

THE CLAYTON NEWS

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP AND THE UPBUILDING OF THE COMMUNITY.

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Clayton, New Mexico, Saturday, February 6, 1915

No. 6

Speech Smith Didn't Make

Just before the vote was taken in the house of representatives on the resolution declaring Smith and Miera, the Democrats of Union county, to be no longer members of the house, and seating, in their places, Toombs and Vigil. Representative Smith asked Speaker Romero to grant him ten minutes for a "farewell" address. Judge Mann, Republican house leader, immediately objected on the ground that Mr. Smith was no longer a house member, and Speaker Romero sustained the objection. Mr. Smith sat down.

The address that Mr. Smith attempted to deliver in the house he had previously prepared. In part, it follows:

"Mr. Speaker and members of the Second legislative assembly of the state of New Mexico:

"Only a few days ago we stood before this speaker's desk and took the oath of office. While standing here in a body we raised our hands towards the heavens, and bowing our heads, did solemnly swear to protect the constitution of the United States, and to uphold the rights and principles of the constitution of the great state of New Mexico.

"To you, who have so faithfully performed your duty, I extend my heartfelt thanks. I assure each and every one of you, that I appreciate your efforts in my behalf, and to save the state from disgrace, I fail to find words to express my gratitude in this matter. I commend you to the people of this state, and assure people at home that they have a right to feel proud of you. I shall have a warm and tender feeling in my heart for these, my friends, in this legislative body.

"We have met, and the time has come when we must part, though this short acquaintance has been of no small interest to me, and whenever I meet you in the most remote part of this country, I will grasp your hands and shall need no further evidence of your honesty and integrity than the stand you have taken here today. But, to you, who in so short a time have forgotten your oath of office, who place your party prejudice above everything else, I have only contempt mingled with sympathy—contempt for the man who apparently has no regard for his oath of office—sympathy for the people who have made the mistake to trust the affairs of state with you! Sympathy for this great body of people composing this great state of New Mexico who are looking forward to this legislature to grind out laws which we as patriotic citizens will have to obey. Sympathy for the masses of people depending upon a body of men who do not know right from wrong, or else are so blinded by their party prejudice as to forget their duty to God and man! The recent action taken by the majority of the house indicates that everything resembling truth and honesty will be clothed in mourning throughout this session of this legislature, and that the man with the "big stick" will be able to rule, and make laws for the great state of New Mexico.

"By request of the majority of this house I now surrender my seat to the gentleman who was not elected. I especially request that you treat this honored gentleman with all the courtesy and respect that would be due any other man under the cir-

cumstances that surround him, while the people of Union county bow their heads and mourn over the loss of their sacred right to choose their representatives in this legislative body; for they know better than any other man or set of men whom they went to represent them at this the capitol of our state. They will never accept this man as their representative in this house; the people of Union county, that prosperous community situated on the plains in the north-eastern part of the state, are not the kind of citizens to surrender unconditionally. They settled the question on the third day of November, last, as to who should stand guard over their rights in this legislative assembly.

"To steal is to take something of value without the knowledge or consent of the owner, but to trample under foot the constitution of our state and destroy the sacred rights of our free ballot is not stealing. I have heard it said since I have been in Santa Fe that an action of this kind cannot be called stealing and my few days' association with this legislative body prompts me to believe that the school where this doctrine is taught is the school where the majority of this legislative body received their training.

"Gentlemen, I assure you that my personal feelings in this matter are of minor importance. I am not resenting the action taken here because I feel that I have been done such a grave injustice, but because of the injustice that you have done the people of my county and the state at large. As I have explained before, the people of Union county know better whom they want to represent them at this place than the members of this legislative body or any other set of men that you may choose to act as a committee. There is a principle involved. The constitution of these United States guarantees us the freedom of speech and the press. I claim that the principles upon which our very constitution is founded have been dragged in the dust, and the honesty and integrity of men like Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln has been assailed.

