

## TWELVE HUNDRED PEOPLE HEAR CANDIDATES SPEAK

**Aspirants for Congress Make Strong Addresses—Timmerman and Lever the Favorites, Both Drawing Thundrous Applause, While McLeod and Brantley Were Given Splendid Receptions.**

Twelve hundred people, including many women and children, heard the candidates for congress speak on the court house square yesterday afternoon. It was a representative audience, every section of the county being represented, while there were many Columbians present. Hon. George Bell Timmerman received an ovation, as did also Congressman Lever. While it was evident that both of the Lexington county candidates had many friends present, Mr. Thos. G. McLeod, of Bishopville, and Mr. Thos. F. Brantley of Orangeburg, received splendid receptions and both were generously applauded, especially when they made strong and telling thrusts at the record of Mr. Lever.

The audience was a little surprised in that Mr. Lever failed to answer a great many of the charges brought by his opponents. Mr. Lever explained at the outset, however, that he had only 30 minutes against 90, and this probably was his reason for not attempting to make many answers.

The meeting was held in the afternoon, all of the morning hour having been consumed by the candidates for the United States Senate.

Judge C. M. Efrid, democratic county chairman presided. He was absolutely fair and impartial, toward all of the speakers, who were given 30 minutes each.

### Mr. Thos. G. McLeod.

Mr. Thos. G. McLeod, of Bishopville, was the first candidate to speak. He was glad to have the pleasure of appearing before such a splendid audience of Lexington county citizens. He came as a stranger to most of the people, but Lexington people are fair, just and honest, and believe in giving every man a square deal. "God help us when the day comes when any free American citizen cannot offer for public office without having to explain why he entered the race," said Mr. McLeod. We are in this war, he said, because it is a righteous war. Here Mr. McLeod paid a beautiful tribute to the late Bob Purdy, son of Judge R. O. Purdy of Sumter, who only a few days ago paid the supreme sacrifice with his life on the battle-fields of France. He declared that the greatest resource we have is pure American citizenship. This world is going to be a vastly better place to live after the war, or the ship of state will drift into the sea autocracy. Directing his remarks to Congressman Lever, Mr. McLeod said that he had never nursed any ambition to run for Congress; but Mr. Lever, after 16 years service, threw up his job and entered the race for the Senate against Senator Tillman. He declared that he then entered the race in good faith and had no apologies to make. At the Columbia meeting it was stated that McLeod had been beat out of his boots when he ran for Governor a few years. He had come out third, running next to Featherstone.

He had always been behind the government because we are fighting for a righteous cause. Mr. McLeod said that he was not going to discuss Mr. Lever personally, but that he was going to talk about the record Lever himself had written and made. Lever had a perfect right to enter the senatorial race. Lever in doing so, said that he was going to make speeches on every stump in the 45 counties. Who circulated the report that Senator Tillman was an embeccle? asked Mr. McLeod. Mr. Lever claims that it was patriotism—self-sacrificing patriotism—which caused him to enter the senatorial race. He doubted it. Mr. McLeod said that he and others in the race had been accused of being disloyal, so desperate were the Lever following to grab at straws. He said that it was the Tillman letter first published in the Charleston American that caused Lever's withdrawal from the senatorial race. Mr. Lever, he said, was riding in the senatorial chariot until senator Tillman's pitchfork came along and threw him out. Mr. McLeod again asserted that if "nay of you vote for Timmerman, Brantley or myself instead of Lever you will be called disloyal." "But I

