

THE MORNING POST.

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Rain followed
by fair.
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A New Scheme to Work the Negroes for Money

Contributions Are Requested to a Fund for Contesting the North Carolina Suf- frage Laws—Wilkes- boro Court Bill is in Doubt

Washington, Feb. 21.—Special.—North Carolina negroes are planning to test the constitutionality of the suffrage amendment in the federal courts. Presumably this is the same but the present object of the promoters of this movement is to collect funds.

Encouraged by the president's strenuous advocacy of his negro policy and the favorable reception of J. H. Hayes, the negro lawyer from New York, and other colored political agitators in northern cities, enterprising North Carolina negroes have conceived the idea of starting a similar agitation to the one that has been going on in Virginia.

Money is the immediate object of this agitation, and the test in court is left with the future. Circulars have been received here from Henderson and other agents telling of the scheme. It is said this has for a long while been the plan of George H. White, the negro congressman. Whether white is inheriting the present movement has not yet been fully established. W. H. Henderson, N. C., is named as one of those most active in the matter. Ten thousand dollars is the sum of money desired to prosecute the test in the courts. The circular received here contains among other things the following:

Whereas, at a meeting of regular Republicans of Vance county, it was resolved to organize and issue circulars to the friends of the colored race everywhere, asking for help to raise money to test amendment and election laws of this state, and for help from those who are in power to see that rights are protected.

First: As we have always voted the Republican ticket, we ask the president to appoint any judge hereafter who is not in favor of giving us all the privileges guaranteed to us by the 13th and 15th amendments.

Second: We ask the Senate and House of Representatives, a majority being Republicans, to aid in this work in any way that may be necessary for our protection.

Third: We ask anybody who has received any benefits from our party to pay and get others to do the same. We hope every county in the state will be organized, pledging ourselves in advance to pay double our share. We ought to raise at least \$20,000. We wish to test and settle every law that abridges any citizen's right to vote. We deny that any party has any set of men for any cause, or under any circumstances, have the right to arrogate to themselves the power to stop any citizen of this great nation from voting except by crime committed. A relic of feudalism and aristocracy are put by the hands of good and responsible persons and faithfully applied to the purposes for which it is distributed.

Should the president fail to veto the Wilkesboro court bill Monday it will become a law according to the natural course of events. The president of the United States has ten days in which to veto a bill during the session of Congress, and if at the expiration of ten days no action has been taken the bill becomes a law. The Wilkesboro bill was ratified in the Senate ten days ago tomorrow. A phone message to the department of justice this afternoon brought the response that no action had been taken in the case. Attorney General Knox has left the city, and in some quarters the view prevailed that his absence will result in the bill becoming a law. The idea was advanced that a report on the bill should not be made to the president by the attorney general himself, and as he has close relations, as a result of his service in the department of justice, with all the assistants of Mr. Knox, the chances are that an unfavorable report will be made to the president.

The urgency deficiency bill, favorably reported by the House committee on appropriations, contains an appropriation of \$5,000 for the widow of the late Representative James M. Moody. Joseph Klutz saw. "Uncle Joe" Moody, chairman of the committee, yesterday.

and it was given unanimously. In the House tomorrow funeral obsequies in honor of the memory of the late Mr. Moody will take place. The House will meet at noon for this purpose, when memorial exercises will also be held in honor of the late Representative Tongue of Oregon and Rumples of Iowa.

Elizabeth City continues to play its luck. Last week Representative Small secured an additional \$10,000 for the public building at that place, and the senator secured another \$10,000, making \$140,000 in all for the Elizabeth City public building. This additional \$20,000 is the amount asked by the people for the purchase of a new site for the public building.

The urgency and deficiency bill, reported in the House today, carried the following appropriations: \$214, to reimburse the postal revenues for the amount of judgment recovered in the case of the United States vs. C. W. Battle and the sureties on his bond as postmaster at Battleboro, N. C., and earnestly converted into the general treasury; for immediate repairs to the wharf at Wilmington, N. C., recently purchased by the United States, there may be used not exceeding \$2,000 of the unexpended balance of the appropriation for the purchase of the property; for rental of a temporary post office at Greensboro \$1,000.

