

# Edgefield Advertiser.

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NO. 25

## COUNTY CAMPAIGN.

### First Meeting Held at Republican Church, Good Speeches, Ideal Order, Sumptuous Dinner.

The first of the series of seven county campaign meetings that have been arranged by the county executive committee was held at Republican church Saturday. With one or two exceptions all of the candidates were present. Owing to the rather sparsely settled condition of the country for several miles around Edgefield, the attendance was not as large as it is upon meetings in some sections of the county. But as to the quality of the citizenship that assembles at Republican no section can surpass it.

Before the meeting was formally called to order by the chairman, Hon. B. E. Nicholson, the county chairman, read the names of the candidates who had filed their pledges, stating that if any had been inadvertently overlooked they should now speak or forever hereafter hold their peace.

#### Candidates Asked Question.

Mr. Henry Medlock, the chairman, called the meeting to order and requested the Rev. J. T. Littlejohn to invoke divine blessings upon the occasion. Before formally presenting any of the speakers, Mr. Medlock announced that he had been directed to ask the candidates for the House and Senate to state who they would support and for whom they would vote in the primary for governor. In compliance with this request the speeches showed the following line up: Mr. Mayson declared in favor of Gov. Blease, Mr. Nicholson, Mr. Courtney, Capt. Evans and Mr. DeLaughter came out unequivocally for Judge Jones. Mr. Williams and Mr. Wells declined to express their preference among the three gubernatorial candidates.

#### P. B. Mayson.

The first speaker presented by the chairman was P. B. Mayson, a candidate for the state senate. After addressing some complimentary words to the ladies, Mr. Mayson said he would not waste words by way of preliminary remarks but go directly into the discussion of the matters in which the people are interested. He stated that a copy of the Bristow amendment had been handed to him just before he went upon the stand, with the request that it be explained. While he had not the time to consider it fully, yet he said he did not mind expressing himself. As our United States senators are already elected by a direct vote of the people in the primary he does not see the need of the Bristow amendment. Furthermore, federal control of our elections may lead to trouble later.

Mr. Mayson favors four-year terms for all county offices. The holding of elections every four years instead of every two years would save much expense as well as much hard feeling among the people.

The speaker declared himself emphatically for good schools, particularly rural schools, where the majority of the children attend. Not opposed to the colleges but does not want money lavished on them to the neglect of the common schools. Mr. Mayson wants the white children to receive the benefit of the money the white people pay and the colored children to receive what the negroes pay. He says there are two negro children in school to every white child, and wants to see the funds separated.

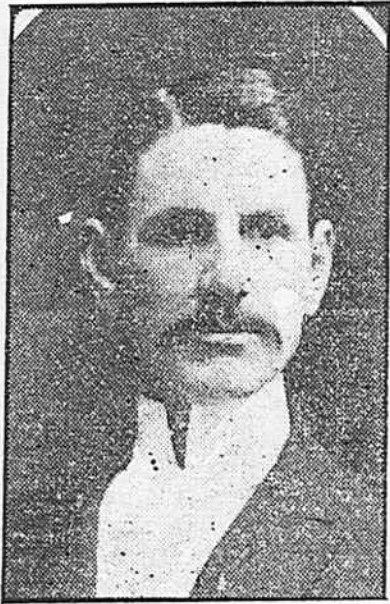
He read figures from the comptroller's report to show that our taxes and the appropriations have increased year by year. He favors first ascertaining the amount of funds that will be available and then make the various appropriations accordingly, never exceeding our revenue only in cases of emergency. He stands for economy.

Mr. Mayson said when he was in the legislature he helped to raise the pensions of the Confederate veterans and that if elected to the senate will aid in providing for their comfort and support.

As to the whiskey question, Mr. Mayson says he stands for local option, just where he stood four years ago. He believes this question should be settled by a vote of the

people. Last winter a petition was circulated for an election on the question, and while he had nothing to do with preparing the petition he stated that he signed it. Some one in the audience asked Mr. Mayson at this juncture if he knew who originated or prepared the petition and his reply was: "I do not."

Mr. Mayson here stated with reference to the question which had been propounded through the chairman: "As to the race for governor between Judge Jones and Governor Blease, I propose to put my ballot in for Blease." He further stated



B. E. Nicholson.

that he is not running their campaign and would, if elected, not be influenced by either, unless his judgment endorsed their course.

Said Mr. Mayson: "I am open and bold. I never advocate one thing and then do another. I appeal to the manhood of the voters. Do not put your foot on a man because he has the courage to declare himself."

The second speaker of the morning was B. E. Nicholson, who is also a candidate for the senate. His exordium was, in substance, as follows: "There are times in the lives of men when they are at the parting of the roads; when a decision will determine their career. Some of my best friends have said I am making a mistake by again entering politics, referring to the fact that I have already given four years of service as a member of the House and that I will never make any money out of politics. In this the 37th year of my life, after careful consideration, I have decided that the highest measure of usefulness is the highest measure of service, and that our lives are not measured in dollars, nor by the luxuries and comforts that we gather around us and enjoy in private life. In my



Jerome H. Courtney.

