

BELTON PAGE

Devoted to the Upbuilding of Belton and Vicinity, and as a Medium for Communicating News and Advertising.

MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE

Bleas Comments on Soldiers Home and Asks for Adequate Pensions-- A Message on Negro Schools

State of South Carolina, Executive Chamber. Message No. 12.

Gentlemen of the General Assembly: I tried to make three messages cover everything I had to say to you during this session. Other matters have come before me, however, which I have had to transmit to you, which probably could not be considered messages, but only letters of transmittal. Matters have taken place which were not expected, and I have had to burden you with more messages than I had intended. Now comes this one, at the request and as the result of a conference with a committee appointed by the Confederate veterans of this State.

I want to put myself on record, so there can be no mistake. First, and above all, let me say I think that the State of South Carolina should see that no Confederate Veteran suffers for the necessities of life. They most assuredly should not be treated as paupers. If you want to treat them as paupers, let them go to the homes for the poor, and let them be treated as paupers, which would be a disgrace upon every citizen of South Carolina. But I want to call your attention to the fact that there are on your pension rolls the names of men who are getting money who are not entitled to it, and there are names which are not on these rolls which should be there. Now, understand me distinctly; I am in favor of giving every man who fought in the Confederate Army a sufficient amount of money to buy the necessities of life--that is, plenty of good food, plenty of good clothes to keep his body warm and comfortable, and to buy medicines, etc., when necessary. The State of South Carolina should do this, if it takes an extra tax to do it, rather than to see one of these old men suffer for the necessities of life.

I think this makes my record clear, so that it cannot be misconstrued. I am fully satisfied that the establishment of a Home for the old soldiers was a matter of sentiment more than of good business judgment, and that the General Assembly at that time probably took this action more as a compliment to one of its members and as a matter of sentiment, than for the real good they thought it would do the Confederate Veterans. I think the Confederate Home has been managed as well as it could have been managed, and, in view of the dirty fight that has been made against its management by some people merely for political prejudice and spite, I think that the institution has been ably managed, and the inmates well cared for and particularly well protected. There is in charge of it Maj. H. W. Richardson, who has held positions of honor and trust in his State, who was himself a gallant Confederate soldier, and who, as everybody who knows him well knows, is honest in his private dealings, as he is in his public dealings. On the board with him is Col. D. Augustus Dickert, an honest man and one of the most gallant and daring Confederate soldiers that the South produced. Then there is Hon. James T. Crowe, a worthy son of "the noblest Roman of them all," Thomas Bissell Crowe, one of God's noblemen; Hon. I. McD. Hood, for many years auditor of Chester county; the Hon. H. C. Pauling, who has represented his county in the General Assembly; and its chairman, the Hon. James G. Long, who served the county of Union for many terms as its sheriff. Therefore, it will readily be seen that this institution is in the hands of good, clean, honest men, and they have done and are doing everything within their power to give to the old soldiers there all the conveniences and necessities that the appropriation made will provide for. However, I think there are men in that home who should not be there. I do not think any man should be allowed there who draws a pension from his home county, or, at least, when he is admitted there the pension from his home county should cease and go to some one who is not in the home. I do not think anyone should be admitted to the home who has property enough at home to give him support. I do not think any one should be admitted to the home who enters on a trade or business which will give him sufficient means to support himself without the aid of the home. In other words, gentlemen, I think only those should be admitted to the home who have no home elsewhere and have no other support, and who are entirely dependent for a living. Those men should be put in the home and the home should be given money enough to take good first-class care of them, and the rules of the home should be strengthened by Act of the Legislature so that those who are there can be kept, not in prison, not under guard, but un-

der sufficient restraint to give order and discipline there. I do not think it is much credit to the home or the inmates for some of them to come on the streets of Columbia drunk and having to be carried--or are carried--to police headquarters, and the management of the home notified that they are there and are asked please to send for them. Yet when anything of this kind happens, or any serious breach of discipline takes place at the home and the management attempts to correct it, they are dragged into the court by some one for political spite, or in order to try to injure some one politically, and made go through proceedings which cost lawyers' fees and other expenses which come out of the appropriation made for the home, thus depriving the old soldiers, the inmates, of that much of their money.

Now, another thing I think there are too many people between the old soldier and his appropriation; that is, I do not think any County Board ought to receive any pay, or that any county or State official ought to receive any pay for the services that they render in distributing the fund for these Veterans. It ought to be a labor of love, and every man engaged in it ought to see that every dollar that is appropriated by your body should go direct to the old soldier, and have no middle or stopping point until it reaches the hands of the old soldier. The Commandant and his wife should be sufficient to manage it and take care of it, unless possibly it is necessary for them to have one or two assistants. I do not think too many should be employed at the Soldiers' Home who are to receive salaries, thereby eating up the appropriation before it reaches the Veterans for whom it is intended.

