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A LETTER FROM TEXAS.

A Smithfieldian Writes of the Boll Weevil. He Tells us of the Texas Capital and Other Matters of Interest.

Austin, Texas, Aug. 5, 1904.

Dear Lassiter:—I thought a line from a Johnston county man, nearly two thousand miles from home, might be of interest to the readers of the Herald. I came by way of St. Louis, where I left Mrs. Sanders to take in the great fair. The writer spent two days and nights in that city, and was greatly interested in the fair. To see the exterior of the buildings and the statuary would almost pay one for the trip. The St. Louis Exposition grounds cover 1240 acres, while the Chicago Exposition covered 633 acres, the Paris Exposition of 1889-1890 covered 336, and the Philadelphia 236. The grand total cost of the present Exposition and exhibits is \$50,000,000. St. Louis is a great city, being fourth in size of American cities, and has a population of about 800,000.

I came from St. Louis to Waco, Texas, and was greatly charmed with the country all the way. I passed through Missouri, Kansas and Indian Territory. The soil of nearly all this vast territory is surpassingly fertile and I would judge easy to cultivate. Corn, oats, wheat and cotton are the principal crops. Horses, mules and cattle abound everywhere. The soil produces from 25 to 40 bushels of corn and from half to one bale of cotton to the acre. No commercial fertilizers whatever is used or needed. Yet it is not all smooth sailing here. For this is the home of the boll weevil. This pest has already infested about one-third of the cotton acreage of the State (Texas) and is doing much damage now and will very likely in a few years cover the entire cotton lands of the State. The weevil came from Mexico, where he originated about forty years ago. And I am told that the Mexican lands whence he came have been abandoned for the growing of cotton. This is a very serious problem for the Texan farmers.

This is truly a great State, comprising 265,000 square miles, and with a population of more than three millions Austin is the capital of the State. This morning I visited the capital building, which is said to be the best of all the Southern capitols. It is of brown stone very much like that of Moore county of our State, and very beautiful in design. The grounds are well located.

I was much interested in a monument to Mr. Davis, and one to those who were slain at the Alamo. All the school boys have or should read the life of Davy Crockett. Davy had many narrow escapes in his long life in the woods in the time of Indians and bear and it is a pity that he should have been slain by civilized people. There is a fine life size portrait of him in the rotunda of the capitol. I would judge that he was six feet tall and weighed about 200 pounds, a clear blue eye, and a handsome, manly face—what a man. First among all the noted frontiersmen (Dan Boone not excepted) gifted as an orator, reliable and self-contained in the Halls of Congress and grand in the hour of death.

Opposite the Crockett portrait I noticed a very large painting in oil of the surrender of Santa Anna. This painting is about 15 by 20 feet and must have cost a good deal. This event occurred the day after the battle of San Jacinto, April 22, 1836. Gen. San Houston was in command of the Texans and is represented lying upon a blanket with his right leg bandaged from the knee down. Gen. Houston is surrounded by his officers and Santa Anna is attended by his staff. The result of this battle was prolific in many blessings to Texas. It secured independence from Mexico and annexation to the United States. I was reminded of some of the striking expressions of Gen. Houston during the battle: "God and Texas, liberty or death,"

and, "I will never surrender or retreat an inch."

I have seen somewhere that Gen. Houston came to North Carolina in 1848 or 1850, and advised the adoption of the free suffrage plank in the platform of the Democratic party. Gov. David Reed, the Democratic candidate, was elected upon this platform, the first Democratic governor in a long while. My dates may be wrong.

Now, as I am closing this letter I am looking upon a busy scene. The bright electric lights upon the streets, the rushing car loaded with the young and gay on their way to the cool and well kept park, the moving forms of hundreds of business men returning to their homes, and as I look out upon all this, something gathers in my throat and to my mind recurs the closing lines of Edwin Fuller's "Sea-Gift."

"As the stars shine down from the skies, and the stars shine back from the sea, I am still gazing across the grey waters towards the land that I fought for, a land where want and woe are rife, and the burdened people bow beneath the yoke of conquest, and from all the wealth and luxury that surrounds me my heart turns with the yearning of a child back to my southern home."

I hope the boys and girls of North Carolina will read Mr. Fuller's Sea-Gift and his Angel of the Cloud. I think him our sweetest songster.

W. M. SANDERS.

Another View of the Dispensary Question.