think so, either," said a voice in the crowd. Mr. Timmerman said that over in Columbia Lever declared that he, Lever, would step out of congress and become a street car motorman if President Wilson were to ask him to. "I want to tell you that President Wilson thinks too much of the lives of the people who ride on street cars to give Lever a job of that kind," said the speaker. Mr. Timmerman said that according to the record, Mr. Lever did not tell President Wilson the whole truth, in that he had failed to mention the fact that four good men, loyal and true, were running for Congress in the seventh district. Challenged Lever, or any one else, to secure a letter from the President saying that Timmerman should get out of the race, or that McLeod or Brantley should get out of the race. The President had written that no distinction should be made between true and loyal democrats. Lever cannot come now and say that the charmanship of the agricultural committee is so important to the farmers now. Where were the farmers when Lever had the senatorial fever? he asked. Gordon Lee, of Georgia said Mr. Timmerman, would have succeeded Lever and what helps the farmers of Georgia would help the farmers of the South and of South Carolina. Who of you farmers knew of the change in the chairmanship of this committee when it fell to Lever about 6 years ago? Mr. Lever's cotton futures bill had been declared unconstitutional by a federal judge; and Mr. Lever's Land bank bill only gave farmers 3 months in which to make a crop, and the senate had to amend the bill so that the farmer would have 6 months. Mr. Lever was also charged by the speaker with being negligent in securing the nitrate bill to help farmers, all of which caused delay in delivery, and loss to the farmers. Mr. Lever has done much good, and I give him credit for what he has done, said Mr. Timmerman. In conclusion, the speaker said Mr. Lever had written to a few friends in Lexington asking them what his (Lever's) patriotic duty was in running for the senate. A short while afterwards, he said, a conference was held at the Jefferson Hotel in Columbia and Mr. Lever announced for the senate. When he left that race and re-entered the race for congress, Mr. Lever announced that he would stay in Washington in attendance upon his patriotic duties—and would not make any speeches. Mr. Timmerman closed with an earnest promise, if elected, to look after the interest of the people of the entire district, of the entire State and of the nation, and received an ovation. After Mr. Timmerman had concluded a question was put to him by a man in the audience, who wanted to know how he stood on the war. As quick as a flash Mr. Timmerman replied that from the very moment when Germany had broken her pledge to Belgium, as Lever had broken his solemn pledge to Senator Tillman not to oppose him for re-election, he had been in favor of the war, and the answer brought another ovation from the audience, and satisfied the interrogator.

### Thos. F. Brantley

Thos. F. Brantley, of Orangeburg, the next speaker, said he favored short terms in office, that a new broom sweeps clean, and some people hold office so long that they think the office belongs to them and not to the people. "Now, my friends Mr. Lever said Mr. Brantley has got no business being in this race." ("Be kind to him," said a voice in the crowd.) "He is running against me now. Lever entered the race for Senate—and quit. Brantley and the other candidates had paid their assessments in good faith and they could not afford to quit. He said Lever promised Senator Tillman not to run against him, but after riding Ben Tillman's coat-tail for 16 years Lever suddenly turned his back on him. Lever was Governor Manning's candidate and not the administration's at Washington. When Senator Tillman wrote a certain letter Lever quit the race, he cause he knew that Tillman had him beat, and Lever now tries to hide behind President Wilson's legs. For 3 years of the war 12 million soldiers have been killed, wounded or disabled for life. The congress of the United States appropriated 21 billion dollars for war in one year, while for 126 years 26 billion had been spent on all of the wars in which this country had been engaged. It is an enormous proposition, but we must win. "I would always vote to back up my country," said Mr. Brantley next went into a discussion

of the war. He said that he had been in the army, and he had seen the boys in khaki, said he, carrying a gun and placing their breasts to the bullets, fighting for you and I, are doing more toward making the world safe for democracy than every member of congress combined. (applause) Mr. McLeod also paid a glowing tribute to the boys behind the counters, in the mills and shops and who are following the plow, in order to buy bonds, are just as loyal and true as any member of the American congress. In reply to a question from the audience, Mr. McLeod declared that he would have voted for war and also for draft act, and he commended Mr. Lever for his vote. "But," said he, "where Lever went wrong, was when he began to monkey with the free people of the seventh district." Mr. McLeod ably discussed the cotton situation, and also immigration. He believes in America for Americans. Did not believe in giving any one man a lifetime job, and thought it was time for a change in the seventh districts congressman. "We are going to change him alright said a voice from the crowd. "Then let a big strong man replace him," said Mr. McLeod. "George Bell is big enough for the place," shouted a man back in the crowd. In conclusion, Mr. McLeod said that whether elected or defeated he would continue to do what he could for the State and the nation and he would have no fault to find. Mr. McLeod sat down amid considerable applause his able address having made a profound impression upon the crowd.

