

Benson Postmaster Holding Back Mail

Selling Papers Addressed to Parties Calling For Their Mail Daily.

Mr. John W. Holmes Made the Discovery That Democratic Newspapers Addressed to Citizens of Town and Community Were Sold to Negroes.

THE POSTMASTER BECOMES ALARMED.

WHEN MR. LANGDON, THE POSTMASTER, LEARNED THAT THE PAPERS SOLD TO THE NEGRO, WERE IN THE HANDS OF MR. HOLMES HE BECAME GREATLY EXCITED AND MADE GREAT EFFORTS TO REGAIN POSSESSION OF THAT WHICH HE SOLD FOR FIVE CENTS—STRONG AFFIDAVITS TO PROVE EVERY STATEMENT.

As is well-known the postoffices of this county are in the hands of the Republicans. Occasionally, from time to time, we have heard of some complaints about the delay and non-delivery of certain kinds of mail at certain places. But nothing definite has come to light until this week, when it developed that papers sent to the Benson postoffice, were not only not delivered, but were sold as old papers.

The facts in the case are substantially as follows: Mr. Robt. D. Langdon, a Republican, is postmaster at Benson, and as is well known Benson is the Republican stronghold of this county. On last Tuesday a colored woman was seen coming from the Benson postoffice with some large bundles of paper. Mr. John W. Holmes, one of Benson's merchants and leading citizens, saw the woman and asked to see her papers. He thus learned that she had several copies of the "North Carolinian," published by the News and Observer Company at Raleigh, addressed to persons who get mail at the Benson postoffice, some of them living in town. This aroused his suspicion and he related the circumstance to Ex-Sheriff Ellington, who was to speak in Benson that night, and to one or two others. Upon advice of the sheriff he went to the home of the negro to try to get the papers. He learned from the negro woman that she bought the papers from the Benson postmaster, or his clerk, and that she paid five cents for same. At first she did not seem willing to part with them, but finally did so. Mr. Holmes paying her ten cents for them. He carried them to his place of business, and upon investigation, found that they were copies of the North Carolinian bearing dates ranging from September 17, to October 8, and that they were addressed to parties getting mail at Benson, some even addressed to parties having lock boxes in the Benson postoffice.

Some how the news leaked out that Mr. Holmes had the papers in his possession and Wednesday morning the postmaster called on him and asked for them. Mr. Holmes refused to give them up. This somewhat disconcerted Mr. Langdon. Later in the day he returned and demanded that Mr. Holmes give them up. But Mr. Holmes positively refused to part with them. All kinds of efforts have been made to get possession of the papers but Mr. Holmes has steadfastly refused to give them up.

Why Mr. Langdon should thus keep back Democratic papers from the persons to whom they were addressed is hard of explanation, and especially so when

the parties, at least some of them, call for their mail daily. Just think of a man who has a lock box being kept out of his paper for almost a month! If there had been only one copy thus kept back, perhaps Benson's Republican postmaster could give a satisfactory explanation. Is this the only time that Democratic papers or literature have been suppressed by Republican postmasters? Shall the freedom of the press be thus suppressed? Shall the people rely, or shall the Federal office-holders rely? Shall the advocates of this so-called "local self government" be given control of affairs in this county?

The following affidavits tell the story in language so plain that he "who runs may read."

NORTH CAROLINA, JOHNSTON COUNTY.

John W. Holmes being duly sworn, deposes and says, that he is a citizen of the State of North Carolina, Johnston County and town of Benson; that on the evening of the 13th of October, 1908, as he was sitting in front of his store on Main street of Benson he saw two colored women carrying several bundles of papers; he asked one of them to give him one of the papers, which she did, and he found it was a "North Carolinian," a newspaper published in the city of Raleigh, N. C., and saw it was addressed to John A. Hall, a citizen of Banner Township, and a patron of the Benson post-office. That this aroused his suspicion and he went to see the said colored woman, Mary P. Sanders who lives in said town of Benson, and asked them where they got said papers; she informed him that she bought them from the postoffice in Benson, N. C., whereupon this affiant offered to buy said papers, and did buy them from the said Mary P. Sanders paying her therefor, the sum of ten cents. That a list of the names to whom said papers were addressed, together with the dates of said papers, is hereto attached and made a part of this affidavit.