Now, I am not saying these things, gentlemen, by way of criticism of anybody, and this message is not intended to criticize anybody, but only to call your attention to these matters, as I have been requested to do by the committee, and as I called these matters to their attention. Take, for instance, the number of inmates in this home, and then take the amount appropriated by your body, and divide this amount by the number of inmates, and see what the pro rata share per man would be if he were at his own home; then take your pension law and see what the pro rata share in which the veteran at home is now getting, and, in my opinion, you will see an inequality the man at home who is struggling and trying to make a living by work is entitled to as much as the man who absolutely gives up and is willing to go to the Home, sit down in idleness and do absolutely nothing, and let the State support him. I think I have made myself clear. I do not propose to go on and read a great eulogy to the Confederate Veteran. That is unnecessary. He built his own monument by his deeds and it is a monument more glorious than all the brass and granite which can be erected from now until Gabriel blows his horn and when they shall take up the sound and call the soldiers to meet once again.

One more thing, gentlemen, and I am through. As you know, I speak plainly. I do not think any woman ought to have a pension on the ground that she is a widow of a Confederate Veteran, who has married that Confederate Veteran for the purpose of sharing in his little pension and of having her name placed on the pension rolls after he is gone. The good woman who was his wife during the war, and suffered the hardships and trials, and who displayed the greatest heroism that the world has ever known, deserves everything at your hands that her husband deserves. But the young woman who married the old man after he had come back from the war, or the young woman who has since married some old soldier to get his property, and has helped him, as I have just stated, merely to help share his pension and get her name put on the pension roll when he is dead, is not entitled to a cent, and should not have it, but the amount which she is drawing should be taken from her and given to the Confederate soldier or his widow who needs it.

Of course I do not know what effect this message will have. Some of you may pay absolutely no attention to it. But it sets forth my position and carries out a request made of me by those gentlemen who came here as a committee sent by the Confederate Veterans' Association, under a resolution adopted at their Aiken meeting. I repeat: Make a sufficient appropriation to give every Confederate Veteran a pension sufficient to take care of him, to make him comfortable, and to make his last days on earth pleasant; but strike off of your salary lists those whom you can do without, and let the money go direct from the State Treasurer into the hands of the deserving Confederate Veteran. If it is necessary to put an extra tax on to do this, I do not believe there is a man in South Carolina who will complain. But if you put on this extra tax and continue to give it to un-

worthy people, and deprive those who are entitled to it of it, you will continue to have dissatisfaction and complaint.

Whatever effect this message may have, I have done what I conceived to be my duty to the Confederate Veterans, and to obey the request of their committee. If there is anything else that I can do for the Confederate Veteran, as the son of a Confederate Veteran myself I stand ready in my individual or official capacity to answer any call that he make upon me.

Very respectfully, (Signed) COLE L. BLEASE, Governor. Columbia, S. C., Jan. 2, 1914.

State of South Carolina, Executive Chamber.

Message No. 13. Gentlemen of the General Assembly: I have, in my annual messages, called attention to the fact of white people teaching negro schools.

I have in my possession some little matters which I think should be called to your attention along this line, and I herewith send you copies of same:

"Port Royal Agricultural School (Incorporated November 7, 1902), For the Training of Negro Youth. J. S. Shanklin, Principal, Beaufort, S. C.

Beaufort, S. C., 1913. "Board of Trustees.--W. H. McLeod, President, Seabrook, S. C., Thomas Lee, Vice-President, Frogmore, S. C., N. Christensen, Treasurer, Beaufort, S. C., Mrs. A. H. Christensen, Secretary, Beaufort, S. C.

"References.--Rev. Charles G. Ames, Boston, Mass., C. I. Travelli 246 Sumner St., Boston, Mass., Prof. Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee, Ala., Dr. Wallace Buttrick, 54 Williams St., N. Y. City."

I understand that this man, J. S. Shanklin, the principal, is a negro. I am also informed that some of the trustees of this school are white people. I am further informed that the references which some of these white trustees give, as printed on this letter head, are negroes, notably Booker T. Washington. I can hardly believe this, however, that white people would, in South Carolina, give a negro as a reference, and I think that it is a matter which you should investigate, so that, if it is true, it can be known that it is not a State institution; and, if it is not true, that these white people who are being imposed upon this way, can protect themselves from further impositions.

You will also find copy of a little card which has been mailed me, which I understand was sent around among the students of this institution to be sent out to others: "Do not be ashamed of your race, rather be proud to be as the Lord made you. Be thankful for your great gift of song, for the fortunate race characteristics of cheerfulness, patience, optimism and faith, which with proper education should make the best race of farmers in the world."

