

Meekins Considers His Fire as a Streak of Luck

J. Wiley Shook Edifies His Washington Admirers. Mt. Airy Post Office Contest—Irrregularity at Hillsboro

THOMAS J. PENCE

Washington, March 3.—Special.—John M. Meekins, postmaster at Elizabeth City, and president of the Elizabeth City Carolinian Publishing Company, breathed a sigh of relief this morning when he received a telegram giving the information that the plant of the Republican weekly, which has been the center of much turmoil for several weeks, had been damaged by fire. With the administration threatening his official life because his organ refused to grind Roosevelt rag-time, and an editor on his hands who refused to be shaken, Mr. Meekins had come to the conclusion that newspaper proprietorship was a life brim-full of trouble and danger. These thoughts were prevailing in Mr. Meekins' mind this morning as he sat in Senator Pritchard's office, doubtful of the future and fearing not what the day had in store for him in his capacity as federal office holder.

A messenger boy appeared with a brown envelope for Mr. Meekins. Hurriedly, and with some misgivings, the Elizabeth City postmaster tore open the message. "Bully!" shouted Meekins as he leaped out in the floor. "The Carolinian is up in smoke. I have lost Roscoe and I'll get \$1,000 insurance."

The joy of Meekins was unconfined. He broke the news right and left. There was no effort on his part to conceal the fact that the Carolinian was up in smoke. It was not long before he called at the post office department, and some people were so unkind as to suggest that he left the news there in such a way that it would reach Mr. Payne's ears.

Visible outward appearances tonight indicate that Meekins was in a very high relieved state of mind. He talked of establishing another weekly. Roscoe Mitchell wired that the plant was damaged to the extent of \$500. Meekins said it was worth \$1,500 and that he was insured for \$1,000. Having requested Roscoe Mitchell's resignation as editor of the paper in order to continue as a bread-eater under the Roosevelt vine, he said he would have gotten it, because Mr. Mitchell had failed to comply with the terms of the contract under which the lease was made.

The Hon. J. Wiley Shook, the statesman from Pigeon River, arrived in Washington today arrayed in his glad rags. "I didn't bring my beaver," said the Hon. J. Wiley when questioned on this subject by an inquisitive bystander. "For I did not care to embarrass my competitors." The gentleman from Pigeon River wore faultless necktie and he cannot again be consistently called the "collared statesman."

Wiley was the center of an interested group at the National this afternoon, when he gave expressions freely to Senator J. Wiley Shook's views. The bald-headed statesman, with "bond leading Democrats" and extended to the "wild coil in the White House."

The nomination of J. E. Albright to be postmaster at Mount Airy was held up today at the instance of Senator Simmons, who was requested by several Democrats in Mount Airy to take this course on the ground that the applicant is not identified with the business interests of the town and that his residence there is only temporary.

A trip there reported that J. Clyde Cheek, the postmaster, was three hundred dollars shy in his accounts. The sum was made good immediately, in fact that very day, but the post office department is not disposed to overlook the act notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Payne continued to office a short while ago a North Carolina postmaster who was worth a much larger sum and who had to mortgage his property to make it good. A fight is being made by Cheek's friends to keep him in, but there are other local Republicans urging the appointment of J. D. Turner. The chief of police has written here saying, "Give us a new postmaster or abolish the office, as the president did in Indiana."

The sundry civil bill has been agreed on in conference and has gone to the president. The largest North Carolina item is the Senate amendment appropriating \$50,000 for a first class lightship and fog signal to be located at Cape Lookout. The Senate confirmed tonight the nomination of R. W. Smith to be postmaster at Charlotte. Other confirmations were J. Walter Jones to be postmaster at North Wilkesboro and William H. Cooper to be postmaster at Laurinburg.

Richmond Pearson, United States minister to Persia, called on the president Monday. He will convey to the Shah of Persia a handsome token of regard from President Roosevelt. He himself will take as a present to the Shah a typewriter which is fitted with Persian characters. Mr. Pearson has been studying up on Persia, and he finds that while the people of that country have the hottest weather in the world they also have the coldest. A mountain in front of the American embassy is 21,000 feet high and is topped with perpetual snow. Mr. Pearson, who is preparing to leave for his new post, will sail on the 24th.

