

SUPPLEMENT

TO

THE ANDERSON INTELLIGENCER.

ANDERSON C. H., THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1874.

TO THE CITIZENS OF ANDERSON COUNTY.

FELLOW-CITIZENS: Two years ago I was a candidate for the legislature, and issued an address appealing to the citizens of Anderson county, regardless of party, for their support. I received a handsome vote from both parties, and it is with pride I can say such a vote as certainly made me a true representative of the whole people. In that address I made certain pledges, and as I am again a candidate, asking for the suffrages of my constituents, I feel it a duty incumbent upon me to lay before you a full account of my stewardship. I shall call your attention to the various pledges, made then, and endeavor to convince my most uncompromising opponents that every promise has been redeemed, and I fully believe that when you go to the ballot-box on the 3d day of next November, you will express by your vote your commendation of my course.

1.—BONDED DEBT.

My pledge in reference to the bonded debt was as follows: I pledge myself to work for "financial reform, by advocating the suspension of payment of principal and interest on every bond of the State, to which can be attached the shadow of suspicion, and to provide for the punctual payment of interest on the valid debt, * * * * * but if the contingency arises, I shall plant myself under the banner of repudiation and insist that the fraudulent debt be disposed of in that way."

Let us see how this promise was kept. Among the first measures I introduced was a bill which provided that certain responsible gentlemen should be appointed as a committee, whose duty it should be to examine every bond and coupon presented to them, stamp the same, take a correct account of the amount, date of issue, class of bond, purpose for which they were issued, series, etc., and report the result of their investigation at the next meeting of the general assembly. It also provided that the collection of principal or interest on every bond or coupon not presented should be forever barred. It passed the house and went to the senate, and was there defeated by the fraudulent bond ring; it was not to their intent to have an investigation. It is with pleasure that I can say that out of several bills introduced in the house, looking to the same end, mine was adopted as the most practicable. This bill being defeated just at the close of the first session, no further action could be taken then; we met again and from the comptroller-general's report found the bonded debt, including interest and State stock, to be \$18,270,452.22, (eighteen million two hundred seventy thousand four hundred fifty-two dollars twenty-two cents,) which amount was enormous, and would have bankrupted the State had we attempted to pay principal or even the interest on it. After consulting with the leading members, it was deemed advisable that the committee on ways and means should prepare and report a bill to settle our bonded debt. I had the honor of being a member of that committee, and rendered what assistance I could in preparing the bill known as: "A bill to reduce the volume of the public debt!" After considering the embarrassed condition of

the State, and that the people had received little or no benefit from the issue of a large class of bonds, issued since reconstruction, also the fact that the debt created before the war was at a time when the State was in a prosperous condition, and since then millions of dollars worth of property had been swept from the people by the result of the war, it was deemed advisable to offer a compromise to the legal bond holders, by giving them new bonds for the outstanding legal bonds and stock at forty cents on the dollar; in the same bill we repudiated the fraudulent conversion bonds, the fall of which amounted to five million nine hundred and sixty-five thousand dollars, (\$5,964,000.) Including interest, they amounted to six million seven hundred and twenty-seven thousand seven hundred and eighty dollars, (\$6,727,780.) The bill passed the house in this form, went to the senate, and was amended by inserting fifty cents on the dollar instead of forty; the house agreed to the amendment which reduced the valid debt, amounting to about \$11,542,672.22, (eleven million five hundred and forty-two thousand six hundred and seventy-two dollars and twenty-two cents,) to the comparatively small amount of five million seven hundred and seventy-one thousand three hundred, and thirty-six dollars and eleven cents, (\$5,771,336.11.) This one measure saved to the State the enormous sum of \$12,499,116.11, (twelve million four hundred and ninety-nine thousand one hundred and sixteen dollars and eleven cents.) I assisted in the preparation of this bill, advocated it in the committee, in the house, and rendered all the assistance in my power to pass it. The most uncharitable must admit that the pledge in reference to the bonded debt is fully redeemed.

I will now call your attention to the manner in which the bond ring came so near gaining their point. After defeating my bill in the senate, which provided for an investigation, and that no interest should be levied or collected, until an investigation had taken place, they (the bond ring), through Morton-Bliss & Co., of Wall street, New York, went into the courts and obtained a writ of *mandamus* to compel the comptroller-general to levy a tax to pay the interest on the bonded debt, which interest at that time amounted to \$2,428,842.87, (two million four hundred and eighteen thousand eight hundred and forty-two dollars and eighty-seven cents,) which, to have paid, would have required a levy of two per cent. on every dollar of taxable property in the State, and simply meant confiscation or revolution. Before the time expired for the comptroller to make the levy, the general assembly was convened in extra session to devise some plan to prevent so great a calamity being foisted on the people. After mature deliberation, the general assembly repealed the law, giving the comptroller-general power to levy a tax, thereby defeating the bond ring from robbing the people. I advocated this plan and bill, and used what influence I had to pass it. As your representative, I could do no more.

