

BURNT POWDER AND PEANUTS MAKE VERY POOR AMMUNITION

Saunders calls Advance Organ of Mac Sawyer and Ike Lof-in

Claims Attack Upon Him Unfair.

Tries to Come Back at Editor Peele With the old gag about this Paper being controlled by the ring--Answers only one charge brought against Him and makes a poor out at that--Peele hits back hard in Reply that thought to give Saunders' Candidacy knock out blow.

To the Democratic Voters of Pasquotank County.

In this week's issue of the Independent, W. O. Saunders, editor and politician, makes an attempt to reply to my letter of last week to the voters of this county.

He takes about five columns of his paper to make this reply, though he intimates that my attack upon him is rather beneath his notice. It strikes me in the first place that this is a great deal of space to devote to a matter beneath his notice.

The article is too long for me to attempt to reply to it in detail at this one writing. I shall devote my time and space for the present, to the political significance of what he says. I am frank to admit that I have made my attack upon him mainly to defeat his nomination, and I ask all thoughtful men not to lose sight of this issue. The question is not as to whether I am conducting my business according to the standards that W. O. Saunders would set up for me, but as to whether he is a fit representative for Pasquotank County.

In my previous letter I set forth that it is always Saunders's custom to answer all charges brought against him by overwhelming his opponent with abuse and counter charges. He has not departed from his custom this week. I insist, and I feel that I can not do so too strongly, that all this is aside from the issue--an issue which he is wantonly trying to obscure. The people are not interested in the fact, if true, that I am a shriveled up mite of humanity, nor is that of any concern to them. But they are concerned as to whether they shall permit Saunders to go to the Legislature or not. It is he that is running for the office; not I.

Now as to answering the charges which I have brought against him there is only one that Saunders makes any pretense of answering. This one is in the matter of the Norfolk Southern railroad affair. There he declares that he uses two or three mileage books, worth twenty dollars each at best, a year; but contends in addition to this amount of transportation he frequently gets "trip tickets" which would bring the loss to him somewhere near or even over one hundred dollars.

I charge him in this statement with wantonly dodging the issue and garbling the truth. I have it from no less authority than an official of the road, approximately the mileage issued Saunders this year, and challenge him to produce his contract. Indeed, I would not be at all surprised to learn that the fact that he was getting less transportation than that to which he thought himself entitled lies at the bottom of his vile attack. I seem to remember that though the condition which he refers had been existing

for some time, his silence in regard to the matter has been marked. And, if I were to look through his files, I think I might find something about the Norfolk Southern's "accustomed enterprise," or about the wisdom that might be expected from its officials in regard to the choosing of a site for a new depot.

Saunders intimates that the Advance has feared to criticize the Norfolk Southern lest its editor should also incur the displeasure of the road. In this he is stating simply his own alleged judgement, and my paper's record is sufficient answer. The Advance has never truckled to the Norfolk Southern nor to anybody else.

Saunders also makes much of the fact that it was not the loss of transportation for the balance of this year that was to be considered so much as getting no business from the railroad in the future. I maintain that a man who, six months before the primary, would give a garbled history of religion, making the Christian Church of to-day a waning superstition and who could still boast that he would be able to hand Church members some dope that would persuade them to vote for him--such a man I say would hardly believe that the enmity of a corporation would live longer than six months.

That is as far as Saunders's answer to my charges goes. The main mass of his five column editorial as I have already intimated, is concerned with counter charges against me.

In the first place, he says that I deliberately seized upon an opportunity when he was out of town to attack him. I brand that statement as an unequivocal falsehood. Working hard in my office and at Hertford that week, I had not even discovered that he was out of town. I had determined to attack Saunders in that issue of the Advance, and should have written my open letter had he chosen to occupy a seat on the water hydrant in front of my office. A letter which I had written to my father a short time before will bear out this statement. But even if in this statement he had told the truth for once in his life I do not consider that it would have been a crime to take this advantage of such an opponent as he. I was only doing what he had avowed in his own paper that I did not have the courage to do. And I note that tho he was in town on Saturday afternoon, he made no open reply to my charges until Wednesday, the very day before the primaries, when, as he doubtless hoped, I would not be able to reach a mass of the voters before they had cast their ballots. I might even contend that he held back his issue until I was out of town, for I had gone to Hall's Creek to make a picnic speech when his

paper appeared. More cowardly still, says Saunders, than my attack in his absence was the fact that the article which appeared against him was unsigned. For this much, I wish to apologise. I meant the letter to appear over my name, and it did not only because of an oversight. The name was on the line, in type; but this line was lost when the paper was made up, and the paper being a little late and everybody in a hurry Friday morning the omission was overlooked. I have the original proof and the original copy of the article, and my name appears in both. I make this apology to my readers--not to Saunders.

