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In one's absence. Most any lawyer is a good fellow when no lawyer appears on the other side. My point is obvious.

"I will be out of the State for some time to come and will, therefore be unable to keep up with what he may say about me hereafter, but when I return I will know how to meet whatever he may say in a way that will amply protect me. I have nothing in the world to do with the controversy between Mr. Saunders and Mr. Pugh. I care nothing about it so long as Mr. Pugh leaves me out of it. The next time I feel compelled to serve legal notices on Mr. Pugh for libel no committee will be able to beg me into letting him off until a fair and impartial judicial tribunal has found the truth.

"Nor am I jealous of Mr. Pugh. I have never tried to run the Republican party in Pasquotank county or in any other places in North Carolina.

"I have always tried to contribute my part to the upbuilding of the party but I have never tried to run it.

"If Mr. Pugh can find solace in running the Republican party to the top of Mt. Mitchell or into the muck of Manteo Bay, I wish him God-speed so long as he is running upward, and will regret his failure should he run amuck."

That part of the News and Observer's Washington letter in Sunday's paper to which Meekins took exception follows:

There was also another North Carolina man who testified before the Senate investigating committee today. He was R. Pugh, and had been subpoenaed to appear. The man was C. R. Pugh, a lawyer of Elizabeth City. His testimony provoked both the committee and the spectators in the room to the place of laughter. Mr. Pugh is vice chairman of the Republican State committee for North Carolina and he made the announcement that on next Saturday he would take charge of the fortunes of his party in the Old North State as State chairman, that is he will succeed State Chairman Morehead.

Mr. Pugh said that he had been summoned before the committee because of a personal difference between two humble Republicans in North Carolina, meaning Col. Ike Meekins of Elizabeth City, and himself. Mr. Pugh is a much younger man than Col. Meekins and he alleges that the Colonel is displeased because he has been outclassed by Pugh in managing the interests of the Republican party in Pasquotank county and other places in the State.

**Pugh Tells His Story**  
It was Colonel Meekins' jealousy, aided by the pen of W. O. Saunders, editor of the Elizabeth City Independent, that caused the Senate committee to demand the appearance of Mr. Pugh and in his testimony he paid his respects to both of these gentlemen in a style good enough for the vaudeville stage.

Last winter Mr. Pugh was invited with Col. Morehead, State chairman of the party, to confer with the national chairman, Will H. Hays, in New York. Mr. Pugh went to the conference, but Colonel Morehead on account of illness, was unable to be present. The absence of the chairman increased the sense of responsibility and importance of the vice chairman. At the conference he incidentally met young Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt and he felt his oats.

He returned home and in a short time made a speech to thirty of his Republican friends in Elizabeth City, among whom were Col. Meekins and six of his Sunday school pupils. When Col. Meekins heard the speech he got as mad as a March hare and became a Baron

## I THANK YOU

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**L. B. PERRY**

Munchausen bar, so Mr. Pugh alleges

in rather more picturesque language. He got his Sunday school scholars to sign an affidavit with him.

Armed with the affidavit he went to Editor W. O. Saunders, a Democrat opposing the League of Nations. Mr. Pugh had said in his speech that he had told Chairman Hays that there were thirty thousand textile workers in North Carolina now disorganized, but could be organized and voted in the Republican party and that with such an alliance ending the negroes could be allowed to vote for the Republicans. When Chairman Hays heard this hopeful news he wrote out a check for fifty thousand dollars, handed it to Mr. Pugh and ordered him to hurry home and get busy.

Now what hurt Col. Meekins was that Mr. Pugh had that money in his pocket, that he was going to use in clover as long as it lasted, and that the negroes and textile workers might go to h— and that the old war horse leaders of the Republican party in North Carolina might starve. This was the inference, anyhow. Editor Saunders published Col. Meekins' report of Mr. Pugh's speech and soon made it so hot for Republican Vice Chairman of the State that he was compelled to buy the Elizabeth City Herald, another paper in the town, to defend himself.

As soon as Editor Pugh got into his new sanctum he flew out and got the twenty-three other Republicans who heard his speech to sign a joint statement contradicting Col. Meekins' "foul lie." Mr. Pugh frankly put on exhibit for the Senate committee this joint affidavit that Will Hays had never mentioned a check or any sort of money to him and that he had never accused Mr. Hays of such an indiscretion. The looks of the formidable affidavit with the signature of 23 white North Carolina Republicans who, according to Mr. Pugh, had never told a lie, deterred even Senator Reed from asking any more questions of the witness.

Mr. Pugh said he was still conducting an editorial duel with W. O. Saunders whom he stamped as a "garbage can" newspaper man. He said he was glad to meet the Senate committee and fortify the honesty of the Republican party in North Carolina under its young leaders with new blood.

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