

The Roxboro Courier.

Noell Bros., Proprietors.

Home First: Abroad Next.

\$1.00 Per Year in Advance

Vol. XXVII

ROXBORO, NORTH CAROLINA, Wednesday Evening, Aug. 17 1910.

No. 33

WESTERN LETTER.

By Clyde H. Tavenner.

Special Correspondent

Kansas City, Missouri, Aug. 12.—Thousands of Republicans throughout the land, and in the insurgent districts particularly, are becoming impatient at Roosevelt's apparent reluctance to state exactly where he stands on the subject of insurgency.

The result is Theodore Roosevelt is not quite as popular an ex-president as he was immediately following his return from Africa.

This is an unbiased convention that has been forced upon me after having traveled from Washington to the Pacific coast and back. I have talked with hundreds of persons of all classes, and have sojourned especially in the insurgent districts.

Roosevelt is not unpopular. I do not wish to convey that impression. He still has a large following.

But many of Roosevelt's admirers seem to feel the ex-president is waiting to see which faction of his party is the strongest, instead of making a decision on the basis of which faction is morally right.

If Roosevelt acts quickly and with clear-cut candor he may prevent further inroads on his popularity. If he does not so act, the movement which he is given credit for having started will march on without him, with LaFollette or some other genuine progressive at the head.

WILL T. R. AID LODGE?

Word has come into the west via the Associated Press that Roosevelt will campaign for the re-election of Senator Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts, who declares the ultimate consumer is a myth.

Roosevelt's admirers are gulping hard over this information. They have been educated by LaFollette and other genuine progressives to know Lodge as a tool of Aldrich and the special interests.

They also have the word of no lesser authority than Representatives Butler Ames, a Republican insurgent of Lodge's own

state of Massachusetts, that the political machine of Senator Lodge "is backed by all the large corporations" and is used to "advance the selfish financial schemes of the large railroads, banking and manufacturing interests he Lodge in the halls of Congress."

Roosevelt's great popularity has been largely due to the belief of the people that he was the enemy of such corporation servers as Lodge.

Therefore all over the land the ex-president's friends are asking: "How can Roosevelt conscientiously speak for a man like Lodge, when he does nothing for men like LaFollette?"

The mere asking of this question has the tendency of placing Roosevelt on the defensive. And it is bad for any politician great or small, to be on the defensive.

THE DEMOCRATS POSITION.

Republican spellbinders have intimated the Democratic party stands for free trade. Absolute free trade is impractical with the United States. Every country in the world, including Great Britain, levies some tariff, and this country must always do so.

The Democratic position on the subject is substantially as follows:

First: The government should never collect one penny more of revenues than necessary to administer its affairs with rigid economy.

Second: The lowest rate that will yield the greatest amount of revenue should be imposed.

Third: Luxuries should always bear the highest revenue duties.

Fourth: Experience has vindicated the wisdom of ad valorem duties as being the correct practice.

Fifth: Revenue duties should be laid so as to operate with equality throughout the union, discriminating neither for nor against any class or section.

Sixth: Absolute necessities should go on the free list.

Seventh: There should be imposed a revenue duty upon practically all imports, with certain exceptions. These exceptions should be determined by the test;

Imports coming in competition with trust-controlled products should be placed on the free list and articles of absolute necessity should be imported free of duty.

ALDRICH AT HEADQUARTERS.

Quite an important conference was held on J. Pierpont Morgan's yacht "Corsair" off Newport, R. I. recently.

It is understood that Morgan's guests included Senator Nelson W. Aldrich, Senator George P. Watmore, who had just returned from seeing President Taft at Beverly, and Charles D. Norton, the President's secretary.

Morgan is known to take the view that Aldrich's promised retirement from the Senator would be a "national calamity", and it is believed he urged Aldrich to reconsider the matter.

Politicians in Rhode Island have never believed Aldrich would retire at the end of this term, as he announced last spring. It was not expected that Wall street would consent to lose its most representative in the Senate.

LETTER FROM KENTUCKY.

Prestonburg, Ky., Aug. 8, 1910.

Dear Bro. Noell—

You see where we are, in the valley of the Big Sandy, surrounded by high mountains rich in coal and mineral products. This is destined to be one of the richest sections in all the country.

