

## Branchville Would Annex to Bamberg; Gets No Roads

Branchville, Aug. 16.—Several petitions are being circulated here petitioning the governor to order an election to allow Branchville township, a part of Cow Castle and a part of Edisto township to annex themselves to Bamberg county. These petitions are being generously signed as a result of the controversy being this month, stated Mr. Martin. Mr. highway commission over the Dorange-Branchville road. There is much feeling over the matter. If the present plans carry the area involved will amount to nearly 100 square miles.

A delegation of more than 50 representative citizens of the town of Branchville, Branchville township and portions of Cow Castle and Edisto township met with the Orangeburg county highway commission Tuesday afternoon to find out from the latter "why they have deferred building the Branchville-Dorange highway." After a presentation of views by both sides, W. Claude Martin, of Branchville, principal spokesman for the delegation of citizens, announced to the commission that "we are not satisfied and will take further action."

The road in question runs from Fitt's bridge at the Bamberg county line for two miles to the limits of the town of Branchville and five miles from the Branchville town limits to Dorange on the Dorchester county line. The Branchville people say this is a link in the regular Augusta-Charleston highway and is the only link not in good shape.

It was easily seen that the citizens who came to meet the highway commission are deeply concerned over the matter. While the meeting was free of personalities, those of the delegation of citizens who talked made their statements very plain. Activities of the legislative delegation were automatically drawn into the controversy. Those of the citizens' delegation who did not talk backed up their speakers with applause and close attention to every word uttered and every development at the gathering. Members of the highway commission spoke with an evident desire to make the situation clear to the minds of the citizens.

The meeting was held at the request of the citizens made of the highway commission and took place in the court house. J. W. Smoak, chairman, J. Fisher Cleckley, J. L. Shuler and C. F. Bergdorf, members of the commission, were present. S. J. McCoy, the remaining member of the commission, was not present, it having been explained to those requesting the meeting at the time of the request that unavoidable engagements would prevent Mr. McCoy being present at that time.

J. W. Smoak announced the purpose of the meeting and called upon Mr. Martin. Mr. Martin then told the chairman that the citizens would like to hear from the commission first hand their reasons for their position on the matter of the Branchville-Dorange road.

Mr. Smoak related the circumstances of the first loan made by the commission for roads with federal aid and covered subsequent activities of the commission and circumstances developing up to and including the action taken by the commission on the Branchville-Dorange matter.

Mr. Smoak stated that when the commission learned that \$140,000 federal aid was available for roads in this county under the usual provision that it be matched with an equal amount by the county, the commission informed the Orangeburg county legislative delegation of the situation and the legislative delegation let the commission borrow \$150,000, and that later they got more, making the total borrowed around \$163,000. The commission, he said, then set out to build roads as directed by the state highway commission having no say in the matter as, under the conditions of allowing federal aid, the "sayso" of what roads are to be built is left with the state highway commission.

After building the Orangeburg-Bamberg road, the chairman stated, the Springfield-Neeses road was begun and is now under construction, the Bowman road to the Dorange line has been about completed, the St. Matthews road was begun and is now under construction, and then work was begun on the Ninety-Six

road and this latter road is now under construction.

The commission began pushing the Branchville-Dorange road building, Mr. Smoak stated. He said the road has been surveyed, that the project has been presented for approval and that it will be about November 1 or 15 before it can go through the regular channel.

Mr. Smoak then stated that there is \$13,000 of federal aid left for the Branchville-Dorange road, but the county highway commission has not the money with which to match this \$13,000, and unless the legislative delegation gives the commission the money with which to match this \$13,000 they can not build the road. "If there is any other way to get the money to match this \$13,000 for the Branchville-Dorange road we will be glad to do it," stated the chairman.

He told the citizens that the commission thought they were doing those interested a favor in pledging to build the road by chain gang as the road built by the gang would be better than by contract. He explained that the county, in building roads has to pay for the right of way for roads, damages, moving houses and other things for which federal aid could not be used, therefore making the cost to the county more than the government's half.

