

THE MORNING POST

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Office in the Pullen Building, Fayetteville street. The Post will publish brief letters on subjects of general interest. The writer's name must accompany the letter. Anonymous communications will not be returned.

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THE WEATHER TODAY: Fair; warm. SUNDAY, APRIL 24, 1904.

The contract by which the Panama canal, route, and all appurtenances thereunto belonging are fully and forever transferred to the United States of America for keeps has been signed, sealed and delivered, and now Uncle Sam may proceed to shovel dirt.

The Charlotte Chronicle artist "pictures" State Weather Man Von Herrmann going to western North Carolina the early part of this week without his overcoat and promptly returning astraddle of a stove. It about fit the case.

Burke county farmers refused to permit such a thing as a lively April snow storm stop them planting their corn. It was time to plant corn, and when that time arrives Burke farmers plant right along, snow or no snow. And they always have good crops and plenty to live on.

The Winston Sentinel puts it well in saying "your poll tax must be paid before or just after May 1st. If it is not paid before May 1st you will not be permitted to vote next November."

Yes, it has got to be paid anyhow; but must be paid before the date named to entitle you to vote. Why lose your vote?

That is an intensely interesting letter in the supplement of this issue from Col. W. J. Saunders giving an account of incidents which occurred while our army was on the retreat from Raleigh to High Point and preceding the surrender. His description of the "council of war" held this side of Hillsboro is graphic, and develops an incident not heretofore published that we have noted. Colonel Saunders at that time was serving on the staff of General Wade Hampton.

What may really be called Hon. Claude Kitchen's maiden speech in Congress was delivered by him on Friday, and it is only necessary to say that Claude Kitchen made it, that it was devoted to the obstreperous occupant of the White House, to know that it was far-reaching throughout and gathered in the wool at every reach. It was a stunner and found a new spot to land on before the object of his consideration could recover from a preceding disorganizer. Mr. Kitchen recognized the necessity for surgical skill, and he "seen his duty and done it." It is not surprising that the eloquent gentleman enthused his friends and confounded his enemies.

MR. PAGE AND THE POST

The following was received yesterday from the gentleman whose name is signed thereto: "To the Editor of The Post: Your editorial in today's paper headed 'A gross slur on the State Press,' has been called to my attention. I am not sure that your reporter quotes me with exact accuracy, but we will not quarrel about that—let it stand as he puts it. I am made to say, in substance, that the papers twist and distort evidence to suit their own views of the matter under investigation, and so as to make it support as strongly as may be their own side of the question. First explaining that I had the Post and the News and Observer only in mind when the statement was made, I insist upon the exact accuracy of my observation. For years and years these two papers have filled their editorial columns with abuse of each other, and but little else. Taking the cue from their chiefs, the reporters of both have sought to make their staff carry the color of the editorial column. Speaking again very freely, I may say that in my opinion, your oft repeated declarations that my friend Daniels leans to populism and fusion and that sort of thing is pretty nearly true, and I am also convinced of the truth of his charge that the tenor of your editorials comes to you from higher up. I am inclined to think that most of those who read both papers will agree with me that your charges against each other have contained much truth. Now these two papers, the Post and the News and Observer, were the only ones, so far as I have heard, that wished or proposed to have reporters present during the investigation of the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad. If there is any sane man in the State who believes that either would have treated the witnesses and the committee fairly in their reports and comments from day to day, then perhaps the committee made a mistake in excluding them. For myself, and judging by the past, I am quite sure that both would have colored things to suit themselves. We did hope and want to do this job fairly and thoroughly, therefore these reporters were excluded. Now, having placed myself between the lines and in the way of the cross fire you have been shooting at each other for years, fire away, both of you, and may the best shot score the first hit. My hide is pretty tough, and I am sure the reading public will thank me for giving both of you a new target. Yours, etc., HENRY A. PAGE.

