

GREENVILLE NEGROIZED

HOW THE INFAMOUS JOB WAS DONE

A Statement of Fac's by Ex-Governor Jarvis
Showing how Greenville was Sliced to
Turn it Over to Negro Rule.

(Wilmington Star.)

Raleigh, August 6, 1898.

W. H. Bernard, Esq.,

Dear Sir:—In response to your request for an account of how the town of Greenville was turned over to the negroes by the Republican-Populist-Fusion Legislature I submit the following statement of facts:

The county of Pitt has a population of about thirty thousand people and is one of the finest agricultural counties in the State.

Greenville, its capital town, has a population of about three thousand people and is a growing, prosperous town. A majority of its voters are white men, and if the people were left to select their officers by any fair or usual method they would be certain to choose competent white men.

The town, however, is the home of one of the leading Republicans of the State, and being under obligations to the negroes he planned to have the town turned over to them. And here is the way it was done: The fusion Legislature of 1895, adopting his plan, divided the town into four wards. The boundaries of these wards were so turned and zigzagged as to put a majority

ed and zigzagged as to put a majority of negro voters in the first and third wards, and a majority of the white voters in the second and fourth wards. The first ward is shaped very much like a large broad-axe, with a very long handle and the third ward is like the letter V. The next step in this devilish plan was to confer upon each of the wards having a majority of negro voters the right to elect two councilmen each, and to restrict the white wards to one councilman each.

At the town election in May, 1897, the negroes availed themselves of the power given them by the Republican-Fusion Legislature and took charge of the town. They elected four negroes councilmen while the white people could elect but two. Thus we had a Board composed of four negroes and two white men. This Board elected a white Republican mayor, a white chief of police, a negro assistant policeman for the day, a negro night policeman for the night, and a negro clerk to the Board.

The taxable property of the town is near three quarters of a million of dollars. The Board of Councilmen levy the taxes and order the expenditures. It may be interesting to know how those who levied and spent the taxes ranked as tax payers. One of the negro councilmen paid 84 cents taxes on property, another 63 cents and the other two nothing. So the four negro councilmen, who controlled the Board paid \$1.47 taxes on property for the support of the town. The white Republican Mayor paid 43 cents on property and the white Republican Chief of Police did not do quite so well, he paid only 30 cents. The negro clerk paid nothing and the negro night watchman nothing. The negro assistant policeman paid \$5.75. The nine men who control the town, levy its taxes and spend the money paid all together

and spend the money paid all together \$7.75 and leaving out the assistant negro day policeman, the other eight paid \$2.20. The revenues of the town for the year from May, 1897, to May, 1898, was about \$5,500, of which about \$2,800 went to pay salaries and fees of office or place holders. The white Republican mayor and the white Republican chief of police were both indicted at September term, 1897, of Pitt Superior Court for gambling. They confessed their guilt in open court at January term, 1898, and were re-elected to the same offices by the negro Board of Councilmen in May, 1898. The mayor has since resigned to enter the Internal Revenue Service and a better man, a Populist, has been elected in his place; but the town is still in the control of the negroes, as they again elected four negro councilmen at the town election this year and these negro councilmen have in turn elected the same number of negro officials with one exception.

There are numerous instances in which towns have been divided up into wards to keep the towns out of the hands of the negroes, but this is the first instance, of which I have any knowledge, where white men deliberately divided up a town into wards for the purpose of turning it over to the negroes.

For one to properly appreciate the real condition of things in Greenville, it is necessary for him to go there and see for himself. But for the forbearance of the white people, trouble might have come long ago. They have fully determined to be patient and forbearing and to appeal, as they are now doing, to their white brethren throughout the State to send men to the next Legislature who will undo this great wrong and wipe out that infamous act of 1895.

THOS. J. JARVIS.

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