The people are very kind and cordial. They gave us a grand reception one night just after our arrival. Every one and all this folks were present. The large auditorium in the College (as they call the school building) was literally packed. Rev. J. M. Haymore the Baptist pastor here, delivered the address of welcome to which I freely responded.

Bro. Haymore has a good vocabulary and a splendid imagination, so you may know what he said about us was a plenty. We will never be able to live up to it. After the speechifying and music delicious ice cream and cake was sent to everyone.

This is a wide awake town and the Baptists are doing wonders here. They have recently purchased the Normal School property worth \$15,000.00 and are contemplating putting up two dormitories to cost \$30,000.00. They have in course of erection a \$10,000.00 church which will be a beauty when completed.

The County Teacher's Institute met here last week, and it was an inspiring sight, these 200 eager, enthusiastic teachers, 150 of them young men. There are over 100 schools in this County and it is one of the ambitions of the mountain boy and girl, to be able to get a first class certificate. Prof. J. A. Sharon of Richmond, Ky., Prof. of History and civics in the Normal College there, was the instructor. He is one of the finest men and best teachers I ever saw. I wish the Old North State which always desires and deserves the best could get him to hold five or six Institutes next summer. He would give the cause of education a boost.

Please say to all our friends that we like out here very much, indeed. Our school will open the 29th of August, and in the meanwhile we are getting acquainted, attending the County Institutes, Associations, &c.

But there is no place like home and if we can't be at home, we wait all the news from there, so send us The Courier. We can't do without it.

Love to all. With best wishes. Sincerely,
J. A. BEAM.

G. O. P. HAS JUST ABOUT SOUNDED THE DEPTHS.

Asheville Gazette-News Much Distressed Over Selection of Mr. Morehead As Republican State Chairman.

Asheville News-Gazette.

In his report to the morning paper Mr. Gillis employed these: "It is generally talked that the Morehead crowd merely used a local option promise to win and then reneged."

Doubtless. But we respectfully submit could one reasonably expect a different eventuality? The author and finisher of that plank has waged a campaign upon an issue wholly false, it has been prosecuted by a personnel largely false, and that it should run its logical course to a dishonest foxy platform declaration was a result that followed in the very nature of the case. That plank like its author will be all things to all men and will be construed largely with a view to geographical considerations, and wholly with a view to the personal predilections of the voter.

One must realize, after a season of retrospection, that the defeat of Mr. Duncan was inevitable. There was arrayed against him the world, the flesh and Marion Butler. As Butler has said through the Charlotte Observer the fight against Duncan began away back in the winter. But Butler told only half the truth. What he referred to was the letters that he caused Morehead to send out under government frank, in violation of the law. The first move against the national committeeman was made at the White House where a campaign was waged against him which usually took the form of slander. In this enterprise Butler's Indian and half-breed connections in the west were employed to no little effect. While the good work of creating confusion was pushed along by Democratic Senators. For a period covering several months the fight has been waged against him with the nicety and skill of a Richelieu or a Halifax, and with the cold ruthlessness of bold assassins, more especially character assassins. The false cry was raised that his the "pie brigade." The last statement given the Charlotte Observer by Butler before going to the convention hall, was to the effect that the days of the pie brigade were numbered. As he spoke there stood at his immediate right the esoteric Settle, with a fresh Federal commission in his pocket while Gene Holton, whose feet are perennially planted in the trough, flanked his left, and neither appeared sensible of the exasperating irony of the performance. Many of the Federal office holders, perhaps a majority of them, Grant and Morehead's patronage, with their ramifications, were all instruments in the hands of Butler, and were set in motion by him against Duncan. The money, too, beginning with that of the rich Morehead, was on the other side. Butler's free lunch counter was superfluous, because everybody willing to vote for Morehead, and willing to take the money, could get car fare and meal tickets by letting his willingness become known.

It was a scene that may well cause the judicious among Republicans to grieve—that scene about the ice water and lemonade stands of Butler, and the more

efficacious refreshments served from Morehead's quarters, for even here they played both ends against the middle, and ministered to the arriving delegates according to their several wants. It was here that the representatives of the Republican party came to do homage to the recalcitrant Butler, and seemed to be proud of the man who had concluded to take charge of them. The psychology of this situation will be found of absorbing interest, the fact that the delegates subsequently cast their votes in obedience to the dictates of this man, one had as well leave to castrate. You had as well try to explain the Egyptian worship of cats and onions. Republicans delegated to express the sentiments of their party followers at home, turned from a man known to be honest in all his dealings with his fellowman, true to his friends and his party, and becoming as clay in the hands of a political adventurer and mountebank gave their support to a man who was attending his first Republican convention, whose two years career as a Republican has been devoted to promoting a spirit of factionalism, whose sole effort has been to build himself up by tearing others down, whose campaign for the position of office dispenser was prosecuted upon an issue which he acknowledged in a letter written in December to be utterly false, a letter written before he had consulted of a previous quarrel over

and individual malevolence to personal profit.

