

## PAPERS WERE WITHHELD

Mr. Langdon, Post-Master at Benson, Does Not Deny This.

Telegram From Washington Says Langdon Appointed Post-Master at Benson December 16, 1904. Lucian Norris Gets His Paper.

The Smithfield Journal, the Republican organ in Johnston county, in its issue of October 20th, tries to throw off the Benson Post-office scandal as a trivial affair by saying that it "proves a boomerang for the Democrats," etc. This is done for political effect, but every fair minded man—be he Democrat or Republican—knows that it is a serious matter for a post-master to withhold United States mail, whether it be Democratic newspapers or Republican circulars.

The Journal has juggled the facts to suit the Republican view of the matter, and tries to make it appear that it is a "Democratic trick," that "the whole matter was engineered by prominent Democratic politicians in the county," but intelligent people will not be thus fooled.

Mr. Langdon learning that the matter would be reported to the Postoffice Department at Washington, hurries to Smithfield and makes a statement regarding the matter, which appears in the Journal of October 16th, in which he says: "On October 13th a colored girl came to my office for some dead newspapers and I, being busy, my clerk waited on her; through mistake he gave her some of the North Carolinians that were addressed to individuals receiving mail at my office. Just as soon as I found out the mistake I immediately sent my clerk after the papers and on his way he met a colored boy who told him that J. W. Holmes had bought the papers from her, so he came and informed me of the fact and I at once went to Mr. Holmes and informed him of the mistake. He told me that J. T. Ellington had the papers and that J. T. Ellington gave him the money to go and buy the papers and he did so."

Mr. Langdon came out of his office door into the lobby of the post office and spoke to a gentleman before the colored girls referred to had gotten out of the front door of the post office and no doubt saw them with the bundle of papers. Did he stoop to ask what papers they had? He doesn't say that he did, and he didn't "find out the mistake" until the next morning when the matter was the talk of the town. If John Holmes hadn't bought those papers, would Mr. Langdon have "found out the mistake"? The truth of the business is that it was not Mr. Langdon who had just "found out" for he had knowledge of the matter since about September 17th when the first batch of North Carolinians arrived at the post office in Benson, but it was the people—Democrats, if you please—who had "found out," and Mr. Langdon doubtless "saw the handwriting on the wall," and knew the meaning thereof.

Mr. Langdon, in his statement, does not deny withholding Mr. Lucian Norris' paper, nor that the same was thereafter sold, although his clerk is saddled with the selling. In his statement, however, he says "I was delivering those papers all that I could and as fast as I could, and those I could not deliver." "As fast as I could!" then please tell the public how long it takes you to put a newspaper in a box in your office. Twenty-seven or thirty-seven days? It appears that there was a copy of the "North Carolinian" addressed to Mr. Lucian Norris, Benson, N. C., who rents box 42 in the Benson post office, in your office from about September 17th until October 13th—twenty-six days—and was not delivered. If your clerk made a mistake in selling the copy of September 17th, who made the mistake as to the copies of September 24th, Octo-

ber 1st and 8th? Mr. Norris swore that he never received a copy of the North Carolinian up to October 13th, and the copy of September 17th is the only one of Mr. Norris' North Carolinians that Mary Sanders bought, and which Mr. J. W. Holmes later bought from her.

After Mr. Langdon "found out the mistake" he was able to find Mr. Norris' box, for Mr. Norris got his copy of the North Carolinian last week, October 15th, as appears from his affidavit, and quite a number of gentlemen—Democrats and Republicans—got copies of the North Carolinian from the Benson post office last week, who had not theretofore gotten a copy of that paper, although their papers had been sent to the Benson post office each and every week beginning with September 17th.

In his statement and affidavit published in the Journal, Mr. Langdon tries to begot the real issue as to whether he is guilty of withholding U. S. mail from patrons of the Benson post office, who were entitled to same, and thereafter selling same, by saying that John Holmes had lied in two particulars; 1st, by saying that J. W. Holmes' affidavit "is false and untrue for the reason that P. Hawley retired from the post office at Benson on October 11th, 1904, or twenty-six days before the date sworn to by said Holmes," as the time when he saw P. Hawley burn a box full of newspapers. While Mr. Holmes can't be positive about the exact date, yet he says that it was in the campaign of 1904, and he thinks it was two days after the election. While it is true that the post office at Benson was under investigation from October 11th, 1904, yet the Government records show that P. Hawley was removed and R. D. Langdon appointed as postmaster at Benson December 16th, 1904, as will appear by the telegram of the First Assistant Postmaster General to Hon. E. W. Pou, of October 20th.

