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THE COMMONWEALTH

A Family Newspaper: For the Promotion of the Political, Social, Agricultural and Commercial Interests of the People

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State Library

Stable and Five Automobiles Consumed by Fire Monday

Corrugated Tin-Covered Stables Belong to Bowers Estate Reduced to Ashes in Short Time Yesterday by Fire of Unknown Origin.—Building was Used as Storage House for Automobiles by Local Parties.

A fire of unknown origin yesterday afternoon between three and four o'clock destroyed the metal-covered stable just off Main street and to the rear of the Scotland Neck bank building. The damage sustained by the fire will amount to about fifteen hundred dollars exclusive of the loss incurred by the owners of five automobiles, which will amount to around a thousand dollars.

The feed which was in the burned stables is estimated to have been worth about fifty dollars.

At this writing, in the absence of the owner, Mr. J. E. Bowers, the amount of insurance carried on the building can not be learned.

The corrugated iron roofing and walls of the building saved many thousands of dollars worth of property, as it was in close proximity to the Scotland Neck Bank building, the residence of W. A. Dunn, the Home Telephone Co's building, the store of Bowers & Co., and the residences on Main street belonging to Mr. Peyton Keel.

The flames gained control of the building so rapidly that people next door to the burning building were not aware of the fire until the whole stables were enveloped in flames.

When the alarm of fire was given by the local power plant it was too late to save the building and just in time to protect the adjoining ones from being burned.

Squads of ameteur volunteer fire fighters busied themselves with the task of saving the bank building and the other threatened buildings.

Parties owning the destroyed cars were: Dr. O. F. Smith, a Buick roadster; William Clark, a Saxon roadster; N. A. Riddick Motor Car Co., two Jackson touring cars and one Overland touring car, all old models.

CIVIC LEAGUE.

The Civic League will meet in the graded school auditorium Friday afternoon at 4:30. All members are urgently requested to be present. All officers and members of the committees ar especially urged to be present to transact important business.

MRS. G. S. WHITE, Pres.

MUSIC RECIAL AT AUDITORIUM FRIDAY EVENING ENJOYABLE.

The music recital which was given by the pupils of the music classes of the graded school Friday evening, was attended by quite a large number of patrons of the school, all of whom pronounced satisfaction with the progress their children are making in the study of music.

LOCAL WOODMAN OF WORLD CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARY.

Friday evening the local camp, W. O. W., held a barbecue and ice cream supper in their lodge here, celebrating the fourth year since the camp was established. A full number of the 75 members of the camp were present and all enjoyed the occasion to the fullest extent. A speaker was sought for the occasion, but for several reasons he was detained at the last minute.

DESERVES GOOD CROWDS.

The quality of pictures now being shown by the Palace Theatre deserve big crowds at both shows each night. Such pictures as the one shown last night entitled "The Idol," was a masterpieture, as all who saw it will testify. All this week the program at the Palace is good, as it will be in the future. There is a slight advance in the admission on Friday nights, but on other nights the same old dime pays the way for a good show, a good seat, and plenty of fresh air, kept stirring all the while by numerous electric fans. Read the ad in this paper.

FANCY DANCER BROUGHT BEFORE HIS HONOR, THE MAYOR.

Saturday evening between the hours of 11 and 12, Mattie Johnson, a colored woman, gave several interpretations of the Russian ballet dance on the corner of Church and Tenth streets to quite a number of onlookers. Officer Britt being notified that these dances were indecent in the extreme went in quest of the dancer, but she seeing him approaching, stopped the high kicking and together with the onlookers, gave a good imitation of the Copenhagen marathon. Her companions separated and Officer Britt gave chase and she was finally caught in an outhouse in the immediate vicinity. On trial Sunday morning before Mayor Shields, the negress pleaded not guilty, but the evidence was too strong, and His Honor placed $5 and costs on the dancer with a warning that the next offense would call for a heavier penalty.

LEAGUERS—TAKE NOTICE!

The N. C. Epworth League Conference will meet in Newbern, N. C. June 7th., to 11th.

An interesting and inspiring program is planned. In addition to the regular leading Leaguers of the Conference the following speakers have been secured:

Dr. F. S. Parker, Nashville, Tenn., Rev. W. W. Peele, Trinity College, Durham, N. C., Rev. S. F. Love, Aberdeen, N. C., Rev. Fred R. Chenault, Richmond, Va., Rev. H. M. North, Durham N. C., Rev. A. S. Barnes, Raleigh, N. C. Prof. J. W. Gilbert, DeanPayne College, Augusta, Ga., Dr. E. K. Hardin, Washington, D. C., and others.

