

**The Manning Times.**

**LOUIS APPELT, Editor**  
 MANNING, S. C., OCT. 4, 1914.  
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**EXTRA SESSION.**

Capitol Correspondence:— It has been my purpose, and I so endeavored in my letters from Columbia to keep the readers of The Times informed of the "doings" of the legislature, and it is gratifying to me to know these letters have been entertaining and instructive, to some at least. The readers of The Times will remember I had doubts of the wisdom of calling together the general assembly in extraordinary session. I did not think anything would be accomplished, which could not be accomplished as well at the regular session, but I recognized the insistent demand upon the Governor from a large proportion of the electorate, and I could not see how he could avoid complying with this demand upon him. Governor Blease cannot be criticized for convening the legislature, but he can be and is criticized for the part he has taken to thwart the efforts of a majority of general assembly.

Never before in the history of the State has South Carolina been confronted with such a condition. The people are distressed, and have called upon their lawmakers to devise a means to give them relief from the present and future depression; they are facing a calamity, and if there is any power in the law to give relief, they appealed to the legislature to put it into execution. How has the appeal been treated?

From the moment remedial legislation was introduced strong opposition manifested itself from interests affected, or likely to be affected. The curtailment of cotton production was fought to the extent, the only measure possible to get through is, to my mind, of doubtful effectiveness, the warehouse legislation only found its way to final passage after being so amended as to satisfy the opposition of Representatives from counties where there are large warehouse interests, notably, Greenville, Spartanburg, Anderson, Laurens, Richland and Charleston, and which amendments, in my opinion, will make the Act impracticable of execution until the regular session of the legislature takes out the obstructive amendments, and place in the Act more authority and force. The proposition to give practical relief to the masses by loaning the credit of the State to finance the cotton crop, and save it from being sacrificed, was fought bitterly from start to finish; the most remarkable methods were practiced, and certain interests came out from hiding and openly undertook to prevent the State from permitting its credit to be used to help the people. The newspapers in Columbia and Charleston did all in their power to misrepresent and mislead the reading public, they daily carried in their editorial columns falacious arguments; they would publish any and everything in opposition to the bond issue, but when given a statement by Senator Lide of Orangeburg, one of the committee that was sent to Washington to confer with the Secretary of the Treasury, and the members of the Federal Reserve Board, they refused to publish it. Why? Because, Senator Lide's article would have proven to the general public that the corporate controlled newspapers of this State are unfair, if not dishonest.

Notwithstanding this opposition—corporate controlled newspapers, certain National banks, and the cotton mills, besides the personal appeals made to members by men suspected as having been sent for to use their influence—I will not say they were paid, because I have not the proof, but I will say there were men from several portions of the State in Columbia for a number of days and these men were actively engaged in urging members to vote against the Bond Bill; some of them had not been properly coached, or were too fat-headed to memorize the argument furnished, and when pressed, could not give a reason for their opposition without first re-reading the editorials in The State, or The Columbia Record, or type-written stuff they called statistics. I say notwithstanding this unprecedented opposition, the legislature passed the Bond Act and sent it to the Governor for his approval.