The verbiage of the resolution authorizing the erection of monuments to Generals Nash and Davidson is such that it has raised the question as to whether or not the two monuments can be located at different places. This question was sprung today after a careful reading of the resolution, and one member of Congress took the position that the governor and the secretary of war could not locate one of the monuments in Raleigh and another in Charlotte. The section of the resolution that has brought about this question reads as follows:

"That the site for the location of said monuments, the designs for the same, the conduct of the work of erection, and the disbursement of the money herebefore appropriated, shall be under the direction of the secretary of war, who shall, however, act jointly with the governor of the state of North Carolina, as far as may be practicable, in the selection of a location for said monuments."

It is contended that the resolution does not provide for sites, as if two separate ones have been contemplated, but that a specific provision is made for one location for the two monuments. Section 3 refers to "the site for the location," and again to "a location for the said monuments." The contention is advanced that Congress has arrogated its power to the governor and the secretary of war the duty of selecting one location by site for the two monuments, which are linked together in every movement made in Congress since the introduction of the original resolution before the Continental Congress. This view is taken by Representative W. W. Kitchin, who will call the attention of the governor and the secretary of war to it.

Senator-elect Overman will take the oath of office Thursday at noon. He will be preceded by his colleague, Senator Simmons. Representative-elect G. B. Patterson arrived Sunday and is quartered at the Riggs. He will remain here until Congress adjourns, acquainting himself with members of the House. Representative-elect Page is expected tomorrow.

The Senate Monday confirmed the following nominations: George W. Robbins to be postmaster at Rocky Mount and Alexander M. Long at Rockingham.

Collector H. S. Harkins and Marshal J. M. Milliken of the western district are here.

C. H. Moore of Asheville, chairman of the Republican congressional committee, is here. He is seeking an appointment as examiner in the department of Justice.

D. K. Pope of Charlotte is here for the purpose of securing a discharge from the army for William Hasty.

Utley Dismisses Lawyers Fayetteville, N. C., March 3.—Special. Just before going to Raleigh, Utley gave this community still another sensation by discharging all his counsel except ex-Judge Sutton, who conducted the application for bail, and Mr. A. S. Hall. The lawyers who went out of commission are Hous. G. M. Rose and J. G. Shaw, Col. C. W. Broadfoot and Messrs. H. McD. Robinson and C. G. Rose. It was said that Colonel Hinsdale had also received his walking papers, but he was with Judge Sutton in the argument before Justice Walker.

FIRE AT WILMINGTON

Factory and Warehouse Lose Heavily

Wilmington, N. C., March 3.—Special. Fire which broke out this morning almost destroyed the block of buildings occupied by the Willard Bag and Manufacturing Company and the warehouse of John S. McEachern's Sons. The total damage was \$15,000, fully covered by insurance. The fire was one of the stubbornest the department has had to contend with in many a day. It started in McEachern's warehouse where, among other things, were stored 2,500 bales of hay. For three hours it looked as if the fire would get beyond control. The Willard Bag and Manufacturing Company lost \$11,000. Over one hundred women will be temporarily thrown out of employment. McEachern's Sons lost \$3,500 and Mrs. E. Volz lost \$1,500. The origin of the fire is unknown.

An Alderman Arrested

Wilmington, N. C., March 3.—Special. William E. Mann, member of the board of aldermen of Wilmington, and on the police committee, was arrested today for interfering with firemen in the discharge of their duty and for drunkenness. He was sent to the police station for a couple of hours. His case will be tried before the mayor tomorrow. Mann made himself objectionable at the fire this morning and was arrested upon request of Assistant Fire Chief Monroe.

Newspaper Fire

The office of the Carolinian at Elizabeth City was damaged by fire Monday night. Information at hand indicates that the fire was caused by the probable origin or cause of the fire. All that is known concerning it is the following telegram to The Post, which was received last night: Elizabeth City, N. C., March 3.—Special.—North Carolinian office building caught fire ten last night. Damage five to seven hundred dollars. Partly covered by insurance. ROSCOE C. MITCHELL.