Saunders insinuates, also, that I am not the author of the open letter in which I attacked him last week. I brand that as an other malicious falsehood; though as it appeared in my editorial column and as I am responsible for it, I do not see what difference that makes. But for the information of those who might be influenced by a doubt as to the author's identity, I beg to set forth the following facts: I can prove that the article was written by myself in my office, without collaboration with any one. I divulged my intention to attack Saunders to nobody but my father; and he is absolutely the only one from whom I received any suggestion as to the method of this attack. Any one reading my open letter closely will detect phrases that I have used in previous editorials. Saunders "himself," I think, knows that I wrote that open letter; and his "Old Citizen" insinuations are made solely for effect.

Saunders avers that I have attacked him to please "Mac Sawyer, Tully Wilson, and Ike Lof-in"; in other words, that I have attacked him because they wanted me to. That statement is a lie out of whole cloth.

Tully Wilson, Mac Sawyer, and Ike Lof-in are paid up subscribers to the Advance--and so is I. M. Meekins. Not one of these men ever made any suggestion, even to me as to what position I ought to take in regard to Saunders's candidacy. And I would no sooner take a position to please one than another of them. Whatever faults there may be in my editorials, and whatever mistakes I may make, I express in them the honest opinion of an honest man. So strongly has this impressed the men who read the paper, that the Advance has received kind words from men of all parties and factions in Elizabeth City, torn as the town is by dissension and strife. Rev. E. W. Stone, whom surely Saunders will not accuse of being under the domination of Tully Wilson, Mac Sawyer and Ike Lof-in, expressed his confidence in my integrity and gave ample evidence of this confidence while he was in Elizabeth City.

I knew that Saunders would accuse me of casting a slur upon the citizenship of Pasquotank county, because I said that he would command the votes of the ignorant and the riff-raff. These elements are found in every section and I am willing for Saunders to have their support. The letter are of his own kind. But he "insinuates" I do not mean people who are uneducated. I mean people who do not know any better than to think W. O. Saunders would be a good candidate for Pasquotank county. And he "riff-raff" I do not mean people who are poor. I mean those who believe that he is a rascled will vote for him and was just for the sake of the stomach they expect him to raise. One only declared a few days ago that I was to find that Saunders was to be a big shot. I would still vote for him." It is the effort of men of that grade and ilk that I am willing to consign

to W. O. Saunders. He'll get 'em, too.

Saunders makes much of the fact that being a comparative stranger in Elizabeth City, I know "precious little" about the people of this section. I admit that I am not thoroughly in touch with conditions here yet. That is why I have little to say on some questions that are before the people. But I have not been in Elizabeth City a year and more without coming to believe that Saunders, according to my conception of the words, is a consummate bluffer and an incorrigible liar. Having this opinion of him, I had no right to keep silent when he was openly "defying the armies of the living God" and boasting that the people would send him to the legislature.

Saunders says that, accusing him of irreverence, I have been guilty of gross irreverence in having given him a platform that is a parody on the ten commandments. He is trying to "whistle that platform down the wind" by pretending, obtusely, to miss the point. That platform is a straight-from-the-shoulder blow at the irreverence of Saunders "himself," who makes "himself" equal to God--sets up his own standard and asks everybody else to bow down and worship it. I may be irreverent, sometimes, unthoughtedly; but I was never more reverent than when I wrote that "platform." Even if, however, it is true that I also am lacking in the manly quality of reverence--which question I leave to my friends--it is Saunders that is running for the legislature--not I.

Saunders gets most indignant when I accuse him of not knowing how to tell the truth. I declare it without fear of his being able to contradict it substantially that he is continually giving garbled accounts of everything that happens and that his paper is full of falsehoods that he would be compelled to retract if anybody thought it worth while to deny a charge made by W. O. Saunders. I happen to remember two in his paper this week. They are not in any way connected with his candidacy, but when a man "will lie about one thing he will lie about another." He says that I am an ordained minister. That statement is without foundation in fact. He speaks as usual, upon hearsay, without taking the trouble to inform himself. He says again, "Peele did not get an offer from the Vinol people." I am prepared to show any three men who will walk into my office with W. O. Saunders that I have a signed contract from these people for two hundred inches of space to be used within the current year.

I also expected Saunders to attack me for carrying patent medicine advertisements. Some time I shall tell my readers why I do it. The matter of my carrying patent medicine advertisements, however, is none of Saunders's business; he being the candidate for the legislature--not I.

The strongest substantiation of the charges which I have made against W. O. Saunders I find in the fact that, though his paper is always inveighing against somebody, nobody of any considerable intelligence pays any attention to it, except from idle curiosity. He has screamed wolf when there was no wolf until his shriekings and ravings are without effect. He is the victim of his own folly. There are many to despise him, a few to tolerate him, a hard to follow him. But these last either don't know any better or else they are of his own kind.