To the Democratic voters of Johnston county:

The question that seems to be of more importance to the voters of Johnston county today is whether we shall place all the profits of the dispensaries of our county in the general school fund or whether we shall continue to give a better portion into the town treasury in which they are located. Perhaps my idea differs from most people's. I believe it's time to wipe dispensaries out of Johnston county and North Carolina, if possible.

First, if we voted open bars out of the county because we thought it would improve the morals of the county (and I believe it has) we know it would still improve to dispose of the whole thing. We know that moonshine whiskey and open bars were a curse to our county for years. We know our county has made more progress for the past five years than it had for twenty, and nothing has helped so much as restricting the use and sale of whiskey.

I thought we adopted the dispensaries because we wanted to improve the morals of our people. Then if the country districts have been bettered by removing the whiskey business from them (and they have) why then would we not be bettered by removing it from the towns? You say, Oh, it would destroy our graded schools. It would destroy the surplus in our town treasuries.

Now, gentlemen, let's be honest. Do you believe it's right for us to speculate in whiskey to run our towns or our schools, or our anything? If so, it's right for individuals to do it. You say they are going to have it. Not so with but few, and if you are going to sell it because we can manage it so much better than the individuals, then let's sell it at about the same per cent. profit we sell meat flour, etc and stop quarrelling over the profits.

In the first place, it's a crime from a financial standpoint. I believe every quart sold in Johnston county costs the county at least one dollar and fifty cents. The whiskey costs fifty cents the man usually loses a day to drink it, and any able bodied man is worth 75 cts per day, and there is always some wear and tear to horses, mules and vehicles, or some devilry connected with it that costs upon an average of 25 cts.

Now I suppose the profits alone on the whiskey sold in the county will amount to fifteen thousand dollars a

year. Well, surely we don't more than double our money. That would be thirty thousand dollars spent for it. Suppose every fifty cents worth bought cost one dollar and a half, that would make it cost ninety thousand dollars annually. That amount properly invested and properly managed for five or ten years would make us one of the most prosperous people in the State.

Now there is a moral side to this question, and that is a sad one. We, as people who claim to be trying to help mankind live right that they may die right, are in the whiskey business. We say we are not in it because we think it the right kind of business, but because we think we can handle it in a more decent manner than the other fellow, and we are actually quarrelling over the profits, and some actually say we can't afford to stop the business because we are making money out of it. Now that may do for us while we live, but it won't suit us in our dying hours. What man in Johnston county would say he sees no prospects of his son dying a drunkard if the stuff is kept where he is allowed to taste it occasionally? What man can say he will not die a drunkard if he tampers with it? What man would not feel better satisfied about his children if he knew there would never be another quart of the stuff made or sold in North Carolina?

Now is the time to dispose of it in Johnston county. We as a party have taken a stand to restrict the whiskey business (and I'm glad we have). Now as a compromise for the fight that is going on in the county for a division of the profits allow me to suggest that we pass a resolution on August 17th instructing our next Representatives to wipe the whole thing out of the county. I wish every voter in the county would be there and express himself and in five years we will be prosperous and happy and proud of our act.

R. B. WHITLEY.

Selma, N. C., Aug 9.

Daughtry Replies to Powell.

Editor of the Herald.

Mr. C. S. Powell published in last week's Herald a letter, in which he used this language: "A communication in last week's Herald, signed by Jesse Daughtry, appears to me to use unjust and uncalled for criticisms and insinuations against the great 'Rhinoceros' (as Dick Massey, once called him) Sheriff J. T. Ellington." I want to say that no fair-minded man, unbiased and free from prejudice and other influences, can truthfully say my letter in any way or in any manner criticised or reflected upon Sheriff Ellington, or that it contained one word insinuating against him personally or officially. It is a pleasure to me, with the other friends of Sheriff Ellington, to say that I esteem him, and regard him as one of the highest types of an American citizen, honest, brave, true to his convictions, and an able and conscientious officer of the law; and any intimation that this writer insinuated that Sheriff Ellington is what he ought not to be is gratuitous and exists wholly in an imaginative imagination. I simply intended in my letter, to call attention to the fact that "rotation in office is a principal of Democracy" that perpetuation of office has a tendency to centrifugation of government, and the Democratic party through its leaders, its speakers and by its platform, taught the people to beware of that principal which places power and authority alone in the hands of a few. One of the issues in this campaign is the "one man power." If rotation in office is not right then it is a farce, to hold elections every two years. If rotation in office is not right, let the Democratic party at the convention on the 17th of this month pass a resolution declaring that Sheriff Ellington need never again say he is not a candidate but let the convention force the nomination upon him and give him a life estate in the office, and thereby put an end, to use his own language, in a letter published by him last week—

"let this everlasting bickering and nagging cease."

