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# THE COMMONWEALTH

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## CORRESPONDENCE LETTER FROM THE STATE'S CAPITAL

Raleigh, N. C., September 12.—The hard-worked Congressmen are this week back home at last, after spending the entire summer at their desks in Washington. The less than two months they will have to circulate among their constituents and mend their political fences before election day will keep them tolerably busy.

Doughton and Hood, of the Eighth and Third Districts, will find that Lewis and Butler have been laying traps to catch votes while the Congressmen were busy at Washington working to help carry through the splendid accomplishments of the present Democratic Congress. But even the Republican campaign committee can see little hopes of prizing those faithful servants of the people from their jobs. Britt in the Tenth will find the ground well broken for a bigger crop of Democratic votes than ever, with a particularly strong man contesting his seat. Mr. Weaver, it is said by visitors to Raleigh from that district, is making a fine impression. Democratic differences (the main thing that opened the way for Britt's election two years ago) have been all healed, and the party is thoroughly united this year, which means that North Carolina should be represented by a unanimous Democratic delegation in the next Congress.

"The people are with us this year for sure," said a well-known prognosticator, "and it is only necessary to get out a full vote to elect every nominee on the ticket, from Woodrow Wilson to township constable." But the "stay-at-home" on election day will share none of the credit, so let us hope they will all join the procession to the ballot box this year.

### Republican "Slush Fund" in Evidence.

It is the Republican boast that Marion Butler is rendering that party mighty good service from the Washington end of the line—better, in fact, than if he were right here "on the ground." There isn't any sort of question about Butler being the real power behind the throne in directing the campaign, and that he has a big "slush fund" with which to push the work along. The unusual activity of Republicans hereabouts is causing Democrats to "sit up and take notice," and the dominant party throughout North Carolina has begun to see the need for earnest and effective work. And it is well. Frank Linney is chairman of the Republican party in name only. Marion Butler is chief dictator and director. He has inaugurated a pledge-card system for the benefit of weak-kneed voters, and his henchmen go right after every fellow whom they hear express displeasure with any part of the Democratic record. Furthermore, the Republicans are taking more than ordinary interest in the organization of clubs and attending the speaking appointments of their campaign orators. Facing these conditions, Democrats should have a care and pass out words for good party men everywhere to get busy. A big corruption fund, such as the Republicans appear to have at their disposal, in the hands of bold and unscrupulous men, is a thing that should be reckoned with, and it will be a part of wisdom for Democrats to be on guard continually from now until sunset on election day. "A stitch in time saves nine."

### False Statements of Republican Spellbinders.

The Republican spellbinders who are attempting to fool the voters of North Carolina by an alleged "criticism" of the Democratic State administration, are getting into deep water, and are helplessly floundering in the verbal maelstrom of "criticizing" the dominant party's public school system record and policy. They have nothing better to offer, and studiously avoid telling the voters the whole truth. They refuse to tell their hearers that the last U. S. census report shows the State of North Carolina as having made a greater reduction in white illiteracy during the preceding decade (all under Democratic administration) than any State in the American Union.

They fail to state that, under the new State equalizing fund laws, this fund in 1916 amounted to \$447,940, and was so apportioned as to lengthen the school term

## CHAMP CLARK

### COMMENTS ON 64TH CONGRESS

Washington, Sept. 9.—Before leaving Washington for Missouri today Speaker Champ Clark, whom Minority Leader Mann has characterized as the fairest and best speaker the house ever had, prepared an exclusive statement for the Greensboro Daily News correspondent reviewing at length the constructive legislation enacted by the first session of the 64th Congress which adjourned Friday morning.

Mr. Clark thinks the income tax the fairest method of raising revenue ever proposed by any government, declares the federal reserve act "panic-proof" and thinks the rural credits law will do nothing that has been done in a hundred years.

The eight-hour day legislation—the speaker believes—was necessary to avoid a great public calamity which was only avoided by the timely action of Congress in passing the bill which prevented it.

