

A Disastrous Fire Destroys Business Block at Tryon

Leaves Destruction and
Devastation in Its
Path.

PRINCIPAL STORES DESTROYED.

John Orr & Co., and The Ballenger Co., are Heavy Losers—One Residence Swept Away Also—Other Buildings on Trade Street Narrowly Escape—Milk Boys Discover Fire—Heavy Blow to Tryon City.

Tryon, N. C., Jan. 17

Sunday morning the dread demon, fire, invaded our peaceful town and left havoc in its trail. Fortunately no lives were lost. It looked for awhile as if all of Trade street was doomed, as there was a high wind blowing from the north, but the brick walls of Orr's store falling inward, instead of toward the drug store, smothered and confined the flames without further spread.

The fire was discovered shortly after 8 o'clock a. m., Sunday, when the clothing room of the Ballenger Co. was seen to be all on fire and communicating to the main store. People began to come from all directions, as the fire was visible for miles. Willing hands were soon at work carrying out goods as fast as possible while some were hastily getting buckets to fight the fire. The high wind carried burning brands on to the other roofs, and J. B. Hester, the station agent, seeing the danger of the railroad and other property telegraphed for the engine at Melrose. By this time all hope of saving any part of Trade street was abandoned and everyone began to carry out of the different buildings everything movable. People on the different roofs continued to fight the burning embers that were flying as thick as snow, some of them alighting fully half a mile away. Manager T. C. Mills stuck to his switch-board telephoning for help as long as he could before the lines were down.

When the engine arrived a bucket line was soon formed from her tank to the fire. This and the south brick wall of Orr's store falling north drove the flames away from the drug store. Had the walls fallen toward the drug store nothing could have saved the balance of Trade street, south. It was, indeed, very a narrow escape. In addition to the two stores destroyed, the dwelling to the rear of Ballenger's store, belonging to Mrs. Peck, was burned to the ground, most of the effects saved. The Tryon Lodge K. of P. lost everything in their neat council chamber. The Lanier Library, also over Orr's store, was, perhaps, a total loss, some books probably being in the hands of members. Mayor Missidine suffered quite a good deal from breakage and loss in trying to save his stock.

The sides of the railroad track from one crossing to another was lined with all sorts of merchandise, including show-cases, flour, drugs, ribbons, cloth, in fact any thing that could be moved in time. Balus had carcasses of a number of hogs and sheep, hung in his shop and these were all hustled out with the refrigerator and piled up on the ground. The post office was stripped of all its furniture, in fact, there seemed no chance to save a building, and every one worked to save what they could. After all danger was over the stuff was moved back to the owners and vacant stores.

This is a severe blow to Tryon, as the two stores were well stocked with the finer grades of merchandise and better by far, than in towns ten times its size. Those who needed groceries Monday had to seek elsewhere. It is not often that the whole merchandise business of a town is wiped away at once. The people of Tryon should now loyally stand by the merchants who have suffered and help them in every possible way. Messrs. B. L. Ballenger and Claude L. Ballenger are young men who have pinned their faith to Tryon and have lost heavily, together with Senator Ballenger.

Mr. Jno. Orr's store which was brick, was also one of the best appointed and stocked stores in Western North Carolina. Tryon being full of guests makes it all the greater loss, as it will take some time to establish the business in good running order again. Mr. Orr owned both building and stock and was not heavily insured. G. A. Smith owned the building the Ballenger Co., was in

and is probably well insured.

The K. of P. property was insured for a small amount as also the Lanier Library, \$400.00, we are informed. Mrs. Peck's building was also insured. Mr. G. A. Smith is insured for \$1,015.00 tho' his loss will be fully \$4,000.00. "The Ballenger Co." were insured for \$7,000 on a stock of over \$10,000.

FIRE NOTES.

The fire was first discovered by the Kelley boys, who were delivering milk early in the morning. Their cries attracted Ed. Stredrick, who was at once on the scene. Others soon flocked to the fire.

The Ballenger Co. will at once open up a stock at the old Lucky building, a stock of staple and fancy groceries opposite the freight depot.—Tryon Bee.

BRYAN IS COMING TO N. C.

Will Deliver a Series of Lectures in this State at an Early Date.

