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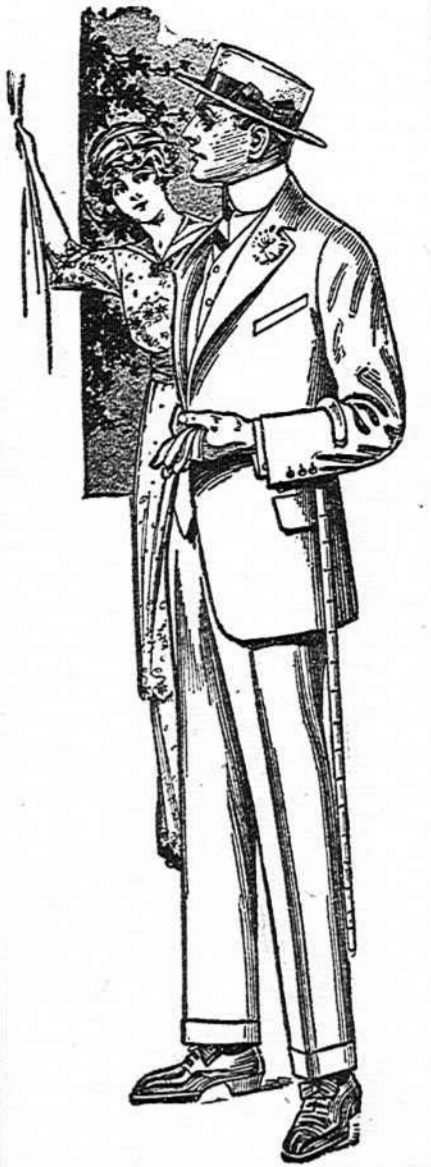
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SUMTER, S. C.

### The Manning Times.

LOUIS APPELT, Editor

MANNING, S. C., APRIL 1, 1914.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

#### MANNING'S GOVERNMENT.

We understand there is an element in this town not satisfied with some members of the present town council, they would like to have them displaced with men who conform more closely to their ideas of town government; this is alright, if there are any members of the present council who have committed the unpardonable sin of endeavoring to look at matters which came before them from the viewpoint of law and evidence, they should be removed and replaced by those who have the fanatical idea that governments are organized to convict and punish, evidence or no evidence.

We have been a resident of Manning nearly forty years; perhaps we are as close an observer as any citizen in the town; we have no hesitancy in saying, the present council is made up of men who have the interests of the town at heart; they try to be just to all, whether it be the lawbreaker who dishes out liquor, or the man higher up who violates the law whenever it suits his convenience, and it is profitable for him to do so.

Manning is as law abiding as any town of its size, there are no towns under perfect control, nor will they ever be until the millennium, not only so, perfection is hard to attain anywhere or in any organization—how often do we read of violations of the laws of church as well as state? It is not the case that men of professing piety are not always law-abiding; it has been shown by the criminal records time and again, that some of these professing pietists are just as liable to the frailties of mankind as many who make no special professions of piety.

It has been stated that Manning has become addicted to the gambling habit, that gambling is going on in this town by young and old; we have been hearing this song for over a quarter of a century but so far, not one of

those complaining have ever attempted to do more than make the assertion; when pinned down for facts they evade by saying they "heard so." We have no doubt that a certain amount of gaming, and other things too is going on in Manning, it would be a most remarkable town if there were not some vices, but we don't believe their is conducted in this town a place for the purpose of gambling; it is possible there are a few persons who may indulge in a little game of cards, and too, they may put up a little wager, we do not even know this to be a fact, but it is possible; the average man in Manning has not manifested any indication of having angelic pin feathers growing on him, therefore we say, it is possible that an occasional game of cards is indulged in here, but when it is intimated that such men are gamblers, it can only be attributed to dense ignorance or slander.

What is a gambler? One who makes gambling a calling or profession, and indulges in it for what he may gain. The man who occasionally plays a game of cards for amusement, even though he stakes a wager is not a gambler; if such an one is a gambler then the good women who, at this time are enjoying the fad or are afflicted with clubitis, can be characterized as gamblers. We think the man who would so characterize these good ladies who congregate at each other's homes to play bridge or rook and win prizes, would not get far before he would be reminded that he is poking his nose where he has no business, and possibly he would have an argument presented that would enlighten him of the difference between persons indulging in certain social pleasures, and those who make the game of chance a means of support. No earthly government, whether it be a municipality, or State can be conducted entirely on pious principles, one reason is that it would be hard to secure enough of the truly pious to undertake it, and another is, it would be impracticable—there was a time when the church undertook to exert a controlling influence over government, history tells us the deplorable result—the

church has a mission to perform which keeps its hands full, and when it successfully controls its own government, it will deserve full praise, but when an element of its membership, especially those who do not enjoy the full confidence of their fellows, undertake to steer the church into government control, whether it be municipal or State, it will run against rocks, and impair its usefulness.

