

W. W. RANSOM DIED UNEXPECTEDLY

Do Right Boys and God Bless Your Mother, The Last Words of the Dying Statesman. Brilliant Career of the State's Most Distinguished Citizen. Personal Tributes

General Ransom was the greatest of North Carolinians. GEN. RANSOM'S CAREER Half a Century of Public Life - His Service to the State

Hon. Fabius H. Busbee of the Raleigh bar, an intimate friend of the dead statesman, prepared the following sketch last night at the request of The Post:

Matt Whitaker Ransom, the oldest son of Robert Ransom, was born in Warren county October 7, 1835. His mother, Erisella Whitaker, was a member of the Whitaker family of Halifax, which has always been prominent in the history of the county. After an academic education in Warrenton, he entered the University of North Carolina, and was graduated in the class of 1857, being a class-mate of Gen. J. Johnston Pettigrew, Senator John Pool and other men of note. The commencement was the notable one attended by President Polk, and the English salutatory address of the young graduate was one of the features of the occasion.

Soon after graduation he entered upon the practice of law in Warrenton, and at once attained marked success. While a very young man, about 1853 he was a candidate for attorney general, and although a Whig he was elected by a legislature which contained a small Democratic majority. As a prosecuting officer he was eloquent, forcible and successful, but never vindictive or implacable. Among other notable cases he secured the conviction of the wife murderer Parker Perry, in Wake county, despite the efforts of the strongest lawyers in the state to save him.

He resigned before the end of his term and removed his residence to the county of Northampton, having married Miss Pattie Exum of that county. From that time he was largely engaged in planting. In 1858 he was a member of the House of Commons from Northampton as a Democrat. When the clouds that had long been hovering over the land, in 1861 broke into the storm of war, the lawyer-planter was among the first to volunteer. He became colonel of the thirty-fourth North Carolina, the present chief justice, Walter Clark, being at one time the adjutant of his regiment. He was afterwards promoted to be brigadier general, and distinguished himself by conspicuous gallantry in many engagements. At the capture of Plymouth he was second in command to Gen. Hoke, and was greatly commended. At Fredericksburg he held the line at Marge's Heights with matchless courage, and at Five Forks and other historic fields, his reputation as a skilful and fearless soldier was forever established. After the close of the war General Ransom resumed the life of a planter and lawyer, and had a large and lucrative practice, especially in Warren, Halifax and Northampton counties. When the hired millions of Kirk held the trust men of the state in custody, and the state courts seemed powerless to relieve, General Ransom applied to Judge Brooks for the writ of habeas corpus, and in co-operation with the veterans of the bar, Bragg, W. H. Battle, E. F. Moore and others brought about the release of the prisoners and the restoration of the reign of law.

In January, 1872, when the senate of the United States had declined to admit the great tribune, Zebulon B. Vance, to a seat in that body, because his disabilities had not been removed, General Ransom was elected by the General Assembly of North Carolina as Senator of the United States. He remained, by successive re-elections, a member of that body until March 4, 1885, having had the longest term of office of any North Carolinian. His services for nearly a quarter of a century are a part of the political history of the country. He entered the Senate when the passions engendered by the war were still glowing at white heat, and he was perhaps the greatest single force in the Senate in bringing about the reconciliation of the warring sections. While he would speak with matchless eloquence and force, as was shown in his great argument in the committee room and on the floor, day by day and year by year in bringing about a more perfect union of states and peoples. He was ever alive to the interest of his state and section and was for twenty-five years a potent factor in bringing the beneficent agencies of the federal government to the development of the south. In the improvement of rivers and harbors, in the erection of public buildings, he was of more service than all others in public station combined. With rare tact and unflinching courtesy, handsome presence, magnetic charm of manner, he was a senator of whom the whole state was proud. And when he spoke, which was not as frequently as his admirers wished, his eloquence had a charm that was all its own. But this is not the time to recount at length the public services of Gen. Ransom. Today we mourn the loyal friend and staunch comrade, the gallant soldier, the faithful public servant.

