Knob Hotel, as that would be the best way to have Asheville made a meal station, by closing the hotel at Round Knob. He proposed to sell the lease for five hundred dollars the lease for five years; the first year was to cost nothing, but the remaining years \$250 each year. He also stated that I would get free transportation for myself and my family already had them. I asked him what assurance he could give me that the Round Knob Hotel would remain an eating station, if operated by me, and he said that he could give me assurance as long as it was owned by the railroad folks, either naming Col. Andrews, or J. W. Wilson, or to the best of my recollection, both, and if I leased it and the hotel closed, there was no reason why I should not have the lease back to Raleigh, he took nearly everything in it, did not leave a change for the beds, took almost all the furniture he bought for his poor mother. The old lady Wilson has complained time and again to others, not to me that she never got a cent. Now, if you want any more proof that he leased the hotel, write me or send to my one at Old Fort that is engaged in business, Maj. Wilson asked Mrs. C. and I to accompany their party out to the Murphy branch. I have been told by different members of the family that they did not pay to ride on the trains."

"For any further information in the Wilson case, have the telegraph operator at Round Knob interviewed. Some time prior (more than 30 days) to the change of the eating house, I was informed by Conductor W. W. Barber, that Maj. Wilson had leased the Round Knob to Mr. Christie, who was the eating house at Balsam, N. C., guaranteeing two dinner trains a day."

"Maj. Geo. D. Miles and Mrs. Cunningham, who are now at Round Knob Hotel, will say that Otho's mother told them that she was to get a salary for running the house, and that she had never received a cent; that Otho would pocket all as fast as it came in. The old freight coming to the hotel was D. H. That all the guests of the house would get on the train without tickets or pass or as many as wished to go, and go to Old Fort and attend dances and return without any questions—all that was necessary was for Otho or his boy to be on the train. That the rate of freight on to be paid by Wilson, and the Railroad Company was to give her \$12 per month, simply to take orders for meals. J. J. Lange here, will say that Otho offered to sell out his lease to him, yes, and the parties first mentioned will say that Otho came from Raleigh night or so that he was to answer, to get an affidavit from his mother, that she was the lessee. General Miles says that Otho offered to take him to Murphy, and see that his R. R. fare should be nothing; that all he had to say "pass that man." At that time of getting the mother's affidavit, the operator at the hotel received orders to report the leaving of trains. Day before yesterday, the dispatcher here told conductor on fast freight to stop at Round Knob hotel and let off S. Otho's boy. On this train no passengers are allowed to ride."

"Mr. S. Otho Wilson asked for and secured his rate of freight on his goods to Round Knob. You only have to consult the R. R. books to prove this assertion. "About 6 or 8 weeks ago, one J. N. Morgan and myself were standing in front of the Farmers' Warehouse in Asheville, N. C., and Mr. S. Otho Wilson came down on the opposite side of its intention, can a man be qualified to act as Commissioner who has this pecuniary interest at stake, and is at the mercy of the road he is set to look after, and watch and control. The law does not declare any man dishonest because he has an interest in a railroad, or deal with its officials. It only declares that such interest or dealings disqualifies the Commissioner. The legislature had the power to prescribe any and every disqualification. The duty of the executive is to execute the law. There is no discretion in this. The words of the statute are, "shall suspend."

After Mr. J. W. Wilson was called upon to show cause why he should not be suspended, he made a statement of his interest in the hotel property. To quote his own language, "this was done agreeable to section 1st, of the Act, to avoid criticism by even the newspapers, as to his conduct as Railroad Commissioner."

If by these transactions he had become disqualified, the purpose of the law could not be defeated by conveying away his interest in the property. In performing the duties imposed by this law as to suspending this class of officers, the Governor can only act upon such information as comes to him, none of which is evidence in the strict and technical sense of that word. He has no power to obtain evidence; he cannot summon witnesses; he cannot issue a subpoena; he cannot take testimony; he cannot compel anybody to testify; he cannot take depositions. If he could procure affidavits, they would be only voluntary and would not be evidence because they would be ex parte. In the nature of the case therefore, he is compelled to act upon such information as may be voluntarily given to him either orally or in writing. Some of the letters and other papers which were sent to the executive office in these cases were signed by parties who have not consented to their names being published. Fearing that these persons might regard it a breach of confidence for their communications to be published...

