

GROWERS OF TOBACCO

North Carolina Farmers Combine to Swat the Trusts

AN ENTHUSIASTIC MEETING

Organization Called The Tobacco Growers Association.

FIGHT A DEVIL WITH FIRE

Col. J. Bryan Grimes Elected President and a Permanent Organization Effected—The Association Will Buy Its Own Tobacco and Fix Its Own Prices—Many Plans Suggested and Many Rejected—Warm Discussions During Which the Speakers Made a Target of the American Tobacco Company.

Over one hundred of North Carolina's leading tobacco growers, representing the entire tobacco-raising industry of the State, met last night in Metropolitan Hall and effected a permanent organization for their protection against the evils worked by the American Trust.

The plan of Mr. J. F. Jordan, of Greensboro, which has been given several times in these columns, was adopted, and the farmers of North Carolina have taken the first step toward independence and prosperity.

The meeting was largely attended, and very enthusiastic. The details follow.

The Preliminary Sessions.

In accordance with the call issued by President J. Bryan Grimes, about fifty of the delegates met yesterday evening in the hall of the House of Representatives.

It was entirely an informal meeting, and all who were not bona fide delegates to the convention were asked to retire.

When the delegates assembled, President Grimes arose and announced the fact that the meeting was only preliminary to the night meeting, as only about half of the delegates had arrived. The preliminary meeting, he stated, could arrange some details that would greatly expedite the transaction of the regular meeting.

Mr. Grimes stated further that the city authorities had kindly tendered the use of Metropolitan Hall to the delegates, and he desired the sense of the meeting as to whether the offer should be accepted. After some discussion it was decided to hold the regular meeting in Metropolitan Hall at 7 o'clock p. m.

A recess was taken at 1 o'clock for dinner, and at 4 o'clock the preliminary session was resumed. Outsiders were also excluded from the afternoon session. The main business was the organization of several committees and a general discussion of matters pertaining to the object of the convention.

Meeting in Metropolitan Hall.

At 7 o'clock President Grimes called the meeting to order, stating that it had been thought best to reduce the cost of the meeting to writing. He then read the address. It was couched in concise and forcible language. It detailed the action of the trust in forcing the farmers to sell at ruinous prices, and the necessity for determined action to protect the farmer. The address stated that co-operation of capital was to be encouraged, but when that co-operation began to threaten the producer it was time for the producer to call a halt.

The references of the president to the dangerous powers of the trusts and the necessity for action were greeted with applause.

At the conclusion of the address the president announced that Messrs. W. W. Sharp and T. V. Parker would act as secretaries, and ordered a roll call of delegates. The following delegates responded to their names: Beaufort—R. W. Wharton. Chowan—T. L. Lee, W. G. Smith, John King. Cumberland—J. A. Jaine. Currituck—J. D. Yates, Thomas Horton, C. L. Williams, A. Stone, S. R. Harwood. Stokes—Dr. Elias Fulp, C. A. Glidewell. Wayne—J. B. Phillips, R. A. Hunt, G. W. Ward, W. H. Faulkner, J. M. Bass. Warren—G. W. Best, D. A. Sasses, J. W. Thompson. Halifax—D. S. Moss. Greene—J. E. W. Sugg, B. F. Moore, W. H. Garden. Wayne—G. W. Reams, J. B. Davis, S. J. Pritchard. Wayne—B. Hobgood, C. H. Lee, G. M. Bell, W. B. Upchurch, S. H. Scarborough. Wayne—R. R. Corren, J. J. Laughinghouse, U. M. Smith, A. J. Moye.

Person, G. G. Moore, J. E. Horns, N. T. Wagstaff, Dr. Merritt. Guilford—W. H. Case, W. L. Linsy, C. T. Weatherly, N. G. Groome, J. F. Daggett.