If rotation in office is not right let the convention declare, that the ambitions and aspirations of the young men, in Johnston county, who may desire to hold office, are in vain, that the doors are closed and that Elisha's mantle has fallen to a favored few. I do believe, and I again repeat, that perpetuation in office, is contrary to Democratic principals, a continuation in office smells of, and smacks of radicalism; it advances the idea that there is only one man in Johnston county honest enough and has the capacity and ability to fill the office of sheriff. Perpetuation in office suggest the thought of ring rule.

JESSE DAUGHTRY.

For County Treasurer.

Mr. Editor:—Please spare me space in your good and reliable Democratic paper for me to mention a name for county treasurer.

This office is looked upon by a great many people as being an office of minor importance, or in plainer speaking, some think this officer is not required to possess the courage and ability as that of some other county officer. But when we for a moment think of the money he handles, and his heavy bond we will at once see that this is an entirely a mistaken idea.

The term of this office like that of the register of deeds, two terms to the man who makes an irreproachable record, and so far as I can learn the present incumbent has been up to the mark of custom and duty. And inasmuch as such is the case I want to remind the Democratic voters of Johnston county of Alex. Wiggs, of Pine Level, the man who has held the office two years, and asks us to give it to him for two years more, and two years only. He is a man of natural afflictions, but of business talents, a devoted member of the Primitive Baptist church, a neighbor to his neighbors, and a sympathizer of the needy. What more is required of him?

Now can we not afford to nominate him on the 17th without the fear of defeat? I have not heard of any other candidate being in the field, but I simply offer this card to the Democrats of Johnston county to remind you of our duty on convention day according to past custom. Please remember this good Democrat.

F. C. HAMILTON.

Smithfield, N. C.

Wants Same Old Horse.

To the Herald:

In last week's Herald I see Brothers Daughtry and Oliver borrowed themselves some "new shoes" and tried their hands or heels at "backstepping" at the expense of our sheriff; so I propose to give them a little sample of the "broad shuffle," and I'm going to do it in my same old "stomped-down." I say let's keep our same old sheriff. No use swapping horses unless you are going to get bettered. The old horse we've got is good enough for anybody. He is gentle and works well any where you hitch him, pulls in the new ground just as well as in the old field; don't fret a bit, but does his work right and just eats the food you give him and is satisfied with it; don't eat up his own fodder and then run the mules off and eat theirs, nor does he break out into the corn field and rye patch at night. Hitch him up where you please and you find him in sleet, rain or snow, the same gentle horse he is in pleasant weather, not backing and kicking and tearing your buggy and harness to pieces. These fellows that's going around talking about swapping don't appear to be offering any boot, or proposing to do the work for less. They count up the ears of corn and bundles of fodder that "old faithful" has eat and that's all they can see about it, and if you put them in office that's all they'll be able to see there. They are too near-sighted to see anything except the corn and fodder in the trough and the next thing you would hear from that sort of a fellow he

would be "whickering" for more fodder, so let's not bother with them but keep our same old sheriff, J. T. Ellington.

Moral:—Don't try to dance in borrowed shoes, even if they are new.

W. L. JOHNSON.

Smithfield, N. C.

For the House.

To the Herald:

Please allow me space in your columns to mention the name of a man for the legislature in whom the people have the utmost confidence, one who has served several times as a member of the legislature from Johnston county and has always proved true to his promises on the stump in every particular. There is no better campaigner in the county, and we know it is of vast importance that we select our best men and campaigners. He is personally known by very near every voter in Johnston county, and they know that he will legislate for the whole and not for the favored few.

His former record in the legislature is open and above reproach. Not a vote has he ever cast in the legislature that failed to please the people. He is the father of the 6 per cent. interest law that has been so much benefit to the farmers of the State. His knowledge and experience will not only be of benefit to the people of Johnston county, but will go a great way in shaping legislation for the whole State.

This man is E. S. Abell, of Smithfield. Let us nominate him on the 17th and you will see old Johnston as before, waving the Democratic banner in November. I don't know that Mr. Abell wants the nomination, but the people are anxious to have him represent them.

