

The Herald and News.

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NEWBERRY, S. C., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1908.

TWICE A WEEK, \$1.50 A YEAR

CHARGED THAT BLEASE WAS LANAHAN'S AGENT

ALLEGED CONVERSATION WITH S. J. LANAHAN.

Related Before Dispensary Commission by Messrs. L. W. Parker and E. A. Smythe.

In the consideration of the claim of Lanahan & Co., on Thursday, by the dispensary commission Mr. Lewis W. Parker testified that Mr. S. J. Lanahan had told him in Baltimore in 1905 that he had employed Senator Blease, of Newberry, as his representative in this State. Capt. E. A. Smythe was also examined as to the conversation.

Mr. Blease says the assertion that he was employed by Lanahan is false and has an affidavit from Mr. Lanahan to this effect, which he used in his campaign last summer.

Mr. Lanahan died some time ago.

There were insinuations in this connection before, and it was as a result of these insinuations that Mr. Blease procured the affidavit from Mr. Lanahan, which he used on the stump in his gubernatorial campaign.

Elsewhere in The Herald and News today is given Mr. Blease's side of the affair.

Following is a copy of the Lanahan affidavit and the stenographic report of the testimony of Mr. Parker and Capt. Smythe:

Lanahan's Denial.

The following affidavit was read by Senator Blease at the campaign meeting at Union on August 11, 1906:

Personally came before me Samuel J. Lanahan who, being sworn, says that he never told Lewis W. Parker or any other person that Cole L. Blease was in his employ or was employed to look after his interest in the whiskey business in South Carolina; and as a matter of fact he did not have Cole L. Blease so employed.

Augustus W. Bradford,

Notary Public.

Capt. E. A. Smythe and Mr. Lewis W. Parker, who had been subpoenaed to appear before the commission, appeared and testified.

L. W. Parker, after being duly sworn testified. Examined by Mr. Stevenson:

Q.—Did you know Mr. S. J. Lanahan?

A.—I did sir.

Q.—Were you summoned before the commission that investigated the State dispensary?

A.—I was, sir.

Q.—Do you recall the substance of what you then stated?

A.—I do, in a general way. I have not seen the testimony since that day.

Q.—Mr. Parker, do you remember the statement that Mr. Lanahan had found that Mr. Boykin was not giving him, as he supposed, a fair deal, and that he subsequently employed another agent in South Carolina?

A.—That was, in effect, the statement.

Q.—Did he tell you who that agent was?

A.—He told me that he had employed a certain agent, and he told me who that agent was.

Q.—Who was he?

A.—Before I answer that question I would like to submit to this commission, as a matter of discretion, whether it is advisable for me to answer that question. I have no desire to hide anything, and no desire to protect any citizen; at the same time, I wish to say in justice to all parties that I have no information except the general statement of Mr. Lanahan as to the character and prominence given that party. I recognized the ruling of the supreme court in the former case as to the right of this commission to go into that matter, and I ask the ruling of this commission as to whether they require me to give it; if they require it, of course I will do so.

The commission ruled that Mr. Parker be required to give the name of the agent employed by Mr. Lanahan, and all that Mr. Lanahan said

FIVE AND ONE-HALF MILLS.

That Levy Necessary to Meet Extraordinary Appropriations by Legislature.

By a vote of 55 to 39, the house Saturday refused to adopt Mr. Nash's amendment which would have provided for a levy of five mills in State taxes as against the levy of five and a half mills recommended by the ways and means committee. Mr. Nash thought the raise from four and one-half mills to five and one-half mills too much but after considerable discussion the amendment for a raise of only a half mill was voted down.

On the bill to fix the levy and raise supplies for the year the fight commenced on the first section which made the levy five and one-half mills.

Mr. Nash said this was too high. He saw no reason for an increase because the income would be larger. The State would also receive money for the sale of the dispensary building.

Mr. Banks, chairman of the committee, pointed out that the money from this sale would go to the educational fund. He also read figures showing that the State would have a deficit at the end of the year even with the increase in levy.

Mr. Aull also pointed out that the house had appropriated \$12,000 for the Confederate infirmary and \$24,000 for the Winthrop dormitory, neither being in the appropriation bill. This would increase the deficit to about \$70,000. The house had increased the appropriation about \$200,000 last year. The time for the house to consider economy was when the appropriations were up and not when the levy to meet these expenses.