"This is a new state just rising from beyond the horizon—just coming into light among those brilliant stars that are already shining under the Stars and Stripes, New Mexico has great natural wealth; she has an intelligent citizenship with the exception of possibly a few who, by accident or otherwise have pushed themselves under the limelight. We are destined to become one of the greatest states in this union by reason of our natural wealth and opportunities; but, gentlemen, I want to tell you that before you can reach out and extend to your fellow men east of the Mississippi, the hand of welcome and friendship into your borders you will have to demonstrate that this state is controlled by men of honesty in political as well as in private life."

Sheriff Mansker and Deputy Sheriff John L. Hill returned Monday from Santa Fe, where they landed several members in the state college for evil-doers. We don't mean the legislature.

R. A. Clark and son of near Mt. Dora, were in the city Tuesday trading and attending to business. Of course Mr. Clark reads The News regularly. There's a reason.

At Home

Hon. Serapio Miera of near Beenham, elected representative of Union county to the New Mexico legislature, was in the city this week looking after business and meeting his many friends. This was the first visit of Mr. Miera to Clayton since his return from Santa Fe, where despite his majority of 184 votes, he was insultingly unseated by the republican caucus majority, and a man seated who could not be elected dog-pelter in this county. The people, regardless of party, should remember the treatment accorded Union county by the hoodlums in session at Santa Fe.

Truth

The tension resulting from the petty wrangle over the salaries measure was relieved only once this morning. That was when Judge Toombs of Union county, in the course of a speech said:

"The people of Union county did not send me here—"

Before he could continue with his sentence, Representative Skidmore, of Colfax county, who was sitting nearby, exclaimed:

"You're dead right, they didn't."

General laughter, that further interrupted Judge Toombs' remarks, resulted.—Santa Fe New Mexican, Feb. 3.

Democrats to Meet

We are in receipt of a letter from State Chairman J. H. Paxton, containing a call for a meeting of the Democratic State Central Committee to meet in the city of Santa Fe on the 13th of the present month. All democrats who have the welfare of the party and people at heart, are invited to attend the meeting. With the republicans in the legislature running amuck and bringing disgrace upon the state, it is evident that the hope and salvation of New Mexico depends upon the democratic party, and therefore it is imperative that all democrats and other good citizens who have the best interests of the state at heart, attend the meeting.

Navel Oranges, fine and juicy, at Hilgers & Barnhart.

Card of Thanks

We wish to extend our thanks to the many friends who assisted us in our hour of sadness, and especially for the many wreaths and flowers Mrs. L. A. Stone and family.

Announcement

Hugh J. Collins and C. L. Collins wish to announce that they have associated themselves together in a partnership styled "Collins & Collins, Lawyers," with offices over the First National Bank of Clayton, at the head of the stairway leading to the Land Office; that hereafter this firm will attend to matters coming up in the United States Land Office in addition to regular Court practice.

NOTICE

Mr. Hugh B. Woodward and Mr. Frank O. Blue respectfully announce that they will engage in the general practice of law under the firm name of Woodward and Blue Office in the Telephone Building

Roost on a Log

Representative G. C. Smith before leaving the city the first of the week, told a little story illustrative of the position which Judge Toombs will hereafter occupy in relation to the people of Union county. The scene is laid in a cornfield in the heavily timbered section of Smith county, Texas. "Once upon a time an old farmer got out his muzzle-loading shotgun and went turkey hunting. After hiding several hours behind a corn shock a bunch of turkey came close enough to afford a shot, and the hunter leveled his gun and cracked-down on the biggest gobbler in the flock. The winged bird flopped about as in the fashion of wounded gobblers, while the remainder of the flock immediately scampered for the tall and uncult. The hunter threw down his gun and started after the wounded bird, which by this time had regained a part of its powers of locomotion and was attempting to follow its fellows. The race was a close one to the fence which the gobbler gained as the farmer was grabbing for him. As he flew the hunter's hand closed on his tail feathers and they were left in his possession. As the old gentleman watched his contemplated dinner slipping off through the forest he placed his arms akimbo on top of the fence and delivered himself of the following classic: "Go! Go! You ragged tailed, cowardly son-of-a-gun! When the rest of God's feathered fowls are perched on the topmost branches of yonder gigantic oak. You! You ragged tailed, pot-cheating outcast from the proud members of your kind, will be roosting on a log."