Let every Leaguer elect its officers before June and plan to attend.

B. B. SLAUGHTER,
District Secretary.

Mr. G. C. Weeks was a visitor in Oak City Sunday.

Summary of the Great War as Told in Late Press Dispatches

French Check Attack by Crown Prince's Forces near Dead Man's Hill in Verdun Region.—Blockhouses Also Captured From Germans.—Austrians Capture Italian Troops and Machine Guns in Short Engagement.

Fighting of the most intense character is in progress in the Dead Man hill region northwest of Verdun where the Germans are desperately battling to break down the French defense and gain possession of this commanding eminence and the other key position to the Verdun fortress—hill 304.

This afternoon's Paris bulletin records the repulse of renewed attacks by the Crown Prince's troops west of Dead Man's Hill, where the German lines were advanced Saturday night.

Paris also claims the capture during last night of several blockhouses that were held by the Germans in the Avocourt wood, southwest of hill 304 and the beating off of German attempts to recapture the Haudromont quarry, east of the Meuse, near Douaomont, which the French took yesterday.

Continuing their determined offensive on the Italian front, and extending its scope, the Austrians have made further progress in the Southern Tyrol. The Vienna war office announces that the peak of the Armentara ridge has been carried. Several additional villages also have been occupied.

More than 3000 Italians were captured in Saturday's fighting, together with 25 cannon and eight machine guns.

The German steamer Worms, of 4,428 tons, which left Sweden several days ago for Germany, is missing and is believed to have fallen victim to one of the allied submarines in the Baltic.

Violent cannonading has been heard in the Baltic off the Swedish coast, according to a news agency despatch today, leading to a belief that German and Russian warships have been in an engagement.

The British forces in the Soudan are reported through Constantinople to have met with a defeat in a battle with rebellous tribesmen in the province of Darfur.

Possibly because these forces were needed in pushing the offensive against the Italians the Austrians are reported to have withdrawn 50,000 troops from Albania.

How Is This Offer

In order to further boost its circulation in the Second Congressional District, The Commonwealth has decided to make the following liberal offer to its readers:

To each person who mails us 50 cents, we will send the Commonwealth twice a week from June 1st to January 1st, 1917. Positively this offer is not good to those who owe us back subscription unless same is settled in full.

Remember, you are getting the paper at this rate of about ONE CENT PER COPY. Is it not worth that to you?

This paper will give complete returns of the Primary and General Election for the District by Counties.

Tom Bost Writes the Greensboro Daily News of the Political Situation in Second District

Under Wilson Date Line, North Carolina's Most Capable Newspaper Correspondent Writes the Facts as They Appear to Him After "Feeling" of the People.—The Mitchell Candidacy in Wilson County Losing Ground.—Supporters Realizing that it is a Hopeless Task.—All But Two Counties in District Appear Solid for Kitchin; Lenoir Strong.

Wilson, May 20.—With Champ Clark's handsome Kitchin letter acquitting the House Leader of filibustering, temporizing or disorganizing in the late shipping bill fight in Congress, the Kitchin men are swamping the opposition today by vast circularization of the district.

The Wilson people have more reason to believe in tobacco than the silversmiths had for faith in Diana. Tobacco is king down here, albeit, Diana was no one-horse goddess. Whatever and whoever abates one jort orlittle the tobacco business is a thing of uglification and a kick forever. This soft impeachment the Wilsonians brought against Claude Kitchin. Champ Clark says it ain't so.

Postmaster S. W. Smith is a big tobacco dealer and his 114 per cent profit in three years, shared by 700 farmers, is declared to have offended more than one man who deals in the stuff that makes men spit ham gravy. Now, how anybody knows that and can prove whom it displeased, does not appear, but that is what Wilsonians say Mr. Smith landed the postoffice. To him that hath shall be given. Claude Kitchin made foes when he norated his selection.

Tobacco men then fought Kitchin because his opposition to certain features of the shipping bill they interpreted a further inharmony in the party. It is very true that some of the best Wilson county men vehemently protested against this disloyalty to President Wilson. It is just as true that some of these were little interested in Woodrow Wilson four years ago and are not crazy about him now. But the biggest opposition which the district has been able to arouse comes from the tobacco interests which declare that Kitchin's course tied up many millions of pounds and caused heavy loss to the people who grow and manufacture the weed.

"Truth Shall Never Die."

