

The Morning Herald.

DAILY EXCEPT MONDAYS.

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DURHAM, N. C., APRIL 12, 1913.

It seems to be safer in some towns to kill a man than to sell liquor and Greensboro may be one of them.

An industry that cannot live without a bounty from the government can hardly be considered legitimate.

The state did little for the good roads movement yet the more progressive counties were not expecting it.

As they have tried to establish a standard, wonder what the progressives will do if they fail to defeat Mr. Watts.

Before taking a friend's advice to become a candidate for office be sure that he intends to attend the ward meeting.

While the house bill may not be exactly fair to all concerned, it shows that the democrats of that body are in favor of reducing the tariff.

A complete change in the board of aldermen will of course mean that we will have that many more streets paved during the next two years.

While the president has the appointing power it occurs to us that the patronage belongs to the party rather than to the chief executive.

The dignity of the senate has been shocked a few times, but the president has done nothing yet that the people are disposed to find fault with.

If the senate stands on its dignity and breaks with the president it may find just how much confidence the people of the country have in that body.

The Charlotte Observer believes in protection now and it happens to be one of the few papers that admitted that it believed in it before the election.

The protected industries should not complain even if they had a few lean years, considering what the republicans have done for them in the past.

While we have always thought that Mr. Simmons and Mr. Watts traveled in the same boat, we will admit that Mr. Simmons is the best politician of the two.

We have never been able to understand how an industry that cannot be made self-supporting without a rake-off from the people can be of benefit to the people.

The fact that the States Trust company secured a charter without trouble but goes to show that they are about as easily secured in this state as divorces.

It is said that a number of blind tigers went out of business here the first of the month, still we have not heard that it has been any harder to get on that account.

If the cotton manufacturers make good their threat we shall not hold it against them. There is nothing wrong with the man who believes in protection voting the republican ticket.

If Senator Simmons stands up for a democratic tariff bill we shall be agreeably disappointed, but we do not know how some of those who supported him are going to feel about it.

Maybe in making Mr. Simmons chairman of the finance committee the progressives thought they were putting him in a position where he would have to support a democratic tariff bill.

Quite a number of North Carolinians who are now democrats might be republicans if the state was in the habit of electing republicans to county offices and sending them to congress and the like.

If some sections that do not believe in tariff reform did support the democratic party last fall they will have no just cause for complaint if the party insists on living up to its platform obligations.

It is not plain that the promoters of the States Trust company intended to defraud anybody. It appears that they were attempting to promote a scheme without anything back of it, and it might have succeeded if they had been let alone.

Now that the house has the matter in hand it should frame up just such a tariff bill as it wants, for it can be that the bill as it comes from the house can be forced on the senate by the president, backed by public opinion. This is no time for playing to the galleries.

WITH THE EDITORS

Should Not Embarrass Him. It does look as if some few people who vigorously supported Senator Simmons might refrain from embarrassing him by not seeking office. They might also attest in that way to their candid and sincere support of a cause.—Wilmington Dispatch.

A Welcome Sound. "It is considered vital in the interest of the public that new blood shall be brought into the service," announces Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo in supplanting all the higher customs officials at Philadelphia. This sounds like the talk which democratic patriots, especially regarding the postoffice, are anxious to hear.—Charlotte Observer.

The idea of the president, stated a little differently, perhaps, is that the president and members of congress are all human beings delegatd to consider measures relating to human welfare. The president, a human being, should therefore address members of congress as human beings. John Sharp Williams, with all his higher education, will find it difficult to offer an objection to the arrangement that will make much impression on the country.—Greensboro News.

A Small Piece of Business. That is a small piece of business that is now being carried on by the board of the central hospital at Raleigh. Dr. L. J. Picot is the present efficient and capable superintendent, but he is a friend of Kitchin and for this reason he must be kicked out of office. It has come to a pretty pass in this day that an institution of our unfortunate insane is made football for the game of small politicians.—Catawba County News.

Do Not Vote the Ticket. The members of the American Cotton Manufacturers' Association, in session in Washington this week, passed resolutions protesting against the cotton schedule of the tariff bill introduced in congress. The cotton mill men are lobbying against the bill and many of them insist that they will have to close their mills if the bill passes as introduced. Protesting that they are democrats and have a right to expect better treatment from their party, some of the mill men threaten to vote the republican ticket if the bill passes. It is a matter of common report, and can probably be substantiated, that a good many of the cotton mill men in this state have for some years voted the national republican ticket because they favor a protective tariff.—Statesville Landmark.

