

BLEASE AND JONES READ STATEMENTS

THEIR REPLIES AT BENNETTSVILLE EACH TO THE OTHER.

Bleas Replies to Jones' personalities, And Jones Replies to Bleas's Bishopville Address.

Chesterfield, June 22.—Barring a verbal clash in which Gov. Bleas, Judge Jones and the county chairman, M. J. Hough, participated when the governor interrupted Judge Jones, today's meeting at Chesterfield, the fifth and last meeting of the first week in the State political campaign, passed off smoothly and quietly, if such affairs can ever be said to be smooth or quiet.

"Tell the truth, old man," the governor yelled to Judge Jones from a window.

"I'm telling it," was the reply.

"No, you ain't," rejoined the governor.

Here the presiding officer, saying that in this capacity he was as much for Bleas as for Jones, commanded the governor to be silent.

"You shut your mouth," was the retort by the governor of the State.

Chairman Hough was prompt to enforce the guarantee he had given each speaker of a respectful hearing.

Two Statements Read.

Judge Jones consumed part of his period in reading a statement which in substance was a reply to the carefully phrased Bishopville speech of the governor. Gov. Bleas in his turn read a statement regarding the denunciation of himself by Judge Jones at Bennettsville, the governor in this statement reiterated his Bennettsville declaration that he desired to avoid a physical encounter and added that hereafter Judge Jones, having placed himself beneath his notice, he would not notice any charges Judge Jones might bring against him.

Judge Jones' Reply.

"If I favored social equality and showed it by my vote in the legislature," said Judge Jones, "why did Gov. Bleas, who has served there with me and knew my record, vote for me for speaker and again for United States senator. By his vote he stands as recorded as disapproving his present attitude in this matter. I thank him for his support then, if he thought I deserved it. But why did he give it to me, if he knew all these horrible things concerning me?"

"Gov. Bleas has assailed my record in the following particulars:

"1. That I nominated Col. Irby for the United States senate against Gen. Wade Hampton."

"I was a reformer and Col. Irby was the reform candidate for that office, and I supported him from start to finish in the race. Gov. Bleas voted for Gen. Hampton in the house in a preliminary vote and then in joint session he voted for Col. Irby until he was elected. I stood by my party. Mr. Bleas was elected as a reformer and he deserted his party to vote, first, for Gen. Hampton, and then deserted Gen. Hampton, to vote for Col. Irby."

"2. That I voted for county prohibition in 1891.

"Separate boxes were put at the polls in Lancaster county and the candidates for the general assembly were to abide by the result of that election. The vote of Lancaster county was for prohibition, and of course I supported prohibition accordingly in the house. I carried out the instructions of my county in that respect. I voted for State-wide prohibition in 1892 because the people of the State, by a good majority, expressed themselves for it at the polls. I believe in the rule of the people. The most satisfactory and enduring plan of dealing with the liquor question is county local option."

"3. That I voted for a divorce law for adultery in 1892.

"This view struck me as being just and I voted accordingly. Gov. Bleas was a member of the house at that time, but did not vote on this bill. Quite a number of honorable representatives entertained the same view that I did on this question. See house journal, 1892, pages 234 and 235. A provision is incorporated in our constitution now which forbids divorces, and the law is acceptable to me. I was a member of the constitutional convention."

"4. That I voted against the reduction of interest in 1894.

"At that time money was very scarce in this State and it would not have surprised me at all if I found that I voted against a reduction in the rate of interest, and it was much better for the borrowers to pay the rate of interest then in force rather than purchase on credit; but as a matter of fact I did vote against indefinitely postponing the bill to which the governor refers, house journal,

1894, page 200. The vote he refers to was a motion to reconsider after the bill had been killed, and little legislation could ever be accomplished if you fought the same thing over and over. The governor's charge is misleading.

Working Hours Bill.

"3. That I voted to nullify a bill limiting the number of hours per day of employees in cotton and woolen manufacturing establishments in this State by voting for the following proviso to the bill: 'Provided, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent any of the employees in the aforesaid manufacturing establishments from engaging to work or working such time in addition not to exceed 110 hours per annum as may be necessary to make up for lost time caused by accident or other unavoidable circumstances.' I voted for the bill to limit the hours of labor for each day and each week, and Mr. Bleas knows that he and I voted the same way on that bill. Gov. Bleas moved to strike out the proviso aforesaid, but I was convinced that the laboring people preferred to have the proviso and I voted for it accordingly. His reference to this vote garbles and misrepresents the facts as any one can see by reference to his statement and then examining the journal of 1892, pages 357 and 358.

"My father was a carpenter and a laboring man, and there is every reason why I should favor the laboring classes, and my vote and my efforts have always been in their interest according to my best judgment."

"6. That I voted against the anti-free pass bill in 1891.

