

THE RALEIGH ENTERPRISE.

An Independent Newspaper Published Every Thursday

BY

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A number of prominent citizens declared that they would not be candidates several months ago. They were telling the truth.

It is said that the Democratic party has a big campaign fund in sight. That party loves a cheerful giver.

"Constant Reader" is informed that Judge Parker's address is "Esoapyus," N. Y., for several years to come.

After it is all over, Mr. Cleveland frankly admits that Mr. Parker is just as good as he is, and that the party did not make a mistake.

Col. Henry Watterson declares that Kentuckians do not drink to excess. We presume that they simply drink to success and then start it all over again.

The Enterprise is the only paper in the State that has published all of the State and national party platforms. It was the first weekly in the State to publish the national Democratic platform. The readers of this paper may depend on getting all that is worth publishing.

Kissing and love-making are forbidden in Druid Hill Park, Baltimore. A young couple didn't know it and were arrested and locked up. They decided to get out of the trouble by getting married. A priest was sent for and the ceremony was performed in the police station.

Politics make strange bed-fellows. Now just think for a moment what a picture Josefus Daniels, Ben Tillman and Joseph P. Caldwell will present all cuddled up in a little narrow bed peeping smilingly over the edge of the counterpane neatly tucked up to their chins, chirping in unison: "We are all Parker men, Parker men," and other lullabys.

By discharging a large number of employes, the Atlantic and North Carolina Railroad, it is claimed, can pay a dividend this fall. We will not be surprised at all if that railroad should get so rich in a few months that it can pay off the entire State debt. But it will have to hurry. The present management of the Penitentiary has already threatened to pay off the State debt. The pen is awfully prosperous—on paper.

A DANGEROUS STATE OF AFFAIRS.

We often hear substantial farmers, business and professional men say that the future welfare of North Carolina so far as political conditions can affect it, depends upon whether or not we have two strong, aggressive parties. One party means political dryrot, decadence, misrule, extravagance, arrogance, high taxes and everything else except good government.

The above is substantially the consensus of the opinion of as good Democrats as any in the State, as well as that of leading Republicans and independents. Of course the politicians are not saying so, for some of them on both sides may get lost in the shuffle. We are talking about the best portion of our citizenship.

You may rest assured that certain Democratic politicians are very well satisfied. They are in the ring. The present election law, while not actually compelling dryrot, is ingeniously framed for the purpose of bringing it about. Recent hard-fought town and city elections have demonstrated that less than half of the qualified white voters took enough interest to vote either way. That is a dangerous state of affairs in a republic, and matters will grow rapidly worse, affecting both State and national elections. To the average politician this is as much of a snap as it would be for officials of a bank to go home and leave the vault unlocked and leave the front door open when robbers are around. So much for the Democratic side of it.

Naturally one would think that the Republicans would oppose such a state of affairs from a selfish standpoint, if for no other reason. Possibly most of the rank and file do oppose it, and we have heard a number of very prominent members of the party, office holders, deprecate it. But it is plain that certain prominent Federal office-holding Republicans, and not all of them live in Raleigh, are standing side by side with certain leading Democrats. If there is no understanding, they are acting together with military precision, evidently desiring a state of political dryrot. They are sacrificing the citizenship of the State, in all parties, upon the altar of spoils.

Mr. Thomas S. Rollins, Chairman of the Republican Executive Committee, is a bright young man. In the absence of positive proof we are not willing to accuse him of a desire to destroy or hold back his party by his official action, or, rather inaction. But he is assisting in the dryrot campaign. Is it possible that he does not see that now is the opportunity to build up the second strong party, the only opportunity that has presented itself in forty years in this State, and that if it is properly done, the people of the State will either applaud or, at least, will not strenuously oppose?

More than a year ago Mr. Rollins was elected chairman of his party Executive Committee. If he has ever done anything more substantial than dictate a few letters and place his picture in some papers, we would like to know it. Suppose you were to employ a man to superintend a

farm and he would not cause a furrow to be ploughed in twelve months? How long would he hold his job? What would you think of a man who would buy a stock of goods and keep his store locked up for a year or more?