The statement of Speaker Clark follows: "Actions speak louder than words. Here are some of the things we have done and on which we stand: "We passed a great tariff bill—the best ever placed on the statute books. It contains many excellent changes from the old Payne-Aldrich-Smoot monstrosity—and it contains one new feature that would make it the best of all tariff bills, even if the rest of it were as bad as the last Republican tariff bill, which most emphatically it is not. That new feature is the income tax.

### New Speaking Dates.

Chairman Warren announces the following new appointments for Democratic speakers: Hon. R. B. Glenn—Monday, September 25, at Goldsboro; Tuesday, September 26, at Clinton; Wednesday, September 27, Brunswick county; Thursday, September 28, at Whiteville; Friday, September 29, at Kenansville; Saturday, September 30, in Wilson county.

### Current Matters of Importance.

Commissioner of Labor and Printing Shipman and Chairman Britton, who sought an interview with Secretary of War Baker, while the latter was in Greensboro Thursday night, report that they had a very satisfactory talk with the Secretary about the immediate shipment of seed (the exact kind of seed needed) to the flood sufferers in the western counties. Secretary of War Baker promised to give the matter his immediate personal attention on his return to Washington.

Several more of the progressive counties are planning to make "county exhibits" of their resources and industries at the State Fair next month. The time is getting shorter each day, and there are a number of counties that might get busy without further delay along the same line of endeavor. It is a great opportunity for the counties to advertise themselves, and this year, of all years, they should take advantage of it. Probably the largest attended State Fair in a generation will open up the third week in October in Raleigh, and the Fair itself in merit promises to eclipse all that have gone before.

Messrs. G. C. Weeks, Tom Johnson, B. W. Martin and John Medford motored to Greenville Friday, where Mr. Weeks went to bring home some Overland "Six" touring cars. While in Greenville, Messrs. Martin and Johnson visited the tobacco market and heard the "oximeter" selling the golden weed by the chin-music method.

## EXCAVATION IS PROCEEDING ON TENTH STREET

The J. B. McCrary Co.'s big ditching machine arrived last night over the Coast Line from Nashville, N. C., and as soon as it can be unloaded, will be put to work in connection with the removal of earth along the principal streets of the town. Already a force of workmen have been excavating and laying pipe on Tenth street, having tunneled under the A. C. L. freight station the last of the week.

The giant tank tower, which was furnished by the R. D. Cole Mfg. Co., Newnan, Ga., has also arrived, as has other material for the construction of Scotland Neck's municipal improvements. There was a report going the rounds some days ago to the effect that all the shade trees on the streets which were traversed by pipe lines would have to be cut down. This is evidently a false impression, as the superintendent of construction told the Commonwealth's reporter that only the trees in the middle of the street were in line for removal, and possibly these would not be removed.

Teachers Arriving. Miss Ethel Thomas, principal of the local high school arrived yesterday from Lenoir to begin her duties Thursday. Miss Etta Mae Miller of Wilkesboro, teacher of the second grade, arrived yesterday also.

Very little land worth entering now belongs to him outside of Alaska, which bids fair to be not only a great mining region, but also a great agricultural and grazing section. The Democratic policy seeks to utilize in perpetuity the vast wealth of that amazingly rich territory for the benefit of the American.

The trades commission law is, so far as our country is concerned, a new venture in legislation, intended to regulate trade so that it will be fair trade—fair to all—big and little. Of course, being of recent date, we have not had time to set the machinery under it to working at its best, but much good is expected from its operation.

The rural credits bill will undoubtedly prove a great blessing to the farmers. The most valuable features of it are the long term which the loan runs, the plan for amortization, and the low rate of interest. These will give a permanency never before known on this side of the Atlantic to agricultural pursuits, and will, it is hoped, induce more people to own homes, a great desideratum. The rural credits bill, taken in connection with the reserve bank bill, ought to give great impetus to the oldest of human occupations—that of tilling the soil. In America the rural credits scheme is new, but in Europe it is old, having been started by Fredrick the Great at the close of the Seven Years' war, a century and a half ago. The rural credits bill, or landstaff, which he started, is still doing business.