Robeson—T. F. Toon, H. F. Purvis, Wilson—H. F. Freeman, R. S. Wells, A. Green, W. Barnes, F. W. Barnes, J. T. Groves, E. J. Turner. Granville—G. L. Allen, T. B. Daniel, B. L. Hester, J. F. Cole, L. Knott. Rockingham—J. P. Wilson, J. Ladd, R. F. Fitzgerald, J. M. Thorps, J. V. Price.

Warren—G. W. Reams, S. J. Pritchard, J. B. Davis, N. M. Jones, J. A. Daughton. Durham—W. S. Terry, W. T. Mangum, J. T. Rogers, J. W. Lynn, J. A. Colwell.

Orange—M. M. Moore, W. L. McDoon, A. L. Holden, J. M. Monk, Forsyth—B. C. Marshall. Lenoir—W. L. Kennedy, E. B. Rouse. Randolph—D. R. Parker, W. L. Baldwin.

Vance—S. G. Satterwhite, J. W. Duke, I. M. Green, W. B. Daniel, A. Frazier, K. W. Edwards, G. B. Harris.

Franklin—J. K. Spencer, Clyde Harris, Joseph Creedmore, G. W. Ford, C. W. Roberts, Y. Turner.

The following delegates were present from Virginia: T. S. Wilson, Halifax county; John R. Hutchins, Pittsylvania county.

At this juncture President Grimes arose and in a few well chosen words thanked the State press on behalf of the convention for the zeal shown by it in aiding the work before the convention, and requested the representatives of the press present to act as assistant secretaries.

On motion, Mr. J. B. Phillips, chairman of the committee on organization, read the report of that committee. The report was to the effect that, owing to the ruinous effect on prices brought about by the trusts, it had been thought essential for the farmers of North Carolina to organize for mutual protection. The organization shall be called the Tobacco Growers' Association of North Carolina.

Plan of Organization.

Whereas, The trust organized to control the leaf-tobacco output of North Carolina has reduced the price of leaf tobacco to the bare cost of production; We, the tobacco growers of North Carolina, assembled at Raleigh on the 17th day of January, 1900, and organized under the name of The North Carolina Tobacco Growers' Association: The object of said organization being to increase the price of leaf tobacco by legitimate competition in trade.

Resolved 1st, That all tobacco growers in North Carolina shall be eligible to membership in this organization.

Resolved 2d, That the officers of this organization shall be a president, a vice-president, secretary, treasurer and an executive committee of one member from each Judicial District in addition to the president, who shall be ex-officio member of said committee.

Resolved 3d, That the president of this association shall preside at all meetings of said association, and also at the meetings of the executive committee. It shall be the duty of the vice-president to perform all the duties of president in his absence. The treasurer shall receive all money belonging to the said association and pay out the same under such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by the executive committee. The secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings of said association and of the executive committee, and perform such other duties as shall be prescribed by the executive committee. The executive committee shall meet immediately upon their election and shall establish rules for the guidance of this body not inconsistent with the plan of organization.

Resolved 4th, That each county in the State be requested to organize county organizations and report the same to the State organization hereby established. The officers of said county organization shall be a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer and an executive committee of five members, and such other and further officers as shall appear to them to be necessary to the successful conduct of said organization.

J. B. PHILLIPS, For Committee.

The report was adopted and the chair announced the election of officers in order. Col. J. Bryan Grimes was elected president unanimously amid great applause. Colonel Grimes responded to the honor in a brief address of thanks.

Mr. J. B. Phillips was unanimously elected vice-president and briefly responded.

Mr. T. V. Parker and Mr. W. M. Sharp were placed in nomination for secretary. The roll of counties was called and Mr. Parker declared elected. The election was then made unanimous.

Mr. W. B. Upchurch of Raleigh was unanimously elected treasurer of the association.

The report of the committee on program was called for and was read by the secretary. This report embodied the detail for the regular meetings and it was adopted.

The report of the committee on plans was then called for. The committee recommended that the plans of Messrs. J. F. Jordan, E. B. Phillips, T. W. Ragsdale or any other feasible plan be read before the convention, turned in to the secretary, referred to a committee of seven to be appointed by the president, which committee, in turn, would consider and report to the convention. Mr. J. F. Jordan, of Guilford.