It is a matter of common knowledge around Benson that Mr. Holmes' bondsmen (Mr. Benjamin Hudson and others) placed Mr. I. B. Hudson in the post office. Mr. Hawley, with his assistance, continued to run the office until Mr. Langdon took charge about Dec. 29th, 1904.

2nd. By saying "that the affidavit of said Holmes is false and untrue in the particular that when deponent first demanded the papers of Holmes, he claimed not to have them, that they were in the hands of J. T. Ellington." Mr. Holmes states most positively that he never said that Sheriff Ellington had the papers, but did say that the papers belonged to J. T. Ellington, that Ellington's money paid for them and that they were Ellington's property. In this he is corroborated by Mr. D. J. Hill and Mr. E. P. Britt, men of good character and disinterested citizen of Benson, as appears by their affidavits set out in a statement of Mr. J. W. Holmes published in this issue.

The fact that Mr. Norris was not a subscriber to the North Carolinian does not affect the matter. Neither was he a subscriber to The Journal of Oct. 9th, marked exactly the same as the North Carolinian (a Democratic paper) and sent to the same Benson Post-office and failed to get the North Carolinian, although Mary P. Sanders bought from the post-office at Benson a copy of the North Carolinian of Sept. 17th, with the name of Lucian Norris on it.

Has Mr. Holmes done any wrong? No! A few office holding Republicans may think so, but the great mass of unbiased citizens of Johnston County, after reading and investigating the facts, and reading the affidavits on both sides will never say so. Those who know John Holmes know him to be a young man of high character, sober, honest and upright, and who would not stoop to dirty methods in politics, or in business, and no "a professional Democrat of a low type," as The Journal would present him. He is a stalwart

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## WHAT WAS HIS REASON?

Chairman Richardson Makes Reply to Chairman Stancil.

Was Chairman Stancil Ignorant of the Law When He Declared That Men Who Registered Last May Must Re-register.

TO THE EDITOR:

My attention has been called to an article, headed "Notice to All Voters," which appeared in the last issue (Oct. 20th) of the Smithfield Journal, the official organ of the Republican party in this County. The article appears over the signature of Republican County Chairman, J. C. Stancil. Also, I am informed that this same article has been printed in circular form and is being sent out broadcast to the voters of the County. In this article the Republican Chairman tells the people that "if they registered in May for the prohibition election then they are not registered for the November election," and further adds that "there is a Democratic scheme to disfranchise thousand of voters."

How long, Oh how long will this Republican Chairman and his Radical cohorts and political henchmen continue their efforts to mislead and misdirect honest people by misrepresentation and falsehood? How long will this office seeking Radical Chairman continue to presume that our people are too ignorant to interpret his motive for such misrepresentation?

The people of Johnston County are not half so ignorant as this Republican Chairman seems to think they are, and they are far more honest than he seems to give them credit for being. They are not so blind to misrepresentation as this leader of the Republican party in the county had hoped they were. Our people as a rule are too honest, too candid, too intelligent to permit themselves to be deceived and further misled by false statements and reports emanating from unscrupulous and designing politicians. They will not be misled now. They know the man, and they understand perfectly his motive in circulating the article above referred to.

The article in question, to say the least, is grossly misleading, and was no doubt published and circulated in the hope of diverting the minds of the voters from the past record and rascality of the Republican party.

Mr. Stancil knew, or ought to have known, that no new registration is required for those persons who were properly registered for the prohibition election last May. He could have at least informed himself before attempting to subject the voters of the County to unnecessary trouble and annoyance of calling upon the registrars to ascertain that no new registration is required under the law for those persons who registered in the May election. Why didn't this Republican Chairman deal honestly with the people? Why raise this false alarm by pretending to the voters in his article that a new registration was necessary? The Law, passed by the General Assembly of North Carolina at its Extra Session of 1908, authorizing the holding of the May election, is perfectly plain, and reads as follows: "That, on the last Tuesday in May in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and eight, an election shall be held in the several election precincts in each County of the State of North Carolina to determine whether the provisions set forth in the first nine sections of Chapter 71, pages 83 85, Public Laws of North Carolina, entitled 'An Act to Prohibit the Manufacture and Sale of Intoxicating Liquors in North Carolina,' shall become effective.