Governor Blease called this Legislature together upon the urgent appeals of a distressed people, and this body after mature deliberation enacted a law authorizing the insurance of \$24,000,000 bonds to be approved by the people at the ballot box. The Governor received this Act Friday morning and up to adjournment Saturday night at 10 o'clock he had not returned it with a veto, nor had the Act been signed by him; it is his constitutional prerogative to hold the Act three days but, if at the end of that time he has not affixed his signature of approval, it becomes the law. I am very much disappointed in the conduct of Gov. Blease in this matter, especially under the circumstances for him to withhold action and thereby keep the people from giving expression to their wishes, is, to my mind, the unpardonable mistake of his political career, and he will never be able to justify his conduct. The Governor has the legal right to take all the time the constitution allows him for the consideration of an Act, but this is an emergency matter with time limited, it is well known Gov. Blease keeps up with every move of the Legislature, that he is a close observer, nothing the legislature might do can escape his vigilant eye, and too, when he went to Memphis, he, with his companions from Senate and House, carried to the Governor's conference, South Carolina's intention to give relief to her people by the issuance of bonds, either by purchase of cotton at a fixed price, or a loan at a fixed sum, or both, purchase and loan. Gov. Blease also knew that the purchasing feature was later eliminated from the Bill, only because it was impossible to pass it, and to now hold the Act without signing it or vetoing it is beyond my comprehension. I said on the floor of the Senate it "was arrant cowardice," and it is. If he vetoed the measure accompanied by reasons, other than his reported suggestions that "he would not approve of a measure led by Senator Allan Johnston, of Newberry, and Representative Stevenson, of Chesterfield," his action would have been credited with sincerity of purpose, but with the election at hand for the people to give or refuse authority for the issuance of bonds, is an outrage under these circumstances, it is not only "arrant cowardice" but political suicide for him to refrain from immediately approving or disapproving the Act so the people might have a reasonable opportunity to know whether or not they are to be permitted to have a voice in this grave question.

and ruin, is to my mind heartless and ungrateful. I have been a political friend of the Governor, and it is with a bleeding heart that I pen these lines; I have not always agreed with some of his political acts or speeches, but whenever I disagreed with him I frankly said so and gave my reasons, my differences of opinion did not go to the extent of "a parting of the ways," and I clung to him, but since he has been put to the test, and has failed to measure up to the standard of his professions I can no longer accept his leadership, because, he has demonstrated to me, that regardless of his professions, when the crucial time comes he cannot be relied upon: I am sorry, sorry, sorry, to make this acknowledgement, but truth demands it. So far as I am concerned, even though he finally decides to approve the Act, his dilly-dallying course has robbed him of any credit for it. His delay has prevented the advocates of the measure from going to their people to disabuse their minds of the prejudice that may have been created by the fallacious arguments put forth by the antagonistic press, it has prevented full arrangements being made to get the necessary election machinery to work in the farming sections, and too, some of his closest friends from the up-country, evidently with his approval, joined with the representatives of the Big Interests, to delay the passage of the Act as long as possible by bringing on the most disgraceful scenes that has ever been witnessed in a parliamentary body—not even in the days when the Radicals had power, when the membership was composed of negroes, under the control of unscrupulous aliens on pilfering bent. They called it a filibuster, but it was more like a drunken brawl, accompanied with fights and bedlam. A parliamentary filibuster is necessary at times, but it must be conducted with reasonable, logical and germane debate, but when it is conducted as it was in the House by all manner of dilatory motions and roll calls, and incoherent and irrelevant mouthings, often bordering upon riot and violence, then it is not a filibuster, but an insult to an intelligent electorate, which I have no doubt will be rebuked by the people regardless of whether they favor the bond issue or not.

The bond Act does not meet with my full approval. I wanted the purchasing feature to remain in it, and I believe had it remained, and had the legislature eliminated the planting of cotton for the year 1915, immediate results would have been obtained therefrom, but it was impossible to get this, and the legislature did the best it could. Hon John L. McLaurin was elected state warehouse commissioner, his election came to him unsolicited and a surprise. He was endeavoring to have elected another, but the general assembly forced it upon him. Mr. McLaurin will assume charge of this work and endeavor to get it established in spite of the obstacles, relying upon the regular session remedying the defects. I believe if he can secure the necessary authority the warehouse proposition will be a boon to the cotton growers. Through an oversight the time for the appropriation Act to go into effect was omitted, but later remedied by a subsequent Act, and up to Saturday night the Governor had not approved it, thereby preventing the members from getting their pay immediately which was embarrassing to many. The withholding of the Governor's approval from the bond Act and the appropriation Act, has caused the legislature to prolong the session, and it will go over next week until Monday or Tuesday night in order that these matters can be acted upon as the constitution requires. This has been a most unsatisfactory session; it was convened to give relief, and the Senate did everything in its power to give relief, the full responsibility, if relief is not obtained, rests with the House and the Governor. I am sure that if this extra session had been convened prior to the primary, many who are now members would have been left at home, as they should have been, and will be if they offer themselves in the future. The people, will, when they have the opportunity, resent being trifled with. This extraordinary session is the foundation for a political revolution in South Carolina, unless the regular session in

