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POLITICAL "DOPE" AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS AT RALEIGH

STATE DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SESSION TODAY AT THE CAPITAL CITY. CHAIRMAN WARREN PRESIDING.—"BLUE SKY" LAW AIRED IN SUPREME COURT.—PRIMARY LAW NOT SO POPULAR.

(Special Correspondence.)

RALEIGH, N. C., May 9.—Drawn to Raleigh largely by the meeting here today of the Democratic State Committee, the presence of a large number of leading party men during the last few days has added much to the interest felt in the outcome of the State primary three weeks hence. Opportunity was afforded through the views of some of these well posted gentlemen of learning something of the prospects of the candidates for nomination—of "sounding the depths" of the water drawn by the craft with which they have been navigating the political sea.

The meeting of the State committee today was called by Chairman Warren by the express stipulation of the party Plan or Organization which, in plain terms required it of him in the following language (quoted from Sec. 2 of the Plan of Organization), to wit:

Sec. 2 That as early as practicable after each State Convention the chairman shall call the State Democratic Executive Committee to meet for the purpose of electing a chairman and a secretary of said committee for the term of two years and until their successors shall be elected.

Having assembled the committee, the duty resting upon Chairman Warren was discharged. The subsequent action of the committee is the affair of the gentlemen composing it and for which the majority is responsible—a responsibility which they apparently very willingly assume, for they are unquestionably responsible men.

Talking with some of the visitors here this week I was struck with the tributes which they paid to the ability and worth of the present Assistant Attorney General T. H. Calvert, who has so brilliantly performed his work in conjunction with Mr. Bickett, a labor which has been valuable in fitting him for the promotion which he asks, if the primary shall bring him as the party's nominee for Attorney General. Praise from Sir Hubert is praise indeed, and the statements voluntarily made by some of the greatest lawyers in North Carolina leave no doubt in the mind of a layman of the eminent fitness of Mr. Calvert for the position. With such men as he and the other three gentlemen aspiring to office, it does look like the party could make no serious mistake. But experience is a big asset to the State in making a selection in this instance. Mr. Calvert, who is a native of Chatham county where he married and resided for some years, is the author of several important law books and of wide practice in the highest courts charged with the conduct of many important cases. He is at present in Washington arguing a civil case before the Supreme Court of the United States. He announced his ambition to become the successor of Mr. Bickett a year ago, and, according to the reports which reach here, his candidacy is popular with the voters all over the State.

I failed to find any one who favored a change in the present personnel of the State Corporation Commission. There is only one of them whose term expires soon, that of Commissioner W. T. Lee who is now serving his first term. One candidate is opposing him in the primary, but he doesn't seem to be making much headway, as no good reason has been advanced for displacing the present admittedly competent and effective incumbent at the close of his one term in office. Mr. Lee's worth to the commission is largely due to his splendid equipment as a business man, who has made a success of his own business. And with the average voter, who endorses the sentiment that "the horse who pulls the plow should share in the fodder," feels that his long activity and faithful party service furnish no excuse for rejecting his claim on a re-nomination as an endorsement of the work done during his first term.

The "Blue Sky Laws," which were enacted to prevent fraud and imposition on the people of North Carolina have been upheld by the State Supreme Court in a decision just handed down in the case of State against Agcy. Under these acts it is unlawful for any foreign corporation to offer stocks, bonds and other securities for sale here without first securing license from the State Commissioner of Insurance. By his rigid examination into the character of the concerns applying for such license Commissioner Young has refused licenses to many questionable companies and corporations which sought to unload so-called "securities," stocks and bonds and policies and other worthless "wild-cat" paper. In the above noted case and several others pending the defendants were arrested for attempting to sell or for the sale of such "securities" without securing the necessary license and appealed upon conviction in the Superior Court.

Commissioner Young has probably saved more money to the (Continued on Fourth Page)

SUMMARY OF THE GREAT WAR AS TOLD BY THE DAILY PAPERS

The Germans are continuing the furious offensive at Verdun which gained them important ground both east and west of the Meuse yesterday. They made no further advances during their attacks of last night, however, Paris declares, and in fact lost part of the territory won at the outset of their renewed drive.

The principal German gain Sunday was northeast of Verdun, where a footing was gained in the French first line on a front of 500 metres between Haudromont wood and Fort Douaumont. During Sunday night French attacks drove the crown prince's forces from one of the occupied trenches south of Haudromont. Near hill 304 northwest of the fortress, the Germans were ousted from a combination trench occupied during yesterday's drive.