Mrs. Benton Stewart, Dead

Mrs. Benton Stewart, a resident of Clayton for the past twenty-three years, died at Mineral Wells, Texas, last Thursday week, where she had been taken in hope that the climate and waters of that famous resort would restore her health. Mrs. Stewart had long been a sufferer from rheumatism, and death resulted from the disease reaching her heart. She was accompanied south by her daughter, Miss Ethel, who was with her at the time of death. The remains were interred at Dallas, the former home of the family. Benton Stewart, jr., of this city, attended the funeral. Mr. Stewart, the husband and father, owing to feeble health, was unable to attend. Many messages of condolence and sympathy were sent from this city. The News expressed the sentiments of the entire community in extending heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved family.

Mr. and Mrs. B. S. (Cap) Mitchell of Shattuck, Oklahoma, certainly old friends of The News man, were in the city Monday on their way home from a business trip to Raton. "Cap," without exception, is the best country newspaper man we have ever known, and is the editor and proprietor of the Shattuck (Oklahoma) Monitor, one of the leading democratic papers of that state. Between three and four years of our experience in the game was secured under the tutelage of "Cap," and we freely admit that the benefits secured cannot be estimated in dollars and cents. They were accompanied by their daughter, Miss Pauline, and their eldest son, Grover, and wife.

Farmers Social

The Farmers Society of Equity gave their initial entertainment and supper at Pleasant View school house the evening of January 23, and to say the least it was a grand success from start to finish. Too much praise cannot be given the capable and untiring entertainment committee, consisting of Mr. Roy Brown, Miss Amanda Bigler and Mrs. Emma Maag, who contributed so much toward making everything a complete success.

Mr. Henry Shannon, president of the lodge, called the house to order, after which the following program was rendered:

Opening address, James Triebulbuss.

Recitation, by Claridus Francis. Recitation, "Aunt Doleful's Experience," by Fannie Witton.

Recitation, by Murrill Curless. Recitation, by Bernice Small.

Recitation, "Shacob's Lament," by Roy Brown.

Song, by Clinton Witton.

Recitation, "Vision of the New Year," by Miss Florence Wand.

Song, by Grandma Bingham.

Recitation, by Bessie Small.

Recitation, "The Railway Sign," by Isla Small.

Recitation, by Hazel Smith, Alma Rinker, Bernice Small.

Recitation, by Wayne Carroll.

Recitation, Bernice Small, Roy Brown.

Song, by R. H. Shannon.

Song, "America," in concert.

W. F. Withers, one of the lodge members, brought his phonograph and furnished fine music while supper was being served. We must say something in regard to the supper which is always an important feature. The ladies of the lodge provided sandwiches, pickles and coffee at a cost of 15 cents a plate. Mrs. Curless donated a fine cake to be given to the most popular young lady. The candidates nominated in this contest were Miss Ruby West, Miss Fannie Witton, and Miss Florence Ward.

After a close race Miss Fannie Witton won the cake, and through her generosity the cake was cut and all had a chance to sample it. Mrs. Emma Maag also presented the lodge with fine cake to be given to the one who guessed nearest the correct number of beans in a bag, each guest costing 5 cents. Miss Verna Rinker was the best guesser and the lucky winner, her guess being 1000. The correct number was 1063.

Every one thoroughly enjoyed the evening, as there was not a dull moment from beginning to end. The attendance was large, the net proceeds amounting to \$18.22, which will be used for the benefit of the lodge. The order is thriving under the direction of a most competent staff of officers.

ONE WHO WAS THERE.

(This article was received last week, but too late for publication. Editor.)

S. W. Lyon of northeast of town, was a trader in the city Wednesday.

A. L. Stone, the Texline merchant, attended to business in Clayton Thursday.

Brown Beauty Coffee, best to be had. Get it from Hilgers & Barnhart.

T. J. Brooks left Thursday for Shattuck, Oklahoma, where he will spend about a week looking after business interests.