

The Smithfield Herald

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BEATY & LASSITER,
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THAT LOCKED AND BARRED CONVENTION.

That the Democratic convention held here August third was tied-up, locked and barred is well known to some who know most about it. It was not locked and barred against Republicans, for quite a number of them voted and worked in the convention. But it was as well locked and barred against certain men and certain measures as ever a jail was locked and barred to keep prisoners inside its walls. The plans were well laid and carefully carried out. There was not a break in the program from start to finish. This convention which should have been open and free to all Democrats was locked and barred to several things of which we mention a few.

It was locked and barred against the country people who wanted to see their friends and neighbors nominated for office. For sometime there has been a feeling over the county that the farmers have not been treated right in the distribution of the best paying offices. The country people have made their pleas for a change along this line but they have fallen on deaf ears. This summer the country people put forth a number of unusually good men as candidates for different offices and asked for fair play at the hands of Johnston's Democracy. Not one of the farmer candidates got even a smell of what was asked for. The manipulation was all against them. We say the convention was carefully locked and barred against them and they will tell you they found it so.

The convention was locked and barred against the introduction of any resolutions calling for the county officers being put on salaries. Three different men had arranged to present resolutions to that effect but could not do it on account of the steam roller methods which prevailed. Some one will ask how these methods were adopted. Early on convention day some of the old officers went through the crowd and warned their followers against resolutions. Just after the convention opened a man, who it seems, was representing the office-holders who are opposed to the reduction of fees and to the salary plan, got through the convention a motion providing that all nominations should be made before anything else was done and that speeches should be limited to two minutes. Probably 200 men heard the motion and voted on it. These were only a small fraction of the large crowd present and probably not more than half of these realized the full import of the motion. This had the desired effect and put off discussions and resolutions favoring the salary plan from eleven o'clock until nearly night, and in fact, shut every thing of the kind out for the entire day. Just before adjournment a suggestion was made to introduce some salary resolutions but it was entirely too late then. The most of the people had gone home, many in great disgust. There was absolutely no chance to do anything about putting the county officers on salaries. The convention was locked and barred against it. The Democrats of the county, to say nothing of any other voters, are in favor of the salary plan, but it could not be carried through a convention managed by office-holders. Do not blame the leaders of the movement to place our county officers on a salary basis. It could not be done under the conditions which prevailed on convention day.

HE SPOKE A GREAT TRUTH.

On one occasion the Hon. Wesley N. Jones, present United States Senator from the State of Washington, was asked the question:

"What have you learned by your experience in politics?"

Senator Jones, who was a poor man and was elected to the high position he now holds without the use of money, replied:

"That the man who keeps his word under all circumstances and tries to be fair to every individual and to every interest is not required to use money when he is running for public office."

Attorney J. R. Barbour, of Benson, was here Monday on legal business.

DETECTIVES.

Very few of our readers know much about detectives. There has never been much work done by them in this section. Our people have been taught to look on them with prejudice. They have been told that they are foreigners coming in to look after our affairs and in the minds of some people it is thought they should be treated like the negro rapist. This prejudice and feeling against them is altogether unreasonable and is grounded in ignorance. There is no reason why all sorts of reports should be circulated against a detective just to nullify his efforts. They should not be misrepresented any more than any other class of people.

What is a detective? He is an officer of the law sent out after criminals. All over the world, here and there are detective agencies where men are engaged to work and are sent out in various directions as they are called for and employed. They are brave men who have been trained for the work and will dare to go out in search of criminals. To prepare themselves they have to learn something of the history of crime and the habits and methods of criminals. In other words men have to be adapted to and trained for that work just as the doctor is schooled in medicine and the attorney in law. To put it plain, shrewd and well-trained men are needed to catch and deal with shrewd and experienced criminals. They must be had to ferret out and unravel the intricate plans of some criminals. When a detective is sent to a place to entrap criminals every moral man and every law-abiding citizen should lend him his hearty support to make his work effectual in suppressing crime. Unless the moral element of a community is willing to co-operate with the officials crime can never be suppressed and criminals punished as they should be. There have been a few cases in Johnston county for which detectives were badly needed. Guilty criminals have gone unpunished when detectives could have brought them to justice. Railroads have to use detectives and in cities it is a matter of impossibility to do without them. But for them in some places criminals would have their own way and the moral element would be at their mercy. We hope it will never be necessary for a detective to come to this section, but if it is, give him your support. The people should always take sides with the officers and never with the criminals.

"INSURGENCY."

For the past year or two the word "insurgent" has become familiar to all who keep up with matters political. A few Republicans in Congress, known as insurgents, rebelled last spring against the iniquitous Aldrich-Payne Tariff bill and the bossism of Speaker Joe Cannon. With the aid of the Democrats they all but dethroned the Speaker. The action of these insurgents in standing up for the right against bossism of party leaders was lauded and applauded by the Democrats throughout the length and breadth of the land. Democrats in the good old County of Johnston even took a part in this applauding. But when a Democrat sees methods of bossism practiced by the leaders of his party which he cannot conscientiously endorse and dares to let this fact be known, he is at once vilified and even threats of boycott are heard. Why such a difference? It is all in the viewpoint. It matters much whose ox is gored.

The Office-Holding Habit.

"He took my bread and butter away from me, and I came over here to get him. I got him."

That sounds as if it had been made up by some nimble writer as about the thing that might have been said, but it is reported to have been one of the utterances of Gallagher, the assassin of Mayor Gaynor, when he was arrested. It shows, among other things, the effect of the office-holding habit upon the minds of the men who seem to think that they hold office in fee simple; that what is given to them by appointment or by election is theirs to have and to hold forever. Gallagher was a watchman in the dock department by appointment. He had been in the place for seven years, and evidently regarded it as his personal property. When he was removed a few weeks ago he felt that he had been wrongfully deprived of a personal possession and he determined to "get even" with Mayor Gaynor for his undoing. He did not stop to think that he was about to take away the bread and butter from the Mayor's family; but, being obsessed of his own selfish concerns, he committed one of the monumental crimes of the age.

It was the office-holding habit; the sense that he had been deprived of something that belonged to him.

When men lose their jobs in the ordinary vocations of life they do not kill their former employers; if such were the case, the cooks and butlers and waiters and all the rest of the employed would be incited to "get even"—it is only when it comes to the office-holder, or the disappointed seeker after a place at the expense of the public, that there is resort to personal vengeance.

The great cities of the country, and especially the city of Washington, are filled with those who have fed at the public trough; former Congressmen who fairly haunt the corridors of the Capitol and the streets feeling that they have a right to continue to play in the national game. There are several hundred thousand men in New York in every way as competent as Gallagher who make their bread and butter by working for it as other men do, thousands of men who have lost out through no particular fault of theirs, as they think, and yet who never think of killing somebody to get even for a fancied or a real grievance. It is only the office-holders who imagine that they have been wronged to the extent of justifying them in the commission of murder. It is strange how the office-holding habit perverts the moral vision.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

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WATCH LOST—I LOST A LADIES'
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