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GOV. HEYWARD'S INAUGURAL.

Delivered Wednesday at the Capital of the State.

A PLAIN PRACTICAL ADDRESS.

THE GOVERNOR TREATS OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE NEGRO—AGRICULTURAL AND MANUFACTURING PROGRESS—THE STATE'S RESOURCES—AN IMMIGRATION BUREAU—DRAINAGE OF SWAMP LANDS—PROTECTION OF FORESTS—PUBLIC EDUCATION—REGULATION OF TRUSTS—NECESSITY OF WISE CHILD LABOR LAW—ENFORCEMENT OF DISPENSARY LAW—CONFEDERATE PENSIONS—GOOD ROADS—PURE FOOD—BIENNIAL SESSIONS—THE STATE'S FINANCES.

Members of the General Assembly and my fellow citizens:

Under our form of government, the voice of the people is supreme, and we have met together today to carry out the wishes of the people of this State, as expressed at the recent election.

In the providence of God, it has fallen to my lot to be called from the quiet walls of life to assume in this manner and in this presence the high and honorable office of Governor of South Carolina. In doing so I am almost overwhelmed by a sense of great responsibilities which I have now assumed; but even beyond this is my sense of gratitude for the great honor done me by the people of my State. I am mindful of the fact that the truly great gifts of life ever involve the most solemn responsibilities, and when they come as the expression of the manhood of a commonwealth, involving the selection of a Chief Magistrate of the people whose heritage is as proud as that of any people upon this earth—whose history is a glorious record of patriotism, virtue and achievement—well, indeed, may he upon whom this honor falls stand silent in contemplation of the sacred responsibilities which his people have placed upon him. The honor you have bestowed upon me is such as would fill the heart of any man with deepest gratitude—a gratitude that should call forth the most sacred loyalty of a South Carolinian to South Carolinians.

To meet these responsibilities, to execute the various and onerous duties of my office—to give my time, my thoughts and my every endeavor to the service of my State—I feel would indeed be a poor recompense to my people for the trust and confidence they have placed in me. I beg, my friends and my countrymen, that you will allow my feelings on this occasion to speak to you of a heart filled with love for South Carolina and for South Carolinians—let them speak to you, for me, of a devotion to the welfare of our State, which, with your continued trust and help, will endure all things to achieve this end; let them speak to you of a determination to know no higher ambition than to labor for the best interests of all the people of South Carolina.

I need not assure you that no greater pride is mine than lies in the fact that I was elected to this office by South Carolina Democrats from every county and from almost every precinct of our State. Our fellow-Democrats of South Carolina came together as brethren, and this can have but one meaning—a deep and holy meaning—which cannot possibly augur other than the best, truest and highest things of our dear old State. I ask you all, each and every one of you, to stand by me in the administration of the high duties of this office even as you have manifested this spirit by your votes. I need your holy and your confidence now more than ever before, and I pray you all to let our common labors of love and devotion as brethren bury forever factionalism in South Carolina.

Political condition in our State are such that we can look to the future with every degree of confidence and encouragement. Racial problems, which have sorely beset and hindered us in the past, have during the last decade reached such solutions as will go far towards advancing the interests of both races. Our white citizens are—as they should be—in undisputed possession of every department of our State, county and municipal government.

While this naturally gives us great cause for rejoicing, it should at the same time make us deeply sensible of the fact that it is incumbent upon us to enact and to so administer laws when enacted, that the humblest citizens—be they white or black—can look to those laws for the protection of life, liberty and property. It is only by acting in this spirit, and under the Divine guidance of Him who holds us all, State and nation, in the hollow of His hand, that the great problem which confronts the people of the South, and especially the people of South Carolina, can be rightly and finally solved.

Gradually the colored man is awakening to the fact that the white man of the South whose land he tills, and from whom in various ways he derives his entire livelihood, is at last his best and truest friend; and instead of seeking to attain political office he is now devoting himself to those occupations for which by nature he is most fitted, and in the pursuit of which alone he can advance his own material interests, and in so doing the best interests of his State.