That on the morning of October 14th, 1908, R. D. Langdon, postmaster at Benson, N. C., came into my store in Benson and said: "I came to get those newspapers that you got from those negro women yesterday morning." I said, "you cannot get them, that I bought and paid for them. I told him that he had no right to use that postoffice to further the cause of his political party, that the postoffice at Benson was not his office, but the people's office." He replied that he had never destroyed any papers, that some negro women came in the postoffice and called for five cents worth of newspapers, and that Carl Ryals, clerk in the postoffice, sold the negroes the papers. I told him I did not charge him with it, but that I had mail here that should have been delivered which had not been delivered, and that four years ago when P. Hawley was postmaster at Benson I saw him two days after election day burn up a large goods-box full of Democratic literature, that I opened two batches or bundles of this literature and found that they contained North Carolinians and Smithfield Herald, and other newspapers. Hawley begged me not to report him and I didn't, but promised myself to report any like occurrence. Langdon again demanded the papers but I refused to deliver them, and he walked out of my store. Langdon returned to my store in about two hours and again demanded the papers. I told him that he wouldn't get them. He said "that is U. S. Mail and you have no right to hold it." I told him that it might have been United States mail one time, but when I got it that it was negro property and I had a right to buy it, but that he had no right to sell U. S. Mail as he had done. He then said he was going to have it. I told him he could get me but he couldn't get those papers. He walked out of my store and said he would show me, as he was going to have them.

J. W. HOLMES.

Sworn to and subscribed to before me, This 15th day of October, 1908.

F. H. Brooks, Notary Public. My commission expires Feb. 26th, 1910.

NORTH CAROLINA, JOHNSTON COUNTY.

Lucien Norris being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a resident of Johnston county, State of North Carolina, and a patron of the Post Office at Benson, N. C., and has rented box 42, combination, in said post-office, and has had same rented for about two years; that he has called at said post-office about twice daily during said two years, unless out of town or sick or providentially hindered, and got mail of various kinds out of my box aforesaid. That between the 17th day of September, 1908, and the 13th day of October, 1908, I have called on the post office daily, twice a day generally; that during said period I have gotten several copies of the Caucasian and The Smithfield Journal, but have not received a single copy of "The North Carolinian," a newspaper published in the City of Raleigh, N. C., during said period, and have never declined or refused to take any copy of said paper out of my box aforesaid.

LUCIEN NORRIS.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, This the 15th, day of October, 1908.

F. H. Brooks, Notary Public. My commission expires Feb. 26, 1910.

NORTH CAROLINA, JOHNSTON COUNTY.

Mary P. (Tossie) Sanders being duly sworn deposes and says that on the evening of the 13th of October, 1908, she in company with one Neva Hall went to the post office in the town of Benson and asked for five cents worth of newspapers, and Carl Ryals, who was in the office, gave me three bundles of papers and I paid him five cents, and I took the papers and started home. Mr. J. W. Holmes, as I was passing his store, asked me to give him one of the papers, which I did. Shortly thereafter Mr. Holmes came to my house and asked me where I got those papers, and I told him I bought them from the postoffice. He said he wanted to buy them and I sold them to him for ten cents. He gave me ten cents and I gave him the papers I had bought that evening from the post-office.

MARY P. SANDERS.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, This 15th day of October, 1908.

F. H. Brooks, Notary Public. My commission expires Feb. 26th, 1910.

There will be a concert given at the Opera House next Monday night for the benefit of the band. Mrs. Bertha Oradoff, of Peace Institute, the well-known soprano, with Miss Eula Hood as accompanist, will assist the Band in this concert.

WALTER MURPHY AT BENSON.

Good Speaking Tuesday Night—Other Political News—Local News of Interest and Other Matters.

Benson, N. C., Oct. 15.—Our cotton weigher, Mr. Eli S. Turlington, reports 327 bales sold on this market last week.

There will be a business meeting of the Bryan-Kitchin Club in the office of O. A. Barbour on Monday, October 19. All Democrats are invited.

Mrs. W. D. Boon and little daughter, Evelyn, visited relatives in Dunn last week.