Mr. Martin here asked the chairman if the commission had estimated the cost of the Branchville-Dorange road, to which Mr. Smoak replied, "No." The state highway commission, the chairman said, estimated that it would cost \$30,000 and later said that it would cost more than that. The Bowman road cost \$12,000 or 15,000 more than the contract, he stated, and the Orangeburg-Bamberg road cost more, likewise, the total cost of the latter road being \$114,000.

"What is the estimated cost of the construction of a concrete road just west of the bridge over the Edisto river at the limits of this city?" asked Mr. Martin, to which Mr. Smoak replied, "\$25,000 a mile." Mr. Martin then stated that he understood that the bridge over the river at the foot of West Russell street was to be moved to Rowesville and replaced by a concrete bridge.

Mr. Martin, in reply to the explanation of Mr. Smoak, stated that he appeared at the meeting as the mayor of Branchville and representative of the people in the communities deeply interested in the matter under discussion. "Today there are present representative citizens of these communities, comprising doctors, lawyers, merchants and other lines of business and profession," he said.

Mr. Martin stated that several years ago Bamberg tried to divert the road under discussion for their benefit, that a fish fry was given for the engineers engaged to look into such diversion, but the engineers, although partaking of the delicious fish fry, told the Bamberg people that from an engineering standpoint the road "must go by Branchville."

"We were led by members of the Orangeburg county highway commission to believe that the contract for the road would be let out about between this section and the country Martin said he had no word of criticism for the highway commission as regards their activities as a whole, but that he does condemn the present legislative delegation.

Branchville, he said, is next in size in the county to the city of Orangeburg, and is next to Orangeburg in the amount of taxes paid, but, he said, "we have never received one cent of federal aid while other sections have received such aid, and we have saddled on us by the legislative delegation a bond issue of \$350,000; then to hear about moving the only steel bridge in the county to Rowesville and building about two miles of concrete road just beyond the limits of the city of Orangeburg while there are dangerous bridges on the Branchville road and elsewhere in that community and other bad conditions exist—this is awful extravagance." Mr. Martin stated that Mr. McDonald, expert engineer, said the steel bridge over the river here will last for 15 years.

"If you can build one mile of road, or two miles, or five miles or 10 miles, it belongs to Branchville," vehemently stated Mr. Martin. Con-

cluding he said that "unless we get these, our rights, we must, in self-defense, go to Bamberg county." This latter statement was not made as a threat, Mr. Martin told the commission, but as the only means of self-defense the citizens in the 100 square miles involved have if these rights are not accorded.

Mr. Smoak then made the statement that "if you can get the money to match the \$13,000 we will be glad to build the road." He further said the commission has contracted out \$175,000 of the original \$300,000 bridge bond issue for bridges and that concrete bridges are being built throughout the county. The Branchville-Dorange road being very good now while other roads are bad, the commission decided to "fix-up" that road and build concrete bridges, stated the chairman.

The relative importance of roads was brought up and Mr. Smoak remarked that the roads to a county seat are the most important, "And let us starve to death," interjected Mr. Martin. Mr. Martin said that Branchville trade is going to St. George, Walterboro, Bamberg and elsewhere on account of the former town having no road. Mr. Smoak responded that it would be built by the chain gang as soon as if it was built with federal aid. If built by contract the laborers will spend money in Branchville but none will be spent by the chain gang, Mr. Martin pointed out.

At this point Mr. Cleckley, of the commission, told Mr. Martin that when he (Mr. Cleckley) told Mr. Martin that the road would be built the statement was made in good faith but the money ran out.

Mr. Smoak explained that the commission had no sayso in the building of the two miles of concrete road west of the city but that the legislative delegation appropriated \$25,000 and the state highway commission \$25,000 for this special use.

Mr. Martin asked why a new bridge should be built now and stated that the people of the city of Orangeburg say they would rather see Branchville get what is due her than to get the bridge. Mr. Smoak replied that that would not help as the money for the bridge comes out of the bridge bonds.

