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JOHNSTON LETTER.

Campaign Meeting, Co-operative Marketing Discussed, Some Damage by Lightning.

The first campaign meeting of this County was held here Saturday, the speaking taking place in the auditorium of the high school.

There was a full attendance of the candidates all those for the house of representatives being present. Some that were not running this year were not present. Each speaker pledged himself for the best for his county, and was heard with interest by all present.

There was not as large a crowd as should have been, and in the audience was a few ladies.

The interest in the campaign, in a general way, was not very enthusiastic, and while there seemed to be a large crowd present for the day, judging for the various groups about on the street, still the gathering at the auditorium was not large.

The social side of the day seemed to have been a great success, and in a grove a very appetizing barbecued dinner was served.

From the crowds at the speaking and at the barbecue pit, we would say that interest was equally divided between the two.

A largely attended and very enthusiastic meeting was held here Saturday in interest of the co-operative cotton market and an organization was effected, this called the South Carolina Farmers' Co-operative Cotton Market.

The chief business was in the election of officers, these being:

President, B. R. Tillman, of Trenton; Vice President, A. L. Clark, of Johnston; Secretary and treasurer, W. E. Lagrone, Johnston.

Executive committee: R. B. Smith, of Johnston; Walter Wise, of Trenton; and Joe Payne, of Meeting Street.

There followed several discussions, the chief being of the proposed cotton warehouse, which the farmers hope to see erected soon.

On Sunday evening a very severe electrical storm visited the town and for about an hour, there was almost a constant light from the vivid flashes. There was some wind and rain.

There were two heavy clouds from which the lightning played, and had there been the one cloud, no doubt there would have been more disaster from the electricity.

A bolt struck a three room tenant house, belonging to Mr. P. B. Waters. The two families occupying this were away at the time. The two room house near by caught, and was considerably damaged before the fire department got in operation.

The buildings were a considerable distance from the hydrant, and time was lost by the second trip back to headquarters for another reel of hose. Mr. Waters carried insurance on both houses.

Mrs. Walter Holmes, of Jonesville, is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Joe Cox.

Mrs. H. N. Crouch and Mrs. L. S. Maxwell have gone to Glenn Springs to spend a while. Mrs. Maxwell will then go to Hendersonville, N. C., for the benefit of her health.

Little Irene, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Lagrone, has been sick with fever, but is now improving.

Mrs. Coleman, Mrs. LaGrone's mother, is spending some time with her.

Mrs. Walter Hendrix and Fred of Leesville spent Sunday with her Aunt, Mrs. J. M. Turner. She was accompanied home by her Aunt Mrs. Kate Crouch, and Mrs. B. L. Adams.

Mrs. Frank Landrum and children, of Florence, are guests of relatives.

Mrs. Walter Ouzts has gone to Charleston to visit in the family of her son.

Miss Mertys Smith, who has been sick for some time, has gone to the mountains to recuperate.

Misses Geraldine and Natalie Kammer, of Blackville, have been guests in the home of their uncle, Mr. J. Neal Lott.

On Wednesday afternoon, Misses Isabel and Bessie Bean entertained for the Misses Kammer, with a picnic at Salter's pond. All enjoyed a dip in the cool waters and then a pic-

nic feast was spread.

Mrs. H. W. Crouch and Mrs. L. S. Maxwell have returned from a weeks stay in Augusta.

Mrs. Ida Satcher, of Augusta, has been visiting friends and relatives.

Mrs. Leora Wright Simmons has gone to Greenwood to spend August in the home of her brother, Mr. S. P. Wright. From there she will go to Hartsville, to again serve as matron at Coker College.

Mrs. P. B. Waters and Willie are at home after a visit to Miss Mary Waters in Augusta.

Rev. W. S. Brooke is at Springfield this week conducting a revival.

Miss Nannie Eidson, who is at the Park Sanatorium, has written to friends here telling of the need of more beds, for the patients who wait to come for treatment.

She asked that the people of Johnston place a bed here, the expense of one year being \$100. The matter is being pushed and \$35 has already been raised.

Miss Clara Sawyer has returned from a visit to Mrs. Henry Clark at Aiken.

Dr. Huggins and her daughter have gone to Columbia for a visit.

Miss Canada, the daughter of Rev. Canada of Edisto Academy is the guest of Miss Rosa Padgett. Miss Padgett has been one of the teachers at this school.

Mrs. Joe Cox entertained the Bridge Club on Thursday afternoon, in a very happy manner.

The top score was made by Mrs. Julian P. Bland who was presented with a pair of hand embroidered pillow cases.