"I did not believe that having a free pass would influence members of the general assembly or public officers in the discharge of their duty. However, the bill became a law, and in 1892 a bill was offered to repeal that law. I was satisfied with the law and the results therefrom and I voted against a repeal, and therefore voted against the acceptance of free passes by members of the general assembly and State and federal officers; but Gov. Bleas voted to repeal the law, that is, voted for free passes. See house journal for 1892, page 258. He condemns me for voting against the anti-free pass bill in 1891 and yet in 1892 I voted against the acceptance of free passes and he voted for the acceptance of free passes."

"Jim Crow" Bill.

"7. That I voted against the 'Jim Crow' or separate coach bill.

"At the time these bills were up for consideration when I was in the house, there were first and second class passenger tickets sold, and the people buying these tickets usually went into separate coaches. The railroads of this State at that time were hard up and struggling for existence and I was anxious to bring capital into the State and to promote and develop its resources, and it was emphasized before the house that the law would place a great burden on some of the railroads in the State, especially the weak, short lines. Besides, first and second class fares gave the white people an opportunity to be separate from the negroes; one color occupied one end of the coach and the other the other end of the coach, and as the acts were imperfect and appeared to me to be unconstitutional, I did not vote for them. The contention that both colors used the same toilets is absolutely untrue and an appeal to prejudice. I am in favor of the law as it now stands and would oppose any effort to repeal it."

"The purity of the white race is one of the greatest bulwarks of the safety of the Anglo Saxon race, and I am willing to compare records with the governor or anybody else as to my private or public conduct in that line. The effort to make it appear that I have ever favored social equality between the races is a malicious misrepresentation of the facts."

"8. That the last State convention did not pass a resolution favoring the repeal of the 14th and 15th amendments to the constitution of the United States."

"Again an appeal is made to excite prejudice against me with some people by the effort to make it appear that I favored negro suffrage. Why such an argument is bosh. The State convention had no power to repeal any section of the constitution of the United States, and any resolution in that direction would be mere demagoguery. However, I am on record on the question of white supremacy. I was in the constitutional convention of 1895 and helped to pass the suffrage law which has disqualified the negroes of this State from exerting any influence in the politics of this State. I am for white supremacy. I am absolutely against the participation in our elections by the negroes of the State, but of course on this question we can not run counter to the constitution and laws of the United

States, and any insane resolution or action on the matter is childish and ineffective.

"Gov. Bleas was a member of the last State convention and never opened his mouth in favor of the resolution recommending the repeal of the 14th and 15th amendments."

As to Decisions.

"9. Then, of the thousands of decisions that I have written and concurred in as justice and chief justice of the supreme court, fault is found with only several. Is it possible that I have made only a few errors in all the decisions I have written and concurred in? Why, the attack on me along this line is an astonishment to me for its weakness, and it gives me more satisfaction with my work than I have ever had before. In the discharge of my duties as chief justice I regarded the trust with the same sentiment that a woman regards her virtue. I knew neither friend nor foe, and, so help me God, no man or influence can warp me from such a course, whether it comes from friend or foe. Consider the charges preferred against me by the governor not entirely in the light of the situations of this day, but confronted as I was at the time, and answer whether any one of them unfits me for the duties of the governor's office or reflects upon my character or should be weighed against me from whatever standpoint you view them. It has been my policy in life to be frank and open; never to deceive or obtain a vote or anything else under false pretenses. My purpose has always been for the development of the highest manhood and womanhood by my individual conduct as well as present."

"Gov. Bleas, until very recently, seemed to have a very high opinion of men, for in 1908 he voted for me for the United States senate. See senate journal, 1908, page 950. And he also voted for me as speaker of the house after he knew of my record which he now criticises."

Statement From Gov. Bleas.

Gov. Bleas opened his address by reading the following statement:

"I have conducted this campaign on a high and honorable plane. Have made no personal attacks whatever upon either of the candidates for governor, but have criticised severely the record of ex-Judge Jones which I consider the most vulnerable and the dirtiest that could possibly have been made by any white man and a South Carolinian. I have said not one word except what I have furnished the records to prove beyond the shadow of a doubt and at Bishopville his record eliminated him from this race. It has not been what I have said, it was the record as made by him. He admits he made it and in part apologizes and acknowledges his mistakes. That does not relieve him from having made it, which I regret, for I dislike to see any South Carolinian vote for social equality. On yesterday he placed himself on a plane beneath my notice and below my standard of gentlemanly conduct and for the balance of this race, I shall absolutely ignore him or any charges that he may make, unless he attacks me personally, in which event—and I put him on notice the threat that some of his henchmen have made that I would be assassinated—will be given the opportunity to be put into effect. I do not propose to bandy words, as a coward, a blatherskite or a blackguard, and I hope from this day on that he will thoroughly understand that I consider him beneath my notice and shall pay absolutely no attention to him or his charge. I do this in the interest of peace and order, because I am the chief magistrate of this State. However, if he insults me personally, I shall hold him strictly to an account off the platform when no other will be in danger, but he who brings it on and the gentleman who resorts as a gentleman should."