"Said election shall be conducted and held under the same rules and regulations and in the same manner as elections for State officers; and, unless otherwise

provided in this act, the general laws regulating elections, as set forth in Chapter ninety of Revisal of 1905, and the amendments thereto, shall be applicable to said election." Can anything be plainer?

The May election was general in that it was held in every precinct in every County in North Carolina. That election was held under the General Election Law sent out, together with "Permanent Roll" books, to the Chairmen of the Boards of Elections in the several counties of the State by our State officials. The names of every person, both Democrats and Republicans alike, who registered in the May election were properly certified by the several registrars to the Clerks of the Court in the various counties and by them properly transcribed to the "Permanent Roll," as was their duty to do.

This was done in Johnston County. These names were afterwards certified by the Clerk of the Court to the Secretary of State as required by law, and every person whose name appears on this "Permanent Roll" will be entitled to vote in the November election if otherwise qualified. This is the opinion of some of the best informed lawyers in our State. If those persons who registered in the May election were not to be recorded on the "Permanent Roll" why did our State officials who had the benefit of the advice of the Attorney-General send books for that purpose to the Chairmen of the Boards of Elections of the several counties in the State, together with a copy of the General Election Law last May? The "Permanent Roll" book has been open to the inspection of the public in the office of the Clerk of this County, and I am informed that Chairman Stancil himself has several times recently inspected this roll in the Clerk's office.

Stancil must therefore have known that the names of those persons who registered for the May election had been properly carried forward to the "Permanent Roll" book, Democrats and Republicans indiscriminately.

He must have known also that every person thus registered and otherwise qualified whose name appears on this "Permanent Roll" was entitled to vote, without subjecting such voter to the trouble and annoyance of any further registration.

He knew that Democrats and Republicans alike registered for the prohibition election last May, and that it would be impossible to disqualify any Republican on this ground without also disqualifying Democrats who registered for the May election.

Why then did this Republican office-seeking Chairman attempt to mislead the people by this false cry? Was he ignorant, or did he knowingly and intentionally misrepresent the law to the voters of the County, hoping to further poison the minds of the people by incorporating in his article the false and unwarranted charge that "there is a Democratic scheme to disfranchise thousands of voters?"

If he was ignorant and knew no better than he is to be pitied, and, in my opinion, is wholly incompetent to be at the head of even a Republican organization

If he willfully misrepresented the facts and misstated the law solely for political effect, then I submit that he has not dealt honestly with the people of the County, and he and his political methods ought to be repudiated by all good men. He can take either horn of the dilemma. In the meantime, let no honest voter be deceived and misled by the article in question.

It is only the false alarm of a political demagogue who sees defeat staring him and his party in the face. If you were properly registered in the May election you will be entitled to vote in the November election if otherwise qualified, unless perhaps Republican Chairman Stancil and his political henchmen can succeed in disfranchising you. Certainly

## MR. HOLMES HAS A SAY

Gives His Side of the Benson Post-Office Affair.

Presents Affidavits to Prove His Every Contention Made in Statement Last Week. Let the Public Judge This Affair.

In The Smithfield Journal of this week on the first page in large letters I see these words: "Another Lie Nailed."

One R. D. Langdon, postmaster at Benson, under oath says that I, J. W. Holmes, lied in my statement inasmuch as I stated to him when he came for the papers the first time that ex-Sheriff Ellington had them. I want to say here and now, that that statement is false, as the following affidavits will show. If there had been no other person present there might have been some doubt as to who was right, Langdon or myself. But it seems to me that the following affidavits from two as good men as there are in Benson or any other town settles that doubt so well that a fool though he be a Radical may not be mistaken as to who is correct. I am very much surprised at Mr. Langdon making such a statement when he knew as is proven below there was no foundation for it whatever.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA |  
JOHNSTON COUNTY |

D. J. Hill being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a citizen of the town of Benson, Johnston county, N. C.; that he was in store of Holmes & Stevens on the 14th day of October, 1908 when R. D. Langdon came in and demanded of J. W. Holmes certain papers which he (Holmes) had bought from certain negro women in the town of Benson and that he heard what Holmes said to Langdon and he knows that he (Holmes) did not say that said papers were in the hands of J. T. Ellington, but he did hear Holmes say "that the papers belonged to ex-Sheriff Ellington; that his (Ellington's) money paid for them and they were his property;" and that Langdon could not get them.

