

GOV. BLEASE TALKS OF ACTION OF LEGISLATURE

Columbia, Feb. 25.—Former Governor Cole L. Blease left this afternoon for Ridgeland, where next week he will be engaged in the trial of an important murder case. He was asked today for an expression as to the work of the general assembly which adjourned Wednesday.

"I was very much pleased," he replied, "with the independence shown by many of the members, and particularly those who refused to be led with a halter and made dupes or to please the present administration. I was also particularly gratified at the outcome of the fight between Chief Game Warden Richardson and the governor. If the governor knew of any serious charges against Col. Richardson, it seems to me that it was certainly his duty to the people of this State and to the general assembly to have given the information at the very beginning of the session, in order that the matter might have been thoroughly investigated. The constitution provides how officers shall be removed, and, if after investigation, the general assembly had concluded that the charges were founded, in fact, Col. Richardson could have been removed. To say the least of it, it was certainly very unkind to hold these accusations back and strike Mr. Richardson at the very last moment, when it was absolutely impossible for him to make any showing. Of course the light can be turned on next year, if all parties live, but in case of death (and life is very uncertain) it might be that these charges would necessarily be left unanswered, so far as the official records are concerned. As matter of fact, I think it was due Col. Richardson that the senate stay here long enough to make a thorough investigation, anyway, even though it might have cost an extra day's hotel bill.

"I was very glad to see that the legislature refused to extend the power of the would-be 'king.' I think he should also be glad, for I know some sheriffs in this State have sufficient manhood that, if they had been removed and an unjust reflection cast upon them and their families, they would probably have acted in such manner that results would have been very serious, not only to the governor, but to the entire State of South Carolina.

"These things point clearly to the fact that the present governor is not the choice of the people, and show

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conclusively, in my judgment, that a majority of the members of the house, at least, had no respect for him, he having attained the position which he holds in the manner that he did.

"I was pleased to see the general assembly take action in regard to the Parker mills merger transaction. I called attention to this matter in 1912, in a special message to the general assembly, and if some action had been taken then, and proper proceedings instituted, the stockholders would have been saved millions of dollars, and the tax-payers of the State would have been benefited by thousands of dollars which would have gone into the State treasury.

"Again, as to the Columbia canal proposition, I sent several messages to the legislature calling attention to this matter, and if action had then been taken, complications which have arisen by the transfers of property in recent months would not have had to be contended with in the final adjustment.

"I congratulate the legislature upon the passage of the bill in reference to aliens owning lands. I called special attention to this in a message to the general assembly, but could not get the legislature at the time to do anything. I am glad to note that at this session they took action.

"These matters are not cases of 'I told you so,' but my messages and records speak for themselves, and will show clearly to the people that I was trying to do the right, when the legislature was stubbornly fighting every proposition that I offered.

"The discussion at the past session in regard to free scholarships was a healthy sign. I started the agitation by special messages during my administration, and I am delighted that it is bearing fruit.

"In fact, I think if my administration is reviewed, and if my record in the legislature is recalled, it will be found that the marriage license law, the registration of births, etc.; the 10-hour labor law; night schools; separate coaches; biennial sessions of the general assembly; the abolition of the hosiery mill; the establishment of the tuberculosis sanatorium, the establishment of the warehouse system, have all been pets of mine, and most of them have resulted either from bills introduced by me while a member of the senate and the house, or from messages sent by me to the general assembly during the four years I was governor."

"What about the appropriation bill?" Mr. Blease was asked.

"I think," the former governor replied, "that when the people walk up to the 'captain's office' next fall to pay this three-million-dollar appropriation bill that has been put on them, they will discover that what Blease told them on the stump in 1916, was the absolute truth, notwithstanding the fact that some newspapers and some people would, in a sneering manner, say, 'Oh, that is just Blease talking, trying to fool somebody to catch votes.' I am satisfied that this administration has touched the hearts of a great many people, because I have heard it said from my childhood that if you want to touch a man's heart, touch his pocket-book, and I do not think that any one will question the fact that the present legislature and the present governor have done that to the full extent of their ability. If I had been governor there are a great many items in the appropriation bill that I would have vetoed, the striking out of which would not have been detri-

mental to the interest of any institution in the State, and I most assuredly would not have consented to the creation of any more jobs for papsuckers or the making of places for administration pets. However, I can't say, in this instance, give to the people what they want; for they did not want this, and neither did they want Manning; but I have always heard that 'like begets like.'