"I request the newspapers to publish this in full in order that the people of South Carolina may know my position, some may say that I am a coward, but I think my position is the correct one, and whatever I may be called, it is the one which I shall adhere to."

As to Newspapers.

Gov. Bleas, after reading a statement discussed a number of matters. "Yesterday," he said, "Judge Jones denied that Columbia papers were supporting him. At Darlington I was asked a question from the audience and I answered it, thinking it had been asked for a proper purpose. I learned later that it came from a traveling solicitor employed by the Columbia State, who had been following us around for the purpose of doing me injury. Another employee of the State, Earle Page, followed me to Bennettsville and went around asking people to holler for Jones. He followed me down to the mill village in the evening."

"During the press convention in Spartanburg they had a caucus on Bleas. The majority opinion was that the newspapers had better keep quiet. Others said they had better give Bleas hell from the start. The answer was we did that two years ago and he won." The State, though, couldn't stand the fire, and today it comes out for Jones. Here the governor read an editorial article from the State of today, saying in substance, that Jones did not have to answer charges of graft. The governor declared that Justice Jones, explanation of his vote against reduction of the interest rate when the banks were charging farmers 10 to 12 per cent. did not explain, nor did he satisfactorily meet the charge of favoring social equality between the races in the separate coach legislation. Bleas read parts of his Bishopville speech on this matter and Judge Jones' record in regard to liquor legislation. "Judge Jones now tells you he's sorry about some of these things," said Bleas. "Of course he's sorry." Gov. Bleas denied that he had told a negro audience in Columbia he favored letting the negroes have their share of the privilege tax. "I did not mention the privilege tax," he said, "but I did say I was opposed to expending the tax money of white people on the education of baboons and free niggers."

Does Not Hate Negroes.

The governor denied that he hated negroes. He restated his well known views on lynching, defended his pardon record and then said: "When I was in the legislature I cast certain votes. I represented Newberry county and not Chesterfield, and it is none of Chesterfield's business how I voted. When I went to the legislature in 1890 I was a mere boy. Ira B. Jones was born and reared in my town. When Irby was elected United States senator I went to Mr. Jones and urged him to run for speaker. I helped elect him speaker. The next time I seconded his nomination. I voted for him for trustee of the State university. When he was running for associate justice against Eugene B. Gary I voted for him. He was my friend. I don't know, but I guess I would have voted for him for chief justice. He, however, has shown himself an ingrate by running for my job."

Bleas declared that he also was unpugged. He explained the publication in full by the State of his Bishopville speech, saying he had paid the paper 10 cents a line to print it as an advertisement. All his personal ambition has been fulfilled. He was making this race to please his friends.

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vacant scholarships in Winthrop College and for the admission of new students will be held at the County Court House on Friday, July 5, at 9 a. m. Applicants must be not less than 15 years of age. When scholarships are vacant after July 5 they will be awarded to those making the highest average at this examination, provided they meet the conditions governing the award. Applicants for scholarships should write to President Johnson before the examination for Scholarship examination blanks.

Scholarships are worth \$100 and free tuition. The next session will open September 18, 1912. For further information and catalogue, address President D. B. Johnson, Rock Hill, S. C.

NOTICE TO TOWN TAX DELINQUENTS.

The Hon. J. J. Langford, Mayor of the Town of Newberry, has placed in my hands executions for the collection of delinquent City Taxes for the year 1911, with instructions to collect them at once. This is to notify all persons of the city who have not paid such taxes that they can save cost by coming to me and paying the same at once.

M. M. Buford,
Sheriff Newberry County.
Sheriff's Office, June 6, 1912.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Farmers' Bank, Prosperity, S. C., will be held at the office

of the Bank on Wednesday, the 26th inst., at 12 o'clock noon.

The Farmers' Bank,
H. T. Patterson, Cashier.
Prosperity, S. C., June 8, 1912.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Prosperity Cotton Oil Mill Company will be held in the Town Hall at Prosperity, S. C., on Tuesday, June 25, 1912, at 10 o'clock a. m. All interested will please attend in person or by proxy.

The Prosperity Cotton Oil Mill Co.,
H. J. Rawl,
Secretary.

NOTICE MEETING COUNTY DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Democratic Executive Committee for Newberry county is hereby called to meet in the Court House, Newberry, S. C., on Saturday, July 6, 1912, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of preparing a campaign schedule for the candidates for the various county offices, fixing assessments and for the transaction of any other business that may properly come before the committee.

Members of the committee will please come prepared to hand in the names of Managers of Election at their respective clubs to serve at the approaching primary election.

Fred. H. Dominick,
County Chairman.
Frank R. Hunter,
Secretary.