This has been made an effective issue and was worth a hundred such as "disloyalty to the President." Even Postmaster Smith's noble Seven Hundred would have had difficulty standing together if the Mitchell men made good on that charge. In large circulars over which is printed. "Truth Shall Never Die," in big black type the following letter from Speaker Clark, "the statesman who came in a very few votes of being the Democratic President today."

Many Leaders Against Kitchin.

With the certainty that Kitchin is going to be overwhelmingly renominated and that the onslaught which promised something a month ago will be forgotten in a day, Mr. Kitchin finds many leaders against him and will probably have a harder fight next time.

The leaders are "laying" for him. Assuming that self interest plays a considerable part in their calculations it was but natural that they desired Mr. Mitchell. At best he would have been satisfied in Congress but a term or two. If he could be sent to Washington on the wave of presidential popularity or upon the call for preparedness, Claude Kitchin's career was ended and somebody else's begun.

The two men who have most discussed as successors are N. J. Rouse of Lenoir, and Judge Geo. W. Connor of Wilson. It appeared three days ago that their friends might exert themselves to the utmost. Neither friend nor principal seems to have turned a hand. It now looks as if Kitchin will take 80 per cent of Lenoir, 90 per cent being the least that a Kitchin man would be satisfied with.

As for the Connors, they are not fighting Kitchin. They are not even talking about him. Back in 1902 Claude Kitchin grabbed Halifax bodily and cast the whole vote for Judge Henry G. Connor who lacked about 10 of the necessary votes for the Supreme Court nomination over Judge George H Brown and Kitchin made hundreds and men who supported Judge Brown. But it turned the trick and gave Judge Connor a lead of about three. It beat Justice Brown. Kitchin men are mighty grateful today that Judge Brown lives in the first district. A belated reckoning might now be due. If all other things failed Claude Kitchin now, Wilson county and town recollecting that it was he who made Halifax vote solidly when Judge Brown had enough votesto nominate him with his strength in Halifax, would stick to the congressman.

Simmons Man With Kitchin.

The number of Simmons leaders who are entirely opposed to defeating Kitchin is amazingly large. They love to go back to 1912 and quote Kitchin's speeches advocating Will Kitchin because Simmons was not en rapport with a Democrat, like Woodrow Wilson.

They love to tell Claude's partisans just how foolish the state would have been to make the change and they do love to talk about the chickens coming home to roost. Then they apologize for voting the Kitchin ticket by explaining that if they were not wiser than Brother Claude they would swat him good and hard. Always in the end they say that it would be a tragedy to defeat a man whose opportunities for good are so great.

And had it not been for the number of Simmons men who opposed the defeat of a party leader of such long service the Mitchell candidacy would have amounted to something. On the bare Kitchin-Simmons division there is little majority either way. But it looks more and more as if Kitchin should poll several hundred more than his brother did four years ago.

Away from Wilson the very semblance of a fight has gone. "Mitchell will not get 125 votes in Edgecombe," one of the leaders of the district said last night. Uncertain Northampton appears to be almost as solidly and Warren has been unable to get interested. Halifax was always in the way of optimism. Calvin Woodard could never see any hope of Mitchell's nomination so long as Halifax is in the district. The imagination must do the rest for all who read this paragraph. It is worth noting as one goes along that Halifax contracted the habit of voting for Kitchins many years ago and that back in 1898 and 1900 with a jet black population a Democratic majority of 5,000 wasn't an impossibility.

Mitchell's men are today being comforted. To all who claim as Kitchin's crowning achievement the shoving back into the party of F. M. Simmons, they present Clingman W. Mitchell as the man who spanked Kitchin and made him behave himself. When a campaign runs so dry as that church is out. It's the live issue down here now. The question is no longer whether Kitchin will be returned. It is whether he has been spanked or not. The Mitchell men say he has; the Kitchin men say he hasn't felt it.—W. T. Bost in The Greensboro News.

Wilson, May 19.—Clingman W. Mitchell's fine face and features adorn hundreds of Wilson windows but the Aulander man has been picked to beat Claude Kitchin in the second is slated for slaughter.

The "movies" have not helped the cause. They daily reel off the menace of our national nakedness and picture patriarchal beards convulsively working to paint the verbal portrait of the people unprepared. New York has been shot up, foreign soldiers have marched in close formation up Broadway and just one man has been by a stray bullet. Then the climax: 'Woodrow Wilson is for preparedness, Mitchell is for preparedness; Kitchin is not."