Senator-elect Overman made his debut in the Senate today. This was during the morning hour when the executive session was called off for an hour for the transaction of routine business. Republicans and Democrats gave Senator Fritchard's successor a most cordial greeting. Mr. Overman gained an idea today of what it is to be known as a member of the United States Senate. Yesterday none but his Tar Heel friends recognized him as he moved about the big building. Today he was pointed out by the army attaches and employes, and when he circled about the capital doors opened in front of him as if by magic and elevators waited for his command.

Judge Spencer B. Adams, of the citizenship act, is here and is keeping his movements as quiet as possible. Instead of stopping at his usual habitation he is registered at the Shoreham, one of the up town hotels frequented by few North Carolinians.

Rev. Ben Hall is Dead

Fayetteville, N. C., Feb. 21.—Special.—Rev. B. R. Hall, presiding elder of Fayetteville district, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, died at 7:30 last evening at the Marsh-Highsmith Hospital, of apoplexy, aged 51 years, leaving a widow and four children. He was in the ministry nearly thirty years and was one of the most prominent members of the North Carolina conference. Funeral at 8 o'clock tomorrow from Hay Street Methodist church.

Death of A. J. Sims

Wilson, N. C., Feb. 21.—Special.—A. J. Sims, one of our best and oldest citizens, died tonight after a short illness.

Gimghoul Banquet

Chapel Hill, N. C., Feb. 21.—Special.—Among the February festivities at Chapel Hill the most enjoyable and charming was the banquet given by the order of Gimghouls in their unique and beautiful lodge last evening. The hall was decorated in the order's colors, intertwined with smilax. The roaring fire in the immense fireplace added greatly to the charm and brought out the many perfections of the "fair sex" to a charming degree.

Miss Alexander of Chapel Hill with G. R. Berkley.

Miss Thompson of Raleigh with Mr. Bernard.

Miss E. Royter of Norfolk with W. F. Carr.

Miss Venable of Chapel Hill with Dr. Howell.

Miss Chambers of Charlotte with Dr. Ruffin.

Miss White of Greensboro with Milton Calder.

Miss Dick of Greensboro with T. L. Gwyn.

Miss Wetherell of Pennsylvania with J. L. Morehead.

Miss M. Royter of Norfolk with A. L. Cox.

Miss Bally of Winston with F. M. How.

Miss Bridges of Tarboro with Graham Konan.

Miss Hawkins of Raleigh with M. C. Staton.

Miss Laurence McRae with J. C. B. Ebringhaus.

Miss Scott of Greensboro with G. C. Green.

Miss Cameron with E. P. Cobb.

Dr. Graham of Durham and Mrs. Graham.

The chaperones were Mrs. W. L. Wall of Durham and Mrs. Royter of Norfolk.

FRATERNITY DINNER

An Evening Pleasantly Spent at Hotel Carolina

Durham, N. C., Feb. 21.—Special.—Following the banquet given to Representative Jones Fuller last evening the Hotel Carolina was the scene of another brilliant occasion tonight. The Trinity chapter of the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity gave its annual stag dinner and it was a very pleasant and enjoyable affair.

The chapter this year is in fine condition and includes some of the best men in college, while among the

J. Ludlow Skinner Killed by Ernest Haywood

Shot in Front of the Post Office Yesterday Afternoon— No Statement of the Cause of the Tragedy —Mr. Haywood Surrendered

The people of Raleigh were shocked and horrified beyond measure yesterday afternoon when the news swept over the city that Mr. J. Ludlow Skinner had been shot down and almost instantly killed by Mr. Ernest Haywood, both being among the most prominent and highly esteemed citizens of the city.

Within a few minutes after the killing there were great throngs of people in the streets and the most intense excitement prevailed. Mr. Haywood gave himself up to Deputy Sheriff Sparks and was later in the evening taken before Justice of the Peace J. C. Marcom where his counsel waived examination and he was committed to jail to await trial.