WHEELER WILL RETURN BOERS MAKE ATTACK

The Little General Tired of New Tactics Adopted in a Fight Near Slingersfontein

ORDERED TO COME HOME BULLER'S FORCES MOVING

He Will Get His Orders When He Arrives at San Francisco—Filipinos Making a Stir in Regard to Friars—Otis Gives Them Assurance—Insurgent Heads Bob Up Only to Get Cracked—Progress of the Campaign.

Washington, Jan. 17.—War Department officers deny that General Wheeler has resigned.

It is true that he is returning to the United States, but this is in pursuance of direct orders to return home and report to the War Department for instructions. This action is taken as the result of a communication received from General Wheeler by the President, inquiring if he should remain in the Philippines.

At the time General Wheeler took the unusual course of addressing the President regarding his military future, the President was, of course, unable to advise Wheeler, and a reply to that effect was cabled him. Then Wheeler expressed a desire to return, and on January 15 an order was telegraphed by Corbin directing him to proceed at once to San Francisco and there report to the Adjutant General of the army for directions from the Secretary of War.

It is probable that he will be directed to proceed to Washington to report to the Secretary of War or be placed on leave of absence.

Friars a Bone of Contention.

Manila, Jan. 17.—Religious excitement in regard to the friars is on the increase.

Today, Attorney General Torres, in behalf of the representative people, visited General Otis and asked some expression on the subject. General Otis made this reply:

"There is no necessity for the Filipinos to fear that the friars will again be forced upon them against their wishes. If the church authorities assign friars to curacies and the assignments are obnoxious, the people will not be compelled to accept them."

General Otis also assured Torres that Filipinos would be protected in the exercise of their individual constitutional rights.

Later on, Torres said that Archbishop Chappelle, apostolic delegate, speaking on this subject yesterday, stated that if the Filipinos did not desire the friars to fill the curacies he would not attempt to force them on the people.

Discussion of this matter is having a very wholesome effect.

Two Dispatches From Otis.

Washington, Jan. 17.—Two cable dispatches were received at the War Department this morning from General Otis. The dispatches are dated today and are as follows:

"Schwan's troops are in possession of Batangas province and are about to move eastward in the provinces of Tayabas and Laguna. Wheaton is moving on Lomerk and Taal and has navy co-operation. Casualties are slight. Insurgent loss considerable, in men and property, as they keep up constant opposition. Expedition under Kobbe leaves for hemp ports tonight."

"General Hughes is absent on the west coast of Panay, policing that section. A band of eighty-six Tagalos, which landed in Negros in December, was struck by Bryne in the Negros Mountains. He killed nineteen and captured twenty-eight rifles and ammunition and had no casualties. Troops in northern Luzon are pursuing robber bands with good results."

COLSON CLOSELY GUARDED.

Grand Jury Has Taken Up the Case and Will Soon Find a True Bill.

Frankfort, Jan. 17.—Colonel Colson, who yesterday shot and killed Ethelbert Scott in the lobby of the Capital Hotel here, and incidentally killed Luther Demaree and Charles Julian also, was closely guarded by friends in jail last night for fear that Julian's friends would attempt to do him harm. It is believed that Colson's left arm will have to be amputated.

The body of Scott will be removed today to the home of his father.

Captain Golden is not dead. Golden was a captain in Colson's regiment and sympathized with Scott, whom Colson had court-martialed. Golden is lingering between life and death. He is a prominent mountain lawyer, being Commonwealth's Attorney at Barboursville.

The grand jury has taken up the case and it is expected will return an indictment for murder against Colson.

Marched 'Em Down Again.

Rome, Jan. 17.—The Italian representative in Abyssinia telegraphs that King Menelek, who recently started for the border with a large force, has returned to his home and dismissed his army.