(BY THOMAS J. PENCOE)

Washington, Jan. 12.—Special.—William Jennings Bryan will visit North Carolina in the course of the next few weeks. This information was given today by the former Democratic candidate for president in conversation with Tar Heels. Mr. Bryan does not know exactly what points he will visit, but he has decided to deliver a series of lectures, and North Carolina is on his visiting list. He promised to write Mr. Josephus Daniels, acquainting him with the details of his itinerary through the state.

The distinguished Nebraskan spent the day in Washington, and of course mingled much with Democratic politicians. He is not much of a political factor now, a fact recognized by his friends, but he is accorded a cordial greeting wherever he goes. A number of the members of the North Carolina delegation chatted with him today. To the correspondent of The Post Mr. Bryan said that he was pleased with the selection and date of the convention.

Senator Simmons said today that he would probably call the Democratic state executive committee together the latter part of February. He does not think there is any necessity for holding two conventions. Senator Simmons will not issue the call for the committee meeting for several weeks.

National Committeeman J. S. Daniels cast his vote in the meeting of the national committee for St. Louis, having decided early this morning the exposition city was the best place under the circumstances for the Democratic convention. Mr. Daniels also took part in the consideration of the contest as to who should be national committeeman from the District of Columbia. It was on his motion that the acrimonious fight was brought to an end and that it was referred to a sub-committee for action.

In speaking of the meeting of the committee, Mr. Daniels said he was greatly impressed with the feeling prevailing everywhere that the Democracy will win in the coming contest.

GEN. GORDON'S SUCCESSOR.

Gen. Stephen D. Lee Assumes Command of the U. C. V.

New Orleans, Jan. 10.—In a general order, issued tonight by Lieut. Gen. Stephen D. Lee, commander of the Tennessee department, United Confederate Veterans, Gen. Lee assumes the office of commander in chief of the United Confederate Veterans' Association, made vacant by the death of General John B. Gordon.

In his order General Lee states that the staff of the late commander in chief is continued as the staff of the present commanding general.

Major Gen. Clement A. Evans, commanding the Georgia division, is directed to assume command of the division of Tennessee; General Evans will instruct the ranking brigadier general of the Georgia division to assume command of that division or recommend a suitable officer for that office.

In his order General Lee eulogizes Gordon, referring to his wonderful career as a soldier, statesman and citizen, declaring that "full of love for all, pure in mind, heart and behavior, a consistent follower of his Maker, he was possibly the greatest representative of the old courtly Southern gentlemen and his place cannot be filled."

The Hearing of the Gudger Contest Case is Now On

All Personalities Are Ruled Out.