The guest prize, a set of tea napkins was drawn by Mrs. Frank Bland and the consolation, a jar of apple jelly, fell to Mrs. B. T. Boatwright. A dainty repast was served.

Miss Emily Siftley, of Orangeburg, is visiting Miss Lillian Mobley.

Mr. M. W. Clark went to Patesburg Sunday to attend the funeral of Mr. Kneec which took place that afternoon. Mr. Kneec was the father of his son-in-law, Mr. Eugene Kneec.

Miss Carrie Mobley, of Thompson, Ga., has been here for a visit to Miss Marie Lewis.

Mrs. Charlie Brunson, of Augusta, has been visiting in the home of her brother, Dr. J. A. Dobe.

Dr. and Mrs. William Halbeck Frampton have returned to Charleston, after a visit in the home of the latter's parents Mr. and Mrs. Haltiwanger.

Mr. Joe Haltiwanger, of Columbia, and Miss Ethel Chapman and Mr. Chapman, of Clinton, N. C., have been guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Haltiwanger.

Messrs. Albert Dozier and William Haltiwanger are at home from a visit to relatives and friends in Charleston.

The girls Auxiliary enjoyed a Camping party about three miles from town last week.

There was an empty dwelling near by where each spread her quilt and pillow, but all the meals were prepared out of doors in true camp style.

One evening the young people walked to Wards to enjoy the revival being conducted by Dr. Dorset.

Mrs. W. J. Hatcher is at home from Atlanta, having been called to the bed side of her brother, Mr. Duncan, who was ill. She was accompanied home by her niece, little Caroline Duncan.

The B. Y. P. U. held an afternoon picnic on Thursday at Salter's pond.

There were about fifty present, and each one thoroughly enjoyed the affair.

The girls provided a tempting spread, and the young men furnished iced lemonade and made themselves as pleasant as they possibly could.

Mrs. M. R. Wright has returned from a month's stay in Columbia, with Luella Norris.

Miss Pearl Carver is now able to be up again after an attack of typhoid fever.

Miss Helen Wright has returned from Rock Hill, having taken a special course at Winthrop College.

Mrs. Beta Wright is expected next week to visit relatives.

Buy a FORD and bank the difference.—Adv.

First County Campaign Meeting

Held at Johnston Saturday. Small Attendance. Little Interest Manifested.

About noon Saturday something like 140 persons, there being only three women among them, gathered in the high school auditorium at Johnston to hear the men who are seeking the suffrage of the voters of Edgefield county give their views upon the "burning issues" of the day. Probably the attendance would have been larger had the place for holding the meeting been definitely announced in advance.

The meeting was called to order by the county chairman, Mr. J. H. Cantelou, who requested all candidates who desired to address the meeting to come upon the platform, and the five aspirants for legislative honors promptly responded. After reading the list of candidates who have qualified for the campaign, Mr. Cantelou turned the meeting over to the local chairman, Mr. J. W. Cox, who in his prefatory remarks very truly said that men who are elected to office, even the best men, can not give us good government without our help. There is a duty for every citizen and the manner in which that duty is performed will have its effect upon the character of our laws and their enforcement. The real trouble with conditions today is found in agriculture. Our entire system will have to be changed and we must apply our best intelligence toward correcting this imperfect system. Mr. Cox said our tax system has been improved and law enforcement is gaining ground but we must give thought to other things than politics.

J. W. Bledsoe.

The first speaker presented by the chairman was Mr. Bledsoe, a candidate for the house from Johnston who said he entered the campaign with one uppermost principle and that is to uphold and not tear down, not to throw mud or do anything low. Mr. Bledsoe said, "I enter this race upon no man's demerits but am running on my own merits, if I have any, and will certainly not do anything that is low and degrading. I will not join any clique or alliance in order to gain votes, but will put myself into the hands of the Great Giver. I do not expect to go around hunting votes on Sunday but will endeavor to reflect the principles I teach my Sunday School class every Sunday morning."

This is a critical time, said Mr. Bledsoe, with many taxes yet unpaid. Public funds have been misappropriated in many ways and the legislature has created too many offices for pap-suckers. Too many commissions have been created, said the speaker, including the tax commission which does the work the comptroller general did up to that time. He expressed the opinion that state colleges are receiving more money than they ask for. He said he would not take a brick off of any of the state schools but declared that many of our best men are coming from the denominational colleges, which do not receive a dollar of public money. Mr. Bledsoe said Wofford College has put more judges on the bench than any other college. He made known his opposition to farm demonstration agents. Said he, "Edgefield county has farmers of experience who do not need a demonstrator. Economy should be practiced by cutting off a little here and a little there."