In connection with this political condition it is fully as significant and quite as gratifying to add that our industrial conditions were never so satisfactory as they are today. In agriculture, and especially in manufactures, South Carolina has taken such strides that the attention of the outside world is upon us. While we can congratulate ourselves upon this—however, remembering that there is still so much to be done—we cannot afford to rest here. South Carolina, though one of the original thirteen States, has fully one-half of its great resources yet undeveloped.

No one doubts the truth of the statement that the general prosperity of a State is dependent primarily upon its farming interests, which establishes the fact that a government should, in every way possible, foster and protect this greatest of all industries. The steady, persistent work of the farmer is not blazoned forth to the world in meaningless flattery, but the results of this faithful labor most forcibly give its own speech to the universe. The total value of the cotton crop alone tells of the mighty business interest—one of the greatest in the world. The tobacco crop of South Carolina, financially considered, means how many millions of pounds and some millions of dollars. The great aggregate value of some of our field crops shows the mighty strength and influence for which it stands, not only in dollars and cents, but in the greater necessities of human life and existence, which are supplied from this source, and from this source alone. And, my countrymen, greatest of all, here is the home—the countless homes—thousands and thousands of which are scattered over our fertile fields. These home-builders and home sustainers, such in his own quiet way, are sending forth to the world influences that are to be seed for the sower and bread for the eater for ages to come, even as they have been through past years of faithful toil. I am glad to notice that scientific aid to the farmer now commands the attention of our National Government. We of South Carolina should do this just as far as may be practicable. Clemson College stands now fully equipped and flourishing, as the nucleus for even broader and more diversified work, and thus for greater results.

Our industrial development, too, shows tremendous and striking advance when we briefly consider the figures shown in our manufacturing

institutions. The establishment of a million dollar cotton mill, upon safe and sure lines, is no longer an uncommon occurrence in South Carolina. After the war we were desolated—no one thought of manufactories. Some years later we made a feeble beginning. Without going into detail now, for this is unnecessary, it needs only to be stated that South Carolina—always in the forefront—has here made a most wonderful record. She now stands second highest in these United States in the value of her cotton mill industry, with a ratio of increase second to none. To the men who have made this magnificent record we owe much. This is due to the presidents and officers whose ability and whose money have made this achievement, and also to the operatives whose time and whose skill have accomplished what these alone could do. The great captains of this industry have permanently and upon the finest basis established their reputations, and in so doing the reputation of their State also, in this modern and progressive work.

In a brief survey of general conditions—for it is not expedient to attempt more now—again is there reason for congratulation. Nature's gifts to us have been of bounteous bestowal in every respect. Almost every crop can be grown here because of our fertile fields and superb climate. In quantity and variety of valuable timber we have no superior, but our fast disappearing forests should, not only because of their increasing intrinsic worth, but for the all important reasons which are included in their acting as agents in modifying the surface of the earth, and in checking the destructive forces of nature, at once receive the utmost care and consideration of our lawmakers, and steps should be taken looking to their preservation. For stock raising, again, our lands and climate leave nothing to be desired, and this industry well deserves our most careful attention. We have wealth in minerals, from the granite foundations of our hills and the phosphatic deposits of our lower rivers, to the richest and best producing gold mines east of the Rocky Mountains. The abundant water power of South Carolina, diverted from quenching the thirst of wild and domestic animals, is now turning thousands of factory wheels and spindles, with the power for thousands of more. Surely these are good reasons why prospective home-seekers should desire authentic and detailed information concerning this favored land. In this direct connection, would it not be well to look into the advisability of having an Immigration Commission or Bureau, to give official and accurate information to those seeking such knowledge? I know of no better way of advertising these great advantages than through expositions. The World's Fair, to be held next year at St. Louis, will afford an excellent occasion for the display of the resources of our State, and I trust that the General Assembly will carefully look into the merits of this opportunity, and see to it that South Carolina is properly represented. The cost involved will be comparatively small—the benefits to be derived cannot be estimated.