P. C. Dukes, of Branchville, told the commission that they have not gotten one cent and wanted to know why.

Mr. Smoak answered, "If the state highway commission had said build the Branchville road it would have been built. In giving federal aid they suggest the road to be built as comes in their system."

"Does not the highway commission of this or other counties say what roads are to be built?" asked Mr. Dukes.

"Possibly so, but we never have," answered the chairman.

Mr. Dukes then said it is strange that bodies in Columbia, Greenville and elsewhere dictate to this county what roads are to be built. "Why did the legislative delegation leave out the most important town, next to Orangeburg, in the county? We have been neglected and we come to you now for justice," Mr. Dukes concluded.

N. E. Byrd, of Branchville, wanted to know why road money could be swapped for bridge money but bridge money could not be swapped for road money, to which Mr. Smoak answered that if the state highway commission gives permission, the \$13,000 federal aid heretofore mentioned can be diverted. "If this can be done why don't you do it?" asked Mr. Byrd.

Mr. Martin asked the question: "Where does the money come from for the road to be built running up to the river at the Orangeburg city line?" and answered it himself by saying, "From the taxpayers, and we are taxpayers." Mr. Martin told the commission that "we are not satisfied, and we will take further action," and the meeting adjourned.—Times and Democrat.

### Woodward-Padgett.

Last Saturday night about midnight Probate Judge J. J. Brabham, Jr., was awakened out of his slumbers to issue a marriage license to E. G. Padgett and Miss Velma Woodward, both of Denmark. After issuing the license, Rev. S. O. Cantey was called over the telephone and asked to be in readiness to perform the ceremony. Mr. Cantey hastily donned his clothing and performed the ceremony at the parsonage at 12:45 o'clock Sunday morning. Both young people are employees of the telephone company at Denmark, where they have many friends to congratulate and wish the mwell.

### RECORDS SUPPORT CHARGES.

Examination Shows Ex-Service Men Were Discriminated Against.

Washington, Aug. 10.—In his efforts to prevent the confirmation of Joseph W. Tolbert as United States marshal for the Western district of South Carolina, Senator Dial recently charged that Tolbert had invariably recommended the appointment of others than soldiers as postmasters even when former service men made the highest marks in the civil service examinations, hence were entitled to be named for these positions. The charges were so startling that they caused an investigation of the records and enough has been disclosed to verify the assertion made by Senator Dial.

That many former service men have been totally ignored by Mr. Tolbert in a great many cases may be seen from his action in some of the South Carolina offices taken at random.

For instance, take the following named places:

Greenville: William F. Robertson made 79, plus five for soldier preference; Robert T. Thorne, 72.80 and William C. Withington, 87.0, plus five for soldier preference. In this case both the highest and lowest on the list were soldiers, but Tolbert recommended the second, who was not a soldier.

Abbeville: John R. Tolbert, 76.40; Thomas T. Tolbert, 72 and G. A. Neuffer, 76.50, plus five for soldier preference. Here the soldier was rejected and Tolbert's nephew was named.

Clinton: A. J. Milling made 83; W. M. McMillan made 75.20 and R. H. Blakely, 75.80, plus five for soldier preference. In this instance, the soldier was rejected and Tolbert's nephew by marriage was appointed.

Kershaw: H. E. Estridge made 88.75, plus five for soldier preference; George T. Truesdale, 78.05 and T. L. Gregory, 76.80. Here the soldier was rejected, although he had done valiant service and made the highest mark. The second named was appointed.

McCormick: James E. Bell made 86.70, plus five for soldier preference; J. W. Harmon, 84.80 and D. B. Woodward, 85.85. In this case the soldier was rejected and third named appointed.

### James H. Grauel Died Sunday.

James H. Grauel, popular boys' work secretary of the Columbia Y. M. C. A., died yesterday morning at the Lake Shore hospital, Painesville, Ohio, after being ill with typhoid fever for about four weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Grauel left Columbia about three weeks ago for Lake George, N. Y., where Mr. Grauel was to attend a Y. M. C. A. conference. They stopped over in Cleveland, intending to visit Mr. Grauel's relatives for a few days. There he was taken very ill. He had not been well for a week or so before leaving Columbia, but went on any way as he thought the trip would do him good.

