

# The Smithfield Herald.

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NO. 22.

## STRONG TICKET NAMED

### Greatest Convention in History Of County.

Resolution Passed Materially Reducing the Fees of the Various County Officers.

The greatest convention in the history of the Democratic party of the county met here Wednesday. The assemblage of more than 2,000 men were called to order promptly at eleven o'clock by Chairman F. H. Brooks who called Mr. W. A. Edgerton to the chair as temporary chairman. Mr. L. H. Allred, of Selma, was made secretary. The temporary organization was made permanent.

The first matter coming before the convention was the Holt resolution providing for salaries for county officials. This was seconded by Dr. E. N. Booker, Prof. I. T. Turlington, J. A. Massengill and J. A. Wellons. It was opposed by Mr. Wm. Richardson, of Selma. Mr. W. A. Edgerton offered a substitute providing for a reduction of certain fees and an investigation as to the advisability of reducing other fees. This was slightly amended by Mr. E. W. Pou. (This resolution will be published in next week's paper.) Upon a vote by townships, the Edgerton substitute prevailed. The vote stood: Hood resolution, 35; Edgerton resolution 67.85.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. Ed S. Abell:

Resolved, by the Democratic Convention of the County of Johnston, assembled in Smithfield, on this the 1st day of August, 1906, That the Senators of the 17th Senatorial District and the Representatives of Johnston county in the General Assembly of 1907 be and they are hereby instructed to cause such legislation to be enacted as will legally permit:

First. That the people of Johnston county be legally allowed to manufacture cider from the fruits grown upon their own lands and sell the same.

Second. That the people of Johnston county be legally permitted to manufacture wine from fruits and grapes grown upon their own lands and sell the same.

Third. That all local prohibitory laws except the incorporation of churches and school houses pertaining to the manufacture and sale of cider and wine in Johnston County be repealed.

Mr. Abell's resolution was adopted, the vote being as follows: For 74.7; against 28.3.

The Kirby resolution, providing for a vote on dispensaries, was tabled.

The following resolution was offered by Mr. E. W. Pou:

Resolved, That it is the sense of this convention that passenger and freight rates in North Carolina are too high and our representatives in the General Assembly are instructed to use their best endeavor to enact legislation materially reducing the same.

The chairman announced that nominations for sheriff were in order.

L. H. Allred, of Selma, in one of the best speeches of the convention, nominated Robert Milard Nowell, of Selma. His nomination was seconded by William Richardson, C. A. Biggs, A. C. Stancil and C. W. Richardson. J. F. Woodall, of Benson, nominated Eli S. Turlington, of Elevation. George L. Jones, of Wilson's Mills, nominated A. M. Sanders. This was seconded by J. T. Coats, L. M. Ryals and J. A. T. Jones.

The ballot stood as follows: Nowell 60%; Sanders 20; Turlington 22%. Nowell was declared the nominee and on motion his nomination was made unanimous. Nominations for Clerk Superior Court were called for and Dr. R. J. Noble placed the name of W. S. Stevens before the convention. His name was seconded by Prof. J. R. Williams and C. A. Biggs. J. L. Woodall named

N. T. Ryals, of Benson.

The ballot was taken and resulted in Stevens' nomination, the vote standing, Stevens 87.5; Ryals 15.5. On motion the nomination was made unanimous.

For Register of Deeds Dr. Geo. D. Vick, of Selma, nominated L. D. Debnam. This nomination was seconded by John W. Futrell. Sam T. Honeycutt was nominated by C. W. Horne, of Clayton. W. D. Avera and J. W. Stephenson seconded the nomination. John W. Holmes, of Benson, in a good speech, named James P. Canaday. This was seconded by Alonzo Barbour. F. T. Booker nominated Willis A. Sanders.

The ballot stood: Honeycutt 89.5; Canaday 26.5; Debnam 16.3; Sanders a fractional vote. On motion the nomination was made unanimous.

Dr. George A. Hood and Alex Wiggs were placed in nomination for treasurer. Hood was nominated on the first ballot, the vote standing, Hood 79.85; Wiggs 21.15.

For the Senate C. M. Wilson was nominated by acclamation. For the House of Representatives Josephus Johnson was nominated by acclamation.

For second place on the Legislative ticket the following names were placed before the convention:

Claude Smith, Ed. S. Abell, E. S. Coats, S. P. M. Tart, N. B. Hales, J. P. Canaday and J. A. T. Jones. The names of S. P. M. Tart, N. B. Hales and J. P. Canaday were withdrawn before the balloting began.