The picture has fallen upon dull times Patriotic Mitchell men explain it by telling where Wilson was visiting this week. The pictures have not excited the populace and the Kitchin people have been dissapointed with the patronage of the screeny evangel. They have now reached that speed in the racing where every knock is a boost and gathers momentum with lustiness of the kick. They will not admit that they brought the scream to this storm center of the domestic typhoon.

One considerable personality in Calvin Woodard, wholesale merchant, incarnates the Mitchell strength. Mr. Woodard likes Bob Glenn and speaks like Bob Ingersoll. You may catch him in his store without a clerk or bookkeeper or any help. He will boot a ton of meat on a wagon and kick Kitchin as the wagon leaves the curb. He never stops. He is 51 years old and has voted for Kitchin since the war. "I am getting derned tired of it," Mr. Woodard says, "and we are going to teach him a lesson."

Doesn't Hope to Beat Kitchin.

Mr. Woodard admits that the campaign now can be didactic only. He does not hope to beat Kitchin, with whose dogma he isn't wholly displeased. But we can teach him that North Carolina is yet a sister and the second is a child of the sister. The enterprise has either degenerated or been exalted to a school.

The merchant will bet any man anything from a ton of western meat to a half million that Kitchin will not carry Wilson county. It is a soul's rest to find one man positive. Both sides are claiming this county but the Mitchell men whisper it until Calvin Woodard heaves in sight and whoops it up like some Israelitish captain cheering the fainting legions of the Lord.

Kitchin will carry Wilson. It is safe to say so now for Mr. Woodard won't know it until Saturday, and it will be too late to have him show how much more a linguist money is with a wholesaler than it is with a newspaper guy. But it is in the air. One breathes the very feebleness of the Kitchin opposition and his supporters could grow arrogant in the sureness of certain and overwhelming indorsement of Brother Claude.

This isn't the only place that has been visited and on it does not depend the outcome of the Mitchell candidacy. But it is the only place which shows the fighting good faith. Mr. Mitchell has many strong supporters in Wilson, and Mr. Woodard isn't his sole hope. Nobody else puts quite the energy or the eloquence into it that Calvin Woodard carries and it is a pleasure to see or hear him speak.

Why Fight is Hopeless.

For days the integrity of the fight against Kitchin has been impeached by friends of Postmaster S. W. Smith who holds the office by the Kitchin O. K. The tobacco men as a class have appeared to feel more resentment of the Kitchin record than any other. Mr. Smith comes in here. He is the head of the big co-operative tobacco business in which 700 farmers share. In the three years these farmers have divided their 114 per cent with him. A man able to make money on tobacco that way wasn't the fellow to make postmaster. Some of this fight is meant for Smith, they say.

But Mr. Smith not only has the nucleus of a great Kitchin force in the

(Continued on page two.)

Letter From Raleigh Bearing on Various and Sundry Topics

Firemen's Convention Soon to be in Session.—Commissioner Young After Fire-Bugs.—Freight-Rate Conference Attended by Tar Heels.—All Hands Ready for First Legalized State Primary on June Third.

Raleigh, N. C., May 23.—The firemen of the state will soon be Raleigh's guests and there will be a fine representation here at their annual meeting and tournament.

There has been marked improvement of late in the drills and general efficiency of the individual fire companies of the various cities and towns. This is largely due the active interest which the State Insurance Department is taking in the firemen and their organizations. Commissioner Young several days ago conscripted one of the best firemen in the State and added him to the work of his department. At that time he was chief of the Raleigh fire department and had been for several years, and had received valuable training through active service with the firemen of New York City. He is sent about the State doing much good work. Building inspection is becoming a feature of his work and all property owners should co-operate in the effort to reduce fire waste.

In this connection it should be added that Commissioner Young is making an appeal to the newspaper men of North Carolina to help in a campaign for the reduction of the great fire loss (in both property and lives) annually in this State, and especially to stamp out the firing of woods, either carelessly or maliciously. He intends to vigorously prosecute offenders of this character in the future.

Section 4346 of the Revisal is very explicit in providing the penalty for the punishment of those who cause forest fires, from which this State has suffered much within the last month or two and Commissioner Young declares that all burning of property will be fully investigated and offenders prosecuted. Posters warning against the burning of woods are being sent out from the Insurance Commissioners office. Between three and four million dollars are annually lost by fire in North Carolina and Commissioner Young says "two-thirds of the loss is preventable with ordinary care." Surely this is a matter that should enlist the earnest attention of our people of all classes. The Department has secured the conviction of 195 persons who were prosecuted for incendiary and kindred offenses. So far there have been eight convictions by the Department during the present year.