Buyers Gone North

Messrs. Maurice Grausman and Charles McKimmon, Boylan, Pearce & Co.'s clever buyers, have gone North to make their selections of spring notions. A large clientele of Raleigh women depend annually upon the selections of these gentlemen to get the most modern in style and most attractive material, and Raleigh has never been disappointed in the stock that they bring back for the Easter day parade. The Boylan, Pearce & Co.'s stock this year will be one of the most complete in years.

GUILFORD ROADS

Election on Bonds Ordered for April 14th

Greensboro, N. C., March 3.—Special. A strong delegation, composed of members of the Guilford Good Roads Club and other citizens, went before the county commissioners this morning and asked that a special election be called to give the people an opportunity to vote on the proposition of issuing bonds, to the amount of \$300,000 for the purpose of macadamizing the public roads of this county. After hearing the delegation, the commissioners ordered an election to be held Tuesday, April 14th. Registrars and poll-holders were appointed for the various precincts. There will not be a new registration for this election, which will require a majority of the votes of all the electors in the county to carry the measure through.

The advocates of a bond issue are hopeful of success, but it is realized that much missionary work will have to be done throughout the county, especially in the more remote precincts.

The Passing of Prohibition

Burlington, Va., March 3.—Today marked the passing of liquor prohibition in Vermont, which has been a "dry" state for more than half a century. At an election last month the state voted by a narrow majority to discard the prohibition law and adopt in its place a high-license local option law. Today the new law becomes effective and the cities and towns vote on the question of granting license.

Venezuelan Claims

Washington, March 3.—There are indications that the whole question of the payment of the Venezuelan claims will be settled by general agreement without reference to The Hague. It is said that a joint movement is in progress looking to an arrangement whereby the claims of the unaligned nations, after adjudication, will be guaranteed by a series of time notes, issued by the Venezuelan authorities.

THE BOXER UPRISING

A Serious Situation Prevails in Kwang-si Province

London, March 3.—Private advices from China indicate a most serious situation in Kwang-si province, especially on the Hunan border. The rebels practically control the situation and the imperial troops are quite inadequate to cope with them. The burning of 500 imperial troops, reported Saturday, is only one of many reverses, news of which is not reaching the western world. According to the advices a whole regiment under Marshal Su, the imperial leader, mutilated while under siege recently and joined the rebels, who now number 60,000.

A leading government official who fell into the rebels' hands was beheaded recently because the ransom demanded for his release was not forthcoming. In Kwang-tung the fact that the bands are not united and lack a real leader is the only thing which prevents boxer rule there.

Another Chance for Crum

Washington, March 3.—The president, it is stated on authority, will renew the nomination of Dr. Crum as collector of customs at Charleston, S. C., March 5, when the Senate meets in extraordinary session, and if it fails of confirmation again, Dr. Crum will take the office under a recess appointment as soon as the extra session adjourns.

Ladrones Take a Town

Manila, March 3.—Ladrones captured the town of Ous, in the province of Albay, yesterday. They at first alarmed the municipal police and then surprised the constabulary garrison. A few of the constabulary obtained rifles and resisted stoutly, but they were finally overcome. Two of the constabulary were killed and fifteen were injured or captured.

Graduates Doing Well

Greensboro, N. C., March 3.—Special. The colored Agricultural and Mechanical College, in this city, is making a good record. Although crowded for room the attendance is larger than on previous years and would be even greater if sufficient accommodations could be secured. President Dudley says that, with the exception of the last class, every graduate of the college is employed at some useful vocation and is earning a good salary.

Aldrich Financial Bill

Sent to the Junk Shop

Measure to Protect the President Shares the Same Fate—Philippine Tariff Comes Up for Consideration

Washington, March 3.—When Mr. Hoar called up in the Senate this morning the conference report on the bill to protect the president, Mr. Bacon declared that the alleged conference is a bill which, with one single section, had never been read in the Senate. The bill, he said, is far reaching in its character, and absolutely subversive of the fundamental principles upon which the government is founded. Mr. Hoar replied that the conference report was the Senate bill in its entirety, with the exception of the matter pertaining to anarchists. Mr. Bacon criticized the bill, saying that it discriminated in the matter of gravity of a crime committed against an officer and an individual. Mr. Platt of Connecticut interrupted to say that while he recognized the right and duty of the government to protect a citizen, there was an additional duty on the part of the Senate to protect its officers, that being a duty of the government itself.