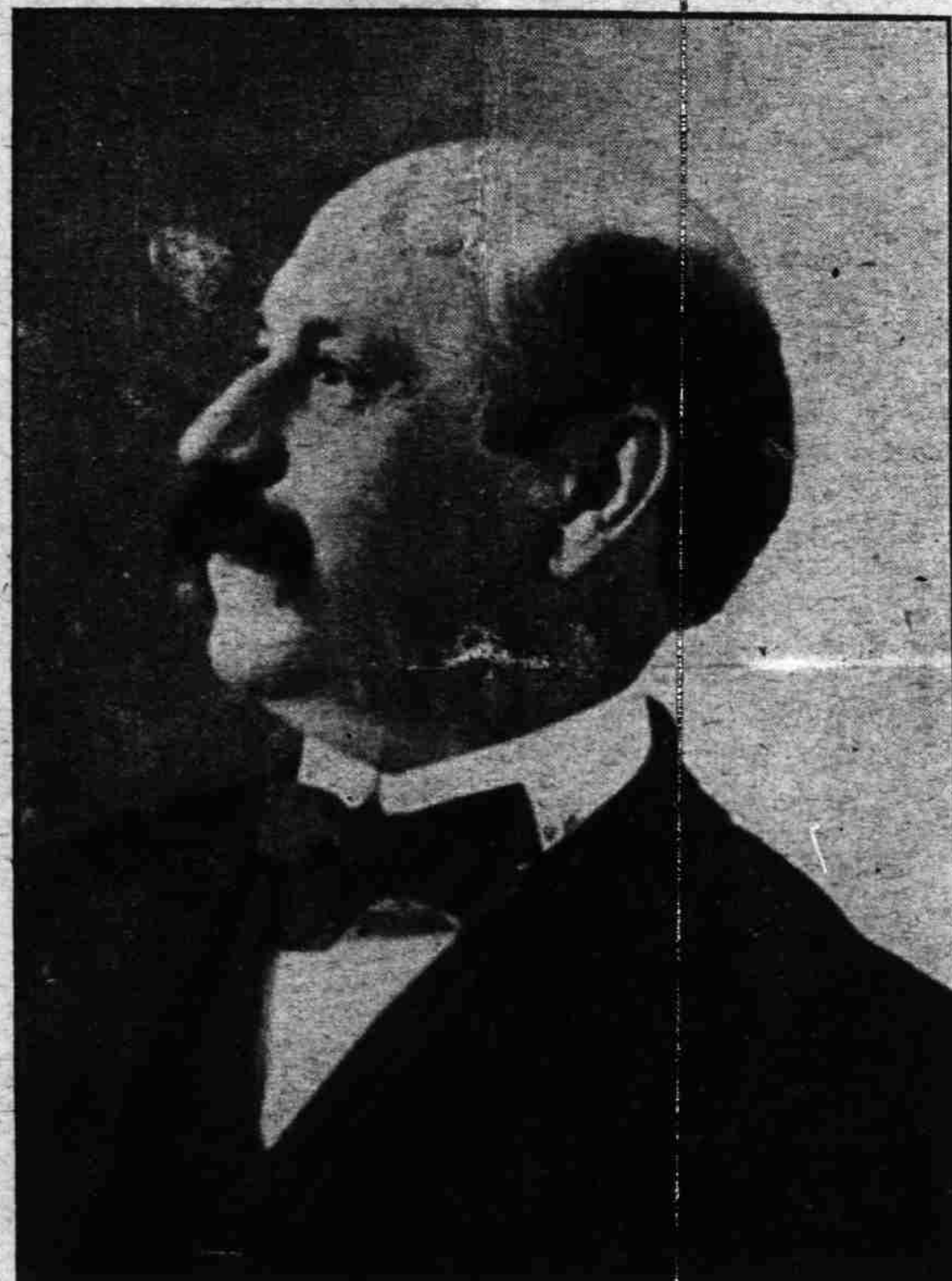
MR. GUDGER IS CONFIDENT

The Democrats and One Republican Member of the Election Committee Said to Favor Mr. Gudger—Mr. Gudger and His Attorneys Are Confident of Favorable Results.

Washington, Jan. 13.

Election Committee No. 2, Mr. Mann, of Illinois, chairman, spent the entire day in hearing argument in the contest involving the seat of Mr. Gudger, and then, after closing the open hearing about 5 o'clock, remained in executive session until almost dark. The hearing was for the most part uneventful, counsel having agreed to confine their remarks to the briefs, to the exclusion of all personal references, and without advertising too much to the great mass of

ly shown that these had been accounted for by voters who had just come of age, had removed from one precinct to another, and mistakes on the part of those performing the clerical work. Mr. Carter referred to J. M. Campbell's bitter animosity to Mr. Gudger, and to Campbell's "creature Jay." In reply to a question asked by a member of the committee as to the majority secured by Mr. Gudger in the nominating convention over Mr. Campbell, Mr. Carter fell into error. He said that Mr. Campbell only received a very small vote, whereas, as a matter of fact, a number of gentlemen, all expert mathematicians, have not quit figuring yet in the effort to determine the exact fractional vote by which Mr. Gudger was declared the nominee. Mr. Busbee followed Mr. Carter and devoted his time principally to the legal aspects of the case, to the question of abatement and the jurisdiction of the committee, and to the vote at Tryon and Shields precincts, defending registrar. Fisher, and saying that he only erred in one instance, in deny-



CONGRESSMAN JAMES M. GUDGER.

evidence and depositions. Both sides had reason to look with favor upon such an arrangement, and it is said that Mr. Settle purposely refrained from elaborating the evidence of Mr. J. M. Campbell, which alluded to contestee's record to comment very rightly on the conspicuous absence of Col. Lusk, of counsel for contestants. The last source of possible embarrassment to Mr. Settle was removed by the appearance of Col. Lusk, at the eleventh hour, after telling several persons that it was not his intention to come. Messrs. Lusk and Settle have not been working together in harmony of late, and his non-appearance might have been thought singular by members of the committee. As it was, Col. Lusk did not take part in the speech-making.

MR. SETTLE ALLEGES UNDOE INFLUENCE.