Aberdeen, N. C., April 22, 1904. (Copy to N. & O.) What Mr. Page states, directly or by implication, with reference to the Post, that it has at any time been untruthful or unjust in its comments on or reports of any matter with which it has attempted to deal, or that in its editorial or reportorial department it has distorted or misrepresented on any occasion, is not the truth. His repetition of the charge that the "editorials" of the Post come from sources "higher up," a charge which originated with one who stands branded throughout the State as an infamous liar, does Mr. Page no credit; but is a reflection upon his own good faith and sense of justice. We will simply state that this charge is not the truth. When Mr. Page was in Raleigh enroute to New Bern to begin the investigation he called upon the editor of the Post and in reference to a statement in the Post that the investigation would be public and that a reporter of this paper would be on hand, said that the committee had decided not to have all its enquiries public or rather open to the reporters; that, for instance, he did not think, while going from place to place making enquiries with a view to developing information that a reporter should be at his elbow and repeating these, which might develop nothing, and the repetition of such questions might do harm; but, when the committee got to work taking evidence, the Post should have the opportunity to have its reporter on hand. We concurred with this as proper an thanked him. Mr. R. M. Phillips, of the Post staff, a gentleman well known throughout the State and esteemed wherever known for his integrity and the fidelity of his work, was sent to New Bern to represent the Post. What occurred there we will let Mr. Phillips himself state, which statement follows this article. The Post has treated Mr. Page not only on this occasion but at all other times with confidence as well as respect. We have treated him and the members of this commission only with confidence and respect. His references to this paper therefore, both to the editorial and news service, is gratuitous, unbecoming to himself, and we can but believe on reflection he will feel was unjust. The public have long since come to place a proper estimate upon the vicious slanders of the Post by the News and Observer, as well as to regard the Post for its constant purpose to tell the truth and do justice to all men. The following statement from Mr. Phillips is appended, and develops the fidelity which not only himself but the paper he represents consistently maintains. Speaking for myself and other members of the Post news staff, as well as all writers on the state press whose duties require them to chronicle what happens and not their opinions about what takes place, I desire to register a protest against the wholesale impu-

tation of bias or dishonesty made in the foregoing letter of Mr. Henry A. Page. At the same time I desire to make a statement that concerns me personally in connection with the secret meetings of the investigating committee and Board of Internal Improvements, as I am the member of the Post staff who was detailed to report the investigation in the event it was to be open to the public. Mr. Page states, and puts it strong, that reporters color their news and make their comments to suit the editorial policy of the paper represented. That there are glaring instances of the truth of that statement I will not deny, but I do deny most positively that I am one of those against whom the charge can be truthfully made. I challenge and defy proof that I have ever made a report of any meeting, convention, public speaking (political or otherwise), court, legislature or any other event, in which facts were distorted or news colored or comments made to suit the views of the chief editor or anybody else. In fact I have been criticized by partisan readers for not "taking the hide off" of the other side in some of my reports. To pervert facts and to color news is a species of glaring dishonesty. It is done to deceive and mislead the people and to manufacture public sentiment contrary to existing facts. To report matters truthfully is the business of the news staff of a paper. When that is done the intelligent reader can, by selecting his own glasses, tint it to suit himself. He reserves that right, and cares little or nothing for a reporter's comments or flourishes with the saffron-tinted brush. But, a few words personal. I went to New Bern and saw Mr. Page, Mr. Gray and others of the committee, but talked of the matter only with these two. Mr. Page told me he was not afraid I would give biased reports of the investigation, but added: "There are others who would." I was asked not to print anything that I might pick up about the evidence. I promised, and that promise I faithfully kept out of deference to the wishes of the committee, notwithstanding the fact that I gathered quietly sufficient material for more than one spicy story. After Mr. Page's statement to me I am surprised that he should make such a sweeping charge against the honesty of men who are simply employed to gather and write news. The only specific commission which I bore in my trip to New Bern was a request from the editor of the Post to print the facts exactly as they exist, no matter in whose favor they appeared to be. This is the only order I have ever received in regard to any matter since my connection with the Post. Now, to carry Mr. Page's idea in regard to this matter to its final analysis would it not mean that a member of a political party must conceal anything he may discover in the party, no matter how distasteful, shut his mouth on it, and speak only of those things which please the chief? R. M. PHILLIPS, City Editor Morning Post.