The killing occurred in front of the post office about 4:20 o'clock. A few minutes before the shooting

alumni Mr. Walter Page of New York city, who will speak here Monday night on the occasion of the opening of the Trinity library, and senator Simmons, are members of the order.

On the second page of the menu card was the list of the present chapter roll and resident members, as follows: Messrs. L. P. Howard, B. F. Dixon, Jr., W. T. Dixon, G. G. Connelly, H. R. Dwire, R. M. Odell, A. B. Bradsher, H. C. Satterfield, A. W. Chadwick, J. B. Satterfield, A. B. Duke, G. H. Coople, A. G. Odell, T. L. Cole, G. H. Flowers, W. W. Flowers, P. C. Grant, E. Green, Prof. R. L. Flowers, Prof. P. T. Durham, Rev. W. L. Cunningham, Rev. E. R. Leyburn.

Besides there were present at the dinner Messrs. W. R. Odell and F. C. Odell of Concord, P. H. Hanes of Winston, State Senator S. J. Durham and J. G. Brown of Raleigh.

Professor Durham acted in the capacity of toastmaster and a number of those present responded to toasts.

The honorary guests of the chapter were Dr. W. H. Flowers, of the department of political science of Trinity, Mr. W. A. Thomas, of Virginia, a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity.

Mr. Haywood and Mr. Skinner were seen talking together on the pavement just to the left of the main entrance to the post office building. There was no noticeable excitement on the part of either of them. No one seems to have seen them when the first shot was fired. However it appears that Mr. Skinner had turned away and had walked across the sidewalk out into the street a few feet. At least he was there when the first shot caused bystanders to turn. Then he quickened his pace, still moving away toward the opposite side of the street toward Turner's cafe and had gotten across the street car track when the second shot was fired and he wheeled about, staggered forward, reaching a little beyond the post office side of the car track, when he fell or sank down, groaning a little and was dead almost by the time any one could reach him. It seems to be a question whether he had turned about when the second shot was fired.

Mr. T. P. Sales was one of the first men to reach Mr. Skinner and he and others carried him into Dr. Johnson's drug store. Mr. Skinner and others of the family were sent for and a little later the body was carried to the residence, 522 North Person street.

Fowler Currency Bill Gets Before the House

Democrats Oppose the Bill, But Cannot Agree on a Substitute to Attain the Desired End

Washington, Feb. 21.—Mr. Fowler, chairman of the committee on banking and currency, after waiting nearly the whole session for an opportunity to consider his currency bill, was finally successful today, and the session of the House was devoted to debate on the proposition. The committee bill was advocated by its author and Messrs. Lovering of Massachusetts and Prince of Illinois (Republicans) and was opposed by Messrs. Thayer of Massachusetts and Lewis of Georgia (Democrats) all members of the banking and currency committee.

At the opening of the session Mr. Fowler of New Jersey moved that the House go into committee of the whole to consider the currency bill, and pending that motion he asked that he control the time for the bill, and Mr. Thayer of Massachusetts against it. To this Mr. Bartlett of Georgia objected, saying there was a difference of opinion on the Democratic side concerning this question. When the motion was put Mr. Bartlett made the point of no quorum, and the speaker, having counted the House and finding only 169 members present directed a call. The motion was carried—137 to 95.

Accordingly the House went into committee, and Mr. Fowler, chairman of the committee on banking and currency, took the floor in support of his bill. He said that all the secretaries of the treasury and practically all controllers of the currency for the past twenty years and all the students of this subject favored a credit currency, the principle upon which the pending bill was founded. He dwelt at length on the absolute necessity of furnishing an elastic currency which could be expanded during the crop moving periods. Under the operation of his bill, Mr. Fowler said, there would be a maximum increase of bank notes of \$140,000,000.

Mr. Thayer of Massachusetts followed, advocating the views presented by the minority of the committee on banking and currency. He realized that something should be done to add to the volume of currency, but could not approve the Fowler bill. While it provided safely for the proposed issue it lacked the necessary elasticity.