The first ballot resulted as follows: Smith 12.25; Abell 39.97; Coats 16; J. A. T. Jones 34.4; Hales a fraction of a vote.

On the second ballot Mr. Jones withdrew and the vote stood as follows: Coats 48.1; Abell 47.35; Smith 6.8; J. A. T. Jones a fraction of a vote.

Ed. S. Abell withdrew his name before the third ballot was taken. The names of J. H. Boon, J. H. B. Tomlinson and George L. Jones were placed before the convention and the third ballot was taken which stood: Boon 14.4; Coats 18.9; George L. Jones 55.4; Tomlinson 9.6; Smith 4.7. Jones was declared the nominee of the convention.

The townships then retired for the purpose of recommending candidates for County Commissioners. The following being reported by the respective districts, were nominated by acclamation: W. T. Bailey, Allen K. Smith, W. G. Wrenn, N. W. Smith and Eli S. Turlington.

After the work of the convention was done the different nominees were called for and responded. Congressman Pou was also called for and made a short but earnest speech which was well received by the convention.

The convention was harmonious throughout and did a splendid day's work.

Will Teach in Selma Graded School.

The friends of Miss Ruth Ransom Matthews will be glad to learn that she has accepted a position in the graded school of Selma, N. C. Miss Matthews is a granddaughter of Edward Ransom, of Tyrrell county, whose untimely death caused much sorrow. As chairman of the Constitutional Convention of 1875, Dr. Ransom rendered the cause of good government signal service that will never be forgotten. —News and Observer.

Galveston's Sea Wall

makes life now as safe in that city as in the higher uplands. E. W. Goodloe, who resides on Dutton Street, in Waco, Texas, needs no sea wall for safety. He writes: "I have used Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption the past five years and it keeps me well and safe. Before that time I had a cough which for years had been growing worse. Now it's gone." Cures chronic Coughs, La Grippe, Croup, Whooping Cough and prevents Pneumonia. Pleasant to take. Every bottle guaranteed at Hood Bros' drug store. Price 50c. and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.

## PEACOCK IS RELEASED.

### Coroner's Jury Charged Him With Jones' Murder.

The Evidence at The Hearing Before Judge Connor at Wilson not Sufficient to Hold Him.

It will be remembered that two weeks ago we published an account of the murder of Alonzo B. Jones at what is known as the High Land bridge which connects the two pieces of embankment on the west side of the river at Smithfield. It occurred about ten o'clock Friday night, July 13th. In publishing further facts concerning this terrible affair we want to be perfectly fair without partiality to either side.

When Jones was found dead with no pistol about him and wearing his hat and a tooth brush in his mouth and no signs of suicide the coroner, Mr. Z. L. LeMay, summoned to investigate the case a jury of six men consisting of Messrs. H. L. Skinner, James A. Wellons, R. A. Sanders, A. B. Sasser, George Thornton and J. R. Walton. The investigation lasted two weeks, during which time four sessions were held by them. On Friday, July 27th, they reported that Alonzo B. Jones came to his death by a ball from a pistol in the hands of Charles S. Peacock. Peacock was at once arrested.

The points leading to this verdict and the arrest of Peacock were about as follows: On Friday night, July 13th, Jones was showing money around town and Peacock was with him at different times. They were together after supper time also. Jones was in the Peacock store in the Fuller building and sold Mr. W. T. Holland a cigar, Peacock being absent and the store at the time being in charge of Jones and a small boy named Hamilton who stays there. About 9:30 o'clock Peacock went to Mr. J. E. Hudson's drug store for a cold drink. A little later William Holt, a colored man, who owns a home in Greytown, a negro village across the river, saw a man and another man, whom he says he knew to be one of the Peacock boys, pass the store of the Smithfield Supply Company. He stated that Peacock was smoking a cigar and the men going toward the river. Holt was riding a mule and after waiting a little while in town, went on behind them and smelt the cigar smoke in the river bridge. Just after crossing the river bridge he passed the same two men. A minute or two later Isaac Sanders, a colored man, and Isaac Smith and Simon Smith, two colored boys, nearly grown, and Chester Braswell, a fourteen-year-old white boy, all living on Mr. J. W. Stephenson's farm, passed two men walking very slow and close together and talking in a low tone of voice. Soon after this crowd had passed the High Land bridge a pistol was fired and they ran and overtook Holt. He asked who shot and said he passed two white men and one of them was one of the Peacock boys. Isaac Sanders said he did not know who shot but swore later that one of the men they passed was Charley Peacock. It is supposed the first shot was fired to scare the negroes as the ball was heard to strike near them. The second shot was fired a few minutes later. Charley being the only one of the Peacock boys in town that night, was arrested on William Holt's evidence, corroborated by that of Isaac Sanders. He was not put in jail but was kept in the sheriff's custody a day and a night until habeas corpus proceedings were held before Judge H. G. Connor at Wilson. The proceedings lasted Saturday from 3:30 P. M. to Sunday 1:30 A. M. with only half an hour for supper. The witnesses for Peacock which gave the strongest evidence for him were Mr. W. D. Massey, a salesman for the W. H. Lassiter Dry Goods Co., and Peacock's mother and sister. Mrs. Peacock and