At the Head of This Table, Too.

Representatives of the North Carolina Corporation Commission have returned from Washington where they presented their cases on appeal to the Interstate Commerce Commission. In this instance they met the Virginia cities in their last stand, in the fight they are making to get for the Virginia cities themselves the benefit of the reduced rates in interstate freight to North Carolina cities and towns, and thus to restore the original status of discrimination in favor of the Virginia cities. The decison may not be handed down for several months, but our folks think they have their case won.

The State of North Carolina is to be congratulated on the fine reputation which the North Carolina Commission enjoys in the estimation of the Interstate Commission. Of course the reputation is due to the personnel of the Commission, to the individuality and special fitness of Messrs. Travis, Lee and Peil to discharge the important work committed to their care. The chairman of the National Commission said in a former hearing in these Virginia cities cases to a North Carolinian who was present: "I have listened to members of corporation commissions from every State in the Union, but I have never known of a case that was more ably presented than this by the North Carolina Commissioner."

Speaking on this subject, a prominent man with some knowledge of the subject said: "That the North Carolina Commission stands well with the Interstate Commission was made very apparent to me some time ago when, at the hearing of the Royster Fertilizer case, the National Commission amended its procedure at the suggestion of the chairman of the North Carolina Commission, so that in future no cases of that character will be considered unless the original complaint makes the Corporation Commission a party to the proceedings, with full notice and opportunity to present its view of the case to the Interstate Commerce Commission."

State Primary in Sight—Some Guessing.

Saturday of next week will witness the pulling off of the first legalized State primary and of course, the point of "tip-toe expectation" is being reached. There are those who predict several "surprises." One of them is the prediction of the heavy vote which Mr. J. S. Mann will poll for State Treasurer. There is good ground for this assertion of Mr. Mann's friends, for the reports that have been brought to Raleigh of late along the same line are very suggestive of such results—and they cover a large number of counties and a wide area of the State. Mr. Mann's condition has improved so rapidly that he will probably be able to leave the hospital next week. His friends over the State are said to be taking much active interest in his candidacy for State Treasurer and his interests have not suffered during his illness.

Among the optimists are to be distinctly classed the admirers of Assistant Attorney General Calvert, whose candidacy for Attorney General has met with so much favor and which his friends say has been making great headway of late While the result of this contest, with four competitors, is regarded as one of the uncertainties of the primary, it seems to be regarded as a certainty that Mr. Calvert stands a fine chance of the promotion ten days before the ballots are to be cast.

Some of his opponents of late seem to have been addressing themselves especially to the task of trying to "break the hold" which Gov. Daughtridge is supposed to have with the farmers of the State. The "argument" they have been making was apparently designed to discredit his identity as a farmer and convey the idea that he is not as greatly interested in agriculture as his friends claim. "But they can't get away from these indisputable facts," said one of his friends today: "Daughtridge has lived on the farm 45 years Farming is still his chief occupation. But he also has had much business experience and possesses wide knowledge in business affairs—for he is a man of affairs."

Odd Fellows here who attended the annual meeting at Wilson speak enthusiastically of the fine condition of the order at the present time. Grand Representative M. L. Shipman, who was of the delegation which visited the Odd Fellow's Orphanage at Goldsboro, and who is one of the most active and consistent of Odd Fellows, says conditions at that "pride of the order," in which all take so much interest, are most excellent and brought joy to every heart present, including the 200 orphans who are now being cared for and educated there.

Raleigh is in the hands of the Shriners this week, with "fresh meat" the most attractive dish on the Oasis Temple hill of fare.

Llewxam.

Commonwealth to Issue a Special Night of the Primary

Tabulated Returns from Every Precinct in the County Will Be Given.—Friends of the Paper are Urged to Cooperate in Getting Result of the Election Before Public.—Paper Will Be Out Sunday A. M.

The Commonwealth plans to issue a special election edition Saturday night, June 3rd on account of the primary election. The result at every precinct in Halifax county will be carried in tabulated form for the convenience of readers of this paper. The public of neighboring towns of the county are urged to co-operate with the Commonwealth in this effort to give the news while it is still hot. The various telephone companies within the bounds of the county will be petitioned to keep an operator on the job at every station until the returns are complete.

It is work to do this, but the paper feels that its efforts in giving the people of the county their money's worth is appreciated, hence it is a pleasure to make this effort for them.