2.—EDUCATION.

I promised to advocate such legislation as would secure the establishment of a thorough and efficient system of public instruction. I endeavored to discharge my duty as one of the committee on education, and as a member of the house. The constitution provides that the general assembly shall appropriate a sufficient amount for the maintenance of the University; this has been done, and many young men, both white and colored, are now reaping the benefit of it. An act has also been passed which provides that at least one student from each county shall

be provided with the means necessary to secure an education. After a competitive examination in our county, Green D. Williams, a prominent and worthy young colored man, passed the board, and is now receiving the benefit of this law. The constitution further provided that within five years after its adoption the general assembly should provide for the establishment of a state normal school. This has been done, and ere long that institution will send forth many competent teachers to instruct the youth of our state; then we will have an educated population who will be prepared to cast their vote in the interest of good government. The year previous to my election, the appropriation for free schools was three hundred thousand dollars, and not one cent of it was paid; last year the same amount was appropriated, *every dollar of which was paid*. This year the same amount was appropriated, most of which has been paid. I have the best assurances that the remainder will be paid. So much for the practical working of the specific tax levy which I introduced. I favor a liberal tax as provided in our constitution for free school purposes, believing, as has often been demonstrated, that it is cheaper to educate a people, and thereby prevent crime, than to pay the expenses of convicting them, where they have not received the benefit of an education. I claim that this pledge has been redeemed.

3.—TAXATION.

I promised to work for a lower tax, and to advocate such a system of taxation as would prevent the Legislature from squandering the proceeds after it was collected. I have succeeded, beyond my most sanguine expectations, in redeeming this pledge. I carefully studied the old system of levying and collecting the taxes, and found that during the fiscal year, previous to my election, there was paid into the treasury \$1,019,596.00 (one million nineteen thousand five hundred and ninety-six dollars.) This amount was collected while the Legislature was in session, and they fraudulently appropriated it to their own use, squandering in one session, for legislative expenses alone, more than nine hundred thousand dollars, leaving unpaid legislative expenses for the same session, several hundred thousand dollars. The legislative expenses were so enormous for this fiscal year that the comptroller-general reported a deficiency of unpaid appropriations of \$1,266,405 (one million two hundred and sixty-six thousand four hundred and five dollars.) I gave this matter my most serious consideration, in order to devise some plan to prevent such a reckless and infamous expenditure of the people's money. I submitted my plan to the committee on ways and means. It was a novel idea, and they rejected it. I then made a minority report, the Hon. R. M. Smith, democratic member from Spartanburg, signing it with me; seven of the most influential republican members of the house signed the majority report, which favored levying the taxes as heretofore. We had a severe struggle, and, as most of you know, the minority succeeded, and South Carolina adopted the new system of levying the taxes for specific purposes. It is made a felony by this act for the treasurer to pay funds, except for the purpose for which they were levied and collected, and a glance will show that a great object has been accomplished. The tax is levied now for the next fiscal year, and one mill is levied for legislative expenses, or about one hundred and forty thousand dollars; consequently the next general assembly can only expend that amount of the tax, no matter how long they remain in session, as the remainder of the tax cannot be

touched by them. This will serve you a one example of the practical working of the "specific tax levy." Again, the tax for public printing is one-third of one mill, or about forty-six thousand dollars, and as that is all that is levied for that purpose, they cannot expend one dollar more of the tax when collected.

Do you not think this is cutting short the rations of the "printing ring?" When it is well known they have in one year absorbed, in their capacious maw, as much as four hundred thousand dollars for printing. I claim that for the introduction of this system of taxation into the legislature it is due to me that the citizens of Anderson should elect me to the senate, if I had accomplished no other good while there. It is destined to redeem the State and drive away the money grabbers and spoilers. For the first time since 1868 the money is applied for the purpose for which it was levied and collected.

4.—MILITIA.

I have told you, again and again, that I was opposed to our militia system, and that it was an evil that should be remedied. For several years previous to my election, the appropriation for the militia amounted to a sum ranging from fifteen to thirty thousand dollars annually. I am glad to inform you that to-day there is only five thousand dollars appropriated for this organization.

