

The State Chronicle

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COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO the Business Department of this paper should be addressed to D. H. BROWDER, Lock Drawer No. 2, Raleigh, N. C., and all Drafts, Checks and Postal Money Orders should be made payable to his order.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 1890.

Equal and Exact Justice to all Men, of Whatever State or Persuasion, Religious or Political.--Thomas Jefferson.

POLITICS IN THE PALMETTO STATE.

For several years there has been much discussion among South Carolina Democrats. A large number of the farmers of the State have protested against the legislation of the party and against the election of the men who have held the offices, and four years ago they organized what is known as "the Farmers' Movement." They have been saying for years that a man must belong to a certain "aristocratic set" before he can expect to gain preferment, and that men once elected to office are kept there, often to the public injury, provided their social and family relations are aristocratic. In the last Legislature there was a bitter fight on the colleges of the State. The leaders of "the Farmers' movement" made a demand for a withdrawal of certain appropriations to the University and conferring them on the Clemson Agricultural College. They also desired to abolish the Agricultural Department and put its work under the control of the Agricultural College. If our memory serves us right, they failed in securing the legislation asked for, and since their failure to get the legislation, the air has been full of mutterings. Some weeks ago a call was issued for a State Farmers' Convention. It has met--adopted a platform--and nominated Capt. B. R. TILMAN for Governor and Jas. C. COIT for Lieutenant Governor. The regular Democratic State Convention will be held in August and these nominations are subject to the ratification of the regular Convention.

The farmers were by no means united in the resolution to nominate candidates. The vote stood 120 to 114, and many farmers repudiate the action of the convention and say that it is better to bear the ills they have than fly to those they know not of. The News and Courier denounces TILMAN as a self-seeker and demagogue and declares that the farmers will not support him and that the party will not be dictated to by the kind of men who composed the Convention. TILMAN's friends declare that he is a patriot and a true-blue Democrat--that all who support the "Farmers' Movement" will acquiesce if the Democratic Convention does not nominate their ticket. The first article of the platform of the "Farmers' Movement" reads:

We recognize the imperative necessity of Anglo-Saxon unity in our State, and pledge ourselves to abide by the arbitration of the Democratic party, relying upon the sense of justice and enlightened self-interest of a majority of our white fellow-citizens to secure all needed reforms. We will make our issue inside the party lines, and differing as brethren who must make a common cause against a common enemy, we will bow in submission to the behests of the party fairly expressed through the regular channels.

It is certain that there is a bitter fight ahead between Democrats in the Palmetto State. What the result will be no man can say. It is war to the knife, and there seems to be no spirit of give and take. If the farmers are right (as seems to be the case) in the statement that the Democratic State government is extravagant and that only a certain "set" can get office, they are right in demanding reform and demanding a fair chance to every citizen. But it occurs to us that they have resorted to a revolutionary and dangerous proceeding to enforce their demands. They could name the candidates, as the farmers cast eighty per cent of the Democratic vote, and draw the platform in a regular Democratic convention with the help of their friends in other callings. We do not doubt that there are thousands of men, not farmers, in the Palmetto State who can be relied upon to do anything to secure reform. By calling a distinctively Farmers' Convention and nominating candidates, they may drive away this large element and fail to effect the reforms which they contend for. By waiting, and fighting out the question in the Democratic Convention they could more surely secure the reforms they demand. One delegate urged that a platform be adopted but that no nominations be made.

The CHRONICLE hopes for the best. We confess that, with the immense negro vote that threatens the prosperity of South Carolina, we tremble to see violent antagonism and hand-to-hand fights between Democrats. The farmers may be pursuing the only course, as they say, to secure the permanence of Anglo-Saxon rule. We are too far away from the scene of battle to judge accurately, but we shall watch the conflict with solicitude and anxiety.

THE MONEY QUESTION.

"If the whole money in circulation was doubled, prices would double. If it was only increased one-fourth, prices would rise one-fourth. The very same effect would be produced on prices if we suppose the goods (the use of money) diminished instead of the money increased; and the contrary effect if the goods were increased or the money diminished. So that the value of money--all other things remaining the same--varies inversely as its quantity; every increase in quantity lowering its value and every diminution raising it in a ratio exactly equivalent."--JOHN STUART MILL.

INTERESTING TO PENSIONERS.

STATE AUDITOR SANDERLIN is seeking to save all the trouble possible to the hundreds of applicants for pensions throughout the State. We publish below a letter which he yesterday forwarded to the Clerk of the Superior Court of every county in the State. Mr. SANDERLIN desires us to courteously request every editor in the State to publish this letter in order to influence the action of County Boards of Pensions which meet next Monday. The letter is as follows:

AUDITOR'S DEPARTMENT, Raleigh, N. C., March 31, 1890.

DEAR SIR:--I am requested by the Attorney-General of the State to say that the term "indigent" used before the word "widows" in the "41" classification provided for in section 1 of the new Pension Law (Chapter 198, Laws 1889) takes precedence of all other qualifications, and it is necessary not only that a widow making application shall not own property whose tax valuation exceeds the sum of \$500, but she must be "destitute of property or means of support and be not provided for with the proper means of subsistence by any parent, child, relative or friend." In other words, it is intended that the names of only such widows shall go upon the new pension roll as are really POOR AND NEEDY, and not provided with the proper means of subsistence by any person or from any source. See Sections 4 and 8 of Rules and Regulations adopted by the State Board of Pensions. I will add that the State Board called upon the Attorney General for an OFFICIAL STATEMENT OR OPINION as to this matter and it was given as above stated, and his construction as to the meaning of the term "indigent" was ordered to be incorporated into the blank forms for widow's application and re-application, and this was accordingly done as the blanks will show. This information is given in reply to many inquiries which have come, and are likely to come, from Clerks of Superior Courts, and applicants for pension, as well, in various portions of the State. Please read this before the County Board of Pensions that their action may be governed accordingly.

Yours truly, G. W. SANDERLIN, State Auditor.

To Clerk Superior Court, County, N. C.

DUNNING POSTAL CARDS.

[From New York Herald.] Less than two years ago Congress passed an act making it a criminal offence to mail a postal card containing written or printed matter of a "libellous, scurrilous, defamatory or threatening character or calculated and obviously intended to reflect injuriously upon the character or conduct of another." The penalty for a violation of the law is a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars, imprisonment for not more than five years or both fine and imprisonment.

Under this statute a St. Louis business man was indicted for mailing these two postals to a customer:

Please call and settle account, which is long past due, and for which our collector has called several times.

To this the customer evidently paid no attention, as the following was sent to him six days later:

You owe us \$1.80. We have called several times for the same. If not paid at once we shall place same with our law agency for collection.

The United States District Court holds that the sending of the first was not but that the mailing of the second was a criminal offence. The reason given for the distinction is that the second contained a threat to sue, which was "both calculated and intended to humiliate and injure the person addressed in public estimation," while the first was not open to this objection. Of the first JUDGE THAYER says:

The language employed is not of a threatening character, and, in my opinion, no jury would be warranted, in finding, in view of its contents, that it was obviously intended by the writer to reflect injuriously on the character or conduct of the person addressed, or to injure or degrade him in the eyes of the public.

It is true that it contains a demand for the payment of a debt and says that it is long past due and that a collector has called several times, but is couched in respectful terms and no intent is apparent to put it in such a form as to attract public notice or to make it offensive to the person addressed.

In view of this decision, which we think is carrying the law to an extreme hardly warranted, business men will find it prudent either to enclose demands for money in sealed envelopes or to be careful about what they write on postal cards.

REPUBLICAN DELAY ON THE TARIFF BILL.

Yesterday's CHRONICLE published the telegraphic outline of the Tariff Bill as presented by Mr. Mc KINLEY's Ways and Means Committee. Our readers will remember the howl that the Republicans raised in 1888, because the MILLS Bill was not presented to the House earlier in the session. They were vehement in their denunciations of the delay and it was charged to "British Gold," "Cobden Club" sympathy, and to more evil influences than we can recall. The truth is that it was much more difficult to make a tariff bill that reduced the cost of the necessities of life to the people, as the MILLS bill did, than merely to juggle with the Tariff and change the class protected and the amount of protection given, which is the purpose of the Mc KINLEY bill.