January does something to pacify the wrath of the masses who asked for bread and were given a stone, they asked for something effective to be done to save the interests upon which the prosperity of the State depends from disaster, and were headed not by the lower house of representatives and the Governor. Indeed, every movement of remedial effect that which adopted by a large majority of the Senate, was frustrated by the appeals of the mill men and a few banking interests. The people will not forget it, they will preserve the names of every one who had a part and parcel in this disregard of the interests and dire necessity of the farmers and merchants of this State. I am glad to report that Representative White stood square to the bond bill from start to finish, but Representative Burgess on the final passage of the bond bill, voted against it; this was his right if the arguments of the opposition convinced him, and I have no doubt it did, even though he voted for the bill on the other ballots which were many. I am writing this letter after adjournment Saturday night, I cannot spend Sunday at home as is my custom, but I shall stick to my post to the final adjournment which I hope will be after midnight Monday night to return home to attend to my private affairs until I am called back here again for the regular session. The Senate adopted a resolution to have printed the necessary tickets for the bond issue at its own expense, and had them sent out, in the event the Act becomes the law with or without the Governor's signature, these tickets were expressed to the commissioner's of election in the respective counties in care of the clerk of court, and I sincerely hope these officials will see to it they get to the several precincts, otherwise the votes in the mill centers and the cities will in all probability defeat the proposition. L. A. Columbia, S. C., Oct. 31, 1914.

Later:—I reached home yesterday morning after being up practically all night at the session which adjourned sine die at 2 o'clock in the morning. Gov. Blease held the Bond Act in his possession for the three days allowed by the constitution without approving or disapproving the Act; late Monday night he sent a message to the assembly, which in effect, said, "that he could not approve the Bond Act neither could he disapprove it, because, he would not prevent the people from the privilege of voting upon the question," and, according to some of the best legal minds in the Senate the Act became a law without the Governor's signature, and would be effective providing the people by a two thirds majority endorse it; others however, among them the Governor himself, contended that the Act did not become effective until Tuesday night after the polls closed and therefore the vote would be a nullity; they regard the three days referred to in the constitution as meaning calendar days, not legislative days, and they back up their contention by the discovery of an old decision of the supreme court. It matters not how one looks at it, there is one thing which cannot be overlooked, and that is the flagrant trickery to prevent the people from having a voice in a matter which concerned them so much, and when the Governor held on to it until Monday night he loaned himself to be a party to the trick. His message informing the general assembly he would not veto or approve Act was a bold-face piece of cowardly hypocrisy. If he and the other opponents of the measure are correct that the constitutional three days do not contemplate legislative days but mean calendar days, the holding of the Act to a time when any action on the part of the people is useless and time thrown away then, in such a situation there is no other conclusion to reach other than Governor Blease with scheming deliberateness and treachery, turned against the people whose advocate he professed to be, and allied himself with those who from the first worked and planned to prevent any remedial legislation—cotton mills and national banks. It is insulting to the intelligence of the masses for the Governor to pretend he would not prevent a referendum, when any school boy can see it was he alone who did prevent a legal referendum, if the Act did not become valid on Monday