Mr. Hoar contended that the bill does not punish a crime against the official more than against the citizen. Mr. Teller flatly told him the bill would be defeated, and Mr. Hoar let it drop. A resolution was adopted continuing until the next regular session the standing and select committees of the Senate on the conference report on the sundry civil bill was agreed to.

Mr. Teller asked Mr. Aldrich whether he proposed to press the Aldrich financial bill. "It is not my purpose to keep the bill in front of the Senate," replied Mr. Aldrich. "After the statements made last night publicly it is apparent that the bill can not pass, but I wish personally to make a statement which I think it is due to the committee to hear."

Mr. Quay—I venture in all humility of spirit to make a request that I think will clarify this situation: that at 2 o'clock this afternoon a vote be taken on the bill known as the omnibus statehood bill (laughter); that after that the Senator from Rhode Island; that the Senator from Massachusetts (the anarchist bill) be taken up and disposed of; that then the Philippine tariff bill be discussed and voted upon; that then the pure food bill be considered. That is a program that will admit all these things and keep the Senate busy during the rest of the session. Mr. Carmack—Does the senator's program include the Littlefield anti-trust bill? (Laughter.) Mr. Quay—No, but I will include that (Laughter).

Mr. Foraker got the floor by unanimous consent. He argued in favor of Mr. Quay's request that "the Senate should do business," he said. Mr. Foraker said he took advantage of the opportunity to say that it would be little short of a public calamity if the Senate adjourned without passing some of these measures. "I hope," said he, "that the Senate will in the early future adopt some kind of a reasonable cloture rule." The Aldrich bill then was taken up and Mr. Aldrich took the floor. He had, he said, been greatly surprised at the attitude of certain Democratic senators. The national banking system, he declared, is beyond the power of the Senator from Arkansas and the Senator from Kentucky to destroy. It is not here by their grace or that of the party they represent. Facing the Democratic side, Mr. Aldrich said: "We have appealed to you in a business-like way to give the treasury a chance to stop the process of contraction and to provide what is equivalent to a means of expansion when it is imperatively needed by the business of the country, and yet you say 'no, we will talk your bill to death for political effect.'"

A small lot of men in the Senate, he said, had deliberately, with malice aforethought, murdered this bill. "The destruction of the bill by you gentlemen," said he, speaking to the Democratic side, "assure as the sun will rise tomorrow morning will impair confidence in business circles," and he added, he wanted to put the responsibility where it belonged. At 2:30 this afternoon Mr. Hanna asked for permission to present the new senators from Delaware, Messrs. Allee and Ball were invited to the bar of the Senate and they appeared on the arm of Mr. Hanna and Mr. Aldrich, respectively. There was loud applause as the four gentlemen went down the aisle. The oath was administered by President pro tem Frye. This, for the first time in several years, the Senate has its complement of members. Mr. Aldrich resumed his speech and, after speaking at length, concluded by saying: "This is not a political or an artisan measure. It was framed for the best interests of the country, without a thought of partisanship or political effect."

STRIKE ORDERED

Wabash System Obtains Protection from the Courts

St. Louis, March 3.—Judge Adams, in the United States district court, has issued an injunction on the petition of Wabash officials, restraining the chairman of the labor committee and all others from interfering with the traffic of the Wabash system.

Committees representing the trainmen and firemen of the road sent ultimatums to President Joseph Ramsey late yesterday, notifying him that the result of the recent poll among employed members of their organizations was that the demands of 15 per cent increase for freight men and 12 per cent for passenger men east of the Mississippi, exclusive of the Canadian line, and double pay for double-header freight trains, must be conceded by noon today or a strike would be ordered. The strike accordingly went into effect.