Gen. Ransom, during his whole life, was a peace maker, not only in his public career, but in his private life. Of courage and honor undoubted, his counsel was always sought in cases of private difficulty, and the result was almost invariably an honorable adjustment. He had the greatest faith in the future of eastern North Carolina, and showed by his faith large investments in lands in Northampton and Halifax. He became probably the largest cotton planter in North Carolina, and with the aid of his sons managed a princely domain that excepting Senator Vance,

CLASPED OVER BLOODY CHASM

Russian and Japanese Delegates to the Peace Congress Join Hands

Boston, Mass., Oct. 8.—The international peace congress assembled today for the closing of its thirteenth annual meeting. President Paine introduced Jiro Abratani of Tokio to speak for Japan. Mr. Abratani said he was willing to admit that militarism was on the increase in Japan, but he declared there was good ground for the expectation that when the present conditions were brought to an end peace would be the moving spirit of the nation. Dr. John Chirug, delegate for Russia, asked for a moment in which to correct a statement made yesterday by John Burrows of England, and this was granted. As Dr. Chirug passed to the platform, where Dr. Abratani was sitting, a woman delegate arose and said: "Dr. Chirug, it would gladden my heart to see you shake hands with Mr. Abratani—Russia and Japan in friendly clasp."

"I should be most happy," the Russian answered, as he moved toward the Japanese and warmly seized his hand, saying "I am glad to greet a fellow man." When Dr. Chirug had concluded his statement the committee on questions of the day reported in favor of an investigation into the present government of the Congo Free State. The resolution embodied three questions which they declared should be referred either to a renewed conference of the powers concerned in the formation of the Congo Free State or to the Hague court of arbitration.

"OPEN THE BOOKS"

Slogan by Which Herrick Will Win New York

New York, Oct. 8.—"Open the books," is to be the Democratic campaign slogan in this state, printed on thousands of banners and portraits of Herrick and Harrison. "Open the books," is to be the key-note of all the speeches. Orators in every part of the state are to be instructed to keep it going. Judge Herrick, when he takes the stump Wednesday, will not permit the slogan to be forgotten. Democratic managers are now assembling in New York, and they want to make their victory so signal that it will stand as a memorable rebuke to the system which they claim is prevalent. The managers are sure of the state for Parker, but they realize that there is to be a great difference between the vote for Herrick and Parker, and they want to stir up sentiment so as to insure the state to Herrick as well as to Parker. State Chairman Meyer is having his second canvass of the state made. This is the most minute canvass that has ever been made by the state committee. The returns received up to date are of the most satisfactory character. It can be said on reliable authority that they indicate that the vote on the state ticket will show an improvement of fifteen per cent. over the vote of 1902 for governor. The feature of these reports is the remarkable number of Republicans who, as shown, are to vote the Democratic ticket.

APATHY IN POLITICS

Why Taggart Draws Comfort From the Situation

New York, Oct. 8.—Chairman Taggart of the Democratic national committee said today that while he had never before known so apathetic a political campaign, he was drawing comfort from the apathy because he thought it showed that the people were turning from Roosevelt. "Never within my memory," he said, "has there been less excitement at this stage of a presidential campaign. The apathy throughout the country is remarkable. This does not mean, however, that the people are not interested in the issue. Their interest is deep enough, but it is not expressed in the old way. People make up their minds nowadays on the issues presented to them by the two great organizations and do not want brass bands and torchlight processions to influence them. I think the change is favorable to the Democrats because the more people think the more the majority must think that it will not be advisable to elect Roosevelt."