We have heard from many sources that certain Federal office-holders in the State (a few only) are bitterly opposed to anything like progressive and aggressive action. Is it possible that they fear that they would not be able to get a job if their party should become powerful and aggressive with new blood in its veins? There is no other explanation. It seems that they are willing to act in harmony with certain Democratic State savers and sacrifice all the people in the State rather than take chances at office in an aggressive party. We are at a loss for words to properly condemn such a selfish conspiracy and will simply leave the question to the reader.

Some one may ask what interest the Enterprise has in all this, as it is not a party organ. The editor of the Enterprise is a native of North Carolina. He desires good government and a healthy state of affairs politically. He could not be an organ for either party as managed at present, could not and would not defend much that is going on in both parties. This paper is not afraid of the politicians of either party nor both of them, hence calls a spade a spade.

The burning question is: How much longer will the voters quietly submit to this state of affairs?

AS TO THE ENTERPRISE.

The first issue of this paper appeared April 21st. It is, therefore three months old, counting from date to date.

The Enterprise, through the indulgence of its friends, has practically been a success from the start. In three months it has climbed as near business success as most papers reach in three years, and it will not forget those who have made this possible. It is meeting the most sanguine expectations in the way of patronage. The paper will be gradually improved.

Of course the ring politicians in both parties have looked upon the paper with more or less disfavor. It is understood that the order: "ignore it," was passed down the line, and a number of alleged newspapers have faithfully obeyed orders. But a considerable portion of the leading daily and weekly papers in the State gave it a kindly reception, and we do not wish the balance of them any greater misfortune than that they may experience a change of heart. It is not easy to contend against a tidal wave of instilled prejudice, but the Enterprise can do it. Fortunately a large proportion of the people of this State are liberal in their views and can tolerate expressions of opinion on either side of any question, if honestly expressed.

A St. Louis man sued his wife for divorce because she had not spoken to him in ten years. Poor foolish man! Such a wife is worth her weight in silver.

ADULTERATED FOOD.

Poor human beings, and rich human beings, for that matter, are not the only sufferers from adulterated food. The horses and cows must take chances along with humanity. Almost every article of canned food, though palatable, contains things more or less injurious to health, but which tend to aid in preservation and in uniformity of coloring. Many articles contain matter that are useless in satisfying the appetite, if not injurious. They add to weight and bulk, and the buyer is the loser.

For some time feedstuff has been on the market here and the price alone precludes purity. For instance the price per ton, say \$25, when if the stuff is what it purports to be would cost \$35 or \$40 per ton, is sufficient proof of adulteration.

A few days ago Mr. C. D. Harris, of the Agricultural Department, seized a lot of stuff evidently adulterated. We have not learned what the chemists found. But it is plain that the pure food law must be more rigidly enforced for the protection of people and animals.

THE TEXAS BOLL WEEVIL.

It is thought that the boll weevil has appeared in Vance County, near Henderson. We hope those who say they have found it are mistaken, but fear that it is true.

We learn on good authority that a worm or weevil resembling the boll weevil has attacked several cotton fields. It cuts the bloom in ribbons just before it drops from the boll that is just forming, and then attacks the young boll itself. One farmer, Mr. Eugene Thorne, informs the Henderson Goldleaf that his cotton is affected and that he does not expect one-fourth of a crop.

We feel sure that application should be made to the Agricultural Department at Washington for the services of an expert to determine, first, whether or not it is the Texas boll weevil, and then see if it cannot be destroyed while the area affected is yet small.

THE PARTY DEBT.

Prominent Citizen—"The Democratic party should give me the nomination next time for the office of Governor or for Congress; my services must not go unrewarded."

Party Manager—"What was the particular service rendered by you?"

Prominent Citizen—"I bet a Republican three to one that we'd carry the State."

Party Manager—"Well, you won the bet, didn't you? How is the party indebted to you?"

Prominent Citizen—"I get something for my nerve, don't I?"

Editor Versus Lawyer.

A lawyer in a court-room may call a man a liar, scoundrel, villain or thief, and no one makes a complaint when court has adjourned. If a newspaper prints such reflections on a man's character there is a libel suit or a dead editor. And this is owing to the fact that people believe what an editor says; what a lawyer says cuts no figure.—Routt County (Colo.) Courier.