### Hon. Geo. Bell Timmerman.

Hon. Geo. Bell Timmerman was next introduced by Judge Efrid. "Come on, George." "Tell 'em about it." "Take your time, and give it to him," came from all over the audience. "Mr. Lever told the people in Orangeburg," began Mr. Timmerman, "that that was his first opportunity to meet his opponents face to face, and that he was there with the gaffs on, and I told the people of North the next day that a little Dominicker did not look good wearing those sort of things in Orangeburg." Mr. Timmerman said that when he entered the race for Congress Mr. Lever was in the race for the senate, but he was not in it long before he ran out, and he carried upon his political carcass the scars of old Ben Tillman's pitchfork," said Mr. Timmerman amid laughter and applause. "No-body questions the loyalty of any man in this race," said Mr. Lever at North a week ago, they are all good, loyal and true men, and it gives me pleasure to say so. "He surely told the God's truth when he said 'nobody' questioned my loyalty, but I want to give him an instance when one of his political appointees. "Postmaster General George" did. Then Mr. Timmerman offered to produce a man, if anybody challenged the statement, a Confederate soldier who had fought bravely in the war between the States who was willing to say that Postmaster George told him if he didn't vote for Lever he was against this war. Mr. Timmerman paused and nobody challenged the statement. He said he did not have any officeholders, or office-seekers running from place to place working for him.

Mr. Timmerman then paid his respects to a "Highstepping aristocrat-looking" Lexingtonian who was claiming everything for Lever. He is going around this town whistling, and telling it that Lever will get 90 per cent of the votes of Orangeburg, and 3,000 votes in Sumter county. "God knows if he gets 3,000 votes in Sumter county, they will have to go down in Clarendon county and steal 700 of them because Sumter voted only 2,300 ballots 2 years ago. Mr. Timmerman said that after the 27th of August there won't be any room for whistling. "I don't

## BENNIE HARMON WITH THE BARRE CO.

Mr. Bennie R. Harmon, who has been with the Enterprise Hardware Co. for several years, has severed his connections with that firm and is now with the Barre Hardware Co. where he invites his friends to call on him. Mr. Harmon is one of the most successful hardware men in this section, and he will doubtless prove a most valuable addition to The Barre Co.

## MANY CHICKENS KILLED.

Chickens of all sizes and many dozens of eggs were broken when a Ford car, driven by Fred Frazier ran into Mr. W. W. Taylor's Ford on Main street about daylight last Friday morning. Mr. Taylor had a coop of chickens tied onto the rear of his machine and had gotten out to see if they were alright. Mr. Frazier stated he did not know that the car was in front of him until the crash.

## FIRST OPEN COTTON

We acknowledge receipt of the first open cotton we have seen this season was brought to this office by Stobo Hendrix a negro farmer on Mr. T. L. Harman's place near Lexington.

of cotton, the wealth of the South. He favored fixing the price of the staple by legislation or otherwise. The government fixed the price of wheat, why not fix the price of cotton.

The war board is fixing the price of manufactured product. The mills now make about 30 cents profit on every pound of cotton. There is a surplus of 3 million bales now from last year's crop, he said, due to the fact that only about 11 million bales are consumed annually. Favored putting Federal money in good roads. Lever claims to have given up chairmanship of agricultural committee to run for Senate for patriotic reasons but, in my opinion, Mr. Lever entered the race to satisfy his own personal ambitions. Mr. Brantley declared that he was more interested in cotton than anything else and if elected he promised to do all he could for the cotton farmers of the south.