While Mr. Thayer was getting forth

House at Work on The Revenue Bill

Only Three Sections Were Adopted Yesterday—Poll, Advorem, Pension and School Tax Remains the Same—The Bond Issue

The revenue bill was taken up yesterday in the House and the first three sections adopted. These are exactly the same as the revenue bill two years ago.

The discussion took a very wide range and the proposed bond issue came in for a share of the discussion. The first section is a simple statement of the objects for which taxes are levied. The second section is the poll tax provision and the third provides for an increased rate of poll tax. The poll tax is \$1.50, the ad valorem tax 21 cents for state purposes, pension tax 4 cents and school tax 18 cents on the hundred dollars valuation, making a total of 43 cents on the hundred dollars.

General Davidson expressed some doubt about the bid tax rate being sufficient for the increased and increasing needs and demands of the state government and institutions. He desired to hear a statement from the chairman of the finance committee on that point.

Gov. Doughton, the chairman stated that after the most careful consideration the committee had decided to ask for an increased rate of taxation. He thought that under schedules B and C a sum not less than \$150,000,000 increase would result, and with the increase in taxable property values that were certain to show in the next assessment, a sum sufficient for all legitimate, reasonable demands would be realized. We cannot grant all the demands that will be made, but can take care of all absolute needs. He thought the appropriations committee with which the finance committee was working closely, would act with the greatest wisdom and consideration, and that no unreasonable recommendations would be made. In regard to the present outstanding indebtedness we must do what is wise and just.

If there are to be any great increases in appropriations of course we will have to raise the tax rate or meet another large deficit, but we must not go beyond our income. We can't give the institutions all they want, but must give them what they actually need. I believe we can run the institutions on the revenue that will be raised by this bill. We must provide for the debt already made but must not make another. He thought the bill presented would raise revenue to the amount of \$1,800,000.

Judge Graham said a mistake was made two years ago. At that time he introduced and urged an amendment two years ago to the revenue bill to tax the gross earnings of railroads. Had that been adopted, he declared, an amount of anywhere from \$32,000,000 to \$150,000,000 would have been raised from that source. He further argued that the railroads have recently repudiated the alleged agreement entered into, and he was in favor now of wiping the whole thing out and requiring them to contribute their just proportion of the taxes. If we do that the problem will be solved and we will be able to raise every dollar of revenue that we need.

Continuing his remarks Judge Graham said that economize as we would it would be necessary to have much more money. Where is it to come from? Railroad men come here and say we must repeal section 50. If we do we practically strike from the books \$50,000,000 of taxable property. The increase in the valuation or assessment of property will not exceed \$10,000,000.

Take the auditor's report and study the returns and you will find there is great need of a change in the manner of enforcing the revenue laws. Many articles included in schedules B and C are not mentioned in the returns from some counties at all. There are no returns made from 33 counties on horse dealers, and no returns from 61 counties on pistol dealers. The law has not been enforced. It is for you to say whose fault it is. The back taxes should be collected. There is a change of sentiment in regard to taxing liquor dealers. They now pay about \$30,000 and we should be able to get about \$300,000 from them.

We know that the railroads are assessed at \$42,000,000. We also know they paid last year a dividend of 4 per cent on \$157,000,000, equal to 6 per cent on \$17,000,000, which is \$65,000,000 more than the sum at which they are assessed. The supreme court decision makes it the duty of the tax commission to see that this property is duly assessed. Why should the railroads not be made to pay their just debts to the state. By our laws they are enabled to make vast fortunes and should be made to pay for it.

Mr. Guion, chairman of the committee on appropriations said he was satisfied the committee was determined to "cut the garment to fit the cloth," and that there would be no deficit that could be charged up as the fault of

the committee on appropriations. The committee is waiting for the recommendations from the finance committee, and the bulk of appropriation will not exceed the revenue to be raised by the bill. He thought the bond issue would be a necessity.