Mr. Settle spoke first, devoting more than an hour and one half to Buncombe county, where, he declared, the officers of election had been improperly influenced through the pressure brought to bear upon them by the Democratic executive committee, by poll tax exemptions, and the large number of persons who voted, but whose names did not appear on the certified list of tax payers. The returns from this county, said Mr. Settle, were tainted with fraud and should be rejected. Mr. Carter followed with a defense of the registrars of Buncombe, denying that they had shown any partiality in the administration of their offices. In reply to a question from Chairman Mann, Mr. Carter said it was perhaps in bad taste for the chairman of the Democratic county committee to pay some of the election officers for extra work, but that the act by no means afforded any justification for declaring the election void in the two precincts where this had been done. As to the 500 voters whose names did not appear on the certified tax lists, Mr. Carter said that it been conclusive-

ing the right of registration to an educated negro, Blackwood.

FRAUDS DECLARED GLARING.

In his reply, Mr. Settle's remarks took a wider scope, saying that the frauds in this election had been glaring and it remained for Congress to say whether the correction rod should be applied to those guilty of such methods. Southern Republicans had been unfortunate in their undertaking to get their grievances properly before the supreme court, and they had no redress save in an appeal to Congress. The position of the Republicans in North Carolina was anomalous. If they sought relief through the lower courts, they found themselves confronted by a State law, which authorized the attorney general of the State to defend indicted registrars. Representative James asked if the committee was to understand that he, Mr. Settle, condemned the constitutional amendment. To this Mr. Settle replied, no, that he voted for the amendment, which was all right in theory, but the evidence in this case showed that in practice the law had not only lessened, but had complicated the political ills. The amendment, he declared, was best for Republicans if elections were conducted honestly.

MR. GUDGER CONFIDENT.

Members of the committee frequently commented on what the attorneys were saying. Mr. Mann seemed to find vast amusement in the situation at South Waynesville, where, he thought, all the people were remarkably close students of the constitution. It seems that in many instances, when witnesses had been questioned with reference to bribery charges, they had stood on their constitutional rights, and declined to answer on the ground that it might tend to incriminate them. While Mr. Settle would not concede anything of the kind, Mr. Gudger and his attorneys appear confident that the decision will be favorable to them. Some of the minority members of the committee made light of the case, and expressed the opinion that the decision for Mr. Gudger would be unanimous. It is also true that such an intimation came from one Republican member.—Charlotte Observer 14t.

St. Louis is Selected by the Democrats as the Place.

Wednesday, July 6, at 12 o'clock, is the Date.

SURPRISED BY COMMITTEE

It Seemed Sure Chicago Would Be Chosen, But Political Exigencies Caused St. Louis to be Selected—Wm. J. Bryan Calls, but no Significance is Attached to Visit

Washington Special.—The Democratic national committee to-day furnished a surprise, selecting St. Louis as the place for holding the national convention of 1904. The date fixed for the convention was Wednesday, July 6, at 12 o'clock. Previous to the meeting of the committee it seemed a foregone conclusion that Chicago would be selected as the place of meeting, but political exigencies entered into the situation and a majority of the committee voted for St. Louis. For some hours previous to the meeting there was talk in the corridors and among Democratic leaders that the convention in Chicago might be subject to the influence of a strong movement and a strong newspaper influence in favor of some particular candidate. Mr. Knapp of the St. Louis Republic, hinted at this in his speech by saying that the convention, if held at St. Louis, would be welcomed by an absolutely fair press.

The committee meeting caused considerable discussion of politics and the claims of various candidates were advocated by their partisans, but nothing favoring any candidate appeared in the committee proceedings. William J. Bryan, when the committee had concluded its labors, appeared, but his visit was without any apparent political significance. He did not come to the hotel until after the committee had about concluded its business. He was warmly greeted by the members of the committee and invited a number of times by members to call on them at their hotels.

The committee was called to order by Chairman James K. Jones, of Arkansas, promptly at 12 o'clock. As the members took their seats they faced a raised platform back of which was an elaborate festoon of flags, surrounding a large portrait of Andrew Jackson. The sessions were executive. Rolla Wells, presented the claims of St. Louis. A written proposal was offered to the committee with a guarantee of \$40,000 and the use of the Coliseum, a fire-proof building with a seating capacity of 12,000. The Business Men's League guaranteed hotel accommodations.

There were two roll calls to select the city. On the first St. Louis received 23 votes, Chicago 200 and New York 6. On the second ballot St. Louis received 23 and Chicago 21. The date was fixed as July 6th, on motion of Col. J. M. Guffey, of Pittsburgh.