The Nash amendment to reduce the levy to five mills was first adopted by a vote of 39 to 34, but on motion of Mr. Sawyer, this motion was reconsidered and by a vote of 55 to 39 the house refused to clinch the Nash amendment. The vote was as follows:

Yeas—Arnold, Bailey, T. S. Brice, Clary, Clinkscales, Cothran, Courtney, Dingle, Dixon, J. B. Dodd, Douglass, Epps, Gause, W. J. Gibson, Glassecock, Greer, Gyles, Hall, Harman, Harrison, Hinton, Hughes, Jones, Kellahan, Lester, Leitener, Little, Nesbitt, Norton, Parker, Reeves, Robinson, Seruggs, Verner, Wade, Walker, Wannamaker, Wingard—39.

Nays—Aull, Ayer, Baaks, Beattie, Belkame, Brantley, A. G. Brice, W. D. Bryan, F. M. Bryan, Cannon, Carwils, Cosgrove, Cox, DeVore, Dick, Doar, J. H. Dodd, Dowling, Fraser, Frost, Gary, J. P. Gibson, Goodwin, Hardin, Hemphill, Hydriek, Johnston, Kershaw, Lane, Legare, McColl, McKeown, McMaster, Mann, Miley, Morrell, Nichols, Nicholson, Niver, Patterson, Richards, Richardson, Rueker, Sawyer, Saye, Shipp, D. L. Smith, Kurtz P. Smith, Todd, Vander Horst, VonKolnitz, Wiggins, Wimberly, Woods, Yeldell, Youmans—55.

The amendment was therefore rejected and the bill sent to third reading.

ENTRY FOR THE SENATE.

Former Gov. John Gary Evans Announces His Candidacy—Issues Statement.

Spartanburg, February 13.—Former Governor John Gary Evans announced tonight his candidacy to succeed Mr. A. C. Latimer as United States Senator from South Carolina. Mr. Evans also gave out his platform.

Call Accepted.

Rev. L. P. Boland, of Barber, N. C., has received and accepted a call to the Pine Grove pastorate of the South Carolina Synod, Lone Star, S. C., and will enter his new work about the middle of February.—Lutheran Church Visitor.

Congressman Leake, of New Jersey, who says that Mr. Bryan is better fitted for the pulpit than for politics, is also a reader of The News and Courier.—News and Courier.

SENATOR BLEASE ON PARKER TESTIMONY

VIGOROUSLY DENIES HE WAS EMPLOYED BY LANAHAN.

Reads Affidavits in State Senate and Charges A Political Conspiracy.

Senator Blease, of Newberry, arose on Friday in the State senate to a question of personal privilege and made some remarks regarding the testimony given on Thursday before the State dispensary commission by Messrs. Lewis W. Parker and E. A. Smythe to the effect that he had been employed by Lanahan & Son to represent them before the former board of directors of the State dispensary.

By unanimous consent of the senate he was allowed to incorporate his remarks with accompanying affidavits, etc., in the senate journal.

While speaking he held a copy of the News and Courier in his hand and a copy of the State lay upon his desk. He said:

"I wish to ask the senate to allow to be published in the journal five affidavits which I hold.

"Just before the campaign of 1906, Mr. President, the report was circulated that one in the employ of the State was an agent for a liquor house. I had not any idea in the world, sir, that that meant me, and I never thought so until Senator Tillman, riding on a railroad train one day, was asked the positive question as to who he referred to, and he said to this gentleman, whom I suppose he thought was a very intimate friend of his and not a friend of mine, that Blease was the man whom he meant.

"I immediately sat down and wrote to the different gentlemen and asked if it was true, and if it was not true to send me an affidavit. I read those affidavits at Union at the campaign meeting two years ago.

"Just after the opening of this campaign this year, just after I had had something to say about Mr. Avery Patton along with this winding-up commission, again this matter is brought up. The governor is from Greenville, Mr. Avery Patton, of the winding-up commission, is from Greenville, both of the witnesses are from Greenville, the correspondent of the News and Courier is from Greenville. Right at the opening of this campaign of 1908 here comes the governor with his—I want to be mild and want to be polite—his witnesses and his appointee, Patton, of the winding up commission, all from Greenville."

The president of the senate: "Just in order to keep the record straight, does the senator rise to a question of personal privilege?"

Senator Blease: "Yes, sir."

"And in addition to that, a newspaper correspondent from Greenville—and if it ain't a political conspiracy I have never seen one—a newspaper reporter from Greenville county making his report, and the report comes out headed, 'Blease Hired by Liquor House?' They put a question mark after that, and it is well that they did.

"Now, Mr. President, I want to thank the Columbia State once in my life for being fair, honest and straightforward in this transaction; not only the correspondent in this chamber, but the man who is in charge of that office, with the way it is put in the paper, this morning—'Blease is alleged to have been the man.'"

"I am not afraid of this matter, Mr. President, because I have never represented any whiskey house in my life in the capacity of a sales agent, and the people of South Carolina, after this thing was circulated and when I had hardly time to answer it, gave me nearly 18,000 votes for governor, and this summer Governor Aysel will answer to those people for the conspiracy between him and his Greenville allies and newspaper correspondents. He will not only answer politically, but he will also answer."

(Continued on page six.)

OUR LEGISLATURE LETTER.

Labor Contract Law Will Be Acted Upon By the Legislature This Week.

Special to Herald and News.

Columbia, Feb. 17.—The farm labor contract law, which to the agricultural interests of the State is the most important matter before the present general assembly, will go to a free conference committee, as the house and senate have been unable to agree on the bill which should be passed. The house insists on the bill drawn by its judiciary committee and the senate on that drawn by its judiciary committee, and the two bills are radically different. While there has been much debate in each house, especially the senate, this matter has been discussed but little on the floor.

The lien law will not be repealed at this session, so it at present appears. The repeal bill, having passed the house both this year and last by a large majority, has been repealed by the senate each time. However, the senate, after voting the repeal down, turned around and voted for repeal, but killed the Hydriek bill prohibiting mortgages on ungrown crops; then the senate killed the repeal bill, restored it again and again killed it, so that it is probably good dead now.

The proposition now up is to submit the question of repeal to the primary.

The house having passed a bill to create a new judicial circuit, on account of the congestion of the court in Richland principally, the senate has amended the bill so as to add still another circuit, and the bill now goes back to the house. The 12th circuit is to be formed of Georgetown, Florence, Marion and Horry; the 11th of Lexington, Edgefield, and Saluda, and a new judge will have to be elected in each.

The senate will have its final vote today on the rate bill, and the Carlisle bill is now before that body, as the substitute for the Toole bill. From previous votes on the question, it would seem that the rate bill will pass.

The State levy, as fixed by the house, will be five and one-half mills. The effort to reduce it to five mills did not succeed, as the house knew the appropriations, amounting to over one and one-half million dollars, will require a levy of at least five and one-half mills.

General amendments to the Carey-Cothran law are contained in the bill passed by the house on Friday. This bill, drawn by Mr. Cothran, seeks to remedy such abuses as have been complained of in regard to opening dispensaries at unwilling towns, corrects the ambiguity as to the number of boxes at elections, which caused trouble in Kershaw, and closes dispensaries when an election goes against dispensary, and while an appeal is pending. Two bills, by Senator Crouch, on the subject of forcing dispensaries on willing towns, have already passed the senate, similar to provisions incorporated in the Cothran bill.

The house has also passed the bill to give the winding up commission until January, 1909, to conclude its work, and providing for the sale of the state dispensary. This bill may strike a snag in the senate.

The house has passed the bill providing for the salaries of auditors and treasurers, similar to the bill already passed by the senate. Increases are made in Richland and Spartanburg.

The senate has passed Senator Graydon's bill in regard to salaries of State officials, raising the governor from \$3,000 to \$4,000 and other State officials from \$1,900 to \$2,250, except the adjutant general, who gets \$2,000.

The senate has not yet considered the appropriation or supply bills and there is apt to be changes made in all of these when they reach that body.

Any bill which does not pass third reading today in the house in which it originated is not apt to become a law at this session. While there has been no agreement as to adjournment, there is little or no doubt that the general assembly will conclude its work by Saturday night of the present week.

The house has fixed Tuesday evening as the time for memorial exercises in honor of the late Representative Major of Greenwood.

There are yet remaining on the calendar of each house a very large number of bills, the great majority of which will never be passed, and up to this time the number which have passed and will become laws is small. On Saturday, the senate wiped off the calendar fifty bills at one sitting.

OFFERED DIVORCES.

Man Convicted in Anderson For Unusual Offense.—C. A. Steed, Alleged Lawyer.

Columbia, February 15.—C. A. Steed, a white man of 60 years, has been sentenced to serve three terms of 30 days each on the Anderson county chain gang at hard labor, by Magistrate Wilson, after having been found guilty of obtaining money upon false representations in three counts. His sentence will commence on Monday morning, unless he raises the alternative, \$300.

Mention was made in this correspondence several days ago of the fact that Steed had been visiting cotton mill village of the Piedmont section and that it was alleged that he collected considerable money from women who had tired of their husbands, and who wanted divorces. He represented himself to be a lawyer, and one with the power and authority to secure divorces. When brought to trial Steed pleaded not guilty and argued that he had all three indictments disposed of at the same time. Judge J. E. Breazeale, president of the bar association, represented the State and Steed represented himself.