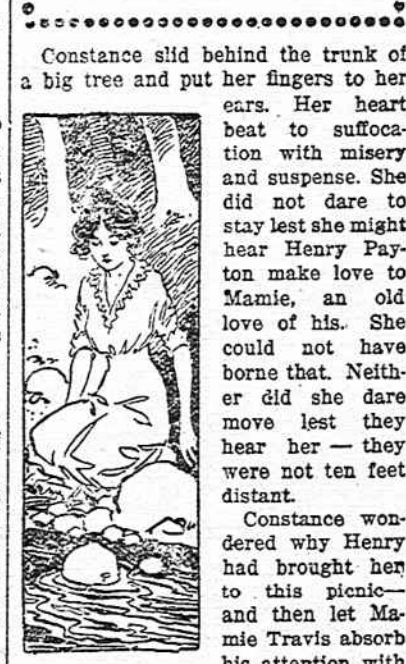
night. Then too, to further show that Governor Blease purposely held this Act to prevent it reaching the people legally, he said publicly, "the Act was as dead as a door nail as the three days would not expire until tomorrow night," (after the ballots were cast). The bond Act was the only hope of relief in the present emergency, but through the machinations of the mill interests and the miserably treacherous of the professed friend of the masses, the relief promised was frustrated, and Governor Blease merits the execrations of a suffering and outraged people.

**CLARENDON'S SCHOOL SYSTEM COMMEMORATED.**  
 Columbia, S. C., Oct. 26, 1914.  
 Supt. E. J. Browne,  
 Manning, S. C.

Dear Sir: It was a genuine pleasure to me to spend last week with you in visiting some of the schools of your county. There are many matters that point to careful thought and persistent activity on your part for the past several years in Clarendon county. In some of these it appears to me you have succeeded most admirably. In the first place, I was impressed with the distribution of your schools over the county. You have a large county and one that is not thickly populated but you have succeeded in separating your schools one from another by a greater distance than has been possible in many counties. The great benefit of this arrangement of their schools is found in providing a larger school and more teachers in the school. If your schools were closer together there would be fewer pupils to the school and very few schools with more than one teacher. This would result in less interest on the part of the pupils and less individual attention from the teacher. This wider distribution of schools such as you have in your county gives a longer school term. You have succeeded admirably in arousing the people in the several districts to the necessity of voting special taxes with which to lengthen these school terms. Those taxes accomplish a great deal more for the pupils in schools with two and three teachers than they would distributed to smaller schools with one teacher each. In the matter of consolidating schools and districts Clarendon has not as conspicuous a record as some other counties. But your districts have been so marked and your schools so located that further consolidation is not generally practicable or desirable. In a county with a large area you had last year only thirty-nine white schools. Further general consolidation would likely work a great hardship upon some of the patrons of your schools. A consolidation of the New Zion and the Salem schools, both in the same district, is already under way. This is a consolidation that is altogether practicable and highly desirable. Of all the schools visited by us these are the only two that seem to me possible of immediate combination. I wish to commend especially the willingness of the people of Clarendon county to transport their pupils to school at their own expense. As I recall there was not a single school visited by us that I did not observe about it several vehicles for the transportation of pupils. Transportation of pupils to school is a much talked of term in our modern public education but usually this means transportation at public expense, that is, at the expense of the public of the public school funds. The readiness, therefore, of your people to haul their children to school at their own personal expense thereby saving the funds of the school district for the direct instruction of the pupils is extremely praiseworthy. It was a great satisfaction to me to see how well some of the school districts of Clarendon county have provided school buildings and equipment. All of this work is of a substantial kind and is the result of such planning that the future development of Clarendon county will not necessitate any removals or alterations. The buildings, their equipment and location is another evidence of your thoughtful care and attention. In the matter of consolidation of schools, therefore, it occurs to me that you have accomplished nearly as much as is practicable for your county. In providing buildings and equipment you have succeeded admirably and this good work will continue. In the matter of special tax elections, Clarendon county has made rapid progress and with the return of prosperous times this progress will continue. It seems to me that your policy of providing funds for the individual schools already established and of providing buildings and equipment for those that are now in need of such are your present chief concerns. In addition to this your present policy of securing, improving and holding prepared teachers is an urgent need. The trustees and patrons of the school need to give you their heartfelt support in handling this situation. In a large agricultural county with few manufacturing enterprises and comparatively little railroad mileage school funds for good salaries for teach-

ers are not readily available. Good teachers cannot be as a rule, secured and kept without commensurate pay. I have no doubt but that the people of Clarendon county will stand by you with their moral support and to the extent of their financial ability in your efforts to improve the teaching facilities of the county. It will be a great pleasure to me at a later date to visit with you some of the other schools of your county that we could not reach the past week. Respectfully,  
 L. GUNTER.