Referring again to political conditions, it might be said that the campaign of last summer was remarkable in that it was almost devoid of issues, those seeking the suffrages of their fellow citizens confining themselves to an endorsement of questions looking to the enlightenment of the people, the material upbuilding of our State and the development of its resources. The campaign certainly developed the fact, I am glad to say, that upon all fundamental principles our people are agreed. In view of this, and also of the fact that the State, as I have already said, is advancing in every way, its people living in contentment, the farmers having harvested satisfactory crops, our business interests being on a sound basis, new enterprises being undertaken each year, giving employment to labor, and adding to our general prosperity, I deem it best for us not

to attempt the consideration of any new measures which might be calculated to disturb existing conditions. Rather should we discuss and give our attention to matters, the proper solution of which must inevitably add to our general welfare.

Prominent in scope and meaning for any people, and especially for the whites of South Carolina, should be the great subject of education. On such an occasion as this only the most important points can be touched upon—important details having of necessity to be omitted. A commonwealth can have no greater source of pride, no greater glory and no surer guarantee of the stability of its institutions, than is afforded by an educated and enlightened citizenship. The education of a people should be measured by its breadth—its diffusion among the masses. It should not be confined to certain classes, but universal in its benefits, it should be common to all. The education of the children of South Carolina—of each and every child in South Carolina—their being taught in a systematic manner, with school terms long enough to be beneficial, within neat and comfortable school houses, deriving instruction from competent and God-fearing teachers—this should be a subject near to the hearts of those in whose hands are placed the control and regulation of our government.

Here a serious problem confronts the white people of our State. According to the reports of the Superintendent of Education for several years past, it is shown that more negro children than whites are attending our public schools. Do our white people realize what this means for the future? Do they realize that if they allow their children to grow up in ignorance, the Constitution of their State—a Constitution of their own making and adoption—will, later on, deny the ballot to their sons? Such a catastrophe is against all of our traditions, and it can and must be prevented by an awakening among our people to the exigencies of the situation, and a firm determination on their part to remedy it. If necessary, any sacrifice should be made on the part of parents in order that their children might take advantage of the educational facilities afforded them by the State.

The Constitution of our State, recognizing the fact that our entire educational system is founded upon the common schools, has undertaken to "provide a liberal system of free public schools for all children between the ages of six and twenty-one." There is no more important consideration before the people of South Carolina than is contained in this clause of the Constitution. It has a meaning all its own—a meaning for which there can be no substitute, and it commands and should receive the hearty and undivided sanction of us all. Let there be the best common schools we can afford in every community and district, with well built school houses, longer school terms, competent and better paid teachers, and in the work thus done, our State will reap a rich reward.

The framers of our organic law, realizing that wealthy and populous communities could provide schools for themselves, while poorer and more thinly settled districts were not so fortunate, have made it the duty of the General Assembly to supplement the school funds of the latter, in order that all the children of the State may have an equal opportunity to acquire somewhat more than the rudiments of an education.

For years the State has fostered its higher institutions of learning, and my influence shall always be exerted to see that this is continued. The increased care and attention given to our common school system, in years to come, will prove of incalculable value to all of our higher institutions of learning. In Winthrop, Clemson, South Carolina College and the Citadel Academy—a royal galaxy—South Carolina has much cause for pride, for these institutions in their equipment and management are well worthy to be looked upon with pride by the peo-

ple of any State. Our comprehensive system of education is, also, I am glad to say, admirably assisted and made more complete by the faithful work annually accomplished in the various denominational colleges of our State.

While it is true that one of the greatest difficulties we have had to contend with in the development of the State has been our lack of capital, and while we should by legislation and other means encourage outside capital to come into the State, and assist in building up our industries and developing our resources, and in coming should make it feel assured that it will receive every protection that it can rightfully claim, still capital should be made to understand that it is welcome only when it comes for the purpose of earning its legitimate interest in a fair and legitimate manner. We should have it understood that it cannot seek through great combinations and by over capitalization to create monopolies by means of which it can stifle competition, paralyze individual effort, reduce wages, and control prices to the detriment of the public.

It is true that great industrial combinations and powerful corporations are the order of the day, and have become fixtures in the business life of the country, capable of wielding an immense power for good or for evil. Through skilled management, and possessing the ability to open up wider markets for the sale of their products, they are capable of doing much good; nevertheless, the fact remains that, as usually conducted, their tendency is decidedly harmful to the best interests of the country, and their proper regulation and control through legislation is one of the greatest problems which today confronts our lawmakers both State and Federal.

A large majority of the State has enacted laws defining monopolies and seeking to prevent their formation, and Congress has likewise passed anti-trust legislation, yet the subject is so complex and information upon which to base action so difficult to obtain—none of the laws providing sufficiently for the securing of information—that the tendency towards centralization of wealth, and combinations in trade dangerous to the public, are becoming more and more marked each year.

In this State we have a constitutional article giving to the General Assembly the power to enact laws to prevent trusts, combinations, etc., and to provide penalties "to the extent, if necessary for that purpose, of forfeiture of their franchises," and in 1897 an Act was passed carrying out the provisions of this article. This Act being deemed defective and not far-reaching enough by the Attorney General, at the last session of the General Assembly another Act was passed, amendatory in its nature, and going nearer to the root of the trouble. Power was also given to the Attorney General to secure testimony in relation to the violation of these Acts, and it is to be hoped that this legislation will be found sufficient to protect the interests of the people from oppression by combined capital. If not, it is the duty of the General Assembly to amend our laws upon this subject from time to time as the necessities of the case may demand, with a view always to give to capital all its legal privileges, and to restrict in no way innocent associations among our citizens, and yet to see that corporations, to which it has given life, and clothed with great powers, use those powers for the betterment and not to the detriment of the masses of the people, to protect whom is the first duty of all governments.

There has been considerable discussion throughout the State during the past few years in regard to the employment of children in our textile manufactories, and upon several occasions Bills forbidding their employment have been introduced in the General Assembly, but have failed of passage. This is one of those questions which will not be settled until it is rightly settled, and the civilization of today regards such

employment of children, no matter how favorable the conditions may be, as an evil, and one which is a menace to the future of our State. In my judgment, the General Assembly should pass a law prohibiting their employment, but in doing so time should be given for both manufacturers and operatives to adjust themselves to changed conditions. This can be done by making prohibition to take effect gradually with respect to the ages of the children.

It is certain in this question that what appears to be conflicting interests, are here involved. Under these circumstances the rights of all parties concerned should be most carefully considered, and a just and equitable adjustment—after full and generous discussion—will reveal that, to a great extent, these apparently diverse interests have much in common. Any radical or sudden change would inevitably work hardship upon the interests of all concerned, which can and should be avoided. The end to be obtained is the good of all concerned, and this should be borne in mind as the consideration which should receive our most careful attention. I am unwilling, however, to see any child in our State deprived even for a time of educational advantages, and this fact, it seems to me, deserves to be carefully borne in mind in legislating upon this question. For older children, not to be affected by any proposed law, a night school should be arranged, if possible. Advantages hitherto denied them would thus be given to a certain extent, at least, and opportunities would be placed within the reach of those who are in earnest in their desire to receive an education.

As governor of South Carolina, it is my solemn duty to see that all of the laws of our State are always and everywhere enforced. For many reasons it is best to emphasize this where the Dispensary Law is concerned. This law is now upon our Statute Books, and has the endorsement of a majority of our people, and it is the duty of all law-abiding citizens to give that same obedience to this law which they give to all others. In the discharge of the duties which may here devolve upon me, I shall recognize the obligations which are mine, and shall expect and depend upon the public spirit of all law-abiding people to sustain me, and I feel sure that they will do so.