THE WHOLE OF HIS ARMY ADVANCING TO THE BELIEF OF LADYSMITH—SCOTCH MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT WILL DEMAND AN INVESTIGATION OF THE LOSSES AT MAGERSFONTEIN—COLONIAL TROOPS WANT THEIR OWN OFFICERS.

Cape Town, Jan. 17.—A dispatch to the Cape Argus from Rensburg says: "Monday, during an attack on a kopje three miles from Slingersfontein camp, the Boers adopted entirely new tactics. Leaving an adjacent kopje under protection of undulating ground, they attempted to storm a strong position held by Yorkshires and New Zealanders. The Boers crept to within twenty yards of the British trenches without being perceived. Meanwhile the supports kept up a continuous fire from an adjoining hill."

"At about 11 a. m. the Boers boldly attempted to rush the British trenches. The British troops recognized that it was a critical moment and, assuming the offensive, made a gallant bayonet charge. The Yorkshires and New Zealanders were under command of Captain Maddox. They completely frustrated the design of the Boers. The burghers were driven back and dispersed."

"The Boers shelled the British artillery with their long Tom Monday afternoon, but the fire had no effect."

Buller Begins an Advance Movement

Spearman's Farm, Natal, Jan. 17.—9:10 p. m.—Lord Dundonald, with a mounted brigade, seized Springfield bridge Thursday last and took up a strong position at Zwartkopp, commanding Potgieter's Drift. General Lyttleton's brigade was sent to hold the position. The whole British force, with the exception of a garrison to hold Coleson, advanced without delay. General Hildyard's command is now at Springfield. The pont, or ferry-boat recently seized by the British was sent to the south side of Tugela River. After a wait of four days the British advanced and resumed yesterday. Lyttleton's brigade crossed Potgieter's Drift in the evening and is holding kopjes on the British right. General Warren's division made a left flank attack on the enemy. The rest of the column is now crossing the river.

No Official News.

London, Jan. 18.—The first particulars of General Buller's movement by way of Springfield reached London at 2 o'clock this morning from the New York Sun correspondent who is accompanying the Ladysmith relief column. The dispatch was too late for the first edition of the London newspapers. It was dated "Spearman's Farm." It is evidently not far from Tugela River. The dispatch makes it clear that practically the whole of Buller's column is now to the westward of the Boer position at Coleson, and that some fighting occurred on the part of General Warren's division, though reference to this is somewhat obscure.

There is still no official news of the movement since Buller's dispatch of January 11, with the exception of a brief, unsatisfactory dispatch issued by the War Office yesterday, stating that there had been one death from dysentery among the troops near Springfield and one man had been wounded in a reconnaissance along the Tugela River, January 15.

Lyttleton Seizes a Position.

London, Jan. 18.—The Morning Telegraph publishes a dispatch from Spearman's Farm which says that General Lyttleton, after crossing the Tugela, seized, with little opposition, a line of ridges near Potgieter's Drift. Howitzers were carried across the river during the night and the Boer position was effectually shelled from Mount Alice, near Swartzkop. General Warren crossed the river six miles further west, near Wagon Drift, in the face of heavy fire from the Boers. Warren has established a satisfactory lodgment two miles further toward Sproenkop.

Scotch Will Demand Investigation.

London, Jan. 17.—Captain Earle, of the Grenadier Guards, arrived here from South Africa this morning. He denies the stories about the disagreement between Methuen and Wauchope before the battle of Magersfontein. Nevertheless, the Scotch members intend to bring the question of the loss of the Highland brigade in that battle before Parliament and have the subject fully ventilated.

Colonial Troops Want Native Officers.

Cape Town, Jan. 17.—Colonel Bailey and Captain Brabant, both of whom are members of the Cape Parliament, are expected to arrive here today to attend an inquiry in regard to the proposed changes in the organization of the South African Irregulars. These troops say they understand Boer tactics thoroughly and want their own officers instead of imperial officers. It

is now suggested that all Irregulars be collected into one brigade with a general and other officers. It is rumored that General Sir Frederick Carrington will command the brigade.