I do not know whether there are any white teachers in this school or not, but think it well for you to find out. I also have another letter head, the purport of which is a copy: "St. Helena Island, South Carolina. Penn. Normal Industrial and Agricultural School."

Board of Trustees.--Hollie B. Bell, Chairman; S. G. Morton, Secretary; Alfred Collins, Treasurer; Francis R. Cope, Jr., J. H. Hollingsworth, Wood, John Thomas, Emalen, William K. Tate, Frederick A. Dertis, James R. Maxwell, Harry Wilder Foote, Miss Lucy Davis, Miss Ethel Price, Miss Rosa B. Cooby, Miss Ernie Thorp, Mrs. Paul J. Sachs."

"Advisory Board.--Arthur Curtiss James, George Foster Peabody, Isaac Sharpless, Louis G. Myers, Mrs. W. W. Goodwin, Mrs. William P. Jenks, Mrs. John A. Jenkins, Miss Harriet Ware."

"Remove post office, St. Helena Island, S. C."

I understand that some of the teachers in this school are white people. I have been unable to ascertain whether this is strictly a white school or whether it is a mixed school, but I am informed that there are white teachers in this school. I notice on the letter head the name "William K. Tate." I do not know whether this is the same man as W. K. Tate, State Superintendent of Elementary Rural Schools, of the Department of Education of the State of South Carolina, or not, but I think it is a matter which you should investigate; and, if it is a negro school, I do not think any man should be allowed to hold this position who is the trustee of such an institution. In fact, I am of the opinion that your Committee on Education should investigate this Port Royal school and find out if whites and negroes are mixed up in it, and that you should also investigate the St. Helena Island school and see if whites and negroes are mixed up in it, and see from whence these institutions are receiving their support, and if they are teaching social equality, such as is printed upon this little card, copy of which I have cited, and that you also see if there are white men on these boards of trustees and what part they are taking in this teaching of social equality.

I have tried to ascertain this information and have received some, but it is not as definite as I would like to have before I make any special allegations. I make it a rule in private life and in public life--never to make any charge unless I have the proof right with me to substantiate it. I do not believe in making a charge, and when somebody denies it, say I will have the proof for-

row; but, when you make the charge have the proof right then and there, and never make any charge unless you have got the proof. Therefore, I make no charge against these schools or against anyone connected with them, but I want to know if there are white people running these institutions who are giving negroes as references, and if those white people have white people teaching in these schools, and if they are teaching negro children, and if they are teaching them social equality; and, the only way that I know to bring it to the attention of the people of the State is by your committees making a proper investigation, and if they find the state of facts contrary to the laws of established custom of this State, that you immediately pass some law prohibiting this manner and form of education in our State.

I have already called your attention to the evils of white people teaching in negro schools, or negro children. I can now show you a photograph of a school in your State where white men and white women are teaching along side by side with negroes and negroes. How long the legislature of this State proposes to submit to that kind of a thing I do not know. If I had my way as governor, I would give it twenty-four hours to end, and if it did not end, it would not take me very long to get backers enough to end it. So, gentlemen, it is in your hands; the people of your State have their eyes on you; are we yet to have negro men marrying white women, and white men marrying negro women; or, are we now, right now, to put up the red flag and let these people know that they must stop? I have heard of white men being captains of negro companies in the Civil War, and have heard some of our Confederate veterans say that they fought such a company at the battle of Honey Hill. Do any of you, or your children, want to be participants in the same kind of line-up in years to come? If not, do your part now, and let's win the victory today.

Very respectfully, Governor. (Signed) COLE L. BLEASE, Columbia, S. C., Jan. 23d, 1914.

Statement of the condition of THE BANK OF WILLIAMSTON located at Williamston, S. C., at the close of business January 12, 1914.

Table with 2 columns: Resources and Liabilities. Resources include Loans and Discounts, Overdrafts, etc. Liabilities include Capital Stock Paid in, Surplus Fund, etc.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, County of Anderson, ss.

Before me came Chris Suber, cashier of the above named bank, who being duly sworn, says that he foregoing statement is a true condition of said bank, as shown by the books of said bank.

CHRIS SUBER, Sworn to and subscribed to before me this 22nd day of January, 1914. R. W. COLYER, Notary Public.

Correct Attest: H. V. G. Conley, B. F. Brown, Jas. P. Cozzett, Directors.

Found--Bunch of keys, owner can get same by calling at this office, identifying same and paying for this ad.

SMITH-LEVER BILL. Senator Cummins Feels Bill May Seem Discriminatory

Washington, Jan. 24.--Alleging that the Smith-Lever agricultural extension bill discriminated against the north and west in favor of the south, Senator Cummins announced that he intended to introduce amendments to the bill to distribute of \$3,000,000 government funds.