Mr. Dewey, member of the finance committee, explained the necessity for a bond issue. The committee did not think it wise to increase the rate of taxation.

Mr. White of Halifax opposed the bond issue. Did not think it necessary as the increase in prices of product of the soil naturally increased the value of the soil itself. Other values are higher, and the assessment of taxable property should be sufficient for increased to meet all reasonable demands.

Judge Graham said he was opposed to issuing bonds to pay the debts of delinquent taxpayers. Those who have escaped taxation should be made to pay up. He thought money could be borrowed at even a lower rate of interest than is now paid, for emergencies, until these taxes can be collected. What is the sense of paying \$400,000 principle and \$600,000 interest on the same, making the debt \$1,000,000 for the accommodation of those who have sneaked out of paying just taxes.

Sections two and three were unanimously adopted, two provides a poll tax of \$1.50, and section three provides the rate of taxation, the ad valorem tax 21 cents for state purposes, 4 cents for pensions, and 18 cents for public schools, making 43 cents on the hundred dollars valuation.

After the adoption of the first three sections the committee rose, and the revenue bill will come up again Monday at eleven o'clock.

By request Mr. Daughtridge introduced a bill by Mr. Crocker for the betterment of public roads in Wilson county.

An act to correct calls in certain land grants for state lands in what is now Graham, formerly Cherokee county, passed its several readings.

An act to provide for a graded school in the town of Williamston was introduced by Mr. Stubbs.

The House adjourned at 2 o'clock until 8 o'clock in the evening.

Fuller Banquet

Durham Citizens Honor Their
Young Representative

Durham, N. C., Feb. 21.—Special.—The banquet at Hotel Carolina last night, given to Representative Jones Fuller by some of his Durham friends, was decidedly one of the most enjoyable social occasions of the winter season. It was a magnificent act of a grateful people.

From beginning to end, the banquet was in harmony. The responses to toasts were happy and to the point, sparkling with wit and good cheer; the menu was elaborate, and running through the entire banquet was a feeling of good will that made all akin. The large number of guests who had gathered to do honor to one of her sons went into the banquet hall at 9 o'clock, and it was 1 o'clock this morning when all of the toasts had been said and the happy throng joined in singing one of "The Old North State Forever."

When their arrival here the visitors from Raleigh were taken for a spin over the street-car system, going in a special car. In the party were twenty-six people and they went to East and West Durham and then to Lakewood park, about a mile from the city limits. Among those in the party were some of Durham's best known business men who gathered at the depot to welcome the honored guests.

Mr. James H. Southgate presided at the head of the banquet board and acted in the capacity of toastmaster. Six responded to the calls made on them by the toastmaster.

Representative Jones Fuller, in whose honor the occasion was given, responded to the toast, "Our Union, Dependent on the Good Will." In a few words he said that it was impossible for him to tell his feelings on that occasion, and characterized it as a magnificent act prompted by the generous hearts of a generous people. Referring to his subject he said that the latter part of the subject assigned him might be considered premature by some, but not by him. He knew the Durham people and their determination made the depot a tell his feelings on that occasion, and declared, stand closer together than do the people of Durham. We have with us, he said, men who assisted greatly in the work of getting the depot, referring to Senators Justice and Walker. They came without begging, without asking, he said. "I extend to them my thanks and the thanks of our people. God bless the people of this fair city." When he had concluded a presented cluster of carnations was presented him with the compliments of Mrs. Julian S. Carr.

Others who responded to toasts were as follows: "The Railroads," by Senator E. J. Justice; "The Independent Press, Specially When With Us," by Mr. Joseph Daniels, of the News and Observer; "The Occasion and What I Signifies," by Judge H. W. Winston; "United Durham, Best Hope of the Future," by Alderman T. B. Fuller; "No East nor West, but North Carolina," by Lieutenant Governor W. D. Turner.

The Episcopal church at Zanesville, Ohio, is said to be the smallest in the United States. It measures forty-eight feet in length, and but twenty-four feet in width.