There is a lull in the fighting on the eastern front, according to Vienna, which announces that the situation is unchanged there. Likewise there is comparative quiet on the Austro-Italian front, with no advances by either of the opposing armies reported.

London reports the sinking by a submarine on May 3 of the French bark Marie Molinos of 946 tons. There was no casualties among the crew. Washington advices state that a new note to Germany has been practically completed and will go forward today.

Pull for Base-Ball

The baseball meeting last Friday night brought out about fifteen interested fans. These fifteen persons organized temporarily and appointed a committee of ten to arrange the solicitation of funds for the establishment of a club. A meeting of this committee and others was held last night and the presidency of the club tendered Mr. A. Paul Kitchin and the office of treasurer to Mr. Jamie Tillery.

Members of this committee for funds will see YOU possibly. Arrange to help them along with a subscription if you love the game.

A detailed report of the various meetings will be published in this paper Friday. In the meantime: "PULL FOR BASE-BALL!"

ROANOKE RAPIDS WROUGHT UP OVER SENSATIONAL "BLACK HAND" LETTERS

"DARK STREET DEVILS" WRITE LETTERS ATTEMPTING TO INTIMIDATE THE SPECIAL SCHOOL TAX ELECTION IN ROANOKE RAPIDS EXPOSED—METHODS ALLEGED BY ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD TO CORRUPT ELECTION BRINGS LITEL PATTEN ON THAT PAPER—HERALD STANDS PAT, PRODUCING AFFIDAVITS—INDICATIONS POINT TO A BITTER FIGHT.

(From the Roanoke Rapids Herald of Friday, May 5th, 1916.)

HERALD SERVED WITH NOTICE OF ACTION FOR LIBEL.

Following the publication in the Herald last week of the article headed "New Hope Election Still in Doubt" the Herald Publishing Company was served with a notice from J. B. Vincent, of the district in question, that he contemplates action for libel against this company. His notice containing the sentences in the article which he thinks have libelled him is as follows:

To Herald Publishing Co., Inc., Roanoke Rapids, N. C.

Gentlemen: You will take notice the undersigned intends to bring a civil action against you, together with others, for libel against me, as may also be for damages for libel against me by you by reason of your publication in the edition of April 28, 1916, of the Roanoke Rapids Herald of the following article and statements therein, to-wit:

"NEW HOPE ELECTION STILL IN DOUBT."

"Those opposing the special tax for improving school facilities here, it is charged, resorted to bribery and black hand methods in their eagerness to carry their point. One voter in the district has made affidavit before a magistrate of the county that he was offered a suit of clothes to vote against the special tax, and this serious charge is almost certain to come before the grand jury of the June term of court."

"Various voters in the district received prior to the election black hand letters written in red ink threatening the lives and property of the recipients should they vote for better schools."

Rosemary, N. C.

This the 1st day of May, 1916.

J. B. VINCENT.

The law in regard to libel actions is that notice must be given the offending newspaper of contemplated suit for libel and if, during the ten days following the receipt of this notice, the newspaper shall retract the statement claimed to be libellous no suit or action may be brought.

Libel is a serious crime and if through inadvertence we had printed statements derogatory to any person which were not true or not susceptible to proof, we would not hesitate to retract such statements and to apologize for their having been made.

In the case of J. B. Vincent, however, we regret that we can retract nothing. The statements we made, to which he objects, are literally true.

"One voter in the district" has made affidavit before a magistrate that he was offered a suit of clothes to vote against this special tax. We reproduce the affidavit in question on this page and from its personal one may easily gather the reason for J. B. Vincent's exhibition of spleen for he is the man charged therein with the attempted bribery.

Various voters, and by "various" we meant and mean two voters, in the district did receive black hand letters, and we reproduce the letters in question on this page, in the full belief that by so doing the writer will be appreciated and indicted.

Just why Vincent should threaten to bring suit against the Herald is inexplicable to us. He had full knowledge at the time he gave us notice of action, that every word of the alleged libel cited in his complaint was true.

His idea of what it takes to constitute libel is certainly different from J. W. House, J. T. Chase, T. M. Jenkinson.

So the Herald's answer to Mr. Vincent's notice of action is the proof of every word it printed! Whether the affidavit in question is true or not is a matter to be decided by a jury, not by it, and the Herald will reserve opinion on this point at present.

We do believe that the charges of attempted bribery and terrorism in the New Hope-Hockaday School Election on April 25th should be thoroughly investigated and the party or parties who have attempted to introduce the cowardly methods of the Italian Mafia in to the law-abiding county of Halifax should be ferreted out and properly punished.