Mr. Grauel had been boys' secretary here for almost two years, taking up this work the first of September, 1920. Previous to that he had been state boys' work secretary for a year, coming to this state from Atlanta, where he had been boys' work secretary for about two years. Mr. Grauel gave up the state work in South Carolina for the local in order to be with his mother, who was in ill health and who died in Columbia just a little more than a year ago. He was originally from Cleveland, Ohio.

Mr. Grauel was 27 years of age and was admired and loved by the boys with whom he worked and by all with whom he came in contact. He was a splendid young man of high character, clean and lovable, and his life all before him—a life of unusual promise. The news of his untimely death has cast a shadow about all those who knew him and loved him.

Mr. Grauel was married only seven months ago to Miss Claire Kearse, of Bamberg. Mrs. Grauel was with him when he died.

The body will be laid to rest beside the other members of his family, in Cleveland tomorrow. He is survived only by his wife, having lost his entire family—both parents, a brother and a sister within the last few years.

### Two New Wardens.

Governor Harvey has appointed R. W. Riley game warden for Alledale county and O. J. C. Lain game warden for Bamberg county.—The State.

## Last County Campaign Meeting Held on Friday

The sixth and last county campaign meeting of the summer was held Friday at the court house in Bamberg. The last meeting was well attended; there were probably more men at this meeting than at any other in the county; only a few women graced the meeting with their presence. This was probably due to the inclemency of the day, as rain fell intermittently during the speaking. At the same time the rain perhaps brought out more men than would otherwise have attended, as farm work was at a standstill, and many of them had little else to do. The court house was comfortably full. Every candidate was present and every one had something to say.

Dr. J. B. Black, state senator, presided over the meeting. After being called to order, he called upon Rev. T. A. Inabnett to ask the blessings of the Deity on the meeting. This Mr. Inabnett did in a most appropriate manner.

Dr. Black welcomed the people to Bamberg; a special welcome being extended the ladies. He congratulated the candidates for the high plane on which they had pitched the campaign, and asked for each one a respectful hearing which he felt sure would be given, as is always the case with the people of this city.

Reversing the order of procedure in the court house, the candidates were seated in the petit jury box, where they might be seen as well as heard. While the record might not be entirely accurate to say that they were a handsome bunch of men; nevertheless, there has probably never been a more intelligent jury drawn on any case than the bunch of candidates who sat in the jury space Friday. Whoever is elected, the affairs of the county will not be in bad hands.

### Candidates for Magistrate.

The first speaker of the day was Edgæ Dickinson, offering for reelection as magistrate at Bamberg. Mr. Dickinson said that it was unfortunate that Dr. Black had not limited the speakers, as he would probably take all the time from the other candidates. However, he contented himself by thanking the people for entrusting the office to his care, and will appreciate the support of his people on August 29th.

Thomas J. Rentz, the only opponent of Mr. Dickinson, said he could not make a speech like his worthy opponent, but he will promise to discharge the duties of the office to the best of his ability if he is elected. He promises prompt and efficient service, he has nothing against his opponent, who is one of his best friends. The office is one of importance and responsibility, he said.

### Uncle George Makes Home Run.

Treasurer George A. Jennings made his first appearance Friday. He has been so busy in his office that he could not attend the meetings heretofore. He was greeted with much applause. "Here's your old uncle; look at me," he started. He has been in the treasurer's office since 1912, and has always tried to do his duty. Notwithstanding the disasters, the county is getting along well, he said, "the fuel," referring to money, is getting short on account of the failure of many to pay their taxes. \$40,000 is still on the books in unpaid taxes, and he urged everybody to try and pay up to avoid their taxes going to execution Sept. 1st. Uncle George wanted it distinctly and unqualifiedly understood that he is a ladies' man, and when it comes to judging good looking women he does not hand the palm to any man, not even Senator Mayfield or Barney Smoak; and he added with a twinkle, that they are all good looking.

### Supporting Only Self, Says Rowell.

Auditor Rowell said that everybody knows him. He told of the land assessment matter, and stated in this connection that the impression, reported to him, that he was supporting Mr. Kearse for the house, was entirely erroneous. "I am for W. D. Rowell, and nobody else," he declared. In mentioning the land assessment matter it had been necessary to mention Mr. Kearse's name, but he assured his hearers that both Mr. Kearse and Mr. Riley were strong friends of his, and he would have quite a job in deciding for whom he would vote on election day. In connection with the land matter, Mr. Rowell said that Attorneys Mayfield and Crum had told him to go ahead,

in the event the tax commission did not restore the assessment to the old basis, and put it on his books at \$4.69 per acre and that they would fight it out in the court free of charge. However, this was unnecessary, inasmuch as the commission listened to the voice of the people and let the assessment stand.

### Supervisors Come Next.

Supervisor Smoak did not have much to say at the meeting, preferring to give most of his time to his opponents. He told of building the road from Denmark to Bamberg with the chain gang, which saved the county a good deal and enabled the county to go into the building of the Bamberg-Branchville road. He told of his work on the roads of the county since he has been in office, and thanked the people for the vote of two years ago, and for the vote he expects on August 29th.

A. B. Hightower, also for supervisor, made his usual brief speech, in which he said he had nothing to promise except that he will do his duty to the best of his ability.

G. Victor Kearse, another opponent of Supervisor Smoak, said that he was no stranger in Bamberg; he has many friends and relatives here. As a traveling salesman for several years he had traveled over the important roads of the state, and upon observing them resolved that he would like to serve his county as supervisor. He stressed the importance of the roads, saying that churches and schools come first in importance, and then roads. If elected he promised to do his full duty, and will see that the roads worked are taken care of. In this connection he stated that Orangeburg has recently built 250 miles of sand-clay roads; Aiken county 500 miles, and Barnwell 150 miles. This shows what our sister counties are doing. In concluding he said that the race was compared to a base ball game; you never know the result until the last ball is thrown in the ninth inning. He hoped to be at bat on August 29th, and he hoped to knock a home run.

### Lower District Commissioners.

George W. Hunter, for lower district commissioner, said that at Olar and Denmark he had to say he was a stranger, but he thanked the Lord he was no stranger in Bamberg, which is his home town and had been for forty years. He came here with his father on a "tumbling cart." He had been asked six years ago to run for the office, but declined, because he had been out of the county three years, and did not think it was right; again importuned four years ago, but decided to wait a while longer; two years ago he resolved to run this year. He said his section needs a good commissioner, for the roads are bad, though, he said, weather conditions had prevented any road work lately. He told of his experience in road work, which had been extensive. He feels he can do as much as anybody else in the office.

J. W. Zeigler, incumbent, said he had heard no complaints about his service, except from his opponents who want to make a little extra change for gasoline; neither one, he said, can beat him, and he does not believe that both of them can. While he does not consider that working the roads is the main duty of the office, still he has done work on the roads that would stay there until judgment day. He considers the main duty is to keep the finances straight. If the roads get out of fix, let somebody report it, and he will see that they are repaired, he is no road worker. He concluded by saying that he was old and crippled in body, needs the office, but his head is as good as ever. "If my head ever fails me I will withdraw from the race," he said.

J. B. McCormack, another aspirant for this office, said "if you want a speaker for commissioner, vote for one of my opponents, but if you want somebody to work your roads and fix your bridges, vote for me." He thanked the people for their votes on August 29th, and then something occurred which broke all precedents in this campaign. A lady walked up to the judge's stand and presented Mr. McCormack with a pretty bunch of flowers. Mr. McCormack admits he is no speaker, but this loosened his vocal organs, and he declared, waiving the flowers in his hand, that he

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