Consideration of these things with a glance at a platform obviously meant to deceive will, we think, lead thoughtful citizens, without reference to political affiliations, to conclude that the success of Mr. Duncan would have been much more keeping with the public weal. The National Liquor Dealers association would have been willing to pay liberally for what happened at Greensboro yesterday, and it is conceivable that provident commercial body was privy to what was about to transpire. It will therefore be seen that the Republican party must henceforth render obedience to two alien masters—to Marion Butler, of the Bond building at Washington whether he want when he thought there was nothing more in it for him in the State; and, if the new rulers think it expedient, and good politics, to the Liquor Dealers association. Butler will in the future regulate the party's morals.

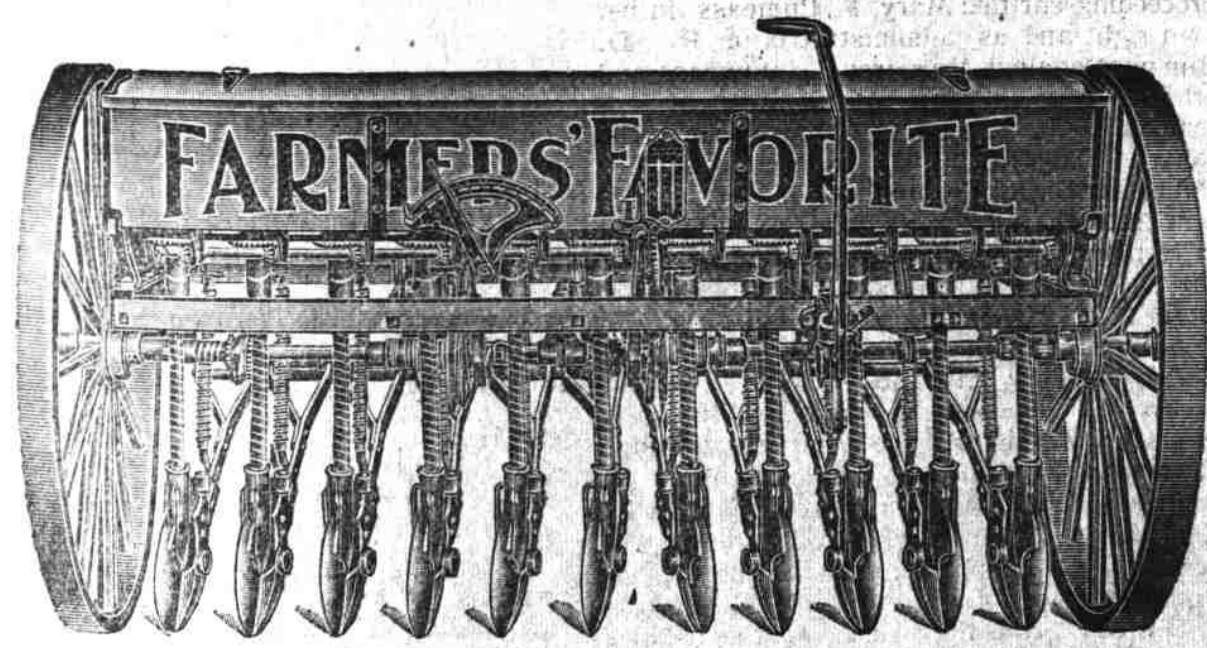
Our opinion is that the minority party in this State has just about sounded the depths.

Weaver's Dentist Kills Two Brothers.

Asheville, Aug. 13.—Rome and Furman Capps, two brothers, were tonight about 8 o'clock shot and almost instantly killed by Dr. Clarence Pickens, a Weaverville dentist. The fatal row was the result of a previous quarrel over

Watkins & Bullock
The home place of Mr. R. B. Bass, with three other farmers adjoining.
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