GOV. AYCOCK AND EDUCATION

On his return from a delightful trip to the mountains, including Yancey county, and Spartanburg, S. C., where he was royally received and made one of his heartlifting speeches, Gov. Aycock had some interesting things to say to the reporter of the Charlotte Chronicle, in which was a reference to the educational affairs of our State. We quote from the Chronicle: "As is well known, one of Governor Aycock's chief ambitions has been to advance the cause of education in North Carolina during his administration, and he believes the work has advanced to such a stage that it will be carried on more thoroughly and vigorously during the next few years than ever before." The Governor is unquestionably correct. The cause of education, that is the interest of the people in education and its importance, has made more substantial advancement during the past four years than during the whole period since 1870, and it is largely due to the patriotic earnestness and eloquent appeals of Governor Aycock to the people themselves—the masses. In season and out of season he has gone to the people and urged them to appreciate and utilize the advantages they already have and to provide better, where needed to insure not only the opportunity but to see that every child avail of the opportunity. Unquestionably tremendous improvement in this direction among the people has taken place. The Governor has been so zealous in the cause, first of arousing the people to a proper sense of their duty—and this has been his primary effort that some have mistaken his aims and construed them as having objects not contemplated by him we are sure, and while the "campaign of education" among the people as to their duty to their children must be kept up, to allay mistaken apprehensions and therefore unfortunate divisions the Post has thought it well to call the attention of our Democratic friends to the importance of a conservative declaration on the subject by the State Convention; not in contemplation of a halt in the work of arousing the people but to give assurance that extreme policies will not be inaugurated. North Carolina cannot halt in this great work; nor in the splendid movement forward which Gov. Aycock and his faithful co-laborers have inaugurated. But the people can and should be assured that nothing "wild" or extreme will be attempted.

PROVIDE FOR PROMPT INVESTIGATION

In view of the developments brought out by the prosecution of revenue officials in connection with the distillery at Milton, a full and complete investigation of the internal revenue department in this State would seem to be in order. As the people are not satisfied with strictly partisan investigations and investigators—however faithful and honest they may be, all such are subject to more or less suspicion—the present situation emphasizes the value of such a non-partisan Commission as Senator Simmons proposes should be established permanently for the purpose of investigating the federal departments from time to time and at least once a year. Congress, however, through its Republican majority, shows no disposition to adopt Senator Simmons' proposition and create such a Commission; but, when such charges as are now made, involving a whole department in a State, there should be some authority for instituting a prompt and strictly impartial examination, and it occurs to us Congress might confer upon the federal Judge in each district the power, under such circumstances, to appoint a Master to take evidence and a "look at the books," and report thereon according to the findings. The Post maintains that no honestly conducted department or institution can fear an honest investigation by honest men; and only where mismanagement, if no worse, is known to exist will an honest desire for an impartial and complete examination be condemned or resisted. An honest man or an honest administrator of a public office or duty fears no examination into his management, nor will honest men denounce a public demand for an examination of that which the public has the right to know all about; and when men do denounce such demand for an investigation it invariably turns out that they are interested in some way in having short-comings or worse covered up. So in this case of the charges now made, and said to be made by some of the revenue officers under indictment, it would be well for a thorough investigation from top to bottom; and to have it done promptly and impartially, power should be conferred upon the federal district Judge to appoint some one, as Masters in Chancery are appointed to take evidence in certain cases, to make such investigation. We invite the attention of our Congressmen to this suggestion. But let us have not only prompt, but impartial and open investigations where charges are made with a color of justification, of any department in which the public is interested to the end that justice, and nothing but justice, may be done all parties.

THE PEEBLES-LUMBERTON INCIDENT

Referring to this unfortunate matter the Wilmington Messenger concludes as follows: "The whole thing is unfortunate and, no matter how the proceedings terminate, will work no good to the state judiciary. That there are two sides to the question we have no doubt. The Lumberton bar would not have taken the action it did without good reason for believing it was right. Self-respect and a desire to maintain the dignity of the bench would compel Judge Peebles to take action on the conduct of the lawyers and to make the best showing possible for himself. It is a pity that the matter in dispute could not be heard before some other judge than the one who is such an interested party in the result of the investigation. If Judge Peebles tries the contempt case, he will be acting as judge and jury in a case in which his own honor as a man and his integrity as a judge is the main question involved. It has ever been the rule that a judge should not sit on a case in which his interests were much less involved than are Judge Peebles' in this matter." We fully concur with the Messenger, not only that the situation is a most unfortunate one, but that Judge Peebles should not undertake to adjudicate the matter himself. May we venture to suggest that President Pruden of the State Bar Association be requested to appoint a committee of that body to thoroughly inquire into and report thereon to the association when it meets in June? We are sure in the first place that any committee Mr. Pruden would select would not only be a good one, but would act, and its action would be accepted alike by Judge Peebles and the gentlemen of the Bar of Lumberton. As the Post has said before, besides deprecating the matter as most unfortunate, we believe an egregious mistake, based on misinformation, has occurred, and we believe upon a proper investigation will be properly corrected. The Post almost daily contains some reference to enterprises in one or more sections of the State indicating industrial and material development and the financial improvement of our people. At no time has it had better evidence of this than in the statement published yesterday, furnished by the Corporation Commission of the condition of the banks of the state, wherein it was shown that within the past twelve months the number of