A VICTIM OF STORY BUILDERS

Mr. G. O. Andrews Tells of His Washington Experience.

Did Not Register Under an Assumed Name and Did Not Stop up Crack. Contended on This Mundane Sphere.

Mr. G. O. Andrews has returned from Washington and is entirely recovered from his late unpleasant experience with a gas jet in that city. Mr. Andrews is now at his home in Greensboro recuperating his general health, having contracted a severe case of grip while on a business trip to New York. He writes The Post, expressing his deep regret at the alarm caused to his friends by the sensational reports published in many of the newspapers concerning the accident to him and also desiring to retract the injurious statements done him by these reports. We quote from Mr. Andrews' letter as follows:

"I am much obliged to The Post for so promptly publishing my statement given out by me at Washington the day after the accident occurred, contradicting the absurd and preposterous purpose attributed to me of an attempted suicide by asphyxiation. I have, as you know, been engaged in legitimate journalism for nearly fifteen years, and was, I believe, rated as a fairly good manipulator of rhetoric in the field of innocent prevarication, but I am frank to say that I never in all that experience acquired the art of cold-blooded fabrication and such far-reaching and tragic theorizing. I am slender and scanty a basis of fact as that lately exhibited by the Washington newspapers. And they persisted in adhering to the unjust conclusion upon which they had sprung after the manner of it had been pointed out to them, and so tenaciously did they cling to it that they adduced falsehood to support it. The stories that the cracks in the doors and windows were studied with papers and that I registered under an assumed name different from my own, are absolutely false, as well as the statement that a letter was found stamped and addressed which was probably intended for some friend, containing an explanation of "my rash act."

This was a letter which I had written to a party in New York purely on a business matter, which I had laid on my dressing case, intending to mail myself as soon as I went down stairs after taking a nap. It was mailed for me the next day by my physician at the Emergency Hospital at my request. The whole fact of the matter is the Washington newspapers started off to make out a case of suicide and no amount of reasoning or presentation of facts could turn them from their unjust course. I only found one newspaper which was disposed to be fair, The Times, which published the same statement as that given to you and commented upon it as follows:

"Greek O. Andrews who came near being smothered by gas at the Hotel Dunbarton yesterday is coming along well today and expects to be out of the Emergency Hospital shortly. The report of the death of Andrews, which was published in the morning paper to his room this morning, was denied by the statement that he had attempted self-destruction. He is a man about 31 years old and is unmarried, and has been employed by the hotel as a waiter who is not contented with earth or who is displeased with either man or woman kind."

As a matter of fact the whole occurrence grew out of an accident so far as I was concerned. I had not touched the gas jet that day and have no idea how the gas was escaping, unless the jet had defective or unless it had been carelessly left partially open, by some of the servants of the hotel. I had been out in the forenoon and had in the afternoon gone to my room to take a nap. Before going to bed I noticed a slight odor of gas but thought it came from the hall or some other room. I did not detect anything wrong until the jet in my room and knew nothing of the escaping gas until I was aroused several hours later. I do not believe the gas was escaping in very great volume or that the room was so full of it as the newspapers represented. If such had been the case I could not have survived after the time I had been in it.

And here I wish to state as a fact that there was only one jet in the room and not two as has been stated by some papers. I had no knowledge of the fact that the gas was escaping in the room until I arrived at the hospital, where I was informed of it, and where I was in a remarkably short time in a perfectly normal condition for a man who had been asphyxiated. Furthermore, if I had been bent upon self-destruction by this method I should have scarcely left the transom over my window open as it was throughout the whole incident and the very large amount of gas must have freely escaped. I will be gratefully obliged to you if you will publish this statement of the facts in the matter as I do not wish my friends to entertain any false impressions, and an unjust phase which has been put upon this unpleasant mishap by irresponsible and mendacious newspaper reports. I wish also to thank through you the very large number of friends of my friends in Washington who called upon me at the Emergency Hospital and lavished upon me every kindness and volunteered in every way in their power offers for my comfort and assistance. Through their efforts much was also done toward checking the falsehoods and misrepresentation of the newspapers.