Washington, April 11.—Unprecedented as it was and therefore not likely by all the laws of nature to happen again, the terrific flood which has swept over the Ohio valley and is now descending along the Mississippi toward New Orleans and the other river cities in Louisiana has caused much thought in Washington as to how similar calamities might be prevented or, if impossible to prevent, might be robbed of the greater part of their intensity and destructiveness. Among men prominent in public life who have given a good deal of time and thought to this problem—at least one of them having studied the question at first-hand, are Secretary of War Garrison, who headed the government relief train which left Washington at an hour's notice for the flooded section, Secretary of the Interior Lane and Senator Newlands, of Nevada, both of whom have had wide experience with floods, their cause and effects.

Secretary Garrison, in addition to his first-hand information gathered while the waters of the Miami and Scioto were just beginning to recede and before the Ohio river has reached its highest point, also has the advantage of the knowledge and experience of a hundred or more of army engineers who have been studying flood conditions for years and know more about rivers, their ebb and flow, and the various phenomena of floods than a layman would imagine there was to know.

The terrible floods which recently swept over the Ohio valley, said the secretary of war to me recently while discussing the effects of the inundation and its possible preventatives, was doubtless due to the abnormal precipitation of rain in the states of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. This, of course, cannot be prevented. While unprecedented, it is as likely to happen tomorrow or next week as it was to occur when it did. Therefore we ought to make some preparation to take care of the consequences of the cause rather than to attempt to regulate the cause itself.

"Flood experts tell me that the waters descending in central Ohio converged into two streams, the Miami and the Scioto, until both of these streams became raging, roaring torrents instead of the placid rivers which they ordinarily were. This, then, informs us of one primary fact—it is not the big rivers which are so much to be feared—it is their tributaries. The persons living along the Ohio, the Missouri, the Mississippi and the other great rivers were floods are of annual occurrence are prepared for these visitations and take precautions against their effects. The denizens of the land drained by the smaller rivers are taken by surprise and have not time to move. "Therefore it is my opinion that we ought to have some system of reservoirs or other means of raising the smaller streams so that the overabundance of water could be drained off and held against times of floods. This would cost money, and a great

deal of it, but the return from only a single flood such as has been the one through which Ohio has just passed would more than pay for the initial cost. "In addition to these reservoirs I would advocate the erection of a system of wireless towers covering the entire United States and under government control, so that no one section of the country would be entirely cut off from communication as was Ohio during the last few days of March or Omaha during the week previous. The navy department has two wireless towers of great strength at Mare Island, California, Arlington, Virginia, which are able to communicate over the continent in favorable weather conditions. If these were augmented by two more at, say, Denver and Chicago with small stations at New Orleans, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Bangor and New York we would have a network of wireless messages which would encompass the entire continent and render communication instant and certain between all portions of the country. Secretary of the Interior Lane also told me that he favored the reservoir system of taking care of surplus water, but he wanted the government to go a step farther. "I am told," said the cabinet officer from California, "that the greater portion of rivers which enter into larger streams have forced a sand bank or other natural obstacles at the point where they become tributary. The water, rushing down from above, strikes this bank, which acting as a dam, forces the flow backward and it wells out over the surrounding country with great destructiveness. One thing the government ought to do is to dredge out all these sand banks throughout the country and thus prepare the way for the free passage of a great portion of the superfluous water. This done, the government should construct a series of canals and reservoirs to carry off the water which could not be controlled in the river bed. By these means I think that a repetition of the inundation of the Ohio Valley might be effectually prevented. But the construction of the canals and reservoirs ought to be left solely in the hands of the government and its experts, both because the federal authorities are better equipped to do the work and because the preventions of floods has ceased to be a matter of local import and has become a question of national importance. A flood in Ohio, Indiana or Kentucky is likely to paralyze the business interests of these sections and this, in turn, exerts a marked influence on the business of the rest of the United States. Like the secretaries of war and interior Senator Newlands is in favor of the reservoir idea and claims that it has worked with excellent results in "his country." The Nevada statesman has already visited the white house to try and get presidential approval for the idea of government-owned waterways and canals to drain the rivers in flood-time and it is probable that he will introduce bills looking toward their construction at the present session of congress. If President Wilson follows his policy of being guided by the feelings of his cabinet, it is almost certain that these measures will have the hearty approval of the white house, for Secretaries Lane and Garrison have won most of their colleagues over to their way of thinking.

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ANNOUNCEMENT. I hereby announce myself a candidate for the position of alderman from the second ward subject to the action of the democratic primary. R. E. HURST.

DR. J. T. MCCRACKEN, Surgeon Dentist, 114, Fourth Floor, Independence Building, Raleigh, N. C.

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