Mr. Bledsoe said we have a good school system but need a better one and in speaking of schools advocated the consolidation of weak schools, making it possible for boys and girls to be carried through the 10th and 11th grades. Give them that, said he, and they will scratch for a living. In referring to the great number of tax executions now outstanding, Mr. Bledsoe said, "Something must be done for these men who brave the galling winds of winter and the burning sun of summer."

He said about half of the men who go to the legislature do not know what that body is doing, spending much of their time in pool rooms and do not even know what is contained in the bills they vote for. If

elected, he said he will not miss a roll call and will use all the powers that God has given him to protect the interests of the people. In closing Mr. Bledsoe said, "As your cotton weigher I have been faithful and will be faithful with everything else you entrust with me."

C. T. Burnett.

The second speaker was Mr. C. T. Burnett, a member of the Edgefield bar, who said we are facing a critical time in South Carolina, due to the deflation following the war. Our main crop is cotton and the boll weevil partially destroys that. People have become dissatisfied with the present system of government. We need a change of tax system. Under the present system of government, Mr. Burnett said, home owners pay 70 per cent of the taxes. He stated that hidden money and luxuries should be taxed and not a single mill be levied upon property to support the state government. County expenses only should be provided for in this way. He urged that people should study to know the men they elect to make their laws.

Mr. Burnett stated that he is in favor of making laws so simple that they can be easily construed. He also said lawyers should not be blamed for getting guilty men off when they accept money for defending a client. He expressed the belief that men should be elected to the legislature who will have their county's interest at heart first and then the state at large. He spoke somewhat at length concerning the great cost of the Dixie Highway, the construction of which caused a heavy bonded debt to be placed on the county. The speaker said this is supposed to be a representative government but there has sprung up too many commissions and boards that require an increase in appropriations. In this connection a vigorous attack was made upon the tax commission. A highway commission had to be maintained in order to obtain federal aid for road building but this commission was costing too much. He referred to the board of fisheries as having been established in order to give parasites a job which was costing the state about \$10,000 a year. Mr. Burnett said first make reductions where we can and then raise the necessary amount from other sources than a levy on the real estate. He said the legislature must eliminate the drones that live upon the taxpayers.

Mr. Burnett said he was the grandson of a confederate veteran and a veteran of the World War and would favor a liberal support of Confederate veterans by cutting down some where else. He said that if elected he would do his utmost to serve the people well and will not come back with any other mantle except one as pure as the snow from heaven.

H. H. Sanders.

The chairman next introduced Mr. Sanders, a farmer of the western section of the county, who is also a candidate for the house. Mr. Sanders said he was no stranger in the town of Johnston, having visited in that community frequently during the 16 years that he resided in Edgefield and always found the people very clever and hospitable. Strangers always greatly appreciate cordial treatment. Mr. Sanders stated that he is not appearing before the people as a great speaker, nor does he come as one claiming to know so much. But he claims to be a man of common sense and sound business judgment. He said he had no political record or past to speak of but he looks to the future and will endeavor to do his full duty. He was prompted to enter the race for the legislature by the very discouraging condition of our people but now is the time for us to work and press forward with greater determination. The speaker said he never holds back or stops for discouragements.

Mr. Sanders said he has the highest regard for each one of his opponents and would quit the race

rather than wound their feelings. He is asking for the support of the people in this race on his merits and will appreciate that support. If the people elect him, he pledges himself to stand by the things that are for the best interests of the people.

Mr. Sanders referred those who do not know him to the people in this county among whom he has lived for the past 20 years. He was born in the edge of Aiken county near the Edgefield line and his mother was born and reared in Edgefield county. Having been a resident of the county so long he feels that he is entitled to anything that any other son of the county is entitled to. Since moving from the town of Edgefield four years ago he has resided eight miles west of Edgefield in the Antioch section, where he has engaged in farming.

In conclusion Mr. Sanders said if the people see fit to elect him he will to the best of his knowledge and ability protect and advance their interests.

J. O. Sheppard.

The next speaker was Mr. Sheppard, a candidate for re election to the house, who said he would be ungrateful were he to fail to express his appreciation for the 233 votes which he received in Johnston two years ago. It will be his purpose to continue to merit this generous support. Mr. Sheppard said one of the outstanding questions of the day is law enforcement and that he stands firmly for the enforcement of all laws. Another leading question is taxes and South Carolina is the only state that continues to hold to the old-fashioned system, but a new day is dawning. Mr. Sheppard said the new delegation went into office in 1920 facing a deficit in the county of \$120,000 which was put into a bond issue. The country's finances to-day are on an excellent basis with the exception of unpaid taxes, for which the delegation is not responsible. He commended our county officers for their good work. The county levy was reduced last year by four mills and all expenses have been cut to the bone.