Messrs. John M. Morgan and N. T. Ryals will address the people on the issues of the campaign at Allen's school house in Banner township Tuesday night, October 20. All are invited to attend.

A large number of our people left this morning to attend the Raleigh Fair.

Mr. and Mrs. Pickett, of St. Louis, who have been visiting the family of Mr. E. F. Moore, left Friday for Fayetteville where they will spend some time before returning to the West.

Look out for Benson. She continues to grow. Messrs. Seth Allen, C. A. Barbour and C. A. Daniels are smiling now. The baby visitor always brings a smile—and they are here.

The Cape Fear Free Will Baptist Conference will be held with the church at this place beginning October 28 and continuing three days. Preparations are being made for a large attendance. Several able ministers are expected to be present and preach.

There were services here Sunday morning and night at the Primitive Baptist church by Elders Turner and Johnson. At the Missionary Baptist church by the pastor, Rev. D. F. Putnam. Able sermons were preached at both churches.

Several of the boys from town took in the great show at Dunn last Saturday. Some of them returned sadder, but wiser for their experience, having even lost shoes and hat. They say they will be more cautious next show day.

Of the number visiting in town recently we note the following: Prof. Ira T. Turlington, of Smithfield; Mr. J. P. Pittman, editor of the Dunn Guide; Attorneys E. R. Young and J. C. Clifford, of Dunn; Attorney C. L. Sykes, of Selma; Mr. W. J. Jacobs, of Zebulon; Mr. Fulton Hall, of Fayetteville; Dr. J. C. Johnson, of Durham; Mr. W. J. Aycock and Dr. George Hood, County Treasurer, of Kenly; Judge Stevens, of Smithfield; Hon. J. T. Ellington, candidate for the Senate, and Editor Craven, of Selma.

Hon. Walter Murphy, Elector-at-large, spoke here Tuesday morning to between 300 and 400 people. Mr. Murphy, who is a very able speaker, spoke for an hour on the iniquity of the high tariff, the trusts, campaign contributions and other National evils which the Republican party has made possible. He then discussed State issues to some extent. Pleading with those who might be dissatisfied or sore to stand by the great Democratic party and against the common enemy, the Republican, who has brought shame and disgrace and infamy every time they have been in power in our State. The speech of Mr. Murphy did much for the cause of Democracy in Banner township which is now in better shape than in four years before. Mr. Peterson, candidate for the Senate, spoke for half an hour, severely arraigning the Radicals for their management of affairs in North Carolina and especially in Sampson county.

On Friday night, William Manning, a young white man was arrested here on a warrant charging the burning of the barn and stables of Mr. Y. W. Wood, of Meadow township, on the Monday night preceding. He was given a preliminary

hearing Saturday afternoon before Justice of the Peace J. M. Britt. Attorneys O. A. Barbour, J. C. Clifford and J. M. Morgan represented the defendant, while the prosecution was made by N. T. Ryals and E. R. Young. The trial lasted all the evening, a large number of witnesses being examined by the State. The testimony was all circumstantial. Counsel for defendant did not offer any testimony, contending that the State had not made its case. After hearing the arguments, the Justice decided to hold Manning for the Superior court under a \$200 justified bond. While the officer was taking the defendant to a restaurant he broke and ran away, but was captured Monday in Wayne county and sent to jail.

On Tuesday night the Bryan-Kitchin Club listened to an able address by Hon. J. T. Ellington and Geo. L. Peterson, nominees for the Senate, and Mr. W. S. Stevens, Clerk of the Court. There were about 350 people out to the speaking including a large number of ladies. Dr. J. O. Matthis, the Radical nominee for Senator, had agreed to be present and discuss the issues with the Democratic nominees, but when the time for speaking came, "No Doc" could be found, so for two hours the Democratic candidates discussed the issues before the voters and exposed the falsehood which the Radicals are running around and telling in secret. Especially did they expose that radical sham about Local Self Government, which they say they will give the people if trusted with power. Their record was shown to be always against local self government. After the speaking every member of the club was presented with a handsome picture of that great matchless, peerless leader of Democracy, W. J. Bryan.