ASK YOUR NEIGHBOR

Hundreds of Raleigh Citizens Can Tell You All About It. Home endorsement, the public expression of Raleigh people, should be evidence beyond dispute for every Raleigh reader. Surely the experience of friends and neighbors, cheerfully given by them, will carry more weight than the utterances of strangers residing in far-away places. Read the following: Mrs. M. N. Goodwin, of 224 East Martin street, says: "My back was in an awful condition for a long time. It ached almost constantly and I had a sort of hot flashing feeling which run down my limbs, almost as if hot water was poured down them. Reading about Doan's Kidney Pills in our local papers, I went to the Bobbitt-Wynne Drug Company's store and got a box. Since using them my back has not hurt me and I have been better in every way. They certainly were prompt and beneficial in my case." For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y., sole agents for the United States. Remember the name—Doan's—and take no substitute.

Drop in at the Yarrowhouse House cafe for things appetizing and substantial. Everything to tickle the palate and satisfy the wants of the inner man. The Nashville Graphic rises to observe: "The Raleigh Post certainly invokes the wrath and indignation of the temperance forces of the State when it attempts to defend the whiskey element and liquor traffic, by suggesting a repeal of the Watts Act. \* \* \* This is not the first intimation of the Post's antagonistic attitude toward temperance reform, and it is well for the temperance forces to be on the alert for other pretended friends." Nor is the above the first attempt to misstate the position of the Post on this matter, and misrepresent it more or less deliberately. The Post has not suggested the "repeal of the Watts Act." The Post has, at no time, taken "an antagonistic attitude toward temperance reform."

SENATOR SIMMONS' SPEECH

Our party friends throughout the State need to file away for campaign use this issue of the Post, which contains copious extracts from the recent very able speech of our Senior Senator wherein he points out with telling force the delinquencies and vulnerable points of the Republican Administration. Our campaigners can read, learn and inwardly digest the matter herein contained to good purpose. How eagerly the News and Observer, the Kitchen organ, grabs for anything that will enable it to try to raise a dust and get the public away from its vicious denunciation of the proposition to investigate the Atlantic hotel and road of which two of its business household are directors. Its frantic "defence" of Mr. Henry Page yesterday against an "attack" that had not been made is evidence of its anxiety to get on another subject. A Great Sensation There was a big sensation in Leesville, Ind., when W. H. Brown of that place, who was expected to die, had his life saved by Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. He writes: "I endured insufferable agonies from Asthma, but your New Discovery gave me immediate relief and soon thereafter effected a complete cure." Similar cures of Consumption, Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Grip are numerous. It's the peerless remedy for all throat and lung troubles. Price 50c. and \$1.00. Guaranteed by all druggists. Trial bottles 10 cents.

He Captured the Whole State (Spartanburg Journal.)

They are talking about Aycock for Vice-President in North Carolina. The Old North State has but to say the word and South Carolina will back her in anything she may propose for Governor Aycock. "Did she marry the young heir to the estate?" "No; she married the attorney."—Cleveland Leader.

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State, Private and Savings banks had increased an even 40, or to 169 in all, while the increase of total resources of these banks during the year was \$4,006,177, showing a total of resources of \$29,691,326. The above does not include the national banks, and there has been a notable increase of them and an even larger increase in their resources. All of which show the financial improvement of our people and that their money is seeking activity and usefulness through proper channels. The old State has taken a good, substantial start on the up grade toward that development and prosperity which its resources so well invite and her people so well deserve.

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