"The bad wagon roads of America are a sad commentary on our sense, for, stated in brief terms, they constitute wicked and wanton waste. We easily lead the world in railroads, but we are badly behind Europe in wagon roads. We consider the Romans of 2,000 years ago old fogies, and yet they were ahead of us, much ahead, in the matter of country roads. The Appian way is the most famous highway in the world, and the rock roads which they constructed across the Pyrenees are still traveled by the children of men. The Shackelford good roads bill is a long step in the direction of giving us a system of wagon roads which will be of permanent and vast utility to all our people, particularly to farmers, reducing the cost of transporting food products to market, thereby reducing the high cost of living and increasing the joy of country life.

"After many years of agitation in favor of electing United States Senators by popular vote, we secured a constitutional amendment authorizing it, and passed laws to put the amendment into effect. Not one of the dire evils predicted touching the plan has been fulfilled. No man ever possessed ingenuity enough to produce a valid argument against it. The new plan is working well. "What is known as the Rucker corrupt practice act will go far to

## VIRGIL BUTT, OF MARION, WOUNDS FIVE WITH GUN

Trouble is Said to Have Arisen Over Employment of His Better Half. Marion, N. C., Sept. 10.—Virgil Butt, a white man 35 years old, shot and seriously wounded five persons at the home of Thomas Morris this afternoon. The wounded are: Lawrence Morris, Roland Morris, J. L. Biddix, Mrs. J. H. L. Miller and Mrs. Virgil Butt, the wife of the assailant.

Butt's wife was a cook at the home of Morris and supposedly against his will is his reason for the act. About 6 o'clock Butt appeared at the rear door of the Morris home armed with a rifle and shot his wife, then entered the home and began shooting at the other occupants. J. L. Biddix, a nearby neighbor, appeared on the scene and Butt shot him, the bullet grazing his forehead. He returned to his home for a shotgun and succeeded in wounding Butt, as he escaped toward the hills. It is not known how seriously they are wounded, but it is thought that all will recover.

Mrs. J. H. L. Miller, who was shot in the neck, is in a serious condition. The assailant escaped and is yet at large with several hundred men on the trail. Excitement is intense tonight and should the fugitive be captured he will barely avoid being lynched. Butt has been a heavy drinker and was regarded as dangerous when drunk.

## SOUTH CAROLINA VOTING TODAY FOR THE RUN-OFF

Interest in the gubernatorial race is high.—Large Vote is Being Cast. Columbia, S. C., September 12.—South Carolina Democrats are voting again today in the run-off primary to determine upon the election of Governor. The present incumbent, Richard I. Manning and former Governor Cole L. Blease both claim they will get a majority. A heavy vote is being polled.

## A Wise Bull.

A young fellow was looking over a fence watching a girl milk a cow in an open field, when suddenly he observed a young and excited bull, with his head lowered and tail coiled high in the air, rushing madly toward her. The youth called out to warn her of the approaching danger, but she just glanced at the bull and continued calmly to milk the cow.

Still the infuriated animal rushed toward the dauntless girl, and then, when it was almost upon her, it stopped short, gave a loud bellow, and galloped away to the farther side of the meadow.

"The young fellow now ventured to ask the girl how she knew the bull would not touch her.

"Oh," was the gentle reply, "this cow's his mother-in-law."

## VILLA HAS DEVELOPED ORATORIAL ABILITY

An American Reports His Address From a Wagon Seat in Chihuahua. El Paso, Texas, Sept. 9.—From the seat of a wagon Francisco Villa addressed the populace of Satevo, Chihuahua, when his forces captured the town about two weeks ago, according to an American arriving here today. Villa is quoted as saying:

"You see before you Pancho Villa, the bandit. But you see also that I am paying my soldiers in silver, and I promise you it will not be long until I have a large army. I now have plenty of machine guns and ammunition. You saw neither the 'gringos' nor the Carranzistas could catch me even when I was ill. The 'gringos' are harder fighters than the Carranzistas, but I fear them no animosity. All I am interested in is in punishing traitors, and putting an end to Carranza."