Mr. Sheppard said South Carolina has an antiquated tax system and that he along with a majority of the members of the house stood for a reduction of the levy on real estate and placing a tax on luxuries. He exhibited a chart which showed what a great decrease has been made on the levy on real estate. He said the senate killed the luxury tax and hydro-electric tax bills which the house passed. The house made a strenuous effort to remove the tax on land altogether but the senate refused to concur. Mr. Sheppard called attention to the fact that the tax commission had placed \$175,000,000 dollars of property on the tax books, which has had a considerable weight in holding down our taxes. Mr. Sheppard said if it were shown him that any commission now existing is bad he will vote to abolish it. He said it has been reported that he voted to reduce the pension fund of the Confederate soldiers, which is altogether a mistake. The house voted the same amount as last year but the senate reduced this by \$100,000. He would vote to cut elsewhere but not to cut the Confederate soldiers' pension. Mr. Sheppard called attention to the fact that South Carolina stands at the bottom in the matter of education. By way of showing how the people's money is spent called attention to the fact that in 1912 the appropriation for education was \$145,000 and in 1921 \$1,500,000. He called attention also to the great increase in the number of inmates of the asylum and the imperative need for increased appropriations.

The last legislature reduced the state levy from 12 to 7 mills and had the senate concurred in the action of the house a greater reduction would have been made. Mr. Sheppard said in conclusion that he had always stood for the strictest economy but was not in favor of impairing any of our institutions.

S. T. Williams.

The last candidate to speak was Mr. Williams, the farmer-merchant of Pleasant Lane, who is offering for re-election to the house. He said that 23 years ago he saw the first road scrape equipped and used and that he had hoped that in 10 years

Dial's Advice Is Secure Coal Now.

Washington, July 29.—"Get coal now. The situation is serious and no one knows when the railroad and coal strikes will end."

This was the gist of a statement issued here today by Senator Dial after a conference with Secretary Herbert Hoover, of the department of commerce regarding labor strikes and other matters.

At the conclusion of the conference Senator Dial was asked for a statement and said he had called to see Mr. Hoover relative to the Charleston navy yard matter and the coal and railroad situation. Mr. Hoover, Senator Dial stated, is very friendly to the Charleston yard but as is usual in such cases he found the head of one government reluctant to interfere or give advice to another one.

"As to the coal situation," Senator Dial said, "I strongly urge all our people who can possibly do so to procure their coal supplies without further delay. Many people remember the cold winter of 1917, when war was going on and how difficult it was to get coal for various reasons. Now, with the total output of coal at about three and a half million tons a month and the railroad using two and a half million tons of this each month, it will be seen how necessary it is for our people to get their supplies now unless they wish to find themselves very seriously embarrassed later on."

"I sincerely hope that some way may be found to satisfactorily adjust the present difficulties, both as regards the rail and coal situation, but in the meantime I desire to repeat how absolutely necessary it is to secure coal supplies for both domestic and commercial purposes without delay."

The roads would be greatly improved but that he had not found it so. Mr. Williams said that he wanted to make an explanation to the Confederate veterans. He is a member of the ways and means committee of the house, in which body all appropriations originate, and it was agreed in this committee that no reduction would be made in the appropriations for pensions, but that the senate reduced the amount to \$500,000 from \$600,000. He said he refused to increase the salary of the farm demonstration agent for Edgefield county last year as requested by Mr. Johnson, the district manager of Aiken, who said he would remove the agent unless the increase was made.

Mr. Williams said a politician said to him some time ago that the appropriations for the asylum, penitentiary and every school should be cut, and he showed that increased demands upon these institutions made it impossible for them to do on less appropriations. He spoke in the highest terms of the school which has been taken over by the state in McCormick county for the support and education of orphan children. The Cedar Springs Institute in Spartanburg, the school for the blind, had asked for increased appropriations and the needs of this institution should appeal to every man who has a heart in him. Dr. Johnson, the president of Winthrop college, appeared before the ways and means committee and stated that 1,560 girls had applied for admission into the college but that only 1,287 could be received. Mr. Williams said he has always been opposed to Sunday work but that as long as he is a member of the house he will remain at his post of duty until the body adjourns to keep some fellow from having objectionable legislation passed during the closing hours of the session, citing an instance in which he helped to defeat a bad measure. He stated that he has always voted to save money for the people, having voted last session to reduce his own salary by 25 per cent. This alone would have saved the tax payers \$17,000. In conclusion Mr. Williams called attention to the fact that we are only paying this year seven mills for state purposes and that the remainder of our taxes is spent in the county, and the delegation is not responsible for the county expenses.