Miss Rosa both said Charley came home before ten o'clock. Mr. Massey said that Peacock passed him and went before him up the street to his home and went in twenty minutes to ten o'clock.

The Judge first decided there was cause to bind him over to court and required a bond of \$1,000 dollars for his appearance. Afterwards through great effort on the part of the lawyers for the defense he changed his mind and discharged him.

We quote from the Wilson Times the following which shows something of how the case ended after Judge Connor had decided to bind him over to court:

"The speeches of the attorneys for both sides had already been fervid and eloquent, some of the best we have ever listened to, but when this announcement came, Congressman Ed. Pou arose and under the stress of great emotion, plead again that Young Peacock be released from the spell of such a terrible accusation.

"He referred to the rearing the young man had received under influences of a Christian father and mother, in the bosom of a refined and cultured people, among the best in the State, and that while not a witness he was positive the young man came in at the time his people state, for he and his wife live just across the street from the Peacocks and saw him enter his gate.

"The eloquence of Mr. Pou was sublime and his appeal brought tears to the eyes of every one in the court house, and when he had finished the big heart of Judge Connor, that must all along have felt the young man not guilty of the crime, responded to the appeal and young Peacock was again a free man."

As is usually the case in a community wherein both parties lived, each man having friends and relatives, there is quite a division of sentiment as to the result of the trial and a great many do not agree with Judge Connor's decision.

## IN AND AROUND PRINCETON.

Miss Bessie Joyner has returned home from a visit to Kenly.

Miss Leona Holt spent several days in Rocky Mount last week.

The farmers say their crops are damaged by so much wet weather. Mrs. DeArmond, of Charlotte, is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Holt.

Miss Morton, of Rocky Mount, after spending several days with Misses Hattie and Minnie Strachan, has returned home.

The Cross Roads Primitive Baptist Church near here has had an overhauling and great improvement added thereto by way of finishing and painting.

While Rev. Mr. Pittman was conducting service at the Free Will Baptist Church Sunday night, some wretch cut his buggy harness to pieces. The penitentiary is too good for the guilty one.

On last Sunday evening lightning struck the residence of W. D. Phillips and tore off one corner, ripped plank off and split post, window sills, &c. Mr. Phillips and his two little boys were in the house at the time and they received a severe shock. Mr. P. said he could feel it all next day. The clock on the mantle was torn all to pieces and scattered.

On the 16th ult. B. R. Massengill was partly struck by lightning and knocked down. He was stunned for a while by the shock. When he regained consciousness he asked his daughter to pour water on him, as his back felt like it was on fire. It was generally reported that he was killed outright, but we are proud to say such is not the case. He had a few days after that a family reunion all of his children and his twenty-one grand children were all present and an old fashion feast of the good things to eat and then 21 G. Cs made music for the occasion. J. D. F.

## STATE NEWS AND VIEWS

### What North Carolina Editors Are Talking About.

Short Items of Interest to The Public Clipped and Culled From Our State Papers.

Henry Dixon, colored, was kicked to death by a mule twenty-five years old at Scotland Neck, Tuesday.

The Democrats of Wayne county have nominated Hon. Ben F. Aycock, a brother of ex-Governor Aycock, for the Senate.

Bud Foster, colored, said to be a blind tiger operator, was killed by a Southern train four miles from Salisbury Sunday morning.

C. W. Kendall, a prominent dry goods merchant of Durham, has gone into bankruptcy. His liabilities amount to nearly \$12,000.

Wiley Morgan, aged eighty-seven, the oldest citizen of Rowan County, was instantly killed Wednesday near his home by his team running away.

Henry Jones, alias Hilliard Junius, was arrested in New Berne Saturday by Chief of Police Hargart on the charge of having murdered a deputy sheriff at Dunn about a year ago.

J. F. Rogers, of Asheville, a brakeman on the western division, was killed on the Spencer yard Saturday morning. He was caught between the cars and terribly mangled. He hung between the cars several hours before being extricated. The wreck was slight.