5.—BLUE RIDGE SCRIP.

There is a copy of my pledge in reference to it: "I am interested in revenue bond scrip, and leave the matter with and abide by the decisions of the courts, but should it come before the legislature, I will be found representing the people and not myself!" Did I keep it? I asseverate most solemnly that I redeemed that pledge, and my own financial ruin was the costly price! I am interested in the scrip to the amount of forty-two thousand dollars, and when they endeavored to force their measure, to levy a tax to pay it, I fought it in the committee, in the house and out of it; voted against it, and used every energy of my nature, to prevent this tax from being levied upon you; and without assuming too much, I know I could have carried it, if I had put my shoulder to the wheel. Few men can conceive of my position at that time; on the one side, my wife and children, and a certainty of financial ruin; on the other side, my duty to my constituents. I unflinchingly went through the fiery ordeal, and I am unutterably proud of it. I thank God that he gave me strength to resist the temptation, and although I may be made homeless by it—the confidence of my people, and the consciousness of having performed my whole duty—betraying no trust confided to my keeping, is far dearer to me than money; one I can love, the other cannot be taken from me! This pledge has been redeemed to my financial loss, and if elected to the senate, I shall again represent the people, be the consequences what they may.

6.—ATTACHES.

I favored a reduction of the number of attaches. The journals will show you how this promise was kept, and that I was foremost in fighting against a larger number being employed than was absolutely necessary to conduct the business of both houses. I introduced a bill to regulate the number and pay of the same. It is now an act; and hereafter the number cannot be increased, as heretofore, by simple resolution of either house, to an unlimited number, because the act provides for a *specified number and their salary*, also that their names, and amounts due, shall hereafter appear in the appro-

priation bills—the treasurer being forbidden under heavy penalties to pay otherwise. It further provides that the number shall never be increased except by act or joint resolution, which will have to be read three times in each house and fully discussed; consequently one may safely conclude, the number will never be increased.

7.—FINANCIAL AGENT.

I advocated the necessity of abolishing this office. It has been done! I helped do the work that brought us the good result; so this pledge has also been kept!

8.—OFFICES.

I favored the abolishment of many, and the blending together of two or more, wherever it was practicable. I endeavored to abolish the office of county auditor and allow the clerk of the court to perform the duty. This one measure I failed to carry; I could do no more than try. We abolished hundreds of attaches and useless clerks and officers around the legislature. The office of state auditor has been abolished; also the office of financial agent and the office of physician for the Charleston jail. We repealed the law giving the Governor authority to appoint a chief constable, or as many constables as he desired, thereby ridding the state of many more unnecessary, useless and expensive hangers-on. I rendered what assistance I could to accomplish this end.

9.—PUBLIC PRINTING.

I claimed that it should be given to the lowest responsible bidder. I take great pleasure in saying that I fought this most infamous and outrageous swindle from first to last. I gave the matter more of my time than any other business before us, and introduced two bills to regulate it. I failed to secure a report on either, but they were referred to a joint committee, who reported a substitute. This was the best I could do, for the "printing ring" was the strongest and best organized ring that has ever been in the State. This bill provides that the cost of printing hereafter shall not exceed fifty thousand dollars, and shall be given to the lowest bidder, and as the specific levy, for printing amounts to only about forty-six thousand dollars, I think the notorious organization, known as the "printing ring," has had its death wound.

In addition to this, I introduced "a bill to provide for the granting of certain charters." My object in this was to prevent the useless printing, engrossing and enrolling of hundreds of bills to incorporate various churches, societies, etc., such as, a bill to incorporate "the Young Men's Refulgent Society, of Richland," "the Poe Dee Guards," "the Journeyman Tailors' Union, of Charleston," "the Jericho African M. E. Church," etc. I could go on and enumerate hundreds of such bills, which had to be printed, engrossed and enrolled at a very heavy expense to the State. These bills consumed two-thirds of the time of the members of the general assembly, while in session, reading and considering them. My bill passed the house, and when the proper time arrived, our senator had it passed through the senate. Thereafter, under this act, all such societies will have to apply to the clerk of the clerk for acts of incorporation, and unless they are refused they cannot apply to the legislature; consequently, it will save a large amount in printing, clerk hire, etc. It will tend to shorten the annual sessions of the legislature, and thus reduce the expenses of the same. This is proof conclusive, that my promise in reference to the printing has been redeemed.