D. J. HILL.

Sworn to before me this Oct. 21, 1908, J. M. BRITT, J. P.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA |  
JOHNSTON COUNTY |

E. P. Britt being duly sworn, deposes and says that he is a citizen of the County of Johnston, State of North Carolina; that he was in the store of Holmes & Stevens on the 14th day of October, 1908, and heard R. D. Langdon demand of J. W. Holmes certain papers which he (Holmes) had bought of certain colored women in the town of Benson; that he heard what Mr. Holmes said to Mr. Langdon and that he knows that he did not say that the papers were in the hands of J. T. Ellington. He did hear him say, however, that the papers belonged to ex-Sheriff Ellington, that his (Ellington's) money paid for them and it was Ellington's property; and he (Holmes) had no right to dispose of it; and that he (Langdon) could not get it.

E. P. BRITT.

Sworn to before me this Oct. 20, 1908.

E. L. HALL, N. P.

READER, JUDGE FOR YOURSELF, WHO HAS LIED?

Now in regard to the editorial in The Smithfield Journal in which the imported editor, Nichols, (who I am informed has been drunk on the streets of Smithfield,) calls me a professional Democrat of low type, I desire

no Democrat will attempt to deprive any honest man of his vote who is justly entitled to vote.

Yours truly,

C. W. RICHARDSON,  
Chairman Democratic County Executive Committee.  
Selma, N. C., Oct. 21.

to say; I prefer being called a Democrat (and if he chooses "of low type") than to be allied with the filth of the Republican party in North Carolina. The Psalmist said that he had rather be a door-keeper in the house of God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked. I can truthfully say that I had rather occupy the most humble position in clean ranks of Democracy than to sit high up in the corrupt councils of Radicalism. I deem it an honor to be cussed by such a crowd. I am glad they do not put me in their class. If they did, I would feel like Tom Dixon said a few days ago of ex-Judge Montgomery: "I would be ashamed to shake hands with myself, even in the dark."

Now in regard to the charge against P. Hawley four years ago: I never made a positive statement that it was two days after election that I saw P. Hawley destroy mail. I said it was during campaign of 1904 and I thought it was two days after election. Mr. Brooks, who took the statement, will sustain me in this position. I believe now, as strongly as I ever did, that it was two days after election. They say that I lied about that, because P. Hawley was removed on the 11 of October, 1904. Every patron of the Benson post office knows this is not true. It is true that an investigation began in post-office about Oct. 11th, 1904, but was not completed until sometime about the close of the year. It is also true that Mr. Hawley's bondsmen put a man in the office to look after the business about Oct. 11, 1904. It is also true that Mr. Hawley continued in the office until R. D. Langdon was appointed and took charge; and as we all know Mr. Hawley was in the office nearer all the time while the investigation was going on than he was before it began, claiming all the time that when the investigation was over he would be exonerated and would continue to be postmaster.

Mr. R. D. Langdon says that he discovered his mistake and sent his clerk, Carl Ryals, after the papers at once. I will ask Mr. Langdon if his brother, Henry Langdon, did not inform him that I had bought the papers before he discovered his mistake; and this was next day—8 or 9 o'clock—after the news was all around town that he had improperly disposed of mail and that I had bought same. Then it was that he sent Carl Ryals to the negro house after the papers, knowing at the same time that I had them in my possession.

J. W. HOLMES.

IN COFFIN BUT NOT DEAD.

Physician Intervenes Just in Time and Finds Mrs. Chapman Alive.

Ellis, Kan., October 20.—The timely intervention of a physician who was not satisfied with appearance of the body to day prevented the burial alive of Mrs. Thomas Chapman, sixty years old, who was supposed to have died suddenly of heart disease on Saturday. The body was prepared for burial, but was not embalmed. The funeral was to have taken place at 2:30 o'clock this afternoon.

A few minutes before the coffin was sealed, a physician requested permission to see the body. An examination confirmed his suspicions that the woman's body was made rigid by suspended animation. The woman was removed from the coffin placed in bed and revived. While her heart is weak, it is believed that Mrs. Chapman will recover.

Would Mortgage the Farm.

A farmer on Rural Route 2, Empire, Ga., W. A. Floyd by name, says: "Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured the two worst sores I ever saw: one on my hand and one on my leg. It is worth its weight in gold. I would not be without it if I had to mortgage the farm to get it." Only 25c at Hood Bros. drug store.