The people do not take kindly to such restraints as zealots, bigots and fanatics choose to impose, and, when they have a suspicion that some of these who would restrain them, would be wise to sweep before their own doors before they undertake to censor the conduct of others, then they resent such interference with indignation.

Manning is a well governed town, we have good order and good health, there is no just ground for hysteria on the part of individuals, and we say right here and now that whenever a town council is chosen to conduct the affairs on narrow and extreme principles, the people will not stand for it. Law and order all want, but they do not propose to subject themselves to the fanaticism of extremists, whenever a person is charged with offending the ordinances, his or her case should be thoroughly investigated, and a judgment rendered upon the proof without fear or favor, but always with such mercy as the circumstances justify. We should have been glad to have supported the council as at present organized, and regret that some of the members declined to stand for re-election.

#### IS PRESIDENT WILSON ON THIN ICE?

The controversy in congress over the repeal of the law exempting tolls for American vessels passing through the Panama canal is perhaps the greatest oratorical fight that has been waged in that body in many years. Leaders such as Champ Clark and Oscar Underwood who have stood by the President to carry out the pledges of the Baltimore platform are in revolt against the President's appeals to the Congress to violate the party promise, and repeal this law. Had any other man besides

the President suggested the violation of this plank of the Democratic platform, he would have been ostracised from party councils, and denounced throughout the length and breadth of the land as a traitor, but like the King, the President can do no wrong.

The Democratic party in convention assembled nominated Woodrow Wilson for President, and placed him pledged upon a certain platform of principles, one of the planks in that platform declared for free tolls for American vessels passing through the Panama canal, but President Wilson, since his election, has come to regard that particular plank in the party platform, if adhered to, a violation of a treaty obligation with England, and, he is using his great influence with the congress, to repeal this law in spite of the protests of his loyal lieutenants who have unwaveringly stood by him to secure such legislation as would make good to the people the promises made by the great party they represent.

If American vessels are not to have any advantage over foreign vessels, in this American built and owned canal, it seems to us there will be no encouragement for the revival of American ship building; it is because of the subsidies granted to foreign ships by their respective countries, that the American flag is seldom seen on the high seas, and the transportation by ocean route is practically a European monopoly. There was a time, before the building of the great transcontinental railroads, when the stars and stripes floated on the high seas in great numbers, possibly master of the ocean, but now it is not so; and the American people are feeling the disadvantage since their flag has been driven from the ocean by the European subsidized ships. The exports shipped out of this country, and the imports which are received, constitute a great part of the high sea transportation, we think America is second to no other country in the world, and yet, it is not over nine per cent of the ocean freight carriers that float the stars and stripes. The great cotton crop of the South is taken

over the transcontinental railroads for thousands of miles, to be packed in foreign ships bound for China and Japan, these transcontinental railroads and the steamship lines, are owned by the same foreign capital, and the same ownership has always contended against the American government granting any privileges to its shipping.

The free tolls for American ships as we understand it, means simply to give to our own ships an advantage over foreign ships, so, they may be in a position to compete with the ships of foreign countries, which are subsidized, this, we take it, was the purpose of the Democratic party in making the pledge in its platform, the very same pledge was given to the people by the Republican and Progressive parties, all of them recognizing it as a sound American principle, but President Wilson will not have it so, and we fear his insistence will be a wedge in the party's future welfare.

It is all very well to be loyal to the President, but the party pledges are greater than any individual, if Mr. Wilson forgets his obligation to the party that made him President, Champ Clark, and Oscar Underwood are right in doing all in their power to prevent their chief from guiding the party wrong. Already the President's course is being criticised, and, it is insinuated that his position is not without suspicion. Representative Knowland of California in a speech on the floor cited dates of alleged secret visits to the President by the private secretary to the British foreign minister, and he quoted concurrent facts in an effort to prove that the President's policy to require American coastwise vessels to pay tolls through the canal had been formed since the date of these secret visits. This same Representative also quoted Secretary Bryan from his speech made last May at Washington Park, Pa., in which he stressed the sacredness of a party platform. And we recall Mr. Bryan's speech before the general assembly in Columbia in which he said, "that whenever a man found that he could not support the requirements of his

party platform he should have the honesty to resign." The President may win, he has the patronage leverage to help him, but if he is not exceedingly careful it will be a victory at the expense of the party that honored him.