After a full discussion of the action and an examination of the article cited and the evidence held by the Herald, the directors present voted unanimously to make no retraction whatever, and issued instructions to the editor of the Herald to secure affidavits from the recipients of the black hand letters and to publish facsimile copies of affidavits letters, and the affidavit charging J. B. Vincent with attempted bribery, in the next issue of the Herald.

REWARD FOR THIS ONE! Fifty Dollars Reward will be paid for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the party who wrote this letter.

By an order from the Executive Council of Dark Street Devils, you are commanded to find an excuse to keep you away from the polling place in Special Election on the 25th. As you are a colored man you will find it much healthier to remain away. So take this advice of the D. S. D.'s and keep out. This thing must go through without your vote. You probably have never heard of the Dark Street Devils and if you do right you may never hear from us again, but if you do not obey orders you will need the attention of your Dr. or undertaker when our silent desperado club has given you another call. You may expect this call at or about one week after you have broken our commands or sooner. We are a powerfully organized Night Riding Band who are fighting to overthrow graft, extravagance and political frame-ups in the administration of the affairs of this county and elsewhere. If you want a respite of a closer nature, just desist us, we will get U. You may look for the black mark and this sign XXX.

Warning yours, THE D. S. D.'S CLUB. By order of J. Limbo, Ex. Council. State of North Carolina, County of Halifax, ss.

This is to certify that on the 24th day of April, 1916, I found the above letter on a bench in front of my shop at my residence in said county and state.

Witness: JOHN X NEAL, mark

J. T. Stainback.

Acknowledged and sworn to before me, a Justice of the Peace in and for the said county and state this second day of May, 1916.

HANNIBAL SHEARIN, J. P.

W. B. HALE SWEARS THAT J. B. VINCENT ATTEMPTED BRIBERY.

State of North Carolina, Halifax County, ss.

Before me, a Justice of the Peace, in and for the said county and state, personally appeared W. B. Hale and being by me duly sworn, and says, during this week of April the 10th to the 15th A. D. 1916, J. B. Vincent of said county and state offered me a nice suit of clothes to vote against the special school taxation now pending in the proposed district of New Hope and Hockaday's school houses in Roanoke Rapids township, wherein an election is to be voted on by the people on the 25th day of April A. D. 1916.

Witness: W. B. HALE.

This April 24th, 1916.

HANNIBAL SHEARIN, J. P.

J. T. Stainback.

HERALD'S DIRECTOR'S STAND PAT.—REFUSE TO BACK DOWN.

As soon as practicable after the receipt of notice of contemplated action for libel by J. B. Vincent the directors of the Herald Publishing Company held a special meeting to discuss this action and the steps to be taken by the Herald in connection therewith. This meeting was held in the office of the Herald Publishing Co at 10:00 A. M., May 2nd. President J. T. Chase acted as Chairman, the following directors being present: Dr. T. W. M. Long, S. F.

ABLE SPEAKERS WILL DELIVER ADDRESSES COMMENCEMENT

INFORMATION RECEIVED LAST EVENING THAT THE BRILLIANT ATTORNEY-GENERAL IS TO DELIVER ADDRESS TO GRADUATING CLASS OF HIGH SCHOOL.—DR. WHITE OF RALEIGH TO PREACH BACCALAUREATE SERMON.

What will tend to over-shadow all local news of the day and week is the information received at the office of this paper last evening, when it was definitely learned that Attorney-General Bickett will deliver the commencement address at the close of the Scotland Neck Graded School Tuesday evening, May 30th, at 8:30. The school superintendent, Prof. Z. Hardy Rose, together with the entire faculty, are jubilant over their extremely good fortune in securing the bright diamond of North Carolina oratory as the speaker for this occasion. It has been whispered about for some time that Mr. Bickett "might" be the speaker, but the faint rumor's strongest substantiation was the hope of every one hearing the rumor, for the popularity of this brilliant North Carolinian generally keeps him dated far into the future. Just who will introduce the speaker, has not been announced, but it is certain that some townsman of no mean oratorical calibre will be allotted the pleasure.

Dr. W. McC. White of the Presbyterian Church, Raleigh, will deliver the baccalaureate sermon to the graduating class of the Scotland Neck High School on Sunday morning, May 28th, at the school auditorium. Dr. White is a very able and forceful speaker, and it was only after repeated efforts of the school superintendency to obtain him for this occasion that Dr. White decided to deliver the sermon.