Says Roosevelt Can't Win.

Writing to the New York Evening Post Edward C. Wade, of Los Angeles, Cal., who states that he has voted the Republican ticket in every Presidential election for many years, says:

William Henry Harrison died, and I saw John Tyler become President of the United States, and I also saw him turn the government over into the keeping of the Democrats, because he had failed to receive the nomination.

Zachary Taylor died, and I saw Millard Fillmore become the President of the United States, and I also saw him turn the government into the keeping of the Democrats, because he had failed to receive the nomination.

Abraham Lincoln died, and I saw Andrew Jackson become the President of the United States, and I also saw him make an effort to turn the government over into the keeping of the Democrats.

James A. Garfield died, and I saw Andrew Jackson become the President of the United States, and I also saw him turn the government over into the keeping of the Democrats, because all his efforts had failed to procure the nomination for himself, and he could not endure defeat from the immortal James G. Blaine.

William McKinley died, and I have seen Theodore Roosevelt become the President of the United States. I saw Benjamin Harrison in an effort to procure a renomination for President bring overwhelming defeat to himself and party.

SIMMONS ON THE SCANDALS

He Insists on a Senatorial Inquiry.

ALSO SCORES MANY POINTS

The North Carolina Senator Charges Republicans With Purpose to Suppress Further Investigation.

Washington, (Special).—Alleged postoffice frauds were under discussion in the Senate today, the subject being opened in a set speech by Mr. Simmons, of North Carolina, who insisted that there should be an investigation by the Senate of the charges. Mr. Platt, of Connecticut, declared that the Republicans were not trying to cover up any wrongdoing in the Postoffice Department, and said that they were simply contending that the postoffice committee should ascertain what was to be investigated. The discussion was participated in by Messrs. Burrows, Dooliver and Quarles, on the Republican side and Messrs. Carmack, Tillman and Teller, on the Democratic side.

Mr. Simmons said it was clearly the purpose of the Republicans not to permit any further inquiry into the frauds and scandals of the Department. He predicted that when the resolutions came back from the Senate committee they would be defeated by practically the unanimous vote of the Republicans. It is apparent, he said, that no further investigation would be inaugurated on the eve of a presidential election. Speaking of the Bristow inquiry, Mr. Simmons said the reports of that inquiry showed it to be directed solely into crimes committed within the Department, and that the various bureaus were not subjected to the general search for the disclosure of irregularities not punishable as crimes. "I do not charge that every branch of the Department is reeking with fraud," he said, "but it will be difficult to convince the people that such is not the case. The investigation that has been had is merely of a legal character."

Mr. Simmons made the point that the frauds exposed by Mr. Bristow in nearly every instance from a civil liability, and the government frauds which had been wasted should be recovered in a court of law.

Mr. Tillman said that a number of years ago he had asked that rural free delivery boxes be supplied to farmers at cost, and that he had submitted a sample box which sold for 50 cents. This box, Mr. Tillman said, was furnished later at \$1.25 and \$1.50 each. He wanted to know whether any investigation of this case had been made.

Mr. Simmons answered that the Bristow report exposed of many such cases. Mr. Simmons referred to former Assistant Postmaster General Heath and said that there was every reason why an inquiry should be directed to finding out what his connections were with the postoffice scandals. He did not say that Perry Heath was guilty, but if he was not connected with the frauds, he was surrounded by the most curious set of circumstances that had ever been known. Mr. Simmons also criticized former Postmaster General Smith because he did not investigate the Tulloch charges. Speaking of Mr. Tulloch's experience in the Postoffice Department Mr. Simmons said:

"Who knows but what his dismissal was for the purpose of intimidating other employees who might have had information for the exposure of the frauds?"

Hanna Re-elected.

Columbus, Ohio, Jan. 13.—In the presence of the joint assembly of the members of the Ohio senate and house, Lieutenant Governor G. W. Harding today declared Marcus A. Hanna re-elected United States senator from Ohio for the term of six years, beginning March 4, 1905. The two branches in separate session had given Senator Hanna the largest majority ever given a senator from this state.

The senator and Governor Herrick were escorted to the hall of the house. The arrival of the two was the signal for an ovation. It was several minutes before Senator Hanna could speak and return his thanks. Governor Herrick was then introduced and made a short address. His reference to the contrast of Senator Hanna's re-election with the hard-fought battle of six years ago brought a broad smile to the senator's face. A reception followed.