#### DO NOT ABOLISH THE CAMPAIGN MEETINGS.

The News and Courier has opened up a campaign against the county, to county meetings for candidates for State offices, its position is being seconded by a number of country weeklies, but in our opinion, should these editors succeed in getting the State convention to adopt their suggestion, it will not have the effect they hope for. The people want an opportunity to hear the candidates, whether they take advantage of it or not, and, whenever it is attempted to deprive them of this opportunity, it will be regarded as an invasion upon their rights to be resented in no uncertain way.

The Democratic party of this State is made up of the white people; they have become accustomed to the method and are not complaining until they do complain, the campaign meetings will be held, in spite of the frothings of a few disappointed newspaper editors, and their little me too's here and there. In last Monday's issue of Charleston's morning daily there appeared a number of editorials reproduced from county newspapers, but the "Old Lady of Broad Street" did not think it wise to reproduce the editorials from those editors who disagree with its proposition, nevertheless, the people in the counties where editors are opposed to depriving the masses of an accustomed opportunity know the views of their county newspaper, and will not be misled by The News and Courier giving to its readers only one side of the issue it has raised.

We had something to do with the organization of the Democratic party in South Carolina, perhaps more than a majority of the present newspaper men of this State, we know what sacrifices were made to secure control of this government, and who made the sacrifices; having this

knowledge we are reluctant about accepting the advice, or the dictation of those who had absolutely no part in rescuing this government from political enemies. We recall the methods of politicians in control prior to 1880, and how the masses grew restive from the growing tendency to confine the political privileges to a certain few, this brought on the agitation for the primary; as long as the results of the primaries bore fruit suitable to the tastes of certain people, all went along as happy as a marriage feast, but when others came into control changes were demanded, not by the masses, but by the element that was relegated.

It is our opinion, it will be a sorry day for this State if a certain class of politicians get control of the party machinery, if they do, it will mean not only depriving the masses of seeing the candidates face to face, but it will also mean the disfranchising of many who now enjoy the right of political manhood. It behooves every white man to attend his club meetings, when the clubs are called together to reorganize, and elect representatives to the county convention who will represent the views of their club. This is important as the franchise of the masses is involved. The people will not soon forget how two years ago, by their indifference, the county convention was made up of men who really did not represent the views of the people, they only represented a certain few, as was fully demonstrated when the primary election came off and the people recorded their views at the ballot box.

The clubs will be called upon to assemble on the 25th, of this month, it will be well to begin now to look after the club organization, see that every white citizen is enrolled, and that he attends the meeting of his club when delegates are to be elected, then, if the club desires to do so, it can instruct its delegates whether or not it desires the campaign meetings abolished.

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#### CLARENDON ALMOST SUR-ROUNDED BY BOOZE.

The recent decisions of the supreme court relating to the dispensary cases from Williamsburg and Lexington counties has given to the Prohibitionists a setback, and they will no doubt have a tendency to revive interest in the other counties, to return to the dispensary system. We had hoped Williamsburg would fail to establish the dispensary, because, being an adjoining county it may do us considerable harm in a business way, if nothing else, with the legal sale of whiskey at Olanta a border town, and the legal sale at a competing tobacco market, it is enough to give us concern, but if Sumter fails which we hope will be the case to get the privilege it will not be so bad. The county of Sumter attempted to get a bill through at the recent session of the general assembly to have an election this year, the writer voted against the proposition, but it passed the senate and failed to reach a vote in the house. Had the members of the house delegation from Sumter been active to secure a vote, we have no doubt it would have passed, and in all probability the majority would have reestablished the institution, and would have been another serious drawback financially to this county, as it is, we will suffer enough by Olanta in Florence county selling whiskey near the Clarendon line, and Kingstree an adjoining county seat, pulling hard for Clarendon's Salem business, also selling booze.

The House passed the bill to repeal the toll exemption yesterday by a vote of 24-102. Speaker Champ Clark made a great speech in opposition, but it was of no avail. South Carolina's delegation stood 4 with the President and 3 against. The Senate has yet to act. Governor Blease was in Washington and heard the final debate.

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