SUCCESSOR TO PAYNE

It is Generally Assumed That It Will Be Cortelyou

Washington, Oct. 8.—It is expected that an authoritative statement will be made next week in regard to the appointment of a successor to the late Henry C. Payne as postmaster-general. Action in the matter is naturally deferred until after the remains reach Milwaukee, although the law offices of the government have been looking up the statutory provisions regarding the time limit within which the permanent appointment to fill the vacancy must be made. There was some talk today that the president would make a complimentary

Inaction Prevails at the Seat of War

The Fate at Mukden and Port Arthur to be Decided and Then Will Come Preparations for a Harder Struggle Next Year

London, Oct. 8.—For more than a fortnight no authentic news of importance has been received from the fighting centers in the far east except Gen. Stoessel's account of the September attack on Port Arthur. This and Manchuria events, which will decide the campaign of 1904, are still awaited. Speculation as to what will be the issue of these events has now been exhausted and actual news is impatiently awaited. That the Baltic fleet will really sail is now universally accepted as a fact, but the answer to the question when it will start is that it probably depends on happenings at the front in the immediate future.

WISCONSIN POLITICS

The LaFollette Faction Is Fairly in the Saddle

Milwaukee, Wis., Oct. 8.—The Republican national committee has recognized the LaFollette state central committee. Chairman W. D. Connor of the LaFollette committee received a telegram today from Col. Harry C. New, of the executive committee of the national committee, asking that a meeting in Milwaukee be arranged for October 15, at which time Senator Fairbanks, the vice presidential candidate, will make an address. This is said to be the first instance of the national committee communicating directly with either of the state committees in arranging for national speakers in the campaign in Wisconsin. Nearly complete returns from the Republican caucuses in Milwaukee indicate that the LaFollette organization will control the nominations in the county convention by a good majority. Besides this, the control of the county organization is lost to the Stewarts. This is a complete change in the situation which has existed for years.

CLEVELAND MAY MAKE SPEECHES

New York, Oct. 8.—Grover Cleveland will probably take the stump for Parker and Davis after all. It was semi-officially announced at Democratic national headquarters today that efforts to get Mr. Cleveland to reconsider his determination not to make any speeches had about succeeded and that Mr. Cleveland will make three or four speeches, probably in New York or New Jersey. It was authoritatively announced at headquarters ten days ago that Mr. Cleveland would positively not take the stump. It was stated that his health was such as to make such a thing inadvisable and Mr. Cleveland had informed representatives of the national committee that he should not be asked to speak. At the same time he stated that he intended writing several articles in behalf of the Democratic ticket and would do all he could for the party. Democratic leaders have not ceased their efforts to induce him to change his mind since this decision was announced. It was declared last night on high authority that Mr. Cleveland had indicated that he would reconsider and take the stump for the Democratic party.

Watson's Acceptance

New York, Oct. 8.—Thomas E. Watson, the Populist candidate for president, has made public his letter of acceptance, which is a document that would cover more than a page. In the opening paragraph he says: "When two great political parties have in turn governed a country and have between them brought about unsatisfactory conditions, it is but natural that a third party should arise. Citizens who have looked in vain to the two great parties for remedial legislation lose confidence in both after a while and submit to one or the other; they either submit to the evils of bad government or protest by organizing a third party."

Refused to Carry Mails

Tacoma, Wash., Oct. 8.—Dowell & Co. today notified the postmaster-general that the Blue Funnel and China Mutual Lines, operating about fifty steamers on the Pacific and Atlantic routes, would hereafter refuse to carry United States mail for Japan. The action is taken because Alfred Holt & Co. the Liverpool operators of the two lines, have received word of the seized steamer Calchas from Tacoma probably would not be released by Russia because the vessel was carrying mail containing financial information of great value to the Japanese government.

Gilmer at Fayetteville

Fayetteville, N. C., Oct. 8.—Special. An intelligent assembly of Democrats filled the county court house last night to hear Hon. R. D. Gilmer, attorney general, make a capital speech on the issues of the campaign. His words were on a high plane, dealing with generalities, such as befitted his audience, and were delivered in a forceful style. His clear, strong logic quite captivated his many hearers and his effort was declared to have been the best heard here in this campaign.

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Russian Battalions Thinned Out

Tokio, Oct. 8. It is believed that, owing to the number of invalided men, the Russian battalions number only from 600 to 650, instead of 1,000. Only a third of the men invalided have been replaced hitherto. The scouts now are apparently inexperienced. This is considered here to indicate insufficient reserves. General Yuan's troops have advanced to Sulicheng on the Manchurian side of the great wall. Their destination is Kinchow, west of the Liaoz river.