The first candidate for the House of Representatives to speak was Jerome H. Courtney. Among other things he said: "Two years ago I was comparatively unknown over the county, my business having in the past kept me close at home, yet the people honored me by electing me one of their representatives. If I ever receive another honor I shall always appreciate what they then conferred upon me. As a legislator my record shows for itself. I told you two years ago that if elected I did not expect to jump in and create any great excitement but that I would stick to my post and do my duty. You did not see my name in the papers many times but I gave your business the very best thought of which I was capable. I conscientiously endeavored to represent all classes.

Mr. Courtney then spoke at some length of a bill which he introduced prohibiting hawkers and peddlers from going on one's premises without permission. Although he was fought by able lawyers, the bill passed the House and was sent to the senate. He promised to secure its passage if re-elected.

True to his promise of two years ago to the people, Mr. Courtney stated that he, together with Mr. Astory of Anderson and Mr. Smith of Greenville, endeavored to have a bill passed providing for the sale of the state farms but the sentiment was too strong against them. They, however, passed a measure placing convicts on the public roads of the county in which they were convicted.

He next spoke of the effort to remodel the State House, and of the claim of a certain architect for \$13,500 for drafting plans, etc. He opposed the payment of this claim, also the claim of \$900 made by the architect for a plaster model that is now exhibited in the lobby of the State House.

with the lights before him, he did the very best that he could.

Next Mr. Nicholson referred in complimentary terms to the high plane upon which his opponent has pitched his campaign, and stated that at the close of the campaign they will be as warm personal friends as they are now.

The first real issue to be discussed by Mr. Nicholson was the state hospital for the insane. After setting forth the needs of that institution which he personally inspected a few years ago, Mr. Nicholson stated that one question to be voted upon in the November election is the issuing of \$1,000,000 in bonds by the state for the purpose of removing the hospital to the newly purchased site. He urged his hearers to study the matter so they can vote upon it intelligently.

The speaker next took up the question of taxation, which is not a subject for demagogic discussion but one which should receive honest thought and effort. He read the figured extending over a period of several years showing how steadily and rapidly the appropriations have advanced. It will be his earnest endeavor if elected to relieve as much as possible the burden of the people, not striking out this or that appropriation entirely but asking that a reduction be made all along the line.

In referring to the liquor question, Mr. Nicholson stated that he assisted in passing the Carey-Cotran bill. This is now the law and permits each county to settle the matter for itself. Being questioned here as to whether or not he signed the petition last winter for the dispensary election, Mr. Nicholson replied, "No." The speaker said in effect: "We have made good progress in the settlement of this question in this county and if the politicians will let it alone it will work out all right."

As his time had about expired, Mr. Nicholson, simply stated that he favors good roads and the continued improvement of the schools. Favors biennial sessions, having voted for it in the legislature.

Mr. Nicholson stated that Judge Jones was his preference for governor, but if elected he will represent the whole people, protecting their interests more than that of Jones or Blease. In concluding he said: "I have only love for my people, for my county and for my state, and I will always legislate for the good of my people as I see it."

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Mr. Courtney stated that Mr. Rainsford introduced and secured the passage through the senate of a bill providing for a rural police for Edgefield county. When the bill was sent to the House he aided in having that body pass it also.

As to good roads, Mr. Courtney said he has given much thought to this question and the more he studies the larger it gets. He advocates having the county change from permanent work and then engage township overseers to keep up the roads where work is needed before the change again visits that



section. Some favor issuing bonds but he stated that he is opposed to that means of providing funds. Mr. Courtney favors road improvement along the line that other progressive counties are making.

The speaker declared that he has always stood for economy in every department of government, but he does not believe in false economy.

Mr. Courtney said some few had expressed some of his votes. He said he has served the people while

Mr. Blease was governor but that he has never been influenced by him. When he thought the governor was right he voted with him and when in his judgment the governor was wrong he did not hesitate to vote against him. Said he: "I will do Judge Jones the same way, if he is elected, and I hope he will be. I expect to give him my vote."

N. G. Evans.

The next speaker, Captain N. G. Evans, also a candidate for the House, began by saying 11 years ago he visited Republican, where together with the lamented Dr. McKie and others, he helped sift matters and try to arrive at what was best for the people of the community to do in the exigency that confronted them. The Bristow amendment next en-



gaged the speaker's attention, referring to a recent visit to Washington, where he questioned Speaker Champ Clark, House Democratic leader Underwood and other prominent men concerning this much mooted matter. He stated that in South Carolina we have been electing our senators by a vote of the people since 1890, and that while we do not need such a law the states in the north and northwest do need it in order that the people and not the trusts may rule. Mr. Evans said there will absolutely no danger result from the amendment. The other sections of the country have too much respect for the South ever to attempt to enforce objectionable federal election laws down here.

Capt. Evans said that if there is

one thing he is loyal to above all others, it is his own family, and that Governor Blease has made an attack on his brother which he can not prove. Therefore, he will support and cast his ballot for Judge Jones.