Martial Law Declared.

Cape Town, Jan. 17.—Martial law has been proclaimed in Hopetown and Philippstown districts of Cape Colony. Premier Schreiner, it is said, objected to signing the proclamation, and only consented to do so when pressure was brought to bear by the imperial authorities.

The Only News from Buller.

London, Jan. 17.—The War Office said today that the following was the only news that has been received regarding the operations of Buller near Springfield:

"January 16.—One death from dysentery January 13; one wounded while making reconnaissance at Tugela January 15."

Losses at Rensburg.

London, Jan. 17.—The British loss in the fight near Rensburg, where the Boers attempted to capture a hill, was six killed and six wounded. After the fight the troops paraded before General French, who complimented them on their work. He praised the New Zealanders particularly.

Gatacre Makes a Protest.

Cape Town, Jan. 17.—General Gatacre sent a protest to the Boer commandant at Stormberg against the wives and daughters of burghers being allowed to live near the camp. Gatacre denies the allegation made by Boers that the British have concealed ammunition in ambulances.

BRYAN AT FRANKFORT.

He Compliments the Legislature on the Election of Senator Blackburn.

Frankfort, Ky., Jan. 17.—William J. Bryan was given an ovation by the Democratic members of the legislature when he spoke in the legislative hall today. He paid a glowing tribute to Senator Blackburn, and to the legislature for electing such a man. He said it was needless to touch on the 16 to 1 question, since Kentucky had declared for it strongly last fall. He called attention to the fact that in the adoption of the Chicago platform the delegates to the Chicago convention carried on the will of the people who sent them there. He denounced lobbyists and urged members of the legislature to pass laws making it felony for a corporation to contribute to a campaign fund, to prevent watering of stock by corporations. He denounced trusts in scathing terms. Mr. Bryan left this afternoon for Cincinnati.

Six Thousand Hear Bryan.

Cincinnati, Jan. 17.—William J. Bryan spoke tonight in Music Hall before an audience of 6,000. He quoted Lincoln's letter to a Boston meeting, in which he said that monarchical tendencies threatened. Mr. Bryan said that no laborer or farmer could afford to be a Republican. He will leave tomorrow for Washington.

MAJOR PATTON'S SUIT.

Tobacco Manufacturers Want the Government to Refund a Large Amount.

Winston, N. C., Jan. 17.—Special-Maj. J. D. Patton, of Richmond, left here tonight for Washington to look after the big suit brought in his name against the government on the retroactive clause of the tobacco tax. The case is to be argued before the United States Supreme Court February 7. Major Patton feels confident of winning. He says that \$853,000 is involved.

R. B. Glenn, Esq., counsel for Wall & Huske in the Gilbert bankruptcy case, left tonight for Charleston, S. C., to make a motion before Judge Simon for the Circuit Court of Appeals to exercise its supervisory powers in reviewing the recent order made by Judge Ewart, of the Federal Court, in which he appointed a receiver to take charge of the stock of hardware. If the motion is granted the case will be heard in Richmond at the February term of the Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. L. M. Swink, one of the counsel for Gilbert's creditors, also went to Charleston tonight to resist the granting of the motion.

VOTE ON ROBERTS.

The Committee Unanimous in the Opinion That He is Ineligible.

Washington, Jan. 17.—A vote was reached at a meeting of the special committee of the House in the case of Representative-elect Roberts, of Utah, and resulted as follows:

The committee was unanimous on the question of fact and also on the ineligibility of Roberts to hold a seat in the House. Seven of them voted in favor of a report to the effect that the House was within its rights in stopping him at the bar of the House, and the other two in favor of a report that he should have first been seated and then expelled.

Mr. Littlefield, of Maine, will draw up the minority report, which will also be signed by DeArmond, of Missouri. There is scarcely any doubt that the majority report will be adopted by the House. The report charges Roberts with having three wives.

