

## THE HOME STRETCH

The Race for the Goal Has Now Commenced.

LAST HALF OF RUN BEGUN.

The Compliments of the Hustings

Orators no Doubt Brought Blushes to Lancaster's White Rose.

The dividing line meeting at Lancaster Wednesday was quiet. The audience was thoroughly unimpressed and attentive. There was little cheering, no noise. When the meeting was called to order Chairman Porter stated that if every candidate spoke according to schedule the meeting would continue from 10:30 until 4:30.

Mr. J. P. Durham was not present and sent excuses. He was absent on account of sickness and announced his platform and showed the work of his office. Mr. Brooker started out by saying he had already saved the State \$20,000 and was in position to save that much more. Gen. Floyd spoke but Rouse was absent.

Then came the candidates for railroad commissioner. Mr. J. H. Wharton spoke first. He said there were towns discriminated against in rates. Then he took up the matter of overcharge and wanted agents authorized to pay overcharges or make allowances for lost articles. He said there was no sense in the argument of long and short hauls when the rate on lumber is less from Augusta to Camden than from Lookout.

Maj. Bernard B. Evans said freight rates were higher here than in any southern State. He said there was something rotten in Denmark and it was in the railroad commission. The commissioners were liable to arrest when riding over the State on free passes. The commission is doing nothing for the people.

Mr. T. M. Berry said he was running on his own merits and not on the merits of anyone. He was a prohibitionist and always advocated temperance. He wanted to be measured as a man and stand on his merits. He saw nothing so bad in the present commission. Promises can be easily made and broken. If elected there would be comfortable stations.

Mr. T. F. Pettigrew always believed in the value of the railroad commission. Railroads are combining and the people must combine through their commissioners. He is and always has been a simon-pure farmer, but raised tobacco, cotton and truck. He promised to be faithful to the interests of the people as heretofore.

W. D. Mayfield spoke of the mill development and argued that the surplus cotton ought to be bought in this State and not from Georgia. The rates are prohibitive. Furniture factories prospered in North Carolina because of better rates. Then he took up the manufacture of tobacco goods and argued that the local rates were too high and the same applied to flour mills. Wholesaling must remain small because of the rates. He believed the commissioners should not be paid by the railroads or with passes.

Mr. W. D. Evans said the commission had promised the rates were too high, but the thing has to be carefully done. The Texas commission cut all rates 50 per cent and has been tied up in the courts since. Then he showed wherein recently the rates have been reduced on fertilizer, shingles, wood, cotton, brick, etc. The only way to work was to act jointly and continuously.

The two Evanses disputed as to the North Carolina rate. The North Carolina rate as quoted is all wrong. W. D. Evans stated. He says elect him and have one honest man on the board. W. D. Evans said, "God save the mark W. D. Evans." He asked to have his character and reputation compared if need be.

B. B. Evans—I'd never compare my character with you. W. D. Evans—I have never tried to pass off anything bogus on the people. If you will look in the mirror, you'll find the man who has insured \$1,000,000 in bogus companies and the companies were not worth a cent.

B. B. Evans said it would be well to look at the records in W. D. Evans's country. W. D. Evans went on to say when he ran for the constitutional convention there was intense opposition to him and a warrant was sworn out against him for fast driving through the streets and drunkenness. He insisted on being tried and was acquitted.

B. B. Evans—Oh, that's not it. I mean where you cheated a man out of \$15,000 and a judgment is recorded against you. Chairman—Time's up. W. D. Evans—Let me explain. B. B. Evans—That is a personal matter and he attacked me. Make him sit down.

The chairman then without further ado presented Mr. Capers and W. D. Evans went to his chair saying: "I said that claim, every cent and am poor too."

Mr. Capers then went on to say if elected he would not employ Yankee soldiers to teach in the summer schools. McMahon is honest but wrong. His chief complaint was that McMahon ignored county superintendents and other Carolina educators. Capers objected to white teachers being over colored normal schools. McMahon wanted to explain, but the time was up.

Then came the governors. G. Watt Whitman insisted that from what he saw the various departments are in a bad shape and he wanted to remedy them. Disregard of law in South Carolina was amazing and disgraceful. Carolina was a disgrace and disgraceful not only as to the dispensary law but everything else if these speakers are to be believed. The best men at times, he believed, took just a little too much liquor. A little drunkenness does not affect a man as much as telling a lie. God never made a misfit and there is use for liquor. The Bible does not condemn anyone for getting drunk.

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He said: "Senator Tillman, who made the charge, knew it to be false when he uttered it. The charge cannot be interpreted as anything else but a mean and contemptible effort to break the force of the almost unanimous advocacy of prohibition by the preachers and laymen as a good occasion also to throw contempt upon a class of men for which he has in many other ways expressed his contempt."

SENATOR TILLMAN IN REPLY. Dr. J. O. Wilson of the Southern Christian Advocate, who is a Senator Tillman asking if he were correctly reported and requesting a reply. The reply is contained in last week's issue of the Advocate. It reads as follows:

Trenton, S. C., July 23, 1900. Dear Sir: I have your letter of July 22d, asking if my speech at Bennettsville was correctly reported. I do not recollect the exact words I used at Bennettsville, but they are in effect true as quoted; and inasmuch as the district under the leadership of Bishop Duncan, has taken the matter up, and the bishop is reported to have "nailed" my utterance "as a lie," while the report of the committee on temperance "denounced any insinuation that the efforts of the Christian ministers and other citizens to rid the State of this gigantic evil as a sought or voluntary combination with the saloon element as a base slander that is itself an attempt to strengthen the power of this most damnable iniquity," I will take occasion to offer by your inquiry to make an announcement over my own signature of what I said and meant at Bennettsville. Of course the report gave only the barest outlines.

I have no quarrel with the ministers of any church or denomination and have no purpose to give offense to any of them. I have always borne testimony to the high character and purity of purpose characterizing the ministry, but I believe they are wrong in fighting the dispensary law as they do, and I claim the right to say so, and I claim the same time their right to freedom of speech and freedom of political action on this and every other subject. I mentioned the attitude of the ministers incidentally as an illustration of the anomalous political situation. The ministers attack the dispensary because it does not go far enough, and the high license people and the blind tigers, whom I designated as the "old barkeepers," attack the dispensary because it goes too far. They are thus fighting each other side by side in the campaign.

There is only one candidate in the field for governor opposed to the dispensary, Col. Hoyt, and all of those elements are allied in his support, and the proof is that Charleston. In the last gubernatorial election, voted for Mr. Featherstone and prohibition when it is notorious that the whiskey element in that city is predominant and that the dispensary law is not enforced, mainly by reason of the lax morals of the grand jurors who have failed to discharge their duty under their oaths. Col. Hoyt last winter in his paper, The Mountaineer, urged coalition between the high license people and the prohibitionists in the general assembly in order to