"As to the whiskey legislation, the people did not get what they want, nor what they have twice voted for, but I presume they will have it soon, if the present congress sticks to the action which it took this week. If I had been a member of the house or of the senate I would have voted for prohibition—not that I am a prohibitionist, for I am not—I believe, first of all things in personal liberty, and in allowing all men to do just what they want to do, so long as they do not trample upon the rights of their neighbors, leaving to their judgment what is best for them and letting them answer for their personal acts to their God—but I believe in giving the people what they ask for.

"The most amusing incident of the session to me was the governor's all-at-once discovery and turning the flash light on as to the penitentiary shortage of \$29,000. That is the most fulsome hot air that I have ever known to escape. The whole matter was aired in the supreme court in the Rhame case, and called attention to by me in special messages to the general assembly, and if action had been taken at that time, the Lexington bank people were in such shape that they could have been made pay ever dollar of the shortage. But the then legislature cold-bloodedly and deliberately laid down on the proposition and refused to attempt to save the State and the county of Lexington the moneys deposited in that bank, and the result is that the depositors and the tax payers have lost the money."

"What about politics?" the former governor was asked.

"I have no statement to make," he said. "Personally I stand just in the same position I outlined in a statement which I gave you not long ago. My services are at the command of the Reform party. With their approval, I shall remain in private life and not be a candidate for any office, but if they think they need my services, and put me forward for any position, if I live and my health continues as fine as it is now (and I am glad to

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say that it is perfect, as I weigh more than I ever did in my life, do not owe a cent in the world, haven't got much and therefore am not burdened with the increase in taxation), I shall give to them my services, and the very best that is in me, in whatever position they may place me. I expect the central committee of the Reform party to meet within the next thirty days and begin carrying out the purposes for which they were appointed at the Reform convention held last October.

Jno. K. Aull.

FARM LOAN BANK SOON READY FOR BUSINESS

Columbia, Feb. 25.—Making a distinct epoch in the history of credits upon agricultural lands, the federal farm loan bank located in Columbia, representing the third district, composed of the States of South Carolina, North Carolina, Georgia and Florida, will get down to detail work this week looking towards consideration of the great number of applications for loans which are expected.

Twelve of these banks were provided for under the act of congress. The institution here is the first of the twelve to organize. Temporary quarters have been secured on the second floor of the Palmetto National building. The bank will make its permanent headquarters in this building, and will occupy an entire floor.

Detailed work is expected to begin on March 1, but it was stated today by an official of the institution that it would be some little time before loans could actually be negotiated. The bank will start with a capital of \$750,000, which will later be increased to \$2,000,000 under the automatic plan provided for by the federal act. There are more than 200 farm loan associations in South Carolina which have been organized for the purpose of requesting loans from the bank. It is expected that the requests of the bank will aggregate some \$15,000,000 in the near future. The requests from South Carolina alone are expected to approximate \$5,000,000.

The officers of the institution are: Mr. F. J. H. von Engelken, of Palatka, Fla., president. Mr. von Engelken comes to Columbia from Washington, where he has been director of the government mint. He will make his home in this city.

Mr. L. I. Guion, of Lugoff, S. C., vice-president. Mr. Guion is a prominent planter and cattle breeder of Kershaw county.

Mr. David A. Houston, of Monroe, N. C., treasurer. Mr. Houston has been in the banking business for a number of years, and has held official position in his home county in North Carolina.

Mr. Howard C. Arnold, of Greenville, Ga., secretary. Mr. Arnold has been connected with the government service in Atlanta.

These officers, with Mr. S. C. Warner, of Palatka, Fla., will compose the board of directors.

Major Robert H. Welch, of the Columbia bar, has been appointed registrar and attorney. Major Welch moved to Columbia from Newberry several years ago. He is one of the leading lawyers of the Columbia bar.

There is a mass of details which will have to be considered by the officials of the institution, but steps have been taken which will get the machinery into actual operation at the earliest possible moment.

The present organization, under the provision of the act, is temporary, the act providing that "each federal land bank shall be temporarily managed by five directors, appointed by the federal farm loan board," and that

INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON, MARCH 3, 1917.

The "South Carolina's Inauguration Special" will leave Columbia by the Southern Railway System on March 3rd, at 7:30 p. m. arriving in Washington Sunday morning; returning, leave Washington Tuesday night, March 6th, arriving Columbia Wednesday morning. Passengers will be taken on at Winnsboro, Chester and Rock Hill and the train will be consolidated at Charlotte with the train from Greenville having the delegation from Greenwood, Anderson, Greenville and Spartanburg.