Portugal Not Trading in Colonies

Lisbon, Jan. 17.—The Minister of Foreign Affairs declares that Portugal will neither sell, cede nor lease any of her colonial possessions.

AN IDOL SHATTERED

Sibley Grieves the Soul of Champ Clark.

DEFENDS THE SECRETARY

The Pennsylvania Statesman Profers Prosperity to Party Success—Sulzer Proclaimed the One Always Faithful—Urgency Deficiency Bill Passed—Pettigrew Makes Another Attack on the Administration.

Washington, Jan. 17.—The session of the House was enlivened today by a spirited discussion precipitated by Mr. Sulzer in connection with his resolution calling for an investigation of the charges against Secretary Gage in regard to the deposit of government funds in national banks. At the time the House was sitting as committee of the whole on the Urgency Deficiency bill, Mr. Sulzer said the Republican "boss" had characterized his charges as "rot." If there was not to be any investigation, he declared, the Democrats should know.

In the course of the debate Mr. Sibley (Democrat) of Pennsylvania threw a bomb-shell into the camp of his colleagues, declaring that Secretary Gage's course was wise and prudent, adding that, as for himself, he preferred business prosperity to party success.

Mr. Sibley's remarks were applauded by the Republicans. This aroused Champ Clark of Missouri to remark that the time was when Sibley did not have to go to the Republican side for applause. He (Clark) heretofore entertained the highest admiration for Sibley, and had gone so far as to nominate him for Vice-President, but now, he declared, he withdrew that nomination and conferred it on Sulzer, who was faithful under all conditions.

Clark spoke with considerable bitterness, and said in conclusion that Sibley's place was now with the Republicans. He (Clark) preferred to fight a hundred open enemies to a score of professed friends advocating Republican principles.

Mr. Sibley replied briefly, declining Clark's suggestion.

Mr. Hepburn defended Secretary Gage and declared that some rebuke should be administered to representatives who slandered faithful officials. The bill, with a few unimportant amendments, was reported to the House and passed.

Another Pettigrew Performance.

Senator Pettigrew again today took occasion to assail the administration in connection with the debate in the Senate on Mr. Hoar's resolution calling for information in regard to the acquisition of the Philippines and the insurrection there. He asserted that Americans were guilty of firing on Filipino allies, and declared that the blood of every soldier killed in the war was on the hands of the administration. He said he had been accused of a desire "to put the administration in a hole," but he declared that the only thing that can do that is the truth. He charged that the censorship of the press and the concealing of facts in regard to the Philippines situation was for the purpose of re-electing President McKinley. He ridiculed the imperialist claim that the situation in the Philippines was forced upon the Americans by the hand of God. He asserted that it was rather through the inspiration of the devil.

Mr. Hoar's resolution, with an amendment by Mr. Lodge, was adopted.

Mr. Hale's resolution calling for information in regard to the seizure of American flour by the English was adopted after the language contained therein had been modified and a proviso inserted that the information was to be furnished "if not incompatible with the public interest."

The bill to fix the standard of value was taken up, and it was decided to vote on the bill February 15. The Senate then adjourned.

Debate on the Philippines.

Washington, Jan. 17.—Appropriations for the military establishment contained in the Urgency Deficiency bill, which was passed in the House today, gave rise to a breezy debate on the Philippines, in which Messrs. Terry of Arkansas, Williams of Mississippi and Cannon of Illinois engaged. The former two declared their opposition to the administration's policy regarding the Philippines.

MOLINEUX WAS BARNET.

Keeper of Private Letter Boxes Postive in His Identification.

New York, Jan. 17.—The entire day in the Molineux trial was occupied in the examination of two men who used to conduct private letter box establishments, and who both confessed to transactions with newspapers involving payment for their information, in one case even before the police were let into the facts. These witnesses were Joseph Koch and Nicholas Heckman. The latter swore positively that he had known Molineux by sight five years and that he is the "H. C. Barnett" that hired a letter box from him and wrote for patent medicines.