Graded School Opens Thursday. The Commonwealth is requested to extend a cordial invitation to the patrons and friends of the local graded school to be present Thursday morning at the opening exercises. Most of the teachers who live out of town will arrive tonight and tomorrow, and the opening day will give all the patrons an opportunity to meet those who are to have charge of their children for the approaching term.

Mr. L. Mills Kerr returned last night from Norfolk, where he has been convalescing from the effects of an operation for appendicitis.

## KERR'S MAJORITY OVER WINSTON ABOUT 2,000

Returns from Saturday's Judicial primary indicate that Hon. John H. Kerr's majority over Judge F. D. Winston of Bertie county will run as high as 2,000 votes. Up to the present time it is impossible to get the Winston majority, but it is reported to be anywhere from 150 to 900. All the other counties in the district were carried by Mr. Kerr by the following approximate majorities:

	Kerr	Winston
Weldon	356	13
Roanoke Rapids	340	82
Littleton	44	72
Halifax	76	24
Enfield	216	90
Brinkleyville	152	6
Fauette's	49	52
Palmyra	60	23
Scotland Neck	216	93
Rosemeath	50	25
Conowara	44	16
Kelukee	28	68

## ATTEMPT MADE ON LIFE OF CAPT. C. W. JEFFRESS

Tarboro Mill Man Rudely Awakened Sunday Night by Whizz of Bullets. Information was received here yesterday of an attempt to take the life of Capt. C. W. Jeffress at his home eight miles of Tarboro Sunday night. Details of the alleged attempt have not been learned but the facts in the case seem to be about as follows: Mr. Jeffress had retired for the night, but before he had gone to sleep he heard a noise about the premises. He got up to investigate, but found nothing to indicate the presence of a party or parties. Shortly after retiring again a shot was fired, supposedly from a rifle, the ball going clear through the house. Within a few seconds five additional shots had been fired, several of which penetrated the mattress on which Mr. Jeffress has been sleeping. A search was made but no one was found.

Mr. Jeffress is a prominent citizen of Edgecombe, and has a handsome home this side of Tarboro on the Lawrence's road. There is no motive advanced for the attempt.

## A PULPWOOD EXHIBIT AT THE STATE FAIR

In view of the very high and still increasing prices of paper and the growing scarcity of the materials from which it is made, it has been suggested that one or more paper manufacturing plants be invited to come to North Carolina where in many localities wood suitable for pulp is still abundant.

Manufacturers, capitalists and consumers are all interested in this proposition and are casting about for a suitable location. For this reason the proposed exhibit of wood suitable for paper making at the coming State Fair at Raleigh, October 16-21, will be likely to attract national attention. It is proposed that each county or town, through its officers or chamber of commerce, exhibit one block of each kind of wood suitable for paper making, where such county has any large amount available for this purpose.

Blocks may be round, halved or quartered, 2 or 3 feet long, cut from logs more than 4 inches and less than 12 inches in diameter. Bark should be peeled off one end and left on the other. The name of the wood and the exhibitor should accompany the exhibit. Material should be sent by freight or express prepaid to J. E. Pogue, Secretary, State Fair, Raleigh, N. C., and marked Department N, Machinery Vending. They should arrive not later than October 13. Space for the exhibit is furnished free.

The principal North Carolina species now suitable for paper making are poplar, hemlock, linn, spruce, chestnut and second growth pine of several species. An exhibit of this kind, besides advertising your county, may have a very decided influence in securing a permanent manufacturing plant in your town. Write to the State Forester, Chapel Hill, N. C., who will be in charge of the exhibit.—North Carolina Geological and Economic Survey.