### Congressman Lever.

Congressman A. F. Lever, seeking reelection, was received with cordial applause. He said that he only had 30 minutes to reply to 90. ("Take your time, Frank" said a friend in the audience.) Said he had always been opposed to indiscriminate immigration, and on this he opposed the President's veto. He then branched off into a discussion of the cotton situation, declaring that, with only 96 Southern votes, against an overwhelming majority, it was impossible to get a bill favorable to fixing the price of cotton to pass. He had pigeon-holed two bills in his committee and there they would stay as long as he was in Congress. Mr. Lever said that Timmerman kept shaking his forelocks at him and he (Lever) did not like it. Mr. Lever said that he had done many things that the people knew nothing about. He said he had not been for his efforts the people of this section would not now be able to get flour. Favored increasing the shipping facilities as much as possible. Said that Congress was powerless to act in the matter of idleness among negro women—that is a question to be handled by the State laws. He declared that no odd-bird woman, white, black, rich or blue has the moral right to eat idle bread when boys are dying in France. Mr. Lever next read letters from Champ Clark, great democratic leader, to show that he was looking after his duties in Washington; and also a letter from Mr. Clark showing why the nitrate bill was sent to the committee on appropriations instead of to the committee on agriculture. Mr. Clarke said that the rules of Congress would not permit the bill to go to Lever's committee first.

Mr. Clark said that Mr. Lever had won his present high station in the house by hard intelligent and honest endeavor. Mr. Lever said that the first cotton futures act had been declared unconstitutional, the court claimed, because it was a tax measure. He said he had later gotten through an exact futures measure with a slight amendment, and nobody lost anything.

In conclusion, Mr. Lever said that none of his opponents had offered a single reason why he should not be returned to Congress, or a single reason why they should be. He was warmly applauded as he sat down.

## COUNTY CAMPAIGN OPENED SATURDAY

**Five Hundred People Hear Candidates for County Offices at Gilbert.**

The first big guns of the Lexington county campaign were fired at Gilbert on last Saturday, where more than 500 persons gathered to hear what the various office-seekers had to say. The meeting was void of the sensational; the audience being undemonstrative, except there was a slight tilt between the two candidates for county auditor, and the two candidates for county treasurer. These incidents however came near the close of the meeting, and afforded the only excitement of the day.

The meeting was officially opened by Judge C. M. Efrid, democratic county chairman who in address filled with optimism and ringing with the earmarks of Democracy, bespoke for all of the candidates, throughout his entire campaign, a square and fair deal. Judge Efrid referred briefly to the great crisis confronting the people, declared that Lexington county was patriotic to the core, and that her people would continue to stand by the government until democracy reigns supreme throughout the universe.

The candidates organized by electing Cyrus L. Shealy, president, and W. D. Dent, secretary. It was agreed to give the seven candidates for the house 20 minutes each and the candidates for other offices 10 minutes each.

D. J. S. Derrick was the first candidate to speak, he stated that he was in the race only after having been solicited by many friends to become a candidate. He did not believe in long speeches. It was his purpose to do all in his power to aid the state and national governments in the present war. He was no new convert to the principle of loyalty; had been there all the time from the very moment our government took a hand, hard to be loyal now, but last year The speaker asserted that it was not when there was difference of opinion he was of the same belief. It is the duty of every one to back up the government and support the boys in the trenches. Did not know what he could do in the legislature, but he had practiced economy all through life and if elected he would see that the priming knife is applied to all unnecessary appropriations. At the same time there would be no limit to what he could do for the boys in the trenches.

Dr. L. E. Dreher, introduced next, made his maiden political speech, it being Dr. Dreher's first appearance in politics. He urged his hearers at the outset not to vote for any candidate because of personal likes and dislikes, but for those candidates representing the principles for which the voter stands—for those candidates representing true principles of genuine democracy. Dr. Dreher declared that the people of this county and state will never be able to release themselves from the clutches of the present high taxes until the voters took the matter in hand and cut out the wily politician who, each campaign year, made all kinds of promises, which never is nor never can be filled. Dr. Dreher then went into an able and clear discussion of high taxes. Columbia borrowed money at 4 per cent interest, he said, while the great state of South Carolina paid 4 3-4 per cent. The taxpayers have to come up with \$222,000 interest each year on the bonded indebtedness of the State, and it is time to call a halt. The wealth of South Carolina had increased less than 50 per cent, and the population of the state 10 per cent during the past 10 years, while the expenditures have increased 100 per cent. How can we survive with such reckless extravagance? asked the speaker. Dr. Dreher came out flatfooted and unqualifiedly in favor of education. Especially did he favor liberal provisions for the rural schools. The speaker advanced the progressive idea of compulsory attendance of all white children between the ages of 7 and 12 years, inclusive, which he said would lay the foundation for future development of the compulsory system. He favored biennial sessions of the general assembly as a means of reducing taxation. Dr. Dreher said that he was opposed to appropriating a \$50,000 law enforcement fund to the governor. He himself was a law abiding citizen, and be-