THE GREAT SOUSA COMING. John Philip Sousa and his famous band will give a single concert at the Academy of Music January 25. This is an announcement that will bring pleasure and anticipation to every lover of music, for Sousa is probably closer to the hearts of the people than any other conductor or composer of the day, and with a thorough appreciation of their tastes he is giving them what they want. Sousa is as much a master of the art of programme making as he is of march composition. His concerts are models of good form and good taste in this respect, and that is one reason why the coming of Sousa is an event in the musical season that arouses great enthusiasm.

A distinctive feature of the concerts of Sousa and his band, in addition to the liberality and graceful courtesy of the conductor in gratifying the wishes of his public in the matter of enclosures, is the fact that there are no tedious waits between numbers, a Sousa concert being in reality a continuous feast of melody from beginning to end. The programme to be given here will include some of the newest music of the day, and a number of standard favorites. Several of the great Sousa marches may be anticipated as enclosures, the demand for them being so

THE BEST PRESCRIPTION FOR CHILLS

And fever is a bottle of Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic. Never fails to cure; then why experiment with worthless imitations? Price 50 cents. Your money back if it fails to cure.

PROMPT PAYMENT. Of \$5,123.70 to the estate of the late George Tait, of Norfolk, formerly of Wilmington. Final proofs of claim January 9, 1899. 1m

FOR RENT. Five-Room Cottage; good garden, and water on the lot. Apply to M. T. NORRIS, Corner Wilmington and Martin Sts.

We appeal to the county commissioners to have a coat of white paint put on the statue of justice on top of the court house. The poor girl is a fair representative of a native Filipino.

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Are known everywhere as the BEST that are made.

Highest-Grade Material, Latest-Improved Facilities, Perfect Care in Manufacture.

Are the causes which produce the effect of placing MASON'S goods in the lead.

We manufacture 200 different kinds of Cakes and Crackers, all of which are choice. We call house-keepers' attention to the following leading brands, and suggest a trial.

CRACKERS. Mason's Standard Soda. Favorite Milk Biscuits. Bouquet Wafers (Plain and Salt).

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CAKES. Cafe Wafers, Queen and Fancy Mixed. Honey Cocoanut and Marshmallow Creams. Sponge Dessert. Lemon and Vanilla Wafers. Walnut Bonbons.

MASON'S ENGLISH GINGER-SNAPS ARE THE FINEST MADE

A full line of Plain, Penny and Two-for-a-Penny Cakes for the jobbing trade.

Our goods can be obtained from all first-class grocers. All goods packed to suit purchasers.

JAMES A. SANDERS, North Carolina Representative.

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IS WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT.

If you need anything in the way of Clothing, Overcoat, Underwear, Hats, Shoes, etc., etc., see our stock before buying elsewhere, and you will save money.

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NOW FOR 1899!

We are indebted to our friends for a most flattering business for the past year, but we are going in for a still better business for 1899. Besides a large and varied assortment of

SCHOOL BOOKS.

To meet the demands of the private and public schools in Raleigh and over the state, we shall carry constantly in stock

A full and complete line of OFFICE SUPPLIES, BLANK BOOKS, STATIONERY, ETC.

And shall make it to the buyers' interest to get our prices before buying elsewhere. Correspondence solicited.

Alfred Williams & Co.

CHANGED HIS MIND

Figaro. "You are just going out, I see—" "Yes; a short engagement. What was it you wanted?" "It was about that little debt I owe you."

"I was going to ask you for a little delay—" "Oh—excuse me but I'm already late."

"I say I was going to ask you for a little delay, when I met a fellow who paid up what he owed me, and—" "Will you take a glass of wine?"

The Manufacturers' Record gives a few random texts for 1899, which can be studied with profit by business men generally. Here they are: