The Transcript.

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EDITORS.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 1904.

FOR PRESIDENT:

HON. ARTHUR P. GORMAN,

OF MARYLAND.

Governor Warfield has signed the "Jim Crow" car bills and they now become laws.

The bill to amend the charter of Galena, Kent county, has passed the House.

The Haman Oyster bill seems doomed to defeat. The Wilson substitute passed the Senate on Thursday, the provisions of the substitute bill interfering in no way with the interests of the Kent county oystermen.

GOV. WARFIELD has signified his intention to veto the Poe amendment. This is to be regretted, as the above amendment is a party measure agreed upon in caucus, and for the sake of ante-election pledges, the Governor should sign the bill.

IT IS RUMORD that Mr. Samuel J. Wickes, a member of the State Central Committee, acting with his friends, has decided to recommend the name of Capt. James Downey, of Rock Hall, for the position of commander of the Police boat Anna B. Smith.

Senator Moore's bill to repeal the mortgage tax so far as it relates to Baltimore city, Alleghaney, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Cecil, Howard, Harford, Kent, Prince Georges, St. Mary's and Garrett counties, passed the Senate on Thursday by a vote of 22 to 2.

THE TOWN CHARTER.

Col. William J. Vannort, president of the Board of Town Commissioners, has a very strong letter in another column, defining the position of the board with respect to the bill now in the hands of Senator Foxwell to amend the charter of Chestertown, and which we published last week. We are somewhat surprised to hear that Col. Vannort should feel that our editorial in reference to the bill was an "unwise and unjust criticism." We simply expressed our concurrence in the opinion of the Town Commissioners in reference to the powers of the town bailiff, especially the opinion of the president of the board, who, as a matter of fact, is on record in the minutes of the board in the office of their clerk as being opposed to the granting of constabulary powers to the town bailiff. Col. Vannort has always contended that the bailiff of the town should not be given the powers of a constable, who could go anywhere in Kent county and arrest a violator of the law, receive the fee for the same, and at the same time draw the salary as a bailiff of Chestertown. We are surprised, therefore, that Col. Vannort should think that our efforts to uphold the town commissioners in their endeavors to provide proper police protection for the property and lives of the people of the town is a criticism. We agree with Col. Vannort when he says that the bailiff of the town should be given the power to arrest a violator of the law within the limits of the town without a warrant for said arrest, and had the bill now before the Legislature been so worded, we would not have uttered a word of protest. The bill, as now worded, gives the town bailiff the power of a constable of Kent county, which power would enable him to go anywhere in Kent county to make an arrest. Every district in the county is provided with constables, and the the county has the office of the sheriff, whose duty it is to make arrests of violators of the law, and since the town is taxed to pay for the services of the bailiff, and the county is taxed to pay for the services of the constables and sheriff, it is the duty of the respective officers to protect the bailiwicks for the proper protection of which they are paid. To this opinion the President of the Board of Town Commissioners agrees entirely. We believe the bailiff of the town should be given all the powers of a constable of Kent county *within the limits of Chestertown.* So does Col. Vannort. But the bill in question omits that very important provision, and we are quite sure that our property owners and citizens are opposed to the town bailiff having any other power than to properly protect and police the town of Chestertown. If this phase of the bill can be so amended as to properly and accurately define the powers of the town bailiff, Col. Vannort and the TRANSCRIPT will be still further agreed. Our suggestion to the Town Commissioners is to have the powers of the bailiff strengthened in the best possible manner within the town limits, and then pay him a salary commensurate with his duties.

The Police Justice *should* render an account to the Board of Town Commissioners for fees received by him as fines and due the town treasury. But in view of the fact that the bill creating the office of Police Justice contains no such provision, and that the former Police Justice, during the entire two years of his incumbency, was never required to render an account, it seemed rather strange that Mr. Samuel Hicks, who succeeds to the office on May the first, should be required to render an account to the commissioners every quarter, and for every violation of this provision is liable to a fine of $100, fives times as much as the Town Commissioners receive in the course of a year in fees for arrests. However, we are quite sure that Mr. Hicks will be willing to render his account, if for no other reason than to escape the penalty.

PEOPLE'S COLUMN.

☞The columns of the TRANSCRIPT are open to the proper discussion of all topics of public interest or importance. Whether the editors agree with the sentiments expressed or not, the people should and may be heard through the TRANSCRIPT'S columns—the paper will be the People's Forum from which they may be heard on all subjects—purely personal matter excepted. The Editors are not responsible in any manner for articles that appear in this column.

A LETTER TO THE DEMOCRATS OF KENT COUNTY.

Annapolis, March 16, 1904.

Dear Sirs:—The following was inserted in the editorial columns of the *Kent News* of Jan. 23, 1904.

"Chestertown, Md., Jan. 23, 1904."

"The indications are that a Senator will be made Monday and that man will be Hon. John Walter Smith."

"A SERIOUS BLUNDER."

"Senator Foxwell's first act at Annapolis, that of holding up the appointment of Mr. John P. Ahern as one of the school commissioners of Kent county, was to say the least, a serious blunder. His reason for so doing is reported to be 'that he had not been consulted.' This is no reason at all because at the time of Mr. Ahern's appointment Mr. Foxwell was not senator and had no more right to be consulted than any other citizen. The only legitimate reason for not confirming a man under the circumstances was unfitness, but in this case Mr. Foxwell knows that he cannot lay this charge.

"Mr. Ahern who is a resident of Millington, was appointed to the place on account of his ability as a business man and his worth as a citizen, being one of the most progressive and intelligent business men of the county, the president of the Building and Loan Association, the cashier and executive of the Millington Bank, the trusted agent for the large estate of Ex-Attorney General John Biggs, of Delaware, president of the Town Council, of Millington, one of the most extensive lumber dealers in the county, and interested in everything for the welfare of the town and community.

"Millington to-day is one of the best-lighted and best-paved towns on the peninsula as a result of his persistent efforts. It is also one of the most orderly. Mr. Foxwell's action has simply astonished the citizens and it is looked upon and denounced as one of the smallest pieces of local politics ever attempted by a Senator from Kent county."

I have refrained from making a statement regarding this attack of the *Kent News* because I thought it was best to wait until the Senate had settled the whole matter. I wish now to let the public know the truth and judge between Messrs. Wm. B. Usilton, Sr., Fred G. Usilton and Wm. B. Usilton, Jr., who edit, or claim to edit, the *Kent News*, and myself as the representative of Kent county in the Senate.

I believe Mr. Wm. B. Usilton, Sr., is now one of the editors of the *Kent News*, and acts as such at the meetings of the Democratic Editorial State Press Association. Mr. Wm. B. Usilton, Sr., is Vice-President of the Democratic Editorial Association of Maryland. How can he occupy this position if he is no an active editor of some paper? Of what paper does he claim to be an editor if not of the *Kent News?* In point of fact he is the first man on this earth who ever asked me to run for Senator, and his subsequent opposition indicates precisely what sort of man he is.

Every one is fully aware of the bitter primary fight last summer in which the editors of the *Kent News* and their friends, while expressing great friendship for me through Messrs. Wm. B. Usilton, Sr., and Fred G. Usilton, secretly and with their friends opposed me in the most bitter and determined manner, using in this opposition all the means at their command. Such conduct might, and it might not, be "the smallest piece of local politics"—of this the public can judge. Everyone likewise knows that the *News* failed in its efforts, and its editors are now only too well prepared to look for blunders which I may make while in the Senate. It is public property and public comment that the *Kent News* has, for many years, been guilty of just such gross duplicity as it exercised not only towards me, but as it has shown towards many other people, both in and out of Kent county.

Let us examine the conduct of the *Kent News* and its editors since the Republicans won in 1895. In the first place it has never stood before the people as an honest, fearless and sterling Democratic newspaper. Every one knows this, and it is whispered even among the friends of the *Kent News* that they are in politics for what they get out of it, and not for the benefit of the party. Those who are fearless and independent denounce it openly, as a mongrel paper with no political convictions, and that it will deal with the Republicans, and is ever ready to trade and sell to them political principle at any moment for a piece of advertising so that it may put money in its purse! It is a common saying among the people of the county that if the Republicans win the *Kent News* wins. If the Democrats lose the *Kent News* wins. If the Democrats win the *Kent News* wins. Always and ever the *Kent News* on the high side with keen steely eyes looking after its financial ends and "the money in it," regardless of political convictions and rectitude of the interests of the Democratic party. Look at all the papers which come to the office of the *Kent News* from the different counties, and in all these papers you will find at the head of their columns the Democratic flag flying and the Democratic ticket nailed. Who has ever heard of a political campaign, since the Republican victory of 1895, of the *Kent News* bravely flying the Democratic flag and nailing the Democratic ticket at the head of its columns? Hundreds of Democrats have said that they could not find the Democratic ticket in the *Kent News* and had to look for it in the TRANSCRIPT, which alone conspicuously published it. Indeed, many of our friends have said that if they had read the *News* alone they could not have remembered the names of those who were running for office on the Democratic ticket. It is conduct such as this that has made the people determined to throw down the *Kent News* and to throw out its baleful influence from the control and domination of the Democratic politics it has enjoyed in the county during all the political vicissitudes through which our party has passed in recent years. It lavished praise on the personel of the Republican candidates on our local tickets, and licked their boots for political printing when the Republicans won.

So much for some of the few "smallest pieces of politics" played by their paper and the men who control it, and their criticism of me, men who have basely and infamously deceived me by pretending to be for me, and secretly conniving at the accomplishment of my defeat.

Mr. John P. Ahern is a progressive man, honest and a good business man, my conduct toward him has not been influenced in any wise by personal motives. But Mr. Ahern has another side to his character. He is a partisan Democratic politician of a dominating and, so many say, domineering disposition, determined at every hazard to carry his point, and a vigorous fighter. Outside of his own little clique or coterie of political friends, those whom he does not and cannot control (and there are many of them, leading citizens of the First District) claim that he cannot be reasoned with, except from his own and his personal friends' political standpoint. I say this in all kindness to Mr. Ahern. I know that many people, leading people, strongly opposed his confirmation. His own unwarranted assumption of control of affairs in his district, just prior to the election (when the primaries had long since passed) when he notified one of our hardest workers that his presence in Millington, where he was going, (as he went all over the county to help the party organize) would not be agreeable to him (Ahern), shows to what extremes he actually did go. I invite the people to notice how his name was presented to Ex-Governor Smith. *Not a single member of the last State Central Committee endorsed him.*

The only endorsement handed to Gov. Smith, and upon which Gov Smith relied for his appointment were the two following letters. On the top of the first letter, endorsed in lead pencil are the following words: "The Governor says please appoint Ahern and date his appointment Sept. 14, 1903."

LETTER.

(In the handwriting of Mr. Marion deK. Smith.)

"Chestertown, Md., Sept. 12, 1903.

"To His Excellency, John Walter Smith, Governor of Maryland, Dear Sir—Having been advised of a vacancy in the school board for Kent county, occasioned by the resignation of J. Thos. Pennington, Esq., we respectfully recommend the appointment of John P. Ahern, Esq., of Millington, to fill said vacancy.

Mr. Ahern is a man of intelligence well qualified for the place and deeply interested in educational matters. We are Very truly yours,

MARION DEK. SMITH,
RICHARD D. HYNSON,
LEWIN W. WICKES.

The second letter was on the paper of the office of the school commissioners of Kent county.

LETTER.

"Chestertown, Md., Sept. 14, 1903.

"Hon. John Walter Smith, Governor, My Dear Sir:—Mr. Marion deK. Smith told me today of the first letter to you, Mr. R. D. Hynson, Mr. W. W. Beck, chairman of the State Central Committee, etc., concerning the appointment of Mr. John P. Ahern, of Millington, Kent county, to the vacancy in the school board occasioned by the resignation of Mr. Pennington. I can very heartily approve of the appointment of Mr. Ahern. I believe it would be wise and advantageous. Trusting that you may so view it, I am, Yours very truly,

W. FRANK HINES, Pres."

On the above letter written in blue pencil is this endorsement: "O. K. 9-15-03."

No letter signed by Mr. W. W. Beck, as mentioned by Dr. Hines, was ever written. This fact I can prove. Dr. Hines evidently was erroneously informed.

These letters speak for themselves. Not a friend of mine was consulted about the matter. Mr. Thos. J. Pennington's resignation was never mentioned. At the time the letters were written I was then nominated for Senator, and it was well known that if I were elected Mr. Ahern could not be retained in office unless his appointment met with the Senate's official approval. His appointment, though dated Sept. 14th was not made until the day of the meeting of the State Convention in Baltimore city, viz: September 16th, 1903, and there was absolutely nothing on file in the Executive Chamber regarding his appointment at that date, and the Governor gave explicit directions regarding the date his commission should issue. On the very day of the State Convention some of the members of the present State Central Committee and many of my political friends protested against the appointment of Mr. Ahern, and a number of gentlemen had written letters to the Governor protesting against his appointment, and asking for an opportunity to be heard. In the face of these facts Gov. Smith appointed Mr. Ahern and the Governor was then told that the appointment would be defeated if it were possible.

At the time the Governor received letters endorsing the appointment of Mr. Ahern, the State Central Committee was composed of Messrs. W. W. Beck, J. Thos. Pennington and J. H. O. Stokes. I believe at that time Mr. Beck refused to endorse anybody who wanted an office, and stated that he was himself a candidate for office, and it would not under such circumstances be proper for him to so do. I believe that Mr. Pennington was then at Atlantic City and Mr. Stokes was in a hospital in Baltimore. These are minor facts, and yet I state them because they were told to me by responsible parties. They show that the State Central Committee did not prior to Governor Smith's naming Mr. Ahern act at all upon this appointment.

It is a well-known fact that not one of the above mentioned members of the State Central Committee endorsed the appointment of Mr. Ahern. His appointment therefore was altogether irregular. But even if he had been appointed by the endorsement of the former State Central Committee, that Committee must have understood, Governor Smith knew, and so Mr. Ahern likewise must have known, that such an appointment would have to be confirmed by the Senate before it could be effective. I know that the report is common among the friends of Mr. Ahern that he was endorsed by the State Central Committee, and very probable Mr. Ahern thinks so himself. I want to make the plain unvarnished statement that such was not the case and cannot be proven to be the case. For whom were Messrs. Smith, Hynson and Wickes acting? Who gave them the authority to name Mr. Ahern? Were they the people, and by what right can Mr. Ahern claim that he was endorsed by the people? His appointment came as a thunderclap upon the county. I have not one word to say against Mr. Ahern personally. While we differ in many ways as to the party management we are both good Democrats and both of us must support the party no matter who wins or loses. I do not for a moment shrink from my responsibility which I willingly and knowingly assumed when having his appointment rejected. His appointment was made in the face of the fact that a new element had been chosen to represent the people. It was recommended by gentlemen whom the people had just repudiated and upon whom they had set their stamp of disapproval. The Governor had the right to make his appointment. He made it. I had the right to oppose its confirmation. I opposed it. And I may also add that I think whatever the county has lost in the service of Mr. Ahern, it will in the end certainly lose nothing by the appointment of a man of such standing and character as Mr. Wm. B. Copper, who has been named in his place. I desire to get into no controversy but I fear no man. I am ready to defend all my acts as Senator, for all of them shall be done conscientiously as I see the right. And I am prepared to defend myself against all such malicious attacks as may be prepared by the Editors of the *Kent News* and published in that paper. There happen to be two sides to every question, and I ask the privilege of using your paper so that the people may hear both sides instead of their being compelled to rely upon such a maliciously false one as appeared in the *News* on January 23rd last.

Yours truly,
GARRETT FOXWELL.

Chestertown, March 15, 1904.

MESSRS. EDITORS OF THE TRANSCRIPT—*Dear Sirs:*—I desire to reply to your, I think, unwise and unjust criticisms in the last issue relative to the motive and intent inspiring the bill to amend the Charter of Chestertown now in the hands of our Senator from Kent in the Maryland Legislature, and to the passage of which the TRANSCRIPT objects. Hence, I ask permission to state our side of the case. Under the power contained in that old and obsolete thing called the Charter of Chestertown, the Board of Town Commissioners are empowered only to provide for the appointment and compensation of bailiffs, police and other officers, and to define their duties, with no power vested in said town commissioners to enforce any provision of said charter. All the town commissioners want or desire or ask is that power to arrest violators of the law without first having to hunt up the Police Justice, have him issue a warrant to the sheriff for the arrest of the violator of the law, then run the sheriff down who may be in bed, and have said sheriff to deputize the bailiff to make the arrest or make the arrest himself, which, after going through all the aforegoing red tape, would be well nigh impossible, as the criminal might be in Jerico and immune from arrest; shall be vested in their duly appointed officers. Under the provisions of the bill in question we are not empowered nor do we seek to be empowered to delegate any power to said officers that will in any wise curtail the privileges and prerogatives of the sheriff and constables or prevent by them the turning an honest penny. That the bill to amend the Charter of Chestertown curtails in any way the privileges and prerogatives of the sheriff or constables, and places the Police Justice in the power of the Board of Town Commissioners is simply an absurdity—the votes of Chestertown will be directly responsible for any incompetent Board of Town Commissioners and primarily responsible for bad and incompetent bailiffs. As to the harshness or hardship towards the Police Justice involved in requiring him to make a monthly report to said Board of Town Commissioners of all fines collected by him under a penalty for failure to do so, are merely the wild fancies of a disordered intellect, and have no existence in fact. If they did exist, would pale into utter insignificance compared to the provisions of the law creating and defining the duties of Police Justices, as per Act of 1902, which recites that Police Justices shall file on the first day of January, April, July and October of each year an account verified by oath or affirmation of all fines, forfeitures and penalties imposed by him under the laws of this State, and any failure to file said account *shall be cause for removal* by the Governor, etc., and the clerk to the county commissioners shall within ten days after default notify the Governor of the failure of said Police Justice to file said account, and if such default shall continue ten days, and if said Police Justice shall fail to pay over to said county commissioners all fines forfeitures and penalties collected by him, he shall be deemed a *defaulter, and shall be proceeded against and punished in the manner prescribed by article 27, section 47 of the Code of Public General Laws relating to defaulters.* You will observe that the town commissioners' bill is homeopathic compared with the drastic conditions imposed upon Potice Justices by the bill creating and defining the duties of Police Justices. Should the Police Justice consider the action of the Board of Town Commissioners in preparing the amendment to our defective and worthless charter harsh to him, and that he would prefer not to handle the law business of said board, we would by and with his consent cheerfully so amend the present bill that the town commissioners shall designate the justice before whom their cases may be tried.

Yours respectfully,
WM. J. VANNORT,
Pres. Board Town Commissioners.

Mr. H. Porter who represented the Y. M. C. A. of Washington College at the convention held in Cumberland last week, delivered an exceedingly fine address in the chapel Sunday afternoon at the joint meeting of the Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. He spoke very freely on the subject of Missions and our duty towards India and China. President Smith of the local Y. M. C. A. has had small pamplets printed on which are the addresses and names of the speakers of the remaining meetings of the present year. By this arrangement all those interested in the work of these Sunday afternoon meetings will know just what is to be discussed and who are to be the speakers.

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