## W. E. LORICK LEFT OUT OF RACE FOR MAGISTRATE

Mr. Editor: Please allow me space in your valuable paper to explain to my friends why I am not a candidate for Magistrate of the Irmo District. In view of the fact that the time for filing pledges and paying assessments had been set for August 13th and afterwards changed by the Executive Committee to August 2nd, I failed to file my pledge and my assessment on time. The only notice I ever had of this changing of the time was when I saw it in the Lexington Dispatch-News which I received on the afternoon of August 2nd. I am sorry it has turned out this way and I realize there is nothing that can be done to remedy the matter; therefore I accept the status of affairs as it is without a kick and publish this article only that my friends might understand why I did not qualify.

Wallace E. Lorick  
IRMO.

## THE GAS THE GERMANS USE.

Mustard Gas—which is used chiefly in gas shells, is an organic compound containing chlorine and sulphur. The gas is very heavy and lingers for a long time causing severe burns. It may be used in shells of all calibers up to eight inch, which are fired either from trench mortars or long range artillery pieces.

## ENTERTAIN AT PINEVIEW.

The Ladies Improvement League of Pineview school will give a pound party at the school house Thursday night August 15th Refreshments will be served. Everybody is invited to attend.

Heved that the great majority of South Carolinians were also lawabiding. He said that the State is spending \$250,000 pr year more on eight institutions than had ever been spent before; and if elected he would vote to cut the appropriations for these institutions to the appropriations of 1917. The colleges should learn to economize, said Dr. Dreher, just as the people of the State are learning to economize. Dr. Dreher said that it was with sadness that he referred to the war, and he deplored the fact. However, this is a day of action and we must fight with all our might until the war is won for democracy. Hon. W. J. Bryan the great "Commoner," opposed this country's entering the war. Hon. Claude Kitchin, congressman from North Carolina and Democratic leader of the house, voted against war and is now running for re-election without opposition. Henry Ford, he said, went to Europe on a peace mission, accompanied by an ostentations men-icant from South Carolina now posing as a great patriot, who stated when he returned, that this war was one of commercial greed. Now he is posing as a great patriot. The man who says he wants to represent you because he wants war is a fake, eloquently declared the speaker. The war has made many millionaires said he, and there are a few in Lexington county who are now posing as patriots for selfish greed only. In conclusion, Dr. Dreher promised if elected to reduce taxes as far as possible. It matters not who the governor may be, he declared that he would vote according to the dictates of his own conscience.

Hon. T. H. Shull, candidate for reelection, came next. Two years ago he entered the race a farmer boy with no set speech. During his two years in the house he had attended every roll call, except possibly one or two. He had stood for economy and stands for economy now. He had earned all that he has through the practice of economy, therefore he was always looking out for taxes. One man can accomplish but little, he said, but he had done what he could. The senate is composed of two thirds lawyers, and every bill had to be acted upon by that body. He had voted against the tax commission, but the senate refused to ratify it. The legislature was falsely accused of raising taxes; the tax commission sent out orders to the various county auditors, and they had to act. Mr. Shull said that he had heard a report to the effect that the Lexington delegation had exhorated E. L. Wingard, treasurer, from all liability. He denounced the report as false. No such thing was ever mentioned, he said. Favors biennial sessions of the general assembly, but this cannot be accomplished.

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