JESSE PARKER.

Pine Level Aug 7, 1904.

Ellington for Sheriff.

There seems to be some dissatisfaction in regard to the sheriff of Johnston county. What is the trouble? Has he been negligent in the performance of duty, has he squandered the county funds? Has he betrayed any trust confided to him by the people?

If so, let us look for a better man to fill his place. If he is guilty of none of these charges, then why should the poor, hard working people of Johnston county want to fill his place with a new and untried man? There is no complaint against J. T. Ellington; only the few who say he has had it long enough are complaining, and this is the only charge they attempt to make.

Now why should the man that has to toil for his daily bread and has no hope or expectation of ever getting any of the county's funds want to make any change? No, gentlemen, we cannot afford to change, there is danger. It seems to me the basest ingratitude in any people after he has been so faithful all these years to want to throw him aside and try some one else. It seems to me that this question of rotation is undemocratic. These rotation fellows could just as well say the Democratic party of Johnston county has served us faithfully a long time; now we will turn it over to the other party.

The poor people of the county had better be careful how they ride the old warhorse out of ranks.

Now, gentlemen let us renominate J. T. Ellington for sheriff of Johnston county on the 17th and we will make no mistake.

C. W. LINDSAY.

Smithfield, Aug. 10.

Let the People Rule.

Mr. Editor.

I wrote an article on this subject that I now wish to write on, about two years ago. It was not published in the Herald, and you gave me satisfactory reasons for not publishing it at that time. But from what I have seen in your valuable paper lately I can't help but think that some have erroneous ideas of the principles of Democracy. I may be the one in error. If so I wish to get right. If not

I wish to help others get right. Some are clamoring for rotation in office suppose a change was made in every election. How long would it take to get around? Why nine-tenths of the men who will vote the Democratic ticket in the coming election would die of old age before their time would roll around to hold office, especially any office of profit to the holder, for the profitable offices in the county, you can show the number by the number of fingers on one hand (and I don't know but you could on a crippled hand that had two or three fingers missing). At any rate, a great majority of Democrats who has spent their lives in the Democratic harness will never see inside of the office door of their office as a county officer. And there are a few of us yet living who helped to keep the old ship afloat through reconstruction times, and on to the present time, as well as a host of younger men who have boarded the ship of Democracy, that dislike very much to bear men claim that the Democratic party owes them an office for service rendered the party.

To such men: The party owes you nothing, but you owe all that you ever got in the way of good government to the Democratic party. I claim that the principles of Democracy are right, and if a man does not love Democratic principles enough to make him work for the success of the party without expecting reward in the way of an office, why he should go way back and take a seat and say nothing. This rotation idea is (in my opinion) the cause of so many candidates, and so much confusion. Almost all office seekers seem to think well my time will come next, and if some one else gets the nomination, you are apt to hear something like the following: it was unfairly done. There was trickery used to defeat me, and I shall have nothing to do with the election. I don't expect to even go to the polls. My influence shall be of no use to any one else so long as I fail to get nominated, etc. Why forty years ago, as well as a number of years since that time, the party called for men to fill the different offices. How is it to-day? Men claiming that the party owes them an office.

I have no objection to the plan of rotation that puts the majority of the people's choice in office. The majority ought to rule, and must rule or we are no longer Democrats. Let the candidate be who he may, a new man, or an old officer. The people will have something to say in the matter on the 17th.

So far as I know, I am a personal friend to each of the men named so far for the different offices, but I dislike to hear any one, or his friends, picking up every little mess imaginable against a good man, who no charge of any unclean act can be brought, it matters not whether he is an old officer, or a man who never held an office. Such is a grade of pure selfishness that every true Democrat should be above. A few men with their friends can cause a great deal of confusion on convention day if they think more of self than good government. We need more patriotism and less selfishness in the way of office getting, for the good of our country. Let's go to the convention with our minds made up to leave all selfish aspirations behind, and put our best men forward, by the people's majority. Then all will go well. Otherwise there will be confusion. Let's make a little more use of the Golden rule in politics as well as other matters. No one man need think that he can fill an office better than any other man. We have plenty of men in the county who could fill any office in the state. But that is no reason why we should down a good man who has held office more than two terms. It should not matter how long an officer holds office, if he gives entire satisfaction, and the majority of the people want him, and no men should try to break down a good man, in order that they might rise to his position. Let merit win.

JAS. H. SMITH.