The number of men who will obey strike orders is variously estimated. From reliable sources here it is stated there are 2,000 employees concerned, of which number 350 are conductors and 300 engineers. As the conductors and engineers have indicated that they are satisfied with the increase granted, and that under no conditions will they join a strike, that leaves about 1,300 men to walk out.

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Live Wire Strung by Walter Murphy

He Protests Against Action of Mr. Watts and Says It Was Indecent and Repulsive—Audubon Bill Passes the House.

Tyrrell Court House Bill

As the session nears the close it becomes more interesting. The pace has been set for incorporating whiskey manufacturers as towns to escape the destructive provisions of the Watts bill. The act incorporating the town of Williams was ratified yesterday, and several more new bills to incorporate others were introduced.

The only fight made on the Williams bill was a single-handed effort by Mr. Curtis of Hancock, and his amendment was overwhelmingly snowed under. The others may not pull through so easily. Mr. Watts, whose name the new law bears, is making an organized effort to defeat the pending bills. He made a personal canvass of the House yesterday while the body was in session, soliciting the signatures of members to an agreement to vote for an amendment to all these new bills for the incorporation of new towns providing that no whiskey shall be manufactured or sold therein.

Out of Mr. Watts' activity in this respect grew the most sensational incident of the present General Assembly. It was a protest in the form of a parliamentary inquiry by Mr. Walter Murphy of Rowan.

Mr. Murphy said: "Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of parliamentary inquiry. It is 'Is it parliamentary, is it right, is it ethical, decorous and in good and chaste taste for a member of this General Assembly to approach members on the floor of this House and try to induce them to sign an agreement as to how they would cast their votes on certain legislation pending in this Assembly?'"

"Does the gentleman from Rowan refer to me?" Mr. Murphy: "I do. You are the gentleman referred to." Mr. Watts: "My conscience is not hurting me about it, and the gentleman from Rowan cannot lecture me." Mr. Murphy: "It is exceedingly gratifying to me and to this House to learn that the gentleman from Iradell has a conscience, and I assure him that we realize very much that there is no one here who would accept the responsibility of acting as guardian for such an intangible and pliable thing as the gentleman's conscience; but I do it against your action here. It is undemocratic, unparliamentary, indecent and repulsive to men of character who have consciences and keep them in their own possession. I protest against any such action by you in this Assembly of the representatives of the people."

Speaker said he wished to rule on the question of parliamentary inquiry, stating that the question was too broad; but he added that he supposed the signing of such an agreement would be a matter entirely in the discretion of the individual members. Mr. Watts continued to solicit signatures to the agreement, and the House passed on to other business.

Tyrrell Court House Bill

The victory gained a few days ago by Dr. Alexander, the Republican member from Tyrrell county, was short-lived. He succeeded in getting an amendment to Senator Sprull's bill regarding the commissioners of Tyrrell to build a new court house. The amendment provided for a vote of the people on the question, and as amended the bill passed its second reading. It came up yesterday on third reading and Mr. Blount of Washington moved to amend by striking out the Alexander amendment, stating positively that Dr. Alexander's position was not sustained by the people of his county. Dr. Alexander spoke for the bill, as it stood. He did not blame the gentleman from Washington for wanting to represent Tyrrell county.

Mr. Blount had spoken forcibly in support of the amendment offered by himself and which left the bill as it passed the Senate. In doing so he energized Senator Sprull and characterized Tyrrell county as "peculiarly the home of the Sprulls."

Dr. Alexander, in reply, said: "I have nothing detrimental to say of Senator Sprull except that he should have gone to the war and fought the battle for what I believed to be right. I am one-half Sprull myself, and was elected here by as good Democratic votes as there are in the state." Mr. McNeill of Scotland said he couldn't see what going to the war had to do with the issuing of bonds for a new court house. Mr. Smith of Gates favored Mr. Blount's amendment, and spoke to the political phase of the question. He said we need to strengthen our lines a little. The success of the gentleman from Tyrrell in this Democratic body has given him undue prominence, and it is discouraging to the Democrats in Tyrrell county. He urged the Democrats to stand by Senator Sprull's bill as it passed the Senate.