In the past few years, I am glad to say, much of the friction formerly attaching to this law has disappeared. I am aware of the fact, however, that in certain localities it may be very hard to sustain illegal traffic in liquor, and to prevent the violation of this law; nevertheless, I shall seek to uphold the law, and to carry out its provisions without favor to any locality in any part of our State. The details of the Dispensary Law are familiar to all of our citizens, but perhaps its necessary difficulties are not generally understood nor properly appreciated. The local authorities have a large share of the responsibilities involved, and with their co-operation I shall hope for such administration of this law as shall command the respect of all patriotic citizens.

It is exceedingly gratifying to know that our General Assembly has, with proper appreciation, shown that we owe a great and lasting debt of gratitude to the Confederate soldier. Most of these surviving heroes, I rejoice to say, have no need for aid. There are others, however, who because of wounds received in battle, defending their country, and on account of age and failing strength, need from us now loving returns for the services they gave us in the days of their peerless and strong young manhood. These heroes of our own Southland—men, as you monument says:

"Whom power could not corrupt,
Whom death could not terrify,
Whom defeat could not dishonor"—
these men gave to the world examples of patriotism which will live forever. And in our hearts—we for whom they struggled—their memories and the glorious heritage they bequeathed to us, will be more deeply cherished year by year, because of

their valor and their patriotism. Let South Carolina, their own State, see to it always, that tenderly and with truest affection, these gray knights of the Southern Confederacy are given some return, at least, for the service they gave to their State.

It has been said that there are three things which make a State great—"fertile lands, busy workshops and easy lines of transportation." The Almighty has blessed us in South Carolina with a fertile soil. We have been giving ourselves each year, as I have already shown, busy workshops, and it now remains for us to pay more attention to those lines of transportation which are as indispensable to the comfort and convenience of every class of our people as they are to our industrial and commercial life.

Good Road Conventions at various times have recently been held in our State, and there seem to have been an awakening of interest among our people upon this subject, as is evidenced by the fact that some of our counties are actively at work improving the condition of their highways. I feel sure that our General Assembly will give to this subject all the attention it deserves, and will, through wise legislation, enable our different counties to provide practical solution of this problem so vital to their welfare.

Another question before our people although it is often lost sight of, is the drainage of our swamp and low lands. This is an important question not only to one section of our State but to every section. In 1900, an amendment to the Constitution was submitted to the people of the State, by whom it was adopted, making it mandatory upon the General Assembly to provide by law for the condemnation, through official channels, of all lands necessary for the proper drainage of our swamp and low lands, and also for the equitable assessment of all lands so drained for the purpose of paying for such condemnation and drainage. Nothing has yet been done, and, in my judgment, this amendment should not be overlooked. Appropriations amounting to several millions of dollars have been made by the National Government for reclaiming by irrigation arid lands of the West. If it will pay to expend millions for the irrigation of deserts in the West, surely it is well worth the attention of our lawmakers, without permanent expense to the State, to take steps to drain lands as fertile as can be found anywhere, and which, in their present condition are not only valueless, but are a standing menace to the health of South Carolina. Additional importance attaches to this subject, when we remember these now useless lands comprise fully one-fifth of the area of our State.

While considering subjects of general welfare to our State, it would be well for us to give attention to the importation and sale of adulterated and impure food products. Other progressive States give the greatest attention to this important question, which we cannot afford to let pass without due consideration. It is well to see that when our people pay their money for pure food that they should have this, and not such adulterations as are deleterious to their health.

The question of Biennial Sessions has been much discussed for the past few years, and, although they have been favored by a majority of the General Assembly, as yet two thirds of the members have not consented, and hence a constitutional amendment providing for them has not been submitted to the people. In my judgment, were such an amendment submitted, it would be adopted, which I cannot but believe would be to the interest of the State. Very few of the States of the Union now have their Legislatures meet annually, and I know of no condition peculiar to South Carolina which necessitates our's doing so.

I cannot conclude without saying a word about our finances. While the bonded debt of the State is comparatively small, and its credit well maintained, as evidenced by the pro-

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