Mr. Chas. F. Neighbors, of Benson, says that this is the best year he ever saw for an independent candidate for Senator from this district, as the Republican candidate "Bill Turner," has not got enough sense to go, and the Democratic nominee, Mr. Peterson, is not the proper man. Of course it is natural for the Republicans to curse Mr. Peterson, the Democratic nominee, but why they should nominate Bill Turner and then go around and tell the voters he is not fit to go to the Senate your reporter cannot tell unless it is the truth.

Mr. Crosby Smith, son of our townsman, Mr. J. G. Smith, left Tuesday for Raleigh where he will be married to Miss Belle Anderson, the cultured and accomplished daughter of Mr. Chas. Anderson.

The Carnival Next Week.

A street carnival is advertised for Smithfield next week. We suppose it will blockade the streets and run its various games of chance as usual. It is not in our line of work to hinder or help it, but we will say we do not understand why a carnival company should be allowed to take charge of the most important streets and run their games of chance. Some favor carnivals on the ground that they bring people and money to town. This, we think, is a mistaken idea. The last carnival held here carried several hundred dollars away. A carnival as we understand it, is a night show patronized by the town people and a few others living near town. Does any body here think people will come eight, ten and twelve miles to see what a street carnival will show?

Register now. It is not only every man's privilege, but it is also his duty to register and vote. It is only in this way that we can have a government of the people. The registration books will close in October 24th. This is an important election and every man who believes in the rule of the people should register without fail before it is too late.

TAFT'S VISIT TO NORTH CAROLINA

His Statement of Its Purpose as Much of Reflection on State as His Greensboro Speech Was on His Party.

Raleigh, N. C., Oct. 14.—The reason given by Mr. Taft for his visit to North Carolina and other Southern states is as much of a reflection on the State as a whole as his speech in Greensboro to the Republican State Convention in 1906 was to his Party in this State. He is reported in the New York Tribune of last Sunday as follows:

"I am going South to make a few speeches—one in Kentucky, one in Tennessee, one in North Carolina, one in Virginia and one in Maryland—not so much with a view to carrying those states as to show the people down there that, no matter what they think they are a part of the Union, and being a part of the Union, they ought to vote for the Republican Party, voting for which will make them a part of the Nation, and give to them that influence which people of their intelligence and energy and progress and enterprise ought to enjoy."

This is nothing less than a charge that while the South is bodily a part of the Union that its thought is not loyal to the Union, and that the only means by which the South can establish its loyalty and become a part of the Nation is by allying itself with the Republican party, of which Mr. Taft said, in speaking to the representatives of that party, assembled in convention in Greensboro just two years: "In my judgment the Republican party in North Carolina would be much stronger as a voting party if all the Federal offices were filled by Democrats." (All the State offices were filled by Democrats.) And again: "As long, however, as the Republican party in the Southern states shall represent little save a factional chase for Federal offices in which business men and men of substance in the community have no desire to enter, and in the result of which they have no interest, we may expect the present political conditions of the South to continue."

Mr. Taft's surprising statement came to be accounted for on no other theory than his propensity for making breaks. North Carolina's loyalty to the Union, in thought and sentiment as well as in fact, will not be questioned by any but Judge Taft or Judge Montgomery, and for the simple sake of convincing them it will no more ally itself with Judge Taft's "unfit North Carolina office-seekers" than it will support Taft in his and his party's alliance with the trusts and protected interests upon which he relies to purchase his election to the Presidency.

Turlington Graded School Reopens Monday, October 19th.

I hereby announce that we expect to open school again next Monday, October 19th. The County Physician thinks we are perfectly safe in opening at that time. I hope the boys and girls will return in full force Monday. Respectfully,

IRA T. TURLINGTON, Supt.

Miss Ima Allen, of Danville, Va., arrived Monday to spend some time with her father, Capt. M. A. Allen, at Hotel Oliver.

Had a Close Call.

Mrs. Ada L. Croom, the widely known proprietor of the Croom hotel, Vaughn, Miss., says: "For several months I suffered with a severe cough, and consumption seemed to have its grip on me, when a friend recommended Dr. King's New Discovery. I began taking it, and three bottles affected a complete cure." The fame of this life-saving cough and cold remedy, and lung and throat healer is world wide. Sold at Hood Bros. drug store. 50c. and \$1.00. Trial bottle free.