Senator Cummins has proposed amendments which show, he asserts, that under the bill twelve Southern States will receive \$3,000,000 worth of State products, while the rest of the north and west in favor of the south, Senator Cummins announced that he intended to introduce amendments to the bill to distribute of \$3,000,000 government funds.

Wedding Bells? LET US SUPPLY THE INVITATIONS.

THEIR WOODEN WEDDING. Mr. and Mrs. Hester Celebrate Fifth Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Hester, happily entertained many friends at the celebration of their fifth wedding anniversary last Wednesday afternoon and evening the 21st. Mrs. R. S. B. Martin and Mrs. J. V. Tate received the guests and arranged the many beautiful and appropriate presents sent to the wooden wedding, after which they were served to delicious punch by Misses Emily May Hester, and Claire Stalworth of Greenwood. Mrs. W. J. Tucker registered the names of all the guests as they passed into the dining room.

Miss Alice McAllister, Mrs. James Hester, Mrs. Obelia Hester, and Mrs. M. C. Taggart served daintily a two course dinner. The room was beautifully decorated with large ferns, narcissus, violets and Southern snailx. The table was one of exquisite beauty and delight to those present. Among the decorations more noticeable were the large ferns at either end of the dining room and the sweet violets strung over the table in a fairly manner. The ancient candle stick gave a soft and pleasing glow making altogether a charming picture.

While at the table enjoying the good things of the feast, little Miss Helen Martin and little Berzie Hester pinned little souvenirs on each guest. The souvenirs were little hats, chits tied with a little bow of white ribbon. At intervals the band furnished music for the occasion which was much enjoyed. The bride and groom, Mr. and Mrs. Hester led the following guests to the dining room: Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Tucker, Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Reed, Mr. and Mrs. James Hester, Mrs. Gilbert of Wilmington, Mrs. and Mrs. S. C. Riley, Mrs. Pinney of Greenwood, Mrs. Leavell, Greenwood, Dr. and Mrs. P. K. Black Roy and Mrs. S. M. Jones, Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Hicks, Mr. Taggart and Miss Hattie McChase of Greenwood, Mr. Ellenburg and Miss Pinson of Greenwood, Mrs. and Mrs. M. E. Gambrell, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Koon, Mr. Lawrence Hester, Miss Annie Hawthorne, Mrs. W. J. Manning, Mrs. E. M. Lander, Mrs. Marrah, of Mr. Carmel, Mrs. Milling, Miss Wilkinson, Miss Beaudrot, Mr. and Mrs. Snead, and Mrs. Taggart all of Greenwood, Miss Maud Hester, Mrs. Parker, Miss Pt Hawthorn Mrs. J. V. Tate, Mrs. Ellenburg of Greenwood, Helton Martin, Callie May Hester, Miss Emily Hester, Miss Claire Stalworth, Miss Ethel Jones, Mr. and Mrs. McAllister, Mr. Paul Cox, Miss Sallie Gossett, Cleo Tucker, Miss Vera Martin, Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Tucker, Mr. Durb, Ollie, Ira, Alvan and Evelyn Tucker, Mr. Wilton Burford and Miss Doughty Cady, Mr. Henry Manning, and Miss Florence Black, Miss Nettie Tucker and Mr. Parks Edwards, Mrs. M. C. Mason, Mr. H. F. Hester, Miss Mamie Tucker, Miss Reba Jones, Mr. Leo Tucker, Mr. Watson of Mt. Carmel, Mr. E. N. Tucker, Miss Susan Dubose, Miss Eula McMahon, Mrs. James Hester, Mrs. M. C. Taggart, Miss Alice McAllister, Mrs. Obelia Hester, Mrs. R. S. Martin.

The occasion was much enjoyed by all present and many good wishes were expressed for the happy and entertaining bride and groom. May they

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will be employed and our efforts will be to merit the patronage of those needing commercial stationery.

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live to celebrate many more happy anniversaries and continue to enjoy the blessings of a peaceful life. "That's true, he takes some of mine before I even get a chance to look at the picture."--Birmingham Herald.

Thirty acre Field of Cotton on farm of W. H. Tollison, Pleasant, S. C., raised by UNION GUANO COMPANY'S Fertilizers. Mr. Tollison is one of the thousand of satisfied customers using these Fertilizers. A better Fertilizer will produce a better crop. "UNION BRANDS" have demonstrated to many of the best planters in your own county their superior "crop producing" qualities. Ask the man who uses them. For Sale by: Huggins & Ragsdale, Pelzer, Bennett Mercantile Co., Enley, Victor Mercantile Co., Williamston, Empire Mercantile Co., Williamston, P. F. Cox, Greenville, and many other dealers in Anderson, Greenville and Pickens counties. For further information write our representative C. Anderson, Zc. R. E. Burris or address UNION GUANO COMPANY, Winston-Salem, N. C.

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