General Tsen Chi, in command of the Chinese garrison at Mukden, has informed the authorities at Peking that the Russians are fortifying the imperial mausoleums in the neighborhood of Mukden and the heights of Tien Chai and Lungyu. The Japanese army disbursts daily among the Chinese coolies 800 yen (\$400). The Asahi notes the strange phenomenon that, while Japanese securities have recovered their tone in the London market, the domestic market shows a further decline and dull business. Foreign trade is good and farmers are prosperous, and yet stocks and bonds which recovered rapidly in 1894, do not recover now in spite of Japan's strong financial position. The Nichi Nichi, which is a governmental organ, hints that a record of the operations at Port Arthur will be published soon.

Submarine Boats for Russian Navy

A Number Under Construction in American Shipyards. Official Opinion Is to the Effect That the Laws of Neutrality Are Not Violated

Washington, Oct. 8.—Unofficial information was received in Washington that two submarine boats which had been in course of construction by the Newport News Shipbuilding Company for some time past are almost completed and will be shipped to their destination in a short time. Just what this destination is can not be positively ascertained, but there appears to be a general belief among government officials in Washington that the vessels are being constructed for the Russian navy. The submarines will be taken apart and shipped in sections, and it is understood that there is no ground on which the United States can interfere. According to information received today about fifty submarines were ordered by Russia some months ago, and orders for thirty of these craft were placed with shipbuilding firms in the United States. Some time ago it was asserted that the shipyards of the Lewis Nixon Company was turning out about a dozen vessels of this type, and this is said to have been confirmed later by official advices received in Washington from government agents. Officials of the state department looked up precedents of the case and found the only one bearing directly on the matter was a decision by Hamilton Fish, secretary of state in the cabinet of President Grant, who held that a torpedo boat craft which could not cross the seas under her own steam, but which had been taken apart and shipped in a neutral vessel, was to all intents and purposes merely merchandise. Of course there could be no contention with regard to such merchandise being contraband of war, this fact being apparent without argument. But the point at issue called forth in Secretary Fish's ruling and the point at issue in connection with the submarine boats said to be now building in this country for Russia, is entirely based on the question whether the United States, in permitting such "merchandise" destined for a belligerent to be shipped out of its territory, is not allowing its own neutrality to be violated. Government officials in Washington say that even if official statements should be made to the state department by representatives of the belligerent powers concerning the shipment of such craft to Russia or Japan, it is doubtful whether any action could be taken. It is understood to be the view of those in authority that if the submarines are taken apart, crated and shipped in a neutral vessel—which must take her chances of capture and confiscation or destruction—it would not be possible for the United States to take action in the matter. One American submarine of a new type was shipped to Russia some months ago. Reports received in Washington from official sources indicate that at recent tests near St. Petersburg the boat's performance was considered remarkable. A number of submarines of this type and about a dozen of several other makes are said to be either in construction in this country or now on their way to Russia in neutral vessels.

Light Vote in Georgia

Atlanta, Ga., Oct. 8.—The Constitution today estimates the total vote in the state election of Wednesday about 25,000. There was a light vote throughout the state, except in those counties where there was opposition to the Democratic candidates for the legislature and for county officers.

Death at Snow Hill

Snow Hill, N. C., Oct. 8.—Special. Death visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Faircloth Thursday afternoon and laid its hand upon their only child, Bennett. The body of the little boy, his father's hope and his mother's comfort, was interred in the Episcopal cemetery, the Rev. E. C. Sell conducting the ceremony.

Hackett at Salisbury

Salisbury, N. C., Oct. 8.—Special.—A big Democratic rally was held in the court house tonight and was largely attended by Rowan voters. Richard N. Hackett of Wilkesboro, who is stumping a portion of the state in the interest of the ticket, was the speaker of the occasion.