Recalling the Republican complaint made because of Democratic so-called delay of '88, it may be interesting to note what improvement the Republicans, with an easier task, have made. Two years ago the MILLS bill was reported to the full committee on the first of March. The Republicans this year presented their bill thirty-one days later.

Perhaps we ought not to criticize Mr. Mc KINLEY and his committee for their delay. Their task has doubtless been greater than the bill on its surface would indicate. They have been besieged by all the protected interests of the country for more protection. Those who had "the fat fried out" of them in order to run the campaign have demanded to be reimbursed. The men who raise sheep said, "The fat was fried out of us. We demand a higher tariff on imported wool and woollen goods." The committee said "That is right. We will do it." The next day the wool manufacturers came and said "The fat was fried out of us. We demand free wool. Our business is not profitable. We will be ruined unless we have free raw materials." The committee, forgetting their promise to the sheep-raisers, said "That is right. We will do it." But when they consulted their schedule and recalled their promises, they found they were in a dilemma. No wonder they paused and waited. They didn't like to break either promise as to the wool. And, besides, they were between a Scylla and Charybdis on almost every other item, and to draft a bill that would please all the men out of whom the "fat" had been "fried" was found to be impossible. And so they kept on postponing the evil day. But it had to come. The bill has been presented. The Democrats need not discuss it at length. Republican discord is apparent everywhere.

The leaders will use the "dash" and drive their members to its support, but there can be no unanimity when one faction of the party demands free wool and another protection on wool. The election of CAMPBELL in Ohio and Bos in Iowa, terrified the committee and they gave the West the "protection" and left New England out in the cold. In 1888 the Republicans pretended to take great delight in the differences between the Democrats on the Tariff. Now the Democrats can sit quietly by and watch the fun in the camp of the enemy. "He laughs best who laughs last."

WE SECOND THE MOTION.

The New York Herald advises the Democrats in Congress not to introduce a Tariff bill, and not to prolong the debate with a great number of speeches, and closes with these words: "But everybody will want to hear one speech from Mr. WILSON, of West Virginia, who has a neat and effective and laughter-provoking way of showing the incongruities of the Republican position."

The CHRONICLE hopes Mr. WILSON will speak. He made the best speech in favor of the Mills Bill two years ago, and is rapidly coming to be recognized as a wise, able and good-natured Democratic leader. We need a leader in Washington, and Mr. WILSON is coming to the front to fill the bill. If he had lived in New York he would have been made the leader long ago.

THE Durham Sun says that a plan is on foot to build a forty thousand dollar hotel at Chapel Hill. It is sadly needed. There is no place in central North Carolina that surpasses it as a delightful summer resort, and if a modern hotel should be erected there, the CHRONICLE believes that it would have many guests. The campus is as lovely a spot in spring and summer as the eyes ever rested upon, except always Happy Valley, in Caldwell county. With the old-fashioned hotel there now, many visitors spend the summer in Chapel Hill, and prefer it to any other quiet place. With a hotel having, the modern improvements, the number would be larger, and the visitors on Commencement occasions would be multiplied many times.

AUCTION SALE OF LAND.

By virtue of power conferred on me by a certain deed of trust executed by H. H. Smith, which is duly recorded in Registry of Wake county, N. C. in book No. 88, page 404, as well as by direction of Cotton Press, I will on Monday, April 5, 1890, at 12 o'clock m., at the courthouse door in the city of Raleigh, N. C., offer for sale to the highest bidder for CASH, all the property in said deed described, being one tract of land in Houses' Creek township containing about 60 acres, one 10-horse-power Tanner Engine; one Boss Cotton Press; one Centennial Cotton Gin and fixtures. B. F. MONTAGUE, Trustee. Raleigh, March 6, '90.

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