Governor Manning and staff has selected the Southern Railway system as the official route to Washington on this great occasion and the trip will be made on the "South Carolina's Inaugural Special."

Those wishing to remain longer in Washington may do so as the special round trip tickets will also be sold for all regular trains March 1st, to 4th, with final limit returning to reach original starting point by March 10th. Extension may be had until April 10th, by depositing ticket and paying fee of one dollar.

The round trip fare from Newberry, S. C., will be \$15.55 Pullman lower berth \$3.00 in each direction from Columbia. Fares in proportion from other points.

The Southern Railway system is making unusual preparation for handling the large travel expected to attend the inauguration and is prepared to render better service than ever before owing to the double track and electric block signal system which has been completed and is now in operation practically all the way from Charlotte to Washington.

Pullman reservations are now being booked for both directions at City Office of the Southern, 1300 Main street, Columbia, and those expecting to make the trip are urged to apply at once for same. Hotel and boarding house accommodations are also being secured for those desiring it.

For further information and reservations, apply to local agents or direct to S. H. McLean, District passenger Agent, Columbia, S. C.

after the subscription to the bank's stock by farm loan associations shall have reached \$100,000, the permanent organization is to be effected, with nine directors, six to be chosen by the farmers' associations and three to be appointed by the federal farm loan board.

Exactly when the bank will be ready to make loans can not be stated at this time. The farm loan associations organized in Florida, Georgia and North Carolina seem to indicate that the farmers of those States are as anxious as the farmers of South Carolina to take advantage of the opportunities afforded under the act, and when the bank is ready for business a considerable rush is expected.

Good salaries are paid the officers. The president will receive \$6,000 per year, at the lowest figure yet mentioned; the treasurer and the registrar \$4,000 each, the secretary \$3,500 and the appraiser \$2,400. Actual expenses are to be paid.

Jno. K. Aull.

Old Time Quilting.

The Ladies' Aid society of Smyrna church gave an old-time quilting at the manse on Thursday of last week. Mrs. Croker was hostess to the society. Two quilts were made and will be sent to the Thornwell orphanage at Clinton. Beside members of the society present were: Misses Mildred Wilson, Lala Teague, Lucy Senn, Alma Sease.

The guests of distinction were Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Boozer. They are due special mention because of the fact that the day was the fifty-seventh anniversary of their wedding.

This society is among the many friends of the orphanage and its gifts

to the institution are limited only by its ability to give. The day favored the occasion with ideal weather and Washington's birthday anniversary is seldom more beautiful and clear. It was not only a quilting but was a modest way of pounding the preacher and his family. The tables in the dining room bore mute testimony to this fact. The day was one of peculiar pleasure to all.

T. C. C.

February 22, 1917.

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Atlanta, Ga. \$6.15

Account International Association of Rotary Clubs; tickets on sale June 15, 16 and 17 with final limit June 25, 1917.

Columbia, S. C. \$1.65

Account State Teachers' Association of South Carolina and Automobile Show; tickets on sale March 14, 15, 16 with final limit returning March 19, 1917.

Macon, Ga. \$6.95

Account The Chautauqua of the South and Southern Conference for Education and Industry; tickets on sale March 17th to April 4th, inclusive with final limit returning April 10th, 1917.

New Orleans, La. \$20.90

Account Laymen's Missionary Movement, Southern Presbyterian Church, tickets on sale March 11, 12, 13 with final limit returning March 21, 1917.

New Orleans, La. \$20.90

Account Southern Baptist Convention; tickets on sale May 11 to 16 inclusive with final limit returning May 31, 1917. Limit may be extended until June 15 by depositing ticket and paying fee of \$1.00.

Washington, D. C. \$15.55

Account Inauguration of President Woodrow Wilson, tickets on sale March 1, 2, 3, 4 with final limit March 10th, 1917. Limit may be extended to April 10th by depositing ticket and payment of fee of \$1.00.

Washington, D. C. \$15.55

Account National Society, Daughters of the American Revolution; tickets on sale April 10th to 15th with final limit April 30th, 1917.

Washington, D. C. \$10.65

Account 27th Annual Reunion, United Confederate Veterans and 22nd Annual Reunion Sons of Veterans; tickets on sale June 2nd to 7th inclusive with final limit returning June 21st, 1917; extension until July 6th by depositing ticket and payment of fee of 50c.

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