In Durham township, Durham county there is nearly \$13,000,000 of real and personal property subject to taxation, outside of the property that is taxed by the corporation commission. Negroes own nearly \$400,000 of property. The American Tobacco Company has nearly \$5,000,000 property returned for taxation.

While asleep on the main line of the Southern Railway, two miles south of Salisbury, Bud Foster, colored, was struck and instantly killed by an incoming train on Monday. His heart was literally torn open by the blow from the pilot of the engine which hit him. Foster had with him a suitcase filled with whiskey bottles and carried \$18 in cash.

After an all night fight in the Sixth District Congressional Convention held at Fayetteville last week, Mr. Hannibal L. Godwin, of Dunn, was nominated to succeed Hon. G. B. Patterson in Congress. Mr. Godwin was nominated on the 354th ballot by the supporters of Brown turning to him. Mr. Godwin represented this Senatorial District in the Legislature of 1903.

Jonas Steele, of Winston-Salem, was struck by lightning Sunday while returning from his mother's funeral at Camden church, near Elmwood, and died early Monday morning. The mule that he was driving was killed instantly and his son, in the buggy with him, was badly burned. The wife of Max Steele and her son, who were nearby, were also severely stunned.

Col. Fred A. Olds, director of the North Carolina Hall of History, at Raleigh, has placed on the wall of the hall two documents of rare historic value, one being the New Bern Gazette, of June 16th, 1775, the other a letter of June 18th, 1775, from Richard Cogdell, of New Bern, Commissioner of Safety, to Governor Samuel Johnson, transmitting the Gazette, which contained the "Mecklenburg Resolves of Declaration," of May 31st, 1775. The original newspaper and letter are in the Bays Library at Edenton, of the famous Johnston estate, now the property of John G. Wood. The letter from Cogdell says that this is the boldest declaration for independence made in any of the colonies.

Willis G. Briggs will be the next postmaster at Raleigh. His appointment to succeed Postmaster Bailey was recommended to the Postoffice Department on Thursday.

A boy of 16 and a girl of 14 were married in Buncombe county a few days ago by permission of their parents. They rejoice in the names of Fred Warren and Ella Bates.

Chief Justice Walter Clark Tuesday afternoon denied the petition of Everett Spence, the seventeen-year-old Raleigh boy, charged with murder, in the habeas corpus hearing and the youth was remanded to jail without bond.

Durham is stirred up over the report that a man by the name of Corbett, who has lived in Durham since May, has fallen heir to fabulous wealth, inherited from an uncle who died in San Francisco last month. Corbett has employed attorneys and a thorough investigation is being made. It seems that Corbett received a letter nearly a month ago notifying him that he was one of four heirs to an estate estimated to be worth eighty-five million dollars. The story is that on June 11, of this year, Daniel A. Corbett, single, died at his home in San Francisco, leaving his entire estate to three nephews and a niece. This matter reached James A. Corbett in a letter purporting to be from a probate judge, in which he was told something of the wealth and how the money was invested. Since his arrival in Durham Corbett has been working for the American Tobacco Company. The fact that a poor working man is reputed to have jumped from his humble position in the working world to a man worth \$21,000,000, has caused a great deal of talk.

General News Items.

In Russian Poland, Sunday there were two train robberies, in one of which two generals, seven guards and one robber were killed.

Three people were killed and sixty injured in a collision between a railroad train and an electric car near Passadena, Col., Sunday.

Floyd Carmichael, a negro, was shot to death by a posse in the presence of a girl he had attacked in a suburb of Atlanta Tuesday.

The battleships Atlanta and Illinois in collision near Newport harbor Tuesday, but it is believed neither was seriously damaged.

John D. Rockefeller, of the Standard Oil Company, arrived in New York from Europe Monday, but declined to talk about the warrant issued for him from Finlay, Ohio.

William J. Bryan, in a letter requests Roger Sullivan, of Chicago, to resign from the National Democratic Committee in the interest of harmony.

Secretary Wilson says that, under the new inspection law, the purest meat products in the world will be turned out by the packing houses.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company has announced a reduction of the one-way passenger rates to 2½ cents a mile and will issue transferable mileage tickets at a flat rate of \$20.

In an appeal to the American people for help, issued in New York Saturday, Maxim Gorky, the Russian novelist, declares that the Russian government will now inaugurate a policy of brutal and bestial reprisals and will annihilate the leaders of the people.

The State Superintendent of Insurance for New York estimates that the amount of insurance held in San Francisco by 163 companies was \$222,836,307 and that the actual loss was \$132,823,067. The largest net loss for any one company is the Hartford Fire, of Connecticut, which was \$6,186,701.