He then entered on a discussion of the public roads at some length, stating that for the past ten years we have been spending \$20,000 a year on the roads of the county and have nothing to show for it. He stated that in spite of the fact that \$200,000 has been spent on the road has not 2 miles of road on which an automobile can make 20 miles an hour over. It is impossible for our people to have better roads without paying for them. Twenty convicts can not keep up 1,400 miles of public roads such as we have in this county. Capt. Evans said it will take the change-gang six months to put five miles of the Blocker road in proper condition. The need for better roads in Edgefield county is very great. Our lands would enhance in value, the schools and churches would be better attended. He spoke of the way the roads in Marion county are being improved. Bonds to the amount of \$100,000 have been issued and 107 miles of public road improved without one cent of additional taxes being paid. The annual interest of 4 per cent is taken from the general county fund. Three commissioners are serving without compensation and they have employed a competent engineer who is under bond to build scientifically a road that is guaranteed not to need repair in five years. Capt. Evans said that good roads will cost money but we are living in a progressive age and should have them. A man will pay \$10 for a suit of clothes where he paid only \$5 some years ago and that it takes a \$125 buggy where one for \$64 used to answer. Let a bond issue for good roads be submitted to the people.

In speaking of the whiskey question, Capt. Evans said that has been settled and "you can't turn a peg without a vote of the people. The legislature may enact laws but the people must decide the matter at last." The status in this county can not be changed unless a majority of the people make a change at the ballot box.

Capt. Evans will oppose any increase of taxes. While we are spending more money for the schools than for any other purpose, yet we are getting something for it. Our money is being wisely expended and we have a better educational system. He stated that the levy in the town of Edgefield is nearly 4 per cent but that he never minds heavy taxes when the returns are commensurate.

Clemson and Winthrop have a warm place in Capt. Evans' affections but he is of the opinion that there is some extravagance in the management of these institutions. Would cut his right arm off before he would see them injured but does not want to see the public funds wasted.

In concluding, Capt. Evans said in effect: "If I am sent to the legislature I will give my time and the best efforts of my hand and heart for the promotion of the people's interest."

S. T. Williams.

Next came the only bachelor in the race for the House, Mr. S. T. Williams. As he advanced to the stand, some one in the audience jeeringly remarked, "Now we will hear from the widower," caused Mr. Williams to open his speech with the following language, making a thrust at his opponents by way of a pleasantry: "You may call me a widower and criticize me because I am a bachelor, but I'll promise you that if I ever marry I will not do as all of my opponents have done—go out of the county to get a wife."

Mr. Williams said he has been a candidate before and that every time he has asked for the votes of the people his friends and neighbors of his own box have voted solidly for him, of which fact he is justly very proud. The people of his section are divided on Gov. Blease and Judge Jones, but J. R. Williams said all of them will vote for him.

He referred to the improved condition of the school houses in the county, and advocated the consolidation of weak schools. He said it

is better for the children to be put to some inconvenience in order that they may have longer terms and better advantages.

Mr. Williams gave a somewhat detailed account of his recent visit to Clemson college. He spoke first of the splendid equipment, referring to the 7 or 8 handsome brick buildings, the 75 or more residences for the members of the faculty, the new \$20,000 cattle barn and the recently completed \$20,000 dairy. There are 90 professors in the faculty. The farm contains 1,400 acres of fine land, both upland and river bottoms. Viewed as a whole, Mr. Williams considers the location of Clemson as one especially provided by nature for an agricultural college. He was greatly pleased with the experiment station. Under the direction of the institution the sum of \$110,000 was spent last year in the extermination of cattle-ticks, in the treatment of glanders, etc., in the state. Mr. Williams was delighted with what he saw and learned about the farmers college. He says though that he found some grass on the Clemson farm just as he sees on the farms over this county.

Having been twitted by way of a pleasantry for not having taken unto himself a good woman for a helpmeet, Mr. Williams exonerated himself from all culpability by relating some of the vicissitudes of his early life. His father died when he was only 11 years of age, leaving 8 sisters, besides his mother, who were largely dependent upon his efforts for a support. Between the age of 11 and 30 he had to educate himself and his sisters. At 30-odd



he had not a cent of money, but then began to "roll a financial ball."

Mr. Williams said in substance: "I am sorry a man is to be judged by the way he casts his ballot. I am no figurehead. In 1874 I came down to this section, then a mere boy, and took part in the suppression of the Ned Tennant riot. In 1876 I rode all over this county and also gave assistance in Abbeville in driving out the Carpet-baggers and restoring white supremacy. In fact, the first shirt I ever wore was a red shirt in '76. In 1890 I took another stand, also again in 1892. If I can't be elected on my record I do not want the office."

With reference to the question as to the candidates for governor, Mr. Williams did not state which would receive his support or for whom he would cast his ballot.

M. P. Wells.

"The best form of government in the world is a Republican gov-



ernment with the Democrats in (Continued to the fourth page.)