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Mr. Blount's amendment was adopted, and the bill passed third reading by a vote of 66 to 19. Senator Sprull was an interested spectator from the lobby, and when the bill passed he quietly slipped through a side aisle and shook hands with a few friends.

Fight Over Audubon Bill The Audubon bill passed the House yesterday. There was no roll-call, but it was clear that more than two-thirds of the members were in favor of and voted for it.

Mr. Westcott Robertson of Guilford led the fight for the protection of the song and game birds of the state. His effort was heartily applauded. He attacked a string of amendments that were offered to the bill, and declared they were only intended to kill the bill.

Mr. Morton, who had introduced a substitute bill, said his amendment was in perfect good faith. He had been opposed to the bill as it stood, in all the committee meetings, and it was through his efforts that the bill was referred to a sub-committee. He was not on the sub-committee, and took this means of presenting to the House a measure that met his views. He did not think it right to empower a private corporation to issue certificates to men to violate laws already on the books. He did not believe in requiring the governor and other officers to make reports to private corporations.

Mr. Robertson said he realized that he had made a grievous mistake in not putting the gentleman from New Hanover on the sub-committee; but that he did not then know the gentleman was a lawyer. The questions to be submitted to the sub-committee were purely legal and he had appointed three able lawyers—General Davidson, Mr. Gulon and Mr. Williams, and they had made a favorable report.

There were several other speeches. Mr. Brittain of Randolph, Mr. Quickel of Lincoln, in favor of the amendments. General Davidson and Judge Graham in favor of the bill. Dr. Blalock of Franklin and Mr. Smith of Gates also favored it.

Amendments to exempt Columbus Brunswick, Transylvania, Pitt, Randolph, Tyrrell and Sampson counties from the operations of the law were voted down. Several other amendments, among them one by Mr. Quickel, which he supported in a strong speech, were likewise voted down.

Mr. Brittain sent up another amendment that took a humorous turn, which went the way of the others—the legislative waste basket. It was as follows: "At the end of section one add the following: Provided that the senior member from Randolph (Mr. Brittain) may have one-half acre of cheap land worth \$1.00 set apart to him by the Audubon Society to be buried on and that same be exempt from the bird-trust created by virtue of the provisions of the Audubon bill; and that his widow and heirs at law be allowed to use the rabbit feet from said half acre free from tax by virtue of any regulations of the Audubon Society; and that the game warden and all his understrappers take the necessary good notice when they enter said land."

When the bill had passed its final reading Mr. Brittain sent up his protest and asked to have it spread upon the Journal. Governor Doughton moved its reference to the committee on rules in order to see if it was properly worded, and the motion prevailed.

House Begins in Detail The House met at 10 o'clock and was opened with prayer by Rev. Dr. M. M. Marshall of the city. No petitions were introduced. Bills introduced By Wood—To provide for working the public roads in Cleyton township, Johnston county. By Riddick—To amend certain laws of 1901. By Scott—To enable the agricultural department to erect an agricultural building at the A. and M. College. By Parker of Halifax—To empower the commissioners of Enfield to donate part of liquor profits to graded schools. By Bullard—To incorporate the Lumberton and Raleigh Railway Company. By Murphy—To incorporate the Salisbury Railway Company. By Murphy—To regulate the sale of substitutes for butter. By Beasley—To relieve certain commissioners of Currituck county. By Harrington of Moore—To regulate the sale of liquor in Jonesboro and Vass. By Love—To amend the Code fixing the compensation of the treasurer of Gaston county. By Doughton—To amend chapter 250, laws of 1891, applying to Wayne county. By Thomas—For the relief of certain disabled soldiers in Ashe county. By Davidson—To repeal the laws taxing dogs in Buncombe county. By Murphy—To incorporate the town of Farmington in Davie county. By Etheridge—To regulate the sale of wines and liquors at Nags Head Hotel. By Woodard—To prohibit the sale of wine and other intoxicating drinks at certain places in Pasquot county. By McCall, by request, to incorporate (Continued on sixth page)