HERBERT PEELE.

Free trial package of Conkey's Lice Powder and Big 80-page Poultry Book for one week only at W. S. White and Co. July 19 12.

EDITOR PEELE'S OPEN LETTER AROUSES PASQUOTANK COUNTY

Worst Blow Saunders and His Satellites Ever Received

He Demands Retraction and Apology!

Thrown into Confusion by Bold and Unexpected attack--Supporters of the Politician Editor Buzz out on the Streets Like Angry Bees--Try to Work Sandersesque Bluff by Demanding Retraction Hoping to Offset the Effect of the Attack Politically and Possibly Faintly Hoping that Peele can be Scared into an Apology.

CAMDEN DEMOCRATS NOMINATE OFFICERS.

The Camden County Democratic Primary was held last Saturday for the purpose of nominating candidates for the county officers.

The following were nominated: John Mitchell for Sheriff, J. R. Sawyer, for treasurer, D. D. H. Tillit for Representative Miles W. Ferebee for register of

Messrs. Pat Stevens, William Forbes and Tim Abbott were nominated for county commissioners.

For Constable in South Mills township, John Taylor, in Court House township, B. H. Cartwright, were nominated.

There is a contest in Shiloh Township over the nomination of a Constable arising from the fact that the one receiving the highest number of votes did not decide to make the race until the day before the primary and the ruling of the Executive was that to be eligible to run the candidate had to pay his entrance fee into the hands of the County Chairman at least ten days prior thereto. The Executive Committee met July 29th and ordered a new primary for August 3rd.

There seems to be the very best of feeling among the friends of all of the defeated candidates and the impression is that the Republicans will not make any nomination for the various county offices.

NOTICE

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the office of Register of Deeds in Currituck County, subject to the action of the Democratic Executive Committee.

DR. E. W. RITTER.

FOR STATE LEGISLATURE

I hereby announce myself a candidate for the State Legislature subject to the action of the Democratic Primary.

The support of the voters of Perquimans county is solicited and shall be highly appreciated.

Respectfully,

JAMES S. McNIDER.

Exhibits for Ohio State Fair must be delivered by August 10. A representative will be sent to Columbus to look after the exhibit from Pasquotank County. The entire District is urged to send in articles for exhibition, consisting of agricultural and manufactured products, timber wood works, etc., fruits of all kinds, will be packed in spirit soon as received at this office. Send them in and help advertise our section. All inquiries will be properly answered from this office.

Chamber of Commerce, E. F. LAMB, Sec'y. Elizabeth City, N. C., July 31st, 1912.

The political sensation of the campaign was sprung last week when the Advance of July 26th appeared on the streets.

Editor Peele's "Platform of W. O. Saunders" and his open letter to the Democratic voters of Pasquotank County swept first the town and then the country like wildfire.

It was the general verdict, it seems, that for the first time the plain and unadulterated truth had been told about Saunders in public print without any trimmings of vituperation and abuse.

"That's the first time I have seen expressed exactly what I think about the fellow," said one young man after reading Mr. Peele's open letter.

Bob Peele, who has been following Saunders through his paper, wrote the editor, "You made it pretty hot for Saunders, but you did not give him half what he deserved. I do not see how anybody can vote for such a slobber."

Editor Peele's attack was a surprise to everybody except himself. The linotype operator was the first man to realize that something was up, and that was not until early Thursday morning, when he found the first copy of the attack before him. The entire force then got hold of the idea that there was something doing, but even they did not know just what until Thursday night.

The paper began to come off the press at eleven o'clock Friday morning, but none were put in the city office until after twelve. Nevertheless one or two subscribers who called at the Advance office to get the paper saw what had happened, and the news flew fast.

Demands for the paper began to come in and they kept coming until the edition was complete, until the edition was completely exhausted; and yet at seven o'clock Saturday morning the press was running again.

Soon after the Advance got thoroughly on its way somebody informed Judge Sawyer that Saunders was looking for him.

Later Friday afternoon the following paper was served on editor Peele.

NORTH CAROLINA, PASQUOTANK COUNTY.

To Herbert Peele, Editor and Manager of the WEEKLY ADVANCE, a newspaper published at Elizabeth City, Pasquotank County, North Carolina, GREETING:

Your are hereby notified that the article on page four, columns two, three and four of the WEEKLY ADVANCE of date Friday, July 26, 1912, entitled "AN OPEN LETTER" is false and defamatory and was published of and concerning W. O. SAUNDERS falsely and in violation of him.

That the entire article aforesaid is not only false and defamatory, of and concerning the said

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