Three women, Mrs. L. E. Cleveland, Mrs. Lou Gaines and Mrs. L. E. Parish, the first two about thirty years each and the latter about fifty, testified that Steed collected certain amounts of money from them, promising to secure divorces for them. These women presented receipts signed Steed. The divorce decrees as delivered by Steed were also given in evidence.

Steed was the only witness for the defendant. He said he was acting for a man in Florida, who claimed to be a lawyer and who claimed to be able to secure divorces for persons not necessarily living in Florida, under the Flagler divorce act. Steed claims that he sent all moneys collected, with small costs deducted, to Garrett. His main defence was ignorance as to the divorce law in Florida and South Carolina. He claims to have been admitted to the Georgia bar in 1877, and that he has secured fifty-nine legal divorces. He said he won a suit in Alabama supreme court of \$30,000, when five eminent lawyers opposed him. The case attracted a great deal of attention here, and when the trial was commenced it was necessary to move quarters into the court room to accommodate the crowd.

A Natural Assumption.

He was a drummer of the more flashy type and had just finished telling a startling story to his newly made acquaintance in the parlor car.

"That reminds me of one of Munchausen's yarns," remarked the victim, for want of something better to say.

"Munchausen? Who is he?"

"Why, don't you know about him? He is the most colossal example of mendacity that civilization has produced."

A brief, painful silence ensued, which was broken by the traveler in a tone that was almost timid.

"Excuse me, my friend," he said, "if I seem inquisitive, but would you mind telling me what house he travels for?"—Philadelphia Ledger.

The Georgia Legislature could probably be induced to incorporate a "wet" district of about 2,000 acres for Mr. Roebling.—News and Courier.

American States sadly in need of a senator should correspond with Joseph B. Foraker, a Senator sadly in need of a State.—News and Courier.

LION CALLS KOESTER MOST INFAMOUS LIAR

THINGS LOOKED STORMY IN DISPENSARY INVESTIGATION

Koester's Charges—Record's Owner Published Statement Declaring Lyon Was Buying Testimony

Columbia, Feb. 13.—During the session of the dispensary commission this afternoon Attorney General Lyon denounced Mr. Geo. R. Koester, editor and manager of The Columbia Record, as a "most infamous and dirty liar." Mr. Koester, who was present asked for the protection of the court and arose from his chair. The situation was tense and Commissioner Patton also arose as if to step between Lyon and Koester. Mr. Lyon warned Mr. Koester not to approach and dramatically told him he (Lyon) walked the streets of Columbia and was personally responsible for what he said.

There was no confusion during the exciting incident but the situation was intense.

The incident grew out of an editorial in "The Record" this afternoon. The paper was brought into the room while the commission was in session, and the attention of Mr. Lyon was called to the editorial. Mr. Lyon had just come into the room. He at once requested the commission to summon Mr. Koester. This was agreed to. Mr. Stevenson drew up the summons which was signed by Mr. McSweeney. The marshal of the commission went out to find Mr. Koester and within half an hour returned with Mr. Koester, who had come very willingly. He was examined under oath by Mr. Stevenson, the regular counsel for the commission.

At the conclusion of his statement Mr. Lyon arose and uttered his denunciation. The editorial criticised Lyon for "purchasing testimony against alleged grafters by holding up claims." Koester said his editorial was based on published reports of the commission.

The portion of the Record's editorial to which Attorney General Lyon directed the attention of the commission is as follows:

"The Record has been asked why it assails the attorney general and seeks to hamper his attempts to have grafters punished. The insinuation in the question is that the Record is in sympathy with the grafters. The insinuation is too contemptible to notice. If explanation of the Record's attitude toward Mr. Lyon is wanted it is easy to give. If there has been graft the Record, as much as Mr. Lyon or anybody else, wants it exposed and the guilty party punished.

"But the methods employed to bring about that desired result should be clean and honorable and command respect. It is Mr. Lyon's methods to which the Record objects. Whenever the Anglo-Saxon civilization has spread, a common maximum of its courts has been that it is better for a thousand guilty men to escape than that one innocent man should be punished.

"Similar in spirit is the Record's belief that it is better that all dispensary grafters should escape than that attempt should be made to secure convictions with bought testimony. And that is the game Mr. Lyon has been playing, first as a member of the investigation committee and now as attorney general. If there were no political phase to the matter he could not hope to secure conviction with bought testimony and it is only the political phase of the case that keeps his attempts to buy testimony from meeting the universal execration they deserve."

STATEMENT BY MR. KOESTER.

Signed Statement By The Editor of The Record in Regard to Matter.

The following signed statement by Editor George R. Koester appeared in the Columbia Record of Friday afternoon:

Shortly after the appearance of the

(Continued on page seven.)