**CONSTANCE AND HENRY**  
 By LOUISE OLNEY.



Constance slid behind the trunk of a big tree and put her fingers to her ears. Her heart beat with suffocation and suspense. She did not dare to stay lest she might hear Henry's footsteps. She was to Mamie an old love of his. She could not have borne that. Neither did she dare move lest they hear her—they were not ten feet distant. Constance wondered why Henry had brought her to this picnic—and then let Mamie Travis absorb his attention with her Irish wit and fascination. Constance went through an eternity of torture before she plucked up courage to take down her hands, remove her pumps and slide away. Soon she was safe out of sight. She stopped near a swift little brook where the sunset was mirrored rosy in the clear water. The stillness of the woods soothed her a little, and she began to plan how she could find the others and get home without accepting Henry's escort. They were all in pairs, and some one would insist on going with her. Jack Manning had brought Mamie. Her shoes still in her hand, she sat down, curling her feet under her, the thought striking her with shame that she loved Henry Peyton before he had spoken of love to her! As she sat there she heard a crash in the bushes and in a moment Jack Manning, whom she hated, came swaggering up to her. "Hello! Guess you and I'll have to console each other. We seem to be deserted." He seated himself beside her, scanning her admiringly with his bold, dark eyes. She flushed in distress. "Say, little one, I'll take off my shoes, too, and we'll go wading. Is that what you came for?" She shook her head. "I don't like you. Go away! Please—I'm tired and want to think." "You can think when you're older and not so pretty. Thinkin's no job for a beauty—come, Consol me for Mamie. She wouldn't mind consolin a fellow." Constance jumped up, snatching her shoes, and ran away from him as fast as she could. It was growing dusk and she was timid—indeed deathly afraid, but of him more than of a whole lonely forest. He looked after her a moment, bit off the end of a fresh cigar and muttered to himself: "Turned down, eh? Went too fast with her. Is Peyton crazy to forget a peach like that for—Mamie?" He lit his cigar and sauntered off. Finally he found the others grouped under the trees preparing to go home. Presently Henry brought Mamie back, the girl sobbing, her eyes a little red, but the man was very quiet. "Where's Constance?" he demanded. Mrs. Turner, the chaperon, did not know. "I think you're the one to know," she remarked, significantly, "and it's getting dark. Better look for her—I saw her go off by herself." Henry strode off. A half hour later in the deep dusk, thoroughly alarmed, he was still searching. He called her name aloud, but she did not answer. What had become of her? His heart failed him. Why had he left her even a moment? Why had he bothered to save a girl like Mamie from her own undoing. If she wanted to play with Manning till a good chap like Thorne was sick of her—it was her business. "Constance!" he called. "Connie!" There, around a big tree, he came upon her white little figure huddled against the trunk. Her hands in her absurd fashion were over her ears. She was crying softly. He rushed up to her, taking down her hands and shaking her a bit from sheer relief to find her safe. "Connie—darling! you frightened me to death! What made you hide?" He drew her toward him, but she freed herself firmly, shaking her head. "Constance!" You—know I love you. I didn't intend to tell you yet—but it's out now. Don't you—care for me at all?" "You were—making—love to her—under a tree—I saw—but I didn't listen." The man laughed and again drew her to him despite herself. "Making love to Mamie Travis? I'm not a fool. I was lecturing her within an inch of her life about that scamp Manning! Perhaps she was not worth it—but I've known her a long time." Constance clung close to him. "He came down to the brook and bothered me—I ran away." "I'll settle with him, Connie. But do you love me, dear?" She looked willingly against him. "You—know I do," she said. "You know. Will you take me home now?" He had just tucked her hand under his arm when the others came looking for them both. Together they walked toward the trolley line, and the night was sweet to them. Copyright, 1914, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.

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