FLYING BOAT ATTAINS SPEED OF 106 MILES AN HOUR WHILE ENROUTE TO NEWPORT NEWS FROM BALTO.

Newport News, Va., May 8.—The big flying boat arrived here this morning at 8:58 o'clock from Hawkins Point, near Baltimore, having made the trip in two hours and eleven minutes, and in the course of the flight, which covered a distance of 173 miles, the boat established ten world's records for speed, having attained the remarkable rate of 106 miles an hour while coming down the bay.

The machine was working admirably and as soon as the boat arrived it was decided that a speed test trip should be made to Washington, and in two hours' time the big boat was again on her way North, having left the water at 10:53, with Pilot Macaulay, Mechanician Philip Utter, Bert Acosta, Lieutenant Norman Hall, of the coast guard service, and John R. Viney, president of the Chamber of Commerce, who takes greetings to the Navy League headquarters at Washington, and the Chamber of Commerce of the national capital. The party will remain at the capital an hour and a half and then return to Newport News.

WHOLE FAMILY DEAD AFTER EATING POISONED SALAD.

Roanoke, Va., May 8.—The entire family of Isaac Samson, a Mingo county, W. Va., farmer, consisting of six persons, died suddenly several days ago at their home in Mingo as the result of eating a salad containing a poisonous weed mixed with greens, which Mrs. Samson had gathered for the table. Soon after eating the salad, it is said, the members of the family became violently ill, and before a physician could reach the home, the six persons were dead.

LITTLETON IS COMING OUT THIS YEAR—A COTTON-SEED OIL MILL WILL BE BUILT THERE THIS SUMMER, REPORT.

Littleton, N. C., May 7.—A movement for a cotton seed oil mill for Littleton was started but a few days ago, and already more than half of the capital stock has been subscribed and from the headway that is being made the machinery will soon be purchased and the erection of the building will be under way in time for completion for the fall crop of seed. Just think of it—a cotton seed oil mill for Littleton.

The cotton grower of this community, whether he makes one bale or one hundred bales or more, should be interested in having a cotton seed oil mill here. To have the mill and to have it operated to the best advantage the poor stockholders there are the less opportunity for individual control. The stockholders would, of course, dictate the management of the mill and if they saw proper to operate it as an independent mill could have its purchasing agent pay the seller the current price for seed with the cost of an agents

profit and the freight to the nearest mill added. Too the mill could sell to the farmers cotton seed meal at the price asked by other mills less the freight from those mills to Littleton. If the seller of seed is also a buyer of cotton seed meal he would thereby see two freight accounts and two agents' profits. That saving alone would be sufficient to help pay for stock in the mill every year which would prove a help toward keeping a convenience in the community for himself and neighbors even though no premium be paid by the mill. Discussing the mill a few days ago with a farmer he said: "I feel together with the profit every year amount to as much as one share of stock costs."

It is true the Cotton Seed Oil Mills of the state are now paying large dividends but a Cotton Seed Oil Mill for Littleton will mean much for the cotton growers of our section as well.

LOCAL ITEMS OF LATE NEWS CROWDED OFF PAGE THREE

BARACA CLASS HOLDS SPECIAL MEETING.

A special meeting of the Baraca class of the Baptist Sunday School here was held last night in the class room of the Sunday School to determine ways by which the class could do better work.

Mr. W. H. McDowell stated when called on by the president that the object of the meeting was to more perfectly organize the already organized Baraca class. The following committees were appointed by the President:

M. M. F. Committee—whose business would be to meet "my friend" or see that every member of the class knew every other member. Advertising Committee—whose business would be to put the Baraca movement in the public eye by newspaper advertising, sign boards and the like. New Members Committee—whose business would be to bring in new members. Secretary Committee—whose business would be to write up, at every monthly meeting, report why various persons were

absent on different Sundays from the regulars of the class. Program Committee—to furnish entertainment in all ways for the class. A Secret Service Committee—whose business would be to work for the salvation of the unsaved members of the class. The last named committee would be a voluntary one—no committeemen were named but all who wished could serve.

Rev. R. A. McFarland, when called on for expressions concerning this committee said that a well known Baraca worker had stated that the work of this body would be a campaign with the slogan: "Won by One."

Mrs. W. E. Marks of Tillery, spent the week end here visiting his family. \$ \$ \$ Mrs. R. C. Josey, Jr., and little son, Master Robert Carey